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For Immediate Release

Utah Guard Homeland Response Force Conducts Air-Load Exercise

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah National Guard’s Homeland Response Force will conduct an air-load exercise Thursday, Jan. 10, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Utah Air National Guard Base.

The 600-member Utah Guard Homeland Response Force, consisting of Soldiers and Airmen, is capable of responding locally and regionally in FEMA Region VIII for disasters and other civil emergencies. Its capabilities include hazmat mitigation and decontamination, search and extraction and emergency medical response.

The force serves as a bridge between first responders and any federal-level agency that may be called in at the request of civilian authorities in the event of a local or regional emergency.

The air-load exercise will validate the unit’s ability to load and transport personnel and equipment in a C-17 aircraft (provided by the Mississippi Air National Guard for this exercise), taking advantage of the proximity of the Utah Air National Guard Base as a venue for staging, loading, and transporting Homeland Response Force capabilities by air in a timely manner.

As no other state’s Homeland Response Force has yet validated its air-load plan, the techniques developed during this exercise will serve as a template for other Homeland Response Forces to use to help save lives and assist in emergency situations nationwide.

Media Notes: Media are invited to attend this event. The Utah Air National Guard Base is located at 2265 N. 700 W. in Salt Lake City. For questions, please contact Capt. Chris Foote at (801) 913-7973.