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**Press Release 11-027, 7 July 2011**

**Contact: Maj. Bruce Roberts, (801) 400-7629**

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Utah Guard's 118th Engineer Company Returns from Afghanistan Duty**

DRAPER, Utah — Approximately 120 members of the Utah National Guard's 118th Engineer (Sapper) Company will return from their 12-month deployment to Afghanistan Sunday, July 10, at 11 a.m. at the Utah Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City.

The mission of the unit was to provide route-clearance support to Coalition forces in Afghanistan. One member of the unit, Sgt. 1st Class James E. Thode, of Kirtland, N.M., died Dec. 2, 2010, in Sabari District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

Soldiers arrived from overseas July 5 at Camp Shelby, Miss., and have been undergoing demobilization processing.

Charter flights typically run ahead of schedule, so media planning to cover the return of the 118th should plan to be on site one hour before the announced arrival time.

**Media Notes:** The Utah Air National Guard Base is located at 765 N. 2200 W. (just east of Salt Lake International Airport). For more information, please contact Maj. Bruce Roberts at (801) 400-7629.