



UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah National Guard Joint Magazine

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Fall 2007

**145th FA and 116th SECFOR
Leave for Deployment**

**142nd MI, 19th SF, 211th AV and
I Corps Artillery Redeploy**

Neola, Utah Fire Effort



The Adjutant General's Corner

By MG Brian Tarbet



Photo by Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet

DRAPER, Utah — I thank you Airmen and Soldiers of the Utah National Guard for the tremendous manner in which you serve our State and Nation. This is a challenging, bittersweet time for us. We have welcomed home from Iraq and Afghanistan the Soldiers of Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation; I Corps Artillery (Forward); and the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion.

We have sent the 116th SECFOR Company, 1-145th Field Artillery, and 109th Air Control Squadron to serve overseas in harm's way. Soldiers from the 115th Engineer Group and 300th Military Intelligence Brigade answered the call of Gov. Huntsman to support local law enforcement during the Neola Fire in Duchesne and Uintah Counties. And so many more of you have served in countless, unheralded ways.

These examples of sacrifice and service have given me some of my proudest moments as your Adjutant General. However, that pride has been tempered by the recent loss of two of our finest Apache pilots, CW2 Clayton Barnes and CW2 James Linder, who died in a tragic helicopter crash during what some have called a "routine" training mission.

Let me be very clear: There is nothing "routine" about what we do in the Utah National Guard. This is a dangerous business. We know that, and we take every safety precaution possible to keep our Guard members safe. Despite the risks, however, we continue to train and to serve, knowing that our families, our employers and our citizens deserve nothing less.

To the families of our fallen pilots, we pledge our love and support to you and honor your Soldiers' memory by continuing with our mission to which they were absolutely committed.

To CSM Dell Smith, who is retiring this month after 36 years of service, I say 'God speed.' CSM Smith has been my Command Sergeant Major for the last nine years. He and his wife, Connie, are remarkable examples of service and devotion to others. He has been a wise counselor, true patriot, champion of our enlisted ranks and a great friend. I will miss his friendship more than I can express. I welcome CSM Bruce Summers to the team and have great confidence in his experience and judgment to continue the great work of his predecessor.

As we continue to answer the call, I call on each of us to live the military values we espouse. This more than anything will ensure our success. Our citizens depend on us, and we must not fail them. ■

Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — First of all let me just say what an honor it is to have the opportunity to serve with the caliber of Soldiers and Airmen that we have here in the Utah National Guard. I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Command Sergeant Major Dell Smith for his leadership and guidance during these last few years. His example has sustained many of us in our careers and taught us how we as leaders need to take care of the Soldiers under our charge. CSM Smith did all of this and more, with honor and courage.

The Utah National Guard is a great organization and my goal is to continue to improve it. I have had the opportunity to work with Soldiers from many different states during multiple deployments. Without a doubt, Utah Soldiers and Airmen are the finest I have had the pleasure of working with.

One thing that always strikes me when I visit units is the extreme professionalism of our Non-commissioned Officer Corps. We have the most technically and tactically proficient leaders in the NCO corps that I've ever seen, and their dedication is an inspiration. I am proud to be among its ranks.

As you'll find out, some of my main priorities are enforcing standards and discipline. I did the same thing during the year I spent in Iraq with the 2-222nd Field Artillery. After all, the military is a standards-based organization, and discipline is needed to execute the types of global missions we are called upon to perform. There is a reason that many civilian corporations mimic military standards and training programs: They work.

In closing, I'd just like to say again that I am honored to be the Command Sergeant Major for the Utah National Guard. I have some big boots to fill, and I promise you all that I will give it my very best. I look forward to working with you all, and thank you for your service. ■



Photo by Greg Cullis

Bruce D. Summers
Command Sergeant Major
Utah Army National Guard

Contents

The Adjutant General's Corner	1
Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments	1
Special Forces Return from Philippines	3
Utah Guard Hosts High School Language Olympics	4
Utah Guard Air Traffic Controller Honored by FAA	5
Off to Camp Bucca, the 1-145th Says Farewell.....	6
Saying Good-bye to the Newest Unit in the Utah National Guard	8
2007 Great Utah Road Tour	10
Utah National Guard Showcases Soldiers and Capabilities to Foreign Military Officials.....	12
640th Regional Training Institute Breaks Ground for New Facility.....	13
211th Pilots Die in Mountain Crash.....	14
Apache Pilot Remembered as Living Every Day to its Fullest	15
Life 'An Adventure' for Pilot.....	16
Back to the Border for Utah Guard Engineers	17
142nd Military Intelligence Welcomes Soldiers Home	19
Alpha Co., 2-211th Aviation, Returns from Iraq.....	20
Utah National Guard Gives Soldiers' Civilian Bosses a 'Lift'	22
SGT Jill Stevens is Crowned Miss Utah 2007.....	24
Warrant Officers: Specialized Tactical and Technical Experts	25
Alpha Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery, Brings Home National Award....	26
Annual Marksmanship Competition Held in Utah	27
Rapid Reaction: 85th CST Trains in Utah's West Desert	28
Utah Guard Soldiers Activated to Support Neola Fire Effort	30
Letter to MG Brian Tarbet	32
Air National Guard Assists with Utah Mining Rescue	32
New 624th Vertical Construction Company 'Goes to Work'	33
I Corps Artillery Returns from Afghanistan.....	34
Scouting for Food Collects Two Million Pounds of Food	36
Utah Artist Honors the Fallen	37
NBA Stars Turn to the Utah National Guard	38
In Memoriam	39
Rural Morocco Benefits From Utah Guard 'Traveling Medical Show'....	40
ATK Launch System Receives DoD Above and Beyond Award.....	43
Utah National Guard's 85th CST Earns Federal Certification	44
46th Annual Minuteman Awards Dinner	45
Every Soldier A Recruiter	46
Hohenfels Training Times.....	47
Benefits and Education	48
Family Unity Cultivates Quality Pilots.....	48
California Marines Honor Comrade	49
Utah's Top Soldier Receives Award from His Commander.....	50
Utah National Guard's Annual Military Ball	50
Praise Flows at 'Thank A Soldier' Day.....	51
Tee Off for Special Olympics	51
Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer and First Sergeant of the Year	52
Volunteers are the Key to Our Success	54
Utah Airmen and Soldiers Benefit from 2007 Legislative Session.....	55
UTNG Association's Group Term Life Insurance Program.....	56
Casey Mears Earns Frequent-Flyer Miles with the Utah Guard.....	56
Military Wives and Mothers Honor Event.....	57
Army Promotions.....	58
Air Promotions.....	60
Veterans Day Concert Announcement	60

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Cover Photo: SPC Travis Westenskow, 1-145th Field Artillery says good-bye to family and friends as his unit deploys from the Utah Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City. Photo by SGT Kelly Collett

Inside Cover Photo: The Neola Fire blackened more than 43,000 acres in Duchesne and Uintah Counties and the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in July 2007. Guard Members manned road closure points. Gov. Jon Huntsman is briefed on the mission. Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Back Cover Photo: COL Peter Taillac, MEDCOM treats a Moroccan patient during Operation African Lion. Photos by MAJ Chris Patterson

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

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Special Forces Return from Philippines

Story and photos by Shad West

SALT LAKE CITY—**N**early 100 members of Utah's Special Forces returned from fighting the Global War on Terrorism in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in a unique location.

The Soldiers of First Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), spent nearly a year in the Philippines where they provided training and support to Filipino military forces in combating terrorist activities in various locations throughout the Philippines.

The 1-19th, as the unit is known, was mostly stationed on the island of Jolo in Sulu Province, a lawless region of the southern Philippines, where insurgency and terrorism have reigned for years.

LTC Andrew Wood said his troops focused mostly on Abu Sayyaf, an Islamic terrorist and separatist group that is linked to al-Qaida and is known for bombings and kidnappings.

"There are a lot of different groups. It's difficult to describe, but they're like families that operate in different areas," Wood told Utah media outlets during an impromptu press conference.

The United States deployed Soldiers to the Philippines after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Wood said much of his unit's activities centered on training Filipino armed forces in bomb detection, including things such as vehicle checkpoints and searches.

"We saw a number of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) discovered before they were detonated, saving a tremendous number of lives. Many of my Soldiers were awarded with Philippine defense ribbons for their work over there," Wood said.

The 1-19th helped combat terrorism in the Philippines, without casualties. It was a dangerous and grueling mission.

"This area is being used as a transitional route for terrorism into the United States and other parts of the world," Wood said. "So getting a handle on what's going on there is very important."

Their mission was similar to, and sometimes just as dangerous as, the missions of Soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"There is a large terrorist faction over there that we had to deal with," Chief Warrant Officer John Wester said. "In fact, the bulk of the 9/11 planning was done over in the Philippines."

Soldiers were welcomed at Salt Lake International Airport, where many families were allowed to greet their loved ones at the arrival gates thanks to a coordinated effort between the Transportation Safety Administration and the Utah National Guard.

Other family members and members of the Guard waited just outside the security barrier with signs, balloons and open arms.

This was the 1-19th's second deployment as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit had a similar mission from 2003-04 in southern and eastern Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border. 

BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT: A wife warmly embraces her husband after being separated for nearly a year; LTC Andrew Wood hugs a family member waiting to greet him at Salt Lake International Airport.



ABOVE: SSG D.J. Graham holds his baby daughter at Salt Lake International Airport during the 19th Special Forces homecoming. BELOW: SGT William Bochot is all smiles as he is welcomed home by a fellow Utah National Guard Soldier.



Utah Guard Hosts High School Language Olympics

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard's 300th Military Intelligence Brigade held its third annual High School Language Olympics May 18 at the Guard's Draper headquarters.

Students from two Salt Lake School District high schools, East and Highland, participated with competitors from five high schools in Davis School District: Bountiful, Clearfield, Davis, Layton and Viewmont.

After arriving for the competition, students received an orientation from CSM James Sproul of the 300th, a Mandarin Chinese linguist who explained why foreign-language proficiency is so critical in the military.

In addition to emphasizing career opportunities both in government and in business, Sproul stressed that the most significant thing about learning foreign languages for him was the opening of doors into other cultures and relationships.

Sproul concluded his remarks with a demonstration with his daughter Sarah, with whom he has conducted an experiment since she was born. Although his wife doesn't speak a word of Chinese, he has opted to speak almost solely Chinese to Sarah. Sproul went out into the audience and allowed participants to whisper questions to him in English, which he then translated into Chinese for Sarah, and she responded to them in English.

"It was a great object lesson on language learning," said LTC Steve Stevens of the 300th, who has managed the Language Olympics in previous years.

Then teams divided up into Spanish, French and German groups to compete in the Gisting, Power Word, Impromptu and Jeopardy/Trivial Bowl categories.

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

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

The Impromptu category calls for team members to compose two-minute impromptu speeches in a foreign language with three minutes of preparation after receiving a one-word topic on a card. Partners then provide one-minute summaries of the speech in English.

Jeopardy/Trivial Bowl competitors respond to questions on topics to include culture, politics, geography, history, vocabulary and grammar in their target language.

A total of 15 judges and 5 administrative specialists from the 141st and 142nd Military Intelligence Battalions of the 300th supported the event. Soldiers from the 141st judged the Spanish competitions, and German and French judges came from the 142nd.

After a high-spirited competition, the team from Viewmont dominated the French and German competitions and emerged as the overall winner

TOP DOWN: SSG Clark and SPC Atamanczyk give instructions during the competition; High school students wait for their next question during the Jeopardy/Trivial Bowl; Students write answers to questions during the Gisting portion of the competition; LTC Steve Stevens presents Viewmont High School the gold medal trophy.



with 89 points. Clearfield and Highland finished second and third, with 66 and 51 points, respectively.

“It was really fun,” said Chad, a senior at Viewmont, after the medals ceremony. “It was a good chance to be able to speak French because you can practice writing in class, but you have to have other people to speak with.”

And Viewmont’s Tery Binker, a Spanish, German and Latin teacher, echoed the sentiments of her student.

“I was so pleased just to see the students having fun and having a good time,” she said. “And then when they actually won, it was really exciting. Most of these kids have been with me for three years, and just to see something they have done has paid off in tangible things that they can go home and hang on their wall is really pleasing.”

Putting on the Language Olympics stems from one of the primary missions of the 300th: To provide language support for Department of Defense activities worldwide. Hosting this event helps to showcase the Brigade’s language capabilities, build student excitement for language learning and foster awareness of career opportunities for linguists in the military.

MAJ Steve Calder, organizer of this year’s competition for the 300th, who as a part-time Soldier put in many hours of his personal time to make the event a success, saw benefit not only for the students but for Guard members as well.

“At one time we were in those chairs as high school students, so for Soldiers it was a chance to give back,” he said. “And the highlight of the competition was sitting back and seeing the light in the eyes of the competitors.”

“And if you saw the teachers in attendance, every one of them left here with a big smile,” added Calder. “They are the ones who are going to push the program in the future.”

And that certainly is the case with Binker, who is already planning on being back in 2008.

“It was really nice to be in a situation where other people besides me think that language is important,” she said. “And I’ve already texted my vice principal and told him to put this on the calendar next year, because we’re coming!”

Photo by SSgt. Michael Ormond



Capt. Todd Lobato, chief air traffic control training officer for the 299th RCS, Utah Air National Guard, is honored as the Regional Safety Team Representative of the Year by Federal Aviation Administration representative Bryan Neville.

Utah Guard Air Traffic Controller Honored by FAA

By SrA Andrew Howells

SALT LAKE CITY - Controlling the skies over the largest test range in the United States can be a daunting task, but members of the Utah Air National Guard have initiated a public program that ensures the safety of all aircraft, both civilian and military.

Capt. Todd Lobato, Chief Air Traffic Control Trainer for the 299th Range Control Squadron, Utah Air

National Guard, was honored by the Federal Aviation Administration as the FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year. Lobato received this award for his role as the aviation safety counselor of the Utah region.

Lobato was the driving force in creating a public-awareness campaign to educate civilian and commercial pilots about the dangers of midair collisions in the skies above the Utah Test and Training Range located in northwestern Utah and eastern Nevada. Visiting more than 11 cities in a three-week period of time, Lobato volunteered his time and effort to offer these education seminars to the public.

“I don’t think that there is a counselor that has done as much work and put in as much time as Capt. Lobato has for this program,” said MSgt. Hugh Marstella, air traffic controller for the 299th RCS.

“Lobato has donated much of his time in giving these seminars, because he knows the importance of educating the aviation community about the dangers that are inherent to the test range,” said Marstella.

The Regional FAA Safety Team Representative of the Year is an award normally given to FAA personnel, but was awarded to a military controller this year.

“This award is something unique and quite an honor for not only Lobato, but the Utah Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force as well,” Marstella added.

Lobato, a Utah native, has been an air traffic controller for 16 years and was commissioned as an officer in November 2002. **E**

Photo by MSgt. Burke Baker



Capt. Todd Lobato, chief air traffic control training officer for the 299th Range Control Squadron, Utah Air National Guard, oversees the training of Senior Airman Luke Trent. Lobato was honored as the Regional Safety Team Representative of the Year by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Off to Camp Bucca, the 1-145th Says Farewell



SALT LAKE CITY — ‘There is strength in numbers,’ as the saying goes, and that was certainly the case June 12 as more than 400 Soldiers of First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, and their families and friends came together for a heroes’ send-off at the Utah Air National Guard Base.

No one who gathered in the large hangar for the departure ceremony will forget the sight of the entire battalion arrayed in formation, facing their leaders in front and surrounded by supporters who were literally ‘behind them,’ as well as to their left and their right.

These Soldiers—ultimately bound for Camp Bucca, a detention facility in Southern Iraq—are headed to Fort Bliss, Texas, for several weeks of mission-specific training as military police officers who will guard the camp and keep order among hundreds of captured enemy combatants.

This type of duty is not new to the 1-145th; they have functioned as one of two battalions in the State who are trained to assist local authorities in response to civil disturbances. The 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City saw them at the ready to be called to that challenging duty in the tense months following 9/11.

Among these Soldiers is a sizeable number of combat veterans who have already served in Iraq or Afghanistan and can provide perspective and stability for those deploying for the first time.

That’s how PFC Brittan Jenkins, of Alpha Battery, 1-145th, sees it. The Ogden resident served on the Gulf Coast in the fall of 2005 when the Battalion provided security there after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but this is his first tour overseas.

“Recently a lot of the guys from the 148th came back [from Iraq] and became a part of Alpha Battery,” Jenkins said. “It’s just a whole different experience for them in the Guard because they already know the sacrifices to be made. And I don’t want to sit back here and not make the same sacrifices. My section leader has been there before, and every chance I get I ask him questions even about the smallest things because I know that small things will help me in the long run.”

Soldiers of the 1-145th are experienced in other ways too. 1SG Dale Sellers, Bravo Battery, in Manti, was among many in the 1-145th to deploy in 2003 to protect the U.S. Army’s chemical stockpile at Dugway Proving Ground, Tooele Army Depot, Deseret Chemical and other key locations. He knows what it’s like to miss important events like birthdays, baptisms and holidays.

“I’ve been 20 years training for a day like this, and there are a lot of things where someone is going to have to take my place and do it for me,” the Hanksville resident said.

One of those stand-ins for Sellers is his wife Celeste. She will be working as a Family Readiness Group volunteer and knows what is in store for her and her children.

“Deployment makes you more of what you were,” she said.

“If you were having problems and just glossing them over, they come out and have to be dealt with. If you have an already-solid marriage, it just gets stronger.”

“I watched my oldest son step up to the plate and become a man when [his dad] was deployed the first time,” Celeste added. “The children really have an opportunity to mature while their dad is gone. You really build and grow or you wimp out. It’s a mental choice. I just choose not to wimp out.”

Before Soldiers boarded the three charter aircraft for Fort Bliss, the unit held a special ceremony to honor their service which included speeches by their leaders and a prayer offered by Chaplain MAJ Clay Anstead, who will be accompanying them on their deployment.

“It’s our privilege and blessing to serve our country, which we love so dearly,” said Anstead in his invocation. “We first give thanks for our families and all they mean to us, for our faiths. . . and for the freedoms we enjoy.”

“[We’re] thankful for values we’ve been given from parents, drill sergeants, officers and NCOs,” continued Anstead. “Bless us to use that training to perform our mission well and come home safely. Bless those left behind at home. May they be supported and uplifted in all their challenges—which will be many—and may they feel our love and support from afar.”

Soldiers then heard from the commander of I Corps Artillery, COL Michael Liechty; former I Corps Commander, MG Patrick Wilson; and the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, MG Brian Tarbet.

“The commitment and responsibility that comes with wearing this uniform is an expression of everyone’s willingness to serve—whatever that service may require,” said Liechty. “When you combine a qualified and trained artillery officer with a qualified and trained Artillery NCO, not only can they put steel on time and on target, but they can accomplish any mission given to them.”

Wilson used many superlatives to describe departing Soldiers and the mission they will fulfill.

“You are that lighthouse that represents hope to a people a long ways away,” he said. “There aren’t enough adjectives to describe you. You are the best of the best. What an awesome sight to stand beside you as you answer the call.”

“You are a hero for your willingness to serve and put on that uniform,” Wilson continued. “This is a family business; they are serving right alongside of you. And we here at home will do our part: Sending E-mails and pictures, and spending time on bended knee.”

“You have been my go-to unit for a long time,” said Tarbet, describing their service in the Olympics and guarding Dugway. “I’m so proud of you, but as proud of you as I am, I’m more proud of these families. The true heroes sit at your side.”

“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Here am I, Lord; send me,” he added, quoting Isaiah in the Old Testament. “You have answered that question.” ■

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN: MG Brian Tarbet (far left) with members of Utah National Guard Senior Leadership give a farewell salute to the first of three planes carrying Soldiers from the 1-145th Field Artillery. REMAINING PHOTOS: Soldiers from the 1-145th Field Artillery say good-bye to family and friends with one last embrace prior to boarding one of three chartered jets carrying them to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will train before leaving for Iraq. Photos by SGT Kelly Collett and Ileen Kennedy

Saying Good-bye to the Newest Unit in the Utah National Guard

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — Family, friends and Utah National Guard leaders gathered May 21 at the Utah Air National Guard Base here to say farewell to a unit that did not exist just a few months ago.

The 116th Convoy Security Company—composed entirely of volunteers and created as a result of a Department of the Army requirement to provide a contingent for security duties in Iraq—has spent the last few months training, organizing, equipping and recruiting for this unique and dangerous mission.

Specialist Matthew Taylor, 115th Engineer Group, one of dozens of full-time Utah National Guard members who helped the 116th prepare for this assignment, was on hand to send off his brother, 1LT Brent Taylor.

“[They started with] 170 strangers,” said Matthew, who has four brothers in the National Guard. “We helped them get ready, but more than their training or anything else they’ve done, I think the way they have banded together will be a huge part of their mission and being successful in Iraq.”

MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, is impressed with how many combat-experienced Soldiers came forward to volunteer to be a part of this new unit.

“I was surprised; a third of these folks are deploying for the second time,” he said. “This is a great bunch of Soldiers here. These security forces missions are delicate and dangerous, and they are going to have to be on top of their game—and they will be.”

Just like many in the 116th who are repeat customers for deployment, their families are also veterans of the emotional roller-coaster of this day.

“I’ve been through this five times; three times with my son and twice with my daughter,” said Jac-

queline Weimer, mother of SGT Tony Weimer, who also brought Queen, their miniature pinscher, to see off their Soldier. “It doesn’t get any easier.”

Standing with his mom’s arm around him and having a final playful tussle with his dog, SGT Weimer, a 22-year veteran of three combat tours to Kuwait and Afghanistan—two with the Guard and one with the Marine Corps—knows this will be his last deployment and has a single goal for the success of the Soldiers he will lead.

“My first responsibility is to my team,” said Weimer, who will be a truck commander. “It doesn’t matter what it is, my team comes first. We have a good group of guys and they are highly motivated.”

Others are going on their first deployment, such as SPC Leallen Blackhair, of Fort Duchesne, and a member of the Ute Tribe.

“It’s an emotional day, and it’s hard to leave somebody behind,” he said. “[But] you have to give something up to get something back in return. I’m not doing this for myself but for the Tribe. I’m the only member from the reservation who is going.”

“The veterans of World War II and Vietnam, I’m carrying on something that they started,” added Blackhair.

Blackhair’s large extended family included his wife, who is just weeks from delivering a baby, his nine siblings, and his mother Felita, who is concerned about the danger of the mission but supportive of her son.

“The way I look at it is, ‘He’s a man. He’s made his choice, and I have to stand behind him,’” she said. “Whatever choice he makes I have to be right there. I’m really proud of him. He’s done it on



his own.”

And 1LT Brent Taylor, hugging his wife and two children for the last time before leaving them for a year, is honored to follow in the footsteps of his brother Matthew.

“I volunteered to do this, but it’s sad to leave my family—especially my kids who are too young to understand why I’m leaving,” he said. “It’s great to serve as Matt did. I’m excited to get our training done and get over there.”

Unit commander Maj. Reece Roberts was also feeling the pangs of parting along with his Soldiers.

“This a hard day. It’s tough on families,” he said. “They’re the ones who have to make the toughest sacrifice, but we as Soldiers are ready. I’m ready, and we’re motivated to go. I love being part of this unit and honored to be their commander.”

As the Soldiers boarded the ATA Airlines charter flight, MG Tarbet and Gov. Jon Huntsman were on hand to shake hands and offer encouragement. After the last Soldier climbed the stairs to the aircraft, both Tarbet and Huntsman followed to give the group a quick pep talk.

“You know how proud we are of you,” said Tarbet over the plane’s intercom to Soldiers settling into their seats. “You guys are the ‘A’ team. You know it and I know it.”

“Thank you for what you are doing,” added Huntsman. “All I can say is that you are performing a service that we are mighty, mighty proud of. The Guard here in Utah carries a level of respectability that I have never seen before. Just know that you have 2.7 million people here who love their men and women in uniform.”

“You won’t do much else in life that will be as important as what you are doing right now,” Huntsman continued. “Do it well. Give it your all.”

Watching events unfold from the front of the plane was Michelle Mayes, a flight attendant who has been with ATA for 15 years.

“We’re the ones who take them [overseas],” she said. “It’s important to me to give them the best experience going over and then be the first people who take them home. That’s the best part of it all.”

“You can tell they are sad, but once they cross the threshold, then they get into the mindset of ‘We’re ready to go,’ added Mayes. “They’re our boys and our girls. We’re glad to do it.”



OPPOSITE PAGE: CPL Clark with his mother and brothers await 116th SECFOR departure; Family members wave to 116th Soldiers as they await takeoff from Salt Lake International Airport. TOP DOWN: Members of the 116th line up and board the plane for the first leg of their deployment. SECOND PHOTO FROM TOP: Gov. Jon Huntsman (far left) and MG Brian Tarbet (right) shake every Soldier’s hand prior to their boarding the plane.

2007 Great Utah Road Tour

By Capt. Todd Lobato and Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — Utah National Guard youth from around the state were joined by Moroccan youth and leaders for the third annual Great Utah Road Tour hosted by Family Programs.

The tour involves teens whose parents are members of the Utah Army and Air National Guard. This year sixty percent of the youth involved had a parent deployed.

The Utah National Guard youth council presented the idea of a military youth exchange with Morocco over a year prior to the road tour. Eight Moroccan youth, with two leaders, traveled to Utah and were hosted by military families for a few days prior to and after the road tour. Seeing a foreign country with all the beauty that both Utah and Morocco has to offer was an added bonus to the benefit of spending time with other military youth. One Moroccan youth stated they didn't know places like this existed on this earth.

"These kids from Utah and Morocco share a common link in the military. It helps them see others who are going through similar things and having similar feelings," explains CW2 Annette Barnes, Family Programs Director for the Utah National Guard. "Our youth council came up with the idea to bring Moroccan youth over to Utah and participate in the road tour, then have members of the youth council pay their own way for a trip to Morocco to share that countries beauties in return."

The tour began by loading a chartered bus in Draper and traveling to Zion's Ponderosa Lodge at the east entrance to Zion National Park.

The first night's trek was dubbed the "frog hike." The trail followed a small stream up a canyon to some natural pools. Tadpoles in developing stages swim in the shallow pools as they mature into frogs. One highlight of the hike had to be when one of the teens was offered \$5 to eat a tadpole. Never tempt a boy when there are girls around to impress. Needless to say, Morgan



Photos by Ileen Kennedy

An evening hike in the spectacular beauty of Zions National Park was enjoyable after the long bus ride from Draper, Utah.

Jeppson earned his money and created some queasy stomachs, along with applause and laughter from the group.

On Day Two there was another adventurous hike in Zion -- this time to Emerald Pools. With Utah being in a drought the water level was low, but the pools were a refreshing reward after the hot, upward climb.

After exploring Zion the group reloaded the bus and drove to Moab, Utah, in preparation for their river trip down the Colorado River.

As Day Three started, it was hot and dry. Everyone's gear was put into dry bags as the forecast called for hot weather. The group loaded their rafts and two-person kayaks and began their float down the Colorado. It quickly became apparent that everyone was going to get wet or capsized.

The river guides entertained the group on their rafts by telling stories about the area and instructing the kayakers how to row.

"Kayaking was more challenging than I first thought it would be," said Brance, Youth Council secretary, "But once you get the hang of it, it's a blast."

After floating approximately 15 miles down the river, guides docked the rafts and kayaks on a sandy beach and prepared a gourmet dinner while the group rested on cots.

As evening approached so did a spectacular lightning show that continued for a few hours. Once the electric storm passed, a light rain fell throughout the night. With only sleeping bags for protection, some of the group slept on the sand under their cots, while others pulled the covers up tight.

"I got up in the middle of the night and walked around to check on all the kids," said Barnes. "Some were so tired they didn't get into their bags, so I helped them unroll the bags and climb inside so they didn't get soaked from the rain."

By morning, when the guides yelled "breakfast!" the group was packed and ready to begin their journey downstream, this



Youth and leaders on the Road Tour pause along the 'frog hike' in Zions National Park.



BELOW: Moroccan youth teach belly dancing to the group on the life-sized checker board at the campsite in Moab, Utah.



Photos by Ileen Kennedy

time floating about seven miles to the pull-out beach. The group had a blast and returned safely with tons of adventure stories.

On the evening of the fourth day, youth were treated to dinner at a popular local Mexican restaurant. The staff prepared and served the group one of the best meals of the trip. One of the Moroccan boys ordered something that appeared to be a large fried fish with a seafood salsa on top. Some of the Utah youth were shocked at the sight of the food, let alone that he ate the whole thing.



After dinner, the group returned to camp where they turned the life-sized checkerboard into a dance floor. Music alternated between Moroccan and American songs, and both groups taught the others some of their dance steps. The Moroccans demonstrated their traditional belly dance while the Utah youth taught the "Boot-Scootin' Boogie" and "YMCA." The enthusiasm spread throughout the entire campground, and soon other camping groups were invited to participate.

The Moroccans demonstrated their traditional belly dance while the Utah youth taught the "Boot-Scootin' Boogie" and "YMCA."



Afterwards, everyone was invited over to Capt. Todd Lobato's cabin for s'mores. The Moroccans had never had this uniquely American treat and they were a big hit.

The Great Utah Road Tour was a success and concentrated on taking care of "OUR MILITARY YOUTH."

TOP LEFT DOWN: The Great Utah Road Tour youth raft, kayak and have waterfights as they float the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. BOTTOM INSET: After a long, tiring day of rowing and waterplay, Jared rests on the metal cots provided for sleeping.

TOP LEFT DOWN: The Great Utah Road Tour youth raft, kayak and have waterfights as they float the Colorado River near Moab, Utah. BOTTOM INSET: After a long, tiring day of rowing and waterplay, Jared rests on the metal cots provided for sleeping.

Utah National Guard Showcases Soldiers and Capabilities to Foreign Military Officials

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire



SSG Durrell Wheatley, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, left, visits with Rear Adm. Michiel Hijmans of the Netherlands, during a break between briefings for the foreign visitors.



SPC Jill Stevens, 1-211th Aviation, tells foreign military attaché officers about her deployment experiences in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard had a chance to show their stuff to visiting foreign military attachés Apr. 13 at Hill Air Force Base during a weeklong visit to the Western United States.

For the Utah leg of the trip, the 40 Washington, DC-based officers from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America had already toured Dugway Proving Ground and Hill and were set to receive a briefing on the Utah National Guard before departing for New Mexico and Arizona.

MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general for the Utah Guard, welcomed the visitors dressed in the varied uniforms of the world's military and gave them a preview of what they would see during the briefings.

"It's a delight to have you in Utah. Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Utah National Guard," Tarbet said. "I'm extraordinarily proud of these Soldiers and Airmen and what they do here in this state and around the world. They represent the best that America has."

Visitors then received briefings on the federal and state missions of the Utah National Guard, the State Partnership Program with Morocco and the unique capabilities of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade from COL Dwaine Torgersen, Lt. Col. Kurt Davis and LTC Alan Garrett, respectively.

Illustrating one of the singular specialties of the 300th was the attendance of more than a dozen of its linguists who spoke with the foreign military members in their native languages during breaks and after briefings. In hallways and meeting areas, officers and linguists conversed in Russian, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and other languages. This effort benefited guests and linguists alike, providing visitors with a touch of home and linguists with some practical experience in their assigned languages.

Mingling with two senior colonels from mainland China was SSG Daniel Ricks of Bravo Company, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion.

"It added a whole new twist," said Ricks. "They were happy to find someone to chat with in their language, and they helped me learn how to say 'National Guard' in Chinese."

Ricks said the officers were very interested in how Soldiers obtain and maintain language skills.

"Language was why I joined the Guard and the reason I stay in the Guard," said Ricks, who uses his Chinese language skills daily working in the 300th MI Brigade's Reserve Language Support program.

Perhaps the highlight for these visitors at Hill was when Spc. Jill Stevens, of First Battalion, 211th Aviation, spoke to the group and shared her experiences as a Soldier deployed to Afghanistan in 2004-05 and as first runner-up in the Miss Utah pageant in 2006.

In her remarks Stevens highlighted the role of women in the U.S. military and wowed the audience with combat experiences and humanitarian activities she had participated in while deployed. She also explained how her military background has helped her prepare for pageant competitions and life in general, both of which require confidence, discipline, mental and physical fitness and effective communication skills.

"I was honored that they saw my enthusiasm," Stevens said

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: A 300th Military Intelligence Brigade Soldier converses with a foreign military officer in the visitor's native language at Hill Air Force Base Apr. 13.

after posing for pictures with several of the guests. “They seemed to appreciate my work, not only as a Soldier but as a female. In some nations women don’t get the opportunity that I have to be in the military and serve my country. I hope they see that women can do a lot.”

“You hear in the media that there is a lack of communication and militaries from other nations aren’t working together, but this is living proof that we are communicating and educating ourselves about how different militaries run,” added Stevens, who plans to compete again for the Utah crown this summer as Miss Davis County. “It’s comforting to see that we are getting along and working together to better our lives and others’.”

The overall visit was well received by the foreign military officers, many of whom were making their first trip to Utah.

“There is so much going on in the National Guard that I was not aware of,” said Rear Admiral Michiel Hijmans, dean of the Defense Attache Corps, who is from the Netherlands. “I had no idea that there were so many people in the Utah National Guard who spoke so many languages. I was amazed to see how often you are being deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and other areas and what impact it has on Soldiers and families.”

“It was an amazing visit; I hope we can share it in our country,” reflected Hijmans. “We can learn so much from each other. I think the National Guard, and especially the linguists, they make it work, with cultural awareness and a willingness to share and discuss ideas and a better future.”

MG Tarbet also sees significant, positive impact from hosting members of foreign militaries here in Utah.

“The Guard and Reserve is such an integral part of the American Armed Forces,” he said. “If an attaché were to come here, they would not get a glimpse of the totality of the picture until they received a briefing on what the Guard is and what it can do.”

“I value the attaché community,” Tarbet added. “I know the difficult and vital work they do. It’s important that we have friends and allies.”



640th Regional Training Institute Breaks Ground for New Facility

Story and photo by MAJ Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard broke ground July 16 for a new training facility at Camp Williams, Utah.

The new building will house the Total Army School System headquarters for the 640th Regional Training Institute.

“This is an important day for the Utah National Guard,” said COL Scot Olson, director of the Utah National Guard’s Construction and Facilities Management Office, to kick off the ceremony. “It takes this kind of staff to bring a MILCON (military construction) project to this point.”

MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, also gave some brief remarks for the occasion.

“The RTI is a remarkable outfit; they train Soldiers from across the country,” said Tarbet, adding with his characteristic get-it-done attitude, “Let’s get this thing built and get Soldiers trained.”

Representatives from the Utah National Guard, the State of Utah, WPA Architects and contractor Okland Construction then used traditional golden shovels to turn dirt in the home-plate area of the Camp Williams softball diamond, where the new building will be constructed.

The TASS is a composite school system comprised of the Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve institutional training systems. Through the Army’s training proponents, TASS provides standard training courses to America’s Army, focusing on three main points of effort: standards, efficiencies and resources.

The new 80,000-square foot facility, with additional buildings planned for the future, will be built at a cost of \$14 million by Okland Construction and consolidate the 640th in one location.

“We’ve been crowded for space in temporary facilities for a long time,” said 640th commander COL Ed Willis. “In the past we’ve had to adjust the mission to the facilities, but this new building is expressly designed to house the RTI and will permanently change the profile of Camp Williams.”

“This new construction will better facilitate the training of more than 5,000 Soldiers from the Western region who train here each year,” added LTC William Kelly, deputy commander of the 640th. “Increasing the size and number of classrooms, adding battle laboratories and state-of-the-art computer technology will make us a center of excellence.”



Dignitaries turn ceremonial shovelfuls of dirt at the TASS building groundbreaking July 16.

211th Pilots Die in Mountain Crash

DRAPER, Utah — It is with deep sadness that the Utah National Guard announces the deaths of Chief Warrant Officer James R. Linder and Chief Warrant Officer Clayton S. Barnes, who died Aug. 20 after their AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed near Fairfield, Utah, while on a training flight.

As members of First Battalion, 211th Aviation, both men were veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom, having served in Afghanistan in 2004-2005.

Linder, 33, was an instructor pilot and full-time employee of the Utah National Guard. A West Jordan resident, he joined the Utah National Guard in 1999.

A native of Arizona, Linder grew up in Sandy and graduated from Brighton High School in 1992. He was a graduate of the University of Utah in mechanical engineering and leaves behind a wife and three children.

Linder's military awards include the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense

Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" (Mobilization) device.

A traditional Guardsmen (one weekend a month, two weeks a year) Barnes, 30, lived in Payson and was enrolled at the University of Utah this fall for courses in preparation for attending Creighton Dental School in Omaha, Neb.

Barnes grew up in Orem, was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Mountain View High School in 1995. He served an LDS mission to the Philippines, attended Utah Valley State College and graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in biology. He leaves a wife and three children.

Military awards for Barnes include the Air Medal with "V" device for valor, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals and the Combat Action Badge. 



CW2 James R. Linder in front of one of the AH-64 Apache helicopters he loved to fly.

CW2 Clayton Barnes poses in front of an AH-64 Apache helicopters.



Dressed in his military uniform, CW2 Clayton Barnes smiles with his wife Melinda.

*A recent photo of CW2 James Linder and his wife Melinda
RIGHT: The unit both Linder and Barnes deployed to Afghanistan with in 2004-2005.*

Photos courtesy of Linder Family

Photos courtesy of Barnes Family

Apache Pilot Remembered as Living Every Day to its Fullest

A brilliant engineer and carefree prankster, Linder was most beloved for his devotion to family

By Stephen Speckman

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **H**elicopter pilot James Linder was the kind of father — dotting, attentive, thoughtful — that his brother hopes to be soon and the kind his own father now wonders about.

Raymond Linder's father was killed in World War II when Ray was only 2 years old.

"I never knew him," Ray said Friday during funeral services for his son James. "Could James have been that father I never knew?"

Utah National Guard pilots James Linder and Clayton Barnes were both killed Monday when their Apache helicopter crashed west of Utah Lake during a training flight. He will be buried today in Parowan, leaving behind his wife, Melinda, and their three boys.

About 500 people — and a sea of green uniforms — turned out Friday to remember Linder, 33, who followed his dream to fly. Along with Barnes they flew Apaches in Afghanistan in 2004-05 with 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation unit.

Ray Linder acknowledged that "flying attack helicopters is a dangerous business" but that his son also had a job that he "couldn't wait to get to."

"How many of us can say that?" Ray asked.

But he loved his family even more, and James Linder's father remembered his son as the "Pied Piper" of children. "They followed him everywhere," he said.

"His boys idolize their father," Ray said. "He was a much better father than I."

Any day now the wife of James' brother Jason Linder will be having the couple's first baby. Jason said he hopes to emulate his brother's devotion to his own children.

"My brother has always been an inspiration and hero to me," Jason said.

As a child, James quickly built a reputation for a flare for details. Jason joked how he retired from playing with Legos because his brother was so good at building the most intricate creations.

Several stories during the funeral made those listening laugh and remember a sense of humor shared by Linder and Barnes.

"You never saw James get angry," said his sister Donna Parry.

Friends and family remembered James as the man who could fix anything. He painted with watercolors. He turned a hobby of building model helicopters into an internationally known side business out of his home in West Jordan.

Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Remund, a member of Linder's battalion, said Guardsmen knew Linder as "The Brain," able to take any complex problem, explain it in simple terms, "and you still wouldn't know what he was talking about," Remund said.

He also praised the skills of Linder and Barnes. "They are the most competent pilots I know and we'll miss them terribly," Remund said.

The cause of the accident that killed both pilots is under investigation.



Photos courtesy of Linder Family



Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

TOP DOWN: CW2 James R. Linder in Southern Utah with his three boys; Prior to deployment to Afghanistan each Soldier had his photo taken; Members of the 1-211th salute Linder at the conclusion of services in West Jordan, Utah.



Teresa Curtis, Melinda's sister and wife of state lawmaker Greg Curtis, said during her eulogy that James was a calming influence on those around him, the smartest guy in the class, an instigator of "tickle wars" with his boys and the father who, upon request, could make a pancake into any kind of animal for his children. Last weekend the Curtis and Linder families were together for an outing.

"We will miss him deeply," Curtis said. "We will be able to see James again in the life to come." **E**

Story Courtesy of the Deseret Morning News

Life 'An Adventure' for Pilot

by Elizabeth Stuart

PAYSON, Utah — Clayton Barnes loved helicopters. A Utah National Guard pilot, he enjoyed swooping over his home in an Apache helicopter to entertain his wife and children. He bought his two sons more than 100 model helicopters and taught his youngest, a 2-year-old, the names of all the massive machine's parts.

It was a sentimental moment then, when two Apache helicopters roared over Barnes' grave site Saturday as family and friends gathered to say their final farewells. Barnes, 30, died Monday after the AH-64 Apache helicopter he was flying crashed east of Fairfield. He was on a training mission for the Utah National Guard.

More than 1,000 people attended a funeral service for the pilot at the Payson LDS Stake Center.

"Clayton saw life as an adventure, and everyone was invited," said David Clark, Barnes' brother-in-law.

Clark described Barnes as a daredevil who enjoyed dirt biking, snowboarding and spending time with family. He had dreamed of becoming a helicopter pilot like his father, a Vietnam veteran, since he was a small boy.

Ambitious and goal-oriented, he started basic training while still in high school, Clark said. During flight school, he never earned lower than 98 percent on a test. Barnes served a full-time mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Philippines and spent a year with the Utah National Guard in Afghanistan.

"Barnes described his deployment with the military as a vacation but without his family," Clark said. "When people approached him to thank him for his service to his country, he said, 'It was my pleasure.'"

A slide show of photos projected onto the wall of the church where friends and family gathered to remember Barnes was a tender glimpse into the life of a man who friends described as loving and selfless.

Barnes was pictured laughing with his children in front of an Apache helicopter. Hands stained with dye, he proudly presents a still-dripping Easter egg to his laughing daughter. In another photo, robed in graduation gear and beaming in undisguised glee, he catches his wife in a bear hug on the Brigham Young University campus after earning a bachelor's degree in biology.

While friends describe the Soldier as a "manly man," Rodney Mayo, the bishop of Barnes' LDS ward, said Barnes was first and foremost a family man.

"It was a very proud moment when he got a minivan," he said. "Some think it is embarrassing to drive that kind of car but not Clayton. He loved being a dad."

Clark said Barnes' talents best served him as a husband and father. He was known to "embarrass" his wife by smothering her with affection during church meetings and telling all he knew "no one had a wife like he had."



TOP DOWN: Funeral services for CW2 Barnes in Orem, Utah; Prior to deployment to Afghanistan each Soldier had his photo taken; CW2 Clayton Barnes with his three children.

Story Courtesy of the Deseret Morning News

Barnes and his wife, Melinda, had three children, ages 2, 4 and 6, with another due in November. He loved to laugh and "share silliness" with his children, Clark said.

"He made sure to give his daughter a flower to tuck behind her ear whenever he brought his wife flowers," he said.

Barnes was synonymous with happiness, said his mother, Susan Covington — he could not be ruffled. She tearfully shared a letter she wrote to Barnes after she received news of his death.

"You made things so easy," she said. "The only thing that was difficult was birth, after that you seemed to take over."

Dedicated, playful, patriotic and self-motivated, Covington said her son was "the kind of person we could only hope to be." **E**

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos courtesy of Barnes Family

Back to the Border for Utah Guard Engineers



Looking west toward Naco, Ariz., a patrol road parallels the perfectly straight border between the U.S. and Mexico.

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

DOUGLAS, Arizona — **I**t's been a year since Soldiers of the 116th Horizontal Construction Company were on the U.S.-Mexico border, being the first Guard unit nationwide to support Operation Jump Start.

This initiative, called for by President George W. Bush last year, will continue through June 2008 and has seen thousands of Guard members from all over the Nation provide support to Customs and Border Protection agents in securing our Nation's southern frontier.

While many of the faces are the same this year, change is the name of the game for the 116th during their three-week Annual Training in the Sonoran Desert. Last time, with the full attention of the world focused on nearly their every move, they were 55 Soldiers from the 116th Construction Support Equipment Company building fences and roads and emplacing lights in the blistering heat near Yuma, Ariz.

This year, with a new unit name, commander, work location and a big focus on training, the 70 Soldiers of the 116th are gaining valuable experience and learning skills which will benefit them in supporting statewide missions or in an overseas combat role as needed.

Soldiers are divided among work sites in Tucson,

Naco and Douglas, Ariz., performing vehicle repair and maintenance and improving an existing Border Patrol road.

SFC Craig Ambrose, of Midvale, a section sergeant with the 116th, is supervising 14 Utah Soldiers at the Tucson maintenance facility of Task Force Diamondback, the entity overseeing the Guard's Jump Start support in Arizona.

"In this heat, vehicles are constantly breaking down, so we're fixing them like crazy," said Ambrose as his team provides 24-hour repair turnaround for an inventory of about 140 humvees and pickup trucks, or CUCVs (Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle).

Ambrose's staff of Construction Equipment Mechanics (62B) and Light-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics (63B) work quickly and efficiently to serve members of the task force who exchange up to 15 vehicles a day.

Salem resident SGT Clyde McKean, a trained 62B who works as a mechanic in his full-time profession, spends much of his day on the contact truck providing on-site maintenance.

"My civilian job experience helps a ton," said McKean. "It makes things go faster because you're used to doing it every day. You don't have to go to the books to figure out a problem; it's probably something you've seen before."

But Ambrose isn't just using his experienced mechanics to turn wrenches; he also has some of his 92A Automated Logistics Specialists getting out of the office and under the hood.

"This cross-training, it's great," said SGT Parker Taylor, a 92A from Spanish Fork. "I'm learning skills outside my MOS (military occupational specialty). It helps me in the civilian world so I can work on my car at home."

A combat veteran with only four years in the military, Parker is drawing upon his experience in the Middle East in 2004-05 to make sure this mission is accomplished.

"We have a lot of supply and tool issues here that are similar to what we had in Iraq," he said. "We've done a lot of improvising and doing everything we can to get vehicles on the road in working order."

"You make do with what you have," added McKean. "We were spoiled at home with readily available parts and a clean shop. We did it for a year in Iraq, so doing it here for three weeks is nothing in comparison."

A hundred miles away to the southeast are two roadbuilding crews, working to close the miles-long gap between existing patrol roads near Douglas and Naco.

Heavy-equipment operators and truck drivers grade the surface and apply the base and finish materials just feet from the border, marked intermittently by rusted barbed wire and vertical steel girders placed at uneven heights to thwart the building of makeshift wooden platforms by would-be crossers trying to drive vehicles into Arizona from Mexico.

Noncommissioned officer in charge of the road project, SFC James Colledge, of West Jordan, a platoon sergeant with the 116th, expects his crews to finish about three miles of finished road, allowing agents to drive three times faster than over the previously ungraded surface.

"The better roads we can build for them, the better off it's going to be," said Colledge.

Soldiers serving their second stint on the border see many differ-

ences between this year's mission and a year ago—not the least of which is the absence of reporters, cameras and incessant questions which highlighted their time here in 2006.

“There is a lot less media [this time]. Our people can concentrate on their mission and do what they want to do and that's move dirt,” said Border veteran SFC Leslie Dilley, of Orem, Operations Noncommissioned Officer for the 116th, who is not the least bit disappointed that his Soldiers are working in comparative anonymity.

“There's also a big difference in the type of soil we're dealing with,” described Dilley. “We're running two road crews and covering a larger area. We have more people, more construction, and the mission is more training oriented.”

SGT Tina Frame, of West Jordan, a heavy-equipment operator with the 116th, also enjoys the training focus on her second tour at the Border.



Soldiers from the 116th use backhoes, road-graders and heavy equipment to remove concrete slabs from the bed of a new patrol road and prepare a road surface west of Naco, Ariz., in support of Operation Jump Start.

“Last year we were more focused on production, and this year the focus is on training,” said Frame. “It's been nice to get the training and spend the time on the grader.”

Another interesting twist for this year is the addition of SSG Peter Rogers, an Artificer of Vehicles with the 73rd Engineer Regiment of the British army, based in Nottingham, England.

Rogers worked briefly with a Pennsylvania unit last year and jumped at the chance to come back and serve again with U.S. forces.

“It's nice to get amongst the National Guard and understand how the Guard differs from the Army Reserve,” said Rogers. “I now understand a lot more about how the U.S. system works. And the way I've been looked after has just been phenomenal.”

When asked how the two armies compare, Rogers was very complimentary of what he has seen in the U.S. military.

“The way we work [in the British Army], the job comes first and the training comes second,” explained Rogers. “But the way the commander and first sergeant have focused on training is spot-on. We should be doing a lot more of it.”

Rogers also likes the hands-off training approach of the 116th. “The British training is very restrictive. The way it works here is, ‘There's a piece of equipment, here's the keys, jump in, go and practice,’” observed Rogers. “And when you get it wrong, they put you right. And that's far better than our way of doing it.”

Besides learning things the American way, Rogers also has shared his expertise with his colonial cousins to include leading the 116th in physical training and drill and ceremony—British style.

“There are a few things that we do differently and I've chipped those in as we went,” said Rogers.

From a leader's perspective, both 1SG Anthony Shaw, Ephraim, and CPT Todd Christensen, of Orem, have been impressed with the way their Soldiers have taken ownership of the mission.

“The 116th always steps up—whatever the task—and they always exceed the standard,” said Shaw. “The heat is hard, but we have good facilities and morale is high.”

“This is the classic Guard mission,” added Christensen. “Not only are soldiers doing what they do best, but they are supporting a mission that they can see contributes directly to our national security.”

As for the goal to make the most of the training value for newer Soldiers and officers, Christensen is very pleased with what he has seen so far.

“We're trying to make this a positive experience,” he said. “This is the kind of annual training that—when conducted

well—can keep people in the Guard and form memories for these Soldiers that they can look back on and be proud to talk about.”

Christensen also credited leaders of the task force for providing the 116th with the tools for success.

“They have been very supportive,” he said. “They’ve been on site with us every day. They’ve bent over backwards to give us the support we need to accomplish our mission.”

And Task Force Diamondback commander, LTC Robert White, was equally impressed with the 116th.

“We would not have gotten done what we have done so far if it weren’t for the support of units like the 116th,” said White. “The rotational units bring skill sets that we can’t find in deploying individual Soldiers. They come in and do quality work, and they help us move the ball a little bit farther.”

The Border Patrol has also benefited from the quality and quantity of work the Guard has done. According to White, in the Yuma sector the Guard has helped reduce illegal crossings by 60 percent this year because of the infrastructure it has built. And in the last year the Border Patrol went from 55 percent to 85 percent fully mission capable.

“I’m glad Utah is out here,” said White. “Every unit we’ve had from Utah has been nothing but productive for us.”

Top right photo: Two members of the 116th Engineers repair a CUCV at the Task Force Diamondback motor pool in Tucson, Ariz. Bottom right photo: Construction-equipment mechanics of the 116th get some cross-training during Annual Training at the Task Force Diamondback motor pool.



142nd MI Battalion Welcomes Soldiers Home

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

SALT LAKE CITY — Seven Soldiers from the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion arrived home after serving 20 months in Iraq. The Intelligence troops’ tour was extended in January as part of President George W. Bush’s troop surge to fight insurgents in the struggling democracy. Applause and cheers erupted as Soldiers walked through security into Terminal 1 at Salt Lake International Airport.



Members of the 142nd MI Battalion receive a warm welcome home at Salt Lake International Airport July 17.



Alpha Company, Second Battalion, 211th Aviation, Returns from Iraq

By Shad West

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — It only took a few minutes to load the Utah Air National Guard KC-135 once it rolled to a stop near Base Operations Aug. 23.

Soldiers from Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation Battalion, teamed up with the tanker's flight crew to get their personal baggage stored on the aircraft and to situate themselves on the red-netted seating lined along the fuselage for the one-hour-and-twenty-minute flight home.

After spending a week in Colorado demobilizing from active duty, this, the shortest leg of their journey from Balad Air Base, Iraq, to Salt Lake City, felt like the longest. Aside from a two-week furlough, it had been 18 months since these aviators had their boots on the ground in Utah, and anxiety seemed to outweigh the excitement of coming home.

1ST Thayne Randall seemed to sense the apprehension aboard the aircraft as it traversed the Rocky Mountains. He moved along the aircraft squeezing between his Soldiers and the wooden pallets holding their gear, stopping to embrace each member of the Company and sharing a private word of encouragement before shaking their hand.

"People in this unit are some of the greatest Soldiers I've seen put on the uniform," Randall said. "The teamwork I saw over there was exceptional. We came together as a brand-new unit before this deployment and pulled it off successfully. It was a great experience for us."

Randall said he understood the emotions his Soldiers were feeling because he was feeling them too, but once they were on the ground that apprehension would disappear.

"It is a little unsettling to realize we are almost home," Randall said. "I'm 20

feeling a little nervous, but I can't wait to see my wife again."

1LT Noe Vazquez, of North Ogden, was home a few months ago, arriving May 3 just hours before the birth of his daughter.

"Its been a tough month knowing we were so close to home," Vazquez said. "We just wanted to get it over with."

After seeing his daughter born, Vazquez said the final

Members of 2-211th file off the Utah Air National Guard KC-135R, ready to greet awaiting family members.





The crowd erupts in joyful cheers, waves and smiles as Soldiers from the 2-211th rush to the arms of waiting family, friends and fellow Soldiers as they return to the Salt Lake Air Base after a year-long deployment to Iraq.



months in Iraq were especially tough for him.

“My wife tried to keep me updated with e-mails and pictures, but it wasn’t the same as if I was home,” he said.

Danielle Vazquez agreed that the summer was tough for the whole family.

“Words can’t describe how excited we are to have him back,” she said. “Noe was stationed at an air base, so I could call and send him e-mails, but it was still so hard to have him gone especially after he was just home in May.”

During their deployment, Alpha Company was made up of Soldiers from four states: Utah, Colorado, New York and Wyoming. The addition of Soldiers from three other states only added to the success of the unit, said CPT Micah Tebbs, commander of Alpha Company.

While in theater, the unit combined 6,200 hours of combat flying—including 111 combat air-assault missions—one of the most difficult of Aviation missions. Tebbs said he was fortunate to command a group of highly trained professionals and was equally fortunate to bring everyone home.

However, the unit did suffer a casualty just weeks after ar-

iving at Balad Air Base, when a Soldier from Colorado was wounded when he was shot in the leg. That Soldier, Tebbs said, was awarded a Purple Heart and stayed with the unit in Iraq while he recovered.

The 2-211th continued to fly dangerous missions in the skies over Iraq without incident until one of its Blackhawks was shot down. The crew was saved by the incredible expert flying of CW4 Scot Upton and the quick work of another Blackhawk crew who evacuated the Soldiers from the crash. For his bravery, Upton will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross.

While the journey from Colorado to Utah was largely subdued, a loud cheer erupted from Soldiers on the tanker when it landed at the Salt Lake Air Base Thursday afternoon. Many of them crowded around the few windows of the plane trying to get a glimpse of their loved ones waiting on the tarmac.

Noe Vazquez took a deep breath and reflected on his long journey home, gathering some final thoughts before deplaning.

“This was brothers taking care of brothers,” he said. “It feels good that they (the Utah Air National Guard) came to pick us up and bring us home.”

Utah National Guard Gives Soldiers' Civilian Bosses a 'Lift'

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. — **T**he Utah National Guard and Employer Support to the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) treated 24 civilian employers of members of the 116th Convoy Security Company to a three-day experience June 20-22 at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The 'Boss Lift,' as it is called, is a national ESGR program which gives civilian employers of Guard members an on-the-ground taste of what their Employee-Soldiers are going through during their preparations to deploy.

Joined on the trip by Utah National Guard Adjutant General Brian Tarbet, CSM Dell Smith and state ESGR officials, the group traveled on a Utah Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker from the Utah Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City to Gulfport, Miss., and then moved by bus 60 miles north to Hattiesburg, where Camp Shelby is located.

During the evening meal of Southern beef brisket, jambalaya, fried okra, collard greens and fruit cobbler that first evening, Tarbet explained to the group that the 116th didn't exist two months ago, is comprised entirely of volunteers and will provide security for Coalition convoys in Iraq.

"This is the toughest duty that the Utah National Guard has performed since we've been in this business [supporting the Global War on Terrorism]," he said. "It will be more dangerous than anything we've done in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Philippines or anywhere else we've served in the last five years."

Commander of the 116th, MAJ Reece Roberts, also spoke to the group and complimented employers on the caliber of men and women they employ.

"You can be very proud of your employees here at Camp Shelby," said Roberts. "They work hard, their attitude is

great, and they enjoy a well-deserved reputation among their peers."

The next morning the group moved to Camp headquarters for an orientation briefing from LTC William Smith, mobilization planner at Camp Shelby. Smith explained that the post is the largest military installation in the United States with more than 76,000 acres in total area and has the capacity to train more than 5,000 at one time.

Moving from headquarters to the training area, the group came under "attack" from a roadside bomb. After everyone exited the bus the "insurgents," who emplaced the improvised explosive device on the gravel road, came out of the woods, and trainers explained in detail the real IED threat our military personnel face daily in Iraq.

This danger was reinforced repeatedly during the entire visit; not only through the explanations from leaders and trainers, but also from the many IED training displays in various locations on the post. But the most sobering aspect of IED training was the fact that visitors were asked not to photograph certain areas and training aids, so as not to compromise the most current tactics, techniques and procedures Soldiers use today to survive in Iraq.

Also included in the camp tour was a display of modification techniques for increased vehicle protection, a demonstration of emergency towing procedures and a walk-through of a forward operating base, barracks and shower areas.

The highlight of the itinerary, however, was the chance to reunite employers and employees. As soon as the bus arrived at the field-training site where the 116th was rehearsing squad-level dismounted movement techniques, bosses made a beeline for their Soldiers and exchanged handshakes, hugs and slaps



A group photo of employers and ESGR officials as they prepare to depart the Gulfport, Miss., airport to return to Utah.



Boss Lift passengers Cija Doyle, left, and John Kelley, center, ride in the KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft en route to Camp Shelby, Miss.



John Blankenstein, left, visits with 116th commander MAJ Reece Roberts at Gulfport Airport.

on the back. Particularly touching were the reunions of visitors whose own sons are members of the 116th.

John Kelley, of Warner Truck in Salt Lake, is supervisor and father of SPC Robert Kelley of the 116th.

“As an employer and as a father, you feel safe that the training they get will help them make it through and get back home,” said the senior Kelley. “When you see the training and the level of personnel who are training them, you feel a lot more comfortable in their ability to do the job they were sent to do.”

“He gave up a lot to do what he is doing, and we’re proud of him,” he added.

In the evening ESGR representatives Bart Davis and Bill Rappleye spoke to the group and praised Soldiers for their service and their civilian bosses for their support of the military. Then Rappleye presented employers with the One-Star Statement of Support for their signature, along with a commemorative employer pin as a memento of the experience.

As Soldiers spent the last few minutes with visitors before retuning to the barracks, many expressed great appreciation for the personal visit from their employers.

“It meant a lot to me. It showed that they miss me, that I am an important part of the department back home,” said SGT Brad Young, a patrolman for Tooele City Police. “When I come home, they are going to be there waiting for me and wanting me to come back. Tooele City has been great to work with. I couldn’t ask for a better place to work.”

“It was a great thing. It makes you feel proud of what you’re doing,” added SPC Robert Kelley, employed at Warner Truck. “They can see why you do what you do and why you want to go out and make a difference in the world. Now they understand, better, how you work and how you work as a team.”

With an unforgettable three days under their belt, many employers felt they could have flown home without the airplane, but they brought it back with them anyway—just in



Bosses treat Soldiers to a chicken-and-ribs barbecue at Camp Shelby’s Dogwood Lake pavilion June 21.



Boss Lift participants receive a briefing from a Camp Shelby trainer on the IED (lower right) which “attacked” their bus June 21.



Honorary Colonels Corps representative David Felt, left, reunites with his son, SPC Matthew Felt, of the 116th Convoy Security Company.

case.

“It was an amazing experience,” said Cija Doyle, Wal-Mart supervisor of two 116th Soldiers, SGT Debra Kelner and SPC Nathan Boyd, both of Orem. “I gained a newfound respect for what they do and what they go through to protect our country. It heightened my awareness as to what’s really happening.”

And based on the feedback provided to ESGR officials, employers came away with an increased appreciation for the military service of their employees and the confidence that their Soldiers will return with greater skills and abilities which will greatly benefit their organization.

“He will come back a stronger employee,” said Liberty Safe’s Linda Wren of SGT Chris Buckwalter of the 116th. “If he dedicates himself to the military, there is no doubt he can dedicate himself to his job. He will come back even more valuable than when he left because you can’t help but grow strong in the military.”

Blaine Butterworth, Macey’s Food Stores representative, puts on his ESGR pin at the post-barbecue program June 21.



SGT Jill Stevens is Crowned Miss Utah 2007

By MAJ Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah—SGT Jill Stevens, a member of 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, Utah National Guard, was crowned Miss Utah Saturday evening, June 30, at the annual pageant held at the Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City.

As the only member of the military in the running this year, Stevens, of Kaysville, competed as Miss Davis County along with 49 other contestants from throughout the State.

Competing in last year’s pageant as Miss Southern Utah University, Stevens finished as second runner-up. She was later advanced to first runner-up when her predecessor was unable to fulfill her duties.

Graduating this spring as a registered nurse from SUU, Stevens decided on a second go at the title after friends and family told her she had a legitimate shot at the crown.

“That’s why I went back, because people believed in me,” said Stevens. “There was such good competition, I knew I needed to work hard.”

Adding to the suspense of the evening, when the field was narrowed down to ten finalists, Stevens’ name was announced ninth. And when the group was pared down to five, she was the fifth one called.

“These are some stellar girls,” added Stevens, modestly. “I did my best, but I left it in the Lord’s hands.”

Stevens is a combat veteran, having served as a medic on an 18-month tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 1-211th in 2004-05.

As an example of her ability to respond on short notice as a Guard member, she was a last-minute fill-in for the Full Nelson team, which included Utah National Guard members and competed in the Wasatch Back Relay on June 22-23. Her team finished seventh overall and second in the Open Mixed (men and women) Division. And she did that just one week prior to the Miss Utah competition.

“Jill Stevens is a wonderful ambassador for the Guard. Obviously she is bright and attractive, but most important, she’s a terrific Soldier,” said MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

Stevens will compete in the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas in January 2008.



Utah National Guard Soldier SGT Jill Stevens smiles ecstatically after being crowned Miss Utah.

Photos courtesy of SGT Jill Stevens

Warrant Officers - Specialized Tactical and Technical Experts

by Shad West

Photos by Liz Cloward

DRAPER, Utah — **O**ver the past year, 22 Utah National Guard Soldiers who recently graduated from the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate School, have brought that advanced training and education back to their units.

Three of those warrants graduated near the top of their classes and garnered honor-graduate or commandant's-list recognition.

WO1 Curtis Fisher landed on the commandant's list while WO1 Robert Goldsberry and WO1 Hiram Nelson were honor graduates of their respective classes.

The Army Warrant Officer Corps is comprised of over 25,000 men and women of the active Army and Reserve Components.

"Guard Soldiers attend the school with their Active and Reserve counterparts, which makes these Utah Soldiers' feat even more special," said Command Chief Warrant Officer Gary Cloward.

"Even our new warrant officers will bring a wealth of knowledge and a breadth of experience that a second lieutenant doesn't bring to the table," Cloward said. "About five percent of the Guard is made up of warrant officers. The Guard wouldn't function without us, and our recent warrant officers are a part of that."

Warrant officers are innovative integrators of emerging technologies, dynamic teachers, confident warfighters and developers of specialized teams of Soldiers. However, the history of the Army warrant officer dates back to 1918, when Congress established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery.

"We started out as mine-clearing experts and were used to fill a niche specialty," Cloward said. "Today warrant officers are one of the most diverse groups of Soldiers you will ever come across. We are specialized tactical and technical experts in our chosen branches."

According to Cloward, commanders identify most candidates early in their careers and start to develop and mentor them. Once selected, candidates attend the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala. The school is designed to transition Soldiers from the enlisted ranks to the officer level.

For Warrant Officer Curtis Fisher, a Spanish Fork resident, who graduated in July 2006, making the transition from noncommissioned officer to warrant officer enabled him to extend his 25-year career and broaden his opportunities within I Corps Artillery.

"I basically had reached as high as I could go on the enlisted side," said Fisher who had attained the rank of sergeant major. "Also, as a federal technician it opens up more opportunities for me."

However, Fisher says the move wasn't just for personal gain; he has been able to give back to his unit in a new capacity.

"I've learned a lot and have been able to give back in a different way," he said. "Noncommissioned officers are the doers and officers are the planners, and as a warrant I bridge those two aspects into what I do now."

Warrant Officer Hiram Nelson feels the same way. As a Soldier in the Utah National Guard for more than 11 years, Nelson said as a sergeant first class he looked up to the warrant officers in the Military Intelligence brigade. The American Fork resident graduated from the warrant officer school last May.

"There were outstanding examples of warrant officers all around me," Nelson said. "I looked at this as an opportunity to serve my unit and my country in a better way than I could in the NCO Corps."

As a warrant officer, Nelson said he is more involved in long-range planning and organization and feels he has his commander's ear.

"I have an opportunity to work with the commander and other officers now. It was something I had always wanted to be involved in," the Arabic linguist said.

Both warrant officers said the course was tough at times but well worth the effort. They said that it is an opportunity that other enlisted Soldiers should look at if they want to become more proficient in their career fields, but it isn't an easy accomplishment.

"The school is almost like Basic Training on steroids," Nelson said. "I would recommend it—especially for those Soldiers who want to become specialists in their chosen Military Occupational Specialty fields." ■



TOP DOWN: (left to right) WO1 Nathan Averett, WO1 Hyrum Nelson, CW5 Gary Cloward and WO1 Brady Cloward at graduation and pinning ceremony for Warrant Officer Candidate School; CW5 Gary Cloward (left) assists in pinning WO1 Hyrum Nelson with his warrant officer bar at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Utah National Guard's Alpha Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery, Brings Home National Award

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire



MG David Ralston, center, presents Hamilton Award to CPT Shawn Fuellenbach, left, and ISG Michael Miller, Alpha Battery, 2-222nd.

SALT LAKE CITY — **A**lpha Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, recently received the Army National Guard's Hamilton Award as best Field Artillery Battery in the nation for 2006.

Named for Alexander Hamilton, a Revolutionary War artilleryman and American statesman, the annual award was established in 2002.

The highest-performing National Guard artillery battery receives the award based on specific criteria. According to the Nov.-Dec. 2002 edition of the FA Journal, these include "fulfilling its mission based on its mission-essential task list in an outstanding manner, or, in the case of a deployed battery, fulfilling its nonstandard mission in support of peacekeeping, peace enforcement, or homeland security, in an outstanding manner."

MG David Ralston, chief

of the Field Artillery School and commanding general at Fort Sill, Okla., traveled to Utah to present the award personally to Alpha Battery leaders.

At the ceremony, Ralston had high praise for CPT Shawn M. Fuellenbach, 1SG Michael Miller, commander and first sergeant, respectively, as well as the Soldiers of the unit.

"We had a number of Guard units apply for this award, and this is the best Field Artillery battery in the National Guard," said Ralston. "It's absolutely a great honor."

"It really is a combination of wonderful people, great leadership and great soldiers doing a difficult mission," Ralston said, referring to the challenging assignments Alpha Battery received while deployed with the Triple Deuce in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January 2005 to June 2006.

The Battery had three primary missions during its deployment: Manning observation points along supply routes, providing counterfire and direct-support fires for the 2-28th Brigade Combat Team and conducting base defense for Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

Known as a hotbed of insurgent activity, the unit spent the bulk of its time in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, the capital of Al Anbar Province. Miraculously, however, every Soldier in the Battery came home when the unit returned to Utah last June.

Of the 104 Soldiers who deployed to Iraq with Alpha Battery, 54 received Combat Action Badges, and seven received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during combat



Members of Alpha Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery, receive the Alexander Hamilton Award for being the highest-performing National Guard Artillery Battery.

operations.

By all accounts, unit cohesion and extra-mile leaders and Soldiers were a huge factor in helping Alpha Battery stand out among other competitors for the award.

“The tight-knit group really brought us together on the deployment,” said SGT Tyler McKinlay, who deployed with Alpha Battery and is now a member of Charlie Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery. “We couldn’t have done it without our leaders; they really took care of the Soldiers.”

“There isn’t a unit that deserves this award more than Alpha Battery,” added SGT Eric Larsen of Bravo Battery, 1-145th, who also deployed with Alpha Battery. “The leadership and Soldiers are amazing. It was an honor to serve with these

guys over there.”

Modestly deflecting the compliments of his superiors and Soldiers, Fuellenbach gives his men the credit for the accolades lavished on the unit.

“It’s a great recognition for our Soldiers’ efforts, level of training, dedication, loyalty, and devotion,” said Fuellenbach, “They are the ones who earned this award.”

“It makes a huge difference having a unit that is tightly knit and works well together, but it didn’t come easy,” he said, acknowledging the obstacles which every unit must overcome in order to succeed.

“It’s a great recognition not only for Alpha Battery but for the entire battalion and the State of Utah,” Fuellenbach added. 

Annual Marksmanship Competition Held in Utah

Story and photos by Shad West

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard hosted the annual Marksmanship Area Competition (MAC) Region VII Championships at Camp Williams, Utah, June 22-24, 2007.

Competitions were held in pistol, light machine gun, rifle and sniper categories. Army and Air Guard units from Arizona, Colorado, Guam and Utah competed for trophies, as well as state and national recognition.

Utah Airmen and Soldiers will have another opportunity to perfect their shooting when they travel to Guernsey, Wyo. to participate in the MAC VI Regional Competition Aug. 18-19, 2007.

Top marksmen from Utah will then travel to Camp Robinson, Ark. for the Winston P. Wilson National Matches Oct. 7-12, 2007.

For the second year in a row, Arizona shooters took the overall shooter category with Utah Guardsmen rounding out the top five. 



ABOVE AND BELOW: Guardsmen participate in the Excellence in Shooting competition on the final day of the MAC Region VII Championships held at Camp Williams, Utah.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. OC David French | Ariz. 365 |
| 2. Staff Sgt. Mike Bauerlein | Ariz. 360 |
| 3. Master Sgt. Bryant Butters | Utah 352 |
| 4. Sergeant Parker Taylor | Utah 342 |
| 5. Chief Master Sgt. Brent McNee | Utah 327 |



Rapid Reaction

Story and photos by Shad West

WENDOVER, Utah — *A 737 chartered commercial airliner left the airport here only to return for an emergency landing a short time later when a number of passengers became ill. Six of the passengers complained of nausea, blurred vision and runny noses.*

All of these symptoms led local fire department officials to suspect the passengers were exposed to harmful chemicals. The passengers were evacuated from the aircraft, and those with symptoms were taken to a local hospital for observation and treatment. One passenger broke from the group and slipped away, leading law enforcement officers to believe the event may have been an act of terrorism.

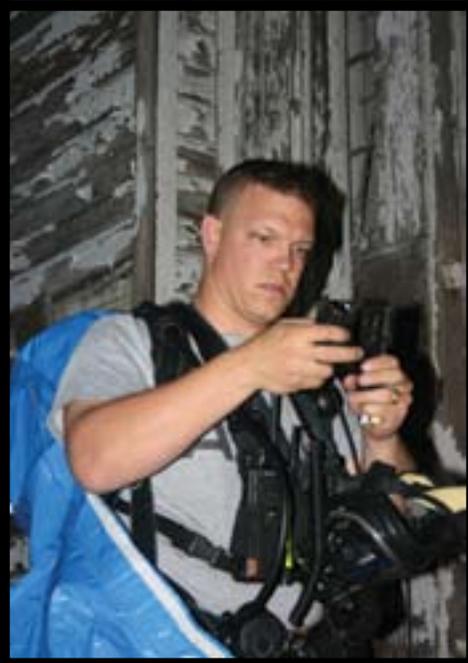
Unable to assess the situation on the aircraft, local officials secured the aircraft and called the Utah National Guard's rapid-response unit, the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST).

This scenario capped off a week of training for the Utah National Guard's 85th CST and local emergency responders in Utah's West Desert during a joint training exercise at Wendover Airport.

The week of training events was coordinated through the Joint Operational Testing and Training Division of Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, and gave the team its first opportunity to train on a commercial aircraft.

"We've run scenarios on military aircraft, but this is a unique opportunity for our team to train on civilian aircraft," Lt. Col. Kevin Nuccitelli, commander of the 85th CST said. "In today's environment, this is a very realistic scenario."

Once the 85th CST arrived in Wendover, the on-scene commander briefed them with the latest intelligence. Team members immediately began setting up communication equipment and a decontamination line, air-monitoring equipment based on current wind and weather conditions and a medical work area. In less than 35 minutes, the tarmac upwind from the aircraft had been turned into a temporary operating base complete with



85th Civil Support Team Trains in Utah's West Desert

a command post, tactical operations control center and analytical laboratory.

Using sophisticated equipment and a mobile analytical laboratory, team members took solid, liquid or air samples and tested them for chemical or biological substances down to parts per billion. They also had the capability to do rapid DNA sampling and chemical analysis to identify potential toxic substances on the scene—resources that local responders didn't have.

Members of the Joint Operational Testing and Training team used a common household cleaner to simulate a nerve agent. The chemical composition of the cleaner would actually give the 85th CST advance team a hit on their monitoring equipment, adding to the realism of the exercise.

"For our joint operational training we don't have canned exercises," said Jaromy Jessop, Training Coordinator for CST/WMD Tactical Operations, Jacobs Dugway Team. "This is based on discovery learning. It is all designed to let the team make their mistakes here rather than during a real scenario."

Using an operational commercial airliner also added to the realism. The scenario, taken from recent headlines, included a water bottle filled with the chemical, wax paraffin and water which was found in an abandoned backpack. At the rear of the aircraft in a galley, the chemical was poured into a pan to simulate the chemical spill. Another half-empty bottle sat in the pan as well.

The 85th CST advance team donned full Level A suits including Self Contained Breathing Apparatus and carried various monitors and sampling equipment onto the aircraft. Navigating through the tight aisles the team took swipe samples, air samples and photographs, gathering as much information as they could to identify the source and type of contamination.

Sitting in a jump seat at the front of the jet was Extra Airways Wendover Station Manager Tammie Brown. Brown helped coordinate the use of the airplane

which had flown in from Albuquerque, N.M., earlier that evening and was due to fly out again in the morning.

“This is great training,” Brown said. “It benefits the community, the airline and the incident team. We are glad to lend our aircraft for this realistic training.”

“Since 9/11, this is a reality we all live with and it is nerve-racking. I’ve seen people detained by security because they have had ammonia on their person,” Brown added. “This is a very real scenario, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here and see the team do their job. As long as we have an available aircraft, we would love to continue this type of training.”

Within 30 minutes of the sample’s arrival at the mobile laboratory sitting upwind of the aircraft, the 85th team was able to identify the chemical and brief the incident commander, local hospital and other officials on how to treat the passengers and clean up and dispose of the chemical. Within hours of notification, what could have been a more tragic situation was successfully brought to a manageable level for local authorities, the airline and the 85th.

However, for the 85th, training scenarios like this are more than just a chance for team members to stay proficient with the variety of tools at their disposal, it is also a chance to meet local, civil authorities and assess what they are capable of.

“If we are meeting a fire or police chief for the first time during a real-world incident, then as commander of the Civil Support Team I haven’t done my job,” Nuccitelli said.

“We have a 22-member team that is a tight-knit group. We get out on a scenario and we trust each other with our lives,” added Nuccitelli. “This scenario was one that would have overwhelmed local responders. We need them to trust us the way we trust our team members. Exercises like this help us build on that trust.”



OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN: SSG Kent Duke and SGT Thomas Lux assemble a decontamination shower along the DECON Line; A member of the 85th establishes a hot-zone perimeter with an Acoda area monitor; SGT Samuel Voss checks his “Nack” kit before suiting up to go down range; TOP DOWN: As a

member of the advance team, SSG Richard Brusik dons personal protective equipment in preparation to investigate the chemical spill on a civilian aircraft at Wendover Airport; A member of the advance team enters the 737 commercial airliner to investigate the chemical contamination; MAJ Larry Carpenter sets up a medical monitoring station outside the DECON Line.

Utah Guard Soldiers Activated to Support Neola Fire Effort

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

NEOLA, Utah — **I**f the reader could have looked at a crowded, wide-angle ‘snapshot’ of the Utah National Guard on Sunday, July 1, in the upper right-hand corner of the picture they would have seen Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation, along with members of the 141st and 142nd Military Intelligence Battalions serving in Iraq.

In the top left, the Afghan landscape would have been clearly visible with I Corps Artillery (Forward) fulfilling their mission.

Bottom right would have shown Airmen from the 169th Intelligence Squadron, 109th Air Control Squadron, 299th Range Control Squadron and 151st Air Refueling Wing—all of the Utah Air National Guard—in various parts of the world.

Prominent in the bottom left would have been the 116th Convoy Security Company at Camp Shelby, Miss.; and the 1-145th Field Artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas, both preparing for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

And in the center of the picture—just barely coming into focus—would have been 100 members of the 115th Engineer Group. They had been activated that day by Utah Governor Jon Huntsman to assist with the massive effort to fight a wildfire surrounding the small northeastern Utah town of Neola. The fire straddled the boundaries dividing Duchesne and Uintah Counties and the Uintah and Ouray Reservation.

Just days earlier the fire had taken the lives of three farmers caught by the blaze in their hayfields. Federal and state resources were called in when first responders from local jurisdictions were quickly overwhelmed by the speed and magnitude of the fire.

Included in those resources was the Utah National Guard, who was tasked to assist local law enforcement in the two counties and on the reservation by maintaining a 24/7 presence at more than a dozen road-closure checkpoints in areas threatened by the fire.

Guard officials received notification of the governor’s call-up at 5:30 p.m., July 1. Just minutes later Soldiers were notified of the need and by 7:00 that evening began arriving in Vernal to report for duty.

“I got the call at 1800, and within an hour we were at the armory,” said Sgt. Christopher Oakes, a Roosevelt resident with Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion.

“Our first platoon was pretty much ready to go that first night,” said Orem resident CPT Andrew Owens, Headquarters Company, 1457th Engineers, who was commander of troops for the mission. “They had less than six hours of response time. With the Fourth of July weekend, normally you would think it would be hard
30



The Neola Fire blackened more than 43,000 acres in Duchesne and Uintah Counties and the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in July 2007.



CPT Andrew Owens, commander of troops, briefs Gov. Jon Huntsman, second from right, and MG Brian Tarbet, far right, on the mission.



One of twelve houses that were completely destroyed in the wake of the Neola Fire.

to get Soldiers away from their families, but they really answered the call.”

Incident Commander Kim Martin, a forest engineer with the Uinta National Forest, was also pleased with the rapid response time of the Utah Guard.

“They responded very quickly,” said Martin. “I was quite impressed. It seemed like the order went out and they were here. That was outstanding.”

The Guard set up their Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at East Elementary in Roosevelt, just a few minutes away from the Emergency Operations Center in Neola. Soldiers quickly became a part of the landscape with their tents set up on the school grounds and traveling to and from checkpoints in their humvees and other military vehicles.

According to Oakes, the uniformed presence in the community was a comfort to local citizens, and serving close to home was particularly rewarding for Soldiers from the local area who knew many of the people who stopped at the checkpoints.

“It’s good for us because a lot of the people coming in, I know half of them,” Oakes said. “It’s good to carry on a conversation and [for them to] see that we’re out in the community.”

“They’ve been happy with it and thanking us for doing what we do,” added SPC Vince Billings, a Bravo Company Soldier from Vernal.

While manning his checkpoint, Billings ran into his old high school wrestling coach, as well as one of his former teachers. He also told of a Sandy, Utah, couple who owned a few acres in the area of his assigned checkpoint. The pair came up to check on their property and set up their camp trailer within feet of the Soldiers’ outpost and made sure they had enough to eat and drink.

“They even brought coffee up yesterday morning for the guys who were here when we came to relieve them,” said Billings.

Soldiers’ employers were also a critical behind-the-scenes part of the response to the crisis.

“I work at Wheeler Machinery in Vernal, and they have been very supportive,” said PV2 Jeremy Smuin, of Bravo Company, 1457th, who has been in the Guard less than a year. “They didn’t have a problem with letting me off to serve.”

Back in the TOC, Owens and his staff were constantly busy adjusting work assignments, updating maps, interfacing with their civilian counterparts and keeping track of Soldiers out in the field.

“We keep in contact with the checkpoints and make sure our Soldiers are safe,” said SPC Tiffany Marshall, of Grantsville, a 92A, or Automated Logistical Specialist.

At Neola, young Soldiers gained critical experience in their military occupational specialties (MOS), which will pay big dividends when they find themselves on the battlefield.

“It was important for me to lend my MOS skills to this mission, be accountable and take responsibility,” said Marshall.

“I learned a little bit of everything this week,” said SPC Chalise Vandermyde, of Alpha Company—also a 92A. “We had to do a lot of leading and taking care of everyone in the TOC, running the radio, talking on the phone and making sure people did what they were supposed to.”

And seasoned Soldiers complemented the energy and enthusiasm of newer unit members by folding in their skills honed at the war front with a dash of new equipment and technology.

“A few years ago we would have been hard-pressed to field anything without a couple of weeks of planning in advance, but today we’ve got satellite trailers and radios,” said SGT Thomas Chilcott, an Orem resident and communications specialist with the 115th Maintenance Company. Along with SPC Josh Romig, Chilcott made sure that the military had the connectivity they needed to fulfill the mission.

“And [after my experience in combat], I’m definitely capable of functioning longer hours with less sleep,” added Chilcott. “There’s also the just-get-it-done factor. In the past I might have looked at it like, ‘This is the right way to do it; this is how we’re going to do it.’ Today, I’m more willing to just improvise and get things working until we can find a more appropriate, long-term solution.”

As the multiagency response unfolded, civilian and Guard leaders were pleased and impressed with the cooperation displayed by everyone involved.

“This team, which includes 700 firefighters and 100 members of the Utah National Guard, has done an extraordinary job,” said Gov. Huntsman at a press conference in Neola. “The cooperation across agencies has been absolutely remarkable.”

MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, highlighted the multiple roles that the Guard plays.

“Many of our Soldiers are from the Vernal unit here and are working to defend their own homes and their own citizens,” he said. “With a thousand Soldiers deployed to the warfight and a hundred here to help with this fire, that underscores the dual status of the Guard as Citizen-Soldiers. We’re team members. We’re here to help, and we’ll stay here till we get it done.”

Part of staying to ‘get it done’ meant a switch-out of troops after a week on the job. With the fire about 65 percent contained, Soldiers from the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade assumed the mission from the Engineers on July 9, which coincided with a reduction of troops from 100 to 50 and a drop in the number of checkpoints from 13 to 4.

The 300th remained for three days until the stand-down order came on July 11, and Soldiers packed up and went home, taking with them the thanks of grateful citizens, first responders and agency leaders.

“The Guard definitely provided a contribution by helping us to secure [restricted] areas,” said Incident Commander Martin. “It freed up local law enforcement to do their thing. They are awesome.”

ROOSEVELT, Utah — **R**oosevelt citizen Sarah Snow sent the following letter to MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, in appreciation for a Soldier's act of kindness during his unit's activation in response to the Neola Fire July 1-11:

July 7, 2007

Brian Tarbet:

I want to tell you of a story that happened on July 5 and thank you for some wonderful National Guard representatives.

We live in Roosevelt, Utah, and we have the National Guard living at our elementary school while they help with the fire (Neola North).

We had a group of children at the church park just on the other side of the fence from the school. Some of these children go to that elementary school. There were probably 20 children ranging in age from 1-10. They were interested in all the neat stuff at the school.

They were standing at the fence looking over at the trucks and stuff in awe. One of your Guardsmen, I did not get his name, from Lehi saw the kids. He came over to the fence and asked if they would like to sit in the jeeps. The adults did not hear him, but all of a sudden we saw all of the kids on a dead run to get around the fence. They were beaming from ear to ear.

He let them sit in the vehicles and have their picture taken. He even set up the radios in two vehicles to talk to each other. He even explained what they were doing there.

For these children he just made their whole summer wonderful. Every one of them could not stop talking about it to everyone they saw all day long.

A great big thank-you from us to great National Guardsmen who are not only keeping us safe from the fires but will also take time for curious children.

Thanks again,

Sarah Snow 

Air National Guard Assists with Utah Mining Rescue

By MSgt. Burke Baker

Photo by Shad West

SALT LAKE CITY — **A**t the request of Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, the Utah Air National Guard assisted with airlifting a critical piece of equipment Aug. 9 to support rescue operations for six Utah miners trapped deep inside the earth since the Crandall Canyon Coal Mine collapsed three days earlier.

Within hours of receiving the request for help, the airlift operation was coordinated between Air National Guard units in Mississippi, Kansas and Utah for the vital piece of underground video equipment to use in the rescue effort.

"This mission is typical of what the National Guard is all about," said Col. William Crisler, commander of the 172nd Airlift Wing, based in Jackson, Miss. "We're always ready to respond in a moment's notice to help our citizens in a time of need."

Airmen from the Utah Air Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing assisted in the arrival of the C-17 Globemaster III from the 172nd of the Mississippi Air National Guard. The aircraft transported the equipment supplied by Substrata Camera Services of Knoxville, Tenn., from its location in Topeka, Kan.

"This equipment will allow me to position a camera in the mine and assess the situation from a whole, 360-degree angle," said A.L. Clark by telephone, a technician with Substrata. "Rescue crews will have a better idea of what they are dealing with once we are on site and online."

Once on the ground in Utah, Substrata employee George Rollins drove the specialized vehicle from Salt Lake City on the two-and-a-half-hour trip to the mine location near Huntington with a Utah Highway Patrol escort.

Interestingly, it didn't take much longer than that to coordinate the entire mission to get the camera equipment from Kansas to Utah.

"This has been a multistate effort, and it is amazing at how fast it has gotten done," said MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. "It is important for people to realize that there are Guardsmen from many states who have these families in their thoughts and prayers and are working hard to help them in any way they can."

"It was a privilege to assist on this mission that may save the miners' lives," added Loadmaster Senior MSgt. Allen Randall of the 172nd Airlift Wing. 



Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing offload the vehicle containing specialized camera equipment bound for Huntington, Utah, to help locate six trapped miners.

New 624th Vertical Construction Company 'Goes to Work'

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

SPRINGVILLE, Utah — **T**he Springville-based 489th Utilities Detachment and 115th Engineer Detachment of the Utah National Guard consolidated as the 624th Vertical Construction Company in a ceremony at the Springville armory June 9.

At the ceremony, LTC Milada Copeland, commander of the 115th Engineer Battalion, oversaw the retiring of unit flags for the 489th and 115th and the unveiling of the new colors of the 624th.

The 489th deployed to Kuwait in 2002-2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the 115th served in Afghanistan in 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Since the mid 1980s, when the 489th and 115th came into existence, they have also been involved in numerous construction projects building schools, clinics and other infrastructure in Africa, Germany, Honduras, Nicaragua and on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The mission of the 624th will be to provide field-expedient vertical construction support in a combat theater of operations.

"This is an historic occasion, not only because of a new unit and a new commander, but this is an opportunity to see history repeat itself," said Copeland of the fact that the 489th and 115th were once a single unit that was divided in the 1980s. "It moves the Engineers and signifies a bright future for them," she said.

Copeland explained the concept of 'transformation,' the new buzzword describing the new direction for Engineer units Armywide, which includes moving the focus from a Cold War-type enemy to the more versatile and unpredictable threat in today's world.

"Units are getting smaller, more deployable, and equipment is getting lighter, [but] Engineering specialties are still required," Copeland said.

"You can feel good about what you're doing every time you put on the uniform because you are making history happen," Copeland told the assembled Soldiers. "You bring an exceptional attitude to this process of change."

Outgoing commander of the 489th, CPT Vince Wolff, of Midvale, spoke briefly to his Soldiers and praised their professionalism.

"It's been an honor and a pleasure," he said. "I appreciate all your hard work. Pat yourselves on the back."

CPT Todd Christensen, of Orem, commander of the now-deactivated 115th Engineer Detachment, encouraged his Soldiers to finish what they had started under his direction.

"I know you will continue to perform like you have done for me under the colors of the 624th," he said. "I've heard nothing but good comments about your work and your bearing. All of you have served during a time of war, and that is something you can be proud of."

Taking over for Wolff and Christensen under a new flag, CPT Jeremy Neville, a Layton resident, assumes command of the 160 Soldiers of the new unit. Neville's guidance to his troops was brief and to the point.

"The 116th and 489th have left a legacy and built a culture of professionalism," he said. "The 624th will carry that reputation forward."

The new commander also introduced a unit motto, which he instructed his Soldiers to sound off with when they are called to attention in formation.

Neville concluded his remarks by saying, "We are professionals, building the future." He then called the unit to attention, and his Soldiers responded with the new slogan — a resounding "Go to work!" 



CPT Jeremy Neville, right, receives the colors of the 624th from LTC Milada Copeland, commander of the 115th Engineers.



CPT Todd Christensen, center, commander of the 115th Engineer Detachment, prepares to roll up his unit colors for the last time on June 9.



CPT Vince Wolff, left, commander of the 489th, hands the colors to SFC Barney before encasing them as the unit is deactivated.



ICA Returns

By Shad West

SALT LAKE CITY— **H**ours before Soldiers from I Corps Artillery (Forward) returned from their deployment Aug. 23, family and friends started to gather in a hangar and on the tarmac at the Utah Air National Guard Base with balloons, posters, banners and American flags.

Loved ones of the 100 Soldiers expressed a rush of emotions before the chartered Southwest Airlines jet landed. Many, like Kristy Acton, felt a mixture of relief and immense pride.

“There is a lot of emotion here right now,” Acton said. “I really have butterflies from anxiety or excitement—almost like newlywed butterflies.”

Acton stood behind a huge banner with a message and a giant photo of her husband that proclaimed “Welcome Home.”

“I am so proud of him and I would support him if he had to go again in two years,” Kristy Acton said. “It makes you love your country even more. We are proud of Jerry and he is our hero.”

COL Jerry Acton commanded the unit during its 15-month

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett and Ileen Kennedy

deployment. Twelve of those months were in Afghanistan where Soldiers provided training and support to the Afghan National Army battling a resurgent Taliban.

Soldiers spent several days at Camp Shelby, Miss., before returning to Utah, on the same day as Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation, which arrived at the Base only an hour later from a 17-month deployment to Iraq.

I Corps was stationed throughout Afghanistan, where many of its members served as advisors to Afghan police and military forces. Though commander Acton said his unit’s mission was successful, he lamented having to return home without 2nd Lt. Scott Lundell, a West Valley native who was killed in a firefight in the Oruzgan Province Nov. 25, 2006.

“His loss just made everyone more committed to complete the mission and do our best, as he did,” Acton said as he made final preparations to bring home the rest of his unit. “It’s great to be home, it has been a good but challenging year. We were

Family and Friends gather at the Utah National Guard Air Base to welcome home I Corps Artillery Soldiers after deployment to Afgghanistan for more than a year.





Cheers of joy greet I Corps Artillery Soldiers and long-awaited hugs from family members, friends and fellow Soldiers during their return to the Utah National Guard Air Base Aug. 23. BELOW: Soldiers' children proudly greet their Dads with homemade signs.

all a little homesick, so it is good to be home.”

Acton said that despite his unit’s loss, the mission was both challenging and rewarding.

“This deployment was a good mission for the National Guard,” Acton said. “It was a long and hard mission. I think we all feel like we made a good impact on the Afghan people as a whole.”

On the other end of the flightline the O’Hara family waited for MAJ John O’Hara to disembark the aircraft.

“I’m really excited that he is finally coming home,” Mary O’Hara said of her husband. “Fifteen months is a very long time. He is really brave for doing this, and we are all glad he is safe and in one piece. It will be great to have him home; I need someone else to hassle the boys.”

This wasn’t the first homecoming for Mary’s father, Gary Hutchings. The Vietnam veteran has two sons in the military:

one who was killed in action, and the other who recently returned from Iraq. Hutchings introduced his daughter to his future son-in-law when he was a first sergeant and O’Hara was a young lieutenant.

“We are glad he is home,” Hutchings said. “I introduced him to his wife—my daughter—a long time ago.”

“We are a family who serves,” Hutchings continued. “[John] went through three years of hell before I would give him the privilege of meeting [my daughter]. It didn’t come easy at all. I was a hard first sergeant, especially on young lieutenants,” he said, smiling.

“It was good when I came home, and it is still good when our Soldiers come home,” the 40-year military veteran said.

“This group of Soldiers is the greatest I have ever worked with,” Acton said. “We have the best Soldiers in the Utah National Guard.” **E**



Scouting for Food Collects Two Million Lbs. of Food Guard Tests Emergency Radio System

By Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY – Scouting for Food is a joint undertaking between Utah National Guard (UTNG) Soldiers and Airmen, Boy Scouts from all three Scout councils, statewide food bank personnel and community volunteers. It takes months of preparation and statewide resources to accomplish, but in the end, pantries across the state receive much-needed food to feed

The UTNG provided more than 115 Soldiers and Airmen, 25 trucks, three forklifts and opened multiple armories to support the food drive.

“Even though so many of our Soldiers have been deployed, it’s important that we still participate in community service,” said SFC Vicky Dixon, accounting supervisor, who has been supporting Scouting for Food for 17 years.

In addition to bringing in tons of food for Utah food bank shelves, the drive gives an opportunity for communities to work together.

One of the collateral training benefits of this operation is to provide the UTNG an opportunity to exercise a communications system that could be used in a natural disaster or civil emergency. In the event of an incident of this type, communications are critical to saving lives and restoring order. Civilian volunteer radio operators, both those of the Military Affiliate Radio System and other FCC-licensed amateur radio operators, could be a vital asset in the event of this type

of emergency. The UTNG communications control center sets up a mobile command post outside the Community Services Council Warehouse, while inside the warehouse amateur radio operators work together keeping the workflow running smoothly at each drop location.



Utah’s hungry.

This year the Community Services Council Warehouse in Salt Lake City collected 603,070 lbs. of food; the Community Action Warehouse in Provo collected 642,790 lbs; and the Catholic Community Services, Airman’s Attic and Family Connection in Ogden and Layton, collected 626,540 lbs.



Photos by Ileen Kennedy



Photos by MAJ Chirs Pattersen

Local Scout troops and Soldiers at the Spanish Fork armory collect food to be transported to the Community Action Warehouse in Provo. TOP CENTER: Communication control centers mobile command post keeps workflow running smoothly.

“This year we did a three-county area, branching out from the Great Salt Lake Council to include the Trapper Trails and Utah National Parks Councils in our communications,” said LTC Charles Dressen. “We field tested the OMNI network where the Guard and State tie into emergency communications networks. It ran excellently.”

With emergency communications capabilities, the bridge between the military and civilian sectors was patched together successfully and can be up and running in a moment’s notice in case of a natural disaster or civil emergency. **E**



TOP DOWN: Soldiers, Airmen, Boy Scouts and volunteers work together at the Salt Lake Community Services Council Warehouse collecting food donations. BELOW: Elk Ridge Middle School in South Jordan is one of the statewide drop locations set up to collect food donations.



Photos by Ileen Kennedy

Utah Artist Honors the Fallen



Photo courtesy of www.heropaintings.com

Oil painting by Kaziah Hancock of 2LT Scott Lundell, 1 Corps Artillery, Utah National Guard, killed in action in Afghanistan in November 2006.

By Shad West

MANTI, Utah — **A** professional Utah artist is making a difference in the lives of families who lost loved ones fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

Kaziah Hancock’s paintings are for families of every American in uniform who has passed away on active duty since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Recently the family of Utah National Guard Soldier, 2LT Scott B. Lundell, who was killed in action Nov. 25, 2006 in Afghanistan after his dismounted patrol was engaged by enemy forces, received their gift.

No family pays for the artwork. Hancock started Project Compassion and still provides the majority of the costs of running the foundation herself by raising goats on her farm and, at times, selling her own artwork, which can fetch up to \$10,000.

Project Compassion, a nonprofit humanitarian organization which gifts one gallery-quality 18” x 24” original oil portrait of fallen Americans in uniform to their families, was recently approved by the United States Department of Defense as an official partner with www.americasupportsyou.mil.

Over the last four years 320 families of fallen Soldiers from around the United States have received this unique gift from her.

“I wanted to give a gift of the heart, from one American to another,” wrote Hancock on her Web site. “A gift that says, ‘Someone gives a damn. I love you. Here. It’s not much, but it’s painted with love of your dear one.’” **E**

NBA Stars turn to the Utah National Guard to Prepare for Deployment to the Middle East

Story by Shad West

DRAPER, Utah — **T**wo Utah sports celebrities were issued Army Combat Uniforms, boots and field caps Tuesday in preparation for a two-week trip they will take to the Middle East later this month.

The two athletes will don their Army uniforms adorned with the Joint Force Headquarters - Utah National Guard unit patch on their left shoulders. Their uniforms will also sport names and Utah tapes.

Utah National Guard officials said the uniforms and boots had to be specially made for Utah Jazz legend Thurl Bailey and BYU alumnus Shawn Bradley.

Bailey and Bradley are heading to the region with Pro Sports MVP, a sports-marketing firm in Colorado which partners with Armed Forces Entertainment to specialize in events for military personnel serving overseas. They will travel in the region holding basketball clinics and meeting personnel serving in the volatile sector.

“We reach out to athletes and see if they would be interested in doing an event like this,” said Nicole Burdett, Pro Sports MVP corporate communications manager. “It takes a special kind of person to take on this kind of event.”

Burdett said both Bailey and Bradley are perfect examples of the type of athlete her firm works with.

While this trip is a first for Bradley, Bailey has previous experience—he visited troops in Kosovo, Sarajevo, Germany and Italy. He says it is a small way for him to show his support for the Armed Forces.

“Well, I think I have always wanted to be involved,” Bailey said. “I know how important it is for our Service members to see that support. I know the importance of the things they do for us. I have always wondered if there was something more that I can do. With the platform that we have as professional athletes, there are opportunities that we can take advantage of to show our support.”

Bailey said an opportunity for him to travel to the Middle East was cancelled at the last minute a few years ago, and he is grateful for a second chance.

“I now have an opportunity to be directly involved with the troops in the Middle East,” Bailey said. “It’s a great honor for me, and the troops love it when we can take our talents to them.”

Utah native Shawn Bradley said he jumped at the opportunity to join Bailey on this trip.

“Thurl called me and said, ‘Shawn I have an excellent opportunity for you,’” Bradley said. “I immediately said yes then went home and asked my wife. She said it was an opportunity of a lifetime that I shouldn’t pass up. However we want it to be as safe as possible. This is an opportunity to share something that we love—which is basketball and our support for our troops.”

To ensure they knew what to expect in the region, Bailey contacted COL Scot Olson for support.

Olson arranged for the athletes to participate in two briefings. The first was an Army 101 course which gave them an overview of the military. The briefing included a brief history of the Army, rank structure, military protocol and how to wear their uniforms.

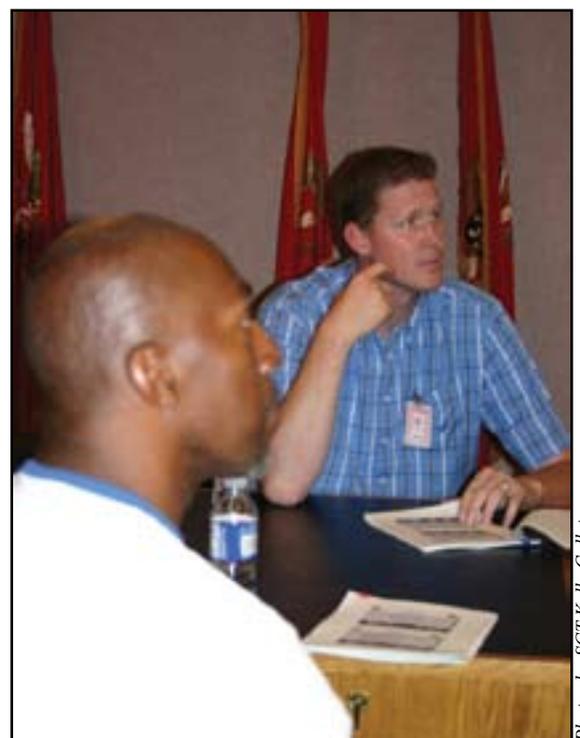
The second briefing was a regional threat briefing that showed Bailey and Bradley a history of the region, the political climate in the region and the dangers military personnel face daily that they may see while visiting.

“I thought the briefings were a good idea because I simply wanted them to



ABOVE: Shawn Bradley and Thurl Bailey try on new Army Combat Uniforms given to them by the Utah Army National Guard and presented by COL Scot Olson.

BELOW: Thurl Bailey (near) and Shawn Bradley listen closely to the Military Basics brief given by LTC Richard Miller.



Photos by SGT Kelly Collier



LEFT TO RIGHT: Thurl Bailey (left) and Shawn Bradley play keep-away from SGT Kelly Collett; Lt. Col. Christine Burckle gets a lift from Thurl Bailey and Shawn Bradley at Draper's sports court where they signed autographs and had their picture taken with Soldiers and Airmen; Jazz legend Thurl Bailey signs a basketball for SSG Robert Hill.

be aware and comfortable with the environment they were about to be in," Olson said.

"After the briefings they both told me it meant a lot to them that we took the time to work with them," added Olson.

The possibility of suicide bombings and improvised explosive devices didn't deter the determination of the athletes to visit the troops.

"After sitting through two briefings I think understanding the situation our troops face and learning about the culture over there sets me at ease," Bailey said. "It is awesome that these guys took the time to help prepare us for this."

LTC Richard Miller and MAJ Joseph Green volunteered to

give the athletes their briefings.

"It means a lot to Soldiers to see these celebrities bring a little bit of America to them," Miller said. "It reminds them of home. It also shows the Soldiers they are willing to sacrifice themselves by going over."

To show their appreciation to the Utah National Guard, both Bailey and Bradley spent an hour with Guard members signing autographs and taking photographs.

"There is so much more good going on over there than the media is showing us," Bradley said. "I hope our trip will bring that good to light. To go over and represent the State that I grew up in and love is a real honor." E

In Memoriam

<p>SGT Russell Barlow Co. D, First Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment</p> <p>PFC Christopher Dennison Co. E, Second Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment</p> <p>PFC Jonathan Sepeda 489th Utilities Detachment</p>	<p>CW2 Clayton S. Barnes Co. C, First Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment</p> <p>CW2 James R. Linder Co. A, First Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment</p>
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Rural Morocco Benefits From Utah Guard 'Traveling Medical Show'

Story and photos by MAJ Chris Patterson

TAN TAN, Morocco – **M**ore than 40 Utah Guard Airmen and Soldiers, along with U.S. Marines, Navy and Air Force Reserves, joined forces with the Moroccan military during the last two weeks of April 2007 in the southern part of the African nation for a variety of training exercises dubbed Operation African Lion.

The Moroccan military, U.S. Marines and Sailors conducted bilateral unit-level training and live-fire exercises. At the same time medical personnel from the Utah National Guard teamed up with their Moroccan military counterparts to provide primary health care to thousands of patients in rural areas of Morocco inhabited by Berber tribesmen and other nomadic peoples in and around the city of Tan Tan.

The Utah medical staff was led by a psychologist and included three obstetricians, an emergency room doctor, two dentists, three physician assistants and an optometrist. The staff also included a nurse practitioner, ICU nurses, a neonatal nurse, dental assistants and medics, along with dedicated medical and dental support, linguist and supply personnel.

Taking the Show on the Road

In this fourth consecutive year of providing humanitarian medical support to Morocco, the Utah National Guard provided many types of health care to Moroccans. It included dentistry, general practice, obstetrics and gynecology (OB-GYN), dermatology, pediatrics and optometry, along with a pharmacy to fill many prescription needs. Such services are normally not available in rural Morocco.

In contrast to last year's medical mission, Utah Guard members went from village to village to provide health care to local Moroccans instead of setting up shop in one location and having patients come to them.

The traveling clinic first treated over 350 patients in the Ben Khalil area, which meant that ten percent of the population was seen at the clinic during this one-day opportunity. Patients appeared from the deserted landscape as they walked from apparently unseen tents or homes out in the sandy environs.

"The Moroccan peo-

ple were very hospitable, and we were served an excellent herbal honey tea upon our arrival and throughout the day," explained Lt. Luke Einerson.

The next day the Utah Guard and their Moroccan counterparts traveled to Chbika, a small hamlet on the southern coast with a population of about 300 nomadic fishermen and residents. An incredible turnout resulted in 235 patient visits with medical specialists.

A slightly larger town of Telimzoune then received visits for two days from the medical teams. Despite the busyness of the staff, many found time during the deployment to make friends and give of themselves.

Working As a Joint Team

Airmen and Soldiers who normally do not train jointly came together to carry out this critical mission.

"The team became one rather than an Air or Army entity," said SMSgt. Merlin Tomshack. "The Moroccan providers worked seamlessly with our providers and technicians. Given the state of the world, there was truly peace on this mission in Morocco."

Moroccan military doctors from large communities such as Rabat, the capital, and other metropolitan areas in the country volunteered for this humanitarian mission.

Lt. Col. James Nelson, a Utah Air Guard doctor with an OB-GYN practice in American Fork, Utah, likened this humanitarian operation with Morocco to providing primary health care in less-privileged areas of the United States.

"We are able to work jointly with our Moroccan friends to provide health care to people who would not normally have access," said Nelson.

An added benefit of the exercise is that the Utah Guard was also able to work with Moroccan doctors on global and local health issues, and together provided solutions for these remote areas that rarely see medical doctors and specialists.

During this brief deployment, Utah's medical staff were able to better many lives during the six-day period seeing more than 2,500 patients.



Lt. Col. Shannon Lawson, a Utah dentist provides immediate relief from toothaches and abscessed teeth.



Maj. Walter Townson conducts an ultrasound which reveals a pelvic mass and refers the patient to Moroccan surgeons for treatment.



A member of the Utah medical staff exams a patient as a member of the Moroccan medical staff observes.

Obstetricians and Gynecologists Deliver

The three Utah National Guard OB-GYN physicians assigned to the exercise were members of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology (ACOG). Lt. Col. James Nelson; Lt. Col. Jon Ahlstrom, Ogden; and Maj. Walter Townson, Sandy, all have successful private practices here in Utah.

“This year our Moroccan friends requested that we bring over more doctors specializing in obstetrics and gynecology,” said Nelson, who is also a flight surgeon in the Utah Air National Guard.

In addition to the medical expertise Utah was able to bring to Morocco, doctors also arrived equipped to pass along 24 donated copies of the 2006 ACOG Compendium, as well as Williams Obstetrics and other gynecology, pediatric and medical textbooks.

“These generous donations provided the latest encyclopedias of OB-GYN information directly to rural areas of Morocco and to excellent doctors in Morocco who will put them to immediate use,” said Nelson.

The Moroccan visits have not only benefited the Moroccan people, but U.S. doctors were also able to learn a new culture and make friends.

“Last year, I was able to diagnose twins for a new Moroccan mother,” said Ahlstrom. “We were able to perform sonograms and inform pregnant women of the sex of the fetus and also printed pictures of the fetus for people who had probably never even heard of the procedure before.”

The best surprise of the physicians’ deployment to Morocco came on the last day of their travels in the coast city of El Quatia, Morocco. This quiet port town is home to many fishermen and beautiful beaches that are largely unspoiled by humans. The clinic in El Quatia responded quickly to the emergency of a pregnant mother who was already in advanced labor with the Moroccan and U.S. doctors working together again as they had throughout the past week.

“A Moroccan OB-GYN who we have been working closely with, Dr. Mustafa, delivered the baby boy after only a few minutes of his mother’s arrival, and I was able to assist with the birth and cutting the cord,” reported a smiling Townson.

Physician Assistants Make a Difference

Physician assistants are a critical cog in the military medical machine, and Utah PA’s made a great contribution to this mission in various areas to include general medicine, dermatology, OB-GYN and pediatrics.

“Physician assistants are invaluable contributors as they are fully functioning providers who act independently and competently, allowing the attending M.D. to see many more patients,” said COL Peter Taillac, an emergency room physician at the University of Utah Medical Center and senior medical officer in the Utah National Guard’s Medical Command.

Describing military physician assistants as “the wheels that the army medical machine runs on,” Taillac further explained the role of physician assistants in the military.

“They are able to handle 95 percent of the issues that come through the door, and this is a reflection of Army philosophy,” said Taillac. “As far as taking care of troops, [physician assistants] are the ones who get to do it, and our military has the best trained physician assistants in the world.”

Lt. Col. Kenneth Wade, a practicing physician as-



PFC Ward prepares a dental patient.

sistant in a private OB-GYN practice in Logan, who has also provided health care in Guatemala, Nicaragua and many other Latin-American countries, was able to diagnose gallstones through an ultrasound and refer a woman for surgery in a matter of minutes, affording her the opportunity to receive the health care she needed.

A full-time Army physician assistant in the Utah National Guard's Medical Command, MAJ David Furuta, treated a fisherman patient in a small coastal city. This man was suffering with a swollen and very tender ring finger, which had become infected more than a month earlier.

After draining the abscess which had developed in the man's finger, Furuta opened the wound to find a fish bone measuring over one-quarter inch embedded deep in the tissue. After irrigating the wound with a field-expedient saline and betadine mixture, Furuta and the medical staff sent the patient home with the antibiotic Keflex and enough bandages and ointment so that the finger could heal properly. The medical staff even donated a week's supply of the heavier OB-GYN surgical gloves so that the fisherman could work without further risk of infection.

"Today we saved a finger and perhaps the whole hand," observed Lt. Col. Scott Wall, a surgical nurse who assisted throughout the sterile procedure.

Physician Assistant 1st Lt. Fabian Dela Rosa, a member of the Utah Air Guard who lives and practices medicine in El Paso, Texas, for the Texas Tech Orthopedics Clinic, took satisfaction in helping with what might seem more mundane conditions such as asthma, which can be worsened by allergens, dust or pollution.

"When we are able to diagnose and provide treatment options for an asthmatic patient, we open up health possibilities that are life-changing," Dela Rosa said.

Sharing Our Culture, Making New Friends

During the deployment, members of the Utah medical staff had many opportunities to break the cross-cultural ice with temporary tattoos, bubbles and balloons as they treated patients or helped villagers with the tedium of standing in long lines in the hot sun.

Utah Air Guard MSgt. Joe Guimon entertained young children with his balloon animals that brought smiles to many young faces.

Air Guard psychologist, Lt. Col. Paul Byrd, brought a kite from home. The breezeless day made it impossible to get it off the ground, so he challenged the kids to a footrace where all finished as winners.

Utah-Morocco relationships were also strengthened when Soldiers and Airmen presented soccer balls, stuffed animals and school supplies to local school children and orphanages. The materials were supplied by Utah donors.

TOP DOWN: A little Moroccan girl smiles as she is entertained while waiting with her mother to be treated by the Utah medical staff; Lt. Col. Paul Byrd runs a footrace with some of the local Moroccan children; Utah Soldiers and Airmen present donated soccer balls to local school children and orphanages.

OPPOSITE PAGE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Medical staffers assist a Moroccan woman to her car after treatment; SSG Steven Maxfield helps a Moroccan man with his new eyeglasses.



Breaking Down Language Barriers

For this mission the Utah Guard deployed both French and Arabic linguists from the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade to facilitate doctor-patient communication. Due to a heavy demand, some of the translation cycles were complicated as they were often from a patient who spoke Arabic through a translator who only spoke French and Arabic to a Utah Guard Soldier who spoke French and English, and finally, on to the medical doctor who spoke only English.

Often in these remote areas, even the Moroccan doctors needed translation assistance. While they were thoroughly educated in French and Arabic, many of their patients spoke only a Berber dialect requiring local area linguists to translate.



Summing It Up

In total, the traveling medical clinic treated more than 2,500 patients in the Tan Tan area, and many on the medical staff were heard bragging about getting a kiss from grateful children. Participating members of the Utah Guard left Morocco with the thanks of thousands and look forward to their return.

SSgt. Steven Maxfield, a medic, EMT and 22-year veteran of the Utah National Guard, summed up their two-week mission in Morocco as he fitted a young nine-year-old Moroccan boy with new glasses.

“We’re here to improve the vision that the world has of Americans and to improve the quality of life for these patients,” Maxfield said. 📧



ATK Launch System Receives Department of Defense Above and Beyond Award

By Bill Rappleye

Photo by Frank Leavitt



Ron Dittmore, president of ATK Launch System signs the 5-Star Statement of Support while Utah ESGR State Chairman, BG (Ret.) Jim Martin, and Adjutant General of Utah, MG Brian L. Tarbet, observe.

MAGNA, Utah – **T**he National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, announced that ATK Launch Systems completed the necessary steps to qualify for signing a “5-Star” Statement of Support. They received the coveted Above and Beyond Award from DoD for their commitment to Employees in the Guard and Reserve May 2

The signing ceremony held at ATK Launch Systems Bacchus plant in Magna, Utah was presided over by Utah State ESGR Chair, BG (Ret.) James Martin.

“Less than 1 percent of employers of Guardsmen and Reservists in the United States have achieved the “5-Star” level of recognition by the DoD,” said Martin. “By signing the “5-Star” Statement of Support, ATK Launch has fulfilled the requirements to be recognized by the DoD as a patriotic employer who has set the standard of support for all employers in the state of Utah.”

MG Brian Tarbet, Adjutant General of Utah, spoke at the ceremony and congratulated them on their commitment to the Guard and Reserve. 📧

Utah National Guard's CST Earns Federal Certification

By Shad West

Photo by SGT Kelly Collett

LEHI, Utah — **T**he 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team of the Utah National Guard formally announced its federal certification July 17 to State and National Guard officials during an open house at the Lehi Armory.

“The 85th CST of Lehi, Utah, is ready to do our job,” Lt. Col. Kevin Nuccitelli reported to dignitaries that included Gov. Jon Huntsman; MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard; and other government, military and civic officials who attended the ceremony.

“Over the last three years our Airmen and Soldiers worked hard to achieve this goal,” Nuccitelli said. “I’m very happy for this day; it has been a long three years. We were inspected on 1,500 items and we passed 1,499 of those. We would have passed on all of the inspection items, but we failed to post a document in one of our vehicles.”

The significance of the federal certification is that the 85th has demonstrated that its 22 members are fully trained and capable of responding to an actual hazmat incident at the request of civil authorities. The certification included 800 hours of specialized training for each unit member to learn to use \$9 million worth of specialized equipment.

Since the unit was organized in 2003, the 85th has conducted numerous joint exercises in Utah and nationwide with federal, State, and local authorities including support of the 62nd Civil Support Team of the Louisiana National Guard in

the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“This is a day I thought in some ways would never come,” MG Brian Tarbet said. “The 85th CST exercised relentlessly and is a great asset for our civilian counterparts. You 22 who have soldiered so hard—thank you. You are the crown jewels of the Utah National Guard.”

Tarbet then presented Governor Huntsman with a certificate acknowledging the 85th’s new status.

“Heaven forbid our State would ever have to respond to a weapon of mass destruction,” Huntsman said. “But the world we live in today is highly uncertain.”

“WMDs come in all shapes and sizes, knowing we have you to deal with these threats will allow us to sleep easier,” Huntsman added.

After the presentation, Huntsman watched a demonstration of the equipment the National Guard team is certified to use, including a multimillion-dollar mobile command unit; mobile laboratory; mobile tactical operations center; supply unit; and a Gator, a six-wheeled off-road vehicle with stretcher. Huntsman also saw various handheld hazmat-detection equipment.

The 85th Civil Support Team works regularly with federal, state and local agencies to prepare for hazmat and many other types of emergencies. The unit provides a responsive, well-trained and well-equipped force to assist civil authorities in keeping Utah citizens safe. 

Gov. Jon Huntsman, back row, third from left; MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, front row, far left; and BG Scott Harrison, back row, far right; pose with members of the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team after a ceremony marking their federal certification.



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS

46th Annual Minuteman Awards Dinner

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard hosted its 46th Annual Minuteman Awards Dinner June 13 at Salt Lake's Little America Hotel.

Sponsored by the Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah, an organization of community leaders who promote goodwill and positive relations between the Guard and local communities, the event recognized Robert S. Pembroke, Kip Wadsworth, retired BG James G. Martin, retired COL Paul M. Warner, CW4 Paul Holton and CSM Dell Smith for their individual devoted service to and leadership among the citizens of Utah.

In his welcoming remarks Utah National Guard Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet thanked the Honorary Colonels for their support of the Guard.

"You are great friends in a difficult and challenging time. Never have we had more to do, and never have we had more help from you who constitute the Honorary Colonels."

Other speakers included retired Utah Air National Guard Brig. Gen. and former U.S. Senator Jake Garn, current commander of the Honorary Colonels, and Utah Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert, who keynoted the program.

Garn praised award recipients for their distinguished record of service to the community and the military.

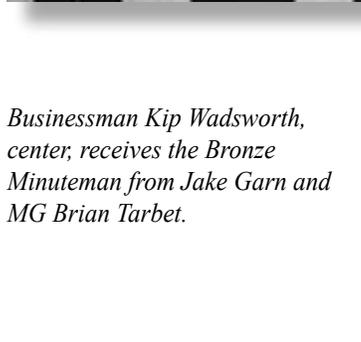
"I don't think we have had a group who deserve this honor more than this one," said Garn.

"Our country needs heroes, and I see no better class of people than those men and women who serve in our Armed Forces," added Herbert. "I want to personally thank those who are recipients of this award tonight for their service and support of the military." 

Chief Paul Holton, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, center, receives the Bronze Minuteman from Jake Garn, left, and MG Brian Tarbet.



Businessman Robert Pembroke, center, receives the Bronze Minuteman from Jake Garn and MG Brian Tarbet.



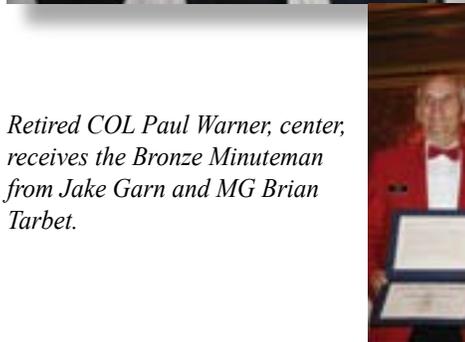
Businessman Kip Wadsworth, center, receives the Bronze Minuteman from Jake Garn and MG Brian Tarbet.



Retired Brig. Gen. James Martin, center, receives the Bronze Minuteman from Jake Garn and MG Brian Tarbet.



Retired COL Paul Warner, center, receives the Bronze Minuteman from Jake Garn and MG Brian Tarbet.



CSM Dell Smith, center, receives the Bronze Minuteman from Jake Garn and MG Brian Tarbet.



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Hohenfels Training Times

Story and photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

HOHENFELS, GERMANY — **A**t home they work as miners, mechanics, police officers and construction workers. Here they are terrorists. Soldiers from Utah National Guard's 1457th Engineers are in Hohenfels, Germany, on a very unusual and important mission. Acting as insurgents, the Engineers give deploying units a clearer picture of what life will be like downrange.

As deploying units get ready to go into combat they come to Hohenfels's Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) and "the Box." A 40,000-acre maneuver area and a 23,000 square-kilometer maneuver coordination area, the Box has many different terrains and facilities available. Hills, open spaces, forests and a variety of urban environments make it the perfect place to train troops. And that is why the 1457th is here replicating the Opposition Force (OPFOR) these units will face in an area like Iraq or Afghanistan.

This year's Annual Training has been spent disrupting aircraft, role-playing as civilians, defending urban areas, attacking convoys, ambushing and other OPFOR missions all for one essential reason.

"We're here to help the 1-4 [Infantry] guys get troops ready for Iraq," said SSG Cody Adamson. "Hopefully we gave great training."

Since coming to Hohenfels, PV2 Matthew Adams has enjoyed using and becoming familiarized with many different weapons like AK-47's and rocket-propelled grenades. His favorite mission was being a TOW gunner.

"It's kind of interesting to see war from the terrorist perspective, to see how they think and move," he said, adding that it was also "good for the units training because it shows them their strengths and weaknesses."

Expressing lessons learned from acting as the OPFOR, SGT Calvert Priest said, "When you know how your enemy fights, you can better defeat them," paraphrasing Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*.

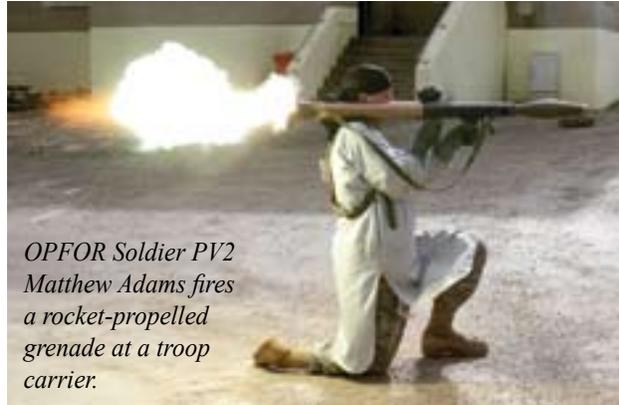
"This gives guys an opportunity to see what to look for during a tour," said SGT Joseph Deppe. The JMRC at Hohenfels really impressed Deppe; especially since he saw many of the same situations in Iraq.

"It amazes me what detail went into this scenario," Deppe said. "They've done a really good job replicating everything."

Being able to experience what being downrange is like and how to react to dangerous situations before the units get there, strengthens their ability to master the situation and stay alive. This is why the 1457th and other National Guard units' mission here is so important, explained SGT Clayton Miller. "The mission helps in a big way, not only to prepare troops physically but mentally as well. At Hohenfels, they can see the reality of the situation they are about to enter."

Miller and 10 other Soldiers from the 1457th played another important role during this Annual Training. They make up a support platoon that has dispatched equipment, laid brick, cleared areas for a memorial and done other construction jobs. "It's been pretty hard with the weather; it's rained a lot and turned everything into a soupy mess," said Miller.

They have adapted and overcome, however. "It's neat. As



OPFOR Soldier PV2 Matthew Adams fires a rocket-propelled grenade at a troop carrier.

National Guard we are doing something lasting on an active-duty base," Miller said.

He has also been able to run some OPFOR missions while at Hohenfels. The experience allowed him to refresh his basic soldiering skills. "When

all you work with is [construction] equipment, you sometimes forget that you are always an infantryman first," Miller said. He added that it can be important if you go to war and ever need it.

Not only has the 1457th helped other units, their unit has been strengthened by coming here. "We know how to work together as a platoon and now have more confidence as Soldiers," said SPC Rich Jennings. "The unit has higher morale and more confidence in their company as well as themselves."

"This training helped with team building, communication and control," said Adamson. Although it has been a very different training event, he thinks most of the guys have enjoyed and have learned from it. **E**



1457th Engineer Soldiers move into their positions before the action starts; some are OPFOR, some are townspeople.

Benefits and Education

Scholarships

State Tuition Waivers (Scholarships) are now being accepted. All Utah National Guard Soldiers attending or planning to attend the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters may apply for tuition waivers. These waivers are good at any State university or college. Apply now before the deadline of April 30, 2008, and get your schooling paid for. For more information and an application, see the following Web site: <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2>.

Chapter 1607

The VA is processing applications for Chapter 1607 for those Soldiers who were mobilized in support of GWOT under Title 10, USC.

Soldiers who may be eligible need to go to the VA Web site – www.va.gov. They then need to click on Benefits and Education. That will bring up the location to find information about Chapter 1607. If applying for Chapter 1607 Soldiers will need to enclose a copy of their mobilization and demobilization order as well as a copy of the DD Form 214 releasing them from a mobilization status. ☐

Family Unity Cultivates Quality Pilots

Story and photo by SrA Andrew Howells

SALT LAKE CITY – Flying high above Utah's West Desert, spouses of the Utah Air National Guard witnessed the refueling of an F-16 fighter jet from the pod of a KC-135R aircraft on a spouse-orientation flight, which departed recently from the Base.

This was the first spouse flight since the 151st Air Refueling Wing converted to the KC-135R model aircraft last spring. The flight also became a first for many of the passengers as the aircraft graced the early-spring skies of the Utah Test & Training Range (UTTR).

April Barrett, wife of 2nd Lt. Shawn Barrett, was one of the spouses who witnessed for the first time exactly what her husband experiences every time he embarks on a flight.

"Our pilots are the best at what they do because they are committed to their training and understanding of the aircraft,"

-- Lt. Col. Neal Wayment,
151st Air Refueling Wing

"I like seeing what my husband does when he goes up each time, and it really makes me proud to see how skilled they all are," said April.

Barrett is a brand new pilot who, in December, returned from 20 consecutive months of pilot training. As a new pilot, Shawn was excited to show his wife what all his training has prepared him to do, he said.

"It really was humbling to show my wife what all the studying we did together over the last year and a half was for," Shawn said.

April agreed saying, "I liked helping him study, and to be able to now see it all in action made it worth it."

Shawn attributes his success as a pilot to the support that he received from his wife through his pilot training.

"April's support and encouragement made it possible," Shawn said.

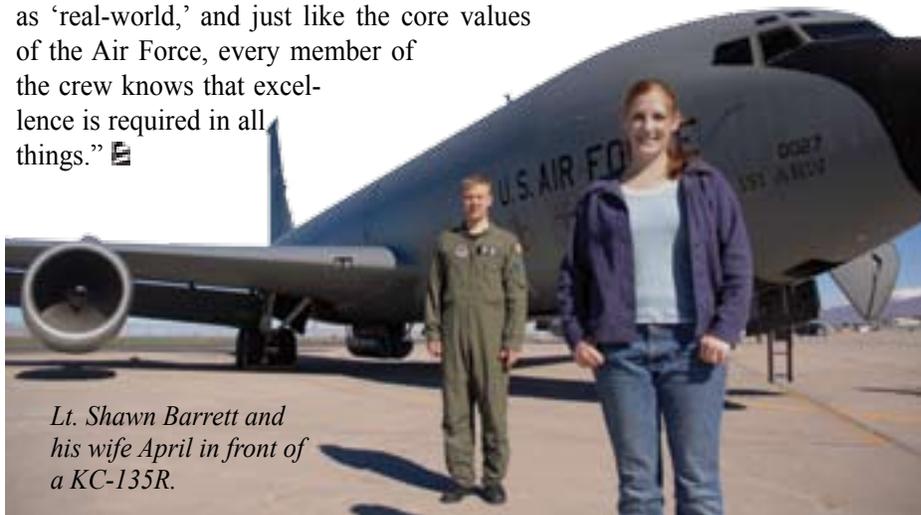
Shawn has spent so much of the last two years preparing to become a pilot, it has become part of his daily family life.

"I am so happy he is able to do what he loves," April said.

Shawn is only one part of a team of exceptionally skilled pilots that journey through the skies of the world as they complete the mission of the Utah Air National Guard.

"Our pilots are the best at what they do because they are committed to their training and understanding of the aircraft," said Lt. Col. Neal Wayment, a KC-135R pilot and the chief of safety for the 151st Air Refueling Wing.

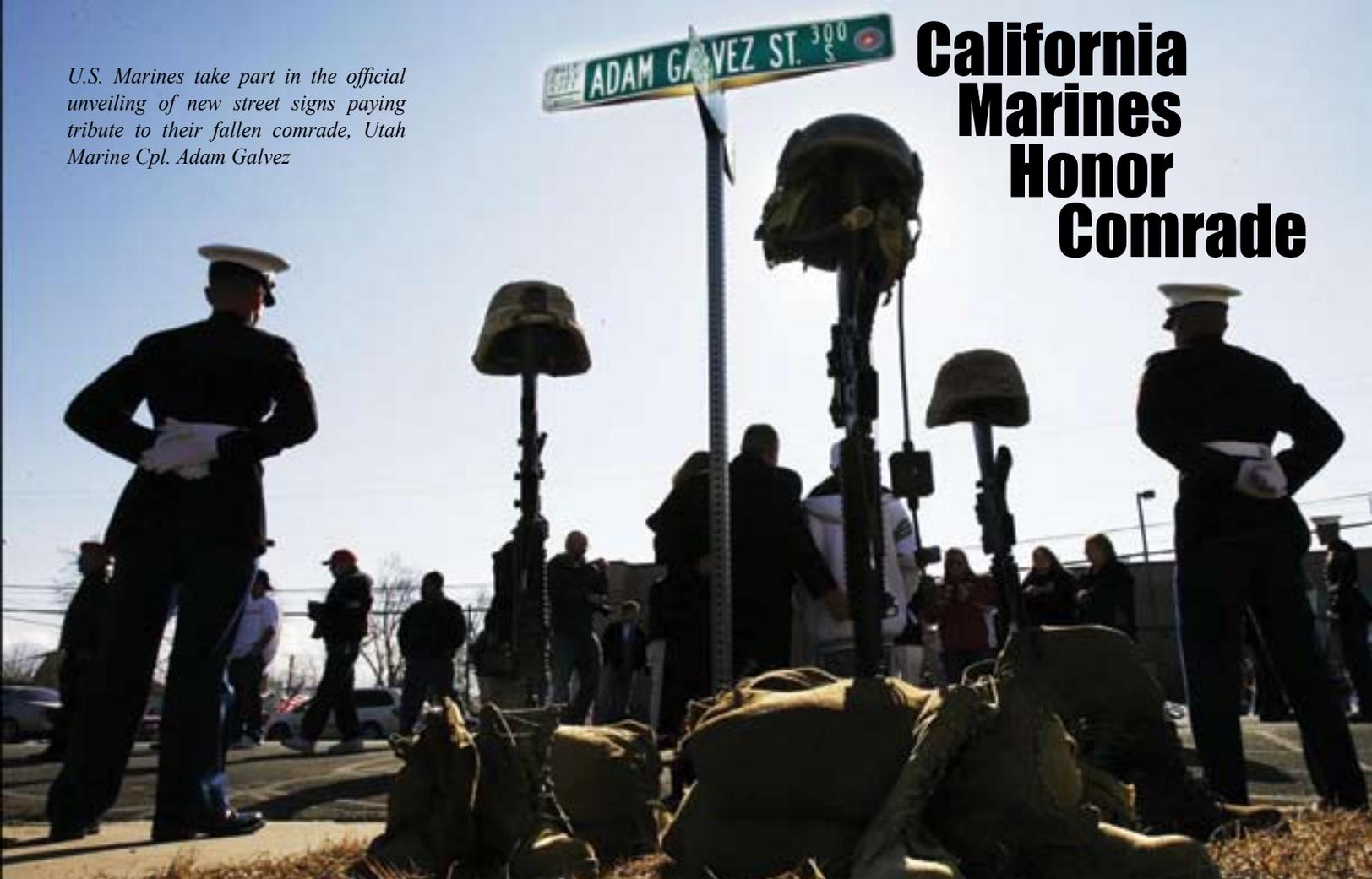
Wayment added, "Each training mission is treated as 'real-world,' and just like the core values of the Air Force, every member of the crew knows that excellence is required in all things." ☐



Lt. Shawn Barrett and his wife April in front of a KC-135R.

U.S. Marines take part in the official unveiling of new street signs paying tribute to their fallen comrade, Utah Marine Cpl. Adam Galvez

California Marines Honor Comrade



UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS GROUP WHO CAME FOR SALT LAKE CITY STREET-NAMING

Story and photo by SrA Andrew Howells

SALT LAKE CITY — **F**riday, Feb. 2, the Utah Air National Guard played host to a bus full of 50 U.S. Marines from Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Southern California. The Marines enjoyed a catered dinner at the Base's dining facility after their long journey; both were gifts from members of the community.

Marines from Company D, 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, arrived to pay tribute to their fallen comrade, Utah Marine Cpl. Adam Galvez of Salt Lake City. Galvez was killed in action by a roadside explosive Aug. 20, 2006, while conducting combat operations in Iraq's Anbar Province.

Galvez was honored by the official renaming of 300 South between Interstate 15 and Redwood Road "Adam Galvez Street."

This honor was a result of an Eagle Scout service project by Junior Cruz from Boy Scout Troop 987 of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Buena Vista Spanish-speaking Branch.

Cruz felt that if a street can be named after a basketball player from the Utah Jazz, then why not get a street named after a military hero?

Cruz decided to make his Eagle Scout Project just that. He needed to raise about \$2,000 to have the street renamed after a true hometown hero, he said.

Much of the cost incurred was to replace about 20 street signs with Adam Galvez's name as well as the U.S. Marine Corps logo on each sign.

The Marines from Galvez's own Battalion took part in the official unveiling of the new street signs in a ceremony Feb. 3. Several of the Marines were with Galvez during the attack and when he died.

Standing in formation for the official unveiling, were several of Galvez's comrades wearing the Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained in the attack.

In attendance were local officials including Salt Lake City Council member Van Turner.

"I think it was a great opportunity to honor fallen Service members from our community in this way," said Turner. "It was the right thing to do for our neighborhood, and we had a lot of community support."

The Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America was aware of the Eagle project from its conception, said Kay Godfrey, the public relations director for the council.

"I give hats off to him [Cruz] for his perseverance and dedication to this project. He had many hoops and obstacles to overcome to get this project going," said Godfrey. "Cruz is an extraordinary young man who was able to honor his heroes, and he stands as an example of every person who wears the Boy Scout uniform."

Young men who aspire to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank earned by young men in the Boy Scout program, must take upon themselves a service project of significant worth and value that has an impact on the community and the State," he added. "It was one of the finest Eagle projects that I have seen." ■

Utah's Top Soldier Receives Award from His Commander

By MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Joint Medal of Merit was awarded to MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, in a ceremony at the Utah State Capitol Feb. 16.

To the delight of those in attendance at a regularly scheduled cabinet meeting, Tarbet was 'ambushed' by the announcement from Utah National Guard Commander in Chief Gov. Jon Huntsman, himself.

Given his typical aversion to the limelight and his constant focus on the achievements of his Airmen and Soldiers, it's no surprise that the award came as complete surprise to Tarbet, one of the first recipients of the medal.

"I feel honored to receive the award," said Tarbet, a Kaysville resident and alumnus of Utah State University and the University of Utah Law School. "But like awards of this kind, it's really the ones you serve with who do all the work."



MG Brian Tarbet, left, receives the Utah National Guard Joint Medal of Merit from Utah Governor Jon Huntsman.

"Every Utah Guard member that has deployed under his command has been in his thoughts and prayers. There is no better advocate for Soldiers and Airmen and for joint operations than Gen. Tarbet."

— Col Scot Olson

The Joint Medal of Merit is one of the highest honors bestowed by the Utah National Guard and "may be presented to any member of the Utah National Guard who distinguishes himself/herself by exceptional meritorious service while engaged in a joint mission," according to Utah National Guard Regulation 600-8-22.

The award may also be given to those who have "rendered a distinct service in furthering the interest of and in promoting the image, security, and welfare of the Utah National Guard and the State of Utah."

In Tarbet's case, he met all of the criteria through his leadership of Soldiers and Airmen, his contribution to the security of the State and furthering the interest of the Utah National Guard.

"Major General Tarbet is the embodiment of the Citizen-Soldier . . . and has demonstrated superior leadership, clarity of vision and tenacity in reshaping the Utah Joint Forces Headquarters . . ." wrote Huntsman in the award citation. "[He] has demonstrated a unique blend of operational experience, mature leadership and professionalism in a multitude of challenging command positions."

In typical fashion, news of the award did not come from Tarbet himself; rather, members of his staff notified the Public Affairs Office so that members of the Guard and the public could be made aware of the prestigious award for their commander.

COL Scot Olson, facilities director for the Utah National Guard and a member of Tarbet's staff for more than ten years, has seen firsthand the leadership and service that made it possible for the general to be one of the first recipients of this prestigious award.

"Every Utah Guard member that has deployed under his command has been in his thoughts and prayers," said Olson. "There is no better advocate for Soldiers and Airmen and for joint operations than Gen. Tarbet." 📧

Photo courtesy of Utah Governor's Office

Utah National Guard's Annual Military Ball

On Mar. 31 at Utah Valley State College, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, retirees and friends of the Guard enjoyed a delightful evening of dancing with music provided by the Utah Guard's 23rd Army Band. 📧



Text and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Praise Flows at THANK A SOLDIER DAY

UTAHNS GATHER IN WEST JORDAN TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR TROOPS

By Ana Breton

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **T**he day Christene Helpingstine's son returned from Iraq was one of the many days her body had felt completely numb.

Combined choir and orchestra are in the background. She stared as Soldiers came down an aircraft to find their families, who were eagerly waiting for them. She held her breath until her son Andrew, who served as a fuel truck driver in the U.S. Army for a year, exited the plane and walked down the stairs.

"I was crying as he came down," Helpingstine said. "I just felt blessed that he came home all right."

While her son was in Iraq, she sought people who were going through the same experience. She joined the Utah Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America Inc., a nonprofit organization of mothers and fathers who have or have had children in the military.

Helpingstine, who serves as the group's vice president, was at the West Jordan Armory on Saturday with other mothers, families and friends of Soldiers to celebrate the third annual Thank a Soldier Day.

Thank a Soldier Day, which officially is March 19, marks the fourth year since troops entered Iraq. During the event, families were given tours of military helicopters, children had their faces painted with patriotic images and many community members came together to send the troops a message of gratitude.

"It's a humbling feeling," said National Guard SGT Jaclyn Smith, 28, an Apache helicopter mechanic. "It's just incredible to know that you have so many people offering their support."

Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, who spoke at the event, said showing support for the troops is a moral and ethical contract Utah residents need to make to thank Soldiers.

"We are not on the front lines of combat, but we all need to be on the front lines of encouragement," Corroon said. "We have to let them know that we're here for them right now and when they come back."

Rep. Chris Cannon, R-Utah, said the United States had the capability to support the nearly 140,000 troops already in Iraq because citizens are all part of what he called the "American religion."

Cannon said that people need to support the troops even if they may not agree with the war, which he said was "really against thugs and murderers."

"Even though the war is debatable, we should support the troops and not criticize them," Cannon said. "Especially because this war is not going to stop anytime soon." **E**

Printed courtesy of the Deseret Morning News

Tee Off for Special Olympics

By Shad West

HILL AIR FORCE BASE — **M**ore than 140 golfers teed off in a best-ball, scramble-start tournament here in support of Utah's Special Olympics athletes.

The Special Olympics Benefit Golf Tournament was sponsored by the Utah National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters and held at the Hubbard Golf Course July 27.

This was the 13th year for the National Guard-backed event that began in humble beginnings with only the 115th Engineers participating. Throughout the years the tournament grew in popularity, and this year it raised \$5625 for Utah Special Olympics.

What makes a tournament successful? It could be the date, or the venue or the format. Or it could be the organization that benefits from the event.

SFC Steven McKinnon, Joint Force Headquarter Supply, served as tournament chair.

"This is an overall great event for Special Olympics and the participants," McKinnon said. "We have some outstanding support from sponsors who have donated some wonderful prizes."

On select par-three holes golfers had an opportunity to win a Chevrolet Corvette donated by Larry H. Miller, a \$10,000 cash prize and a seven-day Royal Caribbean cruise if they could hit a hole in one.

JD Donnelly, President and CEO of Special Olympics Utah praised the support of the Utah National Guard.

"The Guard has been incredible with Special Olympics," Donnelly said. "The neat part is that this isn't just a fundraiser, we have some of our athletes come out and play with the golfers during this tournament. Airmen and Soldiers have been wonderful friends of our athletes and become unified partners with them and come out to volunteer and support other events."

The tournament has always been held on Hill Air Force Base, and playing the Hubbard Golf Course adds to the buzz about the tournament.

"Having a great facility like this is a great draw for golfers who wouldn't normally get to play here," McKinnon said. "Hill has been an outstanding host for the event and they help make it a success." **E**



The tournament was a best-ball format and golfers took turns putting from the best lie.



Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer, and First Sergeant of the Year 2007

Story and Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah – Sixteen Utah National Guard members competed Mar. 30-31 for the titles of Soldier of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year, and First Sergeant of the Year for 2007 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 National Guard CSM Dell Smith.

Guard members in the past who competed for Soldier of the Year only had to present themselves before a board. Last year was the first time that Soldiers had to compete using the different competition format.

“It’s important because it is a fairer system than just a board system,” Smith added. After the dust settled, the winners for Utah are as follows:

- SPC Colby D. Wallis - Soldier of the Year
- SSG Norman P. Rentschler - NCO of the Year
- 1SG Victor H. Gonzalez - First Sergeant of the Year

Winners were honored Saturday evening at a banquet dinner for participants and their families at the Officer’s Club at Camp Williams.

Wallis, a resident of St. George, said of the competition, “I like it. It’s actually good to put your skills to the test against other Soldiers in a friendly competition. I wish all training was like this.”

Contestants for Soldier of the Year:

- SGT Jonpaul C. Boyle - 115th Engineer Group - *
*Physical Fitness Test, Land Nav**
 - SPC Richard N. Berry - 2-222nd Field Artillery
 - SPC Tyler J. Decapot - 120th Quartermaster
 - SPC Andrew T. Hill - HHC, 1-211th Aviation - *
*WTT Hands On**
 - SPC Aubrey L. Hill - Support Co. 19th Special Forces Group - *
*WTT Hands On**
 - SPC Colby D. Wallis - D. Co., 141st Military Intelligence Battalion - *
*M-16 Qualifications, WTT Test, General Knowledge Test, and Boards**
- * Events in Italics designate that the individual received the highest score in that event

Contestants for Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

- SGT Shay G. Cowan – HHB, 2-222nd Field Artillery
 - SSG David A. Mabey – 144th Area Support Medical Company - *
*Physical Fitness Test, WTT Hands On, Land Nav**
 - SGT Brent T. Mayberry – HHC, 19th Special Forces Group
 - SGT Natasha L. McCabe – HHC, 115th Engineer Group
 - SSG Norman P. Rentschler – 640th Regional Training Institute
 - SFC Steven G. Watson – HHC, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade
- * Events in Italics designate that the individual received the highest score in that event

First Sergeant of the Year Contestants:

- 1SG Tracy F. Cartwright – Service Battery, 2–222nd Field Artillery
- 1SG Alfred M. Dunston – Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group
- 1SG Robert A. Gray – Alpha Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion
- 1SG Victor H. Gonzalez – Alpha Company, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion

ABOVE: SFC Grant Watson runs to complete the land-navigation part of the competition.
OPPOSITE PAGE: Soldiers compete in the Army Physical Fitness Test, Warrior Training Tasks (WTT) Hands On, M-16 Qualification and land-navigation during the Soldier of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and First Sergeant of the Year competition for 2007 at Camp Williams, Utah.



Volunteers are the Key to Our Success

Family Readiness Conference and Youth Symposium



Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

PARK CITY, Utah—**F**amily Programs held the Utah National Guard Family Readiness Conference and Youth Symposium in Park City Apr. 28. This year's theme, "Key to Success," focused on representatives from Family Readiness Group leaders, military leaders, youth volunteers and families.

The conference is held once a year and educates Family Programs volunteers. Family Programs depends on volunteers for outreach because there are so many families throughout the State. Volunteers advise staff members on issues, ideas and problems they see within each unit so Family Programs can better serve and offer assistance to units.

"The support link between Service members, citizens and families is crucial. Working together is the 'Key to Success' for our Service members serving our country," said CW2 Annette Barnes, State Family Programs director.

The conference gives volunteers an opportunity to network, share ideas and receive training so they can better help Service members and their families.

The keynote speaker for the conference was, Elaine Dumler. Elaine is the author of two books: *I'm Already Home* and *I'm Already Home...Again*.

Additional workshops were offered throughout the day, giving all in attendance the tools or keys they can use and take back to help families and communities. The workshops addressed topics such as Challenges of Reintegration, 7 Habits of Highly Successful Military Families, Natural Disaster Preparedness, Marriage and Family Enhancement, Financial Assistance Resources and Resources Around You.

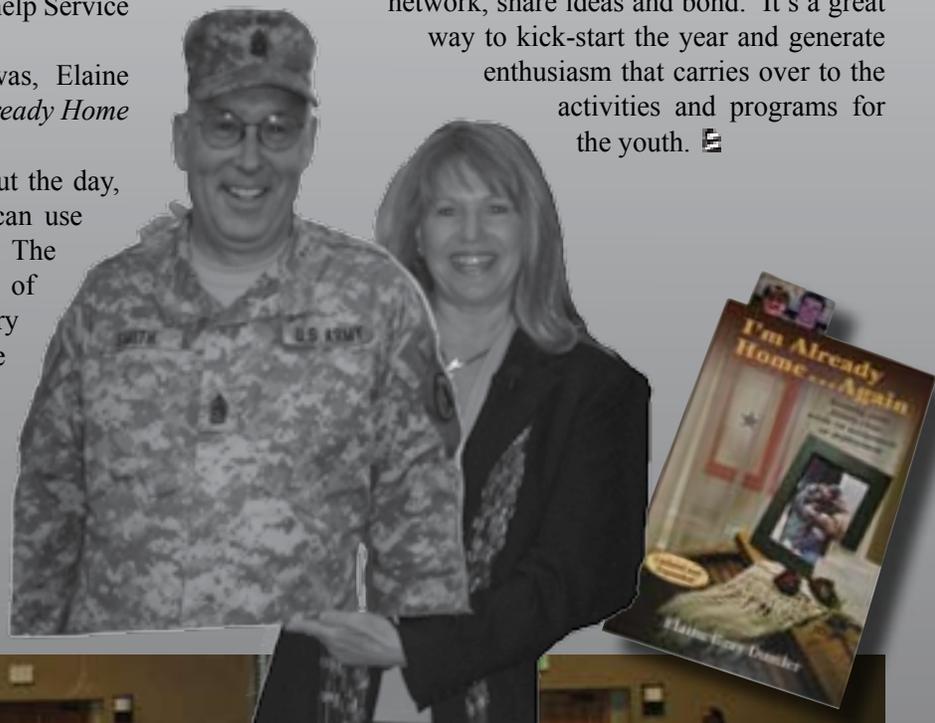
Elaine Dumler with the poster of CSM Dell Smith that she affectionately referred to as "Flat Daddy" during her presentation. Copies of Elaine Dumler's book, I'm Already Home . . . Again were given to each participant. Family Readiness conference attendees gathered at the Yarrow Hotel in Park City Apr. 28 for training.

"The conference gave me great ideas and resources that I can take back and share with the families," said Laura Roberts, Camp Williams Family Assistance Center representative. "I loved the 7 Habits of Highly Successful Military Families workshop. I will listen more than talk. With my job I need to do more listening."

The strategic responsiveness of the Utah National Guard relies on a high-quality support structure that provides both Service members and family members with the resources to be self-reliant, especially during times of deployment.

Along with the Family Readiness Conference, Family Programs held the Youth Symposium. At the symposium Utah National Guard youth attended workshops and leadership training. Youth leaders will serve as junior counselors at summer camp or assist during the year at various activities.

The workshops created a forum to plan summer camp, network, share ideas and bond. It's a great way to kick-start the year and generate enthusiasm that carries over to the activities and programs for the youth. 



Utah Airmen and Soldiers Benefit from 2007 Legislative Session

By Shad West

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **E**ntering the final week of the Utah Legislative session, COL Scot Olson had a pretty good idea that the Utah National Guard would fare well when it came time for legislators to sign the checks for this year's budget.

However, even Olson, who has been the Guard's legislative liaison for the past two years, was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming support from Utah lawmakers. All the major bills the Guard was counting on were approved, adding to Utah Soldiers' and Airmen's quality of life.

"They (the legislators) really stepped up to the plate," Olson said. "The atmosphere on Capitol Hill was very positive, and we were very successful during the session.

"Our lawmakers expressed great sentiments toward our Soldiers who are deployed and their families," added Olson.

During the session Olson said he built a special relationship with legislators including Senate President John Valentine. Olson handed out camouflage rubber bracelets with the words "Defend Freedom" stamped across them. Valentine, a member of the National Guard Standing Committee, wore his throughout the session.

"Every time I would see him in the hallways, he would raise his hand and say, 'This is what we are doing,'" Olson said.

"The reason I chose to wear the bracelet was to show my support and admiration for our National Guardsmen serving in Afghanistan and Iraq," Valentine said. "Many of us wanted them to see how much we supported them when they came home."

The adjutant general had placed a special emphasis on securing education benefits for Guard members this year, and the Legislature didn't disappoint as it passed both House Bill 1 and House Bill 309S01.

House Bill 1, the State Agency and Higher Education Base Budget Appropriation, guarantees \$500,000 every year for Guard members' education benefits. This year an additional one-time \$500,000 was added specifically for Guard members.



Utah's Gold Star Mothers attend a House session as the Gold Star Family License Plate Legislation is voted on and approved.



Jeanine Lundell, wife of 2LT Scott Lundell, is joined by Gov. Jon Huntsman at a news conference announcing tuition legislation.

"That's \$1 million for our Soldiers," Olson said. "That money can be used at any state or private higher-learning institution."

"In today's environment a Soldier can go to school and make money," Olson added. "That \$500,000 will be ongoing; our Soldiers can count on it every year."

"I worked extremely hard to put any extra residual money into education benefits for our Soldiers," said Valentine. "Intuitively the Legislature's first priority was to our Guard. I'm very proud of what we accomplished for them during this session."

House Bill 309S01, the Scott B. Lundell Tuition Waiver for Military Members' Surviving Dependents, guarantees a college education for surviving dependents of Utah military members who lost their lives while serving in combat.

The bill was named for 2LT Scott Lundell, of I Corps Artillery, who died in action in Afghanistan last November.

The Legislature also funded various tuition waivers for Soldiers and Airmen, which helps augment federal programs already available. According to Olson, the National Guard did very well.

The Legislature also recognized the strain that deployments can put on military families and allocated \$270,000 for the Guard to help fund counseling services for family members.

One of the highlights for Olson this year was the passage of the Gold Star Family License Plate Legislation.

"That bill is unique in that it waives the cost of plates for those families who lost a loved one. It is a great way to raise awareness in our community much like the veterans plates," Olson said. "There are those among us who have paid an ultimate price in this war. It truly honors their sacrifice."

According to Olson, the passage of all that legislation, in fact, does what those bracelets said; they help to "Defend Freedom" by offering great incentives that keep Guard members serving. **E**

Utah National Guard Association's Group Term Life Insurance Program

Sponsored by: The Utah National Guard Association

Underwritten by: ING/Reliastar Life Insurance Company and AFBA/5 Star Life Insurance Company

MEMBER COVERAGE

Coverage	Monthly Premium
\$10,000	\$3.66
\$15,000	\$5.33
\$20,000	\$7.00
\$25,000	\$8.67
\$110,000*	\$10.66
\$160,000*	\$13.66
\$260,000*	\$19.66

* Non Tobacco-User Rates

SPOUSE COVERAGE

Coverage	Monthly Premium
\$5,000	\$2.00
\$10,000	\$3.66
\$15,000	\$5.33
\$20,000	\$7.00
\$25,000	\$8.67
\$105,000*	\$10.66
\$155,000*	\$13.66

* Non Tobacco-User Rates

LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

\$1,000, \$10,000, \$15,000, \$20,000, \$25,000, \$110,000, \$160,000 or \$260,000

BENEFICIARY

Your primary beneficiary will be eligible for an immediate death benefit of up to \$25,000 within 24 hours of notification. This benefit is designed to help with the immediate expenses surrounding the death of a member.

DEPENDENT COVERAGE

Coverage	Monthly Premium
\$5,000	\$3.66
\$10,000	\$6.66

All Active Utah National Guard members receive \$1,000 of coverage plus up to \$260,000 optional life insurance benefits and dependent coverage

Provided under this program is \$1,000 of coverage, to all active members of the Utah National Guard. In addition, \$10,000 of term life insurance may be applied for during your initial enrollment period without furnishing evidence of insurability. Coverages in excess of \$10,000, as well as coverage applied for after your initial enrollment period, are subject to evidence of insurability.

PLAN FEATURES

- No war clause
- No aviation clause
- No terrorism clause
- No overseas clause
- No Hazardous-Duty or Civilian-Occupation Restriction
- Premium deducted directly from drill pay
- Group coverage available until age 70
- Coverage and premium remains the same when member leaves the National Guard

To obtain more information or to schedule a unit briefing please call

1-800-462-7441

Casey Mears Earns Frequent-Flyer Miles with the Utah Guard

Story and photos by Shad West

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Casey Mears, driver of the #25 National Guard-sponsored car on the NASCAR circuit, swapped his driver's suit emblazoned with patches of the team's sponsors for a personalized, olive-drab flight suit during a recent visit to Utah.

Hosted by the Utah National Guard, Mears and members of the National Guard/GMAC Chevrolet team spent the afternoon Mar. 8 at Camp Williams. Members of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) practiced with Mears and his crew on various weapons used by Utah Guard members.

Three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and their crews from the 211th Aviation met the Hendricks

#25 NASCAR Driver Casey Mears revs the engine of the National Guard car for fans at the raceway.



Racing Team jet at the Salt Lake International Airport. The choppers transported the team and a FOX Sports crew to Camp Williams for the weapons training.

After firing on the line, Mears boarded an AH-64 Apache helicopter for the 20-minute ride to nearby Miller Motorsports Park in Tooele, where he greeted fans and spoke with local media.

At the raceway Mears gave lucky fans memorabilia and coveted tickets to his next race in Las Vegas.

"I just had the ride of my life," said Mears, addressing 100 or so fans after landing at the Miller Motorsports Park helipad.

After starting the Guard car and revving the engine for fans, Mears boarded another Blackhawk bound for the airport where he met up with the rest of his crew.

Just before his team departed Salt Lake City for Las Vegas, Guard officials presented Mears with a birthday cake topped with a camouflage tank.

Mears was visibly touched by the cake and the day's events.

"It was the thrill of a lifetime," he said. 

Military Wives and Mothers Honor Event

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he second annual Military Wives and Mothers Honor Event was held May 18 at the Utah Air National Guard dining facility. Brig. Gen. Scott Harrison wel-

comed those in attendance and gave words of support to women whose husbands or children are deployed.

This event was a way for community members to show their support and say thank you to those left behind while Guard members are deployed. It was hosted by the Women's Republican Club of Salt Lake City and was the inspiration of club president Patty Johnson.

"Many businesses and citizens across our great State were more than happy to show their support with beautiful donated gifts for these women to enjoy," said Johnson. "We just want to show our appreciation and thanks to these women for their sacrifice and patriotism. Some feel they are so alone, and we don't want them to feel they are forgotten."

Those in attendance felt it was an honor to be among these great women who quietly serve at home while their loved ones are away. Many hearts were touched as those who have sacrificed the most felt supported, appreciated, comforted and definitely NOT FORGOTTEN!

Every military wife or mother in attendance was truly honored. They received a person thank-you card at dinner along with a basket full of heart-felt gifts donated by the community. Finally, they also received a DVD set to music with pictures of our Utah Service members currently deployed. 📺



LEFT: SrA Andrew Howells begins the evening by singing the National Anthem; Brig. Gen. Scott Harrison welcomes those in attendance and gives words of support to loved ones whose husbands or children are deployed. BELOW: Mothers, wives, guests and dignitaries enjoy an evening together at the second annual Military Wives and Mothers Honor Event. RIGHT: The keynote speakers COL Jefferson Burton and his wife Charn, attend the event with their daughter and his mother. ABOVE: Beautiful baskets filled with gifts donated from the community were given to the women to say thank you for their sacrifice.



Wendy Jones, Women's Republican Club Committee Member wrote and read her poem for the event.

To My Sister:

We have never met, yet I know you are my sister.

Who else would be willing to sacrifice so much for me?

You have been willing to share with me the most precious thing you have:
your son, your daughter, your husband.

You have let them go, without complaint,
because you knew they needed to.

You let them go, even though many people say they are wrong to go.

You let them go, knowing they may not come back.

Or when they come back, they may not be the same as when
you sent them.

You've spent many nights in prayer and in tears,
not knowing, wondering if they are okay.

You've spent many days caring for those they left behind.

You've spent many hours holding hands and crying
with those who are also my sisters,
sharing an understanding that only those
who make this sacrifice can know.

So I say to you, my sister, "Thank you."

These are two small words and they can never repay the debt
I owe to you.

Because of you and your sacrifice,

I can put my children to bed at night knowing they are a little safer.

Because of you and your sacrifice,

I can worship at the church of my choice.

Because of you and your sacrifice,

I can stand, put my hand on my heart, and pledge allegiance to my flag.

Because of you and your sacrifice, I am free.

So to you my sister, with all my love and admiration I say again,
"Thank you."

For you truly are my sister.

A R M Y P R

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

Clark, Jay Lamont
Jones, Kenneth Scott
Wester, John Alarik Jr

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

Bullock, Michael Timothy
Erickson, William Michael
Grant, Robert Troy
Johnson, Randall Frank
Pluim, Michael Philip
Sackett, Byra G
Salazar, Fabian

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Bowden, Paul Erich
Frehner, Randall Rex
Petersen, Craig Lynn

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Ahlborn, Evan Scott
Brady, Kevin Kenneth
Cade, Dennis James
Coleman, Patrick James
Ingledew, Robert Wayne
Smith, Brett Jay

MAJOR GENERAL

Wilson, Patrick Duane

COLONEL

Schmidt, Lawrence Alan

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Grimmett, Joseph Kent
Hewett, Kimball Alan
Miller, Joel Vincent
Norris, David Michael
Norton, Michael Jerry
Snow, Jason Bean
Stevens, Steve Gary
Wright, Karl Larry

MAJOR

Bruce, Jeffrey Allen
Jacketta, Brian Dale
Turley, Michael James
White, Gerald Richard

CAPTAIN

Adamson, Toby Paul
Black, Lyle Burton
Blackhurst, Ryan Fraser
Chalmers, Scott Alan
Coe, Charity Oaks
Crosby, Lee Roderick
Jones, David Heber
Kjar, Michael Dale
Kolowich, Adam John
Lord, Ron Kenneth
Manwaring, Tammy Ellen
Orellana, Edward Andre
Owens, Andrew James
Rampton, Rhett Darren
Smith, Christopher Lynn
Wilson, Bradley James
Wolff, Vincent Patrick

LIEUTENANT

Biesinger, William Kunze
Day, Shane Draper

Fullmer, Jeffrey Darrell
Hanks, Samuel Reed
Heightman, Robert Jason
Kuhni, Matthew Scott
Mair, Garrett Don
Morris, Brandon Jay
Neff, Chamberlin Wayne III
Scott, Peter Taylor
Seegmiller, Jason Stan
Zaugg, Ryan Neil

SERGEANT MAJOR

Brewer, Kent Douglas Jr
Cady, Michael Given
Cartwright, Tracy Frank
Olson, Arthur Lee

FIRST SERGEANT

Josie, Ryan Karsten
Morse, Walter Lavern

MASTER SERGEANT

Davis, Robert Dean
Dunston, Alfred Michael
Heindel, Hugh Walter
Josie, Troy Raystan
Justet, Troy Dee
Kumangai, Masato Frank Jr
Mellor, Neil Ray
Nish, David Michael
Tanner, Kim
Wilkinson, William Bradford

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Barrow, Shane Clyde
Beall, Samuel Benjamin
Brusik, Richard Michael
Burr, Glen William
Capasso, Louis Horuff
Cox, Rodney Roy
Gurney, Scot Earl
Haggerty, William Nelson
Hansen, Micah Shane
Hathaway, Robert Daniel
Heywood, Erick Michael John
Hutchings, Jefferson Maxwell
Jensen, Lance Martial
Kluse, John Robert
Madsen, David Troy
Nagle, Christopher Leon
Olsen, Christopher Kay
Orton, Troy Kenneth
Porritt, Budge Thomas III
Pratt, John Elijah
Smith, Tyler Leigh
Spencer, Leon D
Stewart, Nathan Leo
Wade, K Andrew
Whitcote, Garrett H
Whimpey, Richard Alvin
Wilcox, Gary Russell

STAFF SERGEANT

Allred, Don Mel
Ancira, Yauncy Konrad
Anderson, Rawlin Daniel
Anderson, Riley Andrew
Antonio, Jacinta
Avery, Brice Allen
Backus, Lee
Begay, Glenn Allen Jr

Berry, Matthew Michael
Black, Ken Ezra
Bown, Jay Stephan
Boyle, Kylie Thomas
Burningham, Beau Forrest
Canto, Tony Afton
Carlson, James Robert
Chesley, Justin Matthew
Chicas, Baltazar Ernesto
Christensen, Benjamin Rex
Christensen, Cole R
Conde, Victor Manuel
Conder, Brandon Craig
Cowan, Shay Gordon
Curtis, Bradley Alan
Davis, Donald Edward
Day, Coty B
Devine, Lance Erin
Dickinson, Gordon Paul
Donovan, James Patrick
Farmer, Bjorn Lewis
Farnsworth, Gabriel Turn
Faulkner, Jason Matthew
Gallagher, Timothy Scott
Gentry, Dwayne Russell
Gifford, Darren Lloyd
Graves, Joseph Michael Jr
Greenhill, James Giffard
Grimshaw, William R
Gubler, Clarence Terry
Harrison, Brett Williams
Hatch, Jeramie Howard
Heath, Brett Curtis
Hill, Robert
Hoskins, Jeffery Bert
Howard, Jeffrey Jay
Ikerd, Seth Mcburnett
Jack, James Michael
Jackson, Bret Walter
Jackson, Jared Kent
Jensen, Jeff Conrad
Jensen, Richard Alan
Jones, Jeffrey Wayne
Jones, Paul Michael
Josie, Karsten Michael
Lalliss, Scott Wesley
Lewis, Corey Reese
Logan, James Eric
Maloy, Shauncy Gilbert
Mcdonald, Brady Demille
Mickelson, Derek Scott
Miller, Trenton Dee
Mitchell, Isaiah John
Moser, Ryan Arthur
Moulton, Bradley William
Moulton, Bryan Richard
Nelson, Justin Scott
Nemeschy, Martin Andrew
Olson, Justin Charles
Peck, Shalee L
Peterson, Darik Kendall
Rogerson, Jennifer
Rowe, Alan Frank
Schultz, Michael David
Shurtleff, Daniel William
Simpson, Bric Dee
Smith, Douglas Scott
Sorensen, Kenneth Ray
Spence, Nathan Robert
Stark, Michael Sean
Sutton, David Campbell
Taylor, William Allen II

Tippetts, Chase
Vervalen, Dale Lee
Walker, Philip Richard
Wheeler, Dustin J
White, Heather Noel
Whitney, George Phillip Jr
Yohanna, Joseph
Zeigle, Ian J

SERGEANT

Abrams, Joshua Michael
Allred, Russell Gene
Amosa, Asomoe Leafé
Anderson, Justin Karl
Anderson, Michael Gordon
Andrus, Clinton Blaine
Babcock, Jarod Terry
Bair, Stephen Glenn
Balboa, Nonito Niere
Barlow, Robert Leonard
Baron, Kevin Demar Jr
Bawden, David Brian
Bentley, Christopher Michael
Black, Matthew Kimball
Bonzo, Aaron James
Bourgeois, Jess Wade
Bowman, Stephen Austin
Boyle, Jonpaul Christopher
Branam, Steven Clinton
Brimley, Cameron J
Brizzi, David Lee
Broadhead, Randall Dean
Butler, Travis Jon
Caldwell, Larry Lee
Campos, Nelson Saul
Carroll, Matthew J
Chapman, Brent David
Chapman, Bryan Douglas
Christensen, Tyler Mark
Christiansen, Kenneth Jayde
Clark, Steven Michael Dennis
Coffman, Jarrod Noel
Colledge, Jake L
Cornwell, Brian John
Countryman, Phillip Glenn
Crookston, Alan Ted
Cunningham, Celeste
Curwen, Mitchell H
Davis, Joshua Paul
Day, Tiffinie Michelle
Dickinson, Nicholas Lloyd
Eaton, Christopher Lee
Fairhurst, Timothy David
Felt, Matthew David
Finn, James Cole
Frandsen, Bernard Howard
Fullmer, Billy Mack
Futch, Michael Adam
Gearhart, Gregory Clark
Guerreiro, David Pablo
Gurtisen, Bo Vincent
Haag, Robert Alexanderfranci
Halsey, Michael Lynn
Hansen, Nicholas Richard
Harmon, Joshua Lee
Harmon, Leisly
Harrington, Ronald Scott
Harris, Wayne Robert
Hicks, Kyle Lewis
Hinton, David Rymalireland
Hunt, Steven Clawson
Hyde, Zachary Ryan

Jense, Gary Wilson
Johansen, Sara Lee
Jones, Christopher Forrest
Jonte, Harry Robert II
Judd, Bradley Tebbs
Kirkham, Russell Shawn
Kirts, William Christopher
Knudsen, Sean Nielson
Lake, Dustin J
Langi, Afe Uoleva
Langi, William Earl
Larsen, Christian Lyal
Larsen, Kip Henrie
Lawrence, John Gordon
Lazenby, Rory David
Levon, Jesse David
Lewis, Joshua James
Liljenquist, Nathan William
Lovell, Dixon James
Lund, Erick Jordan
Lyman, Trent Jared
Matheson, David Cleve
Mayer, Seth Lynn
Mecham, Benjamin Wallace
Medley, John David
Meryhew, Cody Jacob
Meryhew, Steven Clay
Metzger, Jody Marie
Miller, Douglas Allen
Mount, Robert Stanford
Murley, Michael Gene
Nelson, Jacob Jeffery
Olschewski, Jonathan Lingner
Oswald, Braeden James
Pannell, Lucas James
Parry, Stewart
Parson, Christopher Bickmore
Pellegrin, Joshua Aaron
Perkins, Bryan Joseph
Petersen, Lonnie J
Peterson, Shawn Reber
Quarnberg, Jeffery Warren
Sandberg, Mathew Scott
Santiago, Emmanuel Calo
Saunders, Samuel Ray
Scarlett, Robert
Shepherd, Camille
Skelton, Gregory William
Slaughter, Aaron Douglas
Smith, Jeremy Clarence
Sorensen, Robby Wintyen
Spencer, Aaron James
Steck, Michael Scott
Stevens, Jill Katherine
Stevenson, Justin Val
Stewart, Steven Wade
Strange, Daniel Joseph
Tallman, Julius Sr
Thacker, Mark Kevin
Thatcher, Christopher Dougl
Toivonen, Paul Ryan
Tsuya, Oliver Isamu
Vigil, Allan Raymond
Webb, Shannon Eugene
Webber, Joseph Johnson
Weber, Joseph Clyde
Welcker, Martin Wade
Westover, Chad Kevin
Whitaker, Jordan Bryan
Wilcox, Zachary Brooks
Willardson, Brady Lynn
Winder, Joshua Logan

O M O T I O N S

Workman, Lucas Leonard
Yon, Jeffry Clayton Edward
Yosino, Riang
Young, Bradley Darrell

SPECIALIST

Albright, Alan Earl Jr
Allen, Michael Leer
Anderson, Bryce Timothy
Argyle, Matthew Robert
Asberry, Joshua J
Astle, Kirstin Leigh
Belcher, Alan David
Blackham, Jessie Lee
Blankenstein, Cory John
Brady, Danielle Noel
Brakke, David Eugene
Brown, Melissa Jean
Burgess, Christopher Michael
Calton, Joshua Legrand
Canfield, Coby Jay
Carter, Charles Tyson
Chard, Nicholas Kent
Comte, Todd Lyle
Cummins, Samantha Brooke
Dahl, Tyler Adams
Domine, Anthony Vincent
Doxstader, Brayton Thomas
Draper, Clint J
Dyreg, Travis Paul
Evans, Andrew Lance
Evans, Nathan Michael
Farnsworth, Ammon John
Felshaw, Robert Daniel
Fleshman, Jason Hunjun
Flitton, Daniel David
Ford, Tyman Taylor
Foster, Byron Holth
Fratto, Gregory Wayne
Fredrickson, Daniel Moroni
Gardner, Howard Paul
Gilbert, Daniel Lance
Goold, Stanley Mark
Hallman, Daniel Lee
Harr, Stephen Claudious
Hart, Adam Jacob
Hastings, David Daniels
Heise, Julio Estuardo
Hess, Matthew Jon
Hill, Tyler John
Hinson, Frank Keller
Hunter, Jonathan Daniel
Hurst, Shaney Alan
Hutchings, Derek Quey
Jacobs, Timothy Ted Paul
Jacquier, James Delaville
Jenkins, Brittan Armin
Jensen, Erick J
Jensen, Jorgan Eric
Johnson, Skylar Markay
Juarez, Sterling Koa Kamala
Keel, Benjamin Charles
Knudsen, Tiffany Ann
Kuhlman, Donald Wayne
Lambe, Christopher Jason
Linger, Michael Andrew
Mantz, Albert Paul IV
May, Zebula Hap
Medina, Martin
Miller, Daniel Arthur
Miller, Laramie Rachel
Nebecker, Aaron Zachariah

Nielson, Joshua Casey
Nielson, Matthew Charles
Nilsson, Jeffers Torrey
Okeef, Daniel Glen
Olson, Clay Emery
Palmer, Jesse Colt
Powell, Weston James
Prisbrey, Matthew Dennis
Puailoa, Leataata Opulematum
Reid, Seth Douglas
Reynolds, Brian Charles
Ricks, Peter Ian
Rivera, Lindsay Williams
Rondas, Robert Jeffery
Rosenberger, Daniel Caleb
Roundy, Levi Ellis
Ryan, Jason Daniel
Sanchez, Eduardo
Scarlet, Martin Eli
Seglund, Erik Ragnor
Serrano, Christopher Lewis
Shakespear, Colton Preston
Shillig, Jacob Thomas
Skinner, Christopher Blake
Smart, Benjamin Scott
Smith, Ryan Lee
Snouffer, David Alan
Sorensen, Daniel Jay
Starr, Danielle Nicole
Stratton, James Robert
Tateishi, Mike Lee
Tela, Christina
Thompson, Melissa Ann
Thornley, Michael Newell
Thurston, Kelly Christopher
Torgerson, Chad Heber
Tueller, Daniel Jay
Valentine, Aaron Gregory
Villamil, Bon Benedict Valer
Vreeland, Mitchell Dale
Ward, Chistapher Vincent
Ward, Valerie Desiree
Welch, Jedidias Jeremiah Mar
Whitaker, Bryan Ray
White, Justin Keith
White, Kristofor Lee
White, Michael Alma
Williams, Dale Alan
Wood, Joshua Steven
Wright, Shay
Young, Celeste Rache

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Adams, Joseph Malcolm
Adams, Kenneth Thomas II
Adams, Matthew Brady
Alder, Gerrit Hans
Applegate, Tyrone Jason
Artalejo, Jose Maria
Baer, Karl Dean
Barlow, Aja Desiree
Barnett, Jeremiah Michael
Barney, Trevor David
Barton, Cortny Marie
Bond, Shad R
Bowers, Jeremy C
Bowler, Jonathon W
Boyd, Jessica Bea
Boyer, Robert Darel
Boyer, Travis Lee
Bradford, Curtiss Bevan
Brennan, Jeremiah Paul

Brice, Justin James
Brinkman, Zachary Scott
Browning, Benjamin David
Buck, Nathan Allan
Bunnell, Sye James
Burningham, Eli Andrew
Burt, Steven Noel
Burton, Brandon Palmer
Butler, Geordie Bruce
Camp, Michael Patrick
Carson, Chad C
Carter, Thomas Spencer
Chapel, Crystal Jean
Christensen, Kyle Zane
Christensen, Richard James
Clarkson, Kyle Patrick
Cooper, Milton Louis
Cordova, Ruben Kaid
Covello, John Michal
Coville, Alexander S
Crofts, Jonathan Lawrence
Curtis, John Riley
Dahl, Justin Clint
Darelli, Michael Andres
Davis, Erin Dee
Davis, Layne Lewis
Dawson, Chelsy Lynn
Dayzie, Michael Tisi
Denny, Waynette Wenona
Diamond, Joshua Craig
Durfee, Jesse Jay
Ebmeyer, David J
Eck, Albert Jared
Eisenberger, Stuart Eugene
Ellington, Joshua Sean
Ellsworth, Adam Reed
Englestead, John Curtis
Felt, Ryan Colby
Ferguson, Ryan Banner
Ferrell, Jordon Michael
Finnegan, Brandon Michial
Forsberg, Jared Daniel
Forsgren, Samuel Robert
Fugal, Eric P
Gardner, Brent Lee
Garrido, Jonathanjames Castr
Godfrey, Jonathon Darrell
Gonzales, Victor Ray
Green, Kerry Wesley
Guindon, Joseph Edward Jr
Hadlock, Brian Patrick
Hammond, Merrill Brian
Hansen, Benjamin Franklin
Hansen, Jerod Willford
Harbin, Caleb Robertson
Hatch, Kansas
Hawkes, Shawn Nickolaus
Healey, Joshua David
Hendricks, Somsak
Henrie, Patrick Smith
Hepworth, Dylan Wayne
Herzog, Jeffery Allen
Hess, Robert Morgan
Hippach, Stephanie Glenn
Hopkins, Alexandra Joy
Howell, Sterling Thomas
Hull, Joseph Brian
Hurley, Steven Jay
Husbands, Krystal Diann
Hyer, Trisha Renee
Isakson, Allen Wayne
Issa, Brandon Tyler

Jameson, Devin Loren
Jeppson, Holton Bruce
Johnson, Travis Jay
Johnson, Tyler Aaron
Jones, Derrick Oliver
Juarez, Chad Kenneth
Keller, Justin Greg
Keyte, Sky Lowell
Krueger, Robert James
Lai, Jay Arthur
Lambert, Andre William
Landies, Cameron David
Langston, Jordan Travis
Lanier, Jared Wright
Larsen, Peter Kip
Lay, Cressston David
Leber, Audrey Lea
Lee, Abraham Lucien
Mack, Stephen Andrew
Madsen, Timothy Lewis
Mansfield, Christopher James
Matyas, Kristopher John
May, Christina Marie
Mayne, Jacob Roy
Mccamey, Cathy Larene
Mcgray, Matthew Nmn
Mckay, Benson Reed
Mcleod, Brodie Jay
Mcmullan, David Emanuel
Mendoza, Abel Jesus
Miller, Michael Wayne
Miller, Tyler John
Moore, Cody James
Munguia, Aseret
Naranjo, Christopher Michael
Neto, Alberto Nahid
Newkirk, Justin Dewayne
Nichols, Eric Spencer
Nyman, Timothy Daniel
Ochsenbein, Landon John
Ohngren, Jeffrey Ross
Olson, Amber Elizabeth
Orton, Justin Mack
Ostler, Phillip Eric Earl
Overson, Tyler Joseph
Packer, Gary Lynn Betsill
Palmer, David Jr
Paul, Joshua Jay
Perez, Nina Michelle
Perry, Jacob Michael
Peterson, Justin Peter
Peterson, Kelly Orion
Phillips, Major Victor
Piep, Dustin Lynn-Tate
Pingel, Aaron Michael
Platt, Brendon Treavis
Poppitz, Kyle Andrew
Poulsen, Jay R II
Privett, Jami Robert
Ramirez, Jessie David
Randle, Ramie K
Reeder, Anthony David
Revy, Brannan Iver
Rhees, Austin Robert
Robertson, Mark Steven II
Robinson, Scott Wayne
Rutka, Erica Carmen
Samek, Joseph Marcus
Sandoval, Alberto Javier
Sanford, Jordan David
Santana, Jonathan Randall
Sehy, Christopher Corey

Shiner, Jesse Hughes
Sillitoe, Derek Phillip
Smith, Casey Morgan
Smith, Edwin Stephen Robert
Smith, Jeremy Tsselbah
Smith, Justin Carl
Smith, Rebecca Marie
Smith, Shawn Kelly
Snell, Jaren Hansen
Sparks, Brian Ellery
Sprouse, Tisha Lee
Stapp, Zakary Evan
Stocks, Joshua Jack
Taylor, Jesse Daniel
Taylor, Preston Alex
Taylor, Rodger Alan Jr
Thomas, Travis Warmoth
Thompson, Colby Brandt
Thorne, Brandon Paul
Troyer, Justin Daniel
Verwer, Justin Scott
Wack, Cody Clark
Walker, Caden Clark
Walker, Jeffrey Tyler
Whitaker, Mark Philip
Wilberger, Rose Mari
Williams, Thomas Kent
Winsor, George Zachery
Wood, Daniel Adam
Wynn, Trista Nicole
Young, Nelson Tyler

PRIVATE

Alvarado, Anthony Craig
Andersen, Brandy Jo
Archuleta, Logan Benjamin
Baxter, Thomas Leigh
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