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For Immediate Release

Utah Army Aviation Units Conduct Changes of Command

WEST JORDAN, Utah — Two Utah Army National Guard Aviation units will conduct changes of command Saturday, Jan. 4, at 10 a.m. in the South Hangar of the Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan.

At the ceremony, Lt. Col. Gregory B. Hartvigsen, commander of First Battalion, 211th Aviation, will relinquish command to Maj. Ricky N. Smith. Chief Warrant Officer 5 David E. Odekirk, of Operational Support Airlift Detachment 50, will also pass the colors to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephen M. Holder.

Hartvigsen, of Kaysville, is an AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot and has commanded the 1-211th since 2010. In 2012-2013 he led the 1-211th on a successful deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit was [singled out](#) by German President Joachim Gauck for its protection of German soldiers on medical flights in a combat zone.

Smith, a Herriman resident and a two-time veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, served in Afghanistan in 2004-2005 and 2012-2013. He is a UH-1 Huey and AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot and will assume command of 400 soldiers.

Odekirk, of Layton, took command of Det. 50 in 2011. The unit flies and maintains a C-12 Huron aircraft and recently returned from service in Afghanistan in 2013. He is a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and C-12 Huron pilot and served in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait in 2008-2009.

A resident of West Jordan, Holder is veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving in Afghanistan in 2009-2010. He is a qualified pilot in UH-58 Kiowa, UH-60 Blackhawk and C-12 Huron aircraft and will assume command of six soldiers.

Media Notes: The Utah Army National Guard aviation facility is located at 7602 S. Airport Road in West Jordan. For more information please contact Maj. Jon Richardson at (801) 450-5429.