



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

Twitter: @UTNationalGuard - Facebook.com/utahnationalguard

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Contact: Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn, (801) 716-9209

For Immediate Release

Longtime Utah Guard Spokesman Steps Down

DRAPER, Utah — After nine years as full-time spokesman for the Utah National Guard, Lt. Col. Hank McIntire will step down from the post April 7. As of that date, Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn will assume duties as Utah Guard spokesman and Public Affairs Officer.

McIntire will continue with the Utah Guard as director of social media until his retirement from the military in August. During his 26-year career he deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom: first to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2004-2005, and later to the Horn of Africa (Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti) in 2011-2012.

An Orem resident, McIntire enlisted in Charlie Company, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, as an interrogator and Spanish linguist in 1988. He received a direct commission as a second lieutenant in 1994 and was assigned to the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion. He served there as a section leader, platoon leader and battalion language officer.

In 2000 McIntire transferred to the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, where he served as commander from 2002 to 2005, during which time he led the unit on its deployment to Guantanamo. Since 2005 he has served in his current post.

McIntire is completing his doctorate in communication at the University of Utah and plans to teach at the university level following his retirement from the military.

"After more than 26 years in uniform we reluctantly bid farewell to Lt. Col. McIntire, who has served so ably as spokesman for the Utah Guard during a time of war," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. "Hank has been a steady influence and a man known for his honesty, his candor and his professionalism. He will be missed by many, but never forgotten by those fortunate enough to have served with him."

Fairbourn, of West Jordan, enlisted the Utah Army National Guard in 1990. He was commissioned through the University of Utah ROTC program in 1993 and has served as a platoon leader, battery commander, administrative officer and operations officer in the 65th Field Artillery Brigade.