



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS
12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020-1776
P: (801) 432-4407 - F: (801) 432-4677 - www.ut.ngb.army.mil

Press Release 10-018, 23 March 2010

Contact: LTC Hank McIntire, (801) 420-4778

For Immediate Release

Utah Guard Members Win in Military Media Contest

ARLINGTON, Va. – Judges waded through a record-setting number of entries in the National Guard’s annual media contest this year, which included more than 700 print stories and nearly 140 broadcast packages.

The entries ranged from stories about the Guard’s efforts to empower women in Iraq to a haunted officer’s club in Michigan and came from units located around the country. They were written and produced at home station and by deployed troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

Winners were announced in early March for the 50 categories in the Air and Army Guard contests, which included feature stories, television newscasts, stand-alone photos, commentaries and community-relations plans.

Top honorees for the Utah National Guard included Ileen Kennedy, of South Jordan, a civilian public affairs specialist with the Utah Guard, who won first place over 66 other entrants in the Stand-Alone Photograph category for her photo, “American Flags,” taken at a flag-retirement ceremony in Spanish Fork in July 2009 and published on page 20 of the [Fall/Winter 2009 Utah Minuteman](#).

Orem resident Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, Joint Forces Headquarters, took first place among 82 entries in the Army Guard News Article category with “First Jump,” the story of the 197th Special Troops Company’s first parachute jump in April 2009, published on page 8 of the [Summer 2009 Utah Minuteman](#).

Major Krista DeAngelis, of Bountiful, and a member of the Utah Air National Guard’s 151st Air Refueling Wing, received an honorable mention among 36 entries in the Air Guard News Article contest for her article, “[Global Thunder](#),” which chronicled a June 2009 training event to prepare the 151st for the potential of a nuclear-response mission.

"The overall quality of entries was the best that I have seen in some time," said Air Force Master Sgt. Greg Rudl, the contest administrator.

-more-

One of the reasons for the increase in entries may have been the ease of information sharing in the digital age.

In previous years, entrants had to cut their story or photo from a magazine or newspaper, paste it to a board, box it up and mail it to the Guard Bureau for judging.

For the second year in row, Guard members submitted their best work over the Internet using electronic forms.

Fifteen print judges sifted through 406 Army Guard entries and 290 Air Guard entries. Contest judges were picked for their experience in military and civilian journalism, public affairs and military history.

"I was amazed by how much the Guard does all over our country and by the contributions they make in ways big and small," said Jeri Robinson, a public affairs specialist with the Internal Revenue Service, who helped judge entries via E-mail. "It was a humbling – yet proud – experience."

Print and broadcast winners were forwarded to the next level of competition – the Army's Keith L. Ware Contest and the Air Force Media Contest.

The Army National Guard was allowed to forward three entries in each category and the Air Guard was allowed one in each category for those contests.