

UTAH MINUTEMAN

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115th Maintenance Company, 222nd Field Artillery Return from Iraq

Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation; I-Corps Depart for Deployment

Utah Guard Engineers Among First Responding to Border Call

PFC Thomas Carter, 1457th Engineers, works with the fence-building crew on the U.S.-Mexico border near San Luis, Ariz. in the first phase of buildup. President Bush plans to increase the presence of troops along the U.S.-Mexico border to 6,000 Guard Members from units around the country.



The Adjutant General's Corner

By MG Brian Tarbet

Recently, I spent the better part of four days attending the 2006 Conference of the Enlisted Association of National Guard of the United States hosted here in Salt Lake City. The conference was favored by many fine speakers, among them LTG H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau and Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, the newly appointed director of the Air National Guard. It was highly informative and educational for all of those who had the privilege to attend. Our own Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah was instrumental in the success of this conference.

My association with these fine members of our enlisted corps has served to remind me of the enormous contribution of all of our fine enlisted Airmen and Soldiers over the past many years of unprecedented service to the Nation and the state of Utah. They have truly preserved the 370-year-old legacy of devoted service of the National Guard.

Here in Utah, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our own Utah Air National Guard Aug. 12, and the event was hugely successful and a worthy tribute to the outstanding history which has been written over six decades by fine officers and Airmen of the UTANG.



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet



The future of the ANG is bright and we look forward to the next 60 years of accomplishment.

I also visited recently the deploying I Corps Artillery at Camp Shelby, Miss., en route to Afghanistan, and with 1/19th Special Forces training at Fort Polk for its deployment to the Philippines. These fine Soldiers have trained hard and are ready for the challenges and difficulties of their coming mobilizations.

Enlisted Airmen and Soldiers of the UTANG, thank you for being the wonderful military professionals that you are. The Nation is fortunate to have the impressive contributions from you and your families. ■

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Cover Photo Winner of the 2006 Photo Contest - Kari Draper of Beaver, Utah. Kari submitted the cover photo taken by SGT Mike Blomquist of SSG Branden Draper sitting on top of his M88 recovery vehicle in Ar Ramadi, Iraq after a long day on patrol.

Inside Cover Photo by MAJ Hank McIntire taken of PFC Thomas Carter, 1457th Engineers, working with the fence-building crew on the U.S.-Mexico border near San Luis, Ariz.

Back Cover Photos by SGT Kelly Collett in Tan Tan, Morocco with the MEDCOM as LTC Lorraine Kennedy, PFC Tiffany Knudsen, National Guard Soldiers and Moroccan doctors examine patients.

A special thanks to all who have contributed with articles and photos to make the Minuteman a great success.

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Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Dell K. Smith

The past five years since September 11 have been a time of redefining the roles and mission of the Utah National Guard. It has been a demanding time for all of us. We have answered the call every time, performing our missions and assignments with distinction.

It has been rewarding and impressive to visit with Soldiers and Airmen and see the results of their service. There is no doubt in my mind that we have dedicated Soldiers and Airmen who are committed to the Utah National Guard and their country.

We still have several units who are deployed overseas doing great work: the Army National Guard has the 120th Quartermaster Company (Water Purification), 144th Medical Company, and 115th Engineer Battalion all serving in Iraq. There are elements of 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group serving in the Philippines; I Corps Artillery is currently serving in Afghanistan and elements of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade are serving all over the world.

The Air National Guard has a large contingent of Airmen serving in South America and various other places and small elements of many units serving all around the world. We have a great group of Soldiers and Airmen serving our country with pride, dedication and distinction.

We have enjoyed the celebration of the return of 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery from their service in Iraq. They served with distinction in Ramadi, Iraq and it is great to have every member of the battalion back. The celebrations in the small communities in Southern Utah have been exciting to attend. There are several members of the battalion who suffered some serious injuries and are still recuperating; we look forward to getting these Soldiers back with their units.



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

*Dell K. Smith,
Command Sergeant Major of the Utah Army National Guard*

I want to recognize and thank the Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters Medical Command and many other units around the state who have supported the deployments and redeployments with many hours of dedication and hard work to ensure that our Soldiers, Airmen and families are well cared for.

The Army Combat Uniform is now being issued to members of the Army National Guard. It is a great uniform that Soldiers will enjoy wearing and is very comfortable. Unit first sergeants will have guidance on the wear and care of the uniform. The brown boots are now authorized to be worn with the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) during this phase-out period of the BDU.

During the period of August 20-23, 2006, the Utah National Guard hosted the 35th Annual Conference of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. The conference was a great success with over 1,500 Soldiers, Airmen and families who attended. I especially want to thank the great staff who helped plan and execute this conference. Many people spent a great amount of time in planning and executing this mission.

Again, let me express my thanks to the members of the Utah National Guard for their dedicated service, and a very special thanks to our families. We appreciate you all. ■

Utah Guard Engineers Respond to Border Call

By MAJ Hank McIntire

On May 15 President George W. Bush called for National Guard troops to provide support to Customs and Border Protection efforts along our Nation's southern boundary.

In his landmark speech Bush outlined a plan to maintain a force of 6,000 National Guard troops for a period of one year to provide support in the form of "operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads and providing training."

In response to the president's initiative, National Guard Bureau officials crafted a plan where the bulk of Guard troops sent to southwest border states would serve in two- or three-week increments on Annual Training status with the remainder serving on a longer-term volunteer basis.

Less than three weeks following the president's call, 55 members of the Utah National Guard arrived at Arizona's southern border, June 3, to spend two weeks extending the border fence, building a patrol road, and installing lighting—all in the vicinity of the San Luis Port of Entry.

Soldiers of the 116th Construction Support Equipment Company, Spanish Fork; 1457th Engineer Battalion, Camp Williams; and the 489th Engineer Detachment, Springville; brought their specialties together under CPT Talon Greeff, commander of the task force organized to fulfill this mission.

Fresh out of basic training and advanced individual training, PFC Thomas Carter, 1457th Engineer Battalion, expressed his excitement about the Utah Guard being at the border and what he expects to gain from this mission.

"I'm glad they chose the best. It's great to be a part of history and help out and serve my country. [Being here] I hope to get a better knowledge of my job in the Army and contribute to the security of my country," Carter said.

When Soldiers went to their worksites that first

Monday morning, their goals were to complete 1,000 linear feet of border fence, construct two miles of road and emplace conduit for 15 high-intensity lights to illuminate the border area near the port of entry.

On Tuesday Soldiers began settling into a steady routine: Up at 4 a.m., breakfast at the Air Station dining facility, on the job site by 5:30, taking short breaks for water and an MRE for lunch, working steadily until 2:30 p.m., and then back to the Air Station for dinner.

On the individual worksites, foremen worked closely with their Soldiers and mentored them through the planning and execution of their projects.

SGT Steve Larsen, 489th Engineer Detachment, oversaw the lighting-emplacement site. He is a 21R (military electrician), who managed electrical systems and maintenance at Camp Doha, Kuwait, when he was deployed overseas in 2004-05.

Larsen is a licensed master electrician in his civilian job, and he knows firsthand how important civilian-acquired skills are for a mission like this.

"Going to the military school you can't possibly learn everything you need to know about electricity," said Larsen. "My 12 years of civilian experience are very helpful when my Soldiers ask me questions. I can answer about 90 percent of their questions about electrical work."

SFC James C. Colledge, a platoon sergeant with the 116th, directs the road-building phase of the operation, which is to achieve 95 percent compaction on the natural base material, lay a three-inch sub-base and then apply the finished product, a six-inch top layer consisting of sand and crushed rock.

Colledge's assistant, SSG Andrea Murray of the 116th, a 21N (construction supervisor), is helping supervise the work and having the time of her life getting into the cab of a bulldozer herself.



Soldiers from the Utah National Guard's 116th, 489th and 1457th Engineers brought their specialties together to fulfill this mission.



PFC Matthew Smith, 1457th Engineers, carries a 20-foot length of conduit for high-intensity lighting along the U.S.-Mexico border in San Luis, Ariz.

“These Soldiers are doing an outstanding job. We’ve got some of the best operators and engineers in the Utah National Guard here,” she said.

For the fence project, leaders of the 116th tapped SSG Doug Mecham, who builds fences for a living in Springville, Utah.

Mecham, known for his quick smile and enthusiasm for getting in the dirt, says the environment here is comparable to Iraq where he built roads to support troop and civilian movement. He gushes about his Soldiers’ reputation and dedication.

“The engineers from Utah are precise. We like to set the standard and help everyone understand our methods so that those who follow after can continue what we’ve done,” he said.

“My Soldiers love to do their job. They all want to learn how to train better so that they can help the next individual down the line to do their mission,” Mecham added.

Because of the oppressively hot environment which encompasses most of the Arizona border area, the Utah Guard dispatched medics to be with the troops at all times to treat construction injuries, monitor Soldiers for signs of heat injuries and ensure that they stay hydrated.

One of those assigned to the force health-protection mission is SPC Cody Slauch, a 91W (combat medic) with the Utah Guard’s Medical Command.

“I’ve been very impressed with these guys. Most of them have been to Iraq, and it looks like they know how to keep themselves well hydrated. I’m mostly worried about myself, being from Idaho,” Slauch joked.

Putting all these pieces together was CPT Greeff, an Iraq veteran who also served in the Gulf Coast region last year with the 500 Utah Soldiers and Airmen assisting with relief and reconstruction efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“Our Soldiers are excited to be here and do this real-world mission. They have risen to the challenge, and we’re getting a lot of good-quality work done here on the border,” said Greeff.

“Arizona is getting highly skilled operators who do this for a living at home. They will get good-quality work at a very good price.”

With all the media attention and opportunities to brief visiting governors and generals at the worksites, Greeff gets his share of grief from his NCOs and other colleagues who saw or heard him daily in the national news. But he takes it in stride and reminds interviewers that it’s the Soldiers who deserve the focus.

“It’s always exciting when people pay attention to the work that you do,” said Greeff. “These Soldiers get to do something relevant and use their military and civilian skills. It’s fun to command a unit that is excited about their mission and the things they are doing.”

Providing historical perspective and the behind-the-scenes continuity for these engineer projects is MSG Jimmie Beard of the Arizona National Guard. Beard has spent the last year and a half making sure that Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen, as well as Marines, have had what they needed to build their portions of the border fence and patrol road. Beard is impressed with what he’s seen of Utah Guard members on the border.

“These guys came to work. They’ve done an outstanding job,” said Beard.

So Utah Soldiers continue their mission under the world’s



The fence-building crew emplaces steel posts to be set in concrete for the new 18-foot metal border fence between the U.S. and Mexico.

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire



watchful eye. And despite an environment filled with conflicting opinions about their presence here and some confusion about their official status on the Border, such things are transparent to these Soldiers. They know why they have come to the Sonoran Desert and aren't afraid to say it.

"The reason I joined the Guard was to do my part for our country. This is a great opportunity. It isn't just training; it's an actual chance to do something valid," said Slaugh.

"This is our border; this is where we should be. Protecting America is what the Guard is all about," Larsen added. ■

PHOTO LEFT: Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. visits troops to express encouragement and gratitude for their service and exceptional work.



A Watchful Eye: 299th Leads Study

By A1C Andrew R. Howells

Members of the 299th Range Control Squadron played a key role in a study conducted by Weber State College in association with the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Research Labs.

The study focused on shift workers and the effects of fatigue and work performance. Conducted during the summer of 2005, this study focused on 15 controllers, including two air-battle managers and one trainee. All the subjects were tested four times throughout their shift.

Some of the tests performed monitored blood pressure, body temperature, as well as cognitive and memory tasks targeting alertness and the ability to multi-task.

The cognitive tests were conducted on a computer performing four different functions that each subject must control and maintain simultaneously. One of the series of tests used mathematical computations on one panel, a visual memorization on another, a fuel gauge that was continually draining and could not hit empty and finally an audible alarm that would change tone and needed to be triggered at the change.

Each series of simultaneous testing would map and monitor the subject's ability to control and perform simultaneous tasks.

"It was interesting to see how I was able to multi-task," said 1st Lt. Robert Estrada. "Some weeks we did better depending on what shift we were on."

Each group was tested multiple times on different shifts throughout the nine-week study.

"It was interesting to see how much our awareness goes down at night," said Estrada. The overall outcome of the study

showed a decreased alertness among night-shift workers.

A surprising result of the study showed that Utah ANG members' results were higher than other units in law enforcement. Dr. Lauren Fowler, the leading professor of the study, attributed these results to the level of training our members have received.

"The training they received was highly specialized, and as a result, there was not a lot of fall-off in their performance," said Fowler in referring to members of the 299th Air Control Squadron.

The findings have already been published by two separate universities, and are providing pertinent information for better planning schedules and shift work in high-tempo and high-stress environments. ■



1st Lt. Todd Lobato and SrA Luke Trent engage in a study calculating the physical and mental toll of shift work in high-stress work environments.

151st SFS Confronts Challenges

Team Works to Create Law Enforcement Office on Base in Iraq

By SrA Christiana T. Elieson

Photo by SGT Thomas Chilcott

SALT LAKE CITY — **O**n Jan. 3 mothers, fathers, children and a wife all gathered at the Salt Lake City Airport to give their family members from the 151st Security Forces Squadron a send-off as they left for a six-month deployment in Iraq.

Before leaving, the team had prepared to be working together both in on- and off-duty situations.

“They are very close,” said CMSgt. Andrew Brunt, chief of the 151st Security Forces Squadron and a father whose oldest son, Michael, is on the deployment. “Prior to them leaving they trained here together, and they did a lot of things together as a team.”

Lt. Col. Paul Reutlinger, commander of the 151st Security Forces, said, “What these folks are doing right now, they’re doing two or three different things, but their primary thing is to set up a law enforcement desk to provide internal security to the base.”

As they learn about desert living “they’re experiencing anything you would expect in a hostile area,” said Brunt.

“They’re in good spirits,” said Reutlinger. “You talk to them and they are learning where all the bunkers are all over the place. But from what we gather their spirits are good. They’re still very excited about what they’re doing.”

The Airmen also seem to have a good support system at home and the 151st SFS personnel try to keep those left at home updated weekly, said Reutlinger.

Other things that are going on that should help to keep up the morale of the airmen are care packages from the 151st SFS personnel that are not deployed and candy and valentines from the Rowland Hall – St. Mark’s Lower School, said Reutlinger. =



I Corps Artillery Deploys



Soldiers from I Corps Artillery wave as they await the departing plane's takeoff for their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Soldiers of I Corps Artillery, Utah National Guard, line up to board a charter jet to Camp Shelby, Miss., on the first leg of their deployment.

By LTC Robert Church

CAMP SHELBY, MS — **O**n the rainy Friday morning of June 9, the main body of approximately 120 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Corps Artillery Forward (ICA FWD) assembled in a hangar at Salt Lake Air Base to bid farewell to wives, children, girlfriends, family and friends.

Commanded by COL Jerry Acton and CSM Steven Stone, ICA FWD will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom's Joint Task Force Phoenix V. Their mission will be to work with the Afghan National Army as embedded training teams to mentor Afghan Soldiers as their nation progresses toward becoming a self-sustaining, democratic country.

During the course of the morning, tears were shed, but those emotions were checked and feelings of love and pride pervaded the hangar. A huge American flag hung from the ceiling, and family after family had their photo taken in front of it. Those photos can now be seen on many computer screens as a reminder of those whom our Soldiers love and left behind.

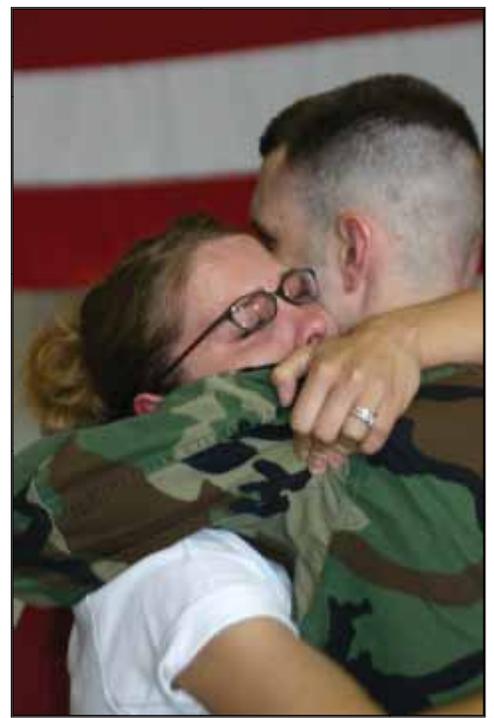


LEFT: Children and families of Soldiers from I Corps Artillery are overcome with emotion as they watch the departing plane.

BELOW: Families watch their Soldiers climb the stairs of the aircraft which will take them to Mississippi.



Photos by SGT Kelly Collett



I Corps Soldiers and family members make final memories before they separate for up to 18 months.

The ATA Airlines charter jet arrived and the call for final formation came. As Soldiers lined up facing their families and loved ones, they could look into the faces of all those who had come to see them off.

There were signs displaying the love and pride felt by the makers of the signs. Kids were dressed in red, white and blue. Flags were being waved by others. As the formation did a “left face” and began to march out of the hangar, the crowd began to clap and cheer. It was a very emotional moment.

At the foot of the stairs leading up to the plane, a receiving line formed which included Gov. Jon Huntsman and his wife Mary Kaye; MG Brian Tarbet, Utah Guard Adjutant General; BG Patrick Wilson, I Corps Commander; CSM Dell Smith, state command sergeant major. Leaders shook each Soldier’s hand and in many cases embraced them, offering words of encouragement.

As each Soldier reached the landing prior to entering the plane, they had the opportunity to turn, look for their family and wave. It was a singular moment, not easily put into words.

When the group arrived in Mississippi a few hours later, they were met by the advance party and the muggy climate. Utah Guard Soldiers are all used to heat, but the humidity is another story. Simply standing in

the sun waiting to board the buses that would take them to Camp Shelby caused many to break into a sweat. This was a glimpse of what was to come.

Camp Shelby is a huge base encompassing 136,000 acres, and it’s green—not something seen much at Camp Williams. The trees and lush vegetation testify to its humid subtropical climate.

Signs of Katrina’s devastation are still everywhere; trees are down and sections of roofs and siding on buildings are missing. It only serves as a reminder of Mother Nature’s power. The group has been told that they may have the opportunity to experience a hurricane while there. We hope not. However, Camp Shelby is an evacuation center, so Soldiers are in one of the safest places in the Southeast.

Soldiers of ICA FWD have been very impressed with the professionalism and willingness to help by all the staff and trainers at Camp Shelby. Considering the number of Soldiers that had to be processed, the Soldier Readiness Processing went quite smoothly and quickly. Of course, they had their share of “death by PowerPoint,” but the information has generally been useful.

The unit is now trained and qualified on personal weapons, as well as all the crew-served weapons they will be using. The days spent in the field qualifying were hot and humid, but



I Corps Soldier carries the unit colors toward the aircraft waiting to take them to Camp Shelby.

again, well worth the physical discomfort. The ranges are excellent and the range control officers were quick to help and do everything they could to make sure everyone qualified.

The team also spent two days in a land-navigation course. Those were fun days. They completed both a mounted and dismounted course, searching for specific locations on post using a digital satellite mapping device.

Each day the team progresses towards becoming a better trained and better prepared command. Soldiers look forward with great anticipation to this mission; they are excited by the prospect of helping the Afghan Army to become a well-trained fighting force. ■



Photo by LTC Robert Church

I Corps Artillery Soldiers unload their duffel bags at Camp Shelby, Miss., as they begin their deployment training for Operation Enduring Freedom.

151st Air Refueling Wing Supports Alaska's Northern Edge Exercise

By Lt. Col. Kurt Davis



Dozens of aircraft from active-duty, Guard and Reserve units fill the tarmac at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, in support of Northern Edge.

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — **T**he 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, returned June 17 after two weeks participating in Northern Edge 2006, the largest military training exercise in Alaska.

This year's exercise had more than 5,000 U.S. Active-Duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines participating. This air-centric exercise sponsored by Alaskan Command involved more than 110 Air Force, Navy and Marine aircraft and two Navy destroyers.

It was conducted mainly from Elmendorf and Eielson Air Force Bases, Alaska, and above central Alaska military training ranges and the Gulf of Alaska. The exercise helped prepare forces to respond to crises in the Asian Pacific region by practicing operations, techniques and procedures; by improving command, control, and communication relationships; and by developing interoperable plans and programs.

Participants practiced in defensive counter air, close-air support, air interdiction of maritime targets, and personnel recovery missions.

“Northern Edge 2006 will prepare us for worldwide deployment, and enables real-world proficiency in detection

and tracking units at sea, in the air, and on land in response to multiple crisis situations,” said Col. John Marselus, ALCOM's Joint Exercise Division chief.

The 151st deployed two KC-135R aircraft and approximately 45 Airmen to support the exercise. ■



Photos by MSgt. Jason Blood

A Utah Air National Guard KC-135 refuels an F-15 during the Northern Edge exercise in Alaska.

299th Supports “Stardust” Mission

By 1st Lt. Troy Gardner

On Jan. 15, the “Clover Control” played a big role in recovering the much-anticipated Stardust Capsule from the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR). After several practice sessions with NASA and the Mission Control Center (MCC) at Hill Air Force Base, the 299th Range Control Squadron was ready for the recovery mission. It first required coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration to schedule the airspace and ensure a clear flight path for the capsule.

Stardust hit the atmosphere over the border of Oregon and California at 410,000 feet at over 28,000 miles per hour. Once it reached 100,000 feet, its drogue chute deployed which, by that point, was over the UTTR. It continued to slow and descend until 10,000 feet when the main chute deployed.



Photo by MSgt. Burke Baker

Members of the 299th “Clover Control” monitor airspace above and around the Utah Test and Training Range.



Photo Courtesy of NASA

The Stardust Capsule lays on the desert ground after a long journey through space bringing back to earth the first samples of comet dust.

Clover, in addition to airspace, provided VHF and UHF radio links for the MCC. They were also standing by to take over the frequencies if the links between 299th RCS and MCC failed. They provided radar coverage of the range which was also linked to MCC and raw radar tracking as an additional precaution to other modes of tracking. The goal was to track Stardust at the 100,000-foot point on down with forward-looking infrared high-powered optics tracking, and narrow radar-beam tracking. All of these modes of tracking including raw radar tracks were input into digital radar scope readouts and available to the MCC and the NASA team positioned on the UTTR.

Clover was given a heading and splashdown point to expect the Stardust return. The first contact on the scopes was right on the expected line. It continued to follow the line for 20 miles and started to veer northeasterly because of southwest winds. It landed 3.5 miles north of the expected point.

Clover provided air traffic control services to NASA support aircraft and assisted the recovery helicopters to and from Dugway. They monitored airspace for any unwanted intrusions and any air emergencies and contingencies that may have occurred. For more information about the Stardust mission, visit the NASA web site. ☐

115th Maintenance Company Returns from Iraq Deployment

By MAJ Hank McIntire
SALT LAKE CITY —

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

When Utah National Guard officials arrived at the Salt Lake Air Base Apr. 14 at 5:30 a.m. in preparation for the 7:30 a.m. arrival of the 115th Maintenance Company, they were greeted by dozens of family members already lined up at the front gate.

Spouses, parents, and children of Soldiers seemed happy to stand and wait in the predawn darkness as efforts were made to open buildings, turn on lights and quickly set up tables and chairs.

Selected members of the 23rd Army Band played “God Bless America” and other patriotic tunes in the North Hangar as families continued to arrive and huddle together in anticipation of the arrival of the Southwest Airlines charter jet from Fort Bliss, Texas, where the approximately 120 Soldiers of the 115th had spent the previous few days conducting demobilization processing.

The 115th was mobilized in January 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They performed vehicle maintenance and provided security at forward operating bases and in logistical support areas in Iraq.

“I’m ecstatic. My heart has been pounding all morning. I can’t stop crying, but it’s just tears of joy,” said Lynnae Chilcott as she waited for her husband, SGT Thomas Chilcott, to arrive with his fellow Soldiers.

Base Maintenance opened the immense hangar doors and the crowd moved en masse to the roped off area on the tarmac just prior to touchdown.

The volume steadily increased as the plane taxied toward the hangar. When the aircraft door opened and the first Soldier stuck his head out, the crowd erupted in a mixture of shouts, applause, sirens and tears as they waved flags



Members of the 115th Maintenance Company exit the aircraft and are greeted by Guard leaders and Family Support volunteers.

and homemade posters with messages such as ‘Welcome Home, Dad,’ ‘My Hero,’ ‘Jerry, We Love You,’ and ‘Yo, Nanoo.’

Commander of the 115th CPT. Budd Vogrinec and 1SG Wesley Glenn stepped from the plane and waved enthusiastically in the air the red colors of the 115th, and their Soldiers quickly followed them down the stairs.

MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard Adjutant General, and CSM Dell Smith were among the first to greet the arriving Soldiers and welcome them home as Family Support volunteers handed a yellow rose to each Soldier as they deplaned.

Making a beeline for each other, Soldiers and families quickly converted the usually orderly flight line into one giant group hug as reporters and photographers threaded their way through

the mass to capture those moments for readers, viewers and posterity.

Once the initial emotional rush subsided, Soldiers and families offered their perspective on the deployment, being reunited and what the future holds:

SPC Tiffnie Sine, Supply Specialist, 115th Maintenance Company:

“I’m just excited. I didn’t think [coming home] it was ever, ever, ever going to happen. We’ve been away for so long. I didn’t [get to come home on leave]. I was gone the whole time. I thought it would be too hard to come home and leave [my daughter] again. Today we’re just going to relax at home with the family. Next month we’re going to Disneyland.”

SFC Craig Ambrose, Equipment Inspector, 115th Maintenance Company:

“It’s fantastic to be home! In Iraq I saw all kinds of different sights I never thought I would see. I saw a big improvement on things we were doing over there. I’m going on a long vacation. I don’t know where yet. I’ll see where the money takes me.”

SGT Thomas Chilcott, Radio and Communications Security Repair Specialist, 115th Maintenance Company:

“I’m proud to come off the bench and get into the game. I mobilized with the Triple Deuce back in 2003 and we never even left the country. I was impressed at how well our training went at Fort Bliss and how well and quickly we were able to pick up our responsibilities when we got to the Middle East. I’m glad I had the opportunity to go, but there definitely comes a point when you recognize it’s time for you to go home, be back with your family, and pick up your life again.”

Lynnae Chilcott, wife of SGT Thomas Chilcott:

“It’s been good but stressful. Some days were good, some days were bad, some days were horrible, some days were okay, but today is the best day of all. It was worth it. We’re going to take some time off. Just disappear and go hang out together and get to know each other again, maybe go on a little vacation and get back into the swing of life. I’m just excited and happy and so glad that this day is finally here.”

1SG Richard Thalman, Iraqi Freedom Veteran with the 1457th Engineers, brother of returning Soldier SFC Toby Thalman:

“It’s been along time coming and we’ve been waiting for this day for awhile. God bless America, and thanks for the troops who are back and thanks to the troops who are still there.”

SFC Toby Thalman, Food Service Specialist, 115th Maintenance Company:

“It was an excellent experience. We did a lot of things above and beyond our maintenance jobs: convoy security operations, base defense operations and very little wrench-turning. Hopefully, we helped the Iraqi people and helped get that country back on its feet and get us out of there. I hope they keep progressing that way and get them their rights and get a government in place.”

While some Soldiers and families echoed these same sentiments, others quietly reveled in the reunion and deferred comment on the experience until they’ve had time to take it all in.

Photos Top to Bottom-*first two photos: Families and friends, holding signs and flags, watch and wait for the opening of the door of the aircraft containing the 120 Soldiers of the 115th Maintenance Company; A young boy holds onto his father; SGT Thomas Chilcott greeted by his wife and mother.*





SPC Tyler Nielsen with his wife Alicia.



SSG Bryan Bursk is welcomed home by his wife Valerie.



SFC Toby Thalman with his young son and his brother ISG Richard Thalman.

As each newly reunited family made its way home, pride and gratitude were evident in warriors' and loved ones' faces alike for the successful and safe return of every Soldier of the 115th.

"I'm so proud of him. I'm proud of his service and everything he has done," said Lynnae Chilcott of husband Thomas. "He's just a wonderful man. I can't say enough about him." ■

144th Area Support Medical Company goes Above and Beyond the Call for Fallen Soldier

Compiled from written accounts by MAJ Paul Morrissey, CPT Robert Dent, 1LT Charity Coe, 2LT Tambra Puro, SSG Tim Stillman, SGT David Grant and SPC Andrew Hill.

CAMPECHO, Iraq — **S**tepping outside their comfort zone at Camp Echo, Iraq, Soldiers of the 144th Area Support Medical Company went far above and beyond the call of duty in caring for a fallen Soldier and his comrades May 6.

A routine day of seeing sick-call patients, training Coalition forces in first aid procedures and a little down time changed quickly when 144th medics received a call notifying them of an urgent point-of-injury mission.

A few miles away from Camp Echo, U.S. Army forces had encountered a roadside bomb attack in which Soldiers were killed or wounded.

A POI requires a MEDEVAC crew to fly by helicopter to the scene of an incident to transport wounded to Camp Echo's Troop Medical Clinic for treatment.

Thirty minutes later, however, word came that one of the U.S. Soldiers killed and his surviving comrades were inbound to Camp Echo by vehicle convoy.

Immediately, TMC Officer in Charge 2LT Tambra Puro notified the MEDEVAC crew to be ready and TMC Noncommissioned Officer in Charge SSG Tim Stillman identified teams to provide incoming casualties and accompanying Soldiers with medical treatment, a place to rest and someone to talk to.

As Physician Assistant 1LT Charity Coe prepared for the arrival of the wounded, she tried to think of what would be most helpful for the situation.

"I instinctively did what my mother would have done: I looked for little things to make the Soldiers more comfortable," said Coe. "I found some cookies sent by my family for Easter which I had saved unopened for a rainy day. And others provided additional drinks and snacks from their own care packages."

By the time the convoy arrived, SGT David Grant

had converted his unit's recreation room into a reception area for the incoming Soldiers to relax, eat snacks and be debriefed on their mission.

Coe was one of the first to meet the convoy when it arrived at the clinic.

"We met the convoy commander as he dismounted his vehicle. I saw pain in his eyes and sadness in the eyes of his team, but they were still Soldiers. They still moved and acted with a sense of order," Coe observed.

SPC Andrew Hill and SPC Kristin Nelson accompanied the remains of the fallen Soldier to the temporary morgue facility while the Soldier's comrades were led to the recreation room to meet with MAJ Paul Morrissey, a combat-stress officer from the 1972nd Medical Detachment.

Then Puro and Coe took on the daunting, unfamiliar task of inventorying the fallen Soldier's personal effects and preparing them for shipment back to his unit and eventually to his family.

"This was probably the hardest part, seeing pictures of the Soldier's family, and it finally struck me that this person had loved ones back at home who were going to be devastated," said Puro. "Every ounce of respect, honor, and patriotism I had pushed me through the night to make sure this fallen soldier received the proper respect."

Hill learned that three of the unit's Soldiers had boots covered with blood from the incident. Immediately Hill and two of his colleagues, SGT Tim Stillman and Grant, offered their own boots to the three which were gratefully accepted before they departed the base.

As the 144th completed its work of preparing the fallen Soldier for transport, a heavy rain pelted the camp. An uncommon occurrence in this part of the world, it "seemed as if the heavens themselves wept with the convoy team," said Coe, "but the weather did not deter those who wanted to pay their last respects."

Coe continued: "At about midnight the Soldier's comrades escorted the vehicle [driven by Puro] carrying his remains

onto the flight line, forming an honor guard. Our team and a few others from Camp Echo joined them in rendering a last salute as the fallen Soldier was placed on the helicopter and draped with a donated American flag. We saluted for the last time as this Soldier disappeared into the night aboard the MEDEVAC helicopter."

According to Morrissey, many members of the fallen Soldier's unit expressed their thanks and several commented that they were amazed by the level of caring [shown by the 144th]. And he praised Coe and Puro for their leadership in an impromptu and unfamiliar situation.

"Out of chaos, they made order. They received the remains of the Soldier with respect and dignity. They planned ahead, took control, coordinated a memorial service, transported the remains to the airfield and sent the Soldier off with a fitting tribute. It was beautifully done," said Morrissey.

Commander of the 144th CPT Robert Dent, also lauded the Camp Echo team for their extraordinary response to the challenge.

"Our unit motto is 'Courage, Commitment, Compassion.' The actions at Camp Echo that day represent every one of these. I couldn't be prouder of them and what they did. It is an honor to serve with such great Americans who stand up and go beyond what is expected of them in a difficult situation." E



Members of the 144th Area Support Medical Company who assisted with a fallen Soldier May 6 at Camp Echo, Iraq. Front row, left to right, SPC Andrew Hill, SGT David Grant, SPC Kristin Nelson, 1LT Charity Coe. Back row, left to right, SPC Brett Whicker, SSG Tim Stillman, and 2LT Tandra Puro.

Photo by SPC Michael Murley

Improving Life In Kyrgyzstan

By TSgt. Sterling S. Poulson

MANAS AIR FIELD, Kyrgyzstan — **I**n Manas Air Field, Kyrgyzstan, a 14,000-foot runway is packed with U.S. Air Force KC-135 refueling tankers and C-130 transport planes. They are flying multiple daily missions for logistical support of troops in Afghanistan and beyond.

It is a four-month deployment for Capt. Trent H. Borden, 151st Medical Squadron, serving as chief nurse. Working 12 to 18 hours a day, the overall assignment included overseeing the medical responsibilities of the expeditionary hospital and taking care of troops that were leaving or entering Afghanistan and Pakistan. It also included caring for both military and civilian coalition personnel.

With hours of hard work, there was little time for relaxation. Borden used his occasional days off to do even more work, but with some unusual rewards. The Manas Air Base Outreach Society is busy helping the local civilians build a better life. In the area surrounding Manas International Airport, MABOS has built over 100, three-to four-room, single-dwelling homes.

Borden says that the most memorable part was going in and remodeling an orphanage. “They were cooking off of an open fire and all of the kids were bathing in an old rusty tub.” With tens of thousands of dollars raised and thousands of volunteer hours, the kids ended up with a much better place to live. A new playground was also built for the orphanage.

Kyrgyzstan is the poorest country in the former Soviet Union. They had their economy taken away by the Russian government after they declared their independence, leaving it a debilitated country. The U.S. military’s involvement currently sustains about 40 percent of their economy.

Borden says, “The U.S. does make a difference and we do care about people. Our Armed Forces are not just going in to get the enemy but also showing people ways of working together to take care of themselves.” ■



Photo courtesy of Capt. Trent Borden

Capt. Trent H. Borden stands in front of the many vehicles used to administer aid at Manas Air Base

144th ASMC Soldier Inducted into Elite Leader Club

By MAJ Hank McIntire

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — **S**gt. David Mabey, Mapleton, who is serving in Iraq with the 144th Area Support Medical Company, Utah National Guard, was inducted May 10 into the Army’s Audie Murphy Club.

Organized in 1991, the club was created to recognize outstanding leadership demonstrated by Army noncommissioned officers. Criteria for nomination to the club includes demonstration of exceptional leadership attributes and personal achievement.

The club is named for Audie Murphy, the most decorated U.S. Soldier in World War II. Murphy received every combat-related medal and decoration to include the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Specific requirements for consideration for club membership include being an assigned leader of Soldiers; scoring at least 290 out of 300 points possible on the Army Physical Fitness Test; achieving expert qualification with the M-16 rifle; and displaying a superb knowledge of Army regulations, procedures and traditions.

Candidates appear before two separate boards consisting of panels of six command sergeants major (CSM) who test their communication skills and ability to deal with stressful situations.

“It was not easy. These command sergeants major have been in the Army for a long time and know their stuff,” said Mabey. “They are very intimidating and put a lot of pressure on you whether you answer the question right or not. They want to make sure that you have confidence in yourself and your answer no matter what they do to question you.”

The first board was with local CSMs serving in Iraq. The second was a video teleconference with European Medical Command CSMs.

Three Soldiers serving in Iraq competed for two positions in the club. The two selected were both National Guard Soldiers which, according to Mabey, is a rare occurrence. Mabey is the first Utah National Guard Soldier to receive the honor. ■

115th Engineers Perform Critical Training Mission in Iraq

By 1LT Lyle Black

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq— **H**eadquarters Detachment, 115th Engineers, Utah National Guard, deployed to Iraq in January 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit operates the Explosive Hazards Coordination Cell.

The EHCC is an organization created to support Soldiers, Marines, and Sailors trained as engineer and counterexplosive experts who locate and clear improvised explosive devices. The EHCC is staffed with Army, Navy and Marine Engineers and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers from the U.S., Korea and Australia.

The struggle in Iraq is closely associated with IEDs. These devices come in all shapes and sizes which range from soda bottles to vehicles laden with explosives driven by insurgents determined to kill themselves and take coalition troops, Iraqi Security Forces or innocent civilians with them.

Coalition efforts to decrease the threat of IED devices are monumental. Special equipment and techniques have been developed and employed to locate and defuse them before they can harm intended targets.

The 115th plays a significant role in this struggle by coordinating the acquisition, distribution and support of this special equipment. Soldiers in units operating this equipment save many lives every day as they remove IEDs from roadways and neigh-

borhoods throughout Iraq. The equipment supplied by the EHCC gives these Soldiers special capabilities and remarkable protection against IED detonations.

The 115th also trains all coalition forces coming into the country to detect and properly react to IEDs. This training saves Soldiers' lives each time they detect an IED prior to detonation and react properly to clear and secure the area around the device and keep civilians safe. This training teaches Soldiers about the dangers of the different types of IEDs, how they are hidden, how to detect them and how to adjust their own actions to be less vulnerable to IED attacks.

The explosives used to build IEDs are hidden throughout the country. Locating these hiding places is difficult, but metal detectors supplied by the EHCC has greatly improved soldiers' ability to find hidden explosives. Soldiers trained to use these detectors can differentiate between objects and determine if the metal detected is part of a weapon system or merely just scrap.

Nonelectronic

methods for detecting IEDs include using search dogs trained in the U.S. who are paired with handlers. Dogs and handlers are matched to each other and train together until they know each other and work as a team. Handlers know their dogs' capabilities and behavior, and dogs learn to obey commands from their handlers.

When a dog finds a hidden explosive he alerts his handler and the handler rewards the dog. Search dogs are given rank just like Soldiers and typically outrank their handlers. These dogs love their work and bring a special capability and enthusiasm to the fight against IEDs.

Bringing freedom to the Iraqi people is very important to the security of the United States and the stability of this region. The 115th is grateful for the opportunity to contribute in any way possible and pleased that their contribution directly saves lives and makes a visible difference in the fight against terrorism in Iraq. ■



SFC Kamron Wright, 115th Engineers, with one of many Special Search Dogs used to help detect improvised explosive devices in Iraq.

Photo by 115th Engineers

Utah Guard's Triple Deuce Comes Home

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

‘Welcome home, Triple Deuce.’ — *St. George Spectrum*. ‘They’re home!’ — *Richfield Reaper*. ‘There’s no place like home.’ — *Cedar City Daily News*. ‘Welcome home, our hometown heroes.’ — *Beaver Press*.

These were the local newspaper headlines from the four cities home to the units of Second Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, who returned home to Utah after serving 18 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 2-222nd, or Triple Deuce as the unit is known, was activated in January 2005. The unit left Utah for Camp Shelby, Miss., for several months of combat training before heading overseas. While at Camp Shelby the unit relocated temporarily to National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., for acclimation to a desert environment and to receive Iraq-specific training.

The battalion arrived in Iraq in June 2005 and was assigned to the 2-28th Brigade Combat Team of the Pennsylvania National Guard in support of the 2nd Marine Division in Ar Ramadi, Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

The Triple Deuce fulfilled three primary missions in Iraq: Conduct ammunition supply route security, defend forward-operating bases and provide artillery fires to disrupt insurgent operations. The 2-222nd was also involved in the recruiting and training of Iraqi police forces.

Service Battery and Charlie Battery returned to Utah June 17, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery arrived

June 21 and Alpha and Charlie Batteries came home June 22. Charter aircraft brought Soldiers to Cedar City Municipal Airport and then continued on to Salt Lake City to drop off Triple Deuce Soldiers who lived in Northern Utah.

Hours prior to the arrivals of the Soldiers’ planes, anxious wives, excited children, gushing mothers, and proud fathers joined friends and supportive citizens at the airport to prepare to render an appropriate welcome home. Well-

wishers looked as though they came prepared for war themselves with their flags, banners, painted faces, sunscreen, picnic lunches, and even a few bag chairs.

Among the official greeters in Cedar City for the various arrivals were Utah Governor Jon Huntsman and his wife Mary Kaye; Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert and his wife Jeanette;

MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general; Brig. Gen. Scott Harrison, deputy commander of Joint Forces Headquarters; BG Patrick Wilson, commander of I Corps Artillery; and CSM Dell Smith, State Sergeant Major.

First to welcome home deplaning Soldiers, however, were some of their own: SFC Daniel Gubler and CPL Braxton McCoy, seriously wounded in separate IED (improvised explosive device) attacks in Iraq, and who both spent several months

at Walter Reed Medical Center for medical treatment and rehabilitation. They only recently returned to Utah.

Soldiers gave hearty handshakes, embraces, and slaps on the back to Gubler and McCoy as they recognized their wounded comrades at the bottom of the aircraft stairs.



ABOVE: Families, friends and supporters of the Triple Deuce await the arrival of the aircraft at Cedar City Airport.

BELOW: MG Brian Tarbet and CSM Dell Smith walk out onto the tarmac June 17 with SFC Dan Gubler and CPL Braxton McCoy.





A surge of emotion is felt as the entire crowd welcomes home the returning Soldiers of the Triple Deuce.

Gubler, who lost his left arm and is slated for surgery to repair damaged eyesight, was thrilled to see his fellow Soldiers for the first time in more than seven months.

“I’m elated. I can’t really express the joy I feel. I got yanked out [after being wounded] and didn’t get a chance to say goodbye, so it’s great to see them,” he said.

The receiving line comprised of Soldiers, elected and Guard officials also included Family Support team members handing out individual yellow roses to each arriving Soldier.

No one who witnessed the mass reunions will forget the surge of emotion displayed and felt by all who were there. Governors and generals were choked up, flight attendants were in tears, reporters were left without words, children raced to hug their fathers, and wives, mothers, and fathers held tightly to their Soldiers, who unashamedly violated the ‘Soldiers don’t cry’ code.

One Guard wife who carried a young daughter in each arm to greet her Soldier was Megan Curtis.

“It’s unreal. I didn’t think this day would ever come,” she said shortly after the reunion. “I’m not letting him out of my sight.”

Megan’s husband, SPC Derek Curtis of Charlie Battery, 2-222nd, an Ace Hardware employee and student at Southern Utah University, echoed her sentiments.

“It’s been a long time coming. It’s good to be home. It was a good experience. I wouldn’t change it, but I wouldn’t go back,” he said.

In addition to family and friends, others came simply as citizens supporting Soldiers.

DruElla Chamberlain, did not have any relatives in the Triple Deuce. She explained why there were so many non-family members there to welcome Soldiers home.

“This is just Cedar City. We are a close-knit community, and your son is my son. We’re just thrilled to have them home,” she said.

Among elected officials greeting Soldiers was Cedar City Mayor Gerald Sherratt.

“This is a historic day. We have a parade down Main Street planned. I think the last time we did that was at the end of the First World War,” he said.

“The 213th went to Korea. They called that a miracle because they came home without a casualty, and this is a second miracle. And we’re just thrilled and honored by their service. I don’t think we can do enough for them,” Sherratt added.

Gov. Huntsman, after shaking hands with each Soldier and meeting families, expressed gratitude for the Triple Deuce’s safe return.

“We salute their service, we honor their dedication. The



ABOVE AND BELOW: *Wives, children, mothers, fathers and friends reunite with Soldiers from the 2-222nd at the Cedar City Airport in June.*

fact that they have come home with so little in the way of casualties even that they were right in the middle of the action, I think it's nothing short of a miracle. It couldn't be a better day," he said.

The last one off the plane on this day was LTC Richard Miller, commander of the 2-222nd. Miller had nothing but praise for the hero's welcome provided by Cedar City and for his Soldiers.

"This reception is overwhelming. It's great for our Soldiers to see this. It brings tears to your eyes," he said.

"It's been a privilege to be associated with these young

men for the past 18 months. Our Soldiers, because they

are from Utah, are able to adapt to any mission," Miller added.

Miller also acknowledged his belief that a divine Hand had a part in the return home of every Soldier in the Triple Deuce.

"Heavenly Father has had a great part in keeping us alive and keeping us safe. And the support and prayers of the community have been a part of that too. Our brigade lost 80 Soldiers among five battalions, but we were fortunate to be the only battalion in that brigade not to lose a Soldier," he said.

Those who were there won't look at a uniform or a flag in quite the same way ever again. Megan Curtis summed up what this deployment did for her and for all of us.

"I look at the Fourth of July celebration much differently now. It has a whole new meaning," she said. "Somebody has to do it, and now I realize how big of a sacrifice it really is."

The next day, MG Tarbet spoke to Soldiers assembled as a group.

"I gave a speech here when you left. There was one line in it from a Franklin Roosevelt World War II speech, that some of you would not come back. But I would not read it despite knowing where you were going," said Tarbet. "I'm just grateful to see you in these chairs. It's great to have you back. What a wonderful sight!"



151st Security Forces Squadron Completes Tour In Iraq



SrA Fenton Wetstone inspects a truck on the perimeter.

By SGT Waine D. Haley

FOR the last six months, Contingency Operating Base Speicher has been kept safe and secure by the outstanding work of Air Force Security Forces.

Detachment 1, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group (EMSG), has maintained security on COB Speicher under the command of the 101st Airborne Division.

The 1/732nd EMSG is comprised of Airmen from five different installations around the Air Force: Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; Robins AFB, Ga.; Cannon AFB, N.M.; Tinker AFB, Okla. and Utah Air National Guard.

“In the last six months we’ve improved the living conditions on the base,” said Capt. Sascha Archie, operations officer, 28th Security Forces Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. and a Huntsville, Ala. native. Archie goes on to say he believes the base is a safer place to live and work because people know there will be law enforcement presence on the base.

The Security Force was instrumental in the process of conducting investigations on the base. When a unit appoints an investigating officer for an incident, they may not know all the rules of the law, how to properly question a suspected Soldier, what their rights are or how to obtain search authorizations. By conducting the investigations, they free up top, non-commis-

sioned officers and commanders so that they may concentrate on other important tasks.

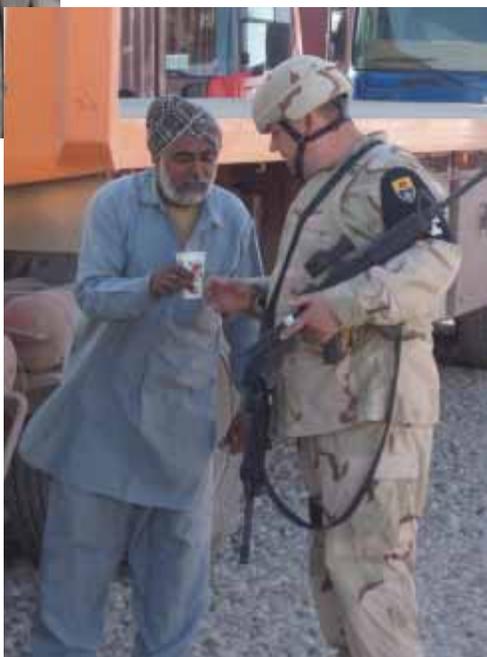
“We provide the first sergeants and commanders with a nice little package,” Archie said. “All they have to do is decide what the disciplinary actions will be--if there is a negative outcome.”

The Security Force also worked with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Department and 101st Airborne Division’s intelligence department to put a stop to the stealing and selling of U.S. government property on the base.

The investigation started with a suspected local national selling illegal cell phones and alcohol on the base. That led to multiple arrests and the confiscation of over \$200,000 worth of property and cash.

“The breakup of the ring of people, who [were] stealing from the government and in essence the American people, was the biggest thing we’ve done on our six-month rotation,” Archie said.

These are just a few things the Air Force Security Forces have done since the middle of January 2006. Their six-month tour of duty ends in the coming weeks.



“Being part of Speicher’s SF is a gratifying part of my military career,” said Air Force SSgt. Mike Brunt, Detachment 1-732nd EMSG, Utah Air National Guard. “I’m looking forward to getting back home, but it’s been great being part of Iraq’s rebuilding process--even if it is in an indirect way.” ■

Story Courtesy of NewsBlaze.com

SSgt. William Sage is offered tea from a Turkish driver--we treat them with respect and they appreciate it.



SrA Jason Losee checks ID cards at the Post Exchange on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq.

Photos Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

19th Special Forces Group Commander has Eventful Last Day at Helm

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

FOR CEDAR FORT and CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — COL Andy Burton, commander of the 19th Special Forces Group, and his son, PFC Jason Burton, Wednesday, July 19, was a day of firsts and lasts.

Father and son had recently returned from Fort Benning, Ga., where the previous Friday Jason graduated from Airborne School and Andy was the keynote speaker at the ceremony and pinned new jump wings on his son.

On this day, the recent graduate would break in his wings jumping out of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for his “cherry jump,” which is what Special Forces Soldiers call their first parachute jump after Airborne School.

The younger Burton would be joined by his father and commander, who would be completing his 150th and last jump as a member of the 19th. The Burtons were also joined on the first stick—or batch of jumpers—by SGT David Burton, Group Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group, a nephew to Andy and cousin to Jason, as well as COL Michael Adams, who would assume command from the senior Burton later in the day.

The father-son combination also garnered a great deal of local media attention with all the television stations and major and small-town newspapers represented at Drop Zone Ashau, a conglomeration of farmers’ fields just outside Cedar Fort, Utah.

The weather was slightly overcast with almost no wind—a perfect day for a parachute jump, according to COL Burton.

Jason jumped first, followed three seconds later by Andy. About two minutes later the two Burtons landed within about 30 feet of each other in the soft dirt.

After collecting and repacking their chutes and trudging through the Cedar Valley soil to the dirt road representing the

western edge of the drop zone, they were met by reporters—including this one—anxious to get their reaction.

“The jump was good, but it’s kind of sad. It’s my first jump with the unit and [my dad’s] last,” said Jason. “It was a good experience to jump with him and carry the tradition forward.”

The young private said he prefers jumping from the Blackhawk, which was quite a change from the traditional C-130 fixed-wing aircraft used as paratroopers’ air frame at Fort Benning.

“In the helicopter you can actually see the drop zone. In the C-130 all you see is a little red light before you’re out the door,” said Jason.

Having jumped in sun, rain, snow, swamp and desert in the U.S. and overseas, father Andy rated this one near the top of his highlight reel.

“It’s unbelievable! What a thrill,” he said.

Burton explained that Fort Benning trainees jump using a T-10 parachute, which requires Soldiers to pull on the actual risers—the thin strands linking the jumper and the parachute—in order to turn and maneuver. But this jump was made with the SF-10, a parachute with toggles on each side which allow the jumper to more easily control turns and landings.

Cheryl Burton, Andy’s wife and Jason’s mother, was also there at the drop zone to watch her husband and son—and

not without a little angst and a lot of pride.

“It was very emotional. It was a wonderful feeling to see them come out, and they’re done,” she said with a smile of relief. “I’ll sleep better tonight.”

“I’m very supportive of Jason. I wanted him to join the military. We’re a very patriotic family,” Cheryl added.



COL Andy Burton, left, and his son PFC Jason Burton before boarding the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for Dad’s last and Son’s first jump.

With his last jump under his belt, COL Burton, a 23-year veteran of the Salt Lake Police Department who worked extensively with the gang task force, then turned his attention to his last official act as commander of the 19th: Turning over the Group's colors to his successor.

The ceremony, held at the Camp Williams Readiness Center, included the traditional passing of the flag from CSM Allen Smithee, Group Sergeant Major; to COL Burton, outgoing commander; to MG Brian L. Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general; to COL Adams, incoming commander, and then back to Smithee.

In his remarks Burton outlined the scope of missions completed by the 19th Special Forces during his nearly four years as commander to include supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, Noble Eagle and Desert Spring in Kuwait, Unified Endeavor in Puerto Rico and Talisman Saber in Australia.

"The command team and these commanders are without equal. The staff at Group Headquarters is the most qualified and experienced staff in the history of the Group, with combat experience in almost every case," Burton said. "The key was that Soldiers performed flawlessly, accomplishing every mission with expertise and professionalism while living Army values and working as quiet professionals."

Burton also paid tribute to Soldiers' families, Family Support, previous Group commanders and his wife and children.

Tarbet lauded Burton for his legacy and his service in his comments as presiding officer at the ceremony.

"The Burton story is a classic story of service to the state and nation. As I've listened to all that they've done over the past five years, it is a remarkable record that they've written and Andy Burton has been a large part of it," said Tarbet.

After the ceremony Burton summed up his feelings about serving as Group commander.

"The longer you're there, the harder it is to go away. But I have a son serving in the unit, so I can stay involved in some way. It's a tremendous honor to have been the commander," Burton said.

"The credit is really to the Soldiers. The work they do and the professionalism they exhibit, it's without equal. And we have the finest noncommissioned officers anywhere. They are so professional, so competent, and so hard-working. They've really made the difference," he added.



Soldiers of the 19th Special Forces Group over Drop Zone Ashau.



Cheryl Burton was honored with a bouquet of roses during the ceremony and received the loudest and longest standing ovation when she was recognized for her service as the wife of the Group commander.

"I'm honored that my husband has been in the National Guard. I've always enjoyed the camaraderie of Soldiers and the wives, the whole atmosphere," she said after the ceremony. "It's brought us closer and the times we've spent together, I've absolutely enjoyed it."

Adams, who comes from a regular-Army background, expressed appreciation for the close-knit group of Soldiers that is the 19th.

"I really feel like I'm joining a family here. This is different than what I've seen before. Taking command of a Special Forces group is the pinnacle of tactical command for Special Forces officers. I respect what that means in terms of trust and confidence," said Adams.

"These Soldiers have clearly demonstrated that they are a dedicated bunch. They have their civilian jobs to put food on the table, and they come to train and often deploy. And they do it not to get rich but because they are great Americans," added Adams. ☞

The 120th Quartermaster Detachment Works Behind the Scenes in Iraq

By SGT Joseph Porritt

The struggle for peace in the Middle East requires a large effort, and not all the work the military is doing makes the evening news. Some jobs are less glamorous than others but still essential. Two examples are the water and Class I missions being carried out by the 120th Quartermaster Detachment (Water Purification).

The majority of Soldiers of the 120th are stationed at a convoy support center in southern Iraq. Their primary mission is to purify water for the camp and all its needs.

“We produce all the water for showers, brushing teeth, the Troop Medical Clinic, the dining facility and the fire department,” explained SFC Carlyle Smith, commander of the 120th, a Lehi resident.

Waste water is used for toilets, vehicle wash racks, to clean portable latrines and to keep dust down on the roads.

“We basically produce all the water used in camp, with the exception of the bottled water,” said Smith.

The 120th gets its water from a nearby canal that the U.S. military shares with local farmers. Soldiers purify the water using Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units, or ROWPUs.

“[Our] duties include basic operation and maintenance of the 3K [3,000 gallons per hour] ROWPUs and distribution of water to various potable water trucks,” said SPC Carl Ballow, Salina.

The biggest part of this job, Ballow explained, is maintaining ROWPUs on a daily basis.

“There aren’t many aspects of the job I don’t enjoy. I enjoy the hands-on part of getting the mechanic aspects of the ROWPU, learning new skills that I can apply in my everyday life, and the people I work with are great,” said Ballow as he works to ensure that the

camp has plenty of water each day.

While a pair of teams provide for the water needs of the camp, another team from the 120th supports the Class I—or food and water—needs of convoys which constantly roll in and out of camp.

SGT Krystal Wilson, Eagle Mountain, is one of the Soldiers working in the camp Class I yard.

“My basic duties include supplying Soldiers and TCNs—Third-country Nationals—with their daily rations, and supplying convoys with the ice and water necessary to complete their mission,” she said.

With a local Iraqi as an Arabic interpreter, Wilson and her team work as types of ambassadors to the world as they hand out MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and bottled water to the citizens of other countries.

The TCNs come from all over the world including Pakistan, India, Fiji, Ukraine, Bosnia, the Philippines and many Middle Eastern countries.

“It’s neat to see their culture and talk with them about the different experiences they have had in Iraq,” says Wilson of her association with TCNs.

With the camp being provided water and convoys getting their daily rations, efforts toward peace move forward well supplied.

“My favorite part is getting the job done and getting some time off,” says SGT Edward Rozak, American Fork.

With plenty of chlorine in hand and a good supply of water, part of that time off for Soldiers in camp includes a dip in a small pool set up by the 120th using some small storage bags. The pool has provided a great opportunity to beat the Iraqi heat. “I think we’re doing all right down here,” added Rozak. ■



The Crew – TOP LEFT: SPC David Bingham, SGT Jacob Black, PFC Jessica Hyde, SSG John Knoche, SGT Jakob Bradford, PFC William Hyde
BOTTOM LEFT kneeling: SGT Joseph Porritt, SSG Shawn Weatherspoon

Photo by SFC Carlyle Smith



ABOVE LEFT: SPC Carl Ballow looks over the 60K generator which supplies power to the 3K ROWPU. ABOVE RIGHT: SGT Krystal Wilson, 120th QM, works with TCN truck drivers, signing off their paperwork at the Class I yard. RIGHT: SPC Carl Ballow, left, and SGT Edward Rozak pause briefly to pose for this photo as they operate the 3K ROWPU.

Photos by SFC Carlyle Smith

Mobile Observation Team from Utah a “First” on the Battlefield

By SFC Gordon Ewell

CAMP DUKE, Iraq — **I**mprovised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are the enemy’s weapon of choice, and to date are the number one killer of Coalition Forces on the battlefield. Their ever-increasing sophistication is a challenge, but not an insurmountable one.

Generally speaking, IEDs are roadside bombs that not only threaten our Soldiers but disrupt the movement of logistical convoys taking much needed supplies to them.

Today’s technology has allowed for the creation of specialized vehicles and equipment that are designed specifically for the task of finding IEDs so they can be rendered safe before they can become a threat to U.S. and Coalition forces or Iraqi civilians. These new route-clearance vehicles are being shipped directly to Iraq as quickly as they are being built.

As Army Engineers have historically been tasked with route-clearance operations and assigned specialized equipment for this mission, The Multinational Corps, Iraq (MNC-I) Commanding General looked to the Engineers for the fielding and implementing of this new equipment into battlefield to lead the counter-IED fight.

The Director of the MNC-I Corps of Engineers was assigned the mission. The mission of oversight and fielding of the new equipment was further assigned to the MNC-I Engineer Corps’ Explosives Hazards Coordination Cell (EHCC).

The EHCC is currently comprised of deployed Utah Soldiers from the 115th Engineer Battalion, under the direction of Col. John Moore. The EHCC is divided into sections, one of which is the Route Clearance section, under the direction of MAJ Delight Simondi. The Route Clearance section was assigned the responsibility of oversight for all fielding, training, tracking and maintenance issues concerning every single new route-clearance vehicle arriving in theater.

As the fleet of new route-clearance vehicles grew and route-clearance teams were assembled and trained to specifically engage the IED threat, new tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) were developed. These TTPs were constantly evolving as Soldiers of route-clearance teams

in the field learned the best way to use the new equipment.

It became apparent to the director of the Corps Engineer section and the director of the EHCC that a specially trained team was needed to oversee what all the route-clearance teams were doing and how they were each using the equipment differently to counter the IED-specific threats in their area of operations.

Thus, the route-clearance Mobile Observation Team (MOT) was created. 1LT Phillip Smith and SFC Gordon Ewell, both of the 115th were selected as the first-ever MOT observers. Later, 1LT Ross Renken of the 5th Corps Engineers from Germany and CPL James Lish, also of the 115th, were added.

The purpose of the Route Clearance MOT is to deploy to all theater areas of operation and be embedded with each route-clearance team in Iraq in order to observe their TTPs. Information gathered by the MOT will then be used to rapidly share the best practiced TTPs with all the route-clearance teams in order to increase their effectiveness against enemy threats.

Information gathered by MOTs is also forwarded to training centers in theater and in the U.S. so that future route-clearance teams can be trained based upon the “best” route clearance TTPs observed and most current enemy threats.

To date, the route-clearance MOT comprised of Utah Soldiers has been embedded in over 70 route-clearance missions. They are highly regarded and have had a significant impact on the effectiveness of route-clearance efforts in the counter-IED fight as well as ensuring freedom of movement for our convoys, Coalition forces and Iraqi civilians. ■



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: SFC Gordon Ewell and 1LT Phillip Smith, of the 115th Engr BN getting ready to fly to link up with a route-clearance team to perform some route-clearance MOT missions. BELOW: SFC Gordon Ewell on a route-clearance mission. BEHIND: IED found hidden along roadside in Iraq.



Photos by 115th Engineer Battalion

Bittersweet Reunion at Camp Shelby

Story and photos by MAJ Paul Waldron

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. — **T**wo Utah National Guard units passed each other on active duty in early June at Camp Shelby, Miss. One was leaving for Afghanistan and one was returning from Iraq.

This situation would not be so unique, except that there were members of three different families between the two units seeing each other coming and going. I Corps Artillery (Forward) was headed to Afghanistan as embedded trainers with the Afghan National Army as the 2-222nd Field Artillery was returning from a security-force mission in Iraq.

MAJ Mark Esplin tasted the bitter as he left his family in Utah to mobilize for service in Afghanistan only to taste the bittersweet a week later as he met up with his eldest son, SPC Shea Esplin, as Shea returned from Iraq to demobilize at Camp Shelby. The Esplins were able to spend time together during some down time for the one week that Shea was passing through.

“It is great to see him back safe and healthy,”



ABOVE: MAJ Mark Esplin and his son, SPC Shea Esplin. BELOW: The Ogden brothers, CPT Roger, 1LT Phillip and SSG Steve. RIGHT: SFC Gray and SSG Cody Hansen visit their father, SGM Larry Hansen, at his barracks at Camp Shelby.



said Mark. “I feel better knowing he is back and out of harm’s way. It is bittersweet, being able to see him, but it is going to be hard to say goodbye again. It feels like we have been saying goodbye for two years, with his leaving and his mid-tour leave and now my deployment.”

Shea hopes that his father can go and have a good experience and return safely as well.

“I am proud of my dad, and I know that he will go and accomplish the mission and make us all proud of him,” said Shea.

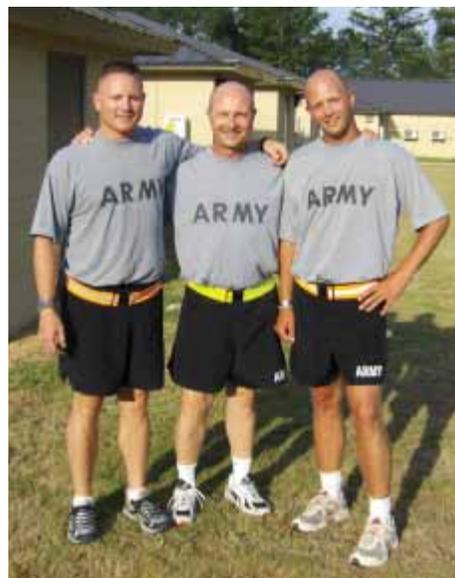
“It was hard to see my son go. I have over 20 years in the military and never been activated for service or put in harm’s way, then to have to see my son go after having just enlisted in the National Guard,” explained Mark. “I was proud to see him go willingly, but my heart said that I was the one that should be going. Well, now it is my turn.”

Additionally, Mark will be on the same mission with his cousin, LTC Steve Esplin, thus continuing the family connections in these deployments.

Another reunion from the same activation and demobilization involved the Ogden brothers, CPT Roger, 1LT Phillip and SSG Steve. Phillip and Steve were returning from Iraq, and Roger is leaving for Afghanistan. The same sentiments of mission accomplishment and safe return were expressed by the three.

“It’s our turn to serve. It shows the legacy of military service in our family,” said Roger, whose pedigree includes his grandfather, Jean Banks, a Marine Corps veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor.

At Camp Shelby Roger retrieved a U.S. flag from his brothers Phillip and Steve, which they flew over their forward operating base in Iraq and which Roger will fly at his base in Afghanistan. The flag has also flown over the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, and once Roger returns home next year the three brothers will present the flag to their grandfather.



Another father-son reunion was SGM Larry Hansen and his two sons; the sons are returning and Dad is leaving.

“It is just good to get them back safe on U.S. soil,” said Larry of his boys as Father’s Day approached. “That is all I can ask for.”

Mark Esplin summed it up well for all these families.

“I can definitely say that our family has done its part in serving our country,” he said. ■

Great Utah Road Tour 2006

Story and photos by SGT Kelly Collett

DRAPER, Utah -- **T**he Great Utah Road Tour kicked off this year with a few days of fun and adventure for all the Utah National Guard youth who attended. Teens from all over the state attended the second annual Great Utah Road Tour hosted by Family Programs.



LEFT: Youth group enjoys rafting and splashing in the Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam. ABOVE: Early morning hike to Delicate Arch in Arches National Park.



MAJ Annette Barnes, Youth Program Director for the Utah National Guard, explained why it is so important to have National Guard Youth involved with each other.

“We don’t live on a military base. We’re not surrounded by other children in our same predicament. We spread out in our communities and we’re really oddballs in our community. Nobody knows what other kids are going through, other than other military kids,” Barnes said.

The trip started with a guided rafting tour of the Green River from Flaming Gorge Dam down to Little Hole. Youth splashed each other and had water fights while floating over the cold, beautiful, clear river. Several times during the trip, some of the rafts were boarded by attacking rafts. A few youth were unlucky enough to find out exactly how cold the water was in the river.

The group took a lunch break on the shore of the river a little over halfway through their trip. After eating and policing the area for trash, they were back on their way. The seven-mile rafting trip ended at Little Hole where the boats eddied out to the shore. The guides quickly unloaded the rafts while the youth headed off to change into dry clothes and load back on the bus for the next leg of the trip to Moab.

The next morning the youth were up before the sun to hike to Utah’s famous Delicate Arch in Arches National Park. The group hiked the mile and a half to the arch to view the interesting rock formation. Some rested their

legs from the inclined hike while others explored every nook and cranny in the area.

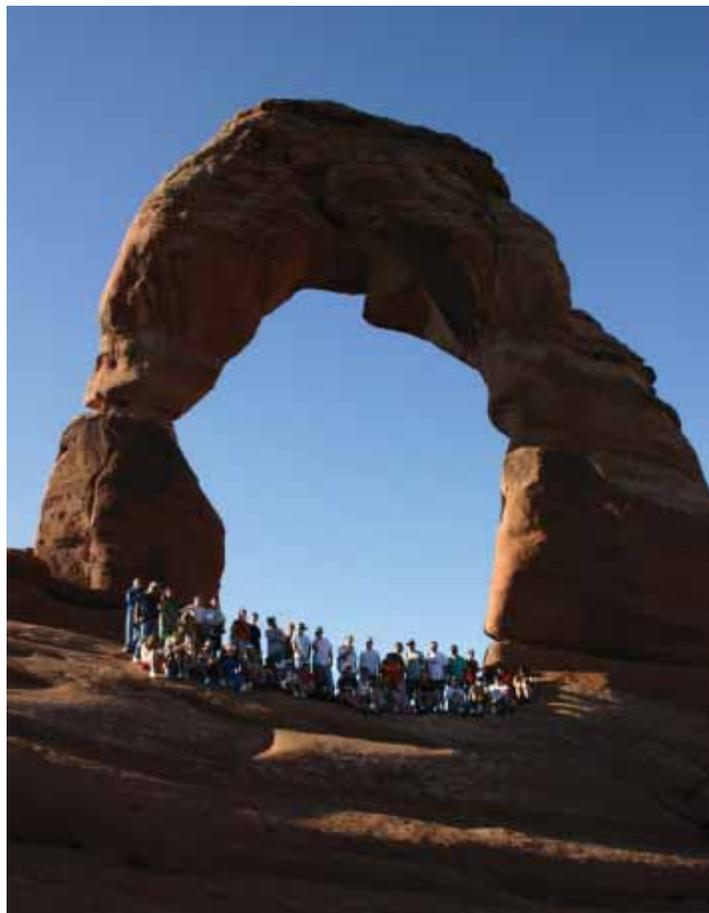
After enjoying the beautiful rock formations, the group headed back down the trail seeking an air-conditioned bus and water. The youth took time-out back at the hotel for a swim in the pool and to enjoy some sandwiches and fresh fruit. Then, just as quickly as they arrived, they were off again to drive to Bryce Canyon.

On their way to the scenic canyon, the bus broke down near the small town of Marysvale. They sat stranded in the little town trying to arrange transportation, while frequenting the only gas station in the area for water, food and bathroom facilities. The owner of the gas station, Tom Robertson, questioned the group about their predicament. He offered to help and started making phone calls to arrange transportation for the youth group. A little over an hour passed and Doug Allen arrived in a Piute School District bus to finish taking the youth the rest of the way to Bryce Canyon.

After a long day in the sun, the group arrived at their hotel for the evening. The youth leaders made sure the youth had something to eat before heading off to bed for the evening.

The morning came, and the youth clamored back on their original bus and headed out to do some horseback riding along Bryce Canyon rim.

They arrived and received instructions on riding their



LEFT: Youth group sitting at the base of Delicate Arch in Arches National Park ABOVE: Horseback riding to the rim of Bryce Canyon.

horses from the guides who gave special instructions to remember their assigned horse's name. Guides sent youth out in smaller, manageable groups with individual guides to begin the half-day trip to the rim of the canyon.

The youth viewed the incredible expanse of the intriguing canyon from horseback and made a circle back to the horse trailers where they said goodbye to a new friend and struggled to walk again after shaking off a bout with saddle sores.

The road tour wrapped up by driving to Cedar City where some of the youth were dropped off to go home while the others who lived in northern Utah stayed the night and went to the theater to watch a movie. The bus brought home the rest of the youth the next day.

Many of the youth said how much they enjoyed the trip and talked about why it was important to them.

"Going to camp with kids my age is fun. It helps me a lot to know that there are other kids going through the same things as me. It makes me feel like I'm not all alone!" said Amanda Fordham.

"It went really well. Everything we wanted to do, happened," said Barnes. 📧

Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation, Departs for OIF Deployment

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **O**ne more time.”

Those words from Chief Warrant Officer Lynn Higgins, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot and Vietnam veteran, captured the attitude and resolve of the 35 Soldiers of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation, Utah National Guard, as they departed from Utah Mar. 23 for an 18-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While Soldiers' families hovered around the helicopters on the tarmac at the West Jordan Army Aviation Support Facility, Alpha Company pilots' and crew chiefs' determination was evident in their faces as they completed preparation of their Blackhawks before they could say their final goodbyes to their loved ones.

Unlike most other post-9/11 Utah Guard units who departed the state on buses or commercial aircraft, these Soldiers would be flying themselves to Fort Hood, Texas, for several months of combat training before heading overseas.

At Fort Hood, Alpha Company will be attached to the 2-135th Aviation Battalion, Colorado National Guard, for the duration of their wartime mission of transporting personnel, supplies and equipment in their assigned area of operations.

LTC Chris Petty, commander of the 2-135th, looks forward to having the Soldiers of Alpha Company as part of his team.

“These Utah guys are a solid outfit with some good experience, good leadership

and great attitudes,” Petty said. “It looks like my job is going to be easy. I'm glad to have them on board.”

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch was also on hand to visit with Soldiers and families and provide them his support and encouragement.

“I have such pride in the greatness of our men and women throughout the military, but our young men who are going today are really the cream of the crop. Thank God for these Soldiers and their willingness to fight for freedom,” Hatch said.

After Soldiers and families gathered in the hangar for a brief farewell ceremony, Chaplain (MAJ) Mark Allison, 211th Aviation Group, offered a prayer and Sen. Hatch and Utah National Guard Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet gave some remarks.

CPT Micah Tebbs, Alpha Company commander also spoke to those assembled.

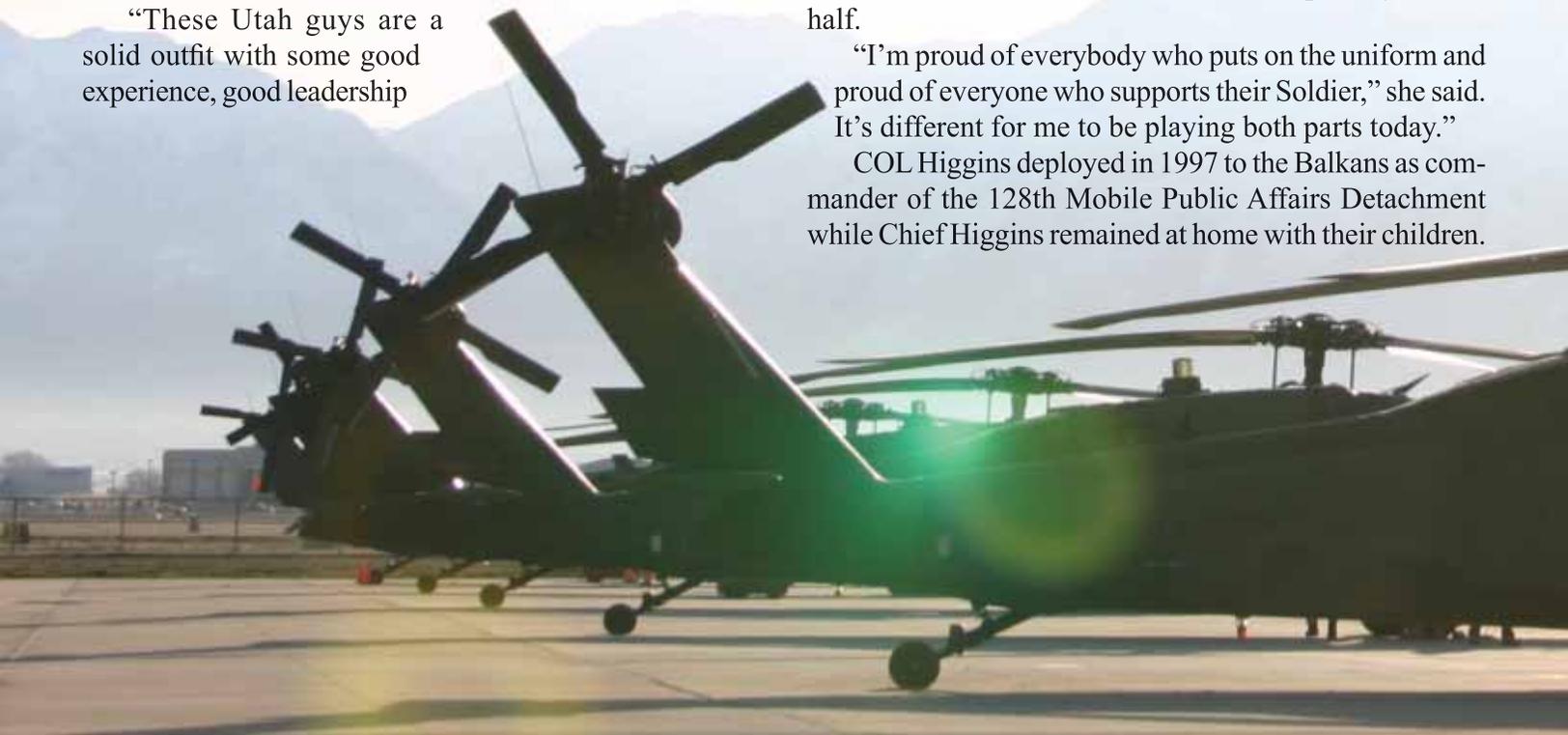
“This is a good group of guys. We're all going to take care of each other,” said an emotional Tebbs. “I'm honored to be their commander.”

Then Tebbs gave Soldiers a precious few minutes to bid their families and loved ones farewell.

In that tearful, hugging crowd was COL Linda Higgins, commander of the Utah Guard's 97th Troop Command. She has attended many send-offs in her official capacity, but this day she was there as Linda, wife of Chief Lynn Higgins and mother of their four children who will do without their husband and father for up to a year and half.

“I'm proud of everybody who puts on the uniform and proud of everyone who supports their Soldier,” she said. “It's different for me to be playing both parts today.”

COL Higgins deployed in 1997 to the Balkans as commander of the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment while Chief Higgins remained at home with their children.





Photos Top Left Down Row: Families line up on the tarmac to watch the departure of the Soldiers; CW5 Lynn Higgins and his wife COL Linda Higgins; PV2 Casey Malmborg, one of the youngest members of the 2-211th to deploy. Photos Top Middle Down Row: Soldiers prepare Blackhawks for departure; 2LT Jeremy Tannahill with his family. Photo Top Right: CW2 Lewis Scovil with his family prior to departure.

And now their roles are reversed.

Husband Lynn agreed that being on the leaving end of a deployment is not the same.

“This is different because I was the one staying behind back then,” he said.

After their goodbyes, Soldiers huddled around Chief Higgins, their flight leader on the trip to Texas, for a safety briefing and some last-minute instructions.

Soldiers then moved out to the flight line, and families spread out along the yellow stripe on the tarmac a few feet from the hangar that marks off the safe area for observers.

Families clapped, cheered, and waved while the four

Blackhawks taxied to the runway as Utah Guard senior leaders stood in formation on the tarmac and saluted the departing aircraft.

Lifting off precisely at 0900 as scheduled with Chief Higgins’ helicopter in the lead, his “One more time” epigram shows that his and Alpha Soldiers’ focus is simply on another mission to be carried out.

“You expect the worst and hope for the best. You go and do the mission, whatever it is,” Higgins said before departing.

And knowing what the stakes are, wife Linda agrees.

“We owe a debt to those who have gone before us,” she said. “We love our country and we’re grateful that our kids have grown up knowing how important this is.” E



222nd FA Loses a Friend In Iraq

By SGT Kelly Collett

The Triple Deuce of Southern Utah recently returned home to a hero's welcome. They were the head of a larger group known as the 222nd Task Force while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers from 19 different states combined to make up the 222nd Task Force stationed in Ramadi, Iraq. While all of the Soldiers from the Utah units came home alive, there were casualties within the Task Force.

While returning Soldiers spend long awaited time with their families and friends, a wife and two daughters in Pennsylvania cope with the loss of their father, LTC Mike McLaughlin.

"LTC Mike McLaughlin was a major when he came to us as part of the Task Force Triple Deuce," said the commander of the 222nd Field Artillery, LTC Richard Miller.

Miller worked closely with McLaughlin who worked directly below him as a fire-support officer, and he and his Soldiers referred to McLaughlin dotingly as "Colonel Mac."

"At first when I met him, I thought that this guy was a little bit caustic and a little brash and would be difficult to work with," said Miller admitting that McLaughlin became one of his closest friends while in Iraq.

Early in their deployment the 222nd hosted a recruitment for Iraqi police while in Iraq. Only five individuals showed up.

Several months later they decided to hold another recruitment to find Iraqi police that could help provide protection for local citizens. McLaughlin worked closely with the governor of the Ramadi province and with local sheiks. He often sat and had tea with them while joking that he would come back to Iraq to take a second wife because he loved Iraq so much. Miller said that McLaughlin was very instrumental in getting the sheiks to convince their young men to come out to the Iraqi police recruitment.

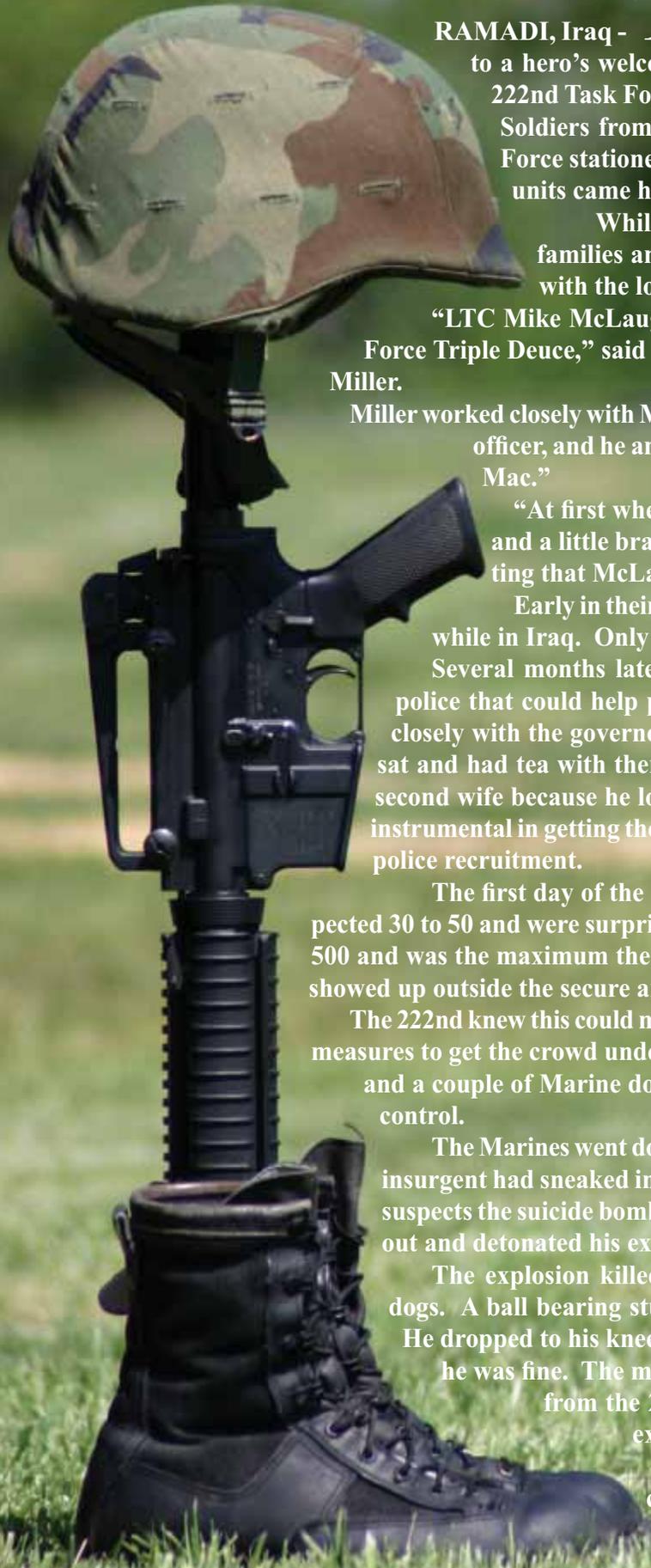
The first day of the recruitment, over 250 showed up. The 222nd had only expected 30 to 50 and were surprised by the turnout. The second day the number doubled to 500 and was the maximum the 222nd could process in one day. The third day over 1,000 showed up outside the secure area and grouped together in a huddled mass.

The 222nd knew this could make a possible target for insurgents. McLaughlin took quick measures to get the crowd under control and provide security for the group. McLaughlin and a couple of Marine dog handlers went out to get the crowd organized and under control.

The Marines went down the lines with their dogs sniffing for explosives. A foreign insurgent had sneaked into the line and was waiting to enter the secure area. Miller suspects the suicide bomber became nervous when the dog came close to sniffing him out and detonated his explosive vest full of ball bearings.

The explosion killed over 70 Iraqis and the Marine dog handlers and their dogs. A ball bearing stuck McLaughlin just below his Kevlar on his spinal cord. He dropped to his knees and a medic came to his aid. McLaughlin told the medic he was fine. The medic moved on to provide aid to the others. Other Soldiers from the 222nd had broken arms and broken legs as a result of the explosion.

McLaughlin slowly became unconscious en route to the chartered medical facility for the area. He never woke up,

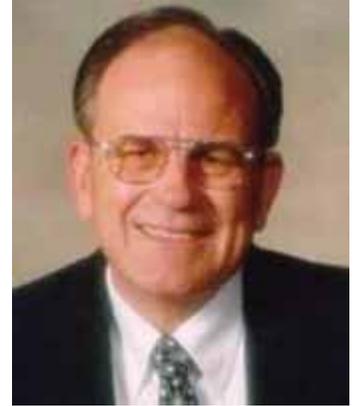


Guard / Reserve Members Eligible for Benefits

By Bart Davis

DRAPER,
Utah —

Sustained mobilization of the National Guard and Reserve since 9/11 has resulted in a large number of benefits available to Guard and Reserve members.



Bart Davis

Photo courtesy of Bart Davis

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Guard Bureau have signed a memorandum of agreement that establishes a Veterans Affairs program to improve delivery of benefits to returning service members. The agreement resulted in the appointment of a permanent liaison at the National Guard Bureau and at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C., and the assignment of a state benefits advisor in each state at the National Guard Headquarters.

Retired Colonel Bart Davis, a 35-year Army veteran himself, has been appointed as Utah's State Benefits Advisor. His primary responsibilities are to coordinate the entitlements and post-combat needs of past and current members of Guard and Reserve at the state level with the Department of Veterans Affairs, other veteran's service organizations and community representatives.

Davis says he only has one job and that is to ensure all returning Guard members, Reservists and their families have the knowledge and ability to access the benefits and services they have earned. He invites any veteran with questions about their eligibility or other services available to them to call (801)-523-4937.

Visit <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/benefits/> for more information. ■



LTC Richard Miller (left) and LTC Mike McLaughlin (right) working with three sheiks in Iraq to set up security forces.

said Miller.

Miller said he and McLaughlin would always joke with each other about death. The topic came up often, especially when they attended a memorial service for Soldiers in their task force.

McLaughlin would say to Miller, "Rich, if I were to die, I don't want one of these stupid memorial services, and do not put my picture on the wall, and don't have anyone say anything at my service."

Miller would joke back with him and tell him that he wanted just a little picture on the wall.

After McLaughlin passed away, they did have a memorial service headed by one of his good friends who was also a chaplain.

Miller tried to focus on the good things that came after McLaughlin's death. "It brought us closer as a task force. It solidified our team," he said. "It really kind of honed us on our mission and how important it was what we were doing."

"I think we all try to move on, but I don't think we forget. We always keep that memory of our comrades, especially those who paid the ultimate price for Iraq's freedom," Miller said. ■

LTC Mike McLaughlin (second in from left) with members of Group I prior to leaving for the day's mission.



Photos by 222nd Field Artillery

Raising the Bar on Recruiting

By SGT Kelly Collett

DRAPER, Utah – **C**ommanders set the example for their troops in everything from discipline to basic military knowledge. When it comes to recruiting and retention, some commanders take a managerial role and let recruiters handle their unit's strength. This was not the case for MAJ Shahram Takmili, A Company, 142nd Military Intelligence.

“As a company commander I have to get my unit ready to go to war; I mean, that's the bottom line. To go to war, you have to have the men in the ranks. To be mission ready, you have to have the strength,” said Takmili.

When Utah National Guard Adjutant General Brian Tabet gave all Utah Guard units the mission to bring unit strength up to 100 percent, Takmili heard naysayers complain that it would be too difficult to recruit during wartime, but he was encouraged by the situation.

“There is a war going on and we're going to find some patriots who are going to fight the war and answer the call of the nation,” he said.

Takmili and his full-time non-commissioned officer's worked actively with Recruiting and Retention to run booths at colleges and many other events where they could find those who had a love for their country and a desire to serve. They brought

in 66 Soldiers within two years. Under the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP), that would have provided over \$132,000 to Takmili and his NCOs for all the Soldiers who enlisted because of their hard work and dedication. Takmili's unit went from 52 percent strength when he first came in, to 117 percent by the time he left.

An individual asked Takmili when he first came in as commander of A Company what his strength goal was during his command. Takmili replied, “One hundred percent!” The individual scoffed saying, “There's no way. Impossible!”

Takmili said later, “That was the kicker for me. Somebody said we can't do something, and we went out and did it. Not only did we get 100 percent, we're at 117 percent. If I had a few more months we would have capped 125 [percent].”

The G-RAP program consists of everyday Soldiers working in their communities on their own schedule telling their own story to Potential Soldiers (PS). Once they find a PS who is interested in joining, they form a triad and work with Recruiting and Retention NCOs. The recruiter will then work with the Recruiting Assistant (RA) to help the PS with further information, and aid them through the process of enlistment.

For each new recruit that enlists, the RA receives \$1,000 and another \$1,000 after the new Soldier successfully ships to Initial Entry Training.

Utah National Guard Recruiting and Retention Sergeant Major, Jesse Adamson, is impressed with Takmili's example.

“He is responsible for taking A Company from less than 60 percent to over 100 percent during his tenure. He did this by utilizing a hands-on approach by directly contacting potential Soldiers and sharing his knowledge about the Guard,” Adamson said.

“He built relationships with several Recruiting & Retention NCOs who aided him in getting these prospects enlisted. He continually followed up on all of his referrals. He always had his green notebook with him that contained all of his prospects' information and status. Bottom line: He took his responsibility as the company commander seriously and fixed his own unit's strength problem,” Adamson added.

Takmili is currently deployed with I Corps to Afghanistan, where he will be for the next 12 months.

Adamson describes Takmili as their “poster child” for how a commander should set the example for their troops in being actively engaged in recruiting and retention for their unit.

“He did not expect that the Recruiting Battalion would fix his problem, but he worked with us to fix the problem. He became an important part of the team. He made it his business and put forth the effort to accomplish the task,” said Adamson.

Takmili and his NCOs not only helped their own unit, but they brought eight Soldiers into other units, as well.

“The troops are the most important asset we hold. It's not the guns and the bullets; it's the troops, the men and the women,” said Takmili. ■



New enlisted Soldiers training prior to leaving for Basic Training.



Photos courtesy of Utah National Guard

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Submit your application today!



Utah National Guard Soldier Takes Olympic Silver



By SGT Jim Greenhill

Photo by Jack Gillund

ARLINGTON, Va. – A National Guard Soldier earned a silver medal in women’s bobsledding Feb. 21 during her Olympic debut at the 2006 Winter Games in Torino, Italy.

Utah Army National Guard SPC Shauna Rohbock, the driver of the two-woman USA-1 sled, and brakeman Valerie Fleming completed their four women’s bobsled runs in 3 minutes, 50.69 seconds. That was 0.71 seconds behind the gold-medal winning German team of Sandra Kiriasis and Anja Schneiderheinza. An Italian team took the bronze.

“I’m ecstatic, and I hope our four-man team can pull one out, too,” Rohbock told the Army News Service.

“Shauna not only brings honor to her home state, but to the thousands who wear the uniform,” said Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. “We are proud of her accomplishments.”

Rohbock could be establishing a National Guard tradition: She follows in the footsteps of Utah National Guard SPC Jill Bakken who drove the gold-medal winning sled when women’s bobsledding was introduced as an Olympic sport during the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games.

“We congratulate SPC Rohbock on her silver-medal performance in Torino,” said MG Brian Tarbet, the Utah National Guard’s adjutant general. “We are extremely pleased and proud of her accomplishments on the bobsled track and her willingness to serve on the battlefield. Her sense of duty, persistence and tenacity personify what is best about all of our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen in the Utah National Guard.”

Rohbock and Bakken, an alternate on this year’s U.S. women’s bobsled team,

enlisted together in the Utah Army Guard in 2000. The team’s head coach is also a National Guard Soldier – SPC Bill Tavares, a New York Army Guard infantryman.

Rohbock, 28, recently re-enlisted, according to Utah Guard spokesman MAJ Hank McIntire.

“She’s been very proud to say that she’s part of the military,” Chuck Rohbock, Shauna’s father, said after she had earned the silver medal. “She was a Soldier first: She was ready to go.”

Rohbock was called up for duty in Iraq with the 115th Engineer Group in 2003. Though her duffle bags were packed and she did pre-deployment training, a torn rotator cuff prevented Rohbock from going with her unit.

Chuck Rohbock said his daughter told him that knowing her fellow Soldiers were serving in Iraq motivated her to do her best in the Olympics. “I’ve got to do well because everybody in my unit has volunteered to go in my place,” she told her father.

“The Guard – everything about it, everybody she’s been involved with – has been so supportive. They’ve been so wonderful,” Chuck Rohbock said.

“We’re just very proud of her,” he said. “I felt that she would medal. I just didn’t know how. Shauna’s never done anything halfway. She’s always trained hard. She’s always been a self-starter.”

An administrative specialist at Joint Forces Headquarters of the Utah National Guard, Rohbock is a graduate of Mountain View High School and Brigham Young University. ■

NBCOlympics.com contributed to this report.



Utah Army National Guard SPC Shauna Rohbock (right), a member of the Army’s World Class Athlete Program, and Valerie Fleming started fast on the Cesana track and earned the silver medal in women’s bobsledding on Jan. 21 during the XX Winter Olympics in Italy. Rohbock was the driver for the USA-1 sled and was competing in her first Olympic Games.



Winter Olympic Silver Medalist Reenlists in Utah National Guard

By MAJ Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **W**inter Olympic silver medalist SPC Shauna Rohbock, Joint Forces Headquarters, reenlisted in the Utah National Guard in a formal ceremony at the Draper headquarters building Apr. 24.

BG Bruce Frandsen, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Utah National Guard, administered the oath of enlistment to Rohbock as Guard officials, reporters and her Olympic teammate and fellow silver medalist Valerie Fleming looked on.

Following the oath, SGM Jess Adamson, senior recruiter of the Utah Army National Guard, placed another “silver medal” around Rohbock’s neck, referring to a set of silver dog tags engraved with the Army’s Warrior Ethos, which reads as follows:

*I will place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.*



Photos by Ray Carsey

SPC Shauna Rohbock, left, and teammate Valerie Fleming pose with their silver medals following Rohbock’s reenlistment ceremony Apr. 24.

“Shauna, the story of you and your teammate Valerie here tells the story of these values. You have represented our organization very well,” said Adamson.

Rohbock was then introduced as the newest member of the Utah National Guard Recruiting team. She will assist recruiters by appearing at local events and speaking to young audiences about the great opportunities the Guard provides.

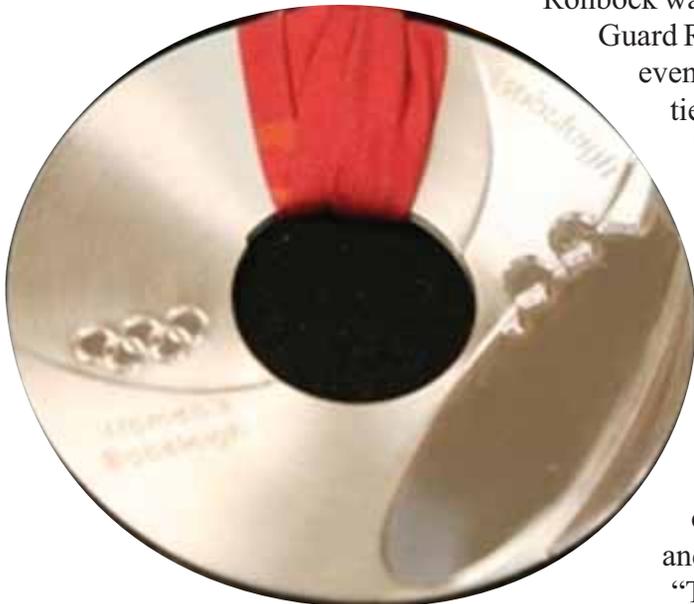
“I’m very excited to be a part of young people making that step forward [to join the Guard],” said Rohbock.

Rohbock also expressed appreciation for the opportunity that the National Guard has provided to her.

“The Guard has been huge in my success. I don’t think I would have a silver medal if it weren’t for the Guard because I was able to train the way I wanted to without much distraction from that.”

Rohbock plans to compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and will work part time with the Guard in Recruiting while at the same time maintaining her conditioning and training program to meet her athletic goals.

“To win a medal for my country and be a Soldier, there really aren’t words to describe it,” said Rohbock. “It was amazing. I wish everybody could feel that feeling.” ■



The silver medal presented to SPC Shauna Rohbock in the women’s bobsled event at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy.

Blast Off Hunger for Utahns in Need

Utah National Guard Supports Scouting for Food for 19th Consecutive Year

By SPC Samantha Xanthos

SALT LAKE CITY – **B**oy Scouts, Yellow Freight drivers and members of the Utah Army and Air National Guard blasted off hunger at this year’s Scouting for Food drive Mar. 25.

The annual event supplies more food to Utah food banks in one day than any other during the year. This year’s effort yielded over 1.5 million pounds of food for those in need throughout the state.

“Utah certainly has a legacy; it certainly has a heritage; it certainly is proven historically to care about our neighbors and to step forward and see what we can do to help them,” said Utah Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert in his remarks at the Scouting for Food kickoff event Mar. 23 in Sandy.

“Nothing gives us more satisfaction or pride than to help citizens right here in Utah,” added BG Bruce Frandsen, Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Utah National Guard.

Running from house to house on the day of the big event, energetic Scouts gathered grocery bags filled with food under the supervision of watchful leaders.

“It’s really cool,” said Matt Smith, a scout from District 18. “I like having activities with meaning.”

“We are doing this for our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate,” said Blair Hutchings, Scouting for Food Coordinator for District 18. “We really can make a difference.”

After collecting the food, Scouts delivered it to drop-off points where volunteers sorted cans and packages.

Once food arrived at drop-off points, Guard members and Yellow Freight drivers loaded it onto trucks and delivered it to food banks and pantries in Salt Lake, Ogden,

and Provo. Flatbed tractor-trailers filled parking lots, and some even had to wait in line for quite a while outside food banks for their turn to be loaded or unloaded.

Yellow Freight driver Rick Thomas doesn’t like the back-up, but he does enjoy getting involved and helping

out the community.

“It’s time consuming but fun,” Thomas said.

Around 9:30 a.m. food banks started to get busy and stayed that way until 6:00 p.m. or later, and Guard members did everything from operating



Volunteers sort food donations at a Salt Lake drop-off location Mar. 25 for the Scouting for Food drive.



Photos by SPC Sylvia Huffaker

forklifts to weighing and tagging cases that came in.

“For this one day they pretty much just turn the food banks over to the Guard,” ISG Robert Lloyd, Joint Forces Headquarters, explained. “It’s a lot of responsibility for the Guard to get everything done.”

Everyone had a job to do. Air Guard TSgt. Leland Rands, 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, volunteered to direct traffic.

“I am just doing my part,” Rands said, mirroring the attitude of other Guard members involved in supporting the community effort.

Everyone doing their part is essential “because the

need continues to grow,” said Jim Pugh, Executive Director of the Utah Food Bank. He explained that the need has increased this year by 10 percent. “Scouting for Food is of vital importance,” Pugh said.

“This is a great experience,” said Army SGT Kenneth Potter, Delta Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, as he worked a pallet jack in Provo. “This is actually why I wanted to join the Guard, to help out in the community and really be a part of something.”

“It was a long and busy day. We worked a lot of hours, but everyone enjoyed it,” added Lloyd. “Although it was a lot of work, it was also a lot of fun. It felt good getting it done and seeing how much we contributed to the needy.”



Photo by SPC Sylvia Huffaker

Utah Guard members operate forklifts and pallet jacks at the Salt Lake Food Bank in support of the Mar. 25 Scouting for Food drive.



Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Scouts deliver bags of food to the Spanish Fork Armory, one of dozens of drop-off points for the Scouting for Food drive.



Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Civilian vehicles and Utah National Guard trucks line up to deliver food to the Provo Food Bank.

Operation Torch Exposition Strengthens State Partnership Ties



Assembled officers and dignitaries at Moroccan Naval Headquarters in Casablanca.

Story and photos by Lt. Col. David A. Thomas

CASABLANCA, Morocco —

Members of the Utah National Guard were invited to participate in the opening ceremony Mar. 1 for the Moroccan-American Operation Torch Exposition located in Morocco's largest city, Casablanca.

The event was one of many expositions around Morocco to celebrate the country's and their military's 50th anniversary.

The United States and the state of Utah were represented by U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Thomas Riley; BG Bruce C. Frandsen, Assistant Adjutant General for Utah; retired COL Bob Voyles, Fort Douglas Military Museum curator and MAJ Jeff Larrabee, National Guard Bureau.

Morocco was represented by MG Bellahcen, Commander of the



Moroccan officers and visitors view the history exposition displaying 1942 U.S. Army and Navy replica uniforms used during Operation Torch.

Royal Moroccan Armed Forces in Casablanca, and Professor Bahjia Simou, Director of the Moroccan Historical Commission. About 200 people attend the opening, includ-

ing media from Morocco and Utah.

The Utah National Guard, Fort Douglas Military Museum and National Guard Bureau played a key role in helping to organize and



Downtown Casablanca, Morocco, with a population of over six million people.

present the display. The museum loaned the exposition World War II small arms, field equipment and replica uniforms of American servicemen.

The Operation Torch landings in Morocco, starting on Nov. 8, 1942, were the first American amphibious assaults in North Africa during World War II. The result of the landings was the overthrow of the French Vichy government, which was a puppet of the Germans. The Moroccans credit these landings as the beginning of their struggle for independence from France, which was finally achieved in 1956.

Morocco claims to be America's oldest ally, officially recognizing the fledgling American republic in 1777. They even have a copy of a letter written to the Sultan of Morocco in 1789 by President George Washington.

The state of Utah, through the Utah National Guard, has a State Partnership Program with the Kingdom of Morocco and the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. The partnership was established formally in December 2003 and has blossomed during the past two years. ■

Fourth Taylor Brother Joins Guard

*by Shad West, Ogden Standard-Examiner
Reprinted by permission*

With three brothers already serving their state and country as members of the Utah National Guard, it seemed natural for Devin Taylor to enlist, too.

Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. officiated at the ceremony Apr. 3, giving Taylor the oath of enlistment.

"I just wanted to be there to personally swear Devin in and to thank him and his family for their service," Huntsman said. "I want each member of the Utah National Guard to know how much their commander in chief appreciates them and their dedication."

Devin enlisted in the 1457th Engineer Battalion, joining brothers Brent, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion; Matt, 115th Engineers; and Bryan, 1457th Engineers. Brent and Matt joined the Guard in 2003, and Bryan enlisted in January of this year. "I looked at all the branches of the military," Devin said. "My brothers are all serving in the Guard, so I looked there a little closer."

Devin said he liked the freedom and choices the Guard will give him.

"I'm thinking of becoming an officer," Devin said. "You have to go to school for that and the Guard is going to help pay for it."

Devin's older brother, Matt, was the first to join and says it's neat to have his siblings serve alongside him.

"I think it is really exciting for us," Matt said. "The Guard is a great opportunity to serve our country."

As to the latest Taylor to sign up?

"We didn't pressure him to join," Matt said. "He looked up to us as his older brothers. I think he'll do a good job."

Devin says he has three younger siblings who may also join the family in serving their country.

"I'm not sure what they will do," Devin said. "But I know they have been thinking about it, too."

Devin will leave for basic training this summer. ■



ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PFC Bryan Taylor, 1457th Engineers; SPC Matthew Taylor, 115th Engineers; Cadet Brent Taylor, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion watch as their younger brother PVT Devin Taylor, the newest member of the Utah National Guard, is sworn in by his commander in chief, Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.

Photo by SPC Samantha Xanthos

128th MPAD in Paraguay to Document Fuerzas Comando 2006

By SPC Casey Staheli

ASUNCION, Paraguay –

Police and military forces from 15 different countries throughout the Caribbean, South, Central, and North America competed in Fuerzas Comando 2006 June 21-28 in Asuncion, Paraguay.

A fierce competition, Fuerzas Comando puts “the best of the best” to the test. For five rigorous days, teams competed in events such as an obstacle course, stress test, an aquatic event and weapons qualification.

This year the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from the Utah National Guard came to document everything that went on. Members of the MPAD photographed and videotaped the exercise and interviewed competitors and judges in order to put together a DVD and comprehensive magazine that covered everything from start to finish.

Soldiers from the MPAD arrived in Asuncion on June 17, and started familiarizing themselves with all the different areas where events would take place.

These journalists were determined to do whatever it took to become familiar with their surroundings. Before the event started, they ran through the obstacle course, climbed abandoned buildings used in the competition and investigated ranges in order to get the feel of the ground and find those perfect angles.

As the events started and teams prepared, so did the 15-man MPAD team. Each day the unit broke into groups and made schedules in order to catch all events and make sure each country was represented. Each group would



Photos by 128th MPAD

Ssg David Evans (left photo), SPC Casey Staheli (center photo), and SGT Kelly Collett (right photo) all members of the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment which traveled to Paraguay for Fuerzas Comando 2006.

typically consist of a camera operator, photographers and a translator.

Each day came with new challenges to the competitors and to the MPAD. The obstacle course was particularly challenging. Pulling themselves up ropes, hurdling over logs and winding their way up and over cargo nets, teams strived to finish with the fastest time. As teams raced along, the 128th raced right alongside them in order to catch it all.

The aquatic was another event that tried the mental and physical endurance of competitors. Swimming long distances in a pool and the river, rappelling, rafting, and sprinting uphill and downhill, this course often took well over an hour for each team to complete. The MPAD members had a tough time running ahead of teams to ensure their photographs and videos had the facial expressions that showed the intensity, stress and the determination it took to complete this event.

After days of little sleep and constant physical and

Chile



Costa Rica



Colombia





LEFT: SPC Jody Metzger with members of the Paraguay Army in ghillie suits. CENTER: Cadet Ryan Sutherland shooting video footage of Fuerzas Comando 2006. RIGHT: SPC Samantha Xanthos holding an anaconda for the camera.

mental strain, competitors competed in a stress test.

Physically and mentally demanding, the stress test required individuals to shoot long-distance targets, fast-rope down a water tower, run through different shooting obstacles and destroy targets in close range, all while being timed.

One of the last competitions was the urban event. Starting outside a shoothouse, teams entered at a fast and furious pace. They swept through each room shooting enemy targets and avoiding civilian targets. The team made sure each room was clear before moving on and bringing out a hostage safely.

Judges, journalists and broadcasters, in full protective gear, stood overhead on a catwalk watching the action below and hoping no one misfired in their direction.

From footraces to road marches, teammates could be heard yelling encouragement

to each other in the hopes of making their team finish faster, push themselves harder and become a little bit better.

Although these countries were brought together to see who was the best, biggest, and strongest, in the end it brought them together as friends and companions.

As the competition ended, many people from different nations embraced each other in hugs and handshakes, smiles and laughter. Many realized that while they may serve a different flag, they also shared a common bond as defenders of their nations and defenders of freedom. 🇺🇸



Ammunition for the competition used at Fuerzas Comando 2006.



SGT Kelly Collett filming video footage for a 28-minute video of Fuerzas Comando 2006.



SPC Samantha Xanthos waits for the next event to begin.

Photos by 128th MPAD



Soldier of the Year Competition

Story and photos by SGT Kelly Collett

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah –

Fourteen Utah National Guard members competed Mar. 23-25 for the titles of Soldier of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and First Sergeant of the Year at Camp Williams.

The competition tested the participants on many different levels including physical fitness, land-navigation skills, rifle marksmanship and knowledge in common Soldier tasks.

At the end of the second day of competition, participants went before a final board to demonstrate their qualities as leaders and Soldiers.

“We have the overall best Soldiers, and this is the competition the Soldiers will do at Region, First Armored Division and FORSCOM,” said Utah Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major Dell Smith.

Guard members in the past who competed for Soldier of the Year only had to present themselves before a board.

“It’s important because it is a fairer system than just a board system,” Smith added.

Utah Army Guard SGT Jennifer Kelley said about the competition, “It was close, all of them did very well, and there were only a few points between the top people in each category. In the First Sergeant category, there was only one point difference.”

Kelley oversaw a large part of the competition by dealing



SPC Timothy Fairhurst concentrates as he fires his M16 during the weapon qualification round of competition.



SFC Evans watches closely to make sure SSG Eldon Davis is correctly performing the push-up before counting it for the APFT.

Family Readiness Program Best in the Nation

130th Engineering Installation Squadron Receives National Family Readiness Award

with the administrative portion and keeping track of Soldiers' scores.

When it was all over, the winners were honored Mar. 25 at a banquet dinner for participants and their families.

Smith said of this year's competition, "I was really pleased with it overall. We have some great Soldiers who did a great job."

Soldier of the Year Specialist James Carlson

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Staff Sergeant Wyatt Davis

First Sergeant of the Year First Sergeant Kevin Martinez

Contestants for Soldier of the Year

*SPC Jarod Babcock, Medical Command;
SPC Christopher Bamford, B Company,
1457th Engineer Battalion;
SPC James Carlson, B Battery, 1-148th
Field Artillery;
SPC Timothy Fairhurst, Headquarters,
19th Special Forces;
SGT Cody Rasmussen, E Company, 1st
Battalion, 211th Aviation;
SGT Daniel Saunders, Headquarters,
300th Military Intelligence Brigade.*

Contestants for NCO of the Year

*SGT Gregory Annis, Headquarters, 1 Corps
Artillery;
SSG Eldon Davis, 97th Troop Command;
SSG Wyatt Davis, 640th Regional Training
Institute;
SGT Richard Hadlock, Headquarters,
1457th Engineer Battalion;
SSG Walter Henriquez, C Company, 1-211th
Aviation;
SSG Timothy Kelley, C Company, 142nd
Military Intelligence Battalion.*

Contestants for First Sergeant of the Year

*1SG Kevin Martinez, B Battery, 1-148th
Field Artillery;
1SG Stephan Vogl, 300th Military
Intelligence Brigade. ■*

By Lt. Col. Jack Wall

ST. LOUIS — **T**he 130th Engineering Installation Squadron Family Readiness Program was recognized Mar. 16 as the best in the nation at the Engineering Installation Commander's Conference in St. Louis.

Tonia Johnson, 130th EIS Family Readiness volunteer coordinator, accepted the award on behalf of the unit and the Utah Air National Guard.

This prestigious award is given annually to the Engineering Installation Squadron Family Readiness program that demonstrates the highest effectiveness in providing support to Guard members and their families, as well as the highest degree of community involvement. The 130th was one of three finalists among 17 active and Guard EIS units nationwide.

"The 130th EIS Family Readiness program is the best in the nation because of Tonia's hard work and because of the support given to the program by our Guard members and their families," said Lt. Col. Jack Wall, commander of the 130th.

"Tonia works tirelessly on our behalf in spite of a very busy personal schedule that includes being a full-time student and full-time employee for the Utah National Guard Family Readiness Program," added Wall.

Johnson became involved in the unit's Family Readiness Program nearly four years ago when her husband of



Tonia Johnson receives a national Family Readiness Program award on behalf of the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron from Air Force officials Mar. 16 in St. Louis.

three months, MSgt. Brad Johnson, deployed for a year with the 130th to Turkey, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I love what I do as a volunteer, and I was honored to accept this award for the unit," said Johnson. "It's important for the families' well-being to have someone there to answer questions and be a friend they can trust."

"I have been in their shoes, and our volunteers are committed to be there for families during the difficult process of deployment," Johnson said.

The Family Readiness Program of the 130th provided services with volunteers working more than 400 hours this past year aiding Guard members and their families. In addition, the 130th Family Readiness Program provided direct assistance to nine families in the Sub-for-Santa campaign and was involved in many other community service projects. ■

Photo by 130th Engineering Installation

Airman of the Year Competition

By SrA Benjamin C. Evans

Airman of the Year Senior Airman Mark Q. Craig

SrA Mark Q. Craig of the 299th Range Control Squadron, was selected as this year's Airman of the Year for his involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On Sept. 11, 2003 Craig was first on the scene of a close proximity mortar attack. He gave first aid and made quick decisions to help save an Airman's life. While deployed, he also provided expert air traffic control services to United States and coalition aircraft in the Iraqi area of operation allowing aircraft to depart the airfield and strike targets throughout Iraq in a time-critical environment.

Craig's patriotism runs in his blood; he is the third generation of Air Force service. His grandfather, mother and father have all served in Utah Air National Guard. Craig enjoys his free time playing pool, watching movies and hanging out with his friends.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Senior Master Sergeant Robert L. Wright

SMSgt. Robert L. Wright, noncommissioned officer in charge of standardization evaluation for the 299th Range Control Squadron, was selected as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, for his oversight and direction in helping to bring on line the first ever enroute air traffic control center in Afghanistan's history.

Wright has a long legacy of service and dedication to the country, since 1969, he has been an active part of key military operations.

He also has a long history of deployments throughout his career, serving in Vietnam, Philippines, Kuwait and Iraq.

While in Kuwait, he helped in the transition and assisted Kuwaitis in taking charge of the air force base again. Wright was promoted to his current rank through the Exceptional Performance Program.

Photo by SrA Christiana T. Eliason



SMSgt. Robert L. Wright, TSgt. Gregory R. Taylor, and SrA Mark Q. Craig after receiving their awards for Airmen of the Year.

Wright is married and is the father of two sons. He also enjoys giving his time to his community by teaching art and painting.

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Technical Sergeant Gregory R. Taylor

TSgt. Gregory R. Taylor of the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron is this year's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for his key help in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Taylor helped engineer the first-ever fiber communications ring at Baghdad International Airport, to help speed up communications in the airport.

He has also been on three tours to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2004 he was awarded the 2004 Engineering Installations Outstanding Installer of the Year.

Taylor spends his free time volunteering in the community coaching a youth hockey league and helps children after school in the "Learn How to Skate" program. He is married and is the proud father of three children. He loves spending time with them playing hockey. ■

Governor Huntsman Visits Iraq, Praises Utah Guard

By MAJ Hank McIntire

UTah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., returned from a trip to Iraq in March of this year. Huntsman, who is also the commander in chief of the Utah National Guard, shares his perspective on his three-day trip and what it means to command the 6,500 Airmen and Soldiers of the Utah National Guard, many of whom have served in the Middle East.

Photo courtesy of Gov. Jon Huntsman

What did you hope to accomplish in Iraq?

Our purpose was to remind the government of Iraq—ask only elected officials can—what some of their obligations are, to include leading a stable interim government reflective of the December 2005 elections.

I also wanted to meet as many troops as possible and thank them for their dedication and for putting life and limb in harm's way. Our National Guards have made an enormous contribution unlike any conflict in recent history. As governors, we're mindful of that every day. And any opportunity to thank Soldiers, Airmen, and families, we will do that.

How did you prepare for the trip, and how did you feel about the potential dangers you would face in a combat zone?

Prior to departure we received briefings on the geopolitical situation and received a war update. The best preparation for the trip, however, was serving as a diplomat overseas, which I had done before, in things like preparing and training for evacuation, and the potential onslaught of hostile forces.

My thoughts throughout the trip were 'If our Utah citizens are willing to put their lives on the line, then why shouldn't the governor?' I felt that this was the least I could do, to put myself in a similar situation. Sure, my family and my kids worried about it, but I told them, 'It's no different from thousands of other family members throughout the state.'

What was it like meeting and hearing about Utahns in Iraq?

Their reaction was one of gratitude. And I wanted to return that by saying, 'Come on, we're grateful for what you do.' I think there was a little bit of 'shock and awe' on their part, to use Donald Rumsfeld's now-famous phrase.

I met with lots of Utahns working in the embassy in Baghdad or at Central Command headquarters. I also had lunch with forward-deployed Marines on my birthday in Fallujah.

Constantly I was told about what a great job our Utah units were doing in Iraq. Everywhere I went I heard about the Triple Deuce. I heard it from the Marine commanding generals in Fallujah and the military planners in Baghdad. They would all make it a point when they knew I was from Utah to single out the contributions of our troops.

They were always referencing the Triple Deuce as the best fighting force they had ever seen. It was a constant refrain and very gratifying to hear about the contribution of some highly respected units. It gave me great pride.

How has your experience in Iraq changed you?

I've come away with a heightened respect for the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States. I can't thank them enough. I can't watch them raise and lower the flag without getting a lump in my throat and thinking about what some of our military professionals are doing around the world.

It's a reminder when you're there [in Iraq] that we are citizens of a remarkable country. You don't get that impression just sitting here reading it in the newspaper or seeing it on television.

It was a reminder that we're in a hot war; we're committing real lives to that hot war, and there are real family members who are left behind, remembering every day that their loved one is gone.

What are your thoughts on possible future Utah troop deployments to Iraq?

I am concerned every time we commit a single human being to a war zone. Our troops are trained and prepared, they salute the flag and they salute the commanders who make these decisions. I support that fully.

If additional support is needed, we'll play a role in helping. I would hope we would put as much emphasis as possible on training local forces. Eventually this conflict will have to be turned over to such forces. We're doing some of the same thing in Afghanistan, training local troops.

Now having faced some of what our troops face in combat, what is your message to Airmen, Soldiers and families of the Utah National Guard?

Over the last two years, our troops have been put to the test like never

before in the history of the Utah National Guard. And we have measured up in a most extraordinary way. In every single situation, our Guard members have measured up remarkably well, and every Utah citizen can be justifiably proud.

I'm very proud of the work they are doing as their commander in chief, so proud that I want to talk about it wherever I go.

It's hard work and particularly tough on families left behind, but we can take great comfort in the idea that every citizen of this state supports our men and women in uniform.

I'm proud to be commander in chief of some of the best men and women I've ever met. For me, the highlight of this job is to get out and shake hands, rub shoulders with our men and women in uniform. I want to thank each of them for their service because it has not gone unnoticed. ■



Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., at the Baghdad Airport with the aircraft that brought him to Iraq.

“One Shot, One Kill”

By SGT Kelly Collett

SALT LAKE CITY and CEDAR CITY, Utah — **S**oldiers attending Basic Training often have the phrase “One shot, one kill,” drilled into them. But the military adage recently made its way into an unlikely place: the 2006 Miss Utah pageant, thanks to SPC Jill Stevens, a medic from the 211th Aviation, Utah National Guard.

Stevens uses those words as a reminder to capture the moment and do everything possible to do her best in whatever she is involved.

“Don’t waste your time. Don’t waste your moment. Make every shot count,” Stevens says.

Her attitude was catching and soon other contestants in the pageant were pointing with their finger guns in passing saying, “One shot, one kill.”

Stevens got her start in the beauty pageant arena as Miss SUU (Southern Utah University), a title she won earlier this year.

She recalls laughing when her friends first suggested that she compete for the crown at the Cedar City school. She reminded them that her background is soldiering and being a medic and not being in beauty pageants.

“I wear running shoes and combat boots. I don’t do heels,” she told them. “I didn’t even know where to buy them in the first place.”

Stevens decided to bring out more of her femininity and compete in the SUU event. She grew fond of the girls she participated with and even responded to their cries for a medic when one of them would get a blister from wearing high heels.

As Miss SUU she turned her attention to competing in the Miss Utah Pageant 2006.

Her fellow Miss Utah contestants did push-ups with her during breaks at rehearsals at the Capitol Theatre. Stevens would have them spell out “Alpha,” their team name. Then the team would make their hands into guns and put them all together in a circle and shout, “One shot, one kill!”

Steven’s influence goes beyond the other pageant contestants. Two girls have already joined the Utah National Guard, citing her example as a Soldier in their decision to join up.

In the July 8 pageant Stevens fared very well, besting every girl but one, finishing as second runner-up. Part of her appeal was the fact that



Photo by SGT Kelly Collett

SPC Jill Stevens, a medic from the 211th Aviation.



SPC Jill Stevens’ reaction as they announce her name as second runner-up in the 2006 Miss Utah pageant.

she was a combat veteran, having served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan as a medic with the 211th Aviation. She has been a Soldier for nearly six years in the Utah National Guard.

Stevens looks forward to completing her bachelor’s and moving on to new adventures. She would like to eventually move out of the country and give aid to less-fortunate people who suffer for lack of trained medical personnel and supplies.

She is a big believer in making people smile.

“I really believe that laughter is the best

medicine,” says Stevens.

She has given her time and made the best of all that has come her way. She continues to be optimistic about her future and career.

“Life is to have fun and make the best of it,” she said. “One shot, one kill.” ■

Photo by Studio West

Sao Tome and Principe Special Assignment

Story and photos by CPT Steven R. Calder



CPT Steven Calder with Sao Tome and Principe President Frandique Menezes.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, Africa –

For six months of this year I had the distinct honor and privilege serving as the Bilateral Affairs Officer to Sao Tome and Principe. It was a truly unique assignment where I was the sole member of the US military or embassy stationed in country. Ambassador R. Barrie Walkley and the rest of the embassy staff lived in Libreville, Gabon.

The unique opportunity to serve in this capacity along with the challenge of filling a lieutenant colonel's position and speaking Portuguese on a daily basis were what originally drew me to the assignment.

In addition to the unique nature of the assignment, the country is also very unique. Sao Tome and Principe – also called STP – is an archipelago of islands off the west coast of Africa crossed by the equator. It has no traffic lights, no noticeable speed limit signs, only a handful of stop signs and no McDonald's.

Sao Tome and Principe is the second smallest country in Africa with only 386 square miles inhabited by some 170,000 people – approximately half under the age of 15 – who have an average annual income of only \$370 per person. But in spite of its relatively low wages, nobody starves to death because of the abundance of fish along its coast and tropical fruit growing in its rich volcanic soil.

Some of the islands' splendors include: scuba diving, snorkeling, deep sea fishing, sea kayaking, body surfing, bird watching, and hiking--the highest point in STP is a 6,640 foot extinct volcano.

In addition to STP's tropical beauty, the people are what truly make this an island paradise. It was a life-altering experience getting to know the people of STP, working with them on a daily basis and being part of their community. It is a small community and everybody seems to know each other. The people on the island simply referred to me as Captain Steve. When I introduced myself to the



CPT Steven Calder with schoolchildren from Sao Tome and Principe.

president of the country, his comment was, "I know who you are."

It has been extremely gratifying to have helped in the transformation of STP. Some of the projects I had the privilege to help execute include renovating the national hospital and its emergency room, renovating the national high school gymnasium and water system for some 6000 students, building two schools in Principe, installing a water system and latrines at a middle school, delivering some \$270,000 worth of school supplies and procuring seven desperately needed vehicles – two for the ministry of education and five for the ministry of defense.

Additionally, my office coordinated different military training events and conferences between our two nations. The most challenging event was coordinating a four-day ship visit by the USS Emory S. Land in April.

Although I arrived in STP only expecting to speak Portuguese, I was pleasantly surprised with the opportunity to speak other foreign languages. I spoke French on a daily basis with the French-speaking diplomatic community, representatives of many of the international organizations, French-speaking tourists and the owners of the inn where I resided. I also spoke Spanish regularly with the Spanish-speaking community, the Cuban doctors, as well as representatives from Equatorial Guinea – a neighboring island Spanish-speaking nation.

It was a great honor to represent the United States in this capacity. I am very grateful to have been allowed the opportunity to perform this once-in-a-lifetime mission supported by my wife, Sara, my commander, COL Willis and the Utah National Guard. ☐

Parades and Veterans Memorial

Murray Parade and West Jordan Monument Honor Military Service

By Autumn Linford and Nicole Warburton

MURRAY, Utah – Utahns celebrated the Fourth of July in the traditional way with barbecues, fireworks and, of course, parades.

“I like things like this because the whole community comes,” said Emily Mecham, 22. “Everyone is here.” Murray’s annual Fourth of July parade also had all the usual components: glittery floats, marching bands, high school drill teams, campaigning politicians and young women clad in gowns as city royalty.

Each were met with cheers and smiles, but the moment described as most memorable was when members of the U.S. Armed Forces walked by, earning a standing ovation.

“Even if you’re not patriotic, it tends to leave you feeling that way,” said Fred Hill, who had grabbed a seat along State Street to watch Murray’s annual Fourth of July parade. “It gives you a sense of country.”

“Nothing is ever going to be a perfect world,” said Kendall Allman, a member of the Utah National Guard who attended the Murray parade with his family. “But I’ll tell you one thing, I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else.”

His words were echoed repeatedly during a dedication Tuesday of the West Jordan Military Service Monument. Hundreds of war veterans gathered in the hot, mid-afternoon sun to help dedicate the monument and honor each other.

Men and women from the Army, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps were all represented. It was a gathering with an atmosphere of pride as aging men and women greeted each other and talked of where they served and with whom.

“Thank God for this country,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, speaking at the event. “It is the greatest country in the world, bar none.”

Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, also spoke, telling the story of a memorial dedication on the beaches of Normandy in France.

“We will never allow the world to forget,” he said, referring to the men and women who served during World War II and other battles.

Across the state, dozens of other celebrations were held July 4th. ■



ABOVE: Soldiers from the 145th FA provide a 21-cannon salute to dedicate the West Jordan Military Service Monument. RIGHT: Army color guard posts colors as color guards from multiple military branches post each branch’s colors. BELOW: Patrons in West Jordan applaud Congressional Gold Medal of Honor recipient Allen Dale June, one of only two surviving original World War II Navajo Code Talkers.



Photo by Ileen Kennedy



Photo by TSgt. Carl Nielsen USAF (Ret.)

Dedications Honor Military Service

Cedar City Flag-Raising Ceremony Honors Service in Afghanistan and Iraq

Story and photos by Lt. Col. David A. Thomas

CEDAR CITY, Utah – **A**fter spending a year in the heart of the Iraqi insurgent country, plus six months away from home training, Soldiers of the 222nd Headquarters Battery and Service Battery were given a gala welcome home by the citizens and officials of Cedar City on July 8.

The day's events started with a cookout in the Main Street Park hosted by the Elks and Lions Clubs. Soldiers and their extended families were treated to hamburgers, watermelons and all the pop they could drink. The park was decorated with American flags and the tables covered in red, white, and blue tablecloths. Each Soldier was given a T-shirt printed with the 222nd crest.

After the cookout, Soldiers and families moved down the street to the new Veterans Park to dedicate a new monument. Mayor Gerald Sherratt of Cedar City hosted the ceremonies and MG Brian Tarbet, the Adjutant General, and LTC Richard Miller, the 222nd Commander, spoke at the dedication.

Iron County built the monument to honor all its citizens who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. The monument has a block with the name of each Servicemember who served. Each member of the 222nd was given a block with their name on it and a flag that had been flown over the capitol building in Washington D.C. to take home. The final dedication of the memorial will take place on November 11, when a new statue, to be placed in front of the monument, will be dedicated.

After the dedication, Soldiers were all invited to the July Jamboree on Main Street for band music, exhibits and entertainment. ■



ABOVE: MG Brian Tarbet addresses the audience at the flag-raising ceremony honoring veterans in Cedar City. BEHIND: The Master Singers perform "God Bless America" for the ceremony. RIGHT: SPC Ryan Froyd shows his brick. Each Guard member was presented a brick with their names engraved. BELOW: The crowd in Cedar City assembled beneath canopies to enjoy the program honoring Veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.



Provo Parade's Grand Marshalls - 222nd Field Artillery Battalion Utah National Guard

By MAJ Hank McIntire

PROVO, Utah – **S**econd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, also known as the Triple Deuce, was honored July 4 as grand marshal for Provo's Freedom Festival Parade. Commanded by LTC Rich Miller, Soldiers based in Richfield, Beaver, Cedar City and St. George recently returned from 18 months of service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Soldiers and Families rode on an M109A6 Paladin howitzer and waved to enthusiastic spectators who cheered and applauded their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation. ■



Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

RECRUITING PROGRAMS

Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP). The Global War on Terrorism has brought significant changes to the operations of the Recruiting and Retention Command. In January 2006, we implemented a new program to establish a motivational training environment and prepare new enlistments mentally, physically and administratively for success throughout initial active-duty training. The RSP provides a safe training environment that focuses efforts toward successful completion of initial active-duty training. We provide a forum for passing information pertaining to Soldier skills and experiences in Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. Training will be realistic and disciplined to improve Soldiers' readiness and ability to excel in their Initial Active Duty Training (IADT). Administrative tasks, physical training and common Soldier skills will be executed. Upon completion of IADT, Soldiers will complete administrative tasks ensuring eligibility of all incentives in their contract. A battle-handoff ceremony passes the newly qualified Soldier to the unit representative in a professional and positive manner.

GED Plus. This program is designed to assist potential enlistees an opportunity to complete their secondary education requirement. They can enlist in the National Guard and will then be sent to the National Guard Professional Education Center for a two-week period to complete their GED. They will be paid, and will receive compensation for all their travel costs.

College First. This new program will allow a new enlistment the option of attending College without the risk of deployment for up to two years. The new Soldier must be enrolled in an accredited post-secondary education program, and maintain good standing in the National Guard. ■

Range Control Soldiers Get Carried Away with Life Flight Training

By SGT Kelly Collett and CPT Matthew Jones

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – **C**amp Williams Range Control conducted a MEDEVAC rehearsal Mar. 30 with Intermountain Health Care’s Life Flight team.

To demonstrate their capabilities and to familiarize Soldiers with the procedure, Life Flight conducted two separate carries during the operation.

SPC Matilde Ott volunteered to be in the Swiss hoist. Life Flight lifted Ott up and transported her between 200 and 300 feet above the ground.

“It’s like a rappelling seat except it’s not tight around your waist. You are sitting down,” Ott said. “It was pretty high. I could see everything.”

SPC Phil Terry volunteered to be the victim who Life Flight transported on the net backboard.

Over a three-hour period, Range Control personnel trained on nine-line MEDEVAC procedures as well as ran the Fire Desk during contingency operations. Security personnel trained on responding to

the incident site and preparing for the safe extradition of personnel.

Life Flight’s unique ability to conduct hoist operations has proven to be of great value in the rough terrain and around the aerial hazards common to Camp Williams.

“This training event helped us improve our ability to operate with outside agencies and test our response and communications during an emergency,” said Utah National Guard Range Control Officer CPT Matthew Jones.

“I think I have a better idea of what I need to do if I



Range Control Soldiers pose for a group picture with Life Flight crew and local law enforcement after completing a MEDEVAC training exercise at Camp Williams.

Photos by CPT Matthew Jones

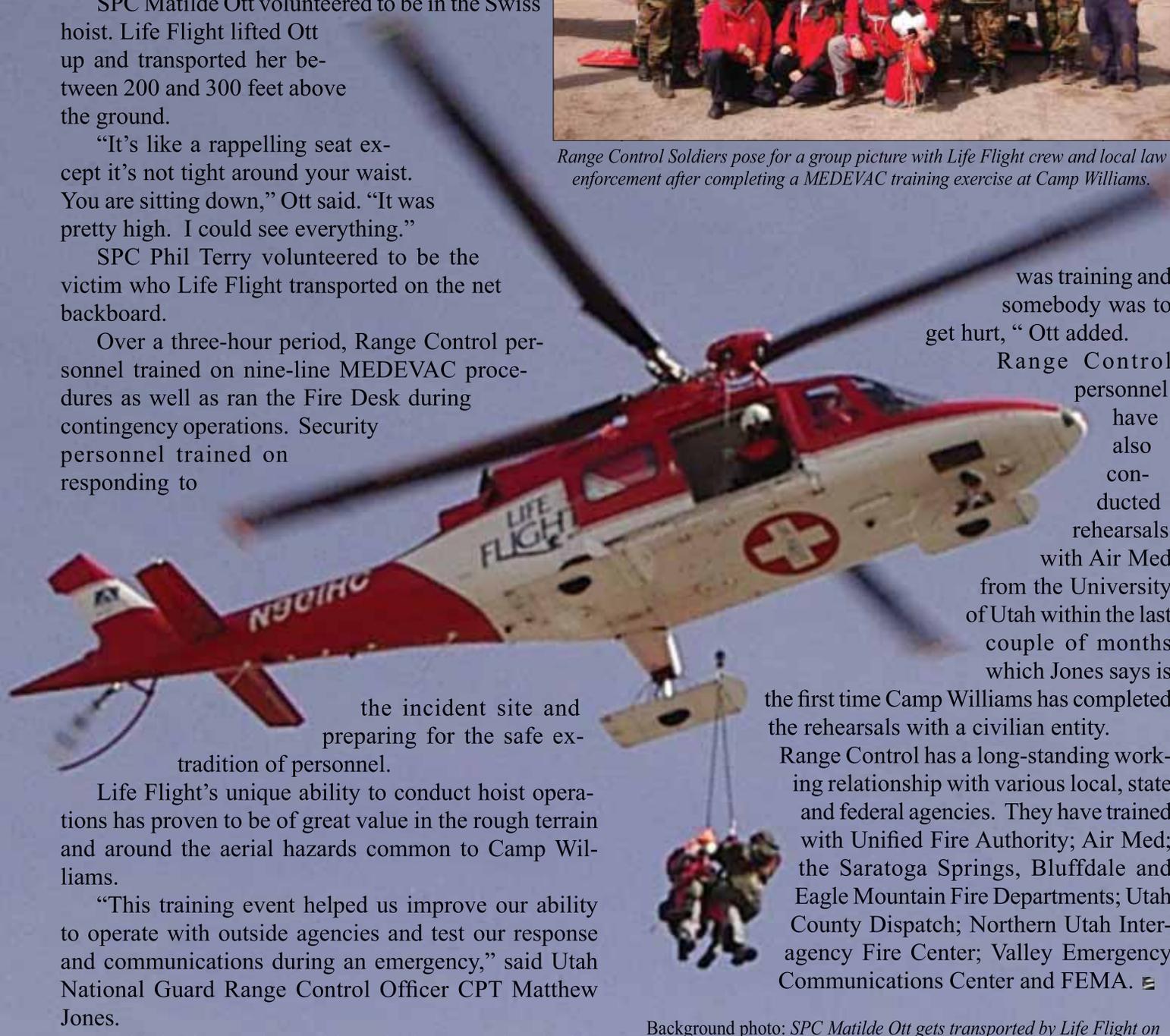
was training and somebody was to get hurt,” Ott added.

Range Control personnel have also conducted rehearsals with Air Med from the University of Utah within the last couple of months which Jones says is

the first time Camp Williams has completed the rehearsals with a civilian entity.

Range Control has a long-standing working relationship with various local, state and federal agencies. They have trained with Unified Fire Authority; Air Med; the Saratoga Springs, Bluffdale and Eagle Mountain Fire Departments; Utah County Dispatch; Northern Utah Inter-agency Fire Center; Valley Emergency Communications Center and FEMA. ■

Background photo: SPC Matilde Ott gets transported by Life Flight on the Swiss Hoist during MEDEVAC training.



300th MI Hosts 2nd Annual High School Language Olympics

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **E**urope nach zu reisen ist mir angenehm.”

Among many others, this German phrase meaning “It is a pleasure to travel in Europe” and its equivalents in French and Spanish were overheard in the corridors of the Utah National Guard’s Draper headquarters as students from East, West and Highland High Schools competed in the second annual Utah High School Language Olympics Apr. 7, hosted by the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade.

Nearly 40 students competed in the Gisting, Power Word and Impromptu categories.

Gisting consisted of having contestants listen to short tape recordings and read written texts and then answer questions on the materials from memory.

For Power Word, students worked in teams with one player giving clues for a word written on a card without using identified “taboo” words while their partner tried to guess the word.

Contestants in the Impromptu category composed two-minute impromptu speeches in a foreign language with three minutes of preparation after receiving a one-word topic on a card. Partners then provided one-minute



A Highland High School student, right, gives an oral presentation in Spanish to SFC William Ibarra, Co D, 142nd MI Bn, at the Language Olympics in Draper.

summaries of the speech in English.

Although it was billed as an annual event, the first Language Olympics sponsored by the 300th took place back in April 2001. The five-year gap between competitions was due to the heavy involvement of the 300th in the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympics, as well as the number of deployments Soldiers have completed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2005.

When it was all over, West came away as the big winner in the competition, taking the overall top awards in all three languages and sweeping nearly every individual category. Highland earned one silver and two bronzes in the Spanish competition.

By all accounts it was a successful day for students and Soldiers alike.

“It was more difficult than I expected, but it was good. It helped me improve my Spanish-speaking skills,” said Neil, a Spanish student from West High.

“The students were awesome. Their proficiency level was a lot higher than we thought it would be,” said SGT Jennifer Rogerson, Charlie Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, one of the judges for the German competition.

“Next year we might have to rewrite the test to make it a little bit harder.” Rogerson added.



A French student from West High School gives a two-minute speech during the Impromptu competition to judges from the 300th MI Brigade.

Freedom Academy

By SGT Kelly Collett

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – **F**or nearly half a century, the Freedom Academy has been inviting seniors from high schools around the state to come and experience the Utah National Guard. Close to 80 youth came to spend the first week of August at Camp Williams, listening to motivational speakers and participating in seven days of events and activities.

The Academy, sponsored each year by the Honorary Colonels Corps, an organization of community leaders who promote goodwill and positive relations between the National Guard and local Utah communities, gives youth a chance to take part in everything from joining National Guard Soldiers in the field to participating in a talent show to demonstrate their own skills.

“We had a lot of speakers that were really good, and then we went to the prison on Monday,” said Senior Class President Raquel Pace of Wayne High School. “That was a good experience.”

The youth also got a chance to bond with fellow student leaders from other high schools. Many icebreakers helped youth to move out of their comfort zones. Icebreakers included dances and group competitions between teams.

“It’s been fun meeting new kids from around the state and getting to know them and just having fun with them and doing all kinds of activities,” said Student Body Officer over Publicity John Christian Perkins from Tooele High School.

Some of the youth were resistant to the idea of coming to a military camp.

“We found that a lot of the kids, they come in there kind of digging their heels a little bit thinking they are coming to run and do push-ups and sit-ups and do this ‘hooah’ Army thing,” said Tina Conner, Freedom Academy coordinator. “They don’t have any idea of what our real intent is.”

Freedom Academy helps seniors to understand that freedom isn’t free, while instilling in them leadership fundamentals.

Seventeen-year-old Stephen Wall from Bingham High School summed up the seniors’ reaction to the weeklong training, activities, and interaction.

“Freedom Academy is a great thing, and if you have a chance you really ought to do it,” Wall said. ■



SGT Jordan Everett, Co A, 141st MI Bn, left, and SGT Jennifer Rogerson, Co C, 142nd MI Bn, serve as German judges.

Language Olympics director MAJ Steve Stevens, the S-2 for the 300th, was involved in the first Olympics five years ago and was pleased with the result of the day’s events.

“For our Soldiers it was a great way to use their language and give back to the community. This gave them a chance to mentor others, interact with students, get them excited about language and motivate them to want to learn more,” Stevens said.

The competition also gave students a chance to see the Guard up close and find out how they can use their language skills in the military or private sectors.

Because of the success of the two competitions, Stevens isn’t expecting another long gap between events and is already planning the 2007 competition.

“We’ve received very positive feedback from the teachers and the students involved, and there are other high schools in other districts who are interested in participating. I think we will see this expand in a major way in the coming years,” he said. ■



Delegates from the 2006 Freedom Academy build a human pyramid at the leadership reaction course.

Photos by TSgt. Brad Letter



Delegates get hands-on experience with engineer equipment at the 2006 Freedom Academy.

Utah Guard Medicos in Morocco for Humanitarian Exercise

Story and photos by SGT Kelly Collett

TAN TAN, Morocco — **I**n the Utah National Guard's continuing efforts in its formal relationship with Morocco as part of the State Partnership Program, 27 Soldiers traveled to the African nation earlier this year to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco.

The celebration included setting up a temporary medical facility to provide medical care in Tan Tan, a small town of about 2,500 on the edge of the Sahara Desert in southern Morocco.

When word got out about the temporary clinic, citizens of Tan Tan and outlying villages lined up early for a chance to get free medical help for themselves and their children. Some locals walked as much as eight hours one way to receive care from American doctors and obtain American medications.

The Utah National Guard Medical Command (MEDCOM) worked side by side with doctors and medics from the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco for the four-day exercise. Utah Guard doctors enlisted the support of Arabic and French interpreters to help streamline the examination process.

Ssg Kyle Harrison, a medical supply specialist with MEDCOM, worked with a Moroccan Army pharmacist to distribute medication and supplies to villagers.

"At times it was a little scary because citizens wanted to rush the tent to be first in line, but it was awesome overall,"



ABOVE: Two Utah National Guard Soldiers examine a Moroccan boy during an exercise near Tan Tan in May 2006. BELOW: Tan Tan villagers wait their turn to receive medical care from Utah and Moroccan Soldiers.



Harrison said.

Referring to his Moroccan counterparts, "They were on their game, and they knew what they needed to do. When you work with someone from another nation's military, you don't always know what they know or what they can do, but these Soldiers were squared away," he added.

Local citizens received dental and pediatric care, free medicine and vitamins, along with other specialized treatment, to include minor surgery.

During the exercise some of the younger Utah Guard Soldiers had an opportunity to see medical conditions they had never seen before because such ailments are rare in the United States.

Initially, planners expected the operation to aid 500 to 700 people per day, but caregivers saw more than twice that number by the time the exercise ended. Moroccan

and MEDCOM personnel treating nearly 8,000 in four days.

"From the medical point of view, I think the Moroccans could have done it without us, but the biggest accomplishment of this mission was that it dispelled a lot of myths [that Moroccans and Americans hold about each other]," said Marcus.

"It was a great evolution. At first we were tentative, but by the end we were like old friends. It even got to the point we were comfortable enough to tease each other. They teased us about how loud Americans laugh," she added. "We came away realizing that



Utah National Guard Soldier with a satisfied customer in Tan Tan, Morocco.

we are much more alike than we are different.”

And as for the performance of Utah Guard members in Morocco, Marcus was very pleased.

“Our Soldiers did an outstanding job. They represented the Utah National Guard and the United States extremely well. They were very polite and accommodating of the local customs of Morocco,” she said.

By all accounts the Moroccans reciprocated by being gracious hosts and providing Utah Soldiers with an excellent experience.

“Morocco is beautiful and we were treated like royalty. I even ate sheep for the first time. It was great,” said Harrison.

“I think the trip strengthened many friendships and ties between Utah and Morocco,” added SGT Kelly Collett, a broadcast journalist with Utah’s 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, who was there to document the exercise on tape.

This exercise was Utah Army Guard Soldiers’ first up-close experience with common, ordinary Moroccans. The Utah Air Guard did a similar exercise last year on a smaller scale, said Lt. Col. David Thomas, State Partnership Program coordinator for Utah.

“Moroccan leaders were extremely pleased with the result in Tan-Tan, and they want us to come back next year,” Thomas said. ■

MAJ Hank McIntire contributed to this report.

Utah’s Governor, Lawmakers Honor Two Utah National Guard Soldiers

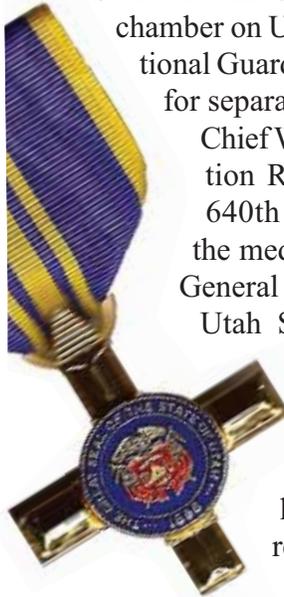
By MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **I**n a ceremony in the Senate chamber on Utah’s Capitol Hill Feb. 23, two Utah National Guard Soldiers received the Utah Cross award for separate acts of bravery.

Chief Warrant Officer Ryan D. Eyre, 211th Aviation Regiment, and SGT Scott R. Campbell, 640th Regional Training Institute, received the medals from Utah National Guard Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet.

Utah Senate President John Valentine then presented the two Soldiers with a commendation certificate signed by Valentine and Senators Mark Madsen and Patrice Arent, who represent the home districts of Campbell and Eyre, respectively.

The certificate read in part, “For distinguished performance of critical skills in a crisis situation.”



gushed situation.”

The Utah Cross is awarded to Utah National Guard Soldiers or Airmen who distinguish themselves through heroism or other acts that are clearly above and beyond the call of duty.

Eyre, a Murray resident, received the award for his role in the rescue of an individual trapped in a burning house Dec. 20, 2005. Salt Lake Fire Department Battalion Chief Jeffrey Thomas credited Eyre with saving the life of the victim.

Campbell, who resides in Eagle Mountain, was honored for providing first aid and assisting in the rescue of a trapped motorist on Interstate 80 in northwestern Nevada Jan. 22, 2006. ■

CW3 Ryan Eyre, 211th Aviation, and SGT Scott Campbell, 640th RTI, receive the Utah Cross at a Utah Senate Chamber ceremony.



Photo by TSgt. Brad Letter

NASCAR Driver Greg Biffle Experiences a Taste of the Guard

Recruiting and Retention Battalion is commanded by LTC James A. Brown, with Sergeant Major Jesse Adamson and Sergeant Major Brett Johnson as the senior NCOs. Recruiting and Retention Battalion is headquartered in Draper, UT, and continues to provide quality personnel to achieve Utah's strength-maintenance goals. We utilize the three tenets of strength maintenance: We recruit quality personnel, assist units to retain 85% of End of Term of Service-eligible personnel, and assist units with attrition management.

On Feb. 23, 2006, Recruiting and Retention Command hosted the driver of the NASCAR National Guard Car #16, Greg Biffle. He and his crew chief Doug Richert were given the opportunity to experience a taste of the Utah National Guard throughout the day. Greg Biffle flew in an AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter, fired the M109A6 Paladin



LEFT to RIGHT: CW4 Dave Bouer, CW 3 Andy Grover and NASCAR driver Greg Biffle prepare for a training flight in an AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter.

Photos by Recruiting and Retention Battalion

A R M Y P R

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

Allen, Scott Murray
Moss, Daryl Leslie

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

Green, Kelvin Paul
Harrison, Patrick Earl
Lucero, David Leslie
Smith, Ernest Loader
Upton, Scott Timothy

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Robertson, Willie David
Searcy, Brian Thomas
Tavares, Erik James
Wade, Derrick Steven

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Barnes, Patricia Annette
Hess, Kenneth Duane
Hobbs, Tyler Dale
Kelly, Natalie
Sia, Antonio Tremucha
Whiting, Eric John

COLONEL

Gosselin, Charles Joseph
Gundersen, Edward Bruce
Hirst, Barbara Jean
Moore, John Preston
Torgersen, Dwaine Mark
Wojtecki, Timothy John

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Brady, Paul Louis
Cluff, William Rydalah
Hinckley, Lynn Frederick
Kennedy, Lorraine Dupaix
Price, David Matthew
Slagowski, James Bartley
Taggart, Bryce Jay
Whiting, Paul Snow

MAJOR

Baker, Jerry Lee Jr
Black, Everett Harrington IV
Buhman, Jeffrey Ray
Coates, David Jon

Jarvis, Stephan Kirkham Jr
McNeil, Jay W

CAPTAIN

Cousins, Matthew William
Dent, Robert Alan
Gonzalez, Ricardo
Holman, Bryan Keith
Hulsey, Damon Matthew
Meinecke, Ryan Ismael
Neville, Jeremy Gardner
Page, Glen Thomas
Pettit, Nancy
Ringger, Nathan Paul
Strong, Cody James
Trauba, Deanne Anderson
Tyler, Christopher Spencer

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Austin, Michael Darin
Christensen, Justin Roy
Glover, Jody Linda
Henrie, Scott Cameron
Jensen, Tyler James
Kelley, Lee Lawrence III
Luth, Brian Christopher
Masteller, Brian Douglas
Mills, Julia Maria
Mundy, Ryan Dustun
Pedersen, Andrew Steven
Pedersen, Gordon Christian
Sikuka, Asovale Larry
Smith, Justin Quinn
Williams, Jeremy C

SERGEANT MAJOR

Bridges, Lloyd Marlowe
Cramer, Sean Michael
Hansen, Larry Gray
Kinsman, Douglas J

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Lee, Kenneth G

MASTER SERGEANT

Barnes, Gary Winter
Cooper, Todd Allen
Dean, Harry Kevin

Herr, Ronald
Jarrett, Reid Leon
Jensen, Robert
Johnson, Collin Arvid
Mitchell, Michael Danny
Mitchell, Stanford K
Osterhout, Kenly Ryan
Storer, David James
Sudweeks, Scott Wallace
Turville, Jason Kent
Wooldridge, Steven Brian

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Ambrose, Craig J
Barrett, Richard William
Blom, Marcus Carl
Bray, Kristl Jordaine
Carter, Anthony Douglas
Cecil, Ronald Wesley
Davis, Charles Glen
Dunn, Michael Loren
Ekker, Gilbert Lee
Franklin, Michael Edward
Hennefer, Kenneth Jordan
Hertzsch, Henry Howard Jr
Hohosh, Linda Jean
Hutchinson, Val
Johnson, James Bowlin
Johnson, Kelly Marie
Lamb, Terence Michael
Larsen, Lyle E
Pierce, Vincent Edward
Reed, Dianne Colleen
Salerno, Nicholas Joe
Withers, Kenneth Lowell
Witt, Jared Lee

STAFF SERGEANT

Adamson, Jason Ryan
Andrews, Daniel Denny
Andrews, Kevin Raymond
Ash, David Shepherd
Barto, Allison Dutton
Barto, Justin Bradford
Benally, Don
Blackham, Nickolas Fred
Blackmer, Joshua Bruce
Blankenship, Lance Robert

Bradshaw, Bret Adam
Bramall, Franklyn James
Breck, Haley Marie
Burnham, Brant Argyle
Bybee, Zane Callister
Bylsma, Jon Weston
Camp, Gregory Lynn
Carey, John Paul
Carroll, Keith Alan
Carter, Derek Michael
Chipman, Shad Roland
Colqui, David Raul
Cooke, Jeremy Kekai
Coombs, William H
Crow, Jeremy Clyde
Dallas, Sandi Jo
Daniels, David Gary
Davis, Robert Joshua
Faddis, Scott Sims
Fleming, Ryan Mitchell
Freestone, Christopher
Gonzales, Juan Molina
Grimstead, Benjamin Erik
Henriquez, Walter Antonio
Hepper, Mark Arnold
Hile, Timothy Joe
Hinton, Timothy Walker
Hunsaker, Adam Hall
Ibarra-Taylor, Daniel
Johnson, Barney Max
Johnson, Jeremy Jennings
Kattelman, Robert Mark
Kumfer, Jason Franklyn
Leavitt, Richard Jason
Lejeune, William Patrick
Lewis, Ryan Justin
Long, Gregory Michael
Lowery, Joshua David
Lundstrom, Kristopher Alexan
Mabey, David Allen
Maimer, Nicholas Dwain
Marsh, Spencer Kimball
Martin, Scott Lee
Medina, Tracy Christopher
Mueller, Alexander Nichols
Mundy, Robert Keith
Muramoto, Joey Jack
Newren, Joshua Chance

Parke, Lane Rulon
Parra, Gustavo
Pass, Shannon D
Perry, Todd Warren Jr
Pohl, Terrance James
Prince, Randy Jay Jr
Richardson, Ryan Verdan
Rigby, Jan Casey
Ryan, Mark David
Schutz, Matthew Christopher
Shelley, Devin Carl
Shepherd, Michael David
Shute, Gordon Reginald
Smith, Thomas William
Stallings, Eddie Dean
Teeples, Jeremy Kevin
Thomas, Justin Allan
Tukuafu, Don Robert Waiono
Vincent, Darren J
Vongthongchit, Wirachack
Whittaker, Daniel Robert
Wood, Jared Andrew
Wright, Paul William
Zufelt, Matthew D

SERGEANT

Ah, Colt Robert Fuga
Allen, Don Tyler
Andelin, Brian David Jr
Andersen, Steven Labron
Anderson, Daniel Roland
Ashby, Blair D
Axelgard, Jasen Mikel
Barlow, Russell Justin
Baxter, Neil Bentley
Belton, Jeffrey Chad
Berger, Kaleb Lee
Berget, Scott Anthony
Berrios, Reynaldo Antonio Jr
Bishop, Clifton Richard
Blizzard, Richard James
Bowman, William Robert
Brady, Patrick Kale
Bush, Thomas David Alexan Jr
Butler, Ronald Mark
Carlson, Shawn William
Carter, Andrew Glen
Chadburn, Norman Edward

howitzer and a 50-caliber machine gun. Following the days events, Greg Biffle greeted and signed autographs for Guard members and families. ■



Greg Biffle fires a M109A6 Paladin howitzer bearing his NASCAR National Guard Car #16.

In Memoriam

SPC Richard Lewis Durrant HHC, 1457th Engineer Battalion



O M O T I O N S

Christensen, Jordan Deloss
Christley, Garrett Michael
Clark, Boyd William
Cockayne, Christopher Morris
Cordero, Justin Ross
Cruz, Evan Tyler Benjamin
Culley, Dietrich Raymond
Curtis, Clayton Alan
Davies, Lloyd Matthew
Day, Julies Dempsey
Dolle, George Joseph
Duncan, Brent Leroy
Eck, Shaun Steven
Estes, Nathan Clark
Ferrin, Kelly Allen
Foisy, Erik John
Fowles, Jason Dee
Francis, Ross Amos
Fraser, William Joseph
George, Jeffrey Carl
Giles, Cahugh Crook
Glenn, Rikki Thomas
Goddard, Brett Lawrence
Hansen, Jeremy Craig
Harding, Ryan Craig
Hayes, Gregory Charles
Haynes, Ryan Eldon
Hendrix, Wayne Allen
Hoagland, Jeremy Dean
Hone, Benjamin J
Howard, Ryan Michael
Hunt, Roderick Denzel
Hurst, Sean Richard
Ivie, Darin Cody
Jackson, Russell Morgan
Jewkes, Andrew James
Johns, Michael Gene
Jones, Daniel Reeves
Keifert, Robert Langston
Kerr, Michael James
King, Joel Rueben
King, Samuel Forrest
Kunz, Kristopher Adam
Larsen, Eric Mellor
Lewis, Corey Reese
Lish, James Aaron
Lopez, Troy James
Mckean, Clyde Weston

Mecham, Paul Devern
Miller, Benjamin James
Monroe, Russell Irvin
Moss, Justin Shane
Murdock, Chandler Zachary
Nicoll, Jake Mark
Oakes, Christopher Scott
Parker, Brendon John
Parrish, Daniel Wade
Parrish, Mark William
Patterson, Clarke William
Paxson, Braden Maury
Payne, Mark Andrew
Payton, Zachery Aaron
Peeler, Nathanael Wayne
Petkovich, Lara Maynes
Porritt, Joseph Lloyd
Poulson, Jason Alma
Prusse, Brian Edward
Putnam, Zachary Porter
Pyper, Adam Ray
Quarnberg, Cole A
Randle, Spencer Allan
Rasmussen, Jonathan Hans
Reynolds, Aaron Joseph
Rodriguez, Eric Floyd
Rosenvall, Steven Craig
Rushton, Ethan Tate
Sampson, Jason Neil
Sandberg, Steven Blake
Saunders, Daniel Glen
Sawyer, Cody David
Seelye, Daniel Noel
Seifert, Michael Wayne Jr
Singleton, Robert Paul
Skeem, Gregory Doyle
Sorensen, Aaron Earl
Spitznogle, Christopher W
Sutton, David Campbell
Tanner, Jeremy Lee
Teynor, Thomas Christian
Thacker, Frank M
Torres, Nathan Raymond
Townsend, Jason Bryan
Valentine, Jakobe Wood
Walker, Jeffery Michael
Wallis, Robert William
Warner, Gary Brent

Warren, Richard Lee
West, Sterling Eugene
Wilcock, Nathaniel Berin
Young, Adam Joseph

SPECIALIST

Allred, George Owen
Allred, Joseph Merle
Anderson, Delbert Ron
Balls, Brian Lamonte
Bamford, Christopher Andrew
Bass, Joseph Melton
Behling, Nick Susano
Bergesen, Tyler Jacob
Blackburn, Caleb Johnathan
Blackhair, Leallen Avery
Bonifacio, Marck Ronald
Bradford, Michael Kent
Brown, Benjamin Garth
Brown, Phillip Chase
Bushnell, Kyle Lynn
Carr, Benjamin Alan
Cervantes, Christopher M
Christopherson, Brian Robert
Crosby, Tyson Ken
Curtis, Bryce Stuart
Dagostini, Jared Todd
Daley, Danny Augustus
Dickey, Jerimiah Westly
Eastman, Michael Joseph
Elizondo, James Nathaniel
Farnsworth, Jason Lee
Faulkner, Joshua Michael
Forsyth, Kevin Doyle
Fotheringham, Travis Scott
Frandsen, Bernard Howard
Gale, Wesley J
Gardner, Scott Ira
Goodrich, Benjamin Arthur
Haag, Camron Eric
Hampton, Ian Thomas
Harris, Nathan Joseph
Hasson, Vester Maxwell IV
Hatcher, Timothy Guy
Hill, Jeremy Wayne
Holbrook, Daniel Mitchell
Houston, Whitney Carroll
Hunter, Michael Reed

Hurst, Catharine
Hurtado, Helaman Luis
Isom, Ronald Anthony
Jacobsen, Lane Oscar
Jacobsen, Matthew H
Janes, Andrew Michael
Jensen, Kenneth Boyd
Johansen, Sara Lee
Jones, Steven James
Kahn, Raymond Robert
Kitchen, Ryan Stanley
Klein, Stephen Antoine
Konery, Aron Vincent
Lagiglia, Gino Joseph
Lindquist, Benjamin Cory
Lund, Steven Chas
Lux, William John
Malmgren, Michael James
Massey, Lewis Nathan
Mohler, Jared Maxson
Muirbrook, Brandon Scott
Murphy, Patrick Michael
Nelson, Devon Lang
Olsen, Devin Dean
Patrick, Kirk Jordan
Penney, Joshua Kade
Perkins, Joshua Marion Odell
Pickett, Mark Howard
Pierce, Michael Paul
Pinon-Molina, Ricardo
Rappleye, Roger William
Rawlinson, Kyle Charles
Richards, Michael Adam
Riley, Garrett Winfield II
Roberts, David Michael
Schow, Jason Terry
Skelton, Mark Timothy Jr
Slaugh, Cody E
Smith, Jordan Michael
Springer, Ryan Kelly
Stanley, Kenneth Scott
Starr, Joseph Lee
Steadman, Dustin Max
Stone, Lucas David
Sylvester, Matthew Leon
Syrett, Wesley Douglas
Tenney, Ammon James
Toivonen, Paul Ryan

Tullis, Ryan Michael
Turner, Casey Bart
Vanalstyne, Joshua Brandon
Walsh, Thomas Patrick
Wayment, Brant Matthew
Webster, Timothy Patrick
Weight, Camden Skidmore
Wentz, Chad Michael
Wilcox, Cody Ernest
Wilcox, Zachary Brooks
Withers, Jacob Theran
Yost, Coral Zina

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Adams, Kyle Jacob
Allen, Michael Leer
Ameh, Friday Edoke
Anderson, Bryce Timothy
Aparcana, Claudia Veronica
Ashworth, Brady William
Atkin, Kody John
Atkinson, Ian Kristopher
Bailey, Zachary Andrew
Bartholomew, Jay Bert
Baschke, Jeffrey Thomas
Beck, Brent Chad
Becker, Joshua Anthony
Benson, Cassidi Linn
Birch, Robert S III
Bishop, Brad Douglas
Black, David William
Blake, Brady Douglas
Blanton, Curtis Loren
Boren, Jason Frederick
Braithwaite, Adam Michael
Broadhead, Jennifer Lee
Broadhead, Michael Levi
Brown, James Christopher
Brown, Joshua David
Burruss, Stephen Matthew
Campbell, Zackrison Kale
Carter, Charles Tyson
Carter, Thomas Neil
Christensen, Brandon Oliver
Christensen, William Russel
Churchill, John David
Clark, Michael David
Cox, Benjamin Wayne

ARMY PROMOTIONS

Crabtree, Stephanie Anne
Cropper, Casidy J
Curtis, Samantha Marlene
Davis, Robert Wade
Deems, Ryan Mitchell
Deleeuw, Adam
Dickens, Clinton Wade
Dunn, Jared Michael
Eastabrook, Adam Cody
Evans, Nathan Michael
Foerster, Broc Edward
Futch, Joshua David
Gardner, Tyler Scott
Gerhart, Stephen Robert
Gonzales, Melanie
Griner, Nicole Marie
Haddock, Leslie Ann
Hale, Charles Boyd
Halsted, Kier Michael
Haws, Michael Dean
Heath, Mitchell Adam
Hendrickson, Arthur Dylan
Hendrickson, Eric Franklin
Hill, Aubrey Lynn
Hill, Tyler John
Hooper, Jared Ray
Hubert, Lloyd Walcott
Huntsman, Gerrick L
Hurst, Shaney Alan
Hutchins, Benjamin John
Hutson, Kurt Legrand
Ingersoll, Tyler Robert
Jenkins, Brittan Armin
Jensen, Amy Sue
Jensen, Cassandra Jo
Johnson, Skylar Markay
Jones, Theo Randall
Karpowitz, Kristopher James
Keeling, Leonard Marcellus
Kerkman, Steven Craig
King, Nathan Forrest
Kinross, Taylor William

Knudsen, Tiffany Ann
Krishnan, Micah Vivek
Lennon, Bryan Jonathan
Liechty, Max Dean
Liechty, Roy David
Maes, Dane Robert
Malmborg, Casey Bruce
Mantz, Kurt James
Marquardson, Nathan Eric
Marshall, Tiffany Joann
Martinez, Joshua Ismael
Mays, Stephen Michael Jr
Mccormick, William Robert
Mellor, Taylor Melvin
Mergell, Cody Alexander
Merz, Martin Andrew
Milberger, Anthony Wayne
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Mills, Cory Daniel
Mitchell, Kasy Reed
Montgomery, Mark Daniel
Moody, Braidy Taylor
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Morin, Zachary Young
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Murphy-Schmitz, Joshua Alan
Nauta, Taylor Paul Jr
Nielson, Joshua Casey
Nilsson, Jeffers Torrey
Nydegger, Isaac Roy
Oliver, Russell Joseph Jr
Olson, Clay Emery
Olson, Jacob Benjamin
Overton, Todd Dorsey
Parry, Jake W
Patrick, Nicholas Barclay
Peiffer, Kenneth Raymond
Phipps, Aaron James
Phipps, Shaun James
Pierce, Ryan Howard
Poindexter, William Aaron
Quick, James William

Redford, Christopher Lee
Richards, Joshua Darrell
Riley, Brian Michael
Rinck, Zachary Isaac
Roberts, Bryce Jay
Rodriguez, Joel David
Rogers, Christian Aaron
Rosenberger, Daniel Caleb
Schmidt, Darren Frederick
Shakespear, Colton Preston
Shelton, Tiffany
Shirtz, Daniel Justin
Skyles, Lee Paul Jr
Smith, Anthony Robert Craig
Smith, Randy Lee
Smith, Ryan Lee
Snouffer, David Alan
Sorensen, Daniel Jay
Stephens, Dustin Winn
Stocks, Jonathan Jake
Summers, Skyler Jay
Swanenberg, Henry Aaron
Taylor, Devin Burke
Thomas, Robert Dee
Thompson, Melissa Ann
Thurston, Kelly Christopher
Tidwell, Christopher Cole
Tueller, Daniel Jay
Tyner, Glen Martin
Vielbaum, John Robert
Voigt, Aaron Travis
Vreeland, Mitchell Dale
West, Justin Kendall
White, Justin Keith
White, Travis
Wilcox, Colby Scott
Williams, Bryan Christopher
Wiseman, Tyler Brian
Wood, Joshua Shane
Wymore, Jonathan William
Young, Clay Brock

PRIVATE 2
Adams, Matthew Brady
Adams, Zackary Jordan
Artalejo, Jose Maria
Ballard, David Jay
Barney, Trevor David
Bartholomew, Benjamin Hunter
Belcher, Alan David
Blankenstein, Cory John
Brinkman, Zachary Scott
Buchi, Tyler Jacob
Bunnell, Sye James
Butcher, Brandon James
Chambers, Matthew T
Christensen, Kyle Zane
Christofferson, Kindy
Cleveland, Joseph Charles
Cox, Charles J
Cronin, Daniel Eric
Day, Drew Allen
Denny, Waynette Wenona
Dew, Eden Noelle
Draughn, Joseph Patrick
Drollette, Matthew Wayne
Ellington, Joshua Sean
Ellsworth, Phillip Scott
Evans, Andrew Lance
Ferrell, Jordon Michael
Flitton, Daniel David
Ford, Tyman Taylor
Forsgren, Samuel Robert
Fui, Denapoli Mu
Gilbert, Daniel Lance
Hadlock, Brian Patrick
Hart, Adam Jacob
Hawkes, Shawn Nickolaus
Henrie, Patrick Smith
Higgins, Bruce Emery Jr
Hutchings, Derek Quey
Johnson, Brittanie Maxine
Johnson, Joshua Kyle
Landies, Cameron David

Langston, Jordan Travis
Lay, Cresson David
Mccoy, Seth
Merrick, Daniel James
Montgomery, Jullienne C
Murphy, Austin Clark
Nyman, Timothy Daniel
Ocana, Jose Xavier
Ochsenbein, Landon John
Orozco, Rafael Gabriel
Overson, Tyler Joseph
Patterson, Mitch Layton
Piep, Dustin Lynn-Tate
Platt, Brendon Treavis
Randle, Ramie K
Rodriguezsanchez, Eduardo
Scarlet, Martin Eli
Schlichte, Joshua Benjamin
Serrano, Christopher Lewis
Sillitoe, Derek Phillip
Skidmore, Jordan K
Smith, Jeremy Tsselbah
Snell, Jaren Hansen
Sprouse, Tisha Lee
Stanford, John Anthony
Staton, Eddie Dale Jr
Stevens, Alan Michael
Stuart, Kevin Andrew
Vandrimmelen, Joseph P K
Walgren, Kimberly Ann
Walker, Jeffrey Paul
Webb, Jordan Loy
Wilberger, Rose Mari
Williams, Michael Homer
Witte, Bryan Paul
Woolen, Rolf Denby
Wynn, Trista Nicole
Zamora, Brandon James
Zimmerman, Zachary Mark

AIR PROMOTIONS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Brenete, Lisa
Brewer, Bruce
Cotner, Joseph
Hawkins, Christopher
Lythgoe, Scott
Morris, Karen
Wayment, Neal

MAJOR

Casos, Steven
Gailey, Jared
Lamb, Brent
Taylor, Robert
Walker, Brian

CAPTAIN

Peterson, Daniel
Wendel, Joel
Wilde, Dylan

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Estrada, Robert
Johnson, Jacob
Lee, Wayne
Wie, Joseph Van

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Huffman, Michael D

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Evans, Willard H
Hauser, William R
Jones, Drue A
Malmborg, David W
Santistevan, John A
Vance, Barry L

MASTER SERGEANT

Ackerman, Matthew
Adams, Josh
Bissell, Rebecca Q
Conine, Justin B
Fransen, Michael L
Garcia, Tom B
Gathurum, Bryan
Kelly, Ron
Morbach, Daniel
Poulson, Sterling S
Taranto, Joseph R
Teuscher, Shane S
Uphoff, Joseph F

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Bird, Scott J
Bryner, Chad E
Bullivant, Kevin T
Cameron, Scot C
Clausen, Jacqueline
Cordner, Paul S
Glade, Paul L
Higley, Joshua G
Johnson, Spencer C
Lauritzen, Ben A
Lilya, Sandy
Mochizuki, Tracy T
Park, Sam K
Parnell, James M
Peters, Melissa R
Timion, Jennifer G
Trimble, Gerald Jr
Trinchitella, Charles
Umphries, Tina

STAFF SERGEANT

Adams, Mandy A
Adamson, Curtis M
Alexander, Robert
Allred, Gregory S

Amaral, Derrick P
Carrilo, Rick M
Chapman, Mark J
Durrant, Gregory S
Ebert, Rick M
Hall, Melanie F
Hall, Rachel M
Libby, Julia D
Martinez, Ray C
May, Stephen D
McCann, Brittany
Opperman, Marvin
Orozco, Nicolas
Packard, Jason R
Sacks, Jeffery S
Sykes, Christopher L
Thompson, Nicholas A
Vantassell, Travis
Vorwaller, Scot D
Watson, Adam A
Webb, Jared Y
White, Landren R

SENIOR AIRMAN

Barney, Taylor R
Black, Kandice D

Butterfield, Jason T
Cronk, Eric C
Gallacher, Brandon J
Hood, Ashley M
Kicker, Scott H
Leonard, William
Lingwall, Preston
Menlove, Alicia
Menlove, Amanda J
Moriarty-Dobson, Brenda
Myers, Micah W
Nelson, Joel J
Nelson, Joshua
Rawson, Benjamin
Rebeck, Joseph III
Redmon, Alexander A
Rogers, Amber
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Woolley, Spencer

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