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For Immediate Release

Utah Guard Spouses Promoted to Colonel on Same Day

DRAPER, Utah – Two Utah National Guard officers and spouses, Lt. Col. Milada A. Copeland and Lt. Col. William C. French, both of Sandy, will be promoted to colonel in a ceremony Thursday, June 17, at 3 p.m. at Draper headquarters.

Copeland enlisted in the Utah Army National Guard in 1985 and was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer in 1988. Subsequently she transitioned to the Engineer Corps, where she has served as an operations officer, logistics officer, executive officer, commander of the 115th Engineer Battalion and deputy commander of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Earlier this year Copeland returned from service in Kuwait in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as a member of the Army Central Command staff. Her current assignment is as full-time comptroller for the United States Property and Fiscal Office at the Utah Guard's Draper headquarters.

French joined the Utah Army Guard's 1457th Engineers as a heavy-wheeled vehicle mechanic in 1985. He received his commission as an Engineer officer in 1990. During his career he has served as a platoon leader, training officer, executive officer, commander of the 1457th Engineer Battalion and deputy commander of the 115th Engineer Group.

In 2003-2004 French deployed with the 1457th Engineer Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters, Utah National Guard, as chief of Training Branch.

Media Notes: The Utah National Guard's Draper headquarters is located at 12953 S. Minuteman Drive (frontage road east of I-15). Please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778 for more information.