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For Immediate Release

Utah Air Guard's 169th Intelligence Squadron Receives "Excellent"

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah Air National Guard's 169th Intelligence Squadron just concluded an Air Force Inspector General inspection with an overall grade of "Excellent," the highest of any Air Force ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) agency unit in the past year.

Air Force IG inspections are comprehensive quadrennial reviews that measure a unit's compliance with published directives and its ability to perform its mission.

During a three-day inspection involving 24 out-of-state inspectors from Feb. 22 to 24, the unit was graded in areas ranging from Operations, Logistics and Training to Mission Support, Safety and Security. Under a new system designed to reduce costs and minimize disruption to the unit's day-to-day operations, three separate inspections were conducted simultaneously, and the unit performed exceptionally well in all three.

"The members of the 169th are very capable Airmen, and they worked hard to prepare for these inspections – it's great to see that capability and hard work recognized and rewarded with these high marks," said Lt. Col. Jonathan Boyd, the unit's commander.

According to Utah's Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Brig. Gen. David Fountain, the unit's accomplishment should be shared by the state. "Utahans should be proud of this accomplishment. It is truly amazing the bargain that Utah Air Guardmembers provide to the nation at a fraction of the cost to the taxpayer, while meeting and even exceeding the operational capability and standards of the active duty Air Force."

The 169th Intelligence Squadron is an airborne and ground-intelligence unit with some of the most highly trained and experienced linguists and personnel in the Air Force. Their wartime mission is to provide critical intelligence in support of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen conducting military operations. The intelligence they have provided has directly supported combat operations and saved lives on the battlefield.

This may be a bittersweet accomplishment as the Air Force has determined the unit's primary operational system will no longer be funded and has been slated for divestiture because of current federal budget constraints.