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Utah Air Guard Pilot Featured in New *Military Fly Moms* Book

Lt. Col. Lisa Berente, Draper resident, is one of 70 female aviators to contribute to new book

SALT LAKE CITY – As Mother’s Day approaches, one local mom and pilot with the 191st Air Refueling Squadron will reflect on her service as a mother and military member with release of the new book *Military Fly Moms*. Lt. Col. Lisa Berente of Draper is one of more than 70 military aviator moms whose stories of sacrifice and service are featured in the book authored by Linda Maloney.

Maloney, a former naval aviator and mother, spent the past seven years collaborating with the women to tell their individual stories of why they became aviators and how they balance life as military members and mothers.

“I interviewed more than 100 of my fellow sister aviators, all moms, from every military service, asking each to tell me her story—her path to the military and flying, combat experiences, her joys in being a mom, how she balances family and career, the advice and encouragement she would give to other women seeking a military or aviation career, and the legacy she wants to pass down to her children and future generations,” said Maloney.

Berente, a mother of three, joined the Air Force in 1991 through the U.S. Air Force Academy and attended pilot training shortly after.

“I never meant to be a pilot,” said Berente. “I wanted to be a mom, and, along the way, do the best at whatever I set out to accomplish.”

Throughout her 22-year career, Berente has served and flown KC-135 air refueling missions in support of Operation Northern Watch in Turkey, Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedoms in Iraq and Afghanistan, and most recently Operations Odyssey Dawn in Libya, to name a few.

“When people ask me how I can do it, all I say is ‘I don’t do it all...’ and I picture laundry that’s been sitting on my sofa chair for so long that my children have outgrown them,” said Berente. “I do fess up eventually and point out that I really couldn’t have any of this without my husband.”

Military Fly Moms was published in February 2012. For more information, visit www.lindaheidmaloney.com/author/.

Media interested in interviewing Berente can contact Lt. Col. Lisa Olsen at 801-891-2838.

For more information on the Utah Air National Guard visit www.151arw.ang.af.mil.