



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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For Immediate Release

Camp Williams Hosts Premier Military Intelligence Exercise

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – Thirteen states and Canada have brought more than 600 Guard, Reserve and active component soldiers here for Panther Strike 2014 exercise June 9-21 for military intelligence training.

The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, Utah National Guard, originated Panther Strike in 2003 which has grown to become a premier full-spectrum intelligence training event.

“This is not your average [annual training event],” said Lt. Col. Dave Church, commander of the San Francisco-based 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion. “Over the years, Panther Strike has really made a name for itself. It’s by far the most robust and organized intelligence [exercise] that I’ve been a part of.”

This year’s exercise will leverage the synergized efforts of military intelligence soldiers from across the human, counter, signals, imagery, geo-spatial and all-source intelligence fields to capture or eliminate simulated cells of Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents in a valley of Afghanistan’s Kunar Province.

“For the current conflicts we’re involved in, Utah provides some critical elements of realism. Salt Lake [City] is at the same elevation as Baghram Airfield there in Afghanistan, and many soldiers comment on the similarities in the terrain,” said Utah National Guardmember Col. Derek Tolman, commander of the 300th MI Brigade, which is headquartered in Draper, Utah and serves as the higher headquarters for many of the units that rotationally host Panther Strike. “The exercise also tends to gravitate here because there is a lot of command support, and investments have been made to have all of the necessary infrastructure in place.”

Media notes: Media day scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, June 19, at Camp Williams in building 6240 (immediately South of Tarbet Field). Media will be transported to visit Panther Strike 2014 at the forward operating base (FOB), to view exercise events in the Afghan training village, and return to building 6240 at approximately noon. Please confirm with Ileen Kennedy at 801-403-7655 or ileen.h.kennedy.nfg@mail.mil if attending no later than 8 a.m. June 19.