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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Utah National Guard Supports Morocco's AeroExpo**

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – Approximately 50 U.S. Servicemembers and four aircraft from bases in the U.S. and Europe will participate in the AeroExpo Marrakech 2010 international air/trade show in Morocco Jan. 27-30.

Static-display aircraft at the event will include two F-16C Fighting Falcons from the 169<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard, S.C.; a KC-135 Stratotanker from the 151<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard; and a C-130J Super Hercules, from the 86<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Air Forces Africa (17<sup>th</sup> Air Force) commander Maj. Gen. Ronald Ladnier; and Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, are scheduled to be present during the trade show along with Maj. Gen. Stanhope Spears, the adjutant general for the South Carolina National Guard. These units will support U.S. Africa Command and its air component, AFAFRICA, which has been strengthening cooperation with Moroccan forces since both commands activated in October 2008.

AFAFRICA traces its heritage, including the 17<sup>th</sup> Air Force designation, back to its origins at Rabat, Morocco, in 1953. The unit was also headquartered at Wheelus AB, Libya from 1956-1963 before moving to Germany.

The Utah National Guard has forged a partnership through the National Guard's State Partnership Program with Morocco for more than six years, supporting six different activities in 2009, to include medical, engineering, disaster preparedness, and medical exercises and activities.

For more information, please contact the 17<sup>th</sup> AF Public Affairs representative in Morocco at (808) 659-2134, or +49 (0)1515-286-9898. To contact the 17<sup>th</sup> Air Force PA office at their Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Headquarters, call 001 49 6371-47-9257, or email Paul Kurtz at [paula.kurtz@ramstein.af.mil](mailto:paula.kurtz@ramstein.af.mil). Air Forces Africa also has a resource page on Facebook.