



## UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020

P: (801) 432-4407 - F: (801) 432-4677 - [www.ut.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil)

Twitter: @UTNationalGuard - Facebook.com/utahnationalguard

Press Release 14-005, 23 January 2014

Contact: Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, (801) 420-4778

### For Immediate Release

## Utah Guard Engineer Soldier Receives Purple Heart from Afghanistan Service

DRAPER, Utah – Spc. Joey Artalejo, of the 118<sup>th</sup> Engineer (Sapper) Company, Utah Army National Guard, will receive the Purple Heart in a ceremony Saturday, Jan. 25, at 8 a.m. at the Lundell Readiness Center at Camp Williams.

Artalejo, of Pleasant Grove, qualified for the Purple Heart due to wounds he received during an improvised-explosive-device incident on Dec. 24, 2010, in Khowst Province, Afghanistan. At the time he was on a route-clearance mission when his armored vehicle was struck by an IED.

Here is a link to an article that describes the mission of the 118<sup>th</sup> while in Afghanistan: <http://bit.ly/LZFRHW>.

After a 10-day hospitalization, Artalejo returned to duty in Afghanistan and completed his deployment with the 118<sup>th</sup>, returning in July 2011. He is still experiencing the effects of the traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder that resulted from the incident.

The Dec. 24, 2010, incident was actually the second instance where Artalejo's vehicle was struck by an IED. The first occurred on Sept. 16, 2010, in the same general location in Afghanistan. Artalejo sustained similar injuries in this first incident.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces for wounds, injuries or death suffered as a result of any action against an enemy of the United States.

Artalejo's civilian employment is at Kennecott Copper in Bingham Canyon.

**Media Notes:** Lundell Readiness Center is located at 17800 S. Camp Williams (Redwood) Road in Bluffdale. Please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778 for more information.