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**Press Release 13-020, 24 April 2013**

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **Soldiers of the Utah Guard's 624<sup>th</sup> Engineers Return from Afghanistan**

DRAPER, Utah – The approximately 140 soldiers of the Utah National Guard's 624<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, 1457<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, will return to Utah from their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan Thursday, April 25, at 12:30 p.m. at the Utah Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City.

The 624<sup>th</sup> is based in Springville, with detachments in Price and Vernal. Its mission in Afghanistan was to perform vertical construction (structures and buildings) in the U.S. Central Command area of operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Twenty-seven babies (25 single births and two sets of twins) were born to wives of 624<sup>th</sup> Soldiers during the unit's deployment to Afghanistan. These 25 Soldiers (15 of whom are first-time fathers) will be seeing their infant children for the first time on Thursday.

Soldiers arrived from overseas at Fort Hood, Texas, earlier this week and have been undergoing demobilization processing.

Charter flights typically run ahead of schedule, so media planning to cover the return of the 624<sup>th</sup> should plan to be on site a least one hour before the announced arrival time.

**Media Notes:** The Utah Air National Guard Base is located at 765 N. 2200 W. (just east of Salt Lake International Airport). For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778.