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For Immediate Release

Utah Army Guardsman Promoted to Colonel

DRAPER, Utah – Lieutenant Colonel James Bledsoe of the Utah Army National Guard was promoted to colonel recently at a ceremony at the Utah Guard's Draper headquarters.

Bledsoe grew up in Walnut Creek Calif., and is a resident of Salt Lake City. He currently serves as full-time Director of Aviation and Safety for the Utah National Guard.

At the ceremony as the promotion order was read, Bledsoe took a knee so that his two young sons, James and Mitchell, could replace the silver oak-leaf shoulder boards on his uniform with ones having eagles with outstretched wings, the insignia for the rank of colonel.

See photos of Col. Bledsoe's promotion ceremony at the following Flickr page:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/utahnationalguard/sets/72157630606432130>

In his career Bledsoe has served as commander of the Utah Army National Guard's aviation facility in West Jordan and as commander of the 1-211th Attack Helicopter Reconnaissance Battalion (AH-64D). He also served on the U.S. Army staff at the Pentagon and as an acquisition officer at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Bledsoe deployed to Iraq in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he managed theater-level aviation logistics for brigade commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prior to serving with the Utah Guard, Bledsoe served in Army Aviation assignments on active duty to include company command in South Korea and assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Bledsoe is a graduate of Chico State University, where he received his commission through ROTC as a second lieutenant in 1990. He is a qualified pilot in the UH-1, AH-1, OH-58, AH-64A, and UH-60 helicopters. He has a master's degree in Management from Florida Tech and is currently a student at the Army War College.

For questions, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 432-4407.

