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For Immediate Release

Utah Guard's 97th Aviation Troop Command Conducts Change of Command

WEST JORDAN, Utah – The Utah National Guard's 97th Aviation Troop Command will conduct a change-of-command ceremony Saturday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. in the Army Aviation Support Facility hangar.

At the ceremony, Colonel Lamar Blair will relinquish command to Colonel Gordon D. Behunin.

Blair, a resident of South Jordan, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1988 and has commanded the 97th since 2010. The unit includes the 1-211th Attack Helicopter Reconnaissance Battalion (AH-64 Apache); 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion (UH-60 Blackhawk); Detachment 50, Operational Support Airlift (C-12 Huron); Detachment 1-112th (UH-72 Lakota); and Detachments 5-159th and 1-171st Medevac (UH-60 Blackhawk). In his civilian job Blair is a full-time pilot for AirMed in Park City.

During Blair's tenure as commander, the many accomplishments of the 97th include the successful overseas deployments of the 1-211th, 2-211th, 2-285th Air Assault Company and Detachment 50, as well as the unit's yearly support to state authorities in response to wildfires throughout Utah.

Behunin, also of South Jordan, enlisted in the Utah Army National Guard as an artilleryman in 1984. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving with the 1-211th during its deployment to Afghanistan in 2004- 2005. During his career, Behunin has served as battalion commander, operations officer, and comptroller-financial manager. He is qualified to pilot AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. He works full-time as the administrative officer for the Aviation command in West Jordan.

Behunin will assume command of approximately 800 soldiers assigned to units in West Jordan and Salt Lake City.

Media Notes: The Army Aviation Support Facility is located at 7602 S. Airport Road (4470 West). Contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778 for more information.