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For Immediate Release

New Training Center Opens at Camp Williams, Memorializes Fallen Soldier

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – The Utah National Guard will dedicate a new state-of-the-art training facility at Camp Williams Thursday, Jan. 15, at 3 p.m.

The 80,000 square-foot structure, built by Okland Construction, will provide space for classrooms, barracks and administration, as well as function as the headquarters for the Utah Guard's 640th Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

The new facility increases the number of classrooms, battle laboratories and computer systems available to provide training courses in leadership and other specialties to National Guard, Army Reserve and active-duty Army Soldiers from the 54 states and territories of the U.S.

The building will feature a memorial for Sgt. 1st Class Ronald T. Wood, a former 640th RTI instructor and Utah National Guard Soldier, who was killed in July 2005 when his humvee was struck by a roadside bomb near Kirkuk, Iraq. Wood's family will be on hand for the dedication.

"This center of excellence will be a keystone in the Army's and the National Guard's education system," said Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general.

Tarbet indicated that the new facility is the first in a number of buildings planned to enhance the training of Soldiers.

"This is a tremendous value added to the taxpayer," he said. "It allows our Soldiers to be the best trained in the world and is a wonderful down payment in their education."

Media Notes: Camp Williams is located at 17800 S. Camp Williams (Redwood) Road at the Salt Lake-Utah County line. Please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778 for more information.