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For Immediate Release

Utah Guard's 197th Special Troops Company Conducts First Parachute Jump

DRAPER, Utah – The Utah National Guard's 197th Special Troops Company will conduct its first parachute jump Saturday, April 18, at 10 a.m. at Drop Zone Ashau, located approximately two miles northwest of Cedar Fort, Utah.

The operation will consist of airborne-qualified Soldiers completing parachute jumps into the drop zone from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Commanded by Maj. Andrew Archuleta, of West Point, Utah, the 160-Soldier unit, based in Ogden, was created in December 2008 with the mission to provide front-lines logistics and other support to units in combat theaters of operations worldwide.

Several Soldiers in the unit will be performing their "cherry jump," meaning their first parachute jump since completing the Basic Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Ga.

The unit has Soldiers currently deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and will continue to deploy small groups as required to combat zones to augment Special Operations forces.

Media Notes: For questions, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778 for more information. Media should arrive at the jump site by 9 a.m. in order to have access to Soldiers for interviews and photos prior to the jump.