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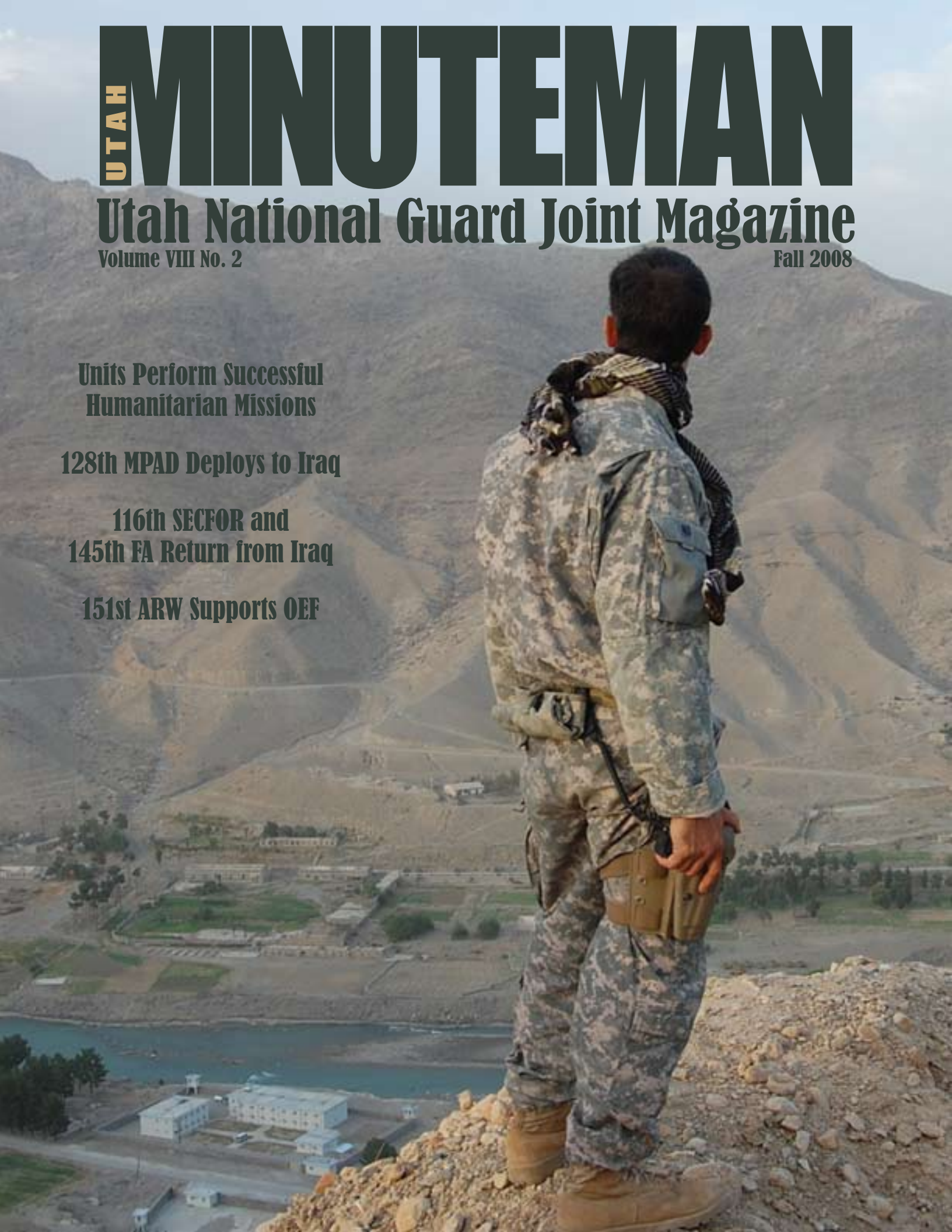

Units Perform Successful Humanitarian Missions

128th MPAD Deploys to Iraq

116th SECFOR and 145th FA Return from Iraq

151st ARW Supports OEF

Soldiers From the 1-145th Field Artillery Deliver Gifts to Iraqi Children

The Adjutant General's Corner

Photo by Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet

By MG Brian Tarbet

DRAPER, Utah — Command Sergeant Major Summers and I just returned from my ninth trip to the Middle East during the Global War on Terrorism. It was a great opportunity for both of us to visit many of our Soldiers and Airmen who are currently deployed.

At the present time there are approximately 600 members of the Utah National Guard serving around the world. They serve with distinction and devotion and are making vital contributions to our national defense. Their service often comes at great personal and professional cost, and most assuredly poses great challenges to their families. I am grateful to them all.

We had the opportunity to visit the MPAD and the balance of the SECFOR in Baghdad, and then met with Soldiers of the 2/211th Aviation at Camp Buehring in Kuwait and with over 20 Airmen at Ali Al Salim, also in Kuwait. These members of our ranks have played a vital role in the evident progress we see today in Iraq.

We then traveled on to Afghanistan. At Bagram Air Force Base, we met with the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, consisting of virtually all human-intelligence professionals from the 300th MI Brigade, augmented by Guardsmen from other states as well as the Inactive Ready Reserve. Also working as an integral part of the Battalion are numerous signal intelligence-trained personnel.

The Embedded Training Team, consisting of 16 senior officers and Soldiers, train and mentor the Afghan National Army. All of these dedicated Soldiers are serving in a harsh and violent land, contending with a determined and fanatical enemy.

We have just welcomed home the 151st Air Refueling Wing from its record-setting deployment to Manas AFB in Kyrgyzstan. The Wing performed tremendously over a nearly two-month period and played a key role in the air operations over Afghanistan.

On this trip, as well as the previous eight, I was humbled and gratified by what I observed. In talking with hundreds of Soldiers and Airmen, I heard and saw dozens of examples of service and sacrifice that represent the best of what it takes to be a Citizen-Soldier and Airman. I cannot understate the danger and difficulty. These countries pose challenges that will take years to stabilize. Our Soldiers and Airmen are the best of the best and their accomplishments are remarkable.

CPT Robert Middleton, MAJ Christopher Warner, MAJ Tyler Smith, MG Brian Tarbet, CSM Bruce Summers, MAJ Christopher Filoso, CSM Lane Wayment, LTC Derek Tolman at Camp Blackhorse, Afgahanistan. Middleton, Warner, Smith, and Filoso are with the Embedded Training Team. Wayment and Tolman are with the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion. Photo courtesy of CSM Bruce Summers

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Commander 128th MPAD
MAJ Lorraine Januzelli

Cover Photo - CPT Bruce Roberts, Utah National Guard Embedded Training Team, surveys the view from a hilltop in Kapicia Province.
Photo by MC1 Shawn Graham

Inside Cover Photos: Members of the 1-145th Field Artillery distribute gifts to children in Iraq.
Photos courtesy of the 1-145th Field Artillery

Back Cover: SPC Jeremy Whipple competes at the National Guard Best Warrior Competition to determine the Soldier and NCOs of the Year at Fort Benning, Ga.
Photos by 2LT Ryan Sutherland

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

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Unit public affairs representatives have been trained to work with members of the Public Affairs Office to achieve the best possible coverage. For coverage of major events of statewide significance, contact LTC Hank McIntire at (801) 432-4407 or Ileen Kennedy at (801) 432-4229.

Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — As we approach the seventh anniversary of the events of September 11, I am reminded of the sacrifices our Soldiers, Airmen and families have been asked to make on behalf of our fellow citizens in this great country and our State. Our formations have served around the world in many different tasks and have been instrumental in the fight on terrorism. We have lost some great individuals who were taken from us before their time, and the world is a lesser place because of it.

Major General Tarbet and I had the privilege of visiting some of our deployed Soldiers and Airmen in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. They are accomplishing many different missions and all are doing a great job in a harsh environment. We are very proud of the contributions these fine Soldiers and Airmen bring to the fight.

The 128th MPAD is serving in Iraq and is telling the story of Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division. This unit is made up of Utah and Colorado Soldiers. They have come together as one unit and are doing many great and wonderful things.

The remaining Soldiers who chose to extend from the 116th SECFOR Company are now in Bagdad in the Green Zone and are providing security for VIPs during their movements around the country. Their higher command is an Arkansas unit, and they cannot say enough about the great job these young Soldiers are doing in a stressful environment.

Task Force Ghost Rider is also a mixed unit from Utah and New Jersey that make up the 2-211th GSAB. They are serving in Kuwait and also doing a great job in a very hot and miserable environment. We also had the opportunity to see the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron working out of Ali Al Salen Air Base.

Photo by Greg Cullis

Bruce D. Summers
Command Sergeant Major, Utah Army National Guard

The 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Task Force Wasatch, is at Bagram Air Base gathering intel in many ways and making great contributions to the fight in Afghanistan.

We also visited the Embedded Training Team (ETT) which is making large contributions with the Afghan National Army.

It didn't matter where we went or what unit we visited, all of our Soldiers and Airmen were working hard and making us and their families proud of their service.

I would also like to welcome home the 116th SECFOR Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, and the 151st Air Refueling Wing from their very successful deployments and thank them and their families for their great service and sacrifice.

I am very proud to serve with some of the greatest individuals that the State of Utah has to offer. You are members of a very small club and do many things no other individual wants to do or can do.

We are working in a very fast-paced environment with many units in the process of transformation. The face of the Utah National Guard is changing and will continue to change in the future. We have a need of quality NCOs who can adapt to the changing units but still understand the need to enforce the discipline and standards that set us apart and make us the great organization that we are.

We would not be able to accomplish any of these things without the support of the families. They are the ones who really have the hardest job. Every time I attend an event and watch the families of deployed service members I am in awe of the sacrifice they bear. We cannot thank them enough.

Left to right: SPC Michael Allen, SSG Lonnie Jorgensen, CSM Bruce Summers, MG Brian Tarbet, SPC Cody Wilkes, and 2LT Brent Taylor. MG Tarbet and CSM Summers visited with members of the 116th SECFOR in Baghdad, Iraq.
Photo courtesy of CSM Bruce Summers

116th SECFOR Soldiers Return From Iraq

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — Enthusiastic shouts of joy erupted at the Salt Lake Air Base as approximately 140 Soldiers of the 116th Convoy Security Company (SECFOR) returned home April 16 after serving in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Some 28 members of the unit elected to stay behind, extending their security tour a little longer.

The unit deployed in May 2007 to provide daily convoy-security operations all across Northern Iraq for Coalition forces. The 116th logged well over a quarter of a million miles in securing convoys and delivering critical logistics support over an area approximately the size of Pennsylvania.

The Purple Heart was awarded to five SECFOR Soldiers for injuries they received as a result of Improvised Explosive Device attacks on various convoys in August 2007: SSG Gordon Shute, of Orem; SSG Justin Olson, of Clearfield; CPL Wesley Gale, of Richfield; SPC Brian Jenkins, of Ephraim; and SPC Zachary Rinck, of Taylorsville. The awards were presented in Iraq during three different awards ceremonies held in February 2008 for their outstanding service.

Although the mission of the SECFOR was extremely dangerous, Soldiers have been very successful at counter-IED operations.

"I'm just extremely thankful to be serving with the caliber of Soldiers we have here. It's an honor to serve with such professional, reliable Soldiers who volunteered for this mission," said Shute.

In March, Soldiers from the SECFOR distributed thousands of dollars worth of humanitarian and educational supplies to two villages in Northern Iraq. The items were donated by individuals and businesses throughout Utah as part of the Feed Uncle SAM drive that took place between September and November 2007.

"I think this whole group of guys has done an incredible job," said Jana Hawkes, mother of SGT Jesse Stone. "We still have 28 [Soldiers] over there doing some other security."

A primary goal of the SECFOR's leadership is to bring all their Soldiers home better than when they departed.

"I worked with a couple of gentlemen from the community. They were really very intelligent and influential in my life," said SPC Justin Hoffman a Logan resident. "I'll be changed by them forever."

Life-changing experiences were not only for the Soldiers, but for their spouses and families as well.

"It was a tough experience, but I wouldn't change it. We all have grown," said Audrey Hoffman of her husband Justin's deployment. "You remember the important things in your life. Your priorities get adjusted. You realize what's more important than other things."

Other families had similar growing experiences.

"You grow because it forces you to be strong," said Mindy Hasson, of Springville, and wife of PFC Max Hasson. "The love and pride we felt in him helped us to grow as a family. I think we're stronger."

"The challenges we have gone through have helped us to grow closer as a couple," said Ann Sampson of her husband SGT Jason Sampson's deployment. "We have grown as a couple because of the things we have had to learn to do with being so far apart."

SGT Jesse Stone explained a little of his experience of serving in Iraq.

"You grow up pretty quick going out there," said Stone. "You learn a lot of things we have over here, how special they really are and how much people take them for granted and really appreciate what we have [when you] see what they have over there and it's nothing."

OPPOSITE PAGE: *Members of the 116th Convoy Security Company exit the plane ready to greet awaiting family and friends. Families of the Soldiers are elated as they see their Soldiers deplane.* PHOTOS TOP DOWN: *SGT Jesse Stone (left) with his family at the Salt Lake Air Base. PFC Max Hasson is greeted by his wife Mindy Hasson and their five-year-old daughter. SPC Justin Hoffman and his wife Audrey and their two children are happily reunited after his deployment.*

Utah Guard Soldiers Awarded Silver, Bronze Stars for Valor

By LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — "Bittersweet."

That's how 1LT Tyler J. Jensen, 19th Special Forces Group, of Provo, summed up his feelings June 19 about receiving the first Silver Star awarded to a member of the Utah National Guard in decades.

"In many ways it's a wonderful honor, but in others it's really hard," said Jensen at the ceremony. "So many of my fallen friends and Soldiers are not here."

One of those friends and Soldiers absent was 2LT Scott B. Lundell, who served with Jensen in Afghanistan. Lundell died in a firefight with enemy forces in November 2006.

Jensen, Lundell and another officer, CPT Chad A. Pledger, of North Ogden, all deployed together to Afghanistan in 2006-2007 with the Utah Guard's I Corps Artillery to be trainers and mentors to members of the Afghan National Army.

1LT Tyler Jensen, left, 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, receives the Silver Star from Governor Jon Huntsman.

On Jan. 27, 2007, Jensen was on a combat reconnaissance patrol when his unit was ambushed by an estimated 100 enemy forces in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan. In the confusion, the Afghanis in the patrol were cut off from nearly all their American counterparts and the frightened Afghani officer in charge fled.

Instinctively filling the void, Jensen stepped in, took charge and led the patrol, under enemy fire, to rejoin the Americans. Then when another U.S. Soldier took a small-arms round in the leg, Jensen risked his own personal safety to rescue him.

"First Lieutenant Jensen repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to save a fellow Soldier who was wounded," read the award citation. "His courage, superlative combat skills and tactical leadership under overwhelming direct enemy fire were instrumental in preventing the enemy from overrunning his patrol."

The Silver Star is awarded for "gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force," according to Army Regulation 600-8-22.

(Above) The Silver Star awarded to 1LT Tyler Jensen .
(Right) 1LT Tyler Jensen applauds as MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general, concludes his remarks.

The decoration is the third-highest medal for valor, after the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross.

It is the first Silver Star awarded to a member of the Utah National Guard in recent memory, to include Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm.

On the front row at the ceremony was Jensen's friend Pledger. But he was not there as an observer; rather, he was also to be decorated, receiving the Bronze Star with "V" device for "exceptional gallantry and valor in the face of a determined enemy" for his actions Nov. 26, 2006.

As described on the certificate signed by Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, "Pledger's temerity and skill resulted in an effective counterattack against an entrenched enemy ambush that not only saved the lives of numerous . . Soldiers, but also enabled the recovery of a U.S. casualty."

Ironically, that casualty was Pledger and Jensen's buddy, Lundell. His widow, Jeanine, a close friend of Jensen and Pledger's wives, was on hand to see Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., pin the awards on her husband's best friends.

Each speaker at the ceremony spoke tenderly of Lundell and his wife Jeanine, as well as the sacrifice of family members when their Soldiers answer their Nation's call.

"It's [for] all the Lundells out there who have served respectably and honorably," said Pledger, modestly acknowledging his decoration for valor. "[It's for] all the ones who keep our Nation secure."

Huntsman, who happened to be in Afghanistan visiting Utah Soldiers when Lundell was killed, spoke of the memorial service he attended near Kabul to pay tribute to the fallen Soldier as "my most memorable event as governor."

"It is totally inadequate for [me] to stand up here after what we have just seen," Huntsman continued. "It's pretty cool to be a governor, but it's exceedingly cool to be able to pin on a Silver Star and a Bronze Star with Valor, knowing what that represents.

In his remarks, Utah National Guard adjutant general MG Brian L. Tarbet praised Jensen and Pledger for their courage.

"You are quiet, unassuming young men," said Tarbet. "Oh, how remarkable you are! And how you grace the uniform makes us all proud."

And to Jensen and Pledger's wives he added, "You are extraordinary examples to all of us. Jeanine Lundell is cut from the same cloth as you. She has the heart of the lion and is an extraordinary woman."

"Many go without recognition for their heroism," concluded Jensen in his comments during the ceremony. "To my wife, you are truly my hero. And to every wife or husband who has stayed back here defending the home flag, you are my hero."

"With such great heroes in my life," he added, "I would be completely ungrateful if I didn't serve."

Left to right: The Bronze Star with "V" device awarded to CPT Chad Pledger. Governor Jon Huntsman pins the Bronze Star on CPT Pledger.

Left to right: CPT Chad Pledger stands at attention as the Silver Star award citation is read for his friend, 1LT Tyler Jensen. CPT Pledger, left, salutes MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general.

85th CST Trains with First Responders

By 2LT Ryan Sutherland

Photos by PV2 Rebecca R. Hansen

MIDVALE and WEST VALLEY CITY, Utah — Combine the heat, HAZMAT gear, and the scope of the mission and the training doesn't get any hotter than this. The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) of the Utah National Guard conducted a three-day, joint-operations training exercise July 28-30 with local and regional first responders in the suburbs of Salt Lake City.

The 85th is a 22-person team comprised of both Army and Air Force personnel. Commander of the 85th, Lt. Col. Kevin Nuccitelli, stressed the importance this type of exercise gives to both the Guard and local responders.

"A lot of times we don't get the opportunity to train with such a large civilian emergency first-responder presence, so over the last year we've worked with several agencies, and we've been

able to apply those lessons learned and how to integrate the Civil Support Team into the civilian structure so that we can best support them."

The exercise began Monday evening, July 28, in Midvale as an isolated criminal event, and from there it turned into a HAZMAT situation.

"We were called in to assist because the first responders ran into some things that they weren't familiar with from a HAZMAT perspective," Nuccitelli explained.

The unknown substance turned out to be a type of WMD, and the 85th was able to collect samples and identify what it was.

As the 85th was wrapping up the incident in Midvale, there was an exercise scenario going on simultaneously at Rocky Mountain Raceway in West Valley City. The second venue was the site of a sendoff for Utah athletes heading to the Beijing Olympics with VIPs, thousands of spectators and other activities. The scenario developed into coordinated attacks in both Midvale and West Valley.

At the raceway the 85th encountered multiple devices that disseminated WMD, as well as improvised explosive devices.

As with any HAZMAT incident to which the CST might respond, the 85th worked closely with local jurisdictions in support of the on-scene incident commander, Murray Fire Chief Gill Rodriguez. He explained how important this type of training is to the local community.

"If anything did happen of this kind of magnitude, there's no way that anyone in the county could handle it on their own, so cooperation is imperative," said Rodriguez. "Working with the different fire agencies, we've done that before, but we lack in resources with both personnel and equipment for this type of event, so working with the CST is invaluable."

The 85th CST trains with the Nevada-based 92nd CST and local first responders at Rocky Mountain Raceway.

Nuccitelli finds the benefit of exercises like this comes with familiarizing yourself with the way local first responders do things and with flushing out unforeseen problems in advance of a real incident.

"Obviously we have so many different players here. We operate on different radio communications than they do, so the first challenge is being able to talk to them," he said.

"The second one," continued Nuccitelli, "is that this is such a large event that just trying to collect massive amounts of information that you get when an exercise starts is a challenge in itself. And then just trying to figure out what it all means, putting meaning behind some of the events and to trying to put all of the pieces together, you're playing detective while at the same time trying to help out the federal and local authorities."

Joining the 85th on this exercise was the 92nd CST from the Nevada National Guard. Commander of the 92nd, Lt Col Ed Locke, echoed Nuccitelli's emphasis on the importance of working together.

"Joint environments always have some challenges, and of course the main one is communications," he said. "You come from different backgrounds and different ways of doing things from around the country, but everybody knows their job, everybody's a professional, and it helps you work through those communication challenges."

"It's so critical in the CST world to know the skills of your surrounding teams and being able to not only know their capabilities and strengths, but how to come together and augment each other in the case of a real incident," added Locke.

128th MPAD Deploys to Baghdad

By 2LT Casey Staheli

DRAPER, Utah — As the sun rose on March 21, family and friends gathered with hugs and kisses at the Salt Lake International Airport to bid fond farewells to members of the Utah National Guard's 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. The MPAD will be stationed at Camp Victory in Baghdad, where they will be "telling the Army's story by telling the Soldiers story," said MAJ Lorraine Januzelli, commander of the MPAD.

Lieutenant Colonel James Brown, executive officer for 97th Troop Command, said the MPAD's job "is extremely essential" to the overall mission of the military because "they're the ones who bring back the stories that aren't being told. They'll show the successes that are never mentioned and the positive things that aren't being shown."

No doubt Soldiers, friends and family members will appreciate how the MPAD reports not only the news, but also the upbeat stories and activities rarely found in the mainstream media.

Consisting of print and broadcast sections, the MPAD plans on capturing stories "by embedding our Soldiers with those units that go outside the wire," where they'll be able to cover events "ranging from humanitarian aid to combat operations," said Januzelli.

While members of the unit understand the dangers they'll be facing, they all look forward to doing their job, which many expressed as the best job in the military.

As boarding time approached, families gathered together for one last embrace and one more soft-spoken word.

Specialist Douglas York, deploying for a second time, said this time was a lot harder. "My first time I didn't have any obligations; now I have a wife and child I leave behind."

But while he's sad to go and worries about them, he knows "extended family is there to help, support and take care of the ones I love."

Sandi Collett, whose saying goodbye to her husband SSG Kelly Collett, for a second time also said "relying on family first is the key."

Staff Sergeant Kelly Collett "felt more prepared this time," which allowed him to "spend as much time as possible with family," and he leaves with peace of mind, "knowing the more you can do before you leave the better off everyone will be when you're gone."

With some last remarks, MG Brian Tarbet Utah National Guard adjutant general, wanted to stress the importance of the units work in "reflecting what's going on in the life of Soldiers and what's happening in the war zone." Tarbet also took time to thank the families. "We appreciate the Soldiers and all they do, and we appreciate the families and all the sacrifices they make."

Members of the 128th MPAD say farewell to family and friends at the Draper Headquarters auditorium. MAJ Januzelli with family members at the Salt Lake International Airport. SPC Douglas York gives a goodbye kiss prior to boarding the plane. SSG Kelly Collett hugs his two kids goodbye. SGT Whit Houston entertains his son after the farewell ceremony for the 128th MPAD in Draper.

116th SECFOR Distributes Humanitarian Items Donated from Utah and Spreads Goodwill

Soldiers of the 116th unload supplies for a local school

Story by 1LT Brent Taylor

Photos by 1LT Cody Slaugh

AL QAYYARAH, Iraq — Soldiers from Utah's 116th Convoy Security Company (SECFOR) distributed thousands of dollars worth of humanitarian and educational supplies to two villages in Northern Iraq on March 15, 2008. The items were donated by individuals and businesses throughout Utah as part of the "Feed Uncle SAM" drive that took place between September and November last year.

Soldiers from the 116th partnered with an Army Civil Affairs team and with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to distribute the supplies to villages near their Forward Operating Base south of Mosul, Iraq. Lieutenant Brent Taylor, of North Ogden, commanded the distribution mission, with MSG Kim Tanner, of Paragonah, as the senior non-commissioned officer. Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Fogg, commander of the Alaska-based 17th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, was the senior officer.

The supplies came as a surprise to the villagers, who were not expecting the visit from the 116th. Upon arrival in the village of Qudeela, Taylor and Fogg visited with the local tribal sheik and with the village school headmaster to explain the purpose of their visit. Sheik Hamad and the headmaster gratefully accepted 10 large boxes of educational supplies, including notebooks, pencils, pens, paper and crayons. The headmaster thanked the 116th for the supplies and stated that there were sufficient supplies for at least six months in his school.

After unloading the educational supplies, Sheik Hamad invited Taylor and Fogg into his house for traditional Iraqi chai tea and to discuss the problems facing his village. After the friendly visit was over, the sheik oversaw the distribution of 40 boxes of humanitarian supplies to his people. Hundreds of excited Iraqis accepted the blankets, quilts, shoes, clothes, hygiene kits and food items donated by generous Utahans.

Next, the 116th moved to the village of Ankawa where

Getting there was half the fun. Heavy rains turned dirt trails into mud.

The 116th had to cross a pontoon bridge across the Tigris river.

they first delivered supplies to the local medical clinic. Clinic manager Idrees Abd Mohammad accepted five boxes with over $1,500 worth of various medical supplies, including splints, surgical instruments and bandages. Mohammad could not stop smiling as the donated items were placed in his clinic, and he repeatedly thanked the 116th for the donations. It was easy to see from the sparse appearance of the humble clinic that the donations were very much needed and would be much appreciated.

Afterwards, the local tribal Sheik Mohammad, invited Taylor and Fogg to his house for chai tea while 116th Soldiers unloaded other humanitarian supplies in the village square. Sheik Mohammad spoke to the officers about the problems facing his village and the difficulties his people faced. After tea and discussion, he oversaw the distribution of 40 boxes of humanitarian supplies and toys to his villagers.

The children of Ankawa excitedly gathered around Sheik Mohammad as he passed out dolls, stuffed animals and toy cars from Utahns. Meanwhile, their parents formed a separate line to receive shoes, clothes, food and hygiene items. The excitement was very apparent on everyone's face, as thousands of dollars worth of goods were donated to needy villagers.

Staff Sergeant Kenneth Davisson, of Preston, Idaho, said his favorite moment was when a young child ran up to the sheik's house with bare feet. Davisson searched through the shoes and found a perfect size for the boy and sent him on his way smiling with a brand-new pair of shoes on his feet.

"It was such a treat to be able to give this young boy a pair of shoes, since he didn't have any," said Davisson.

SPC Rosenburger carries boxes of supplies for donation.

MSG Tanner, Sheik Mohammed and 1LT Taylor

Sheik Hamad and 1LT Brent Taylor

The people of Qudeela smile and laugh while the 116th unloads their goods.

SPC Minton, SGT Davis, and SPC Graff with children of Ankawa.

Two Iraqi boys show off their new stuffed animals.

Soldiers from the 116th really enjoyed being able to participate in this mission, especially since the villagers were in such need of the goods.

Sergeant Leallen Blackhair, of Fort Duchesne, said, "It was a real good experience to see that the items we handed out were going directly to people who really needed them."

Also, there was a special Utah connection on this mission, since the donated items came from our state. Master Sergeant Tanner explained, "It was special for our Soldiers because we got to distribute the goods that Utahns had sent, and that made it more personal."

This mission "will go a long way towards improving the image of United States and Coalition forces in the area," explained Taylor. "Ultimately, we have to show the Iraqis that we are here to help them transition to a democratic government, so that we can leave once they are ready."

Taylor also expressed his gratitude to the generous Utahns who donated the items. "We really appreciate your generosity, and so do the hundreds of local villagers we were able to help. I want you to know you put smiles on the faces of the Iraqi people today."

The donated items came from the Feed Uncle SAM drive that was directed by Jennie Taylor, wife of 1LT Brent Taylor. The drive took place during Fall 2007 and collected over $75,000 worth of items from across Utah. The donations from Feed Uncle SAM were used to send all 700-plus Utah National Guard members a care package at Christmas and to send humanitarian items to the major Utah units for distribution in Iraq.

MSG Tanner and SGT Hinds unload supplies as they spread American goodwill with the donated gifts from Utah.

An Iraqi girl with her new pair of shoes and stuffed animal.

Salina Company Supports Military Employees

By Sara Moore

WASHINGTON — Kim Robinson knows that when military members deploy, they face a lot of stress overseas on top of worrying about their families at home. To help alleviate that stress, Robinson has committed to do what he can to ease the burden on the families of his employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Robinson's company, Robinson Transport, of Salina, Utah, provides $1,000 a month to the families of employees who are deployed with the National Guard or Reserve. This money is meant to supplement the family's income, and the company still pays all company bonuses, as well as full life, health and dental insurance for the deployed employee.

For its efforts to support employees who serve in the reserve forces, Robinson Transport is receiving the 2008 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The award is the highest honor a company can receive for its support of military employees.

Robinson Transport has seven employees in the National Guard or Reserve, all of whom have been deployed within the last five years, Robinson said, adding that he's happy to do what he can to support his employees while they're serving the country.

"They're over there fighting for my freedoms, which I enjoy very much, and they're leaving their families and their wives, and most of them have smaller children," he said. "They're over there worrying about their life for one thing, but on the other hand, they're worrying about what their children and their wives are going through. If I can help them that way, then that's a little less worry that they have."

Robinson Transport, which has about 130 employees, also supports its deployed employees by keeping in close contact with them via e-mail, and the company has contributed $5,000 to provide faster Internet service to deployed personnel.

Army SFC Roger Orton, who has served for 33 years in the Utah National Guard, nominated Robinson Transport for the Freedom Award because he saw their dedication to military personnel firsthand. Orton has been a truck driver with Robinson for 26 years, and in 2006 he was deployed to Afghanistan. While he was gone, someone from the company called his wife at least twice a week to check on her. They also paid her the $1,000 a month, even though Orton told his boss that he actually made more money while deployed than he'd been earning at Robinson Transport.

"I asked them why they thought they needed to do that, and they said it was to ease the pain of us being gone and that it was a small price to pay for what we were doing," Orton said. "It's too bad all employers aren't this good to work for, and it's easy to see how easy it is to work for them for 26 years."

Orton said that several other members of his unit also work for Robinson, and the company always has accommodated them when it came to taking time off for drill weekends and summer training. He said when he came back from Afghanistan, he talked to the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve representative from Utah, who told him that he had received many letters telling him how supportive Robinson Transport is of its military employees.

Orton said he enjoys working for Robinson because the management is caring and supportive. "You go to work every morning knowing that you work for good people," he said. "There's no other employer that tops them. They deserve the red-carpet treatment from the Army for what they do."

Having employees who also serve in the military, like Orton, is helpful to the company, Robinson said. "They're all pretty humble people anyway, but when they come back they're so appreciative," he said of the National Guard and Reserve employees. "With the other people listening to them out there on a daily basis, I think it makes the other people better Americans and makes them appreciate what they really have here."

Robinson Transport will receive the Freedom Award, along with 14 other companies, in a ceremony Sept. 18 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center here. The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to recognize exceptional support from the employer community.

Story courtesy of American Forces Press Service

Utah Air National Guard Fuels Fight in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Maj Damien Pickart

MANAS AB, Kyrgyz Republic — The four blue-tailed KC-135 Stratotankers of the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing have been a scarce sight on the tarmac at Manas Air Base since deploying here in late June.

Instead, they've spent much of the last few weeks of their first deployment to the Kyrgyz Republic airborne helping the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing keep life-saving fuel in the skies over Afghanistan.

More than 130 Guardsmen, based out of Salt Lake City's international airport, have directly contributed to Manas AB twice breaking its single-day, fuel-offload record and number of aircraft launched. All four 151st ARW KC-135s flew July 8 when the Wing launched a total of 15 aircraft and offloaded 975,000 pounds of fuel to a variety of Coalition aircraft operating in the skies over Afghanistan.

"It's incredibly rewarding to contribute to the mission here," said CMSgt Joe Mace, the 151st ARW's In-Flight Refueling Program Manager or 'Chief Boom.' "There's a lot of pride on the faces of our Guardsmen knowing that their sweat and effort is having a tangible impact for the troops on the ground," said the chief, who serves as the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron first sergeant while here.

Within four hours of arriving June 25, the 151st ARW's first KC-135 on the ground was back in the air carrying out the Wing's first combat-refueling mission over the battlefields of Afghanistan. For some of the Utah Guardsmen, there is a personal element to these missions.

"I'm here to support my little brother," said Lt Col Neal Wayment, the 151st Operations Support Flight commander, now serving as the 22nd EARS Director of Operations until August.

A KC-135 pilot on his first deployment to Manas AB, Wayment is one of three brothers from the same family currently serving in the Armed Forces. The colonel's younger brother, an Army command sergeant major, currently serving in Afghanistan, has seen numerous combat engagements, which often rely on air support to affect the outcome. Many combat aircraft operating over Afghanistan rely on tanker support to reach the far-flung battlefields and allow enough loiter time to support ground operations.

"My first refueling mission took us over Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan," said Wayment. "I realized my little brother was down below and it dawned on me that what I was doing might mean all the difference to him and the Soldiers in his unit. That just reinforced why I volunteered to be here."

Many of the Salt Lake City Airmen on this deployment bring to the mission diverse military backgrounds and the maturity necessary to function in a flexible and dynamic expeditionary environment. The KC-135 maintainer, TSgt Steve Martin, is just a snapshot of these diverse demographics. His military experience started in the active-duty Navy aboard a destroyer in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He has since served in the Army National Guard, followed by 10 years with the 151st ARW as a traditional Guardsman.

"My past service with the Navy and Army has helped me adjust quickly in challenging situations," said Martin, who is also a full-time Utah State Trooper. "The long days here might be tough for some to adjust to, but I really enjoy the high operations tempo."

With another three weeks remaining in their deployment, the Utah Guardsmen have adjusted well to life in a deployed setting and are making the most of their time at Manas AB. On top of 12-hour or longer shifts, many have penciled in time to get off base and volunteer at local orphanages and hospitals and to assist with a variety of community-improvement projects.

"The base really takes good care of its Airmen and does a lot to cultivate friendships with the local Kyrgyz residents," said 2nd Lt Christopher Foote, a KC-135 maintenance officer and 16-year veteran of the 151st ARW. "For many of my Airmen, this is their first deployment ever, and they really feel as if they're contributing to the mission in Afghanistan and still finding some time to help the people of Kyrgyzstan."

Inside a two-story building in the heart of Manas AB's "Ops Town," Maj Casey Knowlton manages a blur of controlled activity amid ringing phones and radio chatter. When the Utah Guardsman isn't flying missions, he's manning the communications nerve center that tracks daily refueling operations for the 22nd EARS.

"The mission here is awesome," said Knowlton. "On my last flight, we refueled A-10s from the Idaho Air National Guard. These are the very same guys we refuel back home every day on training missions-only now we are doing in combat what we trained to do. It was incredible to watch them fuel up, break off and strafe enemy positions in the mountains just below us before returning back to our boom to repeat the process. It feels good to directly contribute to lives saved on the ground."

Not far from Ops Town, a tally board on a wall inside the main aircraft maintenance unit facility tracks the previous day's "TICs" or "troops in contact." When troops are in contact for the enemy, air support is often requested, which means tankers at Manas AB and other locations must get airborne to bring fuel to the fight. To many of the Utah ANG maintainers and Airmen deployed here, the daily tally board represents a long chain of events that start with their efforts on the hot concrete tarmac in the Kyrgyz Republic.

"When we see the TICs on the wall, we know the fuel from our tankers helped put air support overhead to keep our guys safe," said SSgt Jason Meyerhoff, a KC-135 maintainer with nearly 13 years experience in the Army before joining the 151st ARW. "It really lets us know that what we do every day really matters."

LEFT*: A signpost at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic, points home for past and present units and Airmen. A new addition placed at the bottom by Guardsmen from the 151st Air Refuelling Wing, indicates home and family are awaiting their return from 6,650 miles away.*

RIGHT, TOP DOWN*: TSgt Justin Frasche, a KC-135 maintainer deployed from the 151st ARW, stands by as his Stratotanker is refueled following a mission in support of operations over Afghanistan.*

Maj Casey Knowlton, 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, Assistant Director of Operations, goes over daily flying operations July 12 with CMSgt Donald Johnson, 22nd EARS administration support chief.

MSgt Clint Hutchings, a maintainer from the 376th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic, salutes after marshaling out one of four KC-135 Stratotankers deployed from the Utah Air National Guard's 151st ARW, for a refueling mission in support of operations in Afghanistan, July 7. (Photo by A1C Ruth Holcomb)

Two KC-135 Stratotankers from the Utah Air National Guard's 151st ARW are prepared for refueling missions over Afghanistan July 2, at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic.

First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Returns with Honor

Story by LTC Hank McIntire
Photos by 2LT Ryan Sutherland, Greg Cullis, Ray Carsey, and SSG Stacey Berg

SALT LAKE CITY — After distinguishing themselves as Soldiers, Utahns and patriots, members of First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, returned to Utah over Memorial Day weekend after serving for a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 400-plus Soldiers of the 1-145th came home in four waves, each arriving at the Utah Air National Guard Base adjacent to the Salt Lake International Airport. And two of the groups' arrival coincided with the landing of Air Force One, as President George W. Bush came to town to speak at fundraisers for presidential candidate and fellow Republican John McCain.

Utah Governor Jon Huntsman was on hand for the arrival of the final group, himself having just returned from out of state on official business.

But these days were not about commanders in chief; rather, they were to recognize Soldiers for their outstanding service in performing a military police mission at Camp Bucca, the largest Coalition detention facility in Iraq. So spouses, parents, and families gathered at the base's north hangar at all hours to welcome their troops home.

Among those present to greet these heroes were members of the Patriot Guard, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who typically turn out to these events wearing their riding gear and bearing American Flags to show their support for the troops.

The Patriot Guard was formally organized in 2005 to help shield family members from demonstators who began showing at funerals to disrupt the services. The organization boasts 140,000 members nationwide and more than 600 in Utah—70 of which are former military—according to local leader Gary Yocum.

"[We] provide a buffer for the families if protestors show up," said Yocum, "Our main thing is to show honor and respect to Soldiers and families."

"We've got people here for different reasons," he continued, "but it's all to show respect. Vietnam vets want to make sure that never again are Soldiers forgotten like they were."

For each arrival, the Patriot Guard marched out to the tarmac to the cheers of the crowd and formed a flag-lined corridor from the aircraft stairs to the hangar for Soldiers to pass through.

Anxiously awaiting one of those Soldier's descent from the plane was Vernal resident Barbara Simper, whose son, SPC Nathan Simper, is a member of Alpha Battery, 1-145th.

He's really here! she recalled thinking as he made his way down to give her the hug she had been waiting for a year to receive.

"It's exciting," said Barbara, comparing today with last year when her Soldier departed for Fort Bliss, Texas, en route to Iraq. "The day he left was a lot of tears. It was hard to let him go. Today is so great. He's here. He's home!"

Simper's father Samuel spoke of the "patriotism and pride of having a Soldier serving. He's everything that Americans should

be. Everything."

"I don't think there's another country in the world who can honor their Soldiers like we do," he added.

Simper, a three-year member of the Utah Guard, worked in the Vernal oil fields for Redman Pipe & Supply before his deployment. The long hours he put in at that job helped prepare him for the six-days-on, one-day-off schedule he and his comrades kept at Camp Bucca.

The conditions at the Coalition detention facility where the 1-145th was assigned were not what you would call 'ideal.' Putting it as only a Soldier can, SSG Levi Boardman described the environment as "varying degrees of suck. Dust, heat, cold, rain, homesickness, and some smells that I hope I never experience again."

Despite the challenges, however, Boardman lauded his Soldiers for their ability to get the job done.

"When things got bad, they got together and put a smiley face on it," he said.

"This is a wonderful bunch of guys—very flexible, very agile," said Utah Guard adjutant general MG Brian Tarbet, who visited the 1-145th personally in Iraq and traveled to Fort Bliss to meet them when they returned to U.S. soil. "This was a very difficult mission in a very difficult place, and I'm proud of the work they did."

Commander of the 1-145th, LTC Karl Wright, of Eugene, Ore., noted that his Soldiers were commended time and again as they fulfilled their mission to provide care and custody of detainees and treat them with dignity and respect.

"Many times our Soldiers were singled out for their exemplary behavior and professionalism compared to other units working in the same area," said Wright.

On one occasion Wright said he was asked by Brig. Gen. Michael Nevin, a senior military police officer in Iraq, "Where do you grow Utah Soldiers? We need a whole bunch more of them. They really get it. They understand how to do this mission and the strategic effects of their behavior.''

"It was the greatest compliment we could have ever received," said Wright.

Part of the success of the 1-145th was the attitude with which Soldiers and families approached the work with detainees.

"I gained a love for the people," said SFC Rob Hathaway, of American Fork. "I thought of how they would want to be treated in their situation. It made it easier for me and for them and made a safer environment for us to work in."

"I came home with a sense of pride, accomplishment and completeness," he added.

That sense of respect was also reflected in how DeDe Hathaway explained to her children what her husband was doing in Iraq.

"We taught our kids that 'Dad isn't over there fighting; he's teaching the bad guys how to be good,'" she said.

Boardman, who returned home a few weeks ahead of his Soldiers in order to receive some training at Camp Williams, was on hand at all four arrivals.

"We were a solid team before we went, and to leave before them, as a leader, it's a hard thing to not be the last guy on the plane to make sure your guys got out before you did," he said.

"They were there all the way to the end to complete their mission," Boardman continued. "I know they did it with a lot of honor and integrity. It's a big-brotherly thing to see these guys succeed the way they did. It was outstanding."

Utah ETT Makes a Big Difference in Afghanistan

Story and photos by CPT Bruce Roberts

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan — The Utah National Guard's Embedded Training Team (ETT) hit the ground running in April of this year.

After short stops in Kabul in order to reach their duty destination near Mazar-e-sharif, Afghanistan, the team had about a week to prepare for their first mission with their Afghan counterparts.

Members of the 16-man team were divided among three separate assignments: the police mission, the logistical-support mission and the army-training mission. Eight members of the team were lucky enough to be assigned to 1st Brigade, 4th Kandak (Battalion), 209th Corps, which rolled out on Operation Karez II in early May.

(LEFT) From left to right: SFC Brian Berry, MSG Kent McClure, CPT Faiz Mohammed, MAJ Tyler Smith and SGT Robert Abbe pose with the proud new owner of a rebuilt door and the owners friends.

(RIGHT) SFC Brian Berry, left, MAJ Tyler Smith, center, and MSG Kent McClure improvise a new compound door.

Without much time to work or train with the 4th Kandak, the team had to build rapport and establish a working relationship for the mission. With the operational area being many hours away from the base camp, the team saw much of northern Afghanistan along the way.

As space on the Forward Operating Base (FOB) was limited, a local national had offered his small compound, adjacent to the FOB, for the 4th Kandak Recon Company and the ETT to stay in. As hospitality is a very important tenet in Afghan culture, the owner asked nothing in return. In a gesture of goodwill, ETT Utah decided to fix the door to his compound as a way of thanking the man and spent part of one day scrounging materials and building a new door.

"We could use the security and the man needed a new door. We had the time and it was just a way for us to help his family," said the ETT's SFC Brian Berry.

Soldiers had a good time entertaining the children and practicing their Dari while staying in the FOB compound. They were also able to compensate the man and definitely won the heart of at least one Afghan.

SFC Boyer, left, teaches the finer points of the RPG-7 trigger mechanism to an Afghani recon company's noncommissioned officers.

As they awaited the start of the mission, the ETT also took time to bond with their counterparts by sharing knowledge, learning about each other, mentoring some of their young soldiers, and sharing traditional foods such as kabob and chai tea.

"During the Vietnam era, the Special Forces were known for mentoring the montagnards, and in Central America it was the Salvadoreans. Now I can appreciate those past mentors as I sit around the campfire building a common bond with their NCO (noncommissioned officer) corps and mentoring the Afghans in such areas as weapons, tactics and leadership," said SFC Mark Boyer.

Operation Karez II was a great learning experience for the Utah ETT, and it gave them the chance to build lasting friendships with their Afghan counterparts.

During the operation, the team provided humanitarian assistance to many small villages, which included school supplies, soccer balls and warm clothing.

SFC Mark Boyer, left, and CPT Bruce Roberts, second from right, share chai tea with their interpreter and CPT Faiz Mohammed, right.

CPT Faiz Mohammed, left, and his American mentor, CPT Bruce Roberts, center, talk to villagers at a checkpoint near Ghormach.

The operation was also meant to foster the security necessary for lasting effects such as wells and water-diversion projects to be started at various towns with those particular needs.This required patrolling through some towns that traditionally had a strong insurgent presence and holding key-leader engagements to negotiate with village elders.

"We made sure that we were willing to share the risks with them and lead from the front, [working] side by side with their leaders at every opportunity," said Boyer.

No friendly forces were injured during the operation, and insurgents in the area definitely saw the strength of the new Afghan National Army and its Coalition partners.

During the three-week operation, the team engaged with the local population in various ways: arranging humanitarian assistance, conducting presence patrols, providing security for local efforts, conducting key-leader engagements and pushing insurgents out of civilian areas.

While staging at a FOB for several days, the team filled some down time with some humanitarian service.

Thousands of Moroccans say Thanks

African Lion 2008

A Moroccan women is grateful to be able to see after being fitted with a pair of glasses.

Story and Photos by MSgt Sterling Poulson

SALT LAKE CITY — The 151st Medical Group (MG) returned in late June from a two-week deployment to the Kingdom of Morocco where they joined with other military units to perform a unique humanitarian mission. Close to 10,000 civilians received medical care from this exclusive unit.

The 151st Expeditionary Medical Group (EMG) was formed specifically for this mission and consisted of medical personnel from the Utah Air and Army National Guard along with additional medical and support personnel from the Louisiana National Guard, Marines, Navy and Air Force Reserve and the Active Air Force. They deployed to Guelmim, Morocco, for a training and humanitarian mission as part of the Department of Defense Joint exercise African Lion 2008.

Not far from the Western Sahara, near the base of the Anti-Atlas Mountains, the men and women from the 151st EMG started their day nearly 6,000 miles from their home. Boarding a bus, they headed for the town of Laksabi, about nine miles down the road, one of five villages they would visit during the two-week deployment.

Months of planning and coordination had already taken place with the Utah National Guard and the Moroccan Army: sites for the mobile clinic had to be located and secured, enough equipment and supplies had to be carefully packed and transported to Guelmim, which served as a base of operations for two weeks of humanitarian aid to thousands of Moroccan citizens.

"For months now we've been acquiring, cleaning and assembling our equipment package," said CMSgt Joe Guimond of the 151st MG. "Not only equipment, but also medications had to be obtained. A good deal of it was purchased from a Moroccan pharmacy, but there were other donations from Globus Relief, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Humanitarian Center, as well as private donations."

The bus arrived at a new school in the town of Laksabi. For days, word of their arrival had been advertised, and before this day was over many local residents would have new glasses, be rid of an infected tooth, or receive medication for a nagging pain and have a chance to discuss other ailments with a physician.

Within minutes of arriving at the facility, a quick survey of the available space was completed and the medical personnel began unloading medical equipment and supplies and setting up the mobile clinic. In less than 45 minutes, there was an operating dental exam room, medical exam rooms, a pharmacy and a triage, where patients were screened for various illnesses and sent to the appropriate location for treatment.

"It's very rewarding just to interact with the people, especially the children, just getting to see their smiles," said Lt Col Ron Ulberg a triage nurse with the 151st MG.

At the end of the day, more than 1,000 patients were treated, and as quickly as energetic members of the Utah National Guard assembled the clinic, very-tired but still-enthusiastic and emotionally rewarded medical personnel dismantled it.

Communication was, of course, the most difficult obstacle faced when deploying to a foreign country. In Morocco, you not only had French, but also Arabic and Berber. This problem was overcome with the help of interpreters, who not only helped with the planning stages but also helped during the triage and treatment phases of the operation.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Byrd, Humanitarian Civil Assistance commander says, "Both sides benefit from this exchange. The military training received by members of the Utah Guard is invaluable. Our Moroccan counterparts are excellent medical practitioners and very gracious hosts, and we are pleased to work with them."

Visiting the medical unit, Brig Gen David Hooper, commander, of the Utah Air National Guard commented, "It's a privilege to see our personnel working side by side with our Moroccan partners with a big smile on their faces, each one contributing to the success of the mission."

A flag pole bearing an American Flag was lifted out of the hard ground, while Moroccan children holding new toothbrushes looked curiously on as the men and women fell in to formation and saluted the flag while it was ceremoniously removed from the pole. They repeated the whole process again the next day, heading to yet another village in a remote location of the Anti-Atlas Mountains to bring a ray of sunshine to more than a thousand more Moroccan citizens. Through the entire mission, more than 3,500 Moroccans received medical assistance.

According to the U.S. State Department, Morocco was the first country to seek diplomatic relations with the government of the United States in 1777 and remains one of our oldest and closest allies in the region. Formal U.S. relations with Morocco date from 1787, when the two nations negotiated a Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

PHOTOS Top Row: *Members of the 151st Expeditionary Medical Group unloading equipment and supplies from a bus. Within an hour the entire compound turned into a mobile medical clinic.*

Second Row: *Retiring the colors after a long day in Laksabi, Morocco. While over 1,000 Moroccans were able to see a doctor, at the end of the day, more had to be turned away.*

Left and Bottom Row: *Members of the medical staff performed dental work in rural areas of Morocco.*

Gov. Huntsman Receives National Guard Association Award

By PV2 Rebecca R. Hansen *Photos by Greg Cullis*

SALT LAKE CITY — "Well, I guess occasionally even a politician can be rendered speechless, which I am at this moment," said Governor of Utah Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., after he was awarded the Charles Dick Medal of Merit July 8 in the Gold Room at the Utah State Capitol.

"[This medal] is our highest award for those involved in the political arena," said retired Brig. Gen. Stephen M. Koper, president of the National Guard Association of the United States, as he was presenting the award.

Huntsman was honored for his support of the Utah National Guard and the United States Military. While in office, Huntsman has signed legislation in support of Veterans, homeland security and defense.

"You epitomize that spirit of a commander in chief of the Guard; commanding them in peacetime and taking care of them when they leave," said Koper at the ceremony, "I understand that you have done everything you can do to say goodbye to our Soldiers as they go and welcome them home when they return to Utah."

"A true patriot, Governor Huntsman has traveled to Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, and the U.S.-Mexico border to support and thank our Soldiers in person for their service to their nation," read the award citation.

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit is named for Maj. Gen. Charles Dick. He was an Ohio National Guardsmen, who served in the Spanish-American War in Cuba in 1898. When he returned home he had a distinguished career in politics as a congressman and senator from Ohio.

Charles Dick was a close friend of President Theodore Roosevelt. At that time, Roosevelt didn't have the authority to call members of the Guard, or militia, to federal service. So Dick proposed legislation in 1903 and 1908 which came to be known as the Dick Acts. These acts modified many rules under which the Guard could serve, to include call-ups to active federal service. These changes made the National Guard the operational force it is today.

"It was a bit of political genius. It did take care of the old federalist approach to things. Maintaining for both the States and the Federal Government their respective roles," said Koper.

The medal is two and half inches in diameter, has the likeness of Charles Dick and is attached to a red and gold ribbon.

"General Dick was a significant contributor to the history of our institution," added Koper.

Huntsman has been Utah's Governor since January 2005. During his tenure he has carefully watched over the interests of the Utah National Guard and its Soldiers and Airmen.

"The height of my career as governor, the apogee as they would say in the military, is serving as commander in chief of our Guard. There is no other responsibility that is as awesome or as inspiring," said Huntsman.

"I truly am honored and salute the Association in general and all of our men and women who wear the uniform," concluded Huntsman.

The Utah Honor Guard

By PV2 Rebecca R. Hansen

SALT LAKE CITY — Shots pierce the silence of hallowed ground as families mourn the loss of loved ones in the service of their country. On such an occasion all eyes are trained on experienced Guardsmen and women who reverently honor the dead with complete military bearing. In swift but exact movements they fold a flag and present it to a family member of the Veteran.

This is a common sight in the State of Utah as these ceremonies are held almost on a daily basis to lay to rest the ones who have sacrificed all for their country.

Members of the Utah National Guard's Honor Guard, an elite group of Soldiers and Airmen charged with providing this unique service, sacrifice their time, stay physically fit and do much, much more to ensure that our Nation's Veterans receive the honors they have earned and deserve.

Rendering these honors at Veterans' funerals is one of the often-overlooked missons of the National Guard. Fighting a war on multiple fronts and with the passing of thousands of World War II Veterans each year, states have appointed full-time coordinators to alleviate the many calls for funeral support, which previously fell to the Major Commands (MACOM) of the Utah National Guard.

"It is still the [MACOM's] responsibility to help when we call, and we appreciate the help that they give to us," said Utah Honor Guard coordinator, retired CSM James E. Slade.

A Veteran of Vietnam, Slade retired in 2006 as a member of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade after more than 30 years of service.

Slade explained that it is not easy to become a member of the Honor Guard. Applicants must meet several criteria to include being in good physical shape to lift the heavy caskets, maintaining height and weight standards in order to look sharp and professional in their dress-blue uniforms, and spending time in the classroom learning all they can about the Honor Guard. And a great attitude is essential because it is such a demanding job.

"We appreciate all the Soldiers [of the Honor Guard]

Photo courtesy of Utah Honor Guard

because they also have responsibilities with their units," said team leader of military funerals SGT Justin D. Larson of the Soldiers and Airmen who perform this service as an additional duty. "It's challenging to the units when we have funerals on drill weekends."

In March 2007, a national Honor Guard competition was held in Reno, Nev. Utah's Honor Guard team took a very close second to a strong Oregon team. And this year only three Honor Guard teams, nationwide, were better than Utah in terms of growth, number of funerals, finances and other factors.

"I think I have always felt like the Soldiers who serve this country keep us free, and I want to make sure when they die that any Veteran from any war has the proper honors," Slade said, explaining the reason why he got involved with the Honor Guard.

On average, the Utah Honor Guard does between 10 to 15 funerals a week and has supported as many as six in one day. Slade estimated by the end of 2008 they will have done around 550.

"When the program started in 2006, the team did only about 120 a year," said Slade.

"My main motivation is to ensure that any Veteran who served gets the honors they earned," said noncommissioned officer in charge for military funerals SSG Jan C. Rigby. "They all sacrificed something in their life."

According to Slade, in 2006 nearly 1,000 Utah Veterans passed away, and about 300 of them received no funeral honors at all.

"People either didn't know they could [call us], or people didn't bother," said Slade. "People also think they have to pay for it when they don't even have enough money to get through the funeral."

There is absolutely no payment required to have the Honor Guard give their services for Veteran's funerals.

"When someone approaches us with a tip I very respectfully say, 'I cannot accept that,'" said Rigby. "I tell them their loved one, their Veteran, already paid their dues by serving, so therefore their services have already been paid in full."

At a cemetery just north of Camp Williams the State provides burial plots free of charge to Veterans, and their spouses may be buried there for a small fee.

Those interested in interring their Veteran there can contact Slade or have the funeral home do so. Once a request is received, Slade's staff contacts the Casualty Assistance Center at Fort Carson, Colo., to verify the Veteran's status.

Photo by LTC Hank McIntire

The only disqualifiers for requesting the services of the Honor Guard are if the Veteran received a dishonorable discharge or was ever convicted of a capital offense under federal or state law.

"We commonly run into people asking for firing parties, but it depends on the guidance given [to us] by National Guard Bureau," said Larson.

Basic honors for eligible deceased Veterans typically consist of three personnel to conduct a military flag-folding, and then the colors are presented to the next of kin followed by the sounding of Taps.

Ceremonial rifle volleys and pallbearer honors are reserved for retired Service members not killed in action. They consist of seven personnel to conduct basic honors, rifle volley, and serve as pallbearers.

Full honors are for Service members killed in action, Medal of Honor recipients, general officers, and enlisted personnel with the grade of E-9. The funeral detail for full honors consists of 21 personnel to conduct basic honors and rifle volley, serve as pallbearers and color guard, and provide chaplain services.

Rifle volleys are often confused with a 21-gun salute, said Slade. The only person who is authorized a 21-gun salute is the president of the United States, and the gun is a cannon, not a rifle.

When necessary, the Honor Guard will also stand vigil over a Veteran's remains until the funeral. On one occasion the Utah team stood guard for two days before a funeral. This service can be very taxing on team members because of the long hours.

Twice a year at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Salt Lake City, the Honor Guard conducts a memorial service for all Veterans who have passed away that year. They do it for the Veterans who pass away there without family to come and request the services of the Honor Guard.

"We are the family in the absence of family," said Larson. "Whether their family is there to witness or not, that Veteran deserves everything we can give them because of the time they have given for their country."

This seems to be the attitude of everyone in the Honor Guard.

"We have never had a perfect funeral, but it may be the best thing the family has ever seen," said Larson. "We hold ourselves to such a high standard that we are always going over every funeral [after the fact] and trying to see what we can do to make it even better."

Honor Guardsmen and women who participate in a certain number of funerals receive a special award ribbon for their service, but that is not the most rewarding part according to Rigby and Larson. Rather, it is simply being in the Honor Guard and seeing the appreciation the family has for them that provides fulfillment.

"It is so rewarding to see the sincerity of the families," said Rigby, "to have them actually come up and talk to us and tell us how much they appreciate what we do."

"Family members know how much that Veteran has sacrificed and tell us their loved one would've been so proud to receive the honors," added Larson.

Utah National Guard Soccor Team Battles HAFB

By SSG Daron Hill *Photos by LTC Hank McIntire and Greg Cullis*

The 2008 Utah National Guard FC Stars Soccer Team at Rice Eccles Stadium on the University of Utah campus.

SALT LAKE CITY — On July 3, 2008, the newly formed Utah National Guard FC Stars soccer club battled Hill Air Force Base in an inaugural Armed Forces Cup match. The match took place on Real Salt Lake's Military Appreciation Night before they played for a first-place spot in the Major League Soccer's Western Division against the Houston Dynamo. UTNG FC took the lead in the 21st minute when Tim Venehkamp followed a shot by SSG Daron Hill that bounced off the keeper's hands. UTNG FC held that lead through the half, but HAFB came back and tied the score in the first minute of the second half. HAFB went on to score two more goals throughout the rest of the second half and took the cup with a 3-1 victory. Both teams fared very well and the event had a great turnout. Real Salt Lake and UTNG will work together to establish an annual Armed Forces Cup match in the new stadium and the winner will hold the trophy for that year. For more information on the UTNG FC Stars, visit www.ut.ngb.army.mil and click on UTNG FC Stars – Soccer under the directory tab.

Kody Nelson slides to attack the ball and prevent HAFB from entering the box.

SSG Daron Hill vollies a shot on goal in an attempt to even the game.

Yvan Velazques attempts to clear the ball from the defending third without giving the other team a corner kick.

Outsmart the Bad Guys

Story and photos by 2LT Casey Staheli

DRAPER, Utah — It's more than just a catch phrase for those in military intelligence; it's a way of life. While there are many ways to achieve success in outsmarting the bad guys, advancing the future of military linguists is paramount. This fact was agreed upon during the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade Language Conference March 14 – 16, in Draper, Utah, where the focus was on how to improve Army language capabilities.

Technology was the key aspect in this year's conference. Authorities in the language industry were in attendance to display their wares and the latest in technological support. The booths allowed linguists to ask questions, try different products and discover new ways to help them stay proficient.

One way Soldiers are using technology is the iPod. Recently, the 300th MI BDE handed out iPods to all of its linguists, providing them an easy way to access their languages in a variety of settings.

According to CSM James Sproul, the iPod allows Soldiers to "form a habit in contact frequency with the language," which Sproul considers "a vital part in language maintenance."

Because of the iPods' small size, many Soldiers are "taking theirs to the office, the maintenance shop, or wherever they have time to kill and practice their language," said Sproul.

Even with all of the latest technology COL Sue Ann Sandusky, commandant of DLIFLC, pointed out that "humans are better than any machine," and "machines are only a tool to help us better understand the language and in turn the culture and history of a people."

In an era of continuing conflict, it's the "language and culture we need to understand in order to help reshape behavior and win the hearts and minds of people," stressed Sandusky.

Sproul couldn't agree more. After looking at all of the items and options for helping improve and sustain language capabilities, Sproul said the most essential is "having a passion for the language," emphasizing that, "Soldiers must instill in themselves and others that passion to learn. Whether online, using flash cards or reading, one must study."

Studying isn't just being encouraged for linguists. Colonel Val Peterson, commander of the 300th MI BDE, said it would greatly assist the Army to have all Soldiers have a basic understanding of vital languages, to include "Arabic, Persian Farsi, Korean and Chinese speakers."

Right now, if Soldiers understand Arabic and they're outside the wire, they can "act as interpreters and translators" and help the Army by "connecting to people through the use of language," said Peterson.

So how does improving our language capabilities help the intelligence community and benefit the Army? According to LTG John Kimmons, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff G2, linguists help "fuse all areas of intelligence so that commanders can make adequate decisions by putting all the pieces together."

The best asset military intelligence has in accomplishing its goals "are our Soldiers," said Kimmons, who believes "current Soldiers are smarter than past generations, and are capable of 'Outsmarting the Bad Guys.'"

PHOTOS TOP DOWN: *COL Chad Rotzien, Army Reserve, U.S. Army Intelligence Center, talks with a vendor during a break. (From left to right) CW3 Alan Wheeler, A Co., 141st MI BN and MAJ Russell Warr, HQ, 300th MI BDE, listen to a speaker during one of the classes. Literature on display at one of the vendor booths available to Soldiers who attended the Language Conference March 14-16.*

Beyond the Horizons

By CPT Andrew Owens

DRAPER, Utah — As Soldiers, we commit ourselves daily to our nation, to our families and to the mission. It's not every day that you're given a mission that stirs every faculty of the human spirit -- a mission that leaves you so overwhelmingly fulfilled with accomplishment that you could not even fathom not being a part of it. Beyond the Horizons was that type of mission.

Fourteen Soldiers from throughout the 115th Engineer Group answered the call to serve. They would never have dreamed they would be traveling to three foreign countries to help improve the quality of life for poor citizens of Panama, Guatemala and Belize.

Beyond the Horizons is a humanitarian and civic-assistance operation sponsored by U.S. Southern Command to spread goodwill and build relationships with partner nations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Army utilized the skills of these technically competent Soldiers to execute a punch list of missions started by the U.S. Military's "New Horizons" project some years ago.

For four months, the team employed both standard and nonstandard engineer skill sets in order to repair previously constructed schools and clinics in the impoverished communities throughout Panama, Guatemala, and Belize.

The team forged lasting friendships with each country and each community they visited.

In Panama, they helped a woman who was going into labor right on the street by assisting her medically and transporting her to a clinic where she could give birth. In Guatemala, they coordinated badly needed resources for an elementary school; and in Belize, they handed out backpacks to children.

Specialist Christopher Matyas stated "the best feeling I had was at the end of the day when I looked at the children's faces; I knew it was all worth it."

Though it is hard to measure the success of a good deed, kind word or selfless act, the team of Engineers sent in support of this mission will tell you that their labors will echo in the hearts of those they served for the rest of their lives.

Photos by SGT Ryan Grassley

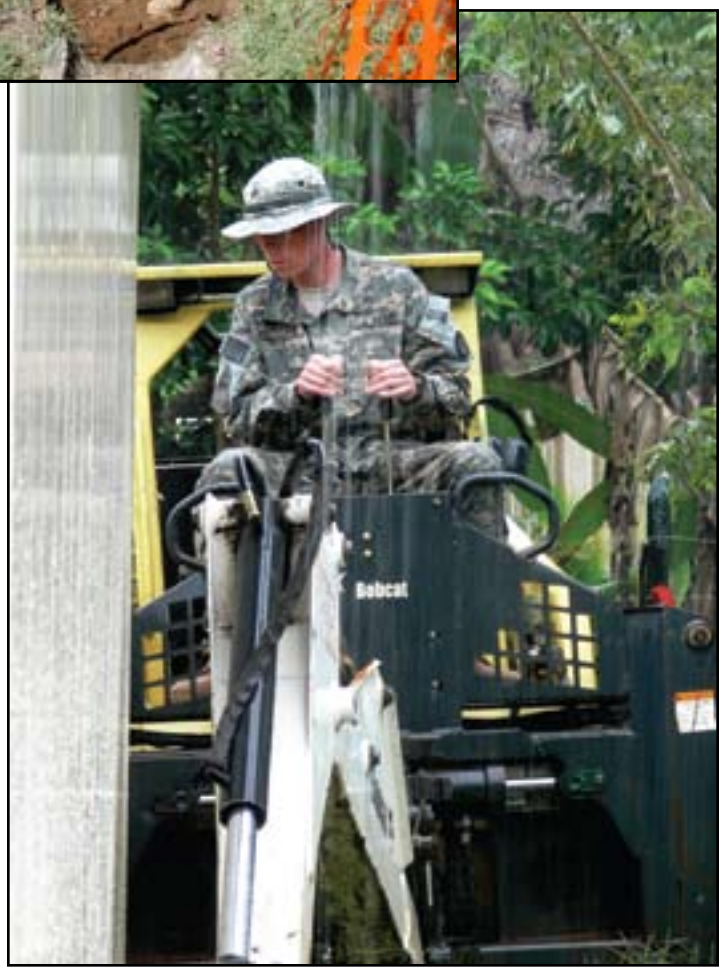
A young boy shows off his newly acquired National Guard soccer ball. SGT Kamron Stewart and SPC Jamal Crew frame a ceiling in Belize. The fluorescent light installed by SGT Ryan Grassley brings light for the first time inside a school in Belize. SGT Ryan Grassley with some children at the Nueva Estrella job site in Panama.

Story and photos by SGT Ryan Grassley

NORTEÑO, Panama — The houses in Norteño, Panama, are simple one-room shacks built on stilts to keep them out of the water during heavy rain. They have no doors or windows, no couch to sit on and only simple beds to sleep in. Getting to the village meant walking from the main road up a half-mile dirt trail and crossing a small swinging bridge.

We piled our tools and ladders into wheelbarrows and began our walk to work. Curious Panamanians came out to greet us, men shook our hands, children giggled and waved and mothers hid their daughters from the strange *gringo* visitors.

One of our jobs in Norteño was to install ceiling fans in the school. The work was hard, and it was made worse by the heat and humidity. Standing on a ladder under a hot tin roof had me praying for hypothermia. Most of us wore bandanas to keep the stinging sweat out of our eyes.



Photos top down from left to right: SGT Kyle Workman clears a trench in Panama. The Bobcat helped make the work a bit easier for SGT Phillip McClure. McClure and SGT Ryan Grassley form a cement trench in Panama. PFC Jared Turner received a hug of gratitude from a young school girl in Belize. 2LT Christopher Fisher, SGM Harland Hardy, and SPC Jamal Crew work on a drainage system to divert rainwater.

When the fans were in place they looked good, but they wouldn't turn on. The small village of Norteño wasn't on the grid.

After buying a generator, we wired a huge extension cord into the electrical panel. For the first time since the school had been built the fluorescent lights flickered on, and the new fans spun to life. There was some shouting in Spanish and many of the villagers came running. The inside of the school sounded like a firework show with all the "oohs and ahs." Children were spinning underneath the fans with arms outstretched, smiling and feeling the cool breeze on their faces. Everyone was happy.

Many times during our four-month deployment to Panama, Guatemala and Belize, we were overwhelmed by the gratitude we received for the work we had preformed. Children would give us drawings they had made, others gave us small gifts like hand-carved wooden cups; some people even cried. When the generator sputtered to life, all the heatstroke, frustration, sweat and profanity became worth it. Seeing the smiles of the children as they came into their newly refurbished school was the best thank-you we could receive.

Being in the National Guard provided us with the opportunity to help people in need. There will always be frustrating moments while wearing the uniform, but what other organization can give you the training, the opportunity, the authority, and the responsibility to help others when they are in need?

Photos top down: *SGT Reynaldo Berrios, SGT Kyle Workman, SGT Phillip McClure, SGT Kamron Stewart, and SPC Jamal Crew handed out food in Belize. Soldiers handed out lunch at a school in Belize. PFC Jared Turner cleaned up after a hot days work in Panama. Stewart with a Belize girl at her school class room. Belice school children are happy to pose with McClure. SGT Ryan Grassley and the children tease each other with rabbit ears.*

Utah Guard's Charitable Trust Recognized as 'Best of State' for 2008

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, accepts the Best of State statuette for the UTNG Charitable Trust.

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah National Guard Charitable Trust was honored at the 'Best of State' 2008 awards gala May 31 for its work in assisting Utah's military families in need.

According to the bestofstate.org Web site, the "Best of State Awards were created to recognize outstanding individuals, organizations and businesses in Utah."

The Trust was a 2008 medalist as the top charitable/service organization in the Community Development category, which "recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated innovation and excellence in the broad array of civic service," according to the Best of State Events Guide.

At the event at the Salt Palace Grand Ballroom, representing the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust was MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah Guard.

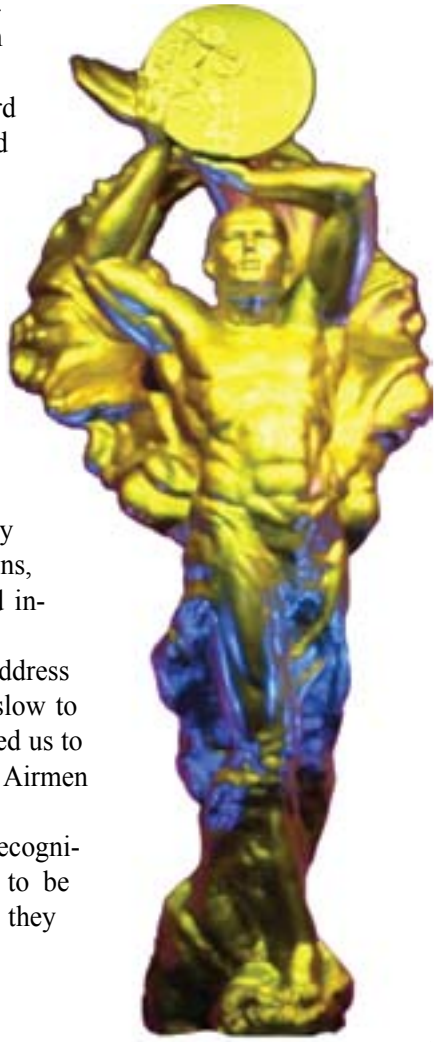
For the first round of awards Tarbet joined on stage the other 15 medal recipients in the Community Development category, which also included Chief Warrant Officer Paul Holton of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, himself being recognized for his individual work as the founder of Operation Give, a charitable organization which supplies humanitarian aid to civilians living in combat zones.

Later in the program, emcees Shauna Lake and Mark Koelbel explained that winners in each of the ten categories were about to be announced and presented with a Best of State statuette, a 20-pound, solid-bronze sculpture on a granite pedestal.

Chris Cannon, U.S. Congressional representative for Utah's Third District then announced the winner for the Community Development category. He opened the envelope and to the delight and applause of the audience—and the surprise of the Utah Guard contingent—read the name of the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust as the winner.

Major General Tarbet returned to the stage and accepted the statuette on the Trust's behalf, emphasizing that he considered this honor an acknowledgement of the sacrifice of so many military members and families in these challenging times, as well as those who have generously given of their means to help them.

"It's been a wonderful thing for our Soldiers and Airmen," said Tarbet after the ceremony. "We get the recognition, but really the ones who should be recognized are the benefactors and donors who allowed us to take care of the Soldiers. They are the real heroes in this."



The Utah National Guard Charitable Trust was established in 2005 as a 501(c)3 entity to assist Utah military families with medical, home, or property emergencies, lost wages, travel expenses of wounded Soldiers' families or other unexpected financial needs.

Since its creation, the Trust has disbursed nearly $100,000 to military families in need, thanks to the generosity of donors to include corporations, businesses, church groups, and individual adults and children.

"[The Trust helps us] address needs that the bureaucracy is slow to get to," said Tarbet. "It's allowed us to take better care of Soldiers and Airmen and to do it expeditiously."

"We are grateful for the recognition and will continue to try to be good stewards of the treasure they give us," he added.

Two Utah Soldiers Named Region 7 Soldier and NCO of the Year

By 2LT Ryan Sutherland *Photos by Ray Carsey*

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Two Utah Army National Guardsmen have been named the best among their fellow Soldiers to represent Region 7 at the National 2008 Soldier of the Year competition held August 10-13 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Specialist Jeremy Whipple, a member of 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, and SFC Jennifer Butler, 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) were awarded the Region 7 Soldier and NCO of the Year, respectively.

"I was actually really shocked," replied Butler when asked what it felt like to win. "I knew it was going to be close, but I wasn't expecting to win. I always just try to do my best in what I am doing and hopefully that's enough."

"It was a huge honor," added Whipple. "I was very proud to have represented my unit and family well and made them so proud. I was lucky the event was held here in Utah, making it possible to have many of them at the awards ceremony to share the moment, making it much more special."

The Region 7 competition includes Soldiers from eight states and territories to include Arizona, Colorado, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. The event is designed to select the best Soldiers to compete at the national level for the honor of best Soldier and NCO of the year for the National Guard.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bruce Summers, Joint Forces Headquarters, was the event organizer. He talked about the improved standards of this year's event compared to previous years.

SFC Jennifer Butler, 640th Reginal Training Institute, emplaces a Claymore mine during the Region 7 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition this spring.

"We've been doing this type of competition for three years now; this is the fourth year," he explained." "Prior to this, Soldiers would just go before a formal board. They'd have maybe three or four sergeants major and they'd just walk in with a class-A uniform and whoever could recite or memorize this book that had all of the questions in it, would usually win."

"Now it's become a total package, and now I think overall we're selecting better Soldiers who are willing to compete," Summers continued. "This says a lot about the quality of individuals that they are."

When asked about the amount of time each Soldier had to prepare for the competition, Summers explained that some states have an advantage.

"Part of it is because of the region and the weather," he said. "Arizona and California, they did their boards late last year. We don't have the luxury to do this because our ranges didn't open up until March. We completed our board the last weekend of March, and then the region competition was in the first weekend of May."

That left one month for the Utah Soldiers to prepare for the event, which makes their wins that much more remarkable.

And training for an event like this falls solely to the Soldier.

"It's up to the person," Summers said. "We don't have an organization out there that's going to take them under their wing and train them. They're going to have to learn on their own and work [it around] their civilian job."

"I did a lot of ruck marching and PT (physical training)," Butler said about her preparation for the event. "I also had to try and fit in an hour of studying a day. Some days I was able to study that long, and others, it just didn't work."

Whipple credited much of his success to his wife, friends and fel-

Left to right: SPC Jeremy Whipple, 1-211th Aviation, left, receives instructions from a Region 7 grader during the competition held at Camp Williams.

low Soldiers who helped him prepare for the competition.

"I had a ton of help from my sponsor, everyone at my unit, my wife and my first sergeant," Whipple said of his preparation. "Anything I needed, someone was right there to help me. I couldn't have done it without them."

"I think [it's] their ability to perform under pressure," Summers said when asked what made the Utah Soldiers stand out. "Some of those events are timed; you have so many points to pick up and a time line to do them in. There's a lot of pressure, and to perform under that pressure usually brings the cream of the crop up to win."

LEFT: SPC Jeremy Whipple and his fellow competitors hastily get their azimuths in gear before the Land Navigation event.

Utah Airman of the Year

Airman of the Year:
SrA Michael Crosby, 169th Intelligence Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:
TSgt Benjamin Lauritzen, 169th Intelligence Squadron

Senior NCO of the Year:
MSgt Regina Campbell, 151st Operations Group

First Sergeant of the Year:
SMSgt Steven Schiele, 151st Maintenance Group

Utah Soldier of the Year

Soldier of the Year:
SPC Jeremy Whipple, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:
SFC Jennifer Butler, 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute)

First Sergeant of the Year:
1SG Eric Anderson, 141st Military Intelligence

624th Engineer Company (Vertical) Builds a Pavilion at Altamont, Utah

Photos courtesy of 624th Engineer Company (Vertical)

142nd Military Intelligence Battalion Assumes Their Mission in Afghanistan

By CPT Jeffrey Anderson

Photos courtesy of 101st CAB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — In a transfer-of-authority ceremony held here May 25, the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Utah National Guard, assumed responsibility for military intelligence operations from the outgoing 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, an active-duty Army unit based at Fort Gordon, Ga.

CSM Lane Wayment, left, unfurls the colors of the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion with LTC Derek Tolman.

Colonel James Richardson, commander of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, presided over the ceremony where LTC Derek Tolman, of Draper, Utah, officially took over the responsibilities of LTC Joseph Roybal, commander of Task Force Deuce.

"[You] are great Americans and outstanding Soldiers who have once again answered the call of duty," said Tolman in thanking the Soldiers of Task Force Deuce present at the ceremony. "We appreciate all you have done to set high standards of performance and to set up Task Force Wasatch for success."

Serving under Task Force Destiny of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the

RIGHT: LTC. Derek Tolman, right, and CSM Lane Wayment stand at attention at the transfer-of-authority ceremony May 25.

COL James Richardson, commander of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, right, addresses the Soldiers assembled for the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion's transfer-of-authority ceremony May 25.

142nd will be known as Task Force Wasatch. In keeping with their tradition as a linguistics unit, the 142nd chose the Ute Indian word 'Wasatch' as their moniker, which means "mountain pass."

The mountain passes in the Hindu Kush range are critical to the fight in Afghanistan, and they are strikingly similar to those in the Wasatch Mountain range in Utah, home of the 142nd. The name focuses the unit on its heritage as proud warriors, culturally competent linguists and tenacious intelligence collectors.

Task Force Wasatch is comprised of approximately 300 Soldiers of the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion. They will be conducting a variety of missions to include interrogation, human intelligence, voice-intercept missions and intelligence analysis. Task Force Wasatch is also setting up to support humanitarian missions throughout the region.

"Our duty is to move forward and improve every mission," said Tolman to his Soldiers after uncasing the colors of the 142nd at the ceremony, with CSM Lane Wayment, of West Point, Utah, at his side. "Our intelligence efforts must be focused on saving the lives of our fellow Servicemen and targeting the enemies of freedom with the hope of supporting the people of Afghanistan and her government in achieving better security, governance and development."

"Make every day count to that purpose," Tolman told his Soldiers. "So much depends on what you do today and every day of this deployment."

Djibouti Orphans Receive Donated Book Bags and Supplies

Story and photos by SSgt Jennifer Redente

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Female Service members from Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa donated more than 50 bookbags containing school supplies, flip-flops, shampoo, soap and treats to girls at Center Aicha Bogoreh in Djibouti Jan. 27.

Volunteers from the English as a Second Language team received the donations from fellow Service members, families, friends and organizations including three chapters from the Federally Employed Women Organization, the Department of the Leadership, Ethics and Law, U.S. Naval Academy and Naval Legal Service Office Southeast.

"The girls are eager to learn, but lack resources for language acquisition as we know it in the United States," said Utah National Gaurd 1LT Jody L. Glover, CJTF-HOA Cryptologic Services Group officer in charge and Signals Intelligence liaison officer. "The writing supplies will enable them to practice dictation and repetition. The notebooks ensure continuity in their studies, so they can review their work over time. The fun treats, like markers, crayons and candy, surely make learning fun."

The volunteers visit the orphanage twice a week to teach English to the girls who are between 7 and 13 years old.

"We leave for the school in the evening after a full workday, and the volunteers are usually tired, but we are always so happy we went at the end because the girls make it so worthwhile," said Navy Chief Damage Controlman Danielle L. Saunders, Camp Lemonier Operations emergency management officer.

By the time the team arrives at the orphanage, the girls are gathering outside the schoolhouse, and the volunteers can see the girls light up.

"The best thing about volunteering is getting to interact with the girls," said Navy Lt. Hollis N. Simodynes, Camp Lemonier Staff Judge Advocate. "Our students are genuinely interested in learning English, and they are gifted with the talent to learn new languages easily. They were a bit shy at first, but they quickly became very friendly and spirited. In one of my classes, we discussed what the girls want to be when they grow up, and many of them said they wanted to be doctors."

The enjoyment is a unanimous feeling felt by all the volunteers from Camp Lemonier supporting the CJTF-HOA mission to prevent conflict, promote regional stability, protect Coalition interests in order to prevail against extremism.

"I really enjoy working with the girls," said Navy Senior Chief Legalman Alicia Barnes, Camp SJA staff legalman. "Although they are less fortunate than some, their love for each other and their willingness to learn is overwhelming. They have taught me many things about themselves and their culture, which has enabled me to better understand them. I have grown close to all of them, and I will miss them when I leave."

The center is the largest orphanage in Djibouti caring for more than 325 young women and children, ages 2-22.

Army 1LT Jody Glover hands a bookbag to a child staying at the Center for the Protection of Women and Children in Djibouti.

Army 1LT Jody Glover delivers bookbags containing school supplies, flip-flops, soap, shampoo and treats to the Center for the Protection of Women and Children, the largest orphanage in Djibouti with more than 325 young women and children, ages 2-22. Glover, a Madison, Wis., native, is the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Cryptologic Services Group officer in charge and Signals Intelligence liaison officer. She is a member of the Utah National Guard, deployed from Fort George Meade, Md.

Utah Guard Nurse Receives Scouting's Silver Beaver Award

Story and photos by PV2 Rebecca R. Hansen

DRAPER, Utah — The Silver Beaver Award, the highest recognition a local Boy Scout council can bestow, was presented to 61 Scout leaders March 4, at the Bountiful Regional Center. Among those recipients was LTC Lorraine Kennedy, a case-management supervisor with the Utah Army National Guard's Medical Command.

Scouting has been in Kennedy's blood—literally—with both of her parents being lifelong Scouters, having received the Silver Beaver themselves decades ago.

"I have been involved in the Boy Scouts since before I was born," said Kennedy with a smile. "I have had a love of Boy Scouting my entire life."

Kennedy's husband is also a Silver Beaver recipient, another indication that Scouting plays a significant role for the Kennedys. All three of their sons are Eagle Scouts, and both daughters have been involved with the Girl Scouts.

"[Scouting] is part of the family," said Kennedy, "It teaches you to be prepared and teaches you about your world and your community around you."

Kennedy believes that being involved in Scouting has also helped her in her 25-year military career.

"You practice leadership, and you teach the boys how to become leaders and how to be part of a team," she added. "Being a good leader is an asset the military looks for."

One of Kennedy's many Scouting roles over the years has been to serve as commissioner for nearly 50 Cub Scout packs, directing training for boys and leaders.

Once a month she goes to Roundtable, an event where local leaders receive instruction and tips on all aspects of Scouting. At these meetings Kennedy learns ways to keep her Scouts enthused.

"If the boys aren't having fun, you're not having fun," she said. "A boy doesn't like to be back in school; they like to be out doing stuff."

LTC Lorraine Kennedy received the Silver Beaver Award, one of the Boy Scouts of America's highest recognition.

Few outside the Scouting community really know what it means to receive the Silver Beaver. The award was established in 1931 in recognition for those who help the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self sacrifice, dedication and years of service.

The medal is silver in color, fashioned in the likeness of a beaver, and suspended from a blue and white ribbon worn around the neck. Recipients can also wear a corresponding square-knot patch, with a white strand over a blue strand on their official Scout uniform.

Interestingly, the award is given only to those who don't actively pursue it. The one who nominated Kennedy, a Scouter for more than 60 years, asked to remain anonymous.

"I told them, 'I know what your standards are, and I feel overwhelmed to think that I met your standards enough for you to nominate me,'" Kennedy told the person who recommended her for the award. "I am very humbled by it."

After receiving the award Kennedy told her husband that there were many others who were more deserving.

"Yes," he replied, "and you need to see that those individuals are nominated," because only someone who has received the award can nominate another person for it.

Now that she herself has received the Silver Beaver, Kennedy has plans to recommend three fellow Scouters for the award.

Combat Veteran Eligibility Extended

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 extended the period of eligibility for health care for Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998.

Previously, Service members returning from theater were eligible for two years of free medical care. They now have five years of enhanced benefits. The Act also extended the time to apply for dental treatment after returning from 90 to 180 days.

It can't be overemphasized how important it is to get registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs, establish your Combat Veterans status and insure that any and all emotional or physical conditions get service-connected during this Combat Eligibility period.

Hundreds of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are making use of the benefits and services they have earned through their service. Families have benefited and Service members have greatly enhanced their lives by taking advantage of the many professionals in the VA system.

If you have any questions about what you might be entitled to, how to get registered or need assistance getting appointments please contact your Transition Assistance Advisor for Utah, Bart Davis, 801-523-4937, bart.o.davis@us.army.mil or www.utvethelp.com.

Utah Soldier Receives Purple Heart

By Angie Larsen

DRAPER, Utah — After a remarkable 23-year career in the military, a Utah Soldier is awarded the Purple Heart. SFC Gordon Ewell was honored April 1, at a special ceremony at the Utah National Guard in Draper, Utah.

It was an encounter with a roadside bomb that brought him home to loved ones – injured, but alive. Ewell served on 59 route-clearing missions. His job was to find and disable improvised explosive devices in Iraq.

"It requires a special kind of person; it takes guts; it takes grit; it takes physical and mental strength," says SGM Shane Rothwell with the 115th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Being so close to several explosions, Ewell suffered traumatic brain injuries.

"Where he never had an open head injury, there was a blood-flow restriction and they liken it to shaken baby syndrome," explains Ewell's wife Terra.

Ewell is legally blind, his hearing is 90-percent gone and new side effects continue to emerge, but he takes it in stride, he doesn't feel sorry for himself at all," added Terra.

Ewell has lost a lot, but certainly not his sense of humor. "Many receive the Purple Heart after they die. I got to receive mine while I'm still horizontal-vertical, I mean," jokes Ewell.

Ewell is a man of integrity. While he was in the hospital recovering from his wounds, he was given a beautiful cane with many of his awards engraved on it, including a Purple Heart he had not yet received.

"When they made the cane, they had a Purple Heart put on the cane. I hadn't received it, so I kept it covered up. Today that cover can come off," said Ewell.

And today the Ewells can close one chapter and begin a new. "It will help me close the book on the wounds and allow the healing to start, allow me to look to the future," said Ewell.

To which Terra added, "I love him. He is a hero to me and a warrior through and through."

Ewell has received several other awards for his courageous service including the Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge.

Each Purple Heart is a part of our history. It is the oldest symbol and award still given to members of the U.S. military. It was established by George Washington in 1782.

Story Courtesy of ABC 4 News

Photos Top Down: *SFC Gordon Ewell with his wife Terra at his Purple Heart award ceremony in Draper, Utah. Ewell shows the cane he was given as a gift while recovering from his injuries.*

Photos by Greg Cullis

Morocco Hosts Multiple Exercises During TAG's Visit

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

FEZ, Morocco — Utah National Guard Soldiers traveled to Morocco May 24-31 to participate in multiple exercises with the Moroccan military in conjunction with the State Partnership Program.

Major General Brian Tarbet and other senior Utah Guard leaders met with Moroccan military leaders to exchange ideas and information and observed artillery and pandemic flu-response exercises.

Artillery Hits the Mark

Soldiers with Second Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, participated in a simulated artillery exercise held in Fez. They set up computers for the exercise and trained their Moroccan counterparts using mock artillery battles they had mapped out on their laptops.

"They don't have a lot of digital or technology pieces that they use," said MAJ Brent Anderson, executive officer for the 2-222nd. "We were able to bring a portion of ours with a C2PC, a computer system that allows you to digitally look at the battlefield and put maneuver units on a screen to look at the terrain and see where the units are in relationship to the bad guy and get a visual look at where the units were in a close-to-real-time situation."

Part of the concept behind the exercise was to bring together artillerymen from both countries and through training-allow the Moroccans to see how the U.S. Army creates and carries out an operations order.

"We put together mission-event lists with a bunch of different scenarios. We had over 50 scenarios," explained MSG David Nish, noncommissioned officer in charge of the white-cell planners.

Part of the success of the training was having National Guard Artillery Soldiers work side by side with their Moroccan counterparts.

"During an event, each staff element had a Moroccan and U.S. Soldier working the same event," said Nish. "They could see how we did our business, and we could see how they did their business."

When the exercise was completed, both sides felt they had met their goals and set some groundwork to improve on in future training exercises.

"We left them with a template that they could use to continue to train their artillery on the decision-making process and the execution of a battle with the stuff we created while we were there," said Anderson. "We gave them the ability to do that same training minus the technological piece that they could do on their own without us."

Photo by LTC Neil Glad

PHOTOS: *MG Brian Tarbet, BG Michael Liechty and COL Larry Schmidt, along with other Utah National Guard and Moroccan Soldiers, attend multiple briefings on the success of the artillery exercise held in Fez, Morocco.*

Mock Flu Pandemic Mopped Up

In Rabat, the capital of Morocco, a pandemic flu outbreak was quarantined and controlled successfully during the mock exercise.

During the exercise scenario a Moroccan Soldier contracted the flu while traveling overseas and came home and spread it among members of his battalion. They quarantined the unit and treated the Soldiers.

"One of the big concerns is how do you relate to the family members when you've locked down your facility and you have guys that are sick and casualties from the pandemic influenza that the world is kind of scared about?" said CPT Jeremy Tannahill, deputy director of military support. "There was quite a bit of discussion about this."

U.S. and Moroccan military doctors and healthcare professionals trained on the correct procedures to treat mass patients during an epidemic flu outbreak and worked together to come to the best solutions under the circumstances.

"The purpose of this mission was to be subject-matter experts for the Moroccan military," said Tannahill. "Our goal was to go and see what they were doing right."

The exercise had multiple stations set up with patients being treated and some quarantined to control additional exposure.

"I learned a lot about their capabilities and how they would operate and how we would try to assist them and they would assist us," explained Tannahill. "They were extremely professional, organized and very knowledgeable."

Giving Utah Soldiers a chance to travel abroad helps them to adapt and be prepared to handle situations. This type of training and relationship building is invaluable.

TOP DOWN: *The Moroccan military demonstrates one of their treatment facilities used during the pandemic flu exercise; MG Brian Tarbet is shown one of the washdown areas to help contain the spread of the influenza.*
PHOTO LEFT: *CSM Bruce Summers (left) discusses the exercise with Chief of Staff COL Larry Schmidt.*

Youth Exchange Expected to Grow

One of the meetings held during this trip was with the Moroccan social services director, Col. Maj. Mohammed Brouk. During this meeting the Youth Exchange program was discussed.

"We were able to talk before the meetings and work out ideas that we want to do," said MAJ Annette Barnes, director of Family Programs for the Utah National Guard. "The Moroccans are very interested in seeing the program grow and expand to include more. Col. Maj. Brouk was interested in possibly adding a family exchange as well, so I think that they want to expand it."

The Youth Exchange is entering its third summer where Moroccan youth will come to Utah and stay with a host family. The Utah host family help transport their guests to daily activities with Youth Programs. Then later that same summer youth from the previous year's host families travel from Utah to visit Morocco and stay with host families there.

"The word is getting out to more families. This year we are totally covered for host families," said Barnes. "If you are a host family, your child will have an opportunity to go to Morocco the next year.

This has become a successful way to show the trust that has been built through the Sate Partnership Program.

"If they trust us with the children, that's a good indication of the trust that exists between the two countries," said Brouk.

Members of the Moroccan Military Social Services meet with MG Brian Tarbet and others from the Utah National Guard delegation sent to Morocco during the TAG's 2008 visit in May.

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Guard Members Haul in Millions

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — Service members from both the Air and Army National Guard helped Scouts March 29 from the three districts in Utah and area food banks across the State to load, transport and weigh food donated for Scouting For Food.

"We are here with a simple purpose in trying to help our fellow citizens with food and security," said Governor Jon Huntsman. "All we ask is that this year we fill every one of the bags."

Scouting teaches boys to do a good turn daily and Scouting for Food is a good turn that helps those in need bring food to their tables.

Don Lloyd, leader of a patrol of 11-year-old Scouts for the Parkway 3rd Ward said, "Hopefully the boys will be able to see the difference they will make in helping other people, in this case in getting food for the food bank."

MSG Ted Smith operates a forklift at the Salt Lake Food Bank unloading pallets of donated food for the Scouting for Food drive.

The Utah National Guard and Boy Scout leaders set an example for the young Scouts in developing leadership and service qualities they will use throughout their lives.

"Scouting is about leadership and helping our young men understand leading other young men in a positive fashion," said Chad Christensen, Scout committee chairman for Pony Express District, Troop 527. "Scouting for Food gives them a chance to lead in a way that does some good with service in Scouting."

This year, Utah National Guard Service members hauled in more than a million pounds of food for Scouting for Food. The Salt Lake Community Services Council warehouse reported this as being the largest single-day food drive for food banks across the State.

Scouts from Troop 527 in South Jordan pick up bags of donated food from homes in their neighborhood.

In Memoriam

SPC Jack Tripp
Battery C, 2-222nd Field Artillery

SFC Austin Moos
Co. C Det. 1, 2-211th Aviation

PV1 Ryan Bell
115th Maintenance Co

PV2 Jake Fuller
Det 1, Co. A, 1457th Engineer Battalion

Utah National Guard Family Assistance Centers

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Beaver (435) 438-2262	Orem (801) 722-6811
Camp Williams (801) 878-5037	Spanish Fork (801) 794-6011
Cedar City 435-438-2262	St. George (435) 986-6705
Draper (801) 523-4902	West Jordan (801) 560-0864
Fillmore (435) 743-5470	Richfield (435) 896-4326
Logan (435) 753-3155	

Benefits and Education

The Utah Army National Guard Education office currently oversees four major programs to assist Soldiers and Airmen with meeting their educational goals.

Montgomery GI Bill program is an educational program run by the Veterans Administration. The Utah National Guard provides all Soldiers with a Notice of Eligibility (NOBE) which provides eligibility for students to receive their monthly educational payment. The new Chapter 33 has not been implemented at this time. Our office is waiting for guidance and policy from the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau.

Federal Tuition Assistance Program (FTA) is a program run on a fiscal-year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30) basis. Each Soldier that applies for funding is eligible for $4,500 per fiscal year, $250 per credit including fees. Funding is limited each year to first come first serve.

State Tuition Assistance (STA) Program mirrors the FTA program, except the fiscal year is from July 1-June 30 each year. Every member of the Utah National Guard is eligible to receive STA. Funding cannot be combined with the FTA program in excess of $4,500. Funding is limited each year to first come, first serve.

State Tuition Waiver program is a scholarship program authorized by 53B-8-101. The program authorizes the presidents of each State university or college to set aside 2½ percent of their scholarship money for National Guard members. Utah National Guard members can apply for the STW program January 1 through May 31, for each prior year. This program is limited to Utah State colleges and universities only.

You can apply using the following Web sites:

FTA www.nationalguardbenefits.com
STA/STW www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2

Members of the Utah Army National Guard team:

- ESO/State Tuition Waiver Manager, MAJ Gerald White, gerald.white2@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4537
- State Tuition Assistant, Richard Campbell, rich.n.campbell@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4534
- Federal Tuition Assistant Manager, SPC Cristy Tozer, cristy.tozer@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4185
- Federal Tuition Assistant/Account Payable, Kevin Edde, kevin.edde@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4504
- Montgomery GI Bill, Marilyn Antipolo, marilyn.antipolo@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4545
- SRIP Bonus/Student Loans, Clarence Peters, clarence.peters@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4184
- SRIP Bonus/Student Loans Assistant, Jason Lyday, jason.lyday@us.army.mil, (801) 523-4415

Two Utah Guardsmen Receive Prestigious MacArthur Award in Pentagon Ceremony

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

WASHINGTON — Two members of the Utah National Guard were among a select group of Army officers honored May 14 at the 21st Annual General Douglas MacArthur Award Ceremony held at the Pentagon.

Captain Shawn M. Fuellenbach, I Corps Artillery, of Salt Lake City, and Chief Warrant Officer Robert K. Goldsberry, Group Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), of Tooele, joined 26 other recipients singled out for their leadership, discipline, and achievements during 2007 as company-grade and warrant officers serving the Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard.

The array of awards presented to the 28 recipients of the General Douglas MacArthur Award at the Pentagon May 14.

The award is named for GEN Douglas MacArthur, whose ideals of Duty, Honor, and Country, guide the selection committee as they weigh not only the individual achievements of applicants such as Officer Evaluation Reports, Army Physical Fitness Tests, weapons qualification, deployment accomplishments and letters of recommendation, but also how their units have performed overall.

Family members of Fuellenbach and Goldsberry, their commanders, BG Michael Liechty, I Corps Artillery; COL Michael Adams, 19th Special Forces Group; and Utah National Guard Adju-

tant General, MG Brian Tarbet, were also on hand for the ceremony.

Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN George W. Casey, Jr., was the keynote speaker and presented to each recipient an engraved 15-pound bronze bust of General MacArthur mounted on a walnut pedestal, sculpted by Zenos Frudakis, a director of the National Sculpture Society.

"The young leaders recognized today epitomize the Solider that General Douglas MacArthur believed in," said Casey during his remarks. "They are committed to their profession, to their Soldiers and to this Nation. Largely because of leaders like this, your Army is the best army in the world at what it does."

"[You] are the future of the Army," Casey told the recipients. "The qualities that you espouse are an indication that this nation can be very proud that there is yet another generation of men and women who are willing to step forward and handle a crisis for the country."

Of the 28 Soldiers who walked across the stage to receive their award, only seven were members of the National Guard, and two of those—Fuellenbach and Goldsberry—were from Utah, the only state to be doubly represented.

"It's a reflection not only of the accomplishments of these two fine officers, but it's an indication of the quality of Soldiers we have in the Utah National Guard," said MG Tarbet after the ceremony. "I'm very proud of these two and those who serve with them. They are dedicated, devoted professionals who care about those who serve with them. And it's a great tribute to their families."

Goldsberry, who has 14 years in the Guard, was among the first Utah Guard members to deploy after 9/11, serving with Bravo Company, 19th Special Forces Group, in Afghanistan.

"When there are so many great and competent leaders in the Utah Guard and throughout the rest of the Army, it's an honor to be singled out for recognition," said the modest Goldsberry, a former FedEx employee who now works full time for the 19th Special Forces Group's training detachment. His team conducts urban-combat and long-range shooting courses for Special Forces units and Soldiers.

Goldsberry's commander, COL Adams, praised the singular accomplishment of one of his own.

"It's an amazing recognition," he said. "[This award] reflects greatly on Bob and speaks tremendously to the quality of Soldiers we have in the State. The Army is doing a great thing in recognizing their contributions."

Fuellenbach, formerly the county treasurer for Sevier County and current full-time operations officer for I Corps Artillery, was equally aware of the elite company he is in.

"I am very excited, proud and honored," said Fuellenbach. "I wouldn't be where I am right now without great leaders above me to mentor and train me throughout this process."

An 18-year veteran of the Guard, Fuellenbach deployed with the 2-222nd Field Artillery to Iraq in 2005-2006, and as commander of Alpha Battery, his unit was presented the Hamilton Award for being the best artillery battery in the entire Army National Guard in 2007. Fuellenbach believes that the award the unit received was instrumental in his selection, and Casey mentioned the honor specifically during his remarks.

Brigadier Gen. Liechty, who has served with Fuellenbach for many years, offered some insight into how his junior officer will handle the accolades and attention.

"I know Shawn and what he's all about," he said. "The first thing he will want to do is share this award with everybody. Not one person can be successful alone; it takes a whole team."

A part of that team includes Soldiers' families. Both Fuellenbach and Goldsberry spoke tenderly of their loved ones' support of their military service, a common thread that Casey also picked up in thanking families for their contribution.

"[It is] the values that you have instilled in them and the support that you give on a daily basis that allows them to do what they do," Casey told family members.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Goldsberry, right, receives the MacArthur Award from Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey, Jr.

Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey, Jr., left, presents the MacArthur Award to CPT Shawn Fuellenbach.

Colonel Michael Liechty Promoted to Brigadier General

By LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — Colonel Michael R. Liechty, commander of I Corps Artillery, Utah National Guard, was promoted to brigadier general at a ceremony at Draper headquarters Nov. 1, 2007.

A resident of Providence, Utah, Liechty was surrounded by his immediate and extended family at the event with the exception of his brother, CSM James Liechty, who was deployed to Iraq as a member of the Utah Guard's First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery.

At the ceremony, MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, a Cache Valley native himself, praised Liechty and his family for their commitment to serving our State and Nation.

"This is a classic Guard family. I think this is a wonderful pair of brothers who have served us well," he said, referring to both Michael and James Liechty. "We consider them a part of our 'Band of Brothers.'"

"We know he has missed birthdays and anniversaries [due to his Guard service], and we expect there will be more in the future," continued Tarbet, acknowledging the great support that Liechty's wife, Karen, has given and will continue to give to her Soldier-husband.

"We promote people not based on what they've done—although that is important—but it's what they'll do in the future," explained Tarbet. "Mike has such great promise to serve this organization, the State and the Nation."

After the promotion order was read, Karen Liechty replaced the colonel's eagle insignia on her husband's uniform with a general's star, and his mother, Lorraine Liechty Olsen, did the same on his field cap.

After his 'pinning,' Liechty thanked his family for their support and sacrifice and acknowledged his father, Roy Liechty, and father-in-law Arthur Jackson, both of whom have passed away.

"The Guard has been a major part of my life," he said. "I see this [promotion] as an opportunity to continue to serve."

Liechty joined the U.S. military in 1970 and was commissioned at the Utah Military Academy's Officer Candidate School in 1982. His many military assignments include battery and battalion commander, chief of staff and deputy commander of I Corps Artillery and commander of Army Garrison Camp Williams.

Liechty's full-time civilian employment is with Cache County School District in North Logan where he is deputy superintendent.

Brigadier General Michael Liechty with his wife Karen after his pinning.

Assuming command of I Corps in March 2007, Liechty is responsible for policies, programs and training of more than 9,000 active and reserve-component Soldiers.

Perhaps proudest of all at the ceremony was Liechty's mother Lorraine, who has two sons and two grandsons in the Guard, and her husband Roy served in the Army in World War II.

"They love their country; they really do," she said of all her Soldiers.

"We're really impressed and glad for Michael," continued Lorraine. "This is quite an opportunity and it took a lot of hard work. He joined the Guard right out of high school."

And remembering her son in Iraq she added, "Pray for Jim and his men. There are 640 of those boys over there."

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'Thanks' for Supporting Your Soldier's Service

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY— 'We are honored to be in your presence.' These sentiments were repeatedly expressed to more than one hundred wives and mothers during the Wives and Mothers Honor Event held Apr. 11.

Wives and mothers of currently deployed Service members were invited to an evening out at the Utah Air National Guard dining facility. Individuals and businesses throughout Utah donated gifts to make this honor event possible. The event was hosted by the Women's Republican Club of Salt Lake City. Club members wanted to recognize the women left at home while their Soldier is deployed.

"We want to express our gratitude to all of you who serve your families and husbands while your Solider serves us and our country," said Tonia Hoffman, president of the Salt Lake Women's Republican Club.

Colonel Scott Robinson commended the women for their support of our Soldiers.

"I can look at each of you and know that you go about your business every day performing great services for your families, for your husband, for our country, knowing that you're not going to get the full recognition that that service deserves," said Robinson.

Wives and Mothers of deployed Service members as well as honored guests enjoy dinner and a program at the Utah Air National Guard dining facility. The wives and mothers of Service members were presented beautiful gift baskets full of donated gifts from Utah businesses and individuals as a tribute for theirs and their Soldiers sacrifice and service.

Long deployments take a toll on Soldiers, spouses, parents, families and marriages. But with the support of loved ones it can also make them stronger. Deployments can give individuals experiences that build character and strength they were unaware they possessed.

"Don't waste your time while they are gone. Just do it. Do the projects you have wanted to get done," said Mary Tarbet, wife of MG Brian Tarbet. "Just do it with great courage and conviction."

Eleanor Roosevelt was quoted saying, "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face."

During deployments many women describe feeling a wide array of emotions ranging from fear and anger to confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Jamie Robinson shared some of her experiences and how she grew stronger during her husband's deployment to Iraq in 2006-2007.

"Nine months into the deployment, discouraging days were coming too often for me," recalled Robinson.

During this time she came up with a list of things she had learned to help her cope with what she termed the PPM days (Poor Pitiful Me): "1. Keep a journal. 2. Don't be afraid to talk to others who are in the same situation. 3. Surround yourself with positive things. Stay positive. 4. Exercise; it's a great stress reducer. 5. Set date goals; they give you something to look forward to. 6. Remember that time does not stand still; it marches forward and so should we. 7. True friends are there for you even when times are tough and you're not at your best. 8. It really feels good to laugh when things around you are falling apart. 9. Being lonely really stinks. 10. I dislike the phrase 'I don't know how you do it.' 11. Some people will give and give and give with a smile and mean it. 12. The sun comes up every day. 13. Peace and happiness really do come from within. 14. Challenges help us grow and learn. 15. I learned that I am stronger than I thought, and you are too."

Those in attendance expressed how attending an event with others in similar situations helped bring comfort and strength to them. Socializing with other wives and mothers helped displace feelings of loneliness and isolation.

"We cannot express the depth of gratitude that we feel for the selfless sacrifice that has been made in our behalf. We cannot fathom the patriotism and honor that these men and women who have made the choice to leave their homes and go to a country where they may lose their lives for a people who are not completely aware of the sacrifice they are making just for them," said Mary Tarbet. "I express my sincere gratitude for those Soldiers here at home and away."

Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow

Air Force KC-135 E model aircraft is recieved by personnel from the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force base.

Story and photos by MSgt Burke Baker

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — The all-too-familiar gray shape appeared on the desert horizon, with its four Pratt and Whitney TF-33-PW-102 engines trailing their telltale exhaust plumes. One of only two remaining KC-135 "E" model Stratotanker aircraft in the Utah Air National Guard was officially delivered to its final resting place at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG), Davis-Monthan Air Force Base April 24.

This particular jet was one of very few E-model KC-135s left in active service. The venerable aircraft of a generation ago, built to keep up with new jet-age bombers and fighters rolling off the assembly line, touched down onto the Arizona flight line with no applause. There was no fanfare of any kind. As a matter of fact, there really couldn't have been anything more "everyday" about the event. The maintenance and service records were signed over to the receiving official from the AMARG for induction into what has to be considered "aircraft heaven," although most simply know it as the "boneyard."

Simply referring to the patch of desert in southern Arizona as the "boneyard" is a bit unfair. The 2,600-acre facility got its start in 1946 storing WWII bombers and cargo planes, and has since grown into a modern, high-tech industrial organization managing an inventory of more than 4,460 aircraft, 29 aerospace vehicles and 350,000 line items of aircraft production tooling. The group's services include aircraft storage and disposition, parts reclamation and restoration to flight-level maintenance.

However, the fact that these aircraft will be skillfully stored and expertly maintained provides little solace for those who flew them.

"This day may not mean much to some, but I have personally been flying that aircraft since 1983," said Col. Kelvin Findlay, 151st Air Refueling Wing commander. "You become attached to an aircraft with such an impressive track record. It literally becomes a friend."

Tail number 60-0327 rolled off the Boeing assembly plant in 1960, originally serving the active Air Force and later, the citizens of Utah while operated by the 191st Air Refueling Squadron. The KC-135s were all originally powered by turbojet engines (designated as the "A" model), however, with the demise of many civilian 707s, the U.S. Air Force took the opportunity to buy the surplus airframes and use those engines to retrofit the KC-135 A-models used by the ANG and Reserve squadrons with the civilian JT3D turbofan (designated TF33-PW-102). Over 150 aircraft were modified, and the former KC-135A was redesignated the KC-135E.

Colonel Ron Blunck, commander of the 151st Maintenance Group, served as both an enlisted crew chief and later a master navigator aboard the KC-135.

"The E-model modification was a far-sighted and cost-effective decision by the ANG," he said. "The E-model's performance was a vast leap forward from the A-model, and was a workhorse for the ANG for over 20 years. We could carry heavier fuel loads, and could stop on very short runways with the reverse thrust. The E-model was a very capable aircraft and would still be viable today, but the engines are no longer supportable."

It was this configuration that the Utah ANG flew for over 20 years, supporting the Cold War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operations Deny Flight, Decisive Endeavor, and Joint Forge in the Balkans, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After long service with the Guard and Reserve, the E-model variants of the KC-135 aircraft's days have come to a close. In October of 2005, the 151st ARW received the first of its eight KC-135R model aircraft to continue its long tradition of extending the reach of American airpower to the State, Nation and the world. Once again, the reengined aircraft uses the same airframe as its A-model predecessors but can offload more fuel, is more fuel efficient and much quieter than the KC-135E.

"Our maintainers received our R-models with mixed feelings, having to

Air Force KC-135 E model aircraft is towed by personnel from the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group from the active flight line at Davis-Monthan Air Force base to the storage area. The 50-year-old aircraft was delivered to the group for long-term storage at the 2,600-acre facility after serving with the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, for more than 20 years.

The 309 AMARG is a one-of-a-kind specialized facility within the Air Force Materiel Command's 309th Maintenance Wing at Hill AFB, Utah. The 309 AMARG provides critical aerospace maintenance and regeneration capabilities for Joint and Allied/ Coalition warfighters in support of global operations and agile combat support for a wide range of military operations.

say goodbye to some good old friends," Blunck described. "I have nearly 4,000 hours in the E-model and I will always have many fond memories of the aircraft."

Though a contract has just recently been awarded to produce the KC-45A, the Air Force's newest long-range refueling and cargo platform, there are still predictions that the KC-135R will soar into the wild blue yonder through the year 2025.

And then, the last of those "Vietnam era" aircraft, over 75-years-old, will eventually touch down at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson—most likely, too old to be regenerated or sold. So, they will park that familiar gray plane, reengined twice and flown by more than three generations of pilots in the hot, dry, desert sun where it will await a fate that is yet to be determined.

Manny Vasquez, a technican with the 578th Storage and Disposal Squadron applies black-vinyl tape (similar to wide electrician's tape) to crevices, access panels, the canopy/ fuselage gap, to an Air Force KC-135 as part of the aircraft's preparation for long-term storage. The preservation team places aluminized-cloth material called barrier paper over larger openings such as engine inlets and exhausts after inserting desiccant packs to remove humidity.

Sam Wilkins, a spray-lat technician with the 578th Storage and Disposal Squadron, prepares an Air Force KC-135E-model aircraft for 1000-level storage.

The preservation team is applying two coats of "black Spraylat." This is a water-based, non-toxic, latex-like material that seals the aircraft. Canopies are waxed prior to application to prevent Spraylat from sticking to the glass.

Aircraft in type 1000 level storage may be recalled to flying status. No parts are removed and they receive maximum preservation. They are inspected every six months and fully represerved every four years.

Employers Show Support for Utah Soldiers at Fort Lewis

By Patrick Sorensen

Photos by Cadet Andrew Howells

Recently, Stock Building Supply was nominated to take part in an effort supported by the national civilian/employers education program, Employee Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). ESGR provides employers and others with tours of U.S. Military bases in an effort to better inform employers on the extensive training and other duties our Employee-Reservists participate in while on leave from their civilian jobs.

Nationwide, Stock Building Supply has hundreds of associates who are enlisted in U.S. Military forces. Robert Middleton, an associate and Reservist from the Logan yard, is currently on military assignment in Afghanistan. He was gracious enough to tell his superiors about the generous support of his fellow associates and manager regarding his leave.

Robert's compliments to Stock Building Supply as a supportive employer resulted in an invitation for Patrick Sorensen, a market manager in District 7, to attend a "Boss Lift." A Boss Lift is an opportunity for managers or leaders from nominated companies to take part in a three-day visit at various military installations across the country. Patrick was moved and humbled by the Boss Lift experience and wrote the following to share the experience with his colleagues:

Employers see up close how 142nd Military Intelligence Soldiers are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan.

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — I was fortunate enough to attend a recent Boss Lift representing Stock Building Supply as we traveled to Fort Lewis.

The Boss Lift started with an assemblage of 39 employer representatives from Utah and Idaho. Participants gathered at the Utah Air National Guard facility in Salt Lake City, checked in and boarded a KC-135 Stratotanker transport plane for Fort Lewis.

This plane would serve two purposes that day: transporting employers to the Boss Lift site, as well as hauling a bellyful of jet fuel used to perform a mid-air refueling exercise.

The fine members of the Utah Air National Guard flight crew responsible for transporting Boss Lift participants allowed employer passengers to spend time in the lower reaches of the plane near the boom operator and witness the delicate task of filling a giant plane in midair, while simultaneously flying 450 miles per hour.

In order to stay current in required training, each "boom" has to perform this exercise monthly. ESGR uses this training airtime as an opportunity to tote the Boss Lift group from base to base while also promoting employer/military relations.

The refueling exercise occurred over Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, before making a landing at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. Upon arrival at McChord, employers and others were transported to Fort Lewis, a 70,000-acre Army base in central/western Washington State.

Fort Lewis has a wonderful history of training U.S. Army forces, and employers were able to spend time there interacting with troops and learning more about their upcoming deployment. Those who met with the tour said they would be deployed soon to Afghanistan where their primary focus would be working in intelligence and languages.

In addition to meeting Reservists who will soon deploy, participants also spent time in active training exercises with the troops in blank and live-fire exercises. Boss Lift employers were served meals ready-to-eat (MREs), sampling the flavor of foods our Service members often survive on while on deployments and assignments.

Some participants commented that, as civilians, we take a lot for granted when it comes to food, preparation and availability of meals. Although the MREs came in a variety of "dishes," we were quickly alerted to stay AWAY from the tuna—enough said about that. All in all, the food was very good, hot and served by very gracious folks at every meal.

The training exercises at Fort Lewis ranged from marksmanship training and field engagement to medical preparation, encompassing a variety of different venues. Fort Lewis has an amazing training diorama designed to simulate all types of residential environments that might be encountered in Iraq or Afghanistan.

During part of the exercise, all employers were outfitted with helmets, flak jackets and eye and ear protection. This seemed innocuous enough until you had it on for a couple of hours and realized how heavy it was. Then you started to take notice of all the additional gear every Soldier had on, plus one or two weapons. They wore these uniforms all day and often into the evening. At dinner, many of the Soldiers brought their weapons along as part of a familiarization effort. Life is good in the civilian world.

Throughout the three days spent at Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base, participants not only were reminded of the heightened security in our Nation, but they also took notice of the absolute professionalism and respect that each and every encounter with military personnel—regardless of rank or division-produced.

At numerous meals, we were able to interact with the various military leaders, and I was always impressed with their graciousness and humility for their positions. These are absolutely the best men and women to lead and direct our troops. It was widely noted that regardless of the current political climate, these Soldiers knew who their leader was and the orders they had been given. They were not there to question the validity of the fight or the political impact.

The trip ended with a return flight on the tanker, and we had an opportunity to talk amongst ourselves about the impact of the Boss Lift. Many attendees said they learned much and had a new-found respect for the military and Employee-Reservists who serve their country. Others also commented on the importance of keeping a watchful eye on the deployed associate's family.

SBS was fortunate to be part of this educational venture, and I now have a better understanding of the importance of supporting our fellow military associates while they are on active duty defending our country and our freedoms and following the instructions of their leaders. In addition, the equally important take-away lesson was the need for each of us at SBS to recognize that those associates' families need us even more while their loved ones are deployed oversees or on active duty.

Reaching out and supporting these families is something that we may often overlook, however, they truly need our care and support. By doing so, we will help our Soldier-Associates to better focus on their current assignment and not worry so much about whether their families are okay.

It truly was an honor to represent Stock Building Supply on this adventure. Please share this with each and every associate, and hopefully, raise the level of awareness we have as employers and associates of our fine military.

Utah Air and Army Guard Host 47th Annual Freedom Academy

By Maj Krista DeAngelis and SSgt Christiana Elieson

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Not too many summer camps offer opportunities for high school students to rappel from a 34-foot tower, drive a humvee, tour a state prison and listen to nationally acclaimed motivational speakers all in the same week. But at the Utah National Guard's annual Freedom Academy, held Aug 3-8, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

For the past 47 years, a select group of Utah high school students have been given the unique opportunity to participate in Freedom Academy, a leadership camp designed for student-body officers and leaders. This year, 95 students or "delegates" took part in the academy located at Camp Williams and hosted by members of the Utah Air and Army National Guard.

"The purpose of Freedom Academy is to promote the ideals of freedom, teach [students] about freedom...and let them know that freedom comes at a cost and at a price-and we're here to solidify that," said Lt Col David Osborne, Freedom Academy director, who has also been involved in the academy for 13 years.

Each year, Freedom Academy highlights a variety of topics surrounding the theme of freedom, including freedom of the press, the court system and what happens when a person gives up their freedom. The first day of this year's camp began with a tour of the state prison and a panel of inmates who discussed what it was like to live without freedom.

"I thought the prison tour was a very humbling experience," said Jeff Rigby, a senior at Clearfield High School. "It made me start wondering what it might be like to live in the prison and not be able to see your family or have any freedom...the thing that most went through my mind was that I really don't want to be locked up here."

Morjn Hicks from Woods Cross High School echoed Rigby's attitude.

"I definitely would not like to be there; it's definitely the pits. It made me realize how much freedom I have and really appreciate what I actually have," she said.

The second day gave the delegates a different perspective of freedom as they toured the State Capitol building and had a chance to speak with the president of the Utah State Senate, John Valentine. During their visit, Senator Valentine invited all of the student-body presidents to sit at the House Gallery table and asked them to answer the question, "What is your dream?"

"To help people who are usually overlooked because of their social status or lifestyle," said one student-body president. Another voiced, "Leave a legacy at my school so people can say the 'class of 2009' was a good one." While others had more personal goals such as "finish high school and become a fireman," and "go to college and be a sports doctor."

In addition to the tours, the delegates also participated in a variety of activities at the Army and Air Guard bases which gave them a little taste of military life. During their visit to the Utah ANG base, delegates learned about some of the various Air Force missions, including firefighting, flying and explosive ordinance disposal. Students also toured a KC-135 Stratotanker where Lt Col Bruce Weaver, a pilot at the 151st Air Refueling Wing, explained the Wing's operational mission.

"It's great to bring the kids out and explain what we do and get an interest in what we do," he said. "I think it helps give them motivation and direction in their lives."

Throughout the rest of the week, the delegates toured the local KUTV news station and sat in on a hearing at the Federal Courthouse. On Thursday, the students were bussed out to several training locations at Camp Williams where they experienced firsthand what it was like to be a Soldier.

Megan O'Dell from American Fork High School was slightly nervous as she looked down the length of the airborne jump tower that she had the opportunity to zipline down.

"I'm kind of nervous but excited because I have never jumped from this high before," she said.

Other students had a little different view once they mustered up the courage to jump.

"It was awesome, I loved it," said Patricia Magleby of Mountain View High School. "After the initial shock of the height and everything, it was way fun—I loved it."

As students got to fire off M-16s, leap from the jump tower and rappel off a 34-foot wall, the excitement level was high as everyone returned to their rooms. The night concluded with a talent show where students flaunted their dancing, singing, music playing and acting skills in front of each other.

"The talent show is always an awesome night because these delegates are full of talent," said Osborne. "Everything from music to vocal—they are just full of talent."

As the week came to a halt, the camp counselors from the Army and Air Guard had a chance to reflect on their experience.

"This is an awesome experience to have the chance to be an ambassador as a military individual and to teach the youth about the freedoms we live and experience every day," said MSgt. David Neal of the Utah ANG. "Every state could benefit from this type of program."

"As they learn about their freedoms the delegates change," Neal continued. "My favorite part is seeing the transformation from the starting day to the finishing day, because you watch people who are shy and reserved change and gain more confidence. That, to me, is worth every minute I spend out here."

And it's true for the students.

"Freedom Academy has really helped me out," said Jimmy La-Rue, a student from South Sevier High School. "It's easily one of the top three conferences I've attended."

Engineers Spruce Up Game Ponds

Membersof Alpha Co., 1457th Engineer Battalion help improve fishing ponds in Huntington, Utah, during Innovative Readiness Training. They placed new culverts and stabilized the banks around fishing ponds.

Photos courtesy 1457th Engineer Battalion

Spanish Fork Flag-Retirement Ceremony

Photo by LTC Hank McIntire

Members of Charlie Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery, support a flag-retirement ceremony sponsored by American Legion's Spanish Fork Post 68. Assisted by local Boy and Girl Scouts, Soldiers retired hundreds of American flags during the patriotic program July 19.

Civil Engineers Head Out

By MSgt Burke Baker

SALT LAKE CITY — Approximately 26 Airmen from the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron headed downrange May 3 as part of their Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation. The unit will be deployed as part of the 9th Air Expeditionary Group in Kuwait.

"Our wartime tasking is everything from bed-down to generating electricity, to maintaining fuel farms for generating aircraft, usually with contingency-type equipment," stated Lt Col Doug Lindner, 151st CES commander. "We like getting out and actually doing our jobs, and this is the actual equipment, not training. They're excited. This is what we train for and why we are here. I'm very proud of [the Airmen]; they do a great job."

Staff Sgt Simeon Sharp, a structural journeyman, is deploying to the region for his second time in three years.

"I'm really excited," he said. "I have a lot of mixed feelings though. I'm just trying to go over the checklists and get ready, but I think it will really hit when we are actually getting on the plane."

The Airmen, based at the Salt Lake International Airport as part of the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, are expected to be gone for more than 160 days. The deploying Airmen represent almost every specialty in the squadron including firefighters, engineers, heavy-equipment operators, carpenters, heating/ventilation and air-conditioning technicians and power-production specialists. Their main responsibility will be to perform the upkeep and maintenance and make any improvements to the deployed installation.

"This is not the first time we have deployed on an AEF," said Lindner. "I would say on average we send 10 Airmen out per year. A lot of these guys have been deployed before, so they are certainly veterans. Most of them just love getting out and doing their jobs."

"You really feel like you are making a difference when you are over there," echoed Sharp.

The squadron has also been busy holding family support meetings in preparation for the lengthy deployment, something Colonel Lindner stresses.

"One of the reasons why we like to have these meetings is to get the word out about who you would contact to get something taken care of if (the families) needed some help. They have emergencies at home, and we want them to know that they can call us and we will come and take care of it."

This may be the last time the 151st CES members will deploy for less than six months.

"I'm not sure it's official yet, but serving on longer deployments is the direction it seems to be heading," said Lindner. "We will do everything we can to adapt and work out any hardships that may come up."

Utah Guard Marathoners Make the All-Guard Team, Take Second Overall

By PV2 Rebecca R. Hansen

DRAPER, Utah — It was clear skies on May 4 for this year's Lincoln/National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb., as competitors from all over the country came to compete for a spot on the All-Guard team.

After the race was over, all six runners from the Utah Army National Guard made the cut. Also, they earned second place for Utah overall.

"It was a good race, the objective was met," said CPT DeAnne Trauba, Joint Forces Headquarters secretary to the general staff.

"To have a hundred percent of your runners make the cut is really impressive," said Trauba. "Usually, out of six or seven runners only two make the team—if that," she added.

At the Lincoln marathon the competitors chosen to be on the All-Guard team are the top 40 males and the top 15 females.

Before running a marathon, these runners must prepare months ahead of time.

"Usually I try to get started a minimum of four months in advance," said SFC Ray Workman of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office in Draper.

"I start to build up to where I run 40 to 70 miles a week," he said, "as well as run long runs that start at 10 miles and work up to about 20 miles every other week."

Trauba said she trains year-round and steps up the intensity for her workouts three months before the race.

Before the marathon Workman said he doesn't get as nervous as he used to. He gets a little bit of the butterflies but feels pretty much at peace with himself.

"I start to think about the guys in Iraq, and being out there running is like representing them to some degree," Workman tells himself to keep him motivated as he is running.

"The last six miles I had this adrenaline rush and I just kept going," said Recruiting Command's SGT Jill Stevens, who is also this year's Miss Utah. "I finished strong, which is a good thing because being a Soldier prepares you for things like this. It makes you hold your head high."

Stevens came in fourth place overall in the female division with a time of three hours, 22 minutes, 12 seconds.

A lot crosses a runner's mind as they cross the finish line.

"Usually the first thing that goes through my head is what can I do better next time," said Trauba.

The Utah National Guard runners did a great job in Lincoln. All six of the competitors accomplished their individual mission in making the All-Guard team, as well as earning Utah second place, and they were bested only by the Oregon National Guard team, who came in first.

"If you are given a mission you do everything you can to accomplish it," said Workman.

The Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office contributed to this report

Photos courtesy of UTNG Marathon Team

ABOVE PHOTOS TOP DOWN: *Utah National Guard Marathon Team members (left to right) LTC George Graff, SGT Glen Tucker, CPT DeAnne Trauba, MAJ Eric Petersen, SFC Ray Workman (not pictured, SGT Jill Stevens). SGT Jill Stevens approaches the finish line at the Lincoln National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb.*

Dixie Businessman Drives His Guard Support

By 2LT Ryan Sutherland *Photos by MSG Paul Fallon*

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Local businessman Bryce Christiansen has a unique way of supporting the local community, and that support is benefiting the Utah National Guard.

Christiansen has a history of using the back of his trailer to promote special events for the local community. When the Triple Deuce deployed in 2005-2006, he painted several trailers with patriotic themes to show his support.

"I, like many people in southern Utah, have always felt a connection with our local National Guard Soldiers," said Christiansen. "I not only had a couple of brothers who served [several years ago], but many of my close friends are Soldiers with the 222nd. How can you not support these guys?"

Master Sergeant Paul Fallon of the Utah National Guard Recruiting Command is thrilled with the vehicle.

"It's a traveling billboard that is on the road in southern Utah every day," said Fallon. "I don't know how many times I've had somebody tell me they saw the race truck. Something as eye-catching and busy as that truck has definitely had a positive effect on awareness for the Guard."

Fallon explains the importance of what people like Bryce Christiansen and others in the community bring to the Guard's mission.

"A very important part of our job as representatives of the Guard is to have a positive impact on our communities," he said. "Bryce has made our job much easier by embracing us and helping us show the citizens of Southern Utah that the Utah Army National Guard is not just another military organization, but rather a big part of the community."

"It's given us a sense of pride to know that we've done something that our Soldiers are excited about," said Christiansen. "Every time a Guardsman sees the truck for the first time, you can see a real excitement in their eyes."

Southern Utah businessman Bryce Christiansen proudly drives his truck showing his support for the Triple Deuce and the Utah National Guard.

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

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

Under this program $1,000 of coverage is provided to all active Utah National Guard members. During your initial enrollment period, $10,000 of term life insurance may be applied for 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.

LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

BENEFICIARY

Primary beneficiary is eligible for immediate death benefit of up to $25,000 within 24 hours of notification. This benefit helps with the immediate expenses after the death of a member.

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

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

DEPENDENT COVERAGE

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

For more information or to schedule a unit briefing call

1-800-462-7441

Stadium of Fire

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

PROVO, Utah — A patriotic entrance is a powerful experience when you have 70 Soldiers and Airmen carrying a stadium-sized American flag onto the LaVell Edwards Stadium field, July 4. It was one of the largest Independence Day celebrations in America.

"It was an honor to take the flag out on the field and display it in a way that was pleasing not only to those in the stadium but hopefully those around the world who were watching," said Spanish Fork resident SSG David Stickney, 624th Engineer Company (Vertical).

That same powerful patriotic theme was evident throughout the entire evening at the Stadium of Fire in Provo, Utah.

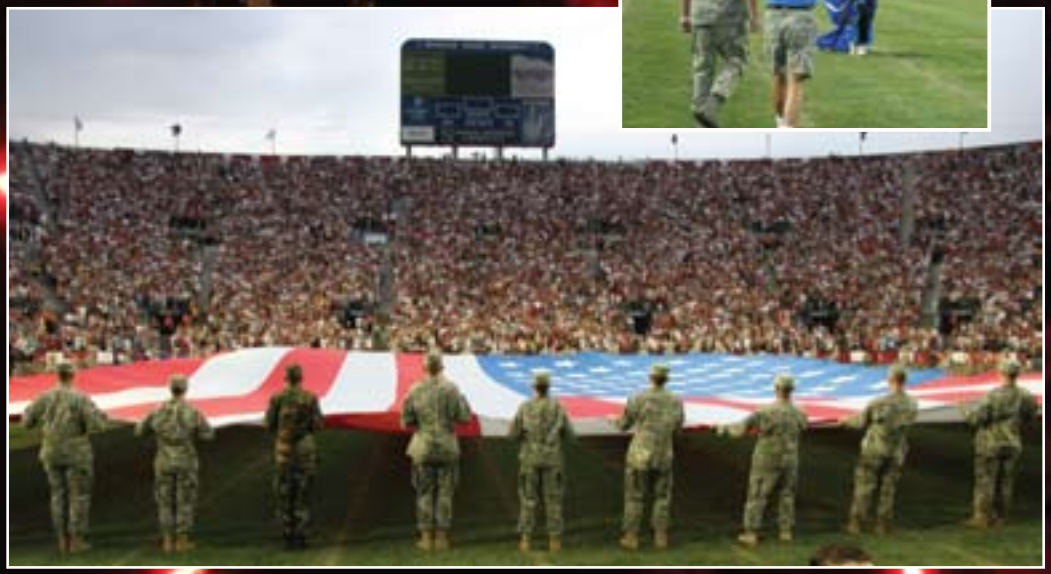
"As we were awaiting to enter the field on the sidelines, there were numerous people who stopped and thanked each Soldier and Airmen along the line for the service we did overseas," said Stickney. "And for displaying the flag and respecting it as we did."

To begin the program, parachutists carrying flags from each Service landed on the field as Guard members caught the flags and respectfully carried them from the field.

SGT Jill Stevens, Miss Utah 2007, sang "God Bless America" and then the audience was treated to a prerecorded look at Utah Soldiers currently serving in Iraq, on large flat-screen monitors around the stadium. In those video clips Soldiers talked about some of the Fourth of July activities they had participated in during the day in the desert.

One of the highlights of the evening was a live uplink from Baghdad with SGT Whit Houston, SSG Brock Jones, SPC Douglas York, all with the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, who surprised their families all seated together in the audience at the stadium. Each spouse was given a moment to say hello to her Soldier and wish them a happy Fourth.

"I love you, baby," said Jones to his wife Amy Jo. "It's so good to see you guys."



TOP DOWN: Seated on the grass at Stadium of Fire, Guard members and their families enjoy the program. A Guard member retrieves the Service Branch flag carried by a parachutist. Fifty Guard members display a stadium-size American flag at the opening ceremony for Stdaium of Fire.

Apologizing to host Glenn Beck, Jones said jokingly under great pressure he had one more thing to say as he held up a University of Utah football jersey for the crowd of predominantly BYU fans to see. The audience erupted in laughter of both cheers and boos.

Following the virtual, yet emotional reunion of Soldiers and spouses, the youngsters in the audience were geared up for Miley Cyrus, the evening's main attraction. She put on a great show for her thousands of fans at the stadium.

"I was really excited to bring my daughter and partake in the festivities," said CPL Jessica Hyde, 19th Special Forces Group Support Company, an American Fork resident. "It was really fun watching her join in and sing along with the songs and watching all the other military children enjoying the concert."

The fireworks were a spectacular show for the crowd of more than 50,000 spectators.

"It was a great display of fireworks," said Stickney. "The kids were awestruck."

"We [were] honored again, for the sixth year in a row, to be invited by the Pentagon to broadcast our celebration to U.S. military men and women around the world," said Brad Pelo, senior executive producer for Stadium of Fire. "There's a special spirit to our Independence Day celebration as we are connected via satellite with those who labor every day to preserve the freedoms we enjoy. It is an honor to share our celebration with them."

TOP DOWN:
Members of the Utah National Guard and their families watch the events at Stadium of Fire. A multi-branch Color Guard displays the military flags. One of the video screens linked between Provo, Utah and Baghdad, Iraq. SGT Whit Houston, SSG Brock Jones, SPC Douglas York, in Baghdad show their patriot and 'red' support to the crowd at LaVell Edwards BYU stadium.

Not Just Slop and Plop

By 2LT Casey Staheli *Photos by Greg Cullis*

SALT LAKE CITY — The competition was fierce, the contestants focused and the food fabulous, as top chefs from every branch of the military battled it out April 19 in the Salt Palace Convention Center during the American Culinary Federation's Western Regional Conference.

This year's conference featured the first annual Freedom Chef Challenge cook-off, which pitted two-man teams with the best chefs from the Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, in a grueling contest where they had two hours to prepare whatever they wanted, while using the theme ingredient: prime beef.

The judges awarded points based on creativity of plate design, the contestants' ability to talk smack about other branches and most importantly, the taste. Having sampled food from all the tables, the judges didn't hesitate in naming MSG David J. Turcotte and SFC Rene J. Marquis, from the Army team, as this year's winners. The victory, according to Turcotte, came because "the Army food-training program is the best food-training program in the world, and the best military in the world deserves the best food in the world."

While the chefs prepared their dishes, attendees at the conference and visitors had the chance to sample items from top food vendors, view the newest cooking utensils and become a little more familiar with the Utah National Guard, by going up the climbing wall, shooting at the BB range or walking through the latest in Army field-feeding equipment.

SFC Jason Talcott, a Beehive Chef member and one of the co-chairs for the event said, "the culinary federation wanted to honor military chefs at this years conference and do a little bit more." And they did, by auctioning off chef jackets and free fine dinning certificates, with all the proceeds going to the Fisher House, an organization that supports America's military by providing a "a home away from home." It enables family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful time -- during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury.

While there was only one winner, Talcott thought every service benefited by "showing that military food services isn't just slop and plop" and by "demonstrating to those coming into food service what the pinnacle is and what they can achieve, which in the end ensures that all Soldiers eat better." Talcott wasn't at the contest just as a co-chair, but also as a student.

Talcott will be heading up National Guard's team next year and hopes "they'll take it all." Talcott says National Guard Bureau "has been extremely supportive of the idea" and "sees it as a way to improve food services and recruit new Soldiers." Talcott said those interested would need to have "good resumes and portfolios." And if there's a lot of qualified Guard members? "Then we'll have some cook-offs." The National Guard team will train in Utah using facilities here in the state and compete in March 2009 at Fort Lee, Va.

Competitors, cuisine, and chefs give flavor to the culinary contest April 19.

Utah ANG Takes on POTUS Visit and Army Homecoming Simultaneously

By Maj Krista DeAngelis

Photos by TSgt Michael Evans and SSgt Emily Monson

SALT LAKE CITY — Hosting a U.S. presidential visit is always a challenge, but hosting a visit by President George W. Bush along with the redeployment of more than 200 National Guard Soldiers within hours of each other is a whole different ballgame and that's exactly what members of the Utah Air National Guard accomplished May 28-29.

Located in downtown Salt Lake City, the Utah ANG base was selected as the main hub for Air Force One, Marine One and the presidential motorcade for a two-day visit by the president. In the midst of hosting the visit, the base was also tagged with providing support for the arrival of more than 200 incoming Utah National Guard Soldiers returning from year-long deployments. Ceremonies for troops' families and friends were held for each of the redeploying groups.

"Planning for a presidential visit takes a tremendous amount of logistics, and so does coordinating a large Army homecoming ceremony," said Lt Col Lisa Olsen, 151st Air Refueling Wing community manager and project officer. "I never expected we would ever do both at the same time. However, we received exceptional support from the Presidential Advance Team, as well as our own Airmen who made this all happen in a very short amount of time."

Coordination and logistics are key to any large-scale event, but when it comes to POTUS visits, working with the Presidential Advance Team is critical.

"For every presidential visit there is an advance team that hits every site either five to seven days out for a continental U.S. trip, or two weeks for an overseas visit," said Maj Robert Giannoni, Air Force One presidential advance agent. "That advance team consists of White House staff, Secret Service, White House Communication Agency, Marine One, Air Force One, press, etc. We come out and put our footprint down and lay the groundwork for the upcoming visit."

Part of the Air Force One Presidential Advance Team's responsibility is to provide all the necessary support to the aircrew upon arrival.

"Our role is to make everything go [as] smoothly as it can for the aircrew," said Major Giannoni. "When the airplane comes in it will need fuel, water, lavatory service, security and air traffic control; so we will take care of all the requirements for the airplane so when the crew arrives they don't have to worry about anything."

According to Major Giannoni, the president hit six major U.S. cities in his two-day trip. From Washington D.C. to Albuquerque, Phoenix, Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, Kansas and back, the POTUS had a whirlwind schedule.

Upon the president's departure, approximately 100 Utah ANG Airmen waited outside in the rain to catch a glimpse of the president's plane and to try to shake hands.

"It's always impressive when the president comes to visit," said Master Sgt. Larry Carter, 151st Communications Flight. "I've seen four presidential visits and met several of them . . . I've been around a while."

Once the visit was finally over, it was a good feeling to know all the hard work and effort were not done in vain.

"This trip has been phenomenal . . . probably the best stop I've done yet, not to mention it was a three-day weekend so a lot of people have been away," said Giannoni. "For the amount of work that was done in the short amount of time, it's been exceptional."

"I'm extremely pleased that everything went so well," said Olsen. "It's a great feeling to know that the Army Guard members were able to see their families upon arrival and that our base was able to provide such great support for the president's visit at the same time."

Generous Charitable Trust Donations Help Service Members and Their Families

By Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — Created in 2005 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity, the funds of the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust assist Utah military families with expenses for medical, home, or property emergencies, lost wages, travel expenses of wounded Soldiers' families or other unexpected financial needs that arise during deployment of their Service member.

Since its creation, the Trust has disbursed more than $250,000 among hundreds of families, typically to offset financial hardships incurred during deployment of their Service member.

Donations from companies like Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction, Utah Pacific Bridge and Steel, Kennecott Utah Copper or Macey's continue to provide this extra help for military families as they sacrifice to provide for their own, as well as to answer the call of our Nation.

Each year the Utah National Guard honors donors to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust at a special ceremony held in Draper, Utah. At this year's ceremony, MG Brian Tarbet personally recognized and thanked the individuals and organizations who have given funds to benefit the Trust.

The 4th annual Minuteman 5K Run/Walk was held in August and is an avenue to facilitate awareness of the Charitable Trust. Over the last four years there have been more than 1,400 5K participants. This year's race attracted approximately 600 participants and generated at least $125,000 in donations for the Charitable Trust.

Recently, the Trust was chosen as the top entity in the Community Development category from among 16 medalists at the 2008 Best of State Awards Gala May 31.

Photo by Ileen Kennedy

At an awards ceremony held in June, Kip Wadsworth presents MG Brian Tarbet a check for $120,000 for the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust raised during the 2007 Minuteman 5K Race.

Photo by Greg Cullis

On behalf of its hundreds of employees, Kelly Sanders, Kennecott Utah Copper's chief operating officer, presented a $10,000 check to MG Brian Tarbet, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust.

Photo by Ileen Kennedy

Macey's grocery stores hosted a "Tailgating for our Troops," event to benefit the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust. The tailgating event featured a two-day meat sale with 50 percent of the proceeds going directly to the Charitable Trust. The event raised over $24,400.

Photos by Ileen Kennedy and 2LT Ryan Sutherland

This year's Minuteman 5K had over 500 participants. Through Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction's fundraising efforts the race was able to bring in over $125,000 for the Charitable Trust.

A R M Y P R

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Blakely Dorothy Theresa
Hamilton Blayde Weston
Jones Jared Scott
Smith Stewart Alexander
Wheeler Alan David
Withers Guy Daryl

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Lythgoe Jeremy Douglas
Moon David Jan
Price Erik Andreas
Puhlman Richard John
Reid Matthew B
Roberts Hugh Roy III
Rolfson Kade Spencer
Storer David James
Thomson Robert Andrew
Tuohy Daniel Kevin
Watson Benjamin Callis
Williams Jason Ray

COLONEL

Dunton Robert Thomas
Rasmussen Jay Milton
Robinson Rodney Scott
Wright Kevin Dee

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Bledsoe James Michael
Lofgran Gregg Gary
McIntire Earl Henry

MAJOR

Barnes Patricia Annette
Shuck Richard Robert

CAPTAIN

Berg Ian Olen
Bingham Blake Woolf
Card Justin Morgan
Christensen Justin Roy
Duffin Mark Rey
Frampton Jessie Mckay
Glover Jody Linda
Haux Kelly Scott
Jensen Dustin Ty
Jensen Tyler James
Johnson Bradley Milton
Larsen Travis Cody
Masteller Brian Douglas
Matlock Warren Ellsworth
Pearson Shawn Rikard
Pedersen Gordon Christian
Porter Jeffrey Scott
Smith Justin Quinn
Tannahill Jeremy Don
Williams Jeremy C

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Azouz Azzedine
Beck Riley David
Brauer Colton Frank
Buck Tyler Thomas
Buffington Mark Joseph
Cleverly Rachel Jean
Fisher Christopher Sam
Hurst James Van Jr
Jasman Adam Michael
Jeppson Jared Bruce
Jones Chadwick Kevin
Kroeber Christopher Hall
Larsen Bryce Lee
Larson Joseph Tait
Lauridsen Lawrence Julius
Martin Benjamin Dale
Nackos Starlyn Stout
Plowman Clifford Dean
Sisson Nelson Mahonrimorian
Tarbet Christopher Richard
Taylor Benjamin Samuel
Taylor Brent Russell
Wimmer Ryan Elwood

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Sutherland, Ryan Reade

SERGEANT MAJOR

Miller Michael Morgan
Rothwell Shane Henry

MASTER SERGEANT

Arrington Norman Eugene Jr
Chadwick Ray Lynn
Cheney Gregory Kent
Jeppson Mark Reed
Montoya Michael Joseph
Saxton Mark Allen
Smith Kayle Darrell

Sergeant First Class

Alldredge David Ormond
Austin Wayne Given Jr
Berry Jonathan Mark
Butler Jennifer Lea
Chavez Paul Albert
Craudell Lawrence Matthew
Creager Jon Paul
Crookston Thomas David II
Davis Eldon Scott
Day Chevonne Aimee
Gardner Christopher
Green Robert Dee
Hall Carl Ray
Hendricks James Lavon II
Hilton Christopher Raymond
Hunter Karl
Ingels Robert Ray II
Jeppesen William Brent
Johnson Brady Henderson
Johnson Wondel Lee Jr
Johnston Skip Jordan
Keegan James Edwin
Madsen Paul Ray
Nagata Bryan Minoru
Nelson Kody Ryan
Newren Joshua Chance
Price Thomas Daniel
Rentschler Norman Pepper Jr
Roper Weston John
Schmolke Joseph Scott T
Smith Jaclyn Rae
Sudweeks Jose Antonio
Vis Christopher Anthony
Ward Matthew Karl
Warner Kent Orange Jr
Wendt Christopher John
Yocum Jason Bryce
Zettel Gabriel Stephen

STAFF SERGEANT

Aerts Alexander Joseph Jr
Bood Michael Warren
Bowman Stephen Austin
Bowman William Robert
Burton David Henry
Bush Thomas David Alexan Jr
Butler Ronald Mark
Carter Raymond Knight IV
Chamberlain Mark Edward
Christensen Jason George
Davis David Bernard
Francis Sarah Brook
Gaerte Kyle Dennis
Georgeson Eric Carl
Hansen Bradley John
Harris Bradley Robert
Hill John William II
Hilton Steven Albert
John Levi Scott
Johnson Michele Brook
Kelley Jennifer Leah
Kunz Kristopher Adam
Lemley Daniel Barrus
Maltsbarger Luke AListair
Mcmillan Scott Richard
Mcneely David Arthur
Palmer Jesse Benjamin
Raines Matthew Richard
Sampson Zackarie Donald
Skog Darrell Anthony
Starley Jason Kyle
Stine Robert David
Thomas Trevor Robert
Tomlinson Jeffery Wayne
Tucker Shaun Michael
Voss Samuel Golden
Wilcox Robert Charles
Wilkerson Dallas
Wolfe Scott

SERGEANT

Ameh Friday Edoka
Beck Shawn Lee
Berry Richard Nathan
Black Michael Aaron
Borden Olga Judith
Caro Daniel Christopher Her
Carr Bradford Montana
Carter Jacob Clark
Crew Jamal Corwin
Crosby Tyson Ken
Cruz Paul III
Curtis Bryce Stuart
Cutler Jessica Ann
Day James Reuben
Defoer Sean Edward
Dobbin Joshua Dennis
Egbert Ian Alister
Estey Brian Patrick
Forcadilla Carlos Albina Jr
Gilmore Aaron Michael
Hagemann Shane Joshua
Harmon Randal Keith
Harvey Charley B Jr
Henline Shana Renee
Hernandez John
Hobbs MichaEl Malan
Hutchings Derek Quey
Hyde Jessica Lynn
Janes Joseph Tyler
Jensen Steven Milo
Jones Nathan William
Keele Blake Lee
Kehrer Ellis Leroy
Kelly Ryan Ord
Kirts Kimberly Sue
Kujaczynski Nicholas Randal
Lara Ricardo Arturo
Malmborg Casey Bruce
Mills James Tyler
Mitani Zackery Taylor Issam
Munns Rylee Boyd
Murphy Austin Clark
Neil Brandon James
Nielsen Tyler Jeffrey
Oldaker Ryan Lee
Plummer Gavin Mark
Power Garon Bryce
Pulham Scott Leroy
Ralphs Joseph Edward
Randles Raymond Erik
Richardson Andrew Michael
Rivera Emerson Geovany
Romig Joshua Brent
Sanchez Jorge Eduardo
Schow Jason Terry
Shields Russell York
Shillig Jacob Thomas
Steele Eli J
Stephens Dustin Winn
Stephenson Andrew Christoph
Stevens Justin Jay
Thompson Carlisle Allen
Vajzovic Edin
Valadez Isaac James
Walden Nikolas Ryan
Wallentine Davis Ray
Webb Eric William
Whicker Brett Hadley
Wilcox Cody Ernest
Wilkinson Debi Alene
Wilson Thayne John
Young Clay Brock

SPECIALIST

Adams Kenneth Thomas II
Allen Travis Ray
Anderson Adam Alan
Ansbergs Ian Andris
Archibeque Stephanie Mary
Bailey Zachary Andrew
Barnett Jeremiah Michael
Bartholomew Benjamin Hunter
Bates Edward Bruce II
Baxter Bart Clifton
Baxter Thomas Leigh
Birch Robert S III
Boatwright Alexa Lou
Bond Shad R
Boren Jason Frederick
Bowers Jeremy C
Bradford Christopher Craig
Brinkman Zachary Scott
Brown Joshua David
Brown Timothy Jared
Bunnell Sye James
Burningham Eli Andrew
Burt Steven Noel
Burton Brandon Palmer
BurTon Scott Paul
Call Lucas Will
Camp Michael Patrick
Carson Chad C
Carter Thomas Spencer
Casper Cheyne Dean
Cavender Joseph Lee
Chappell Cameron Thomas
Chesnut Mark Allan
Christman Joseph John
Clark Michael David
Cooper Milton Louis
Cossey Jeffery Mel
Cottrell Byron Udy
Coville Alexander S
Covington Randy L
Crandall Ashley Alexis
Cropper Casidy J
Crosby Joshua A
Cummins Charles Nicholas
Dacus Billy Dale Jr
Davis Benjamin Tyler
Deppe James Arthur
Devito Frank Joseph
Devocht Kevin James
Diamond Joshua Craig
DoTson Steven Michael
Eastabrook Adam Cody
Eck Albert Jared
Elliott Samuel Joseph
Elmer Clint Ray
Englestead John Curtis
Erler Trevor Michael
Flannery Mark Dennis
Forsgren Samuel Robert
Gardner Tyler Scott
Garrido Jonathanjames Castr
Gauer Kimberly
Gonzalez Guillermo
Grant Marty Allen
Greening Jeffery Charles Jr
Gregory Paul Michael
Gubler Keaton C
Hall Daniel Colton
Hansen Anthony Rulon
Hasson Vester Maxwell IV
Hawkes Shawn Nickolaus
Healey Joshua David
Hepworth Dylan Wayne
Hopkins Alexandra Joy
Hull Joseph Brian
Husbands Krystal Diann
Hutson Kurt Legrand
Isakson Allen Wayne
Jensen John Michael
Jeppesen Stetson Wallace
Johnson John Cory
Johnson Travis Jay
Jones Derrick Oliver
Keeling Leonard Marcellus
Keller Justin Greg
Keyte Sky Lowell
King Reade Everett
King Samuel Forrest
Kinsman Kasey J
Koopman Bryan Alexander
Latting Terrence Michael
Leber Audrey Lea
Lee Chance Evan
Lee Jared Wayne
Lee Jennifer Ann
Lial Danielle Gale
Liechty Roy David
Linger Michael Andrew
Litster Matthew Aaron
Long Melissa Ann
Loveless AUstin James
Mack Stephen Andrew
Maes Dane Robert

O M O T I O N S

Malone Aaron Scott
Matyas Kristopher John
Mcphee Matthew Wade
Merlette Nicole Ann
Miller Michael Wayne
Moore Cody James
Munguia Aseret
Naranjo Christopher Michael
Nehrer Marie Christine
Neto Alberto Nahid
Newkirk Justin Dewayne
Nichols Christy Marie
Orton Justin Mack
Packer Gary Lynn Betsill
Palmer David Jr
Perez Nina Michelle
Perry Jacob Michael
Peters Karl Hans
Peters Kurt Eugene
Phipps Shaun James
Piep Dustin Lynn-Tate
Pittman Thomas Jeffrey
Poulsen Jay R II
Reeder Anthony David
Remine Joshuwa Leroy
Robel Stephen James
Ryan Christopher Michael
Ryan Timothy John
Samek Joseph Marcus
Sandoval Joshua D
Sandoval Robert Richard
Sanford Jordan David
Schear Cory G
Sillitoe Derek Phillip
Sillitoe Traviss Lloyd
Simmons Jennae Shabilon
Skelton Brian Thomas
Smith Randy Lee
Smith Shawn Kelly
Snell Jaren Hansen
Sprouse Tisha Lee
Stanford John Anthony
Stevens Jeffery Brock
Stocks Angus Keith
Stocks Jonathan Jake
Stull Patrick Arlington
Stull Patrick Arlington
SwangEr James Russell
Taylor Brady Snow
Taylor Rodger Alan Jr
Thomas Travis Warmoth
Thorne Brandon Paul
Tidwell Christopher Cole
Trujillo David Daniel Jr
Turner Jared Henry
Vandermyde Neena Chalise
Vazquez Joshua Aaron
Wack Cody Clark
Walsh Daniel Patrick II
Whipple Jeremy Clayton
Wilkes Cody Michael
Wippler Kurt Walter II
Wise Mark Robert Jr
Wiseman Tyler Brian
Womack Micah Lynn

Private First Class

Aaron Tyrell Douglas
Affeltranger Mark Van Jr
Alvarado Anthony Craig
Andersen Brandy Jo
Andersen Clinton Lynn
Anderson Jayme Michelle
Anderson Ryan Ray
Anderson Tara Marie
Archibeque Chase Larsen
Archuleta Elicia Rose
Arcia Ammon Alvin
Ashton Jeffry James
Baca Anthony George
Ballif Marc Nelson
Bay Tyler Owen
Benson Trase Gordon
Berdanier Bruce Albert Jr
Berg Joshua James
Bissell Aaron Patrick
Blue Eddy Lee
Blunt Andrew Jonathan
Brunsvik Christian Cosmin
Burton Zachary Blake Seymou
Butler Aaron Rhett
Butler Grantland Blair
Caldwell Lee Richan
CarLson Cody Wayne
Carr David Michol
Carroll Andrew Scott
Chapman Patrick Michael II
Christy Shane Andrew
Clements Kelsea Elene
Cleveland Aaron Spencer
Cole Taylor Russell
Cowley Joshua Scott
Crofts Christopher Kelly
Cronin Daniel Eric
Crookston Daniel Tyler
Dame Seth Evan
Donahue Jacob Seth
Dotson Chad Everett
Dransfield Lyndsey Ray
Dumas Lindsey Jean
Erickson Joshua B
Esplin Steven Kassidy Dale
Falcon Marcos Jose
Ferguson Glen Scott Jr
Ferron Brian Ernesto
Feuers Benjermin Wayne
Francks Caleb J
Garaycochea Damien Reace
Gee Andrew James
Gingrass David Morgan Jr
Glad Michael Trent
Gonzales Lino Anthony
Gordon Garrett Loyde
Graff Robin Maryann
Green Adam Daniel Davies
Griffin Daniel Allen
Grisham Colton Earl
Gunnerson Christian Harold
Habliston Dezaray Nichole
Hall Nathan Jakob
Hanlon John David
Hansen Bryce Kaue
Harmon Jarediah Elias
Harris Richard Rockwell
Hawkins Sarah Elizabeth
Hemingway Nicholas Jeffery
Hendricksen David Reed Jr
Heston Michelle Ann
Hicks Charles Bronson
Hinck Spencer Curtis
Hinck Spencer Curtis
Hornsby Jacob Ray
Hunter Jeffrey James
Jacobs Troy David
Jacox Tyler Brent
Jaques Robert Vernon
Javier John Dennis
Jensen Tyler Curtis
Jenson Lars Erik
Jessop Levi
Johnson Jason Eugene
Johnson Kevin Lee
Judge Bradley Allan
Kaaihue Masami Alofipo Kuih
Kane John Patrick
Kapetanov Casey Allen
Killian Steven Mark
Lafeen Zachary Dee
Laffarga Joshua
Larsen David Christian
Larson Eric Bradley
Lelle Jeremy Brian
Liessmann Robert Joseph
Lisonbee John Gillette
Lofgren Christine Sandra
Long Jesse Paul
Loosle Kohnor Randy
Love Bridger John Steve
Ludlow Steven Shay
Lunceford Casey William
Manning William Madison
Martinez Robert Louis
May Jacob David
Mayne Clinton James
Mcgaha Matthew James
Mcgonigal Michael Francis
Mckean Nicholas David
Meachum Tyler Ray
Mele Rory Jacob
Mellor Caleb J
Merlette Jeremy Brett
Merritt Krystina Mae
Merten Paul Townsend
Moore Jessica Arlene
Mora Jesus
Morrell Tara D
Morrison Raymond Patrick
Mountford Nathan Joseph
Mower Benjamin Ralph
Munzo Jose Guadalupe
Mursener Gonzales Gary Mich
Nelson Jeffrey David
Nelson Mark Blaine
Neuenschwander Joshua Lane
Nicolay James Leonard
Norris Ryan Lyndsey
Nunez Esteban Jose
Okoemu Joshua
Oomrigar Jal William
Ott Daniel Robin
Peters Samuel Sylvester
Peters Sidney Wayne
Peterson Cameron Michael II
Peterson Dolyn Jack
Peterson Trevor William
Phillips Major Victor
Pollock Kazen Pratten
Puffer Lenzy Jared
Rasband Paul Thomas
Reams James Michael
Rhinehart Damen Lee
Robinson Joseph Eugene III
Rodriguez Jose Julian
Rogers Benjamin Todd
Romanowski Anton William
Rosenberger Ryan Ross
Ryantodd Myles Robert
Saari Justin King
Schow Erich John
Searcy Mark Ryan
Simmons Jordan Hildt
Simmons Kyle Reed
Simons Christopher Lee
Slagowski Matthew Vaughn
Smalling Mark Anthony
Snow Sarah Marie
Spencer Lance England
Staton Eddie Dale Jr
Stransky Jonathan Joseph
Sullivan Raymond Jay
Taylor Travis Lee
Thorsted Jonathon David
Tibbets Kristopher Charles
Tower Richard Sean
Vigil Isaac Joshua
Visser Julius Richard
Vogl Jared Lee
WanlasS Tracey Lee
Warr Rodney Russell
Webb Jedadiah Paxton
Wells Joshua Robert
Wheiler Brandon Jon
White Michael Vard
Willingham Robert Steven
Woodcox Cameron Leif
Woods Nathan Andrew
Wright Scott Thomas
Yoder Shawn James

PRIVATE

Acheson Lawrence Wain III
Anderson Amanda Jean
Anstead Matthew Clay
Beatty Brittany
Benally Trevor Loren
Bonham Keith
Bradley Jeremiah Dustin
Breitweiser Tyson Joseph
Busenbark Todd Garrett Jr
Caldwell Brett Cale
Clary Ian Sean
Cook Christopher Joseph
Corona Hernandez Ivan
Cowan Jason Mitchell
Cox Garin Steven
Daley Brandy
Dee Farrell
Deubler Tracee Lee
Devries Ty
Dredge Jesse David
Dubois Alexander Eric
Dunn Matthew Preston
Edwards Chad Scott
Enkey Dietrich Lon
Frenza Shaun David
Frew Chance Scott
Garrison Ethan Jess
Gerlach Jacob Daniel
Gesell Sean Michael
Goold Andrea Lynn
Graham Blake Thomas
Green Adrian Mackay
Gurr Joshua Heber
Hansen Rebecca Ruth
Harris Kirby Leroy II
Hawkins Robert Tyrel
Hiseman Whitnee Lee
Holle Joshua William
Holloway Brittany Chere
Hutchings Travis Jay
Jackson Christopher Scott
Jensen Cabe Arvie
Jensen David Ralph
Jenson Alyssha Victorianna
Jepsen Rick
Johns Justin Scott
Jourdain Linda
Keller Daniel
Kish Robert Michael
Kissilles Joseph Anthony
Klindt Dustin Lee
Lefevre Dusten Michael
Lucero Chance Alex
Martinez Justin Alexander
Mcdonald Jeramiah Hogan
Michie Ken Monroe
Mitson Leslie George
Moore Ricky Bryon Jr
Morado Dennis Rene
Morris Scott Robert
Newman Rendell Dane
Newman Taylor Brent
Olsen Justin Dean
Ostler Jeremy Robert
Patterson Walter Joshua
Peterson Derek Daniel
Petitt Skylar Stephen
Pinnegar Jason Erik
Posey Al Jay
Price Walter James Jr
Ramirez Annie Marie
Randall Todd Casey
Record Amy Shirin
Reimann Jacob Daniel
Rindlesbach Asher John
Robison Bryant Arnold
Rogers Michael James Jr
Rosenlund Todd Kevin
Rosenquist Richard Floyd
Ruppe Jared Boyer
Saavedra Omar Francisco
Sargent Craig Clayton
Siliga Lubmirbenod Faatea
Simmons Mitchall Lee
Smith Tyler James
Snarr Robert Bryan
Stapley Joseph Robert
Stohel Spencer Thomas
Stuart Bryan Joseph
Thompson Jesse Thomas
Tramposh Noah Reed
Tucker Mark Evan
Vandemerwe Joshua Willem
Vanleuven Michael Tyler
Watkins Kevin Raymond
White Kalam Cosand
Whitehead Mitchell Quinn
Willenborg Jessica Juree
Woods Elden Glenn
Worley Marcus David
Young Kashea Lynn

AIR PROMOTIONS

COLONEL
Burckle Christine M
Craig Darwin L

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
Nelson Jams R

MAJOR
Melton Susan L
Townson Walter K

CAPTAIN
Larsen Kenneth B
Mivehchi Vincent M
Rizo Kimberly D
Steeneck Douglas B

SECOND LIEUTENANT
Cronk Eric Chr
Delamare Timothy Aar
Ralph Travis L
Smith Brandon Mic
Stookey Kendall R

FIRST LIEUTENANT
Earl Christopher L
Estrada Robert
Johnson Jacob C
Lee Wayne L
Van Wie Joseph Jac
Zimmerman Bonnie

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT
Allred Mark L
Catoe Kevin M
Driggs Sheen T
Harris Jerome S
Lukes Douglas R
Martineau Allan F
Pena Kenny L
Powell David G
Samsen Max L
Vogel Ruth L
Wasden Raymond B
Zimmerman Clay K

MASTER SERGEANT
Billings Michael B
Bird Scott J
Chardon Ariel
Christian Chrisopher P
Gale Eric K
Gustafson Jeff L
Hansen John D
Hoferitza Mark A
Langille Cody R
Lauritzen Ben A
Olson Gary L
Peters Melissa R
Samsen Max L
Sartori Henry E
Trinchitella Charles P
Werven Roger V
West Darren G
Whiteman Edward

TECHNICAL SERGEANT
Adams Luke D
Alldredge Makila R
Allred Gregory S
Baxter Stewart A
Bettridge Keith A
Blantin Jason R
Campbell Phillip T
Carrillo Rick M
Castleton Scott G
Eakins Peter H
Eby Brandon L
Fortie Brian J
Hall Rachel M
Hall Jacob J
Hall Larry B
Haverly Cirena R
Hood Guy L
Hope Reo W
Lakes Gary R
Marlow Raymond D
Nawrocki Erik
Perry Kendall
Rippel Andrew T
Shields James W
Tebbs Matthew R
Thompson Nicholas A
Wade Brent K
Wahlin Kevin C
Weaver Sherri N
Webb Darrel E
Wood Kyle

STAFF SERGEANT
Alsop Brandon D
Bowler Thomas B
Bresee Adam
Brockbrader Mikel D
Carsten Casy J
Clark Scott P
Class Lamont M
Clay David R
Decker James N
Edwards Shawn R
Evans Benjamin C
Fritch Daniel P
Fuentes Anthony M
Gamblin Timothy J
Gonzalez Gustavo R
Grove Jonas F
Handcock Julianne M
Ihnen Jonathan N
Jensen Timothy L
Kidman Jared R
Lawson John D
Mackley-Portley Rietta E
Marshall Urian S
Mcelwain Jushua A
Neill Geoffery G
Ogden John P
Recksiek Brenda J
Seib Mark E
Stamps Bryan C
Taylor Bradley N
Taylor Nicholas A
Teel Brian P
Weaver Bruce E
Welch Steven A
Wilson Ronald F
Wilson Jesse E

SENIOR AIRMAN
Hood Nisha
Larsen Timothy J
Nielson Brent J

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
Julian Jackie L
Lund Colter L
Newman Phillip B
Ruggiero Andrew
Tubbs Adam W

HRO Hosts a Grilling Summer

By CPT Patrick Haws

DRAPER, Utah — The Human Resource Office (HRO) is more committed than ever to providing quality customer service, timely results and customer satisfaction to the employees of the Utah National Guard. This summer, the HRO hitched up the barbecue and took that mission on the road. They revived the old tradition of assisting the Adjutant General in providing employee appreciation barbecues and presenting service awards.

During May and June the barbecue tour made stops in St. George, Camp Williams, Army Aviation in West Jordan, the Air Guard and Headquarters, Draper. Everyone was served hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by the HRO staff. SGM Porter was NCOIC of the cooking and ensured all the grills were burning hot and putting out the required amounts of food. The adjutant general expressed his appreciation to employees statewide that are dedicated to the missions of the Utah Guard. Service awards were presented to many dedicated employees who have made significant contributions throughout the years.

In addition to providing recognition and appreciation lunches, the HRO continues to improve the support and assistance provided to the Guard's most valuable assets, the people that come to work every day. Hiring, staffing, benefit services, position classification, training, EEO, labor relations, medical and pay administration and employee assistance programs are some of the services provided every day to ensure all the work-related needs of Guard employees are met with the goal of maximizing efficiency and maintaining high morale. Once again throughout the year, the Utah National Guard was recognized as a professional, trained force ready to accomplish its many missions. The HRO is proud of its contributions to the readiness and well-being of the force.

Photos courtesy Human Resource Office

Earn up to $2,000 for each new Soldier who joins the National Guard!

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Become a part-time Recruiting Assistant and work your own hours. To find out if you are eligible to participate in the program, log on to

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Submit your application today!

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

National Guard Soldier of the Year - SPC Jeremy Whipple

"I learned a lot about myself and what I'm capable of, but the true value of this competition is that every Soldier that has competed in it has become better in the process. Now it's up to us to take that back to our units and help our units achieve the high standards our leaders expect from us," said SPC Jeremy Whipple, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, after winning the National Guard Soldier of the Year competition.

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD
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