

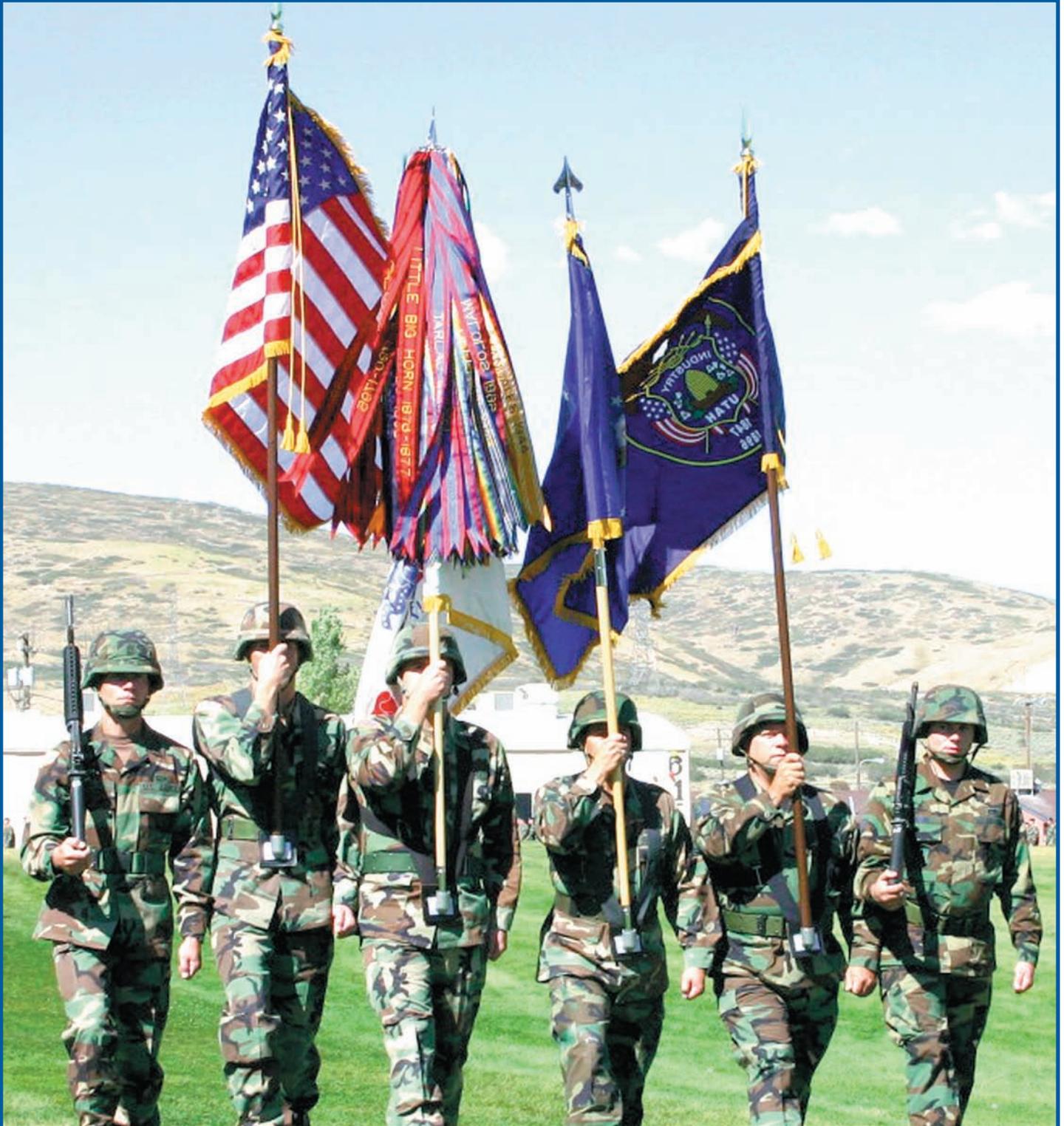
UTAH MINUTEMAN

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UTAH MINUTEMAN

Connecting the Pieces Spring 2005

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The Adjutant General's Corner

Recently we have witnessed the fruits of the labors of our superb soldiers and airmen as a result of past years fighting the Global War on Terrorism. In early December elections were held in Afghanistan and Iraq where people, for the first time in centuries, were given a taste of liberty.

To all who have deployed and to all who have assisted and supported the deployments, take a justifiable bow and accept thanks for a job well done. Clearly, much remains to be done, but I am in awe of all that you and your wonderful families have accomplished.

Over the past few weeks, I and others in the senior leadership of the Guard, have been mapping out the future leadership of both the Army and Air Guard. In the process, I was struck by the wealth of talent that we have in our ranks and by the huge contributions that many have made and are making today. Many key changes have been announced or will shortly be announced. But one constant remains: the unstinting service you all render to the Nation and the state of Utah.

The past several weeks have also been a demonstration of the Guard's versatility and breadth. The pace of deployments and re-deployments has been brisk; the Inauguration of Governor Huntsman was flawlessly accomplished, and the state mission was showcased by the response to the floods in Washington County. You all performed superbly.

Utah Army National Guard units have received national awards in the past month. Both the 142nd Military



Major General Brian L. Tarbet, The Adjutant General of Utah

Intelligence Battalion and the 1457th Engineer Battalion have received Department of Army Meritorious Unit Citations for their combat duty in Iraq. Additionally, the 1-211 Aviation (Task Force Pirate) has received the Army Aviation Association of America award for being the outstanding National Guard Aviation unit of year.

Please allow me an observation as to the quality and caliber of Utah Guard personnel. Witness the remarkable effort of our Task Force Pirate personnel in Afghanistan to secure vi-

tal heart surgery for a young Afghan boy, Asedullah Ibrahim. Similarly, under the leadership of Chaplain Miller in the 115th Engineer Group, a young Iraqi child was also given life-saving heart surgery in the United States. The ABC News featured the 115th and Chaplain Miller as its "Person of the Week." Such efforts as the 211th's Angels in Afghanistan and Chief Wiggles remind us of the special qualities of our Guard members and their families. Thank you for all you do.

photo by State Staff

Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments



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

It continues to be a very busy time with many soldiers and airmen deploying all over the world to accomplish their assigned missions. They continue to perform in a superb and professional manner that sets the example and standard for others to follow. It is always a sad but proud day when we send soldiers and airmen off to fight the global war on terrorism, but that is why we joined this organization and I am proud of

the families and members of the Utah National Guard for their service and commitment. It is an honor and pleasure to be able to serve with such outstanding individuals. We just recently sent several hundred soldiers from various commands off to the mobilization station to prepare for deployment overseas. What a great bunch of soldiers, ready and willing to serve their country. We also just recently welcomed home

several hundred soldiers and airmen from deployments in Turkey, South America, the Middle East and other places all over the world. What an exciting day it is when they return from their deployment and are reunited with families and loved ones. I would like to salute our soldiers and airmen for their service, but I would especially like to salute the families for their sacrifice and support of our troops.

All of us should be familiar with and be able to recite the Soldiers Creed. It says:

I am an American Soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I AM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

As members of the military we are an all volunteer force. Be proud of who you are, what you stand for, and what you represent. Thank you for your service, your commitment and your sacrifice.

photo by State Staff

115th Engineer Group in Iraq

By Lt. Col. Robert Dunton

This weekend I went on a mission to the eastern edge of the Dhi Qar province to coordinate the construction of a new Iraqi police station and check points along the highways. It was a neat mission; it gave me a chance to work with an MP platoon that was adopted by the 115th back in May and a chance to see some new areas of our Area of Operations. The MP platoon was sent to Tallil to help support the local Iraqi police, and we developed a relationship with them because of our construction of Major Ali police stations. Different platoons have rotated in and out of Baghdad to support the mission in the southern part of Iraq. These soldiers are combat-hardened guys who have been in some of the heaviest fighting in the country. Even though, as Engineers, we have come a long way with our tactical skills, it was good to be out with the best American forces here.

This was the first time that I have ridden in a completely up-armor Hummer. Regardless of what you hear and what spin people want to put on it, soldiers are still traveling in soft skin Hummers or "Hillbilly" armor. It was good to be so secure, but it also took away our ability to interact with the locals except when we stopped. We visited a police station in the town of Al Islah on the edge of the great marshland of Iraq. We are making repairs to the station that shares a building with the city manager and other public officials. We went on the roof to inspect the construction of new watchtowers. It was very amazing to see the town and people from that perspective, plus it provided a great over-watch view for potential problems. As we came out to leave, there was a large

body of children surrounding the MP's, asking for candy. I couldn't believe it when, as we got in the Hummer to leave, one young girl about 10, in traditional dress and scarf, picked up a baseball-size rock to throw at us. This has happened a couple of times in the city from boys, mostly mad that we didn't give them something like our knives, sunglasses or MRE's; but I have never seen a little girl do this. The gunner yelled at her and she didn't throw it. I got this photo of the MP's on the street providing security while we were inside.

We continued east through the marshes of eastern Iraq, and I was able to see the many small fishing villages that dot the landscape. This is a fresh-water marsh filled by both the Euphrates and Tigris and is over 300 kilometers by 200 kilometers in area. It is huge. It was like looking out on the open sea and seeing nothing but marsh, reeds, waterways and dikes. There were hundreds of fishermen working fishnets, doing boat repairs and dealing with the day's catch. There were a few women, mostly on shore, doing laundry and other daily tasks. There was one lady who was drawing water from the marsh with a small bucket and pouring it into a pan where her son, about 8, was stomping on the clothes to get them clean. Even though the marsh water is fresh water, it looks much like the water in the Jordan River. The local people use this water for bathing, drinking and laundry.

There were numerous individuals washing cars and trucks along the road, using buckets and brushes, with water supplied by the marsh. The boats were long, narrow, flat-bottom rigs. The fishermen would stand in the back of the boat and

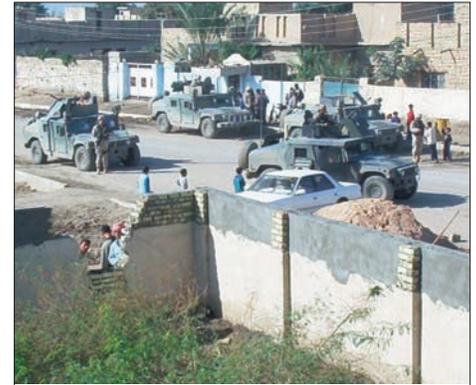


Photo provided by 115th Engr Gp

MP security patrol visiting a Police Station in the town of Al Islah in Iraq

propel the craft with a long pole. They cast their nets while standing, and it was amazing to see their balance as they threw the nets out. The old saying "never stand in the boat" does not apply there. When we reached the small town of Al Chabaish, the furthest point east, we saw a Toyota pickup filled with small fish heading to the market.

Most of the housing in the region were mud huts with grass-thatched roofs and water was everywhere. Many of the houses could only be reached by boat. The Marsh Arabs, inhabitants of this area, have been around since the beginning of time. Saddam was attempting to drain the marsh to force the Marsh Arabs into extinction because of conflicts with his regime. The environmental damage to the area is evident by all the alkaline deposits around the water's edge.

Our convoy back was uneventful and ended a very long day. As we start preparing to come home, we are trying to set the condition for the unit that will replace us. Our plan is to work until we are told to "step away from the desk; it is time for you to go home."

116th Engineer Company Return From Iraq

By Lt. Col. David Thomas

The cheering crowd and the band playing, all mixed with the sound of jet engines was sweet music to the ears of family members as the 116th Engineer Company when they returned home from a 1-year-long deployment to Iraq on February 17. Governor Jon Huntsman and Brig. Gen. Brent Winget greeted and shook the hand of each Guardsman as they touched the ground.

The 116th has spent the last year in Iraq working combat engineering projects. Many of the towns they worked in are regularly mentioned on the nightly news as insurgent hotspots. All the company members returned home safely.

The Family Support organization presented each soldier a plaque for his or her service to the nation. Family members, news media, a local bagpipe group and many well-wishers also greeted the soldiers. The crowd was estimated to be about 600 people.

The company, of about 140 members, flew to the Utah Air National



Photo by Master Sgt. Burke Baker

Governor Huntsman and Brig. Gen. Winget greet the soldiers as they deplane at the Utah Air National Guard Base.

Guard base on a chartered airliner from Fort Carson, Colorado where they underwent demobilization processing this past week.



Photo by Master Sgt. Burke Baker

The 116th lines up in formation one last time before being dismissed to meet their family and friends.

115th Engineer Group Returns From Iraq



Members of the 115th Engineer Group stepping off the airplane at the Utah Air National Guard Base after spending over a year in Iraq

By 2nd Lt. Wayne Lee

On February 26, members of the 115th Engineer Group, Utah National Guard, returned from their assignment in Iraq.

The 115th was mobilized for over a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were involved in multiple engineering missions and projects that took them throughout the entire country. The unit was

involved in constructing such things as roads, watchtowers and Iraqi police stations in Dhi Qar province, Tallil, Al Islah, and Al Chabaish.

Specialist Matthew Taylor was fresh out of basic training when the call came to serve in Talil, Iraq. He was a little nervous about going with his unit to Iraq. He had yet to attend a unit drill so he would be working with people who knew each other and

he would be an outsider. But fears were laid to rest when he got to Iraq. "I work with a true band of brothers. I would do anything for them and I know they would do anything for me. I had a positive experience."

Another soldier also had a similar experience. Specialist Scott Hadfield is a healthcare specialist. "I got to interact with the local Iraqis. It was very positive. We had the Pentagon Channel to give us a balanced look at the situations around Iraq and back home. And, finally, the work we accomplished made me feel proud because we were helping the civilians and we could see the mission progress."

The entire deployment was not all easy but it was certainly worth it. General Gordon summed it up best when he addressed the soldiers, "The soldiers of the 115th Engineer Group can be proud of a job well done."



115th soldier being greeted by his family on his return home

Guard Mechanics Visit Chad



Photos by Staff Sgt. Todd Howey

One of the Republic of Chad Toyota trucks loaded with cargo and troops.

By Lt. Col. David Thomas

Three members of the Utah Army and Air National Guard were afforded a rare opportunity to visit the Republic of Chad the last week of January to train Chadian army mechanics. The training program is under the auspices of the European Command in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Chad.

Two mechanics, Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Nathan Stewart, Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Todd Howey along with an interpreter, Warrant Officer Don Fitzgerald, trained the soldiers to repair and maintain their new Toyota vehicles. The vehicles were given to the Chadian army to help them in their war with terrorists who use parts of Chad as a training ground.

Upon arrival at the N'Djamena airport, after a two day flight, a

member of the Office of Defense Cooperation, Sgt. Yago, and a local expeditor named Emanuel met them. The expeditor was essential in getting through customs with baggage intact. After clearing customs they were given a local briefing of the basic do's and don'ts.

After meeting with the Defense Attaché, Lt. Col. Mitchell, at the embassy, they were given a rental car with a driver and sent about 20 kilometers south of the capital to Kondul, the area of operations for the unit they were training.

They concentrated on the mechanics of the vehicles, covering recurring repairs, scheduled maintenance and servicing. They also preformed a few light tasks such as brake checks, checking suspension control systems and timing belt replacement. Of the ten mechanics they trained, the majority had some experience as

mechanics and seemed to be capable of performing the tasks.

On January 27 they traveled another 100 kilometers south to another training site. According to Sgt. Howey, "It was a very good experience to observe how the vehicles were actually operated during an actual mission and how they responded to the heavy loads and extreme environments."

After reaching this area, they developed a short operator's course that included crossing a ravine requiring four-wheel drive.

The Chadian soldiers had ample tools, but only one of the required manuals and no electronic equipment. In spite of this, they were very motivated and eager to learn. "I think they were all very proud of their jobs, and had a lot of confidence in the vehicles they were given," said Sgt. Howey.



Family and Friends of the “Triple Deuce”



Photos by SFC Greg Cullis

Friends and family of members of the 2nd Bn 222nd FA seeing them off on their way to Camp Shelby, Mississippi

By Lt. Col. Richard G. Miller, Commander 2/222nd FA

I find myself writing this first Battalion Newsletter with a great deal of emotion. Leaving our loved ones at home and flying to Mississippi for training was one of the most difficult things I have done. I wasn't as sad for myself and the troops, as I was for our loved ones whom we left behind, because I know this deployment will be harder on them than on the soldiers.

The soldiers are missing their families and friends a great deal, but they also are very focused on the training at hand, which is training for war. Before I arrived at Camp Shelby, I had heard about Mississippi's beautiful golf courses and had hoped to play a few rounds on my days off. However, as I began to understand the intensity of this essential training that the soldiers and units are going through, I realized that our time off would be measured in hours rather than days.

We have been here for almost seven weeks, working everyday from 5am to 9pm, with several days spent in 24-hour operations. I can tell you

that the troops are working very hard at preparing for war, and getting very few hours off. Initially, I was concerned that soldiers would complain about not having time off, but that has not happened with the soldiers of the Triple Deuce. The soldiers are highly motivated and energized at preparing for and executing training to standard. The training is challenging both physically and mentally, but the soldiers are performing extremely well.

The Triple Deuce is fortunate enough to have great subordinate leaders at all levels. The mission of the unit is focused at the platoon level, and we are blessed to have great lieutenants and sergeants leading our platoons. While my soldiers do their part in training for this difficult mission, I promise to them and to their families that I will prepare the soldiers for whatever lies ahead and will also tend to their personal welfare and morale by making sure they get time off to unwind.

The soldiers' attitudes and performances are inspiring to me as their commander, and make me personally focus my energies each day in

keeping myself trained and prepared to accomplish whatever mission the Battalion receives.

I pray each night that the insurgency activity in Iraq will stop and we will not have to fire a round in anger; but I also want everyone to know that the 2-222nd will be trained to complete any mission it receives, no matter how difficult or dangerous it may be.

In closing, I want to thank the many supporters of the Battalion and its subordinate batteries in Richfield, Beaver, Cedar City, and St. George, along with all of the surrounding communities in those cities. The generosity and support is overwhelming. Communities and organizations are sending care packages that include a variety of goodies and tokens of love and support. One in particular is Cedar High School, who has “adopted” the Triple Deuce. We are very appreciative and humbled at the support you have shown, and are grateful to be Southern Utah's adopted children.

Again, our thanks go out to everyone. May God bless the communities, families, and friends of the Triple Deuce, and may God bless America.



Member of 2-222 saying good-bye

Harrison Family Continues Tradition of Service

Candi Chandler, Spanish Fork Press

Showing great patriotism and actively serving their country has always been a big part of Master Sgt. Mark and Mary Ann Harrison's family. From having both of their fathers serve during World War II, to brothers serving, to now having three of their four son's serving, the Harrison family realizes how great freedom is. Mark Harrison has provided an example for his children by showing them the benefits of serving their country. He joined the Utah Army National Guard as a high school senior. In 1983, he became an Active Guard soldier serving as a Readiness NCO for Battery B, 1/140th Field Artillery. He is currently an Area Supervisor for the State Recruiting and Retention Command, serving in Utah County.

"Being with the Army National Guard has been good to me and my family," he said. "It has provided opportunity and has given me a chance to serve. Pressuring my sons to join has never been something I have done," he stated. "I have always told the boys the opportunities that are available in the Guard, but they have chosen to join on their own. It is a big commitment with an unknown always there, so I am glad they have made the decision themselves because it was something they wanted to do."

The Harrison's have four sons. Sgt 1st Class Brady Harrison, the oldest, joined when he was a senior in high school. He has worked in various assignments from Military Police, to Special Forces, to his current position as an Automation NCO with the Recruiting and Retention Command. He is married to the former Stephanie



Photo provided by Harrison Family

PFC Brett, SGT Kyle, MSG Mark, and SFC Brady Harrison

Olsen and they have a seven-year-old son, Triston, and a two-month old daughter, Haley Ann.

Sgt. Kyle Harrison is the second oldest and joined when he was 20 years old. He has served with the 19th Special Forces, and as a financial specialist at State Headquarters. Sgt. Harrison is currently assigned to the State Medical Command as a Medical Supply Specialist.

Spec. Brett Harrison is the youngest, and he joined when he was 18 years old. He originally joined HHS 1/145th Field Artillery, but volunteered to serve with the 116th Engineer Company when they were mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his time with the 116th, he served as a Supply Specialist in the Headquarter Section. The 116th Engineer Company just returned to Utah on February 17, 2005, after serving in Iraq for over a year.

Having so many of the men in her life serving their country is a great source of pride for Mary Ann Harrison. "I am proud to have Mark and my son's serve our country," she said.

"Their service is something I have always felt good about. It has provided our family with many opportunities, and everything associated with it has been positive. It is something I have grown up with, having my father and brothers serve. It makes me proud that they are willing to serve because we know that freedom isn't something that is free."

"We are so proud to serve," said Master Sgt. Harrison. "It is great to follow other great contributors who have given of themselves to serve this great country." Mark's current assignment gives him a chance to see the newest recruits and their willingness to serve their country. "There is just something special about seeing a new recruit raise his hand and swear to defend our country and its constitution," he said. "It is so important for our freedoms, and it always gets me emotional. It is special to me to be part of the men and women serving our state and country." The Harrison Family shows patriotism through their service.

TAG Visits Morocco -- State Partnership Program



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Greg Cullis

Lt. Gen. Bennani and Maj. Gen. Tarbet discuss the State Partnership Program with subordinates in Rabat

By Lt. Col. David Thomas

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, and 12 other members of the Utah Air and Army National Guard traveled to the Kingdom Morocco for a formal visit the second week of February. Maj. Gen. Tarbet met with Lt. Gen. Bennani, the Inspector General of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces (similar to our Army Chief of Staff) for an office call. Later he met with Lt. Gen. Arroub, the Chief of the 3rd Bureau (similar to Army G-3) to discuss the progress and direction of the State Partnership Program.

The Adjutant General and his staff also met with the U.S. Embassy staff to discuss the State Partnership Program. The embassy staff was enthusiastic about the program and will be helpful in advancing the program.

The rest of the week consisted of visiting the Mohammed V Military Training Hospital in Rabat, the 2nd Wing at Meknes Airbase and the disaster preparedness center at Kenitra.

The hospital is up to date and can deal with all types of illnesses and trauma. Unlike our military hospitals, the Moroccan hospitals treat both civilian and military patients.

The base at Meknes was impressive. It is a fighter training base with a squadron of Alphajet trainers and a

squadron of F-5 fighters. Depot level maintenance of the F-5s and Alphajet trainers is all performed at the base.

Due to time limitations, caused by lost luggage, half of the staff went to Kenitra with the The Adjutant General and half to Meknes with Brig. Gen. Dewsnup. The overall



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General looks over the uniforms and badges presented to the Utah National Guard by the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gilles Gohier

Brig. Gen. Dewsnap shakes hands with some of the fighter pilots based at Meknes Airbase

impressions of Morocco were highly positive. The people were genuinely friendly, the food was exotic and delicious and the markets were a shopper's paradise.

Shopping in the markets was an experience. Hagglng over prices is not only expected, but required by

some merchants. Everything you needed could be found in the market districts in the towns, called the "medina." Pottery, jewelry, leather goods, rugs, even raw spices could all be found at a fraction of the prices you would pay in the States.

The meals served by the Moroccan

hosts were multiple course delights. Everything from salads to roast lamb and exotic deserts were served on huge family size platters or dishes.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Gilles Gohier

Brig. Gen. Dewsnap looks on as a Moroccan F-5 fighter pilot flies the simulator at Meknes Airbase, Morocco.



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

Maj. Gen. Tarbet observes extraction exercise by Moroccan troops

2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Departs for Duty in Iraq

By Leigh Dethman,
Deseret Morning News

Photos by SFC Greg Cullis



The 2nd Battalion meets in formation prior to loading on the airplanes at the Cedar City Airport to depart for an 18-month deployment to Iraq

The following article appeared in the Deseret Morning News on January 25, 2005, the day the second main element of the 222nd Field Artillery departed on the first phase of their active duty:

“This time it is really happening. Nearly 500 soldiers of the

Utah National Guard’s 222nd Field Artillery Battalion are going to Iraq. After a four-month training stop at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and another month in California, the ‘Triple Deuce’ will make their way to the Middle East, where they will work on convoy duty and provide some

artillery support fire,” said Lt. Col. Thomas (Public Affairs Officer for the Utah National Guard). “They’re on their way,” Thomas said just minutes after the first plane full of soldiers departed. Dense fog slightly delayed the soldier’s scheduled departure time.

The group had orders to report to Iraq two years ago, but that didn’t pan out. In March 2003, the group prepared to leave Cedar City for the war in Iraq. But the conflict ended so quickly they were never sent overseas. Instead, the “Triple Deuce” served at Fort Lewis, Washington, where they helped train Reserve Officers Training Corps students.

“A second installment of soldiers will leave for Camp Irvine, California, this morning. The unit will be deployed for 18 months,” Thomas said. Approximately 50 members of the unit’s leadership team left earlier this month. The soldiers come from Richfield, Beaver, Cedar City, and St. George.

Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. made the trek to Cedar City to bid farewell to the soldiers. Huntsman stayed and greeted soldiers and their families throughout the fog delay. The new Governor shook the hand of each soldier as they boarded the plane and thanked him or her for their willingness to serve.

Hundreds of friends and families gathered at Cedar City Municipal Airport to support the soldiers on their journey. The community has embraced the unit since their first mobilization in 2003. Recently the local high school adopted the battal-

ion. Students at Cedar High School will send newspapers, letters and care packages to the 222nd while they are serving abroad.



Members of 2/222nd just prior to loading on the departure aircraft



The top leadership of the Utah National Guard salutes a plane load of members of 2nd Bn, 222nd FA as they maneuver to take off

Photos by SFC Greg Cullis



The IG, Chief of Staff, Command Sgt. Maj. UTARNG, The Adjutant General, the Governor and his wife say goodbye to 2/222nd members



Governor Huntsman shaking hands with a member of the 2/222nd just prior to departure, thanking him for his service



Cedar High Band playing tribute to members of 2/222nd FA



The 115th Maintenance Co. Heads for Duty in Iraq



Photos by SFC Greg Cullis

Members of the 115th Maintenance Company load aircraft that will take them to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they will begin their active duty

By Rhina Guidos, *The Salt Lake Tribune*

The following article appeared in *The Salt Lake Tribune* on February 1, 2005, the day after the 115th Maintenance Company departed for Fort Bliss, Texas:

At 9:30 a.m., the blue buses that bring tears arrived. They took away loved soldiers from the families that had, a few minutes earlier, cried on their shoulders, taken photos and videos of them, hoping their early Monday gathering wouldn't be the last.

Family members expressed not only love but also worry for the more than 120 members of the Utah National Guard who left for Fort Bliss, Texas. After a few weeks of training there, they probably will be headed to Iraq.

"I'm hoping it doesn't get worse," Theresa Johnson said of the situation awaiting her daughter in Iraq. "It's just scary." Johnson, of Utah County, was in Salt Lake City to

watch her daughter Stacey Olson, a member of the 115th Maintenance Company, board the bus that hauls soldiers to airplanes and off to distant and sometimes dangerous places to do their jobs.

"Most of the soldiers who left are trained to repair vehicles and other equipment," said Capt. Budd Vogrinec, who is accompanying the group. It will be his first time in Iraq. Vogrinec made jokes on the way to the room that held the soldiers and their families, including his own.

Other soldiers patted him on the



Family members came to see the members of the 115th depart

back. "Bring 'em back," said one. "You're a good man. Come back safely," urged another. Vogrinec smiled. He had to stay calm.

Fathers, wives, husbands, girlfriends and children cried in the room. Some gulped, trying to swallow their sorrow while Col. Ruedi Tillman offered words of comfort.

"We couldn't do this for the Iraqi people without these families," he said. "You are the voice that's going to be left behind. This is a difficult time." Tillman reminded the families of the historic vote over the weekend. However, some of them remembered the violence that had taken place, too.

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, said there was no way to make the departure easy. "These are never routine," he said. "For the families, this is World War II. This is a big deal, a huge sacrifice."

The lucky ones in the room were the children too young to grasp the situation. Michael Olson, 5, played with his mother Stacey Olson and then waved at her when she got on the bus. When asked where his mother was going, he answered with a smile, "to work."

In her mother's arms, Capt. Vogrinec's daughter, Kiersten, watched as her father comforted other families in the room. But at 8 months of age, she could only smile at the father who was preoccupied with the task he faces in the 13 or 14 months ahead - to bring the soldiers back safely.

After 16 years with the Guard, he is as ready as ever, he said. "We have trained every day for this day."



Members of higher headquarters salute members of the 115th Maintenance Company, paying their respects and wishing them good luck on their future duty, as their aircraft taxis to take-off



A member of the 115th Maint. Co. says a touching goodbye prior to loading the plane for departure



Members of the 115th Maint. Co. off load their equipment from the truck and load it on the aircraft



The Adjutant General, the Assistant Adjutant General Army, the Command Sgt. Maj., and the Command Senior Warrant Officer shake hands with each member of the 115th as they load the departure aircraft



Photos by SFC Greg Cullis

116th Engineer Company Ready to Come Home



Photos provided by 116th Engr Co

Members of the 116th Engineer Company in front of the Ziggurat taken on January 18, 2005 prior to their preparation for departure after being in Iraq for almost one year

By 1st Sgt. Craig I. Haskell

December 1, 2003, seems like a long time ago, but in reality, the time has gone quite rapidly, especially after we were finally able to leave Utah, then Fort Carson, and get on with the business at hand: the 116th's mission of turning dirt.

Officially, we became Title 10 soldiers on December 18, 2003. Fortunately for us, the state leaders saw fit to keep us home through the holidays before they shipped us to Fort Carson on January 4, 2004. We had many things to do in preparation for the long deployment ahead. I had no concerns at all about our ability to turn something that began as a mound of dirt into something useful, but I was a bit nervous about our ability to perform the tactical, military tasks that we might be called to do. Once we hit the ground and began

rubbing shoulders with our active component counterparts, it soon was apparent that we could hold our own with anyone, especially when it came to convoy operations.

We spent a grueling, rigorous month and a half under the watchful eye of the 91st Mobilization Reserve folks, who held us to the standards we needed to acquire, and on February 9, about midnight, we flew out for Kuwait. Because of time changes and such, we landed, at Camp Wolverine, in Kuwait on February 11 and were billeted at Camp Victory in a huge tent city.

Many of the units who deployed had to do more training when they got to Kuwait before they were allowed to go north to Iraq. Because of the many tasks we had trained and been validated on, both in Utah and Fort Carson, our stay in Kuwait was

shorter. We sent an advance party north to Life Support Area (LSA) Anaconda within the first week to begin making preparations for our main body, which flew in on C-130s in the middle of the night on February 25. We left 56 soldiers behind to up armor our twenty-ton dump trucks and a few pieces of other equipment so they would be as safe as possible convoying the 300-plus miles north to LSA Anaconda. A couple of weeks later, they arrived safely without incident.

The unit we were replacing, the 642nd Engineers out of Fort Drum, New York, were still at Anaconda when we arrived, so we had to share space with them. They quickly turned over their equipment to us, and our soldiers began to make quick use of everything in order to maximize their time on the ground,

and even before operations orders started sending missions our way. The compound we occupied was approximately eight acres in size, and covered with huge ruts due to the rainy seasons that just ended. Our soldiers found a way to acquire gravel, and within a few days had graded our Area of Operation. We covered it with gravel to minimize the effect of further rain and dust, so prevalent any time the wind blows, which is more often than not.

As other units around us saw our capabilities, they quickly jumped on all of our leaders with requests to come and improve their areas. We called these projects “brother-in-law” or “drug deals,” and accommodated all that we could. We even had 1st Platoon, who has some carpenter skills intermixed with their horizontal skills, construct a gorgeous wooden deck for one of the General Officers on post. This project was done without any of the senior leadership knowing anything about it until it was completed, and I was shown the General’s coin some had received. I was impressed by the skills these soldiers displayed.

Quickly, we began to receive missions such as huge parking areas, Core Distribution Center lots, Airplane parking areas, Airport bypass roads, PX overflow parking areas, shoulder improvement on roads already constructed. With each project mentioned, several “brother-in-law” deals evolved, because our operators couldn’t turn any worthy request down. We had quickly earned a name for ourselves on Anaconda as the “horizontal company to use” if you wanted a project done expeditiously and with quality. The 277th Engineer Company out of San Anto-



Photos provided by 116th Engr Co

Members of the 116th Engineer Company standing in formation in their base camp area

nio wouldn’t use any other horizontal asset to do any preparation work for them prior to their asphalt paving operations.

We hadn’t been on the ground for more than a couple of months when a huge project was sent our way. We were tasked to build 240 ammunition storage bunkers for Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA), to construct a main entry control point, and to construct and improve approximately 40 kilometers of road. This project was about 75 miles northwest of Anaconda, roughly 20 miles west of Tikrit. Transportation and other logistical arrangements were made after recon and surveys were done. We moved half the company north to the Buckmaster CEA Depot. It was a desolate, out in the middle of nowhere, dust bowl. The conditions didn’t deter our soldiers, and as soon as they could start turning dirt, they did. The designers originally gave them 45 days to complete the projects. I used to be a full-time project manager for Utah Department of Transportation; now, it’s my second job. As soon as I saw the magnitude of the project, I could see that 45 days wasn’t nearly enough. Each of

the 240 bunkers was roughly 100’ x 100’, 9’ in height at the center of each slope, and 38’ feet wide at the bottom of each slope. That is a huge quantity of dirt to excavate, move, shape, and compact. At any rate, the project was commenced and our soldiers worked through the worst conditions imaginable, not just the heat, which approached the 130s in mid summer, but the soil turned to flour (minus 200 material for you civil engineers) and with a little wind, it was horrendous, as well as a safety hazard.

Shortly after this project had begun, we were tasked with a similar project even farther north up near Mosul at the Jaguar CEA Depot. The difference being that our 1st Platoon would then be supporting Company A of the 84th Engineer Battalion, whereas at Buckmaster, Company C of the 84th was supporting us, and the Jaguar project was about a tenth the size of the Buckmaster project. We utilized all three of our line platoons at Buckmaster until Jaguar started, then we had to peel 1st platoon off. Both projects were a challenge in integrating different companies together in order to complete the

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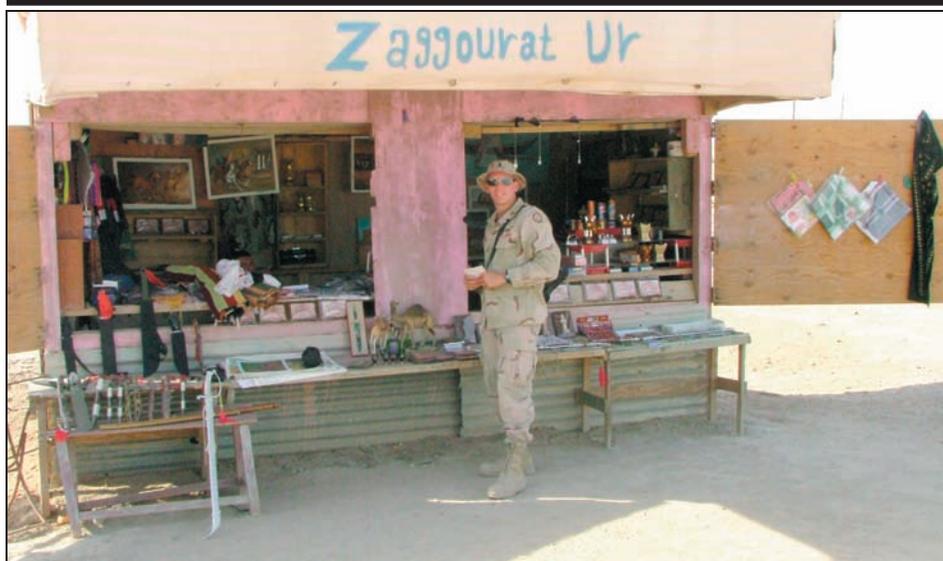


Photo provided by 116th Engr Co

1st Lt. Miller of the 116th Engineer Company shopping at local mall

projects. Both were successful, however, largely due to the fact that the active Army 84th Battalion soon realized that the 116th were the soldiers they needed to follow because we were so much more qualified on the equipment and knew so much more about horizontal construction. Once the active component was able to set aside their pride and admit it, everything went much smoother. We actually had troops from the 84th requesting to come and work with us after that.

During the course of those two projects, logistics support had to be sent regularly. The remainder of the 116th, including part of the truck sections in each platoon, the maintenance platoon and headquarters platoon, pushed log pacs two, three, even four times a week until the threat got so high from the enemy, we were forced to scale back to once or twice a week, and then only if we could get air support from Apache helicopters. During this time, we ran over 40 convoys through some of the worst areas north of Iraq, namely Samarra bypass. We had several incidents along the way on

our convoys, but because of our show of force, doing what we had been trained to do, and just plain luck, we never had a casualty, and never had a 116th vehicle hit. One recon convoy going north to Mosul, prior to that project beginning, was hit with an improvised explosive device (IED). One of our soldiers was in an 84th Battalion Humvee that was hit, but the armor on the vehicle wasn't penetrated and it protected all of the occupants. That incident sold everyone on using armored vehicles wherever possible. Of course it wasn't always possible, but we still managed to stay safe.

Several times we had IEDs explode, but miss us, either in front of or behind our convoy. We had a small arms fire incident once while we were stopped in a box formation because of a traffic jam. We fired several warning shots with the .50 cal in the direction of the shots, but safely into the ground where we could see them, and called in the Quick Reaction Force. Once they showed up, the perpetrators were rounded up and we found that a small group of them had been taking pot

shots throughout the day. The closest incident we probably had to getting anyone hurt was one day in another convoy on its way to Buckmaster one day. The convoy was stopped in a box formation waiting for an IED to be exploded in place ahead of the convoy. A speeding vehicle approached the convoy from the rear. The rear gun truck felt something was wrong and fired a few warning shots to get the vehicle's attention. When that didn't stop it, more shots were fired. That time, the blue van finally got the hint and turned around. As he did, he tossed out some sort of bomb, which exploded behind the convoy and blew up, with no harm to us. Again, staying alert, being focused, having a show of force, and luck, probably saved it.

During the project at Buckmaster, 13 insurgents breached the perimeter one night. Because the camp was so small, our Company was always tasked to help with security if needed. Our soldiers helped apprehend five of the bad guys. The other eight escaped. The five captured, had AK-47s and RPGs. Another incident happened as we were coming back from a convoy to a little post near Tikrit called Remagen. As we approached, we saw an Iraqi man throw a white sack down a hole near the road. Two other men were in the area, and we stopped and apprehended all three of them, zip tied their hands and transported them back to Buckmaster. Upon interrogating them, one of the three was found to be a second-time offender of obtaining materials from an old nearby ammo dump which the 9th Engineers were trying to clear. He was taken to Tikrit to spend some time in prison, five years I was told. The other two just happened to be in

the wrong place at the wrong time and were released. Another incident where one of our soldiers performed exceptionally at Buckmaster was when a fire broke out. One of our soldiers jumped on a dozer, drove head on into the fire to extinguish it and prevented further damage or injuries to others.

Toward the end of July, a nasty rumor surfaced that our company was going to be relocated down to Tallil. The intended use of the CEAs had changed, and all of the bunkers wouldn't be needed because some of the ammunition would be recycled back into the Iraqi military, once they were trained and established again. The Jaguar CEA was just being completed, and Buckmaster was about 50% done. None of us were happy about leaving, but we loaded things up and after another month in Anaconda getting everything ready to roll, we made the 200-plus-mile journey south to Tallil. None of us wanted to leave. We were established in safe hardened buildings at Anaconda, even though during our time at Anaconda, we had more than 175 mortar and rocket attacks, with at least six people killed, and more than 40 wounded while we were there. Fortunately, the attacks that were close to us, always missed. We had a great dining facility close by. We had a very nice gym to work out in, a great movie theater to relieve the tension at night, and an Olympic-sized swimming pool to cool off from the heat. Tallil had none of that.

Hind sight being 20/20, it was probably a good move for us to go south, even though, we hated to leave our security and how the 84th Engineer Battalion from Schofield



Photo provided by 116th Engr Co

1st Lt. Miller of the 116th Engineer Company with local interpreter

Barracks, Hawaii, had taken care of us. They were a great Battalion. As an active component Army battalion, they really took care of us, and treated us more than fairly. However, with as many close calls as we had with enemy contact on Anaconda, I had a hunch, our luck might run out sometime; so reluctantly, I converted myself to accepting our new assignment.

A couple of huge convoys occurred to get our people and equipment down to Tallil. Part of our people flew down, but on one convoy, we had two soldiers accompanying a transportation company. A civilian truck in the convoy got hit near Baghdad, wounding the driver seriously in the chest. He made it okay, and again our soldiers were unhurt.

At Tallil, we were put up in a tent city for the first month and a half; but toward the end of September, we moved into brand-new trailers. They were nice, and some of the younger soldiers finally had a little room to breathe, as no trailer room had more than two soldiers in them. Also, our living area had trailer and latrine showers, a far better situation than

at Anaconda. So, the living arrangements weren't bad.

We also had some great projects at Tallil. The 1st platoon and a slice of 3rd platoon began the Refuel on the Move (ROM) project. This was a giant Flying J, which accommodated 50 vehicles fueling at once. It consisted of an exit from the main Main Supply Route (MSR) coming near the perimeter of Tallil, paralleling the MSR behind a huge berm and then making a huge oval race-track with the fuel area along the racetrack. When we completed that project toward the end of December, the roadway and fuel blivet storage areas were completely done and the roadway had been paved. That project will be a huge benefit to the thousands of military vehicles which convoy up and down Tampa in the future, once the Air Force gets the fuel facility up and running.

The 2nd platoon was given a one-block section of roadway to construct and prepare for paving between 9th and 10th Avenue on Broadway. They completed it on time, and it is paved. They also were given an eight-acre

Continued on next page

area to clear, excavate, backfill with good material, grade, water, compact, and cover with a layer of rock to be used for an Engineer Bridge Park. It barely had the rock spread when the Marine's bridge equipment and parts occupied it. We were also tasked with other gravel haul missions within Tallil, as well as trucking missions back up on Tampa north of Tallil, hauling material for bypass roads, asphalt for paving Tampa and placement of concrete barrier along Tampa for traffic control. Some of those additional haul missions were teams comprised of all three of our line platoon truck sections.

The 3rd platoon was also given Water Road and 8th Avenue to construct and prepare for paving. Both of those projects were constructed when we ended our engineer operations. They also continued to support all of the other missions mentioned above.

In addition to those projects, we sent our personnel with the Marines up near Baghdad and Fallujah to run equipment while bridges were repaired. Another slice went to Baghdad in January to haul material roads leading to and from the temporary bridges that had been emplaced until permanent repairs could be made on insurgent bombed out bridges. Our soldiers who went to support the Marines got into a skirmish with the insurgents and were recommended for a combat action award for their performance, from the Marines.

We also ran security missions for the 115th Engineer Group during their design work in and around An Nasiriya. We didn't lack for work.

In the meantime, during all of the projects and work we did, our head-

quarters and maintenance platoons did all they could. Many times working 24-7 to keep equipment running and to keep up with the day-to-day operations of the Company.

In the mist of all this activity, on the first of October, the 115th Engineer Group (who we fell under when we came to Tallil) decided our commander, Captain Derick Quinlan, who had been with the 116th for 25 months was due to be replaced. They wanted some command time for someone else during the deployment, so Capt. Talon Greeff was selected and replaced Capt. Quinlan. It was another challenge our company had to face in keeping morale up and still driving on. Many questions lingered about why such a move would be made in mid deployment, but after it was all said and done, things worked out fine, and the 116th continued to drive on.

Those who have been deployed know what kind of a place Iraq is. I believe we are doing what is needed, here, and our company is proud to do their part. No, we didn't have the glamorous work of going door-to-door, doing cordoning and searches, or even getting in fire fights with the enemy. That is a big reason we are all going home safe. However, we did the mission that was asked of us, and we did it well. With the Buckmaster CEA and the ROM at Tallil, our company completed two of the largest, if not the largest, horizontal projects done in Iraq, by a single company, and both were outside the wire of the LSAs. The awards we received won't reflect what we did, but our soldiers understand what we did, and the leaders of this company understand what was done.

When the 116th deployed a year

ago last December, we deployed with 160 soldiers, a few of which were incorporated into our company from many other units across the state. Every soldier was an asset to us, and we will miss them when they return to their previous units. We had several soldiers redeploy early because of their participation in Operation Noble Eagle prior to our deployment and the two years they could be deployed as National Guard members were up. We lost a few other soldiers along the way because of health issues, family emergencies, and other various reasons. Those soldiers also contributed while they were here and I thank them all for their efforts, as I know that all of them left reluctantly. We thank each of them and look forward to seeing all of our early redeployers when we get home. They all played major parts in our success.

A few days ago, we did our Transfer Of Authority (TOA) with the 133rd Engineer Company (CSE), from Cheyenne, Wyoming. They are on the ground and taking up where we left off. They have some capable people and their leaders are great. At the TOA, their Commander, Capt. Roberts, said to tell everyone in Utah if anyone was worried about the 116th leaving, they shouldn't because the "Cowboys" are here.

That brings us to where we are now -- waiting for a flight to Kuwait that was scheduled to go out four days ago. Then was to go out early this morning, but has now been moved to get us out early tomorrow morning. I've been assured of that. We'll spend a few days in Kuwait, then fly to Fort Carson for our demobilization tasks, and then back to Utah. See you soon!

116th Engineer Company Transfers Responsibility to Wyoming Guard Unit.



Photos provided by 116th Engr Co

The Transfer Of Authority ceremony transferring all missions from the 116th Engineer Company to the 133rd Engineer Company

By Spec. Tucker Wood

With the mercury hovering in the 60's, and the clear Iraqi sky overhead, the two companies gathered together for a poignant moment in their unit histories. The 116th Engineer Company, with Captain Talon Greeff commanding, relinquished its authority, and transferred all missions to the incoming 133rd Engineer Company, commanded by Captain Jason Roberts.

The 116th Engineer Company, part of the Utah Army National Guard from Spanish Fork, Utah arrived in the Middle East, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, in February 2004. The 116th became quickly involved in multiple engineering missions and projects taking them throughout the entire country. The unit was involved in major op-

erations in the areas of Mosul, Tikrit, Balad, Baghdad, Fallujah, and An Nasiriyah. With thousands of miles spent driving the dangerous Iraqi highways, and countless mortar and rocket attacks on bases where the troops of the 116th were stationed, these Utah soldiers served honorably and selflessly, not only for their own country, but also for the people of Iraq. Now, with the past year behind them, the 140 soldiers of the 116th look forward to their next mission: returning home.

The 133rd Engineer Company of the Wyoming National Guard, commanded by Captain Jason Roberts, appreciated and valued the way in which the 116th received them and prepared well for the transfer of authority, ensuring a smooth and painless transition. Captain Roberts

stated, "the 133rd looks forward to the new missions and a chance to fill the shoes of the departing 116th."

Col. Edward Willis, Commander of the 115th Engineer Group, from Draper, Utah, expressed great pride and satisfaction in working with the 116th. He conveyed that the soldiers of the 116th were highly skilled and among the best engineers in the theater of operations.

Brigadier General Baker, of the 194th Engineer Brigade, offered these words to the soldiers of the 116th, "When someone asks all veterans to stand, stand tall, with pride, knowing you have served your country well."

So with the playing of the National Anthem, and the ceremonial folding of the 116th Company flag, the unit's official duties here in Iraq had come to a close. Soon the Utah soldiers will be on their way to Kuwait, then on to Fort Carson, Colorado, before finally arriving in Salt Lake City sometime in February.



Photos provided by 116th Engr Co

Capt. Greeff, commander of the 116th Engineer Company, relinquishing command to Capt. Roberts of the 133rd Engr. Co.

151 Air Refueling Wing Deploys to Guam

by Maj. Scott Lythgoe

The 151 ARW was deployed to Andersen AFB, Guam for the month of September as the Guam Tanker Task Force in support of Enduring Freedom. Four KC-135E airplanes, six aircrews, staff, maintenance, and support personnel deployed on two rotations.

Aircrews flew missions refueling B-52s deployed as part of U.S. Pacific Command's objective to enhance regional security, U.S. Pacific Command officials reported. Additionally, aircrews refueled Navy aircraft returning to bases on the U.S. mainland.

For example, Capt. Brad Slater, Maj. Scott Larson, and Senior Master Sgt. Jarvis Brown flew as number four of a four-ship (two KC-10s and two KC-135Es) mission "Coronet," refueling 4 F-18s returning to the U.S. mainland.

Capt. Slater, aircraft commander, stated that he and his crew find the missions rewarding knowing that they are providing vital air refueling support to aircraft and crews. Maj. Larson, one of the 191 ARS newest members, says that he gets a sense of satisfaction from the military missions he flies that he can't get from his civilian flying job. Senior Master Sgt. Brown says that the sacrifice made by aircrews, maintenance, support personnel and their families to make the mission of the unit happen, gives meaning to the "guard family"

299th Clover Control...Masters of the West Desert

by Airman 1st Class Andrew Howells

The 299th Clover Control is the brain coordinating the aerial ballet over the Utah Test Range. Clover Control's primary mission is air traffic control of the west desert which is the primary test range for many of the military bases in the western U.S.

"It is our job to brief the pilots all around the ranges air space what were doing out here" said Lt. Troy Gardner, Public Affairs Officer for Clover Control. Clover Control has a long history of providing air traffic control for the west desert.

With over 17,000 square miles of air space, Clover Control is master of one of the largest test ranges in the United States.

"It's sometimes a juggling act, with commercial airliners, military jet's and

the many private planes in the area" said Gardner, he continued "our people are the best and they can get it done safely." "Our radars are so sensitive, we can see cars and trucks driving along I-80, so we know everything that is going on in our territory" said Gardner.

"We get so much information coming to us from our radars, we have to program our screens to ignore much of the U.S. so we can focus just on our ranges" said Gardner. As the Lt. accessed the screen, he was able to see several jets that were taking off out of Edwards AFB in California and Nellis AFB in Nevada.

Using several different radar sites throughout the range, this network of information has the ability to see what is going on in the air space of most of the western U.S.



photo by Maj. Scott Lythgoe

A KC-135 refuels one of four F-18s as they make their return flight to the United States.

concept.

While deployed, the 151 ARW also participated in the air show at Andersen AFB with a KC-135E fly-by that also refueled a B-52 participating in the air show.

Though the schedule was demanding, members were able to sight see around the beautiful island. Some were also able to go snorkeling and scuba diving in the crystal clear blue waters.

The 299th Clover control is just one of the many units that make the Utah ANG one of the best in the nation. Our network of high class and well trained service members bring truth to the creed "Excellence In All We Do."



Airman 1st Class Michael Siudzinski of the 299th Clover Control carefully monitors air traffic over Utah's West desert, preparing for an air refueling of two fighters out of Mountain Home AFB.

photo by Airman 1st Class Andrew Howells

Utah Guardsmen Return From Turkey

By Airman 1st Class Andrew R. Howells

Members of the 151st Air Refueling Wing recently returned from the Middle East in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Their essential support provided in air refueling for all cargo planes transporting to and from theater in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

With escalating threat of improvised explosive devices being used on convoys, a new effort has been put into place to provide all refueling of aircraft in air, instead of on the ground at bases and airports. This cuts back on the need of convoys to transport fuel to the bases.

Maj. Dar Craig, of the 191st Refueling Squadron said, "if we missed an air refueling, and the C-17 had to refuel on the ground, that means one more fuel truck with a poor army guy risking getting blown up." He continued, "It's about limiting the risk of our men on the ground...If we can prevent exposure, that is what we're there for."

Since the beginning of the current conflict in the Middle East, there has been an ever increasing threat on ground convoys and fuel trucks becoming an ever popular target for the radical anarchists that have set their goal to destroy the seeds of democracy for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Maj. Craig continued in regards to the importance of airlifts, quoting Gen John P. Jumper's request "to kick up airlifts to eliminate the frequency of convoys on the ground."

During the entire stretch of the mission our units pumped approximately 5 million pounds of jet fuel to U.S. and allied aircraft.

Maj. Chris Hawkins, the wing Flight Safety Officer, said "It was a fast paced atmosphere." He continued, "It was interesting to see the loads that were on some of the planes that we refueled,



Photos by Airman 1st Class Andrew R. Howells

Members of the 151st Air National Guard search through mounds of luggage after returning home from their deployment to Turkey.

anything from bullets to bombs, from barbed wire to food supplies."

Since the beginning of both OIF and OEF, the Wing has been cycling this mission about every 16 months. In addition to the providing fuel support for the air bridge over the Middle East, the members of the 191st ARS and its planes constantly train and provide in-air refueling for military and DoD aircraft within the Continental U.S.

The first group to return in January was diverted to Hill AFB at the last minute due to intense fog at the Utah ANG Base. The weather and short notice didn't stop family members from making it to Hill on time for the landing.

The last group arrived on February 5. Throughout

the entire mission, there were no injuries or any major illnesses suffered by any of the deployed airmen. All returned safely with a large number of authentic Turkish rugs and souvenirs, which are sure to adorn the homes of these brave men and women that just returned.

Maj. Chris Hawkins and Maj. John Norris return home after providing refueling support in Turkey from the end of December until mid-January.



Utah Vietnamese Guardsman Swears Allegiance to the United States, Now Will Head to Iraq



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

Spec. Dung Van Nguyen of the 115th is sworn as a U.S. citizen

By Dawn House, The Salt Lake Tribune

The following article appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune on January 29, 2005, two days before the 115th Maintenance Company departed for an 18-month active duty tour to Iraq:

A Vietnamese immigrant was sworn in as a U.S. citizen Friday, three days before his Utah National Guard Company leaves for final training in anticipation of deployment to Iraq. "It's been emotional," said Spec. Dung Van Nguyen, 24, holding his naturalization papers after a ceremony that earlier in the morning officials were unsure would take place because of a backlog of federal paperwork.

On Monday, Nguyen will leave Utah with the 120-member, 115th Maintenance Company to Fort Bliss, Texas, for training. "I joined because I wanted to help out the guys who are

in Iraq," he said. "My unit is the best. Anything a soldier drives, we can fix." Said his sister Tuyet Nguyen of his deployment: "Our parents can't sleep at night."

Nguyen was born in North Vietnam. After his father was jailed in their war-torn country, the family immigrated to Logan, Utah, when he was 4-years old and then moved to Southern California. "It was very hard living in Vietnam," said Tuyet Nguyen, "We wanted freedom."

Dung Van Nguyen graduated from Salt Lake Community College with an associate's degree in computer networking. He works in logistics with the Guard. "He's a strong man," said his girlfriend, Jennifer Kay, of West Jordan. "He's incredibly responsible and very, very smart."

Nguyen said he hopes to marry Kay when he returns after his 18-month

military stint. "I couldn't marry her before I left," he said. "There's always the chance that some soldiers won't be coming back."

Nguyen is among 12,000 service members sworn in as U.S. citizens since President Bush signed legislation two years ago that makes noncitizen GIs eligible for citizenship immediately if they served any time after Sept. 11, 2001. "Nearly 20,000 noncitizen GIs have applied for citizenship," said Mario R. Ortiz, Denver, district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "The stumbling block for many noncitizen service members serving abroad was the last step in the naturalization process, the final interview and swearing-in, which could only be conducted in the United States," said Ortiz.

Last fall when a new law went into effect allowing naturalization ceremonies to be conducted at U.S. embassies, consulates and military installations overseas, about 150 GIs took the oath of allegiance to the U.S. Constitution at American installations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Germany, South Korea and Japan.

"Today the United States is not only your home, it is your country," said Bush in a tape played Friday at the Utah Guard Headquarters and in naturalization ceremonies worldwide.

Nguyen, the second youngest in his family of nine surviving children, said he is the last to take the oath. "I needed to do it before I left," he said. "It's been on my mind for a long time."

Safety - Drivers on Cell Phones Kill Thousands and Snarl Traffic

By Robert Roy Britt
LiveScience Senior Writer

Finally, empirical proof you can blame chatty 20-somethings for stop-and-go traffic on the way to work.

A new study confirms that the reaction time of cell phone users slows dramatically, increasing the risk of accidents and tying up traffic in general, and when young adults use cell phones while driving, they're as bad as sleepy septuagenarians.

"If you put a 20 year old driver behind the wheel with a cell phone, their reaction times are the same as a 70-year-old driver who is not using a cell phone," said University of Utah psychology professor David Strayer. "It's like instantly aging a large number of drivers." The study was announced today and is detailed in the winter issue of the quarterly journal "Human Factors." Traffic jams and cell phone distraction causes 2,600 deaths and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year according to the journal's publisher, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.

Drivers talking on cell phones were 18 percent slower to react to brake lights, the new study found. In a minor bright note, they also kept

a 12 percent greater following distance. But they also took 17 percent longer to regain the speed they lost when they braked. That frustrates everyone. "Once drivers on cell phones hit the brakes, it takes them longer to get back into the normal flow of traffic," Strayer said. "The net result is they are impeding the overall flow of traffic."

Strayer and his colleagues have been down this road before. In

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supported the conclusion that hands-free cell phone use causes driver distraction.

"With younger adults, everything got worse," said Arthur Kramer, who led the Illinois study. "Both young adults and older adults tended to show deficits in performance. They made more errors in detecting important changes and they took longer to react to the changes." The impaired

reactions involved seconds, not just fractions of a second, so stopping distances increased by car lengths.

The latest study used high tech simulators. It included people aged 18 to 25 and another group aged 65 to 74. Elderly drivers were slower to react when talking on the phone, too. The simulations uncovered a twofold increase in the number of rear end collisions by drivers using cell phones. Older drivers seem to be more cautious overall, however. "Older drivers were slightly less likely to get into accidents than younger drivers," Strayer said. "They tend to have a greater following distance. Their reactions are impaired, but they are driving so cautiously they were less likely to smash into somebody." But in real life, he added, older drivers are significantly more likely to be rear ended because of their slow speed.

2001, they found that even hands-free cell phone use distracted drivers. In 2003 they revealed a reason -- drivers look but don't see because they're distracted by the conversation. The scientists also found previously that chatty motorists are less adept than drunken drivers with blood alcohol levels exceeding 0.08.

Separate research last year at



Utah Air National Guard Airmen of the Year

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Stephanie D. Wassmer

Unit: 169th
Intelligence
Squadron

Family

Information:

Wassmer is the oldest of 3 children.

Education: She attended Thomas Nelson Community College for a semester before joining the Air Force. Airman Wassmer currently is attending University of Phoenix and is working towards her information technology degree. She is also aggressively seeking her A+ certification by studying and attending training.

Military History: Wassmer enlisted in the military on 16 January 2003. She attended basic training where she was assigned to the 336th Training Squadron at Lackland AFB. After graduation she went to Keelser AFB where she received her initial information management technical training. Soon after Wassmer returned from school she was hired as a full-time technician for the 169th Intelligence Squadron. She immediately began training and was certified as an official workgroup manager.

What helped her to get the Award: Wassmer has actively participated in the unit Sub-for-Santa program. She eagerly volunteered as the recorder for the First Sergeants Council for the Utah Air National Guard. She has volunteered as committee recorder for the 169th IS upcoming Dining Out and has excelled at all tasks. She identifies shortfalls and quickly jumps in to help where needed. She set up and maintained the computers for the Personnel and Training offices for the 169th Intelligence Squadron. She single-handedly improved, and continues to manage, the unit leave program by creating the first ever 169th internal tracking program for personnel on ADSW status, eliminating frequent errors in the leave system.



Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Technical Sergeant Bryan D. Hammonds

Unit: 299th Range
Control Squadron

Family

Information:

Married to Holly Nanny on 27 Jul 1991. He has a daughter, Dallas, and son, Devin.

Military History:

He joined the U.S. Air Force on 16 Jun 1982. During his 9 years of active duty he has had several

assignments around the world. He was first assigned to the 2039th Communications Squadron at Fairchild AFB, Washington, then to the 1964th Communications Group, Ramstein AB, Germany. The end of his active duty time brought him to the 1993rd Communications Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas.

Hammonds enlisted in the Utah Air National Guard in 1997 and was assigned to the 299th Range Control Squadron. He has voluntarily deployed three times for the 299th, to include a four month rotation at Kirkuk AB, Iraq. During his deployment, he was the only Air Traffic Controller to also obtain Control Tower certifications, in order to augment tower staffing. Sergeant Hammonds received the "Unsung Hero" Award from the 506 EOSS Commander for his efforts to prevent an A-10 aircraft from crashing on final approach. His efforts as a Crew Chief were also recognized when he was awarded the "Best Crew" award from the 506 EOSS Commander.

Volunteer Service: Sergeant Hammonds is an active member of his Church Youth Committee. He has also planned and participated in Youth outreach projects. He is a Snow Ski Instructor and volunteers his services for the Utah Special Olympics as a "Ski Coach" for the Special Olympic athletes.



Photos provided by HQ Air National Guard

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year

Master Sergeant Joan A. Cornell

Unit: 299th Range Control Squadron

Family

Information: She is married to Doug Cornell, a retired Navy Master Chief and has two grown daughters, Cassandra and Nichole.

Military History:

She enlisted in the U.S. Army in December 1981, and attended Basic Military Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

She completed her Advanced Individual Training as a Multi-channel Communications Equipment Operator at Fort Gordon, Georgia in 1982. From August of 1982 through January 1985, Sergeant Cornell was stationed in Darmstadt, West Germany and quickly made it through the ranks to E-5, Sergeant.

Cornell completed her enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1985 and opted for civilian life. However, she was not content to be only a civilian and yearned for the military way of life once again. In 1989, Sergeant Cornell enlisted in the California Air National Guard as an Administrative Specialist and was a member of the 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Base, Channel Islands, California. There she served as the Orderly Room manager for Maintenance and was promoted to E-6.

In 1998, Sergeant Cornell became a member of the 147th Combat Communications Squadron, San Diego Air National Guard Station, San Diego, California. In the summer of 2001, she served overseas at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. During the spring of 2002, she served at Eskan Village in Saudi Arabia. In 2003, Sergeant Cornell served as President of the Top Three for the squadron. Sergeant Cornell is dual slated as an Information Manager militarily and a Services Support Specialist as a full-time technician.

Some of the awards she has achieved: Sergeant Cornell has been awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Air Force Small Arms Expert Ribbons.



First Sergeant of the Year

Master Sergeant Denise M. Rager

Unit: 169th Intel Squadron

Family Info:

Sergeant Rager is the mother of two daughters, Erin and Ainslee.

Education: Rager graduated high school as a 4.0 student and a certified dental assistant. She attended the University of Utah and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Behavioral Science and Health.

Military History: While working as a dental assistant, she enlisted in the Air Force in November 1980 and arrived at Lackland AFB, Texas, in April 1981 for basic training. She then went to Keesler AFB, Mississippi, where she attended the Chapel Management Specialist Course and received the Distinguished Graduate Award. Upon graduation, Sergeant Rager received an assignment to the 323rd Air Base Group, Mather AFB, California.

In November 1987, Sergeant Rager was reassigned to RAF Wethersfield, United Kingdom, where she served for two years as the individual Chapel Manager for the base.

After eight years of military service, she returned to civilian life in Salt Lake City, Utah, and finished her college career. After completing her degree, Sergeant Rager reentered military service by joining the 169th Intelligence Squadron, Utah Air National Guard. During her Guard career, Sergeant Rager attended the Defense Language Institute (DLI) in Monterey, Calif., to learn Spanish. In 1996, she graduated with distinction from DLI and also earned her Foreign Language Associates Degree in Spanish from the Monterey Peninsula College, Monterey, California. After four years as a linguist, Sergeant Rager was asked to manage the Advanced Electronics Signals Section. Two years later, in February 2003, Sergeant Rager was appointed to the position of First Sergeant for the 169th Intelligence Squadron.

What helped her to get the Award: She is an active member of the Base Honor Guard and also serves as the Vice President of the Base First Sergeant's Council.



Photos provided by HQ Air National Guard

Utah Aviators from 1/211th Help Afghan Girl



Recovering Halima sits on the lap of Egyptian Doctor who was the lead doctor in her surgery

By Maj. Lorraine Januzelli

A five-year-old Afghan girl sees better and brighter due to the caring actions of Utah aviators deployed to Afghanistan. Earlier this month, a girl named Halima had a successful surgery to treat an eye condition called Strabismus. The story surrounding Halima's surgery illustrates a growing sense of trust and collaboration among an unlikely ensemble: Afghan villagers, Egyptian coalition forces, Russian-Kyrgyzstani hairdressers and AH-64 Apache pilots based out of West Jordan, Utah.

In April 2004, the aviators from the 1-211th Attack Aviation Battalion of the Utah National Guard deployed to Bagram Airbase located in north central Afghanistan as part of Task Force Pirate. While the country is on the mend from the repressive Taliban government and decades of regional strife, it still faces many

challenges. Pressing issues include a healthcare system that cannot yet provide adequately for all its citizens and recurring shortages of basic goods.

Soon after arriving in country, the 1-211th soldiers took the needs of the nation to heart and put together a plan to bring badly needed humanitarian aid into the region. With the assistance of the Parwan Provisional Reconstruction Team (PRT), the 1-211th "adopted" a nearby village, Jegdalek. A girl's school is currently under construction there and the village seemed to be a good fit with the 1-211th.

Back in Utah, 1-211th family members enthusiastically supported their endeavor and started a humanitarian aid organization, Angels for Afghanistan. Throughout the summer, the Angels, which expanded to include family members from a sister unit in Hawaii, collected items not normally available in Jegdalek, including school supplies, shoes, books, toys and winter clothing. They then mailed the goods to their spouses at Bagram.



Members of the 1/211th delivering humanitarian items to Jegdalek

The aviators traveled to Jegdalek to deliver the goods on August 28th. They arrived on two CH-47 Chinook helicopters loaded with seven pallets of humanitarian aid and

enough aid had arrived from Parwan PRT, Task Force Pirate, and photojournalists from Freedom Watch, to make Bagram's on base newspaper. During that trip, Chief Warrant Officer Layne Pace and 1st Lt. Jon Richardson, both Apache pilots from the Salt Lake area, noticed a little girl with some peculiar eye problems. When she looked at them, she was unable to focus with both eyes. Alternately, one eye or the other would turn away to the side. The soldiers believed they could help.

That child, Halima, was born with a condition called Strabismus, a misalignment of the eyes that truncates depth perception and prevents accurate focusing. If left untreated, Strabismus can cause permanent sight dysfunction condemning the sufferer to a permanently blurry world.

Upon returning to Bagram, Pace and Richardson immediately took steps to arrange for surgical treatment for Halima. They started with surgeons working at the U.S. hospital on base. "We were told they could do the surgery, but she needed to be taken through the Egyptian Hospital system," Pace explained. The Egyptian Hospital is located on base a short 15-minute walk from the 211th facilities.

"Ironically, we had already been associating with the Egyptian Hospital staff and were personal friends of most of them, specifically their commander. This occurred through our regular visits at the hospital giving out humanitarian aid to the locals being seen by the Egyptians," said Pace. "The humanitarian aid had been coming from our families back home through

Photos by 1/211th

the U.S. mail.”

“When we asked to see the Egyptian commander [for permission] and showed him the picture of the girl, he smiled and said ‘bring her, we will do the surgery.’”

Surgeons, Dr. Gobram, an Egyptian, and Dr. Gregory Bramblett, an American, agreed to do the surgery. Gobram took the lead. Additionally, leaders from Task Force Pirate approved the requests to fly Halima and her father to and from her village to the hospital.

Arrangements for Halima’s surgery took place in a matter of days. However, it was done entirely without asking Halima’s father and village elders for permission since they had been unable to get back to Jegdalek. It was uncertain whether or not they would approve of the surgery especially since foreigners at a military compound relatively far away would do it. Pace carefully worked out with an interpreter the best way to approach the subject.

On September 6, Pace and Richardson returned to Jegdalek on a CH-47 with several pallets of aid and their carefully formulated request. The situation quickly took on its



Photos by 1/211th

1st Lt. Dante Fontenot holds Halima prior to her eye surgery

own life. Pace explained, “Within 10 minutes of the dust settling, the interpreter blurted out our request. I knew something was going on above the normal buzz in the assembled people. I asked the interpreter what was going on. He said the elders have already agreed to send Halima and she and her father have already left to change into clean clothes. Within a few short hours, Halima and her father were packed and loaded onto the CH-47 for the ride back to

Bagram.”

Pace and Richardson were wisely, but unnecessarily, concerned that Halima might be afraid of the large helicopter. “We compared it to asking our children to get on a UFO that had just landed. We put some hearing protection on her and she just marched up the Chinook ramp like she was on a Disneyland ride. She would not stay seated in her seat, but stood up and looked out the window the whole flight.”

The surgeons operated on Halima on September 8th. The delicate surgery required cutting a number of ocular muscles in order to restore normalcy and went exceptionally well. Pace and a few others were allowed to observe the two-hour procedure and visited Halima soon after she returned to her hospital room. “They did not bandage her eyes. Her father woke her up when we arrived and she sat straight up with her eyes shut. When she heard our voices she squinted her eyes open and burst into a huge smile. This was our first hint she could see.

Continued on following page



Jegdalek Elders and Chief Warrant Officers Staffer, Thomson and Pace



Halima is big smiles in her new dress and styled hair

Dr. Gobram came right over and did an eye exam. She did not have any blurring or double vision. He was able to get her to play a game where she would mimic how many fingers he showed her, all with a smile," recalled Pace.

After one day of recovery, Halima was already seeing well, alert and ready to explore. The 211th soldiers treated Halima and her father to lunch and dinner every day, including trips to the chow hall and the on base Burger King. Twice, they took Halima to a beauty salon run by Russian-Kyrgyzstani women. Both trips, the hairdressers lavished Halima with special treatment.

"All we asked them to do was wash her hair. They not only washed, curled, styled her hair, they washed her feet, cleaned her shoes, did a pedicure, painted her toenails with flowers, and did a manicure with fingernail polish. They would not take any money, so we dropped some tips their way. You should have seen

the look on Halima's face. I think it was a nonstop smile," Pace said.

The aviators returned Halima and her father to their village on September 13, 2004 together with another shipment of humanitarian aid. Halima got off the CH-47 and was immediately surrounded by several hundred village members looking at her eyes. She then ran the mile trail back to her home to show her mother. Pace and his fellow aviators were later invited to Halima's home for tea and to visit the family.

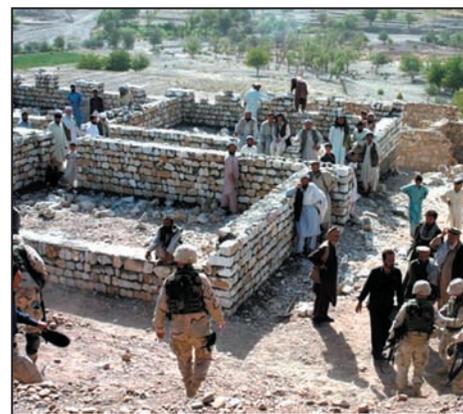
Halima's father earns 60 Afghan dollars (approximately equivalent to \$3 U.S. dollars per day) as a construction worker at the girl's school and lost a week's wages due to the surgery. To help compensate, the 1-211th took up a collection and presented him with \$9,000 Afghani dollars before they left. For all involved, Halima's surgery was mission success on multiple fronts. Not only can a young girl see now,

but also lasting bonds developed among very different people with a common concern for children.

Pace observed, "With the last flight bringing her back, we are now being greeted with traditional Afghan hugs and right hands over their heart. I can say they totally trust us. We are excited to bring them news that we will bring a medical team on a regular basis."

Relations between the Americans and Egyptians also continue to flourish. "We are very excited to know and be friends with them; they are very energetic in this feeling. Last week, one of the Egyptian gate guards chased me down, ripped the patch off his shoulder and handed it to me. He does not speak any English. I was touched that they feel this way toward us," reflected Pace.

Both humanitarian aid provided by 1-211th family members and visits from healthcare work continue to flow into Jegdalek. Globus Relief Fund, an international humanitarian aid organization, has stepped in and agreed to ship the goods to the region. After the girls' school is completed, construction on a boys' school will begin.



Photos by 1/211th

The Girl's School currently under construction in the village of Jegdalek in Afghanistan

115th Engineer Group Fix a Young Girl's Heart

ABC News, World News Tonight Report on Feb. 18, 2005, permission to use segment granted by ABC News John S. Berman

Col. Edward Willis is used to fixing things -- he's commander of the Army National Guard's 115th Engineering Group, based in Draper, Utah.

For the last year, Willis and his unit have been building and fixing schools, sewers, buildings and highways in southern Iraq. But when the father of 5-year-old Noor Abd Al-Hady Hassan brought his daughter to the 115th for help with a medical condition she was suffering from, the group found their engineering skills useless.

"She is a wonderful little girl," said Maj. Joel Miller, the group's chaplain. "She won the hearts of all the soldiers of the 115th." When Miller and the others learned that Noor needed more help than the hospitals in Iraq or the U.S. military there could provide, Miller took it upon himself to find a specialist in Portland, Maine.

"We took the videotape with all of her medical records, and we sent that home with one of our soldiers who was going home on leave," said Miller. "Then he gave that to my wife and she FedExed that to the doctor." The Maine doctor was Reed Quinn, a pediatric heart surgeon. He said Noor needed to come to the United



Photos provided by 115th Engr Gp

Members of the 115th Engineer Group at Tallil Air Force Base in Southern Iraq

States for treatment and that all of her expenses would be covered.

Quinn and his colleagues decided to work for free, and a foundation he runs paid the rest.

People ask: "Why do you put this much money and effort into one child?" said Quinn. "And I tell them because one child can have a big impact on the world. You never know who Noor is going to become. It's worth that effort."

This week, after months of coordination and a very long flight, Noor and her father arrived in Maine and at last Quinn was able to take a firsthand look at his tiny patient face to face. "This is a very repairable lesion and once it's fixed, it's fixed for life," Quinn said. "She should do very well."

Members of the 115th say they're relieved to hear that Noor is going to be OK and are glad they could help.

"I see a very beautiful, bright and intelligent girl who has a wonderful future ahead of her. She deserves every opportunity to enjoy that future by being healthy," said Miller. Noor is not the only child U.S. soldiers have helped bring to the United States for medical treatment. At the Loma Linda Hospital in Southern California, an 11-year-old boy from Afghanistan is recovering from heart surgery after soldiers from an Apache helicopter unit found him and raised the money to get him the life saving operation.

This week, Willis, Miller and the rest of the 115th are in Kuwait, on their way home to Utah.

For Willis, the experience has been a reminder that their mission in Iraq is not just about warfare.

"There's a lot of good things going on in this country. It isn't all war and it isn't all killings and death," he said. "We're doing great things that are making a difference in the lives of the people in Iraq."



Members of the 115th Engr Group preparing for a mission in Iraq

Southern Utah University Army ROTC Program



Photo provided by SUU ROTC

By Capt. Robert R. Warden

Southern Utah University's (SUU) Army ROTC program is moving ahead despite the recent deployment of the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery. The "triple deuce" plays a large role in the support of the SUU ROTC program, both in providing soldiers who will become Cadets, and in providing units and equipment for the Cadets, to gain leadership experience through the Simultaneous Membership Program.

When news of the Battalion's deployment arrived, Maj. Brent Anderson, Assistant Professor of Military Science and Officer In Charge of the ROTC program at SUU, looked at how this would affect this school year and the next few years. "It will hurt our numbers, but we look forward to the return of the soldiers who had planned to contract with us. They will gain valuable experience that will help them become stronger officers."

A recent change in Cadet Command regulation, allowing cadets to contract during their sophomore year instead of waiting until their junior year, has helped the program to

maintain its mission for the next year. Sgt. 1st Class Wes Peterson, Utah National Guard recruiter assigned to the ROTC at SUU, has succeeded in recruiting new students into the first year class. These students gain insight into Army leadership and, on average, about one third of the first year students will continue with the program.

The training events continue to be challenging and motivating. This spring the SUU cadets will participate in Dixie Thunder II, which is the spring Field Training Exercise (FTX) combined with BYU and UVSC. The FTX will consist of a culmination of all of the leadership aspects learned throughout the year which will be both physically and mentally challenging. Last year's spring FTX was very successful in part because of opposing force support provided by B Battery, 2/222 FA. This unit also cooperated in allowing the use of needed equipment. It will be difficult to have such successful training without support from the local units.

Besides getting ready for the FTX, the cadets are actively plan-

ning weekly labs, physical training sessions and the military ball at the end of the Semester. The ROTC club is actively working to prepare for the annual spring 5K on April 16. The club is active on campus and throughout the community, involved with various service projects.

The cadets at SUU continue to score well when compared with all cadets across the country. Of the 4,329 total cadets ranked this past year, Ms. Choli Ence was number 33 as well as the George C. Marshall winner; Mr. Colton Douglas was number 158; Mr. Brenton Skinner was number 324; and Mr. Wesley Tillman was number 1078. These cadets are examples of the great cadet students who attended SUU.

The recent deployments have hurt and will continue to slow the number of cadets in our program but it is the goal of the SUU ROTC program to continue with a strong military presence in Cedar City while these units are deployed. The focus of SUU ROTC continues to be the training of these cadets to prepare them to be commissioned officers, ready to lead.

Specialist Josh Lee Receives Medal of Valor

By Spec. Kelly Collett

Specialist Josh Lee is a soldier in the Utah Army National Guard. He has been deployed overseas with the 1457th Combat Engineer Battalion. Josh recently returned home in May of 2004 with all of his friends and comrades. None were left behind. These words would stay with him the rest of his life.

I served with Spec. Lee in Baghdad. I noticed that he was always willing to do whatever was asked of him. He never complained, even when many others griped about conditions. Lee was always there to lend a hand. He prided himself in staying physically fit. Others noticed, and asked if he would help them to obtain the same stature. Lee was more than willing to help them and watch them every step of their progression. Another thing I noticed was that others looked up to him and respected him. His physical state was not his only attribute. He thought through things soundly and always had input to help others who were struggling. Everyone who knew him looked up to him and respected him.

Many said of Lee, "Ya, Spec. Lee, he's a great guy!" Others said, "I can trust Spec. Lee." For any who have ventured overseas in combat, you know the importance of being able to trust the man to your left and the man to your right. Soldiers who worked with young Spec. Lee could rest easier, knowing that no one had to question his dependability. Little did Lee know that there would be others, not on the battlefield, that would be grateful for his sturdy character and responsiveness -- even to the point that their life depended on him.

It wasn't long after Josh had returned home from serving his

country honorably that he was called on again. Yet this time it wasn't a plea from overseas that beckoned him. It was the smoke rising from a nearby building that caught his attention. Josh had been out running, sticking to his daily routine to stay in shape. His heart that was beating fast, was about to beat even faster. He ran down to the smoke to survey the scene and to see if he could help. He noticed that a car had crashed into the building. The car and the building were both burning. Lee noticed a strange odor lurking in the air, as he got closer. His adrenaline rushed...he could smell gas.

He peered into the burning wreck and could see a lady beaten and bleeding. She was slipping in and out of consciousness. Her car had severed a gas line. His thoughts raced, "I have to get her out of there!" He moved in to pull her from the wreck, but was thrown back by an explosion. He crouched down and turned to escape the flames, but they tore into his back burning him. Something else propelled by the explosion found its way to his back and cut him, leaving him bleeding and burnt. Time slowed down, and his mind became clear. He turned back to the lady who was trying unsuccessfully to free herself from her burning prison. Opening the door, he grabbed hold of the lady and dragged her out of harms way.

Soon after, she was flown to a hospital to undergo medical treatment for her injuries. Spec. Lee has not spoken to the lady since then and he doesn't expect any thanks. Lee just shrugged when questioned about his heroics, "I saw the situation; somebody needed a hand; I stepped in and helped out the best I could," he stated simply, letting me know



Spec. Josh Lee

that, "...it was nothing special."

I begged to differ, and let Josh know that if it had not been for his quick thinking and being there at the right moment, the outcome could have been tragic. I didn't believe him when he said that if it weren't him, it would have been someone else doing the same thing. He related to me by saying, "You and I dealt with stuff out there all the time and you, as well as I, know that at the first moment of trouble there is that adrenaline jump. There's that moment where everything is exciting. Yet things calm down, they slow down. You know your job; you've been trained well, and you know what has to be done to take care of it."

For one individual, I'm sure the victim was grateful for having a soldier see a need and respond. Others saw a great need had been filled. Specialist Lee had seen the need and provided assistance when required to help save a woman's life. He received the Utah Medal of Valor for his courage. All is well when you've been through hell and can laugh at your singed hair. Congratulations Josh, and by the way, your hair has grown back fine.

Photo by Spec. Kelly Collett

Moonlighting for Humanity

the 211th Attack Helicopter Battalion in Afghanistan



Photos: Courtesy of 1/211th

The 211th and fellow Task Force Pirate members gather together for an impressive photo.

By Maj. Lorraine Januzelli

Soldiers of the 211th Attack Helicopter Battalion helped local civil affairs officials distribute clothing and basic goods to children in a nearby orphanage. Their role as humanitarian aid supporters was not anticipated. The 211th deployed to Afghanistan because of their specialized skills as pilots, refuelers, and mechanics. Right from the start, their mission in Afghanistan was clear: provide aerial escort to forces

moving on the ground and through the air.

The aerial escort mission keeps the 211th occupied transporting people and equipment, it is routine and necessary. Neither roads nor airspace are completely safe. In this nation struggling for stability, the 211th maintains an indispensable measure of security.

The lack of stability has far reaching consequences. Many

Afghans live in abject poverty. Their plight did not go unnoticed by the 211th and the soldiers sought ways to help. Increasingly, they have spearheaded efforts to bring resources to those in need. In short, they moonlight as humanitarians.

This summer, the 211th adopted the rural village, Jegdalek. Since then, they visited the village many times to deliver basic goods. A young girl, Halima, was helped in getting much needed eye surgery. They also facilitated regular visits by healthcare practitioners to Jegdalek.

A few weeks ago, the unit adopted another group in need: a nearby orphanage with 500 boys and 150 girls. The orphanage is desperately poor. The caretakers do their best, but resources are scarce. This week, the 211th, along with a local civil affairs unit, helped relieve some of the pressure. They spent a day distributing clothing, school and basic hygiene supplies to the children. For many, it was their first contact with Americans and their first opportunity to enjoy a stick of gum. The supplies came



An AH-64 Apache flies a mission over the rugged Afghan landscape.

from a combination of sources to include the Army's humanitarian aid program and care packages from family members here in Utah.

A long-time 211th pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Layne Pace, has taken on a particularly noble but difficult cause. An 11-year-old boy, Asedullah, from the Jegdalek village has a grave heart condition. He can barely walk 15 feet without collapsing. The hospitals in Afghanistan are not able to treat him. Once that was discovered, Pace began organizing treatment for Asedullah in the United States. The obstacles have been tremendous. Everything from locating a suitable hospital, to arranging for travel visas for Asedullah and his father, has required numerous and often redundant actions.

Undaunted, Pace has persisted. At this writing, Loma Linda Children's Hospital in Loma Linda, California has accepted Asedullah,



Chewing gum is a newly discovered pleasure for the children at the orphanage.



Photos provided by 1/211th

Chief Warrant Officer Pace sits with Asedullah in Jegdalek. Pace is helping Asedullah get treatment in the U.S. for a heart condition

and a cardiac surgeon has agreed to do the surgery for free. The organization "Gift of Life" will cover his medical costs. However, many obstacles remain which include wading through the new visa requirements affecting Afghan citizens and finding a host family in Loma Linda. Pace is hoping to resolve these remaining issues in the next couple of weeks. Not surprisingly, Pace was materially involved with helping the Afghan girl with her eye surgery in September.

Deployments are inherently difficult. Soldiers live in austere conditions, away from family and the comforts of modern American culture. The missions can be dangerous and

are frequently fraught with urgent, last minute changes. Tedium can permeate leisure time. Everyday the soldiers of the 211th make a choice -- to be overwhelmed by their circumstances or, instead, to make a difference. These soldiers have embraced the latter, not only through their professional approach to their duties but also in the efforts to bring aid and relief to those less fortunate than themselves. During their eight months in country, the 211th soldiers have accomplished what takes most people a lifetime to achieve -- making this world a little bit better place than when they arrived.



Soldier keeps watch as the supplies are delivered to the orphanage.

Battery B, 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery Prepares for Deployment to Iraq



Photo from archives

By 2nd Lt. Justin Christensen

The soldiers of Battery B came from all walks of life. We've always been a unit of friends and neighbors who hail from towns such as Logan and Brigham City all the way down along the Wasatch Front to Provo and Spanish Fork. We have many great soldiers with us from other artillery units within the great state of Utah. But over the past 2 1/2 months we've been transformed into something stronger, more important, and more cohesive. We've become a team, both as a battery and on a larger scale, as part of a Brigade Combat Team. No longer are we just field artillery; we are now infantry.

In late July the Bulldogs of Battery B began the transformation from a field artillery battery to a motorized rifle company. First, we were task organized under the 1-163rd Infantry, known as Task Force Grizzly. Second, the battery was turned upside down as the entire battery was reconfigured. Section chiefs and ammo chiefs became squad and team leaders. However,

some things will never change as the E-6s and E-7s are still affectionately referred to as "chief" and "smoke." Along with this mission, we realized we had a steep learning curve being with the Infantry.

The Bulldogs have gone through five different phases of training at Fort Bliss. The first rotation, conducted at Forward Operational Base (FOB) Biggs, was Mounted Operations that consisted of convoy escort, route reconnaissance and security and traffic control points. We stretched a lot of concertina wire, stopped many vehicles and drove hundreds of miles those nine days. The final two exercises were participation in Task Force Cordon and Search, where we were part of the outer cordon.

The next rotation took us to Camp Dona Anna. Battery B spent two training cycles there: one at the Forward Operational Base itself and one on range 52. On the first rotation, we were introduced to FOB security and internal reaction forces while also conducting more convoy training and mandatory Convoy Live

Fire Exercise.

Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training was phase three -- nine glorious days in the field and loved every minute of it. Three days of squad lanes, followed by three days of platoon lanes, ended with the task force exercise. As with any crawl, walk, run training scenario, each of the mini-cycles ended with a Live-Fire Exercise. The intensity was elevated as we sent our platoons through the "town" methodically clearing each room and building, with live ammo. Let's just say the pucker factor was high, all the way from the most junior soldier up to the Battery Commander. The battery was recognized for their professionalism, willingness to learn, and speed with which they became proficient. They were also recognized as the best unit to come through the "MOUT" cycle.

The final exercise of that cycle was the "Cordon and Search" at Oro Grande. Battery B was assigned the pleasure of entering and searching the fenced compound at the site -- a daunting task for us because every unit went through the front gate and took a lot of casualties. So, the Commander came up with a very simple plan: we would go over the fence! As the Observer Controller-Tac's (OC-Ts) shook their heads in skepticism, we planned the flawlessly executed an assault on the village using Light-Medium Tactical Vehicles, a Palletized Loading System, and ladders. We entered, searched for and found our two targets and exited the compound in 40 minutes. The previous unit spent four hours. Part of the speed

of this operation was our plan to intentionally deceive the OC-Ts. We told them we were coming in on one side of town and then went in on the other, OC-Ts none the wiser. In fact, our little deception irritated them so much that they made the Battery execute the plan a second time. The commander was told to use his original plan, so he did. What they didn't know was that we had planned and practiced three different plans; the OC-Ts only saw one of them. So we went over the walls again, using our first plan, and had the two targets in our custody and were out of the village in 20 minutes. By the way, did I mention that our commander loves to deceive the OC-Ts?

The fourth training rotation saw us back at glorious Camp McGregor and the joys of more FOB security, mass casualty training, casualty evacuation training, and Quick Reaction Force. We also quickly realized that we liked being away from the flagpole.

The fifth and final rotation had the Bulldogs back at FOB Biggs. This was our Dismounted Operations cycle. We became very intimate



Photos from archives

with the warehouse district of Fort Bliss, the area around the PX. Not because we went to the PX, oh no, none of that for us. We knew it well because we patrolled the area many, many times. On average, each of our security patrols was six to eight miles in length. While this is not a very long distance, doing these missions nine days in a row starts to wear on the body, feet and, to an extent, the mind. We finished the cycle with two task-force-level searches for ammo

and weapons caches. And yes, we were able to deceive the OC-T's again.

Under the leadership of Capt. D'Arcy Burt and 1st Sgt. Kevin Martinez, this has been a very successful Post Mobilization Training period for Battery B, 1-148 Field Artillery (Infantry). We have successfully transitioned to Motorized Rifle Company. The training has been very beneficial in preparing us for our duties as an Infantry, or is that Infanterry Company? In fact, some of our training scenarios have been realistic enough to be very sobering for many of us.

We are ready and looking forward to the 116 Brigade Combat Team rotations at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, and feel we are prepared for 365 days in Iraq, protecting our families back home, helping the people of Iraq, and serving our great country. We have been proud to represent the 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas, and are looking forward to representing the battalion, the state of Utah, and the United States of America in the year to come.



Experiences of a Utah Guardsman in Iraq



Photo provided by Staff Sgt. Rundell

Staff Sgt. Craig B. Rundell

By Staff Sgt. Craig B. Rundell

The following is an e-mail letter sent from Staff Sgt. Craig B. Rundell, Fire Support Sergeant. Sergeant Rundell was a member of the 145th Field Artillery prior to being mobilized with Detachment 3, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 148th Field Artillery, Utah National Guard. This unit was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Polk, Louisiana, where they were converted from a detachment of forward observers to a motorized rifle company. They were redesignated Company C, 163rd Infantry Battalion, an element of the 116th Brigade Combat Team:

"I know I have not been good about sending letters to everyone, so I decided to try something new. I do not have a lot of time to e-mail everyone so I will write letters and attach them to the e-mail.

Things are going well. Once I left the States I flew into Germany and spent about two hours there

for a quick refuel, then it was off to Kuwait City.

"We arrived at Kuwait 22 hours after leaving the United States. The flight was very tight; it felt like they crammed me into a VW Bug for 18 hours straight. I was stiff and had a hard time walking for a few minutes once we landed in Kuwait.

"We arrived at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. The camp is the furthest camp north in Kuwait, and we were about 20 miles south of the Iraq border. We stayed here for about two weeks training and getting the equipment ready for the trip into Iraq. The weather is similar to Utah; it is dry and cold. The food and housing in Kuwait is a lot better than we had at Fort Bliss, Texas, or Fort Polk, Louisiana.

"We started into Iraq on December 12th, and it was a very interesting time. The first day we drove through the southern part of Iraq. This part of Iraq is very flat and sandy. Sand dunes were the only things that resembled hills. The houses looked like mud huts and the cars were all beat up. It seemed to be a very poor part of the country. There was trash everywhere; they dump their garbage wherever they feel like. It resembles a third world country.

"The children run out in the street to beg for food and water. It was very sad to see. However, the civilians seem to be friendly and happy to see us. We got some rest and then the next day we traveled to Baghdad and headed towards Tikrit. The city of Baghdad is a lot like the cities in the United States; it has very nice buildings. Then you see the run-down part of the city.

"The way the people drive in this country is very different: some pull off the road to let us through

and some drive on the wrong side of the highway into oncoming traffic to get past us. They are crazy drivers. We stopped at a camp just south of Tikrit for the night. Day four was the final trip through Tikrit and up to Kurkuk. We drove north to our camp that is located about 30 miles north of Kurkuk. The trip took four days, was about 500 miles, and it was an awesome experience. We made it without any problems or any injuries.

"This will be my home until we make it back to the States. It is nice to finally make it into Iraq and find a home for more than two-three weeks at a time. The camp is a nice place -- it has everything we need. The guys we are replacing welcomed us very well and are anxious to finally go home. We have made some new friends and developed some great relationships with these people. We will be working together through the election period.

"Some World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) wrestlers flew into camp a couple of days after we arrived and surprised us. We had the chance to visit with the Undertaker, Booker T, Tori Wilson, Vince McMahon, and Ray Mysterio. They were great and a lot of fun to visit with. They signed autographs and handed out T-shirts. Not everyone was a fan of the WWE, but that didn't matter. They came all the way to Iraq to show their appreciation of what the troops are doing and what we are going through, and we appreciated their concern.

"Everyone seems to be getting ready to celebrate Christmas, but it is not the same as it is at home. I will surely miss being with the family during this time. I wanted to let everyone know how I was doing and what I have done so far."

The 115th Engineer Group Activities in Iraq



Photos by Maj. Dave Miller

Lt. Col. Don Summit, Col. Ed Willis, Maj. Tom Fisher, and Master Sgt. Elliot Aanerud looking at the progress on the Mabey Johnson Bridge at 22 Alpha on Main Supply Route Tampa

By Lt. Col Robert Dunton

Lieutenant Colonel Don Summit (Design Engineer) is briefing Col. Willis on the emplacement of a Mabey Johnson Bridge at 22 Alpha on Main Supply Route Tampa. Lieutenant Colonel Summit designed abutments from Texas barriers and runway landing mats. He, and Maj. Scott Sill, are providing command and control for the installation of the bridge by the 1438th MRBC from the Missouri National Guard. Horizontal work on the bridge site was completed by the 116th CSE, Utah National Guard and the 258th CSE, Arizona National Guard. Sappers and security are being provided by the 1140th ECB, Missouri National Guard.



The bridge at 22 Alpha is a critical link in allowing freedom of movement along Main Supply Route Tampa. The bridge was destroyed in April of 2004 by insurgents. The 115th Engineer Group (Const) was tasked to provide two-way traffic ability over 22 Alpha before the Iraqi General Elections in January 2005.

Bronze Star Medals Awarded to Members of the 109th

By 2nd Lt. Wayne L. Lee

Chief Master Sgt. David L. Colton and Senior Master Sgt. William J. Stubbs each received the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during Iraqi Freedom.

Colton served as Deputy Commander 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron Detachment One, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Kirkuk Air Base while in Iraq from November 2003 to June 2004.

Colton said of his experience in Iraq, "In some ways, I don't think I did anything that unique. Everyone else made my job easy. They performed flawlessly. We had very few equipment problems and when we did have



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet presents Chief Master Sgt. David L. Colton with the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brad Leiter

Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet presents Senior Master Sgt. William J. Stubbs with the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service during Iraqi Freedom.

problems, my crews were able to get them up and running quickly. I accept this Bronze Star on their behalf."

Senior Master Sgt. Stubbs said one of his best memories of his experience in Iraq was the strong bonds that were forged. "Many of us were from the same unit. Those relationships grew stronger. A lot were from other units and we became like family. We knew we were a part of history."

Senior Master Sgt. Stubbs concluded his remarks with, "Everyone who served with me deserved this Bronze Star. It is our Bronze Star."

Recruiting Recruits New Member From Finance



Photo by Master Sgt. Burke Baker

By Airman 1st Class Andrew R Howells

Recruiting has recruited a new member to their team. Staff Sgt. Alexandria Chamberlain is leaving the comforts of the finance counter and taking up a post in the recruiting office.

"I am ready for a new challenge" said Chamberlain. "I think I am ready to come to the front of the counter and get out of this chair."

Chamberlain's job fields have bounced between communications, finance. She said shes is ready for something "completely different".

Recruiting spends a majority of their time out at schools and fairs recruiting for the ever increasing need for men and women to serve in the Guard.

Governors Inauguration Ceremony

By 1st Lt. Maren P. Barney

Historically, the National Guard is responsible for the inauguration of its new commander-in-chief; the governor-elect. January 3, 2005 in Salt Lake City was no exception. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., took the oath of office at Abravanel Hall and became Utah's 16th governor.

In his opening comments, Huntsman thanked the National Guard and inaugural committee under Maj. Gen. Tarbet's leadership. "The Guard has never been stretched this thin in the history of our state and we honor their service in particular today," said Huntsman. "To our men and women in uniform we offer our most heartfelt gratitude."

Approximately 90 Guard members, led by Col. Scot Olson, teamed up to provide protocol, escorts, communications, security, parking and transportation for the event. Working closely with the governor's inaugural committee and the staff of Abravanel Hall, preparations began eight weeks ago to ensure that every



Staff Sgt. Michael G. Paletta, 151st Security Forces Squadron, allows guests to enter Abravanel



Jon Huntsman, his wife, and the TAG getting ready for the swearing in ceremony, at Abravanel Hall, to become Utah's 16th governor.

aspect proceeded smoothly.

The Utah National Guard's 23rd Army Band performed during the ceremony, both alone and as accompaniment to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The 145th Field Artillery provided a 19-gun salute to the new governor from Camp Williams. The Guard also coordinated with the Utah Highway Patrol and Salt Lake City Police department to provide security for the building and those attending the inauguration.

Distinguished guests included Father Michael Kouremetis, Dean of the Greater Salt Lake area Greek Orthodox Church and Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Gen. Tarbet served as the Master of Ceremonies after Col. Craig Morgan introduced the honored guests and

those seated on the stage.

Guests led by military escort to the stage included Mr. and Mrs. Larry H. Miller; Hon. and Mrs. Jake Garn; Hon. and Mrs. John L. Valentine; Hon. Calvin L. Rampton; Hon. and Mrs. Norman H. Bangerter; former Gov. and Mrs. Michael O. Leavitt; Hon. Robert Zaellick and the Hon. and Mr. Olene S. Walker.

Also sworn into office were Mark L. Shurtleff, Attorney General for Utah; Auston G. Johnson, III, Utah State Auditor; Edward T. Alter, Utah State Treasurer; and Gary R. Herbert, Lieutenant-Governor.

"As Utahns, we are all defined by hard work, strong morals, and love of state, but I fear we are losing one trait that our forebearers found indispensable - the ability not to fear change - for with change comes progress and opportunity"

Photo by 1st Lt. Maren Barney

Regional Training Institute crafting future NCOs

Written by CSM Joseph Spencer

Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) students are provided the opportunity to acquire leadership skills and the knowledge to lead a squad or team-sized element. It forms a foundation for future training and development as a Non Commissioned

Officer. Training focuses on self-discipline, professional ethics, values and how to train, lead, discipline and develop soldiers. They learn how to deliver soldier performance oriented counseling. They also focus on caring for soldiers and their families. The training culminates with map reading, a land navigation

Photos by Spec. Kelly Collett
exam and a Field Training Exercise (FTX). The FTX allows them to serve in various leadership positions and to be evaluated in troop leading procedures. Soldiers that graduate from PLDC are motivated and are prepared to serve in positions of greater responsibility.



A soldier takes his turn as Squad Leader and prepares his troops for a patrol.



Trainee's take a quick time out on top of a rocky hill to eat MRE's and interact with each other.



A squad of soldiers practice movement and stop to plan their next move.



Prior to leaving on patrol, soldiers were given specific instructions for returning fire.



Soldiers were briefed by RTI instructor before heading out on mission. Some take good notes.



An RTI sergeant gets the attention of the trainees to give information to help them succeed with their mission.

Leap of Faith, Army's Golden Knights Parachute for the U of U's Homecoming Game with Air Force

By Amanda Friz

High altitude and positive attitude fuels the Army's Golden Knights parachuting team. Sgt. Jeff Schafer and Sgt. Mistcha Stalburg take their plunge above Rice-Eccles Stadium. The Golden Knights Skydive Team was part of Homecoming celebrations at the University of Utah, fall 2004.

A twin turboprop plane took off Saturday with the speeding ground visible through the open doors and the smell of fuel wafting through the cabin. In the air above Rice-Eccles Stadium, it was seven Golden Knights among the U.S. Army's elite parachuting team who waited for the plane to gain altitude. Meanwhile, the jumpers talked and joked, and occasionally sang a few bars of "Everyone Was Kung Foo Fighting."

The plane circled overhead, reaching its destination of 3,500 feet. Some of the jumpers were nervous about landing in the stadium to kick off the homecoming football game against Air Force.

"Stadium jumps get your nerves going a bit [because it is a] small place to land in with tons of people," Sweeney said. "We don't have a whole lot of jumping experience in stadiums," said Sgt. 1st Class Calvin Fredlake.

It was not only hesitancy toward jumping into a stadium, but also the fear of heights that added an extra edginess to the parachuters. One of the Golden Knights, Sgt. Jeff Schafer, was an aviation mechanic four years ago. He did a tandem jump with one of the Golden Knights and "fell in love with it" despite his fear of heights. Schafer is not the only parachuter afraid of heights. Pvt. 1st Class Sean Sweeney and Sgt. 1st

Media Credit: Bob Plumb

Class Mike Elliott share Schafer's fear. Sweeney explained that it's different when they jump. "When I have a parachute on me, I feel comfortable," he said. Heights of 50 or 100 feet, not thousands, make him woozy. He won't go near the edge of a five-story building.

Fredlake added the winds in stadiums create a "swirling effect," which makes judging the landing more difficult. At 2,000 feet, the Knights dropped streamers to gauge wind direction and speed. The jumpers would have to adjust their landing to account for the elevation as well. Salt Lake City is about 4,390 feet above sea level, an elevation that makes breaking difficult, said Staff Sgt. Harold Meyers.

Having told the pilot how to adjust the flight to account for the wind, the Knights gazed out the open doors at the mountains and valley below with the lake stretching to the horizon. "When you get higher, the ground looks like a painting. It doesn't look real," Sweeney said. Once they hit their target altitude of 3,500 feet, the Knights gave a yell and leaped out. Gravity and the wind immediately took over, quickly pulling each jumper down and away from the plane as two jets flew beneath. The jump was "timed perfect," said Cpl. Derrick Coleman, who helped coordinate from the ground.

With legs linked to shoulders, the jumpers fell in a "stack out" formation. For air shows, the Knights dive in more complicated formations, Sweeney said. They form diamonds, they pass batons between each other and they purposely cut away their parachutes. Because they were

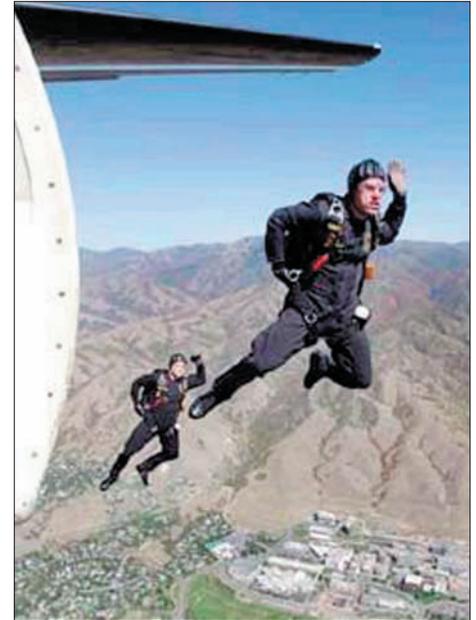


Photo provided by U of U ROTC

The Golden Knights Skydiving Team was part of the U of U Homecoming celebration.

landing on such a small target, the parachuters could not go high enough to perform these stunts. The higher the altitude, the less accurate the landing is.

The jumpers landed, bearing a football and a commemorative mahogany baton. They gave the football to a local reporter and the baton to Lt. Col. Edwin Frederick, in charge of the U's Army ROTC. To thank them for coming, the ROTC gave each of the Knights a University of Utah Ute Warrior Battalion souvenir coin.

The Golden Knights demonstration team travels around the world, jumping to help promote Army enlistment. Last Spring, Sgt. Maj. Archie Hixon invited the demonstration team to jump at a football game. They scheduled a weekend as the jump date without knowing it would be the homecoming game. It was also a coincidence that the Utes were playing Air Force.

The 115th Holds Its Own Golden Spike Ceremony



Photos by Maj. Dave Miller

(From Left to Right) Sheik Mott, leader of the Al Toba Tribe; Norm, translator and interrupter for the 115th Engineer Group; Major General Natynczyk, Commander for Support III Corp; Mohammad, translator and interrupter for the 115th Engineer Group Deputy; Brig. Gen. Pollmann, Commander 420th Engineer Brigade; and Col. Ed Willis, Commander 115th Engineer Group

By Lt. Col. Robert Dunton

Sheik Mott, Norm, Maj. Gen. Natynczyk, Mohammad, Brig. Gen. Pollmann and Col. Willis posed at the “Golden Spike” ceremony to celebrate the completion of Phase I of paving of the Main Supply Route (MSR) Tampa. The 115th Engineer Group was assigned the mission to facilitate Iraqi engineers to complete the Express Way Number 1. Col. Ed Willis, Group Commander, used capture Saddam funds to help rebuild asphalt plants, Iraqi engineer vehicles, and other infrastructure that was damaged or looted during the

ground war. Along with U.S. Army Engineers there was a combined effort to complete the paving of Phase I on MSR Tampa.

The driving of the “Golden Spike” was a joint operation of U.S. Army Engineers from the 115th Engineer Group, Utah National Guard; 1140th Engineer Battalion, and Missouri National Guard. The 258th CSE, Arizona National Guard, provided local security with Iraqi Police. Italian Forces provided air cover and area security during the ceremony. Maj. Gen. Natynczyk and a representa-

tive of the Interim Iraqi Government drove a symbolic “Golden Spike” into the newly paved highway on December 4, 2004.



115th Starts Construction on a Primary School



Photos by Maj. Dave Miller

Col. Willis and Lt. Col. Dunton visit a primary school where the 115th Engineer Group has started construction of a new school building for the Al Toba Tribe, the first school to be built on Al Toba Tribal lands. Construction was initiated in December of 2004 and should be completed in March 2005.



Command Sgt. Maj. Sid Cardon oversees flag detail by the 115th and 116th Utah National Guard personnel assigned to Tallil, Iraq. The flag was flown on Veterans' Day to honor all Veterans.

Utah Air Guard Aids Florida Victims

By Senior Airman Christiana Elieson

After Florida was hit by a series of hurricanes, a call came for help in repairing and cleaning up the damage that was caused by four furious storms that ravaged the state.

The 151st Civil Engineering Squadron responded to the call for help. From Oct. 27 to Nov. 8, 2004 they assisted with the clean-up efforts at Hurlbert Field, near Fort Walton Beach, one of the hardest hit areas.

When Utah Guard members arrived at Hurlbert Field they found the conditions “better than expected,” said Master Sgt. Larry Warner, who works supply for CES. He continued, “It wasn’t as bad as we thought it would be.” “There was lots of roof damage,” Warner said. “Most base housing was condemned.”

When CES arrived, many services were just getting back up and running. “The BX had just opened and some of the base services were just reestablishing themselves,” said Tech. Sgt. Juan Vasquez, a member of the HVAC section in CES.

While in Florida, our unit assessed damaged areas and completed the



Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Efrain

Civil Engineerings clean up the flight line at Eglin Air Force Base

repairs when the materials became available, said Warner. We also salvaged some of the mechanical equipment that was blown away during the hurricane, said Vasquez.

The response to the call for help was answered so well that people were being turned away, said Warner.

“The (National) Guard came through again.”

The best part of helping out in Florida was the feeling of accomplishment. “I feel that as Air Guard members, any time there’s a disaster it’s one of our duties to help the community,” said Vasquez. “It’s also something you can look back on and feel great about.”

Festival of Trees a Holiday Tradition

By Senior Airman Christiana Elieson

Holiday traditions come in many ways and many forms. They could be a sleigh ride each year at Christmas or getting in the car with your family in pajamas to go see lights. A Christmas tradition on this base begins with the Audio-Visual office of the 151st Air Refueling Wing and ends at the Festival of Trees.

“The Communications Flight has been helping out the Festival (of Trees) for a number of years, and many other members from different units have participated in the past,” said Master Sgt. Burke Baker, the base multi-media manager. His predecessor, Senior Master Sgt. Mark Savage, was involved before Sgt. Baker got involved three years ago.

About 9 to 15 people are involved from various units around the base usually. “We help set up the lighting, chairs, and assist all week with the audio and lights for the different performers that entertain at the festival,” said Baker.

The Festival of Trees is a great way for guardsmen to

give back to their community. “All the money raised goes towards the Primary Children’s Hospital, so it is a good feeling to know that you are helping out kids that could be friends or neighbors,” said Baker. “This is an annual event, and we are asked every year to help out.”

Persons interested in

participating next year can contact Sgt. Burke Baker in the Communications Flight.



Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Burke

Tech Sgts. Keith Campbell and Dave Ferneilius of the 151st Communications Flight run the sound system at the large stage during the recent Festival of Trees.

Guard Comes Through For One of Their Own

By 2nd Lt. Wayne L. Lee

On December 5, Brig. Gen. Brent E. Winget, the Utah Air National Guard Commander and Chaplain Lt. Col. Cless Young, the 151st Air Refueling Wing Chaplain, presented Master Sgt. Mark Anger of the 151st Maintenance Squadron with donation monies raised by members of the Utah ANG.

Sgt. Anger's house burned down just prior to December's drill and he lost everything. He was injured in the fire and was recuperating at the Intermountain Burn Center in Salt Lake City.

Sgt. Anger, who received second-degree burns on his feet and minor burns on his face, recalled how he had awakened to find his home on fire.

He said that he sleeps with his bedroom door closed. He could not get to sleep and got up. When he opened

the bedroom door, smoke poured into the room. He made his way down the hallway to the front of the house and saw the fire. He immediately ran back to the bedroom to wake his girlfriend Lori, who was sound asleep. They went out of the house through the kitchen, crossing over linoleum floor, which was melting from the heat.

Sgt. Anger went to the side door and hollered for Bubba, his Cocker Spaniel-Shar Pei mix dog.

Sgt. Anger also had a Siamese kitten in his home. Both of his pets died of smoke inhalation from the fire.

A faulty wire, discovered later during fire department investigation, was established as the cause of the fire.

Despite his misfortunes, Sgt. Anger has maintained his optimism and is very thankful for the outpouring of support from his Guard family.

Utah Guardsman Ties National Record!!!!

By Airman 1st Class Andrew Howells

Staff Sgt. Stewart Mackey, a security forces member of the Utah Air National Guard, recently tied for first place in the high-power rifle championship. Competing against all other branches and civilian competitors, Mackey shot a score of 200 with 15 bulls-eyes at 600 yards to tie the National Record.

Having competed on the Active Duty Air Force Team and the all

Guard team, Mackey began his training at the young age of 16 years old with his father on a 22 rifle. This Boston native even met his wife for the first time at a rifle range in Centerville, Utah.

The competition was held in Boulder City, Nevada, and is sponsored by the Nevada State Rifle and Pistol Association.

Staff Sgt. Mackey ties national high power rifle competition in Boulder City, Nevada.

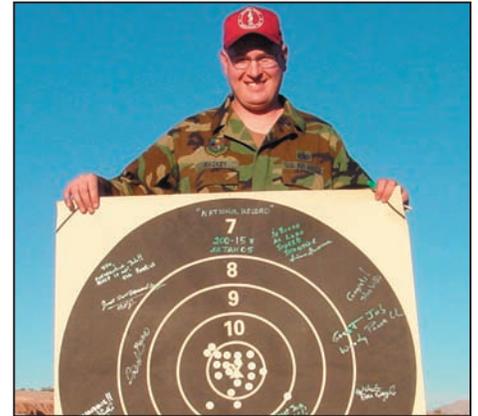


Photo provided by the Utah Rifle & Pistol Association

First Female Hispanic Chief in Utah Air National Guard

By Tech. Sgt. Sterling Poulson & 2nd Lt. Wayne L. Lee

On January 19, Nannette Oviatt, Superintendent Military Personnel Flight, 151st Air Refueling Wing, was officially promoted to Chief Master Sergeant. This promotion made Oviatt the first female Hispanic in the Utah Air National Guard to be promoted to Chief. "It has been a dream and a goal that seemed unattainable," said Oviatt.

As superintendent of MPF, her responsibilities are to manage, direct and oversee all aspects of the military

personnel activities.

"I want to be a Chief and a good leader, and not just hold the rank of E-9," said Oviatt, "My goal is to follow the rules and the core values, but at the same time show compassion to the members."

Oviatt concluded her remarks by pledging to work hard, to do her best, and to do the right thing. "Even though it may not be the popular choice, it will be the right choice."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael D. Evans

Lt. Col. Christine M. Burckle and Michael Oviatt, Chief Master Sgt. Nannette Oviatt's husband, slide the new rank onto her epaulets.

115th Engineer's Ibn-Rashid Primary School Project



Photo provided by 115th Engr Gp

Spec. Ashley Phillips and Spec. Jennifer McKnight interacting with students from the Ibn-Rashid School

By Lt. Col Robert Dunton

On January 13, 2005, the 115th Engineer Group (Const) conducted a joint operation with the 116th Engineer Company, Combat Support Equipment (CSE), from the Utah National Guard, and 133rd Engineer Company (CSE) from the Wyoming National Guard. This project provided school supplies for the students and teachers of the Ibn-Rashid Primary School. The Ibn-Rashid school is located near the city of An Nasiriyah of Dhi Qar province in southern Iraq.

The project involved soldiers' families who gathered the school

supplies, along with special treats, from Utah for distribution to school children. Much needed items like pencils, paper, crayons and notebooks were given to each student. Additional teachers supplies such as, rules, markers and paper were given to the teachers' for their classrooms.

Contact with the Ibn-Rashid School was made by "Norm," an Iraqi translator who works with the 115th Engineer Group on Main Supply Route Tampa. Norm coordinated the link with the principal teacher and 115th Engineer Group.

On the mission, as part of the security element, was Spec. Ashley

Phillips and Spec. Jennifer McKnight, who were also assigned to work with the teachers once in the school. Iraq customs make it difficult for male soldiers to interact directly with Iraqi females and the presents of female American soldiers helped gain trust as the school supplies were given to the children and teachers.

Spec. Phillips and Spec. McKnight interacted directly with the teachers and students quickly making many friends among the boys and girls of the school. Their professional example has help break down many barriers when dealing with teachers and students throughout the Dhi Qar province.

19th Special Forces Group at the Special Operations Medical Association Meeting

By Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Hill

As the lights dimmed, Sgt. 1st Class J. Kyle Hill, Company C, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) began his lecture to the Special Operations Medical Association in Tampa, Florida, on December 16, 2004. Previous to Sgt. 1st Class Hill, the podium had been graced by Rear Admiral Donald Arthur, Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy and Dr. Richard Carmona, the Surgeon General of the United States. Sgt. 1st Class Hill has recently returned from his second combat tour to Afghanistan. His topic was "Management of Hand Patients in an Afghanistan Unconventional Warfare Clinic." Along with Sgt. 1st Class Hill, the 19th SF was also represented by a talk from Maj. Robert Harrington.

During his deployment, Sgt. 1st Class Hill served as the company medic at the Special Forces camp in Asadabad, a small town in the mountains on the Afghanistan border with Pakistan. While the primary mission of the base clinic was to provide medical care to U.S. and coalition soldiers, much of its time was spent providing humanitarian care to

the local Afghan population. Despite its austere conditions, Sgt. 1st Class Hill's two room clinic was the premier medical facility within an eight to ten hour radius. The closed military referral hospital was two hours away by helicopter, when they were available. Over the ten months that Sgt. 1st Class Hill's unit was deployed in Afghanistan, they saw over 18,500 patients with a whole range of problems ranging from simple colds to gunshot wounds and traumatic amputations. While Sgt. 1st Class Hill focused on problems involving the hand, he could have spoken on burns, wound infections or fractures.

Maj. Harrington spoke on a unique 18D Medic training exercise held yearly. The most recent training exercise was held in Nepal. During this event, the medics work alongside both U.S. and Nepalese doctors caring for orthopedic, surgical and medical patients. They also worked in a dental university getting needed practice extracting diseased teeth. This real world training in an austere environment has proven to be excellent preparation for their role in unconventional warfare clinics in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The United States military, in general, and the Utah Na-



Photo provided by 19th Special Forces

Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Hill, Co C, 1st Bn, 19th SFGA
tional Guard, specifically, are in Afghanistan to help rid the world of the terrorists and all regimes that support them, and at the same time, provide humanitarian medical care to the Afghani men, women and children. They are doing the right thing for the right reason.

In the Sights - Utah Marksmanship "SARTS"



Photos provided by Utah Marksmanship Team

Utah Pistol Team after shooting match in the mud:

Back - 2nd Lt. Chris Miller, Sgt. Justin Day, CW4 John Wester, Sgt. Levi Boardman. Front - 2nd Lt. Hans Watson, and Spec. Heath Weber

By 2nd Lt. Hans Watson

Because Utah has so many proficient soldiers with "in demand skills," we are one of the states with the highest deployment rate. When it became evident that Utah soldiers were going to play a key role in the war on terror, the Utah Marksmanship Team converted into a Small Arms Readiness Training Squad (SARTS). The team was no longer focused only on being the best shooters in the nation; they changed their focus to first, meet the call to prepare soldiers for combat, and second, to be the best shooters at the competitions. This change involved becoming the best "advanced marksmanship training unit" in the nation. With the support of Col. Paul Harrell and Lt. Col. Dwaine Torgersen, the

SARTS began to take shape. The veteran team members began to train the team to be marksmanship trainers. The members learned the mechanics and techniques used for combat marksmanship and began to train deploying units. With their support, the team members began to train soldiers in the Utah National Guard to be the best combat marksmen in the nation.

Though the marksmanship team has become a SARTS, the tradition of being a contender at a national level has not been replaced. Utah has always produced competitive shooters and this is still true today. In fact, by being the best trainers, the team members have become even better shooters. This year we have enjoyed some of the best shooting

"new members" to accompany the "old shooters."

In the past year the marksmanship team competed in two different competitions. The first of these was the MAC VI Regional in Devil's Lake, North Dakota. Due to the state's deployments, the team was one of the youngest in team history; however, this did not stop the soldiers from Utah. The Machine Gun Team won first place overall. The Rifle Team won second place overall and the Pistol Team won third place overall. Though the team was the youngest team in attendance, they were as competitive as any other.

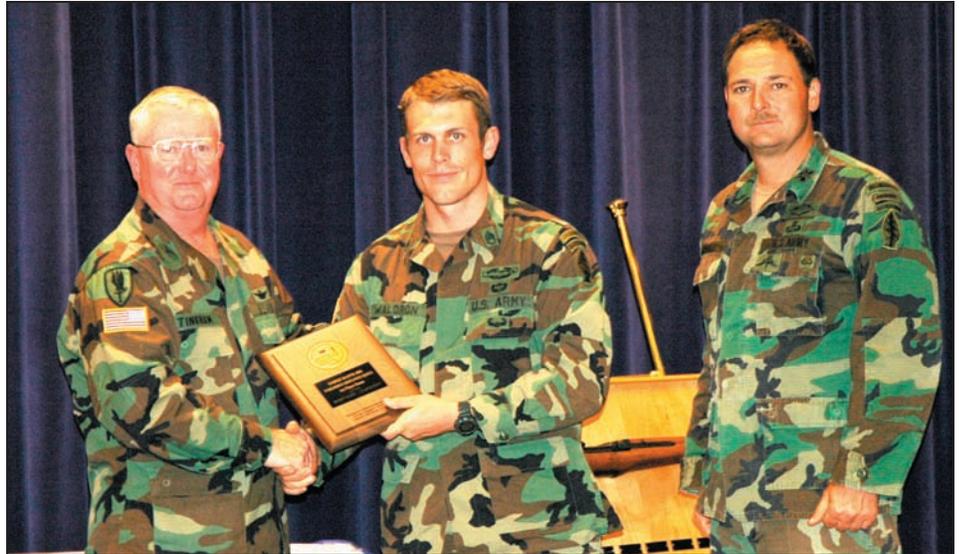
In late October, Utah sent its team to compete at the Winston P. Wilson National Competition at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. The Wilson matches are the gathering place of the best shooters in the Army Guard, Air Guard, Marine Reserves and Army Reserves. Representatives from the British, Croatian, French, Italian, Australian, South African, Canadian, Swiss, German, and Norwegian Militaries competed also.



Machine Gun Team awarded 1st place: Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Harley and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Whatcott

In the team competitions, Utah was as strong as ever, and in individual competition they were even better. The Machine Gun Team won a first place and two third places. Even when an emergency forced a member of the sniper team to drop out the night before, Lt. Col. Custer was able to move from Rifle Team to Sniper Team and fill the gap. The Sniper Team won a first place and two third places. The Rifle and Pistol Teams both were top-ten finishers in team competitions. These strong finishes gave the Utah Marksmanship Team an overall finish of fifth, competing against 54 states, and territories and nations.

As individual competitors, Utah shooters also enjoyed success. In the individual competitions shooters that finish in the top ten percent of all competitors, regardless of team affiliation, are awarded points for that particular discipline. Sgt 1st Class Cartwright and Sgt 1st Class Lund both shot well enough to earn individual rifle points. They have accumulated enough points (over 32) to be awarded the Distinguished



Photos provided by Utah Marksmanship Team

Sniper 1st Place: Staff Sgt. Monty Waldon and Lt. Col. Marcus Custer
 Rifle Badge (an honor accomplished by less than 1% of all soldiers in the entire U.S. Military). Lt. Col. Custer earned more pistol points when competing in the individual pistol competition and Sgt. Buck Taylor earned pistol points in his first pistol competition.

The SARTS now trains once a month at Camp Williams. They have many new members and expect to have a good trainer corps from both Army and Air Guard. Each day of training is broken into two parts: The first is used to train the members

how to train soldiers using weapon systems and tactics. The second is used to improve the team members' marksmanship skills.

The Utah SARTS Team trains units on the following weapon systems and tactics: Pistol, Rifle, M203, M249 "SAW", 240B, M2, M24 Sniper rifle and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). To request training from the Utah SARTS you can contact: 2nd Lt. Hans Watson 801-523-4484, hans.watson@ut.ngb.army.mil; or Sgt. 1st Class Keith Cartwright 801-253-5694 keith.cartwright@ut.ngb.army.mil. The 2005 AG Match will be held 30 Apr - 1 May 2005. To enter contact your unit Readiness NCO.



Rifle Team receiving award from Lt. Col. - from left to right SFC Keith Cartwright, Sgt. Ryan Jonkman, SFC Alma Lund, Spec. Scott Watson



2nd Lt. Watson and 2nd Lt. Miller shooting alternate event

Utah Army National Guard Equipment for Humanitarian Aid Arrives in Nicaragua



A Utah Army National Guard ambulance drives past a stack of shipping containers after leaving the cargo ship, Cape Knox. The ship docked at Port of Corinto, Nicaragua and unloaded humanitarian aid for New Horizons 2005. Task Force Chinandega will use the equipment and supplies to build four school buildings and three medical clinics.

By Capt. Dan Gaffney, New Horizons PAO

A ship carrying military construction equipment and humanitarian aid docked at the Port of Corinto Sunday morning, kicking off the next phase of New Horizons 2005, a cooperative military program that combines humanitarian aid for our Latin American neighbors with military training.

“So far, things are looking pretty good,” said Maj. Pete Adams, the Operations Officer for Task Force Chinandega, which will build schools and medical clinics in western Nicaragua, as well as run three temporary medical clinics. “We’ve already sent one convoy out to our base camp today, and that wasn’t expected until Monday, so we’re ahead of schedule so far.”

Construction equipment, mili-

tary vehicles, helicopters, soldiers, Nicaraguan truck drivers and long-shoremen unloaded dozens of shipping containers full of supplies and humanitarian aid. “We have a great working relationship with the Nicaraguans,” said Adams, a helicopter instructor pilot with the Utah Army National Guard. “The people at the port, the drivers, are doing a great job. We were given six days to clear the port, and it looks like we could cut that time in half.”

Adams said there are some challenges, but that’s to be expected in such a large operation. Task Force Chinandega will be in charge of the mission until its completion in May, but much of the work will be completed by thousands of Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine reservists that rotate through Nicaragua

for their annual two-week training. Most of the soldiers in the task force are from Utah, but there are also soldiers from units in Puerto Rico and Nebraska, as well as several airmen from an Air Force Reserve unit based near Sacramento, California.

The soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines will be working with civilians and members of the Nicaraguan military during New Horizons. They will also distribute medical supplies, school supplies and about 10,000 Spanish language books to the people of Chinandega; much of these goods has been donated by individuals, groups and schools across Utah.

New Horizons was started in the mid 1980s as a way to combine U.S. military training and humanitarian assistance. New Horizons 2005 exercises are also taking place in Antigua, Dominica, El Salvador, Haiti and Panama; this is the fifth time Nicaragua has hosted a New Horizons Exercise.



Utah National Guard soldiers steer a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter off the cargo ship

U.S. Army Photos by Capt. Dan Gaffney

Utah National Guard Security Department's "TOP GUN"



Photo provided by the Utah National Guard Security Force

Dennis Kennedy presenting the "TOP GUN" Award to Security Officer Jake Weber, this year's best shooter in the Utah National Guard security force shoot-off.

*By Dennis Kennedy,
Security Force Training Officer*

This years TOP GUN Award went to Officer Jake Weber.

On a very cold and blustery day this winter, Jake competed against

the top shooters in the Utah National Guard Security Forces and beat all comers to win the TOP GUN distinction. Jake is also a member of the 1457th Engineer Battalion. He recently returned home from Iraq where he was decorated for his actions in a

gunfight with Iraqi insurgents.

Jake will hold this award for one year and will then have the option of competing again next year against all contenders. Congratulations to Jake, and welcome home!

The Inspector General Office of the Utah National Guard



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

Lt. Col. Webb, Sgt. 1st Class Street, and Maj. Cluff from the IG Office

By Maj. Bill Cluff

The Inspector General's (IG) office, as part of The Adjutant General's personal staff, provides support to the entire Utah National Guard - Air and Army. The IG serves as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of The Adjutant General, focusing on the readiness, economy, efficiency, discipline, training, and morale of the Utah National Guard.

The office strives to provide quality and timely Inspector General services that focus on readiness and soldier care, and that are responsive to the needs of The Adjutant General and Utah National Guard Headquarters staff, unit commanders and staffs, soldiers, civilians, and families of the Utah National Guard. The IG's mission is to improve readiness and morale of the command through

assistance, inspections, inquiries and investigations that directly support the vision, mission, goals and objectives of The Adjutant General and Utah National Guard. The four functions of the IG are:

- Provide assistance to soldiers, commanders, family members, civilian employees and retirees while maintaining confidentiality and guarding against reprisal
- Conduct inspections and recommend additional inspections as may appear appropriate
- Conduct investigations/inquiries as directed by The Adjutant General
- Teach and train

Three officers and one NCO staff the IG office. The new State Inspector General is Lt. Col. Grant A. Webb. He is a Regular Army (Title 10) officer who was assigned to the Joint Forces Headquarters-

Utah in October 2004. He comes to us from a tour as the Commander of the Salt Lake City Recruiting Battalion where he was responsible for all Regular Army and Army Reserve recruiting in all or part of eight western states.

Lt. Col. Webb was commissioned an Infantry Second Lieutenant in December 1983 from the University of Southern California where he was the Distinguished Military Graduate. Following Infantry Officer Basic Course and Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training, he served in the following assignments: 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment (2d ACR), Nurnberg, Germany, Aeroscout Platoon Leader, Squadron Motor Officer, Squadron S4, and Commander, R Troop, 4th Squadron 2d ACR.

Following his tour in Germany he was assigned to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California, as an Attack Helicopter Observer/Controller. Next he was selected to be the speechwriter for the Commanding General and later the Secretary of the General Staff at Fort Rucker, Alabama. His next tactical assignment was at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as the Executive Officer of the 1st Battalion, 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment (AHR), then at Camp Comanche, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as the S3, 1st Battalion, and 229th AHR. Upon redeployment to Fort Bragg he became the Executive Officer of the 229th AHR.

He was next assigned to MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, as the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) Command Center

Watch Officer followed by assignment as the J-3 Exercise Planner for Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Immediately after September 2001 he was assigned as the CENTCOM J-3 Joint Operations Center Team Chief.

Lt. Col. Webb is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Rotary Wing Aviator Course, Aviation Officer Advance Course, the Combined Army Services Staff School and the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California, a Masters in Business Administration from Boston University and a Masters in Military Science from the Marine Corps University. As an Attack Helicopter Pilot, Lt. Col. Webb has logged thousands of flight hours and is qualified in the UH-1, OH-58, AH-1, and the AH-64 aircraft.

Lt. Col. Webb and his family have lived in Sandy for over two years. He and his wife, Judy, have two children. They have a son, Matthew, who is senior at Brighton High School and a daughter, Jacqueline, who is a freshman at Albion Middle School.

In addition to Lt. Col. Webb, the Army Deputy IG is Maj. Bill Cluff, the Air Deputy IG is Maj. Linda Robles, and the Assistant IG is Sgt. 1st Class Angela Street. All are Army Inspector General School Graduates; Maj. Cluff and Maj. Robles are also Air Force Inspector General School Graduates.

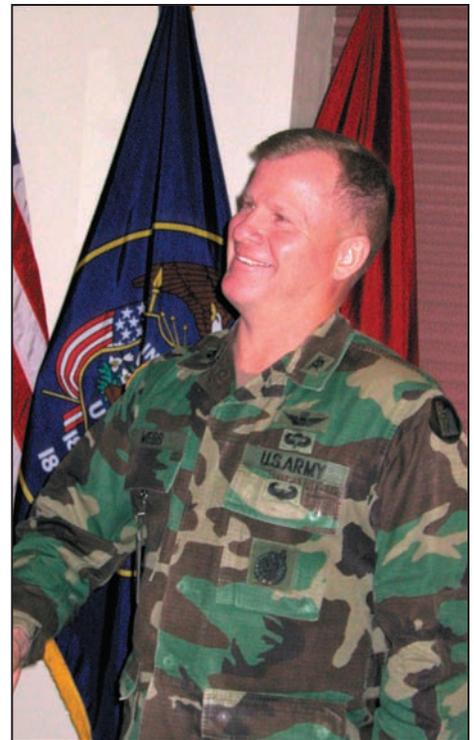
In FY 2004 the IG's office conducted thirteen unit assistance visits and closed over 170 individual assistance cases. In FY 2005 the IG office is looking forward to very

aggressive unit assistance visit, with a schedule of thirty units. The unit assistance visit schedule can be viewed on the IG website.

When contacting the IG for assistance it is important to use the following guidelines for best service:

- Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem first!
- Start at the lowest level in your chain of command.
- Be completely honest and truthful. There are penalties for submitting false information.
- The IG does not change policy.
- The IG can only recommend, not order, the resolution of a problem. Only the commander can order. The role of the IG is to advise the commander.
- Inspectors General resolve assistance cases on the basis of fact, not opinion or preference. All allegations must be supported with evidence.
- Be patient. Do not expect instant resolution to your problem.
- Be prepared to take "no" for an answer. Things do not always turn out the way you would like them to.

Remember that the IG is a confidential advisor and fact-finder for the TAG and that selfless service is their cardinal attribute. The IG is here to serve you and to improve the readiness of the Utah National Guard.

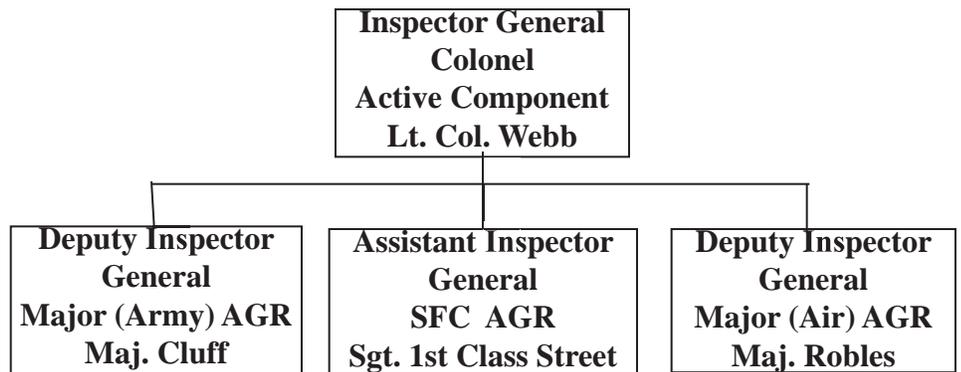


*The Utah National Guard
Inspector General, Lt. Col. Webb*



SFC Street and Maj. Cluff

Photos by SFC Greg Cullis



*The organizational structure of the Utah National Guard
Inspector General Office*

Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

Members of the Utah National Guard Honor Guard providing services at th Veterans' Day Concert

By Sgt. 1st Class A. Scott Evans

The purpose of the Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard Team is to perform at military and political ceremonies. The State Honor Guard conducts formations for military dignitaries, renders military honors at funerals for deceased military or civilian and other military and civilian events as appropriate. Assignment to the Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard Team is a privilege for those who choose to volunteer. Members not only meet the standards of a soldier and NCO but also are expected to exceed them. Members are to be considered personal representatives of the Adjutant General, State Command Sergeant Major and the Utah Army National Guard as a whole.

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As members of the State Honor Guard team, soldiers and NCOs are subject to the call of the State Command Sergeant Major and serve at his discretion. The State Command Sergeant Major may designate a senior NCO to serve as his appointed representative. The representative serves in lieu of the State Command Sergeant Major concerning all State Honor Guard activities and functions and has all the responsibilities and authorities delegated to him/her.

The following Criteria are established to ensure the highest standards among newly appointed members.

- Letter of Recommendation for Unit First Sergeant and Battalion or Major Command, Command Sergeant Major.

- Must meet height/weight stan-

dards in AR 600-9.

- Must not be on the Worker Improvement Program, have been barred from reenlistment, or flagged for suspension of unfavorable actions.

- Must have no current or existing physical profiles that hinder you from freedom of movement or presenting a military appearance.

Appointed personnel are required to participate in all assigned ceremonies and training events. If interested in becoming an elite member of the Utah Army National Guard Honor Guard team, contact the following by e-mail or telephone at:

SFC Scott Evans 801-302-5011
 andrew.evans@ut.ngb.army.mil
 SFC Brad Howell 801-253-5457
 brad.howell@ut.ngb.army.mil

Utah National Guard Security Forces Merge

By Dennis Kennedy, Security Dept.

At the end of 2004 all Utah National Guard security forces merged into one unit. The Joint Forces Headquarters directed the merger. Prior to the merger, the 151st Security Forces Squadron at the Salt Lake Air Base managed security officers assigned to the Air Guard. Officers assigned to the facilities at Draper, Camp Williams and Army Aviation in West Jordan were managed by the Security Department headed by Glen Bailess.

“The purpose of the merger was to enhance force protection strategies, consolidate personnel and unify all security forces under one department,” according to Mr. Bailess. The department has grown significantly to 50 personnel since Sept 11 and made important changes. All officers are now armed with 9mm pistol. Officers assigned to the Air Guard will soon be carrying the M4 carbine in addition to the 9mm in order to comply with Air Force regulations.



Security Manager Glen Bailess and Master Sgt. Lee Turner of DOMS qualify on the shooting simulator

All National Guard security officers are required to be certified in the use of the expandable baton, and pepper spray in addition to firearms. Additional training is continuous. Training is a major component of the professionalism of the department. Officers train in subjects such as fire fighting, HAZMAT, and defensive tactics. Officers assigned to the Air

Guard work and train alongside the Security Police. Training is alternated with PT every other day. This year the training will increase significantly with the up arming to the M4 weapon system.

According to Col. Bart D. Berry, the Directorate of Military Support Office, “We envisioned that this would become an interoperable force that can support the force protection requirements of all National Guard facilities. This will be vital, considering deployments of National Guard units in the Global War on Terror. Our security forces must be able to protect and support all our assets in the absence of military units”.



Utah National Guard security personnel receiving explosive training from Army EOD during recent training



Photos provided by Security Department

Drug Demand Reduction Unveils New Program

By CW2 Reed Warner

The Utah National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDR) has recently implemented an exciting education-training program called "Night Vision." Night Vision teaches peer youth leaders presentation, organizational and public speaking skills. Upon completion of their training, students are certified as Night Vision Instructors. These student instructors then use their new skills, along with an interactive kit containing healthy and smokers' lungs, fatal vision goggles and other

items, to educate youth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Adele C. Young Intermediate School, Brigham City, and Bountiful Junior High School, Bountiful, will be the first schools in Utah to field Night Vision. The Florida National Guard first implemented this program over three years ago and they had tremendous success educating their youth to avoid dangerous drugs. As this program continues to grow we are confident that Utah's program will also be a great success.

The Utah National Guard DDR Program continues to offer, a five-

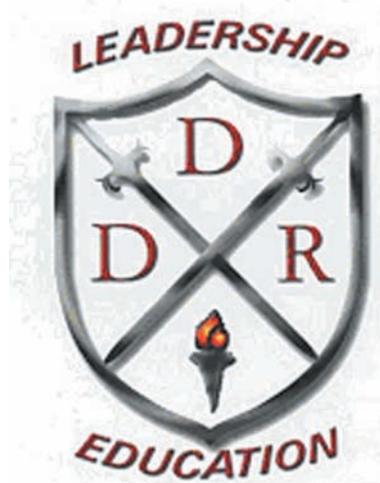
day program to educate youth about the dangers of illegal drugs of current concern in Utah; and several one-hour modules that focus on the dangers of individual drug types; and parent and teacher training on signs and symptoms of drug use. We also have portable climbing walls and rappel towers to use in conjunction with these education programs, providing a high adventure alternative to substance abuse.

For information or to request support for any of the DDR Programs contact: cdut@ut.ngb.army.mil or call 801-253-5521.

Foreign Language Courses Come to Utah

Utah has long been known in Department of Defense (DoD) language circles as a "National Treasure." This reputation is due to the history of superior language abilities, patriotism, and outstanding work ethic of the soldiers and airmen in the Utah National Guard. Consequently, this year the Utah Guard was given an unprecedented opportunity to conduct two, year long language acquisition courses right here in Utah. These types of courses are normally only available through the Defense Language Institute (DLI) located in Monterey, California.

Our courses began in October 2004 instructing selected soldiers and airmen in Dari and Pashto languages. This is the largest DoD effort outside of DLI to produce capable linguists within these languages. Two contract native instructors teach each class. Mr. Habibi from the Kabul Province and Mrs. Farkharia from the Jelal Abad area of Afghanistan are the Dari instructors. Mr. Pashakhan from the southern Pakhtia Province and Mr. Yusefzai also from the Jelal



Abad area of Afghanistan are the Pashto instructors. Each class is attended entirely by Army and Air members of the Utah National Guard. Military experience levels of these students ranges from Desert Storm and Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom veterans, to recent recruits. The increased ability of the Utah National Guard to use these languages will greatly influence the military's overall

ability to combat terrorist threats from Southwest Asia.

Course highlights from the first quarter: The instructors conducted role playing with each other in their native languages with various accents that were recorded for study and reference. Each student received two to three hours a week of personal instruction. During Christmas the instructors took the students to an Afghani restaurant for a lunch as a language immersion experience. As the course's second quarter begins, most instruction is already done entirely in the course language.

The language abilities of the Utah National Guard are widely accepted to be among the best the military has available. Utah National Guard members are generally more proficient in the languages they speak and often proficient in multiple foreign languages. These courses represent one more step in the Utah National Guard's goal of proficient communication in all the world's languages.

Utah National Guard Biathlon Team

By Lt. Col. Jeff Stuart

The year 2005 was quite a year for the Utah National Guard Biathlon team. With the loss of Warrant Officer Noel Olson, there was a lot of question as to who would take up the reins and run the program. This fall we had several sessions where we fitted the rifles to our athletes and got them familiar with the new concept of shooting with an elevated heart rate.

Our first races were held at the National Guard Western Regional races in West Yellowstone, Montana. Lt. Col. Jeff Stuart and 1st Lt. Nancy Pettit represented the Utah National Guard as Coaches, Staff Sgt. Jesse Peterson, Sgt. Brandon Ellison, Staff Sgt. Doug Bernard, Sgt. Jeff Holt, Sgt. Ben Dahl, Staff Sgt. Jeff Pack, and Spec. Melissa Harvey represented as team members. In the individual race, Staff Sgt. Doug Bernard of the 19th Special Forces took second overall and Sgt. Tuck Miller of Range Control took 3rd overall. In the team relay race, Sgt. Miller, Sgt. Ben Dahl, Staff Sgt. Jesse Peterson and Sgt. Jeff Holt won the Western Regional Championship.

For the National Championships held in Camp Ethan Allen, Vermont, the team had to make some changes due to unit requirements and mobilizations. We ended up choosing Staff Sgt. Mary Christensen from Range Control as coach, Lt. Col. Jeff Stuart, Sgt. Tuck Miller, Staff Sgt. Jesse Peterson and Sgt. Ben Dahl. The weather was a beautiful 25 degrees and we had well prepared tracks for the entire week of racing. Lt. Col. Jeff Stuart took 4th in the 10K sprint race and 6th in the 20K individual race for 4th overall



Utah National Guard Biathlon Team at national competition

composite. Sgt. Tuck Miller took the bronze medal in the 20K for the top Utah individual result. The day of the team races dawned clear and bright with high hopes for great results. In the patrol race where all 4 skiers must ski together for the entire 15 kilometers and only shoot one time, young Sgt. Ben Dahl, the newest member of the team, hit his one shot with his first bullet that led the team to a second place finish, behind Minnesota. In the relay race, where each skier skis 7.5 kilometers and shoots one prone stage and one standing stage, everyone on the team skied and shot well, leading to another second place behind predominate race favorite, Vermont. When the combined total were calculated from the results of both races together, Utah won the overall National Championship trophy for the first time in the history of National Guard Sports Biathlon, which started in 1976. Congratulations to everyone on the team for a great effort and for representing

the Utah National Guard in such an outstanding manner.

For one particular member of the Utah National Guard Team, the 30th Chief National Guard Bureau Championships will be a final one. Lt. Col. Jeff Stuart first competed in 1982. In 1986 he was the 20K champion and the overall composite champion. Since becoming involved he has qualified for numerous All-Guard and CISM teams as well as 2 Olympic Trials championships in 1988 and 1992. As a coach for both state and international teams, he has provided guidance and advice to both beginners and experienced athletes. Most recently he served as the Regional Coordinator to which he showed the same enthusiasm as athlete and coach. His energy and passion for the biathlon program will be hard to replace.

Anyone interested in the National Guard Biathlon program, please contact Staff Sgt. Mary Christensen at Range Control at 253-5419.

Photo provided by Biathlon Team

115th Engineer Battalion Hears Experience of Holocaust Survivor



Cato Jaramillo shows Staff Sgt. Jeromy Morse pictures of her experiences in the concentration camps.

By Sgt. Candida Morris

A Holocaust survivor, Cato Jaramillo, shared her story with the 115th Engineer Battalion full-time staff, on January 5, 2005. She recounted the time spent in her native Holland and also in a Nazi Concentration Camp near Nordhausen, Germany. Jaramillo expressed a deep-felt gratitude for the U.S. Military, and their role in liberating the victims of World War II.

“It was refreshing to hear someone speak of the benefits they received at the hands of U.S. troops,” said Maj. Delight Simondi, the Battalion’s Executive officer. “I think it was important to hear about the positive things our soldiers did during such a dark period in our world’s history. I feel it was a true benefit to the soldiers.”

Jaramillo was born in Holland in

1931. Her family lived in a small apartment in Amsterdam. During her life there, she witnessed atrocities committed by the Nazis after they claimed power on May 10th, 1940. Although Cato is not Jewish, she was sent to a Nazis Concentration Camp near Nordhausen, Germany, after being accused of stealing food when she was 12 years old.

Now more than 50 years later she has dedicated many hours to educating others about her experiences and the horrors of that time. She also hopes her story will inspire and give encouragement to students, educators, and those who have experienced personal tragedy and are in need of understanding.

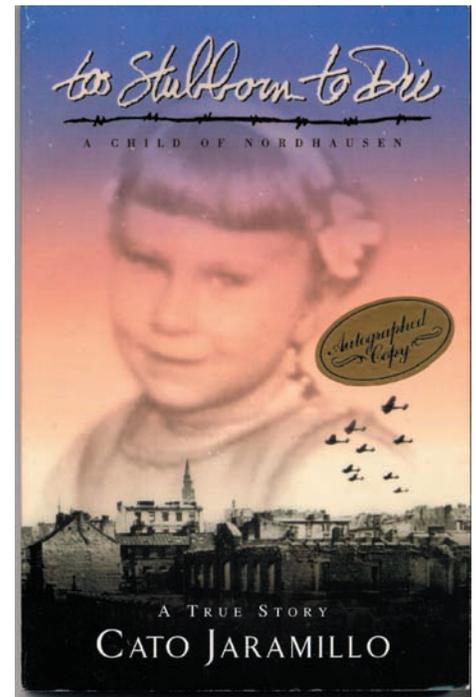
“A lot [of younger people] don’t know about World War II and what occurred, and I feel it is important that everyone should know,” said

Jaramillo.

Many of the soldiers expressed feelings of gratitude and awe, “Listening to her was a very powerful experience. I would never want to hear her tell it again. The emotion in her voice was too much. It made it all so real,” said Spec. Regan Yocom, “It is amazing that she lived through that.”

“It gave me a greater appreciation for the blessings I had growing up,” said Master Sgt. Shane Rothwell.

As the presentation was given, the soldiers were left with a deeper sense of what it must have been like to live through such horrors. “It was interesting to hear a first hand account, rather than through a text book, of the atrocities committed throughout the Holocaust,” said Staff Sgt. Jeromy Morse.



The book that Cato Jaramillo wrote on her experiences during World War II

115th Engineer Battalion Shipper's Night



Family gather around the television to watch a video showcasing the highlights of basic training.

Story by Sgt. Melissa Binns

Every quarter the 115th Engineer Battalion sponsors "Shipper's Night." This night is for new recruits who are getting ready to ship for basic training to come and meet the command, see weapons displays, practice targeting with the M16, watch a video about what to expect in basic training, have some pizza and mingle with other new and potential recruits. Recruits are encouraged to bring their family so they can see and ask questions of what their loved one might expect and calm some nerves that they might have.

"I think it is great to integrate the families. Many times families just send their child or spouse off to basic, then just wait to hear how it is going, and often if they don't get a call right away they worry. By watching the video on what to expect in basic, talking with the recruit's chain of command, and hearing a pep talk from those that have been through it, alleviates some of the apprehension. It also gives the family a point of contact and a person to call if issues arise while their loved one is gone," said 1st Lt. Wencke Tate,

115th Engineer Group.

Private Armida Munjuia came to Shipper's Night with her kids, and then shipped for basic in February 2005. Although Munjuia admits having "butterflies" about going to basic training, she's looking forward to it. "I've been to non-prior service training, a weekend course for recruits to get a taste of what basic training will be like, and it was good, and a lot of fun. Shipper's Night was a good experience for my kids and me to be a little more familiar with what we're doing," said Munjuia.

"As far as the benefits, I think it is great that future soldiers of tomorrow and their families can ask questions they might have in a more relaxed atmosphere. I think every unit should be doing this," said Staff Sgt. Michael Courtney, Recruiting and Retention NCO. "They never had anything like this when I joined. I think if they had, I would have known more of what to expect and that would have helped mentally prepared me, instead of



Pvt. Tyson Crosby brought his family to Shipper's Night, he practice holding and targeting the M16 as his parents look on.

jumping in cold turkey. Families can actually come down and talk to the commanders. I honestly think it's a great opportunity," added Courtney.

"What I think enhances it is the involvement with the family. It makes it a more meaningful night, spent together," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Kenworthy, the 115th Engineer Battalion Training Officer.



Travis Clements, PV2 Jeremy Kesler and PV2 Shawn Daniels listen to 1st Lt. Andy Owens as he talks about the weapons display

Environmental Resources Management Collaborative Efforts at Preventing Soil Erosion



Photo provided by ERM

A road building workshop being conducted at Camp Williams

By Sean Hammond

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) recently collaborated with Utah State University forestry extension to host a road building workshop here at Camp Williams. There were 45 attendees, composed of Utah National Guard personnel, private landowners, School & Institutional Trust Lands personnel, State of Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, USDA Forest Service, Boy Scouts of America, Utah Parks and Recreation, several private companies, and a homeowners association. The instructors from CRZ Inc. and USDA Forest Service focused on ecologically sound practices for timber harvest and road building in wild lands. Of specific interest to Utah National Guard personnel were the techniques used to avoid road erosion and erosion due to road runoff. Not only does application of these principles

avoid off-road erosion and creation of gullies, it also helps to preserve road building materials, decrease frequency of needed maintenance, and increase the stability of roads during the wetter months of the year. We were happy to have the support of Range Control, Facilities and Maintenance, and the 115th Engineer Battalion for this event.

Due to the arid nature of the region we live in, wildfires are becoming ever more frequent. It is a concern of the Utah National Guard that is shared by other communities in our region. The ERM is continually searching for new and innovative ways to make wildfires at Camp Williams safer to fight and easier to contain. In the spirit of being good neighbors, ERM is leading a collaborative effort with other state and federal agencies responsible for managing fire along the Wasatch Front. The ERM and Camp Williams are hosting a "Firewise Communities"

fair April 9, 2005. The purpose of this fair is to educate homeowners of the resources available to them and to help them increase their own safety. Representatives from State of Utah Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, USDA Forest Service, BLM, Utah County Fire, Salt Lake County Fire, Utah Society for Environmental Education, ERM, and Camp Williams will be manning booths targeted at providing information to homeowners. The booths will provide information such as: how to develop a community fire plan, who will be responding to a wildfire in their area, what they can expect from firefighters, what firefighters expect from them, what they can do to make their homes safe from fire, types of landscaping that are fire resistant, and the role of fire in ecosystem management. We are excited to be involved in this collaborative effort to build wildfire awareness in the communities within this region.

Utah State University Army ROTC

By Capt. Reece Roberts

What is it that sets the Utah State University (USU) Army ROTC program apart from all the rest? Utah State University ROTC, a partnership school with Weber State University ROTC, remains one of the highest ranked programs in the Western United States. Our cadets exceed the national average in APFT scores; over half of our cadets exceed the standards when ranked with all 4000+ cadets in the nation; over 98% of USU cadets receive their first choice of branches. Our Battalion was recently presented with the prestigious MacArthur Award for being the best mid-size battalion in a Region with over 140 Battalions.

So, how is it that USU Army ROTC continues to distinguish itself from the pack? It is the pursuit of excellence that the cadets and cadre strive for in all they do! For example, all ROTC schools are required to teach a military history course. How does USU ROTC do this? They travel to Gettysburg and visit actual Civil War battle sites and learn firsthand how those leaders analyzed the terrain, arrayed their forces, and fought the battles. They walk the ground on which the battles were fought and gain an in depth appreciation for the history and traditions of the U.S. Army. No other school in this state, or region, provides such an exceptional military history course.

The USU Army ROTC Ranger Challenge team demonstrates another example. For two straight years, USU has won their division at the Brigade Ranger Challenge competition. This event draws 21 teams and includes extremely physically



Photo provided by USU ROTC

Utah State University member participating in the Ranger Challenge

challenging events over a two-day competition. The USU team has excelled due to the pursuit of excellence attitude and mentality that the cadets exhibit. As they say, “good is not good enough.”

The Utah State University ROTC program is continuing to grow despite reported difficulties in recruiting many ROTC units are experiencing. Since the program was reestablished over 25 cadets have commissioned into the U.S. Army. This year alone USU Army ROTC will commission 17 more Lieutenants. Next year we are projecting that we will commission 20 more. Each year this program has been in existence more cadets have received their commission than the previous year. Due to the exceptional nature of our program, and the outstand-

ing quality of cadets we recruit, we expect that trend to continue for the next several years. Utah State Army ROTC will once again be known as the “West Point of the West.”

If you think you are capable of being one of the best; if you want to pursue excellence and are considering becoming an officer, we invite you to consider USU Army ROTC. We are looking for soldiers who want to do their best and be the best. It will not be easy, but nothing worthwhile is. If you want to make a difference to yourself, to your unit, and to the nation then call us (435 797-3637). We will discuss with you how you can become an officer. We can help you contract with ROTC with as few as 30 college credits. Come check us out!

The 23rd Army Band Honors Retirees



Photos provided by the 23rd Army Band

Recent retirees of the 23rd Army Band

By SFC Bryce Bird, 23rd Army Band

During the past few months the 23rd Army Band has seen 6 musicians and soldiers who reached age 60 move forward into retirement. These soldiers leave the unit with a combined 199 years of total service. Among these are First Sergeants D. Press Lloyd and Alan Palfreyman, and Staff Sergeants Kim Dalby, Manny Garcia, Richard Moffat and Larry Wadsworth. All of these musicians maintained their technical proficiency throughout their careers as they led by example as lead players on their respective instruments. As section leaders they shared their knowledge, musical abilities and common task skills as they trained countless new members of the band over the years.

Perhaps one of the longest tenured members of the Utah Guard was 1st Sgt. Palfreyman. He joined the 23rd Army Band in November of 1961

and continued without a break in service for 43 years until his retirement in October of 2004. During this time he saw the uniforms change through summer camps at Camp Williams and performed in 44 of the 49 annual Veterans' Day concerts. As a conservative count, 1st Sgt. Palfreyman marched in 150 parades performed 80 "change of command" ceremonies and played his trumpet in 650 concerts throughout Utah, and in California, Virginia, Germany and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Sergeants Dalby, Lloyd, Moffat and Garcia started their military careers in full-time units, 1st Sgt. Lloyd and Staff Sergeants Dalby and Garcia

with the Army and Staff Sgt. Moffat with the Air Force. The most recent retiree is Staff Sgt. Wadsworth who has been the band's percussion section leader and Jazz band drummer at the Annual Military Ball for the past 20-plus years.

And the band plays on. Thanks to the leadership and training provided by the above mentioned and many past retirees, the band is moving forward with its mission of musical support to the State of Utah and the Utah National Guard. In January the band combined with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to provide music for the inauguration of Governor Huntsman and at the Governor's reception following the ceremony. Other recent highlights include concerts in St. George, Salt Lake as part of the First Night festivities and a patriotic concert in Kaysville. The band is preparing for what will be another enjoyable evening of dancing at the Annual Military Ball in April and a full summer concert season that will include concerts throughout southern Utah in the month of July.

Look for concerts in your area. The band has spring and summer concerts scheduled in Provo, Salt Lake, Springville, Taylorsville, Pleasant Grove, Springdale, and Bryce Canyon. Please bring your families and friends for an evening of entertainment and patriotic music.



The 23rd Army Band performing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choirs at Governor Huntsman's Inauguration

The 115th Engineer Group Instrumental in Setting Up Charity Heart Operation

Deseret Morning News

The following story appeared in the Deseret Morning News on March 1, 2005 as a follow up to an earlier segment featured on ABC World News Tonight on February 18, 2005. The story outlined how the 115th Engineer Group assisted a 5-year-old Iraqi girl Noor Abd Al-Hady Hassan get medical assistance for her heart condition:

“The father of a 5-year-old Iraqi girl who underwent surgery the end of February at Maine Medical Center to repair a hole in her heart said Monday he would like to see her become a doctor so she can help others with health problems like her own. Abdul Al-Hady Hassan Hesab and his daughter, Noor, met with reporters four days after the operation, which was arranged by a Utah Army National Guard unit, the 115th Engineer Group, serving in Iraq.

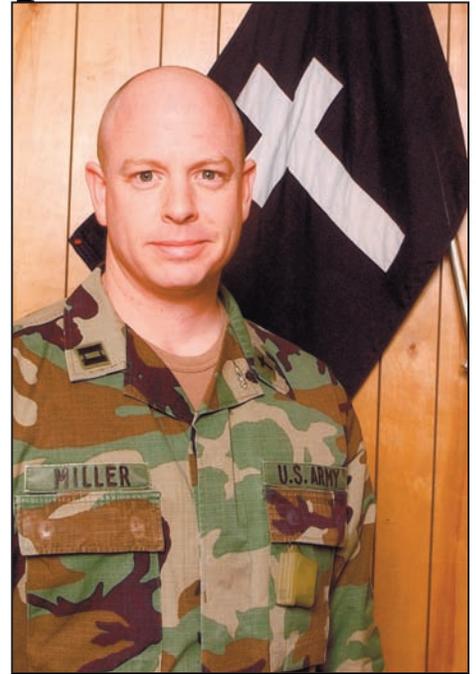
Speaking through an interpreter, Hesab said Noor should grow up to be what she wishes, but he would be delighted if she decided to study medicine. Out of shyness, Noor said nothing during the news conference, even when asked to name her favorite food. The youngster has made daily progress since the two-hour operation to fix a hole in the septum that divides the two pumping chambers of the heart. The surgery was described as fairly routine and not high risk.

Hesab expressed appreciation for the welcome he and his daughter have received. He said his fondest memory would be the kindness shown by Dr. Reed Quinn, the pedi-

atric cardiac surgeon who performed the operation at no cost. Noor’s father said Quinn is a brother to him now, and he prays that he will live a long life and help a lot of children. The girl and her father will be staying in the area for three to four weeks while doctors monitor her condition to ensure that there is no fluid buildup in the heart and that the external wound is healing properly.

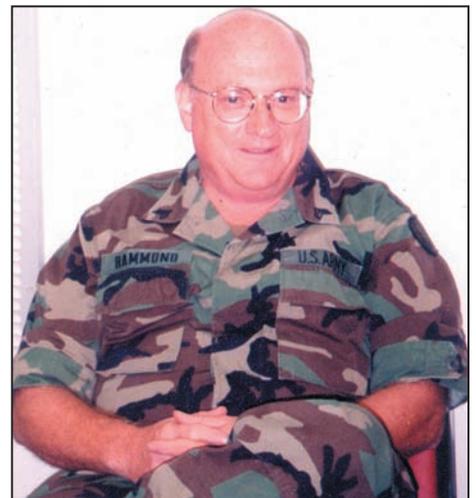
Quinn, who has ties to Utah, learned of Noor’s condition from the 115th Engineering Group Chaplain, Maj. Joel Miller. The surgery and all the arrangements were provided under a program in which Quinn’s medical group, Maine Heart Surgical Associates, performs six to eight such charity cases a year.”

Chaplain Miller heard about Noor’s condition and her father’s plea for help from U.S. soldiers the father had approached. He began to look into ways to help Noor. He came home on leave and attended a meeting of Utah National Guard Chaplains on Governor’s Day, 2004. He described Noor’s heart problem, and asked for any help the chaplains could offer. Chaplain Clay Anstead, the State Support Chaplain, knew of Dr. Reed Quinn’s work for foreign children from his association with him through the Latter Day Saints Church in Maine. He was the Church Education System Coordinator there. After hearing of Noor, he got in touch with the Quinns, and Reed offered to take care of all the arrangements through a foundation he had set up for this purpose. He warned that the slowest and hardest thing to arrange



Chaplain Miller of the 115th Engineer Group

is getting visas for travel. Chaplain Miller and his assistant Ron Hammond then went to work to connect Noor and her father with the proper people to get all the travel arrangements made, succeeding in getting everything finalized just as they were leaving Iraq.



Sgt. Ron Hammond the Chaplain Asst. for the 115th Engr. Group

Photos provided by the State Support Chaplains Office

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FEATURES AND BENEFITS

Education Assistance (For more details: <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2/>)

1. Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606: MGIB-SR)

- **Current Rates:** \$288 (tax-free) per month x 36 months = \$10,368 (Pro-rated for part-time students)
- **Activated Reservists GI Bill Monthly Rates: 90 days- 1 year = \$401.60; 1-2 years = 602.40; 2+ years = \$803.20** (Approved, but not yet implemented - see http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,dod9_110804.00.html)
- **Termination of MGIB:** Separation from the selected reserve or 10 years from eligibility date (before 1 Oct 92) or 14 years from eligibility date (on or after 1 Oct 92) or unsatisfactory participation
- **Eligible Training:** undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree programs, certification courses from a business, technical or vocational school, apprenticeship or job training programs, correspondence courses and flight training.

2. Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Kicker

- **Current Rates:** \$200 (tax-free) per month x 36 months = \$7,200 (OCS, WOC or SMP soldiers: \$350/month = \$12,600)
- **Eligibility Requirements:** Must be eligible for the MGIB-SR
 - **NPS applicants** must score 50 or higher on the ASVAB and enlist into a MTOE Unit in a vacant position or authorized over-strength position in one of the 30 critical skills 13B, 13D, 15F, 15G, 15H, 18D, 18E, 21B, 21J, 25F, 31L, 31U, 35E, 35R, 44B, 45G, 45K, 52C, 52D, 63B, 63W, 77W, 91W, 92A, 92G, 92Y, 96B, 97B, 97E, 98G
 - **MOS qualified guardsmen** Any MOS in any MTOE unit may extend at anytime for MGIB Kicker:
 - Must be in grade E-5 or below - Also O-1 or O-2 without a baccalaureate degree
 - Served the past three consecutive years in an active drilling status without a break in service
 - Extend so there are six years remaining on enlistment contract

3. ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance Program

Current Rates: 100% of tuition and fees up to \$250 per semester hour - not to exceed 15 credit hours per semester.

Maximum of \$4,500 per year (including fees).

Beginning on 1 October 2003, soldiers eligible for MGIB (to include MGIB Kicker) may receive ARNG FTA up to the current authorized levels. (**Note:** Combined MGIB & FTA may exceed 100 percent of tuition costs.)

ARNG FTA is provided on a first-come, first-serve basis and is contingent upon the availability of funds.

Soldiers must apply for ARNG FTA prior to the beginning of the school term.

Eligible Training: can be applied to a course or program taken at a regionally or nationally accredited, public or private college, university, vocational, technical or trade school located inside or outside the State of Utah to include distance learning courses. Doctoral degree programs cannot be funded by ARNG Federal TA.

Eligibility Requirements: ARNG soldiers in an active drill status coded as satisfactory participants.

4. Utah National Guard State Tuition Waiver Program

- **Overview:** Will pay 100% of tuition (not books or fees) at Utah public colleges/universities. Senate Bill 109 requires the president of each public school to set aside 2 ½ % of the in state scholarships for Utah National Guard members. Can be used simultaneously with FTA, but cannot exceed 100% of tuition. (Total of 166 waivers granted for 2003-04)

- **Eligibility:**
 - Only traditional National Guard members are eligible. (Soldiers on active duty during school year are ineligible.)
 - Applicants must be matriculated with the school for which they are applying for a waiver.
 - Applicants must be considered Utah residents and eligible for in-state tuition by their school.
 - Applicants must attend school full-time (12 to 18 semester hours) for the entire school year (Fall & Winter Semester) as an undergraduate student.

5. Miscellaneous Educational Services

- **Free Testing:** Army Education Office; 801-656-3822/3849 ARNG soldier eligible to take CLEP, DSST, and Excelsior Exams, SAT/ACT, GRE/GMAT, GED, and Certification Exams (Spouse eligible for some exams)
- **College Credit for Military Training:** Often college credit can be awarded for military training through the AARTS program (Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript). Soldiers may request a free transcript online: <https://aarts.leavenworth.army.mil>
- **Distance Learning:** The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) distance learning program provides a wide range of nontraditional education programs. (www.dantes.doded.mil <<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>>)
- **Computer Based Training (CBT):** Members of the ARNG are eligible to enroll in a computer based training program that has over 490 courses available on-line (e.g. Microsoft Office applications, Windows applications, etc.) Information at www.us.army.mil <<http://www.us.army.mil>> (Link to “My Education” and go to SmartForce under “Army e-learning”)
- **Helmets to Hardhats Program:** www.helmetstohardhats.org * **Troop to Teachers Program:** <<http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/>>

Selected Reserve Incentive Program (For more details, see Recruiting and Retention NCO)

1. Non-Prior Service (NPS) Enlistment Bonus Options

- **\$6000 NPS Enlistment Bonus:** Enlist into a **TDA** or MTOE Unit in a vacant position or authorized over-strength position in one of the 22 critical skills approved by NGB. (13D, **15F, 15G, 15H, 18D, 18E**, 21J, **25F**, 31L, 31U, 35E, 35R, 44B, 45G, 45K, 52C, 52D, 63W, 77W, 96B, 97B, 97E, 98G)
- **\$2000 Off-Peak Ship Bonus:** Provides an additional \$2000 for those who ship between 1 Oct 04 to 31 May 05
- **\$2000 Quick-Ship Bonus:** Provides an additional \$2000 for those who ship within 45 days of enlistment
- **\$10,000 NPS Critical Skill Enlistment Bonus:** Enlist into a **TDA** or MTOE Unit in a vacant position or authorized over-strength position in one of the “ARNG Top 10” critical skills. (Seven in Utah - 13B, 21B, 63B, 91W, 92A, 92G, 92Y)
- **Payment Schedule:** 50% after IADT and 50% on 4th anniversary date of enlistment
- Maximum incentive offered by law is \$10,000, and all bonus payments are taxable income
- Bonus recipients must remain in their MOS for three years.

2. Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

The SLRP will repay student loans up to \$20,000 at a rate of 15 percent or \$500, whichever is greater. Payment is based on the original principal and does not include interest.

Recipient must have one or more existing loans at time of enlistment or extension, based upon disbursement date. Loans established after the date of enlistment or extension will not be eligible for SLRP.

Enlistment Options

NPS applicants must score 50 or higher on the ASVAB and enlist into a TDA or MTOE Unit in a vacant position or authorized over-strength position in one of the 30 critical skills (13B, 13D, 15F, 15G, 15H, 18D, 18E, 21B, 21J, 25F, 31L, 31U, 35E, 35R, 44B, 45G, 45K, 52C, 52D, 63B, 63W, 77W, 91W, 92A, 92G, 92Y, 96B, 97B, 97E, 98G)

6x2 Enlistment Option: Maximum payment = \$18,000

8x0 Enlistment Option: Maximum payment = \$20,000

Extension/Reenlistment Option:

ARNG soldiers must be MOS qualified and be in a valid, vacant position or authorized over-strength position

ARNG soldiers must have 16 years or less total service at ETS and must extend so there is six years remaining on enlistment contract

Recipient must have served the last three consecutive years in an active status in a unit of the ARNG and must not have previously received SLRP as an enlistment or extension option.

3. Prior Service (PS) Enlistment Bonus (All bonus payments are taxable income)

PS soldiers must be MOS qualified and be enlisted in a valid, vacant position or authorized over-strength position

PS soldiers must have 16 years or less total service at time of enlistment, and received honorable discharges

PS soldiers must not have previously been paid a bonus for enlistment or extension with a reserve component

PS soldiers enlisting from any reserve component must have at least a 12-month break-in-service

Bonus Options

First Three-Year Enlistment (\$7500): Receive 50% upon enlistment and 50% upon completion of 3rd year

Consecutive 3-Year Extension (\$6000): Receive 50% upon enlistment & 50% upon completion of 3rd year

Six-Year Enlistment (\$15,000): Receive 50% upon enlistment and 50% effective upon the 4th anniversary of enlistment

4. Re-enlistment or Extension Bonus (Three-year or Six-Year)

ARNG soldiers must be MOS qualified and be in a valid, vacant position or an authorized over-strength position

ARNG soldiers must have 16 years or less total service at ETS and must extend for either 3 or 6 years

May receive multiple reenlistment/extension bonuses during soldier's career and bonus contracts do not have to be consecutive

The bonuses are payable as a lump sum effective upon the reenlistment or extension

Soldiers that sign an extension contract while in a combat zone, will receive the entire bonus payment tax-free

Title 32 AGR soldiers and Technicians mobilized on Title 10 due to GWOT are eligible to extend to obtain extension bonuses

Bonus Options

First Three-Year Extension (\$7500): Receive lump sum payment

Second Three-Year Extension (\$6000): Receive lump sum payment

Six-Year Extension (\$15,000): Receive lump sum payment

Miscellaneous Features and Benefits (<http://www.virtualarmory.com> or National Guard Almanac)

1. **Additional Income:** Receive four days of pay each month for one weekend of work and paid for two weeks of annual training per year. There are “longevity” raises every two years up to 26 years of service. There are also opportunities for promotion. There may also be tax deductions available for military related expenses. (<http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/pay/index.html>)
 - **2005 Weekend Drill Pay:** E-1 (< 4 months service) = \$152.35 E-7 (>14 years service) = \$433.29
 - **2005 Active Duty Base Pay:** E-1 (< 4 months service) = \$1142.64 E-7 (>14 years) = \$3249.69
2. **Military Exchange and Commissary Privileges** :Members of the Army National Guard and their family are entitled to unlimited shopping privileges at any Military Exchange nationwide, as well as the Exchange Catalog. Enjoy savings of up to 25% on merchandise at a military exchange and also groceries at the commissary. Effective FY 04, reserve component personnel and their family members with ID cards have **unlimited access** to Commissaries.
3. **Travel Benefits:** Members of the Army National Guard are entitled to travel, at no charge on a space-available basis, on military aircraft within and between the Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Members are also eligible for worldwide temporary lodging facilities when traveling for personal reasons.
 - **Utah Air National Guard:** 245-2415 **Hill Air Force Base:** 801-777-2887
4. **Legal Assistance:** Army National Guard JAG officers can prepare wills and powers of attorney at no cost for Guard members.
5. **Veterans Home Loans:** Guard members are eligible to apply for a low-cost home loan, with no money down, after serving for 6 years.
6. **Low Cost Life Insurance:** \$250,000.00 Life Insurance (SGLI) is available for service members for only \$16.25 per month. Family Service Members’ Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) is a program extended to the spouses and dependent children of members insured under the SGLI program. FSGLI provides up to a maximum of \$100,000 of insurance coverage for spouses and \$10,000 for dependent children. The cost varies according to the age of the spouse.
7. **Protection for Civilian Employment:** The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provide reemployment protection and other benefits for veterans and employees who perform military service.
8. **Dental and Medical Coverage:**
 - Guard members are eligible to receive dental insurance (Single Rate: \$8.14 per month and family rate: \$20.35)
 - Effective FY 04 eligible Reserve Component sponsors and their family members may be eligible for TRICARE medical benefits. (<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>)
9. **Non-Contributory Retirement:** (Example) An E-7 retiring from the Army National Guard with 20 years of military service (all reserve time) would receive approximately \$352.00 per month for the rest of his/her life after age 60.

UTANG Promotions 1 Aug 2004 to 1 Mar 2005

Airman 1st Class

Jeffrey J Uberti, 151st LRS
John D Stoh, 151st LRS

Senior Airman

Merrill K. Brown, 151st CES
Michael J. Buell, 151st SFS
Richard J. Mosher, 169th IS
Wendy M. Recksiek, 151st MDG
Ambra D. Sabeybaker, 151st MXS
Bruce E. Weaver, 151st MXS
Warren S. Wood 151st AMS
Adam Scot Gatherum, 151st SFS
Andrea N. Hood, 191st ARS
Bryce D. Longaker, 151st SFS
Nicholas Nelson, 151st SFS
Brittany M. Roberts, 299th RCS
Cindy P. Sanjuan, 151st LRS
Brandon Sky Stelle, 151st MXS
Matthew Carver, 299th RCS
Ronald F. Wilson, 151st SVF
Nathan Jones, 151st CES
Taylor Reynolds, 151st CES
Stephanie L. Greene, 130th EIS
Brandon Alsop, 151st SFS
Lamont Class, 130th EIS
James Decker, 130th EIS
Christian Fritz, 169th IS
Nikalus Goodfellow, 151st MXS
Andrew Haywood, 151st SFS
Jared Kidman, 151st SFS
Jared Koelliker, 151st CES
Jennnnifer Silva, 151st Std. Flt.
Michale Siudzinski, 299th RCS
Brock Slaugh, 169th IS
Jeremy Smith, 151st SFS
Ryan Whitlock, 151st CES
James Wisner, 109th ACS
Kevin R Butler, 151st ARW
Katelin J Daurelle, 151st LRS
Jeffery G Williams, 151st LRS

Staff Sergeant

Christiana Harrell, 151st MDG
Eric E Anderson, 151st LRS
Adam G. Jensen, 169th IS
Gary R Lakes, 109th ACS

Thunder J Heard, 151st CES
Barry R Duffield, 151st CES
Dustin S. Hall, 151st SFS
Christopher Bryson, 151st SFS
Kevin C. Wahlin, 151st AMXS
Darrel E. Webb, 151st SVF
Robert M. Thomas, 169th IS
Bradley K. Davis, 169th IS
Melody R. Knight, 169th IS
Ronald E. Ford, 151st SVF
Timothy Randall, 169th IS
Lance Roberts, 109th ACS
Kendra Valentine, 151st LRS
Darrell H. Butler, 151st MXS
Corey S. Mitchell, 151st MXS
James O. Olsen, 151st MXS
Emery Blanchard, 151st SFS
Leonard Firkins, 109th ACS
Kenneth Hunt, 109th ACS
Christopher Stevens, 151st SFS
Casey Wheeler, 130th EIS
Dustin Williams, 191st ARS
Heather M Hansen, 169th IS
Technical Sergeant
Dennis N Bell, 130th EIS
Nathan R. Bird, 151st LRS
Martha E. Castleton, 169th IS
Barry R. Goff, 151st CES
Arlene P. Pope, 151st SF
Travis L. Ralph, 151st CF
Scott T. Williams, 151st LRS
Rebecca L. Howard, 151st MPF
Gary F. Stout, 299th RCS
Ryan A. Stock, 169th IS
David B. Gally, 169th IS
Hugh D. Marstella, 299th RCS
Anthony Valdez, 101st IWF
Tony Atherley, 151st MXS
Cynthia Bentley, 151st CES
Edward Flinn, 151st MXS
Justin Frasche, 151st AMX
James Johansen, 151st CES
Brian Scholle, 151st CES
Phillip W. Fleury, 151st MXS
Randy Etherington, 169th IS

Master Sergeant

Samuel V. Cheetham, 151st LRS
Jesse P Maschke, 169th IS
Charles N. Pierson, 151st CES
Brent V. Cooley, 151st MOF
Diane S. Garcia, 169th IS
Richard L. Johnson, 169th IS
Paula Bateman, 151st MSF
Robert Fisher, 151st MOF
Heather Heusher, 151st ARW
Linda Rosbrook, 151st CES
John Sargent, 299th RCS
David Schmidt, 151st MXS
George Starks, 151st MSF
Scott Tomlinson, 130th EIS
Jerry Turner, 151st LRS
Kevin M. Catoe, 169th IS
Mark D. Pendleton, 151st MSF
David Brown, 151st OSF
Russell Fox, 130th EIS
Richard Vandergrift, 169th IS
Richard A Greenway, 299th RCS
Joseph E Guimond, 151st MS
Matthew A Garnes, 169th IS
Senior Master Sergeant
William A. Ferguson, 299th RCS
Jackson D. Mooney, 151st CES
Joseph C. Shern, 151st ARW
Brian J. Wesoloski, 169th IS
Kristine M. Joyce, 151st MPF
Jeffrey M. Marshall, 169th IS
Michael B. Jaecke, 169th IS
Daniel R. Joy, 169th IS
Raymond Smith, 299th RCS
Douglas K. Bills, 151st ARW
Chris A. Huish, 151st LRS
Brian Goodrich, 130th EIS
Paul Luby, 130th EIS
Mark Michie, 130th EIS
Chief Master Sergeant
Nannette E. Oviatt, 151st MPF
Conrad R. Caldwell, 169th IS
Michael L. Scoresby, 169th IS
Ronald G. McCabe, 151st ARW

UTARNG Promotions 1 Aug 2004 to 1 Mar 2005

Colonel

FISCHER, HUGO J

Lieutenant Colonel

GARRETT, ALAN D
HADFIELD, GREGORY J
MARCUS-MADSEN, FRAN
OTTESEN, HOLLY A
SHARP, SCOTT C
STARK, BRENT E
TOLMAN, DEREK J

Major

ALLISON, MARK L
ALLISON, MICHAEL B
ANDERSON, MELVIN W
BECKER, DAVID A
BURNHOPE, SCOTT K
CARSON, PATRICK S
CRANER, TYLER C
CRANNEY, ADELBERT G
CRANNEY, ADELBERT G
FALETTI, ALEXANDER P
FALETTI, PAUL J
HUBBERT, ANDREW C
HULT, MARK C
KARREN, ROBERT L
LISTON, KELTON J
LOFGREN, ANTHONY S
SILL, SCOTT J
SILVER, KIRK M
TAKMILI, SHAHRAM A
WARNER, CHRISTOPHER
WARR, RUSSELL J

Captain

ANDERSON, DALE R
DALTO, CHARLENE C
GRANGER, DAVID T
HATHAWAY, JASON L
HYMAS, GLEN W
JENSEN, JARED J
JONES, MATTHEW S
KEELE, STERLING S

MANWARING, SHANE
MILLER, SHELLEY P
WARDEN, ROBERT R
WIGGINS, AARON

First Lieutenant

ADAMSON, TOBY P
ANDERSON, JEFFREY G
ARTEAGA, JUAN M JR
BISHOP, BRUCE A
BLACK, LYLE B
BOWEN, DEREK M
BOYD, SHAWN M
COE, CHARITY O
CROSBY, LEE R
DUFFIN, MARK R
FONTENOT, RONALD D
GARRAND, MATTHEW L
HAWS, PATRICK H
JONES, DAVID H
LOPEZ, CHRISTOPHER J
NELSON, SHAUN R
OGDEN, PHILLIP K
ORELLANA, EDWARD A
PETERSON, JAMES S
RAMPTON, RHETT D
RICHARDSON, JON D
SMITH, KIMBERLY K

Chief Warrant Officer 4

GUMMERSALL, WILLARD P
LEIFSON, LYNN W
ODEKIRK, DAVID E
SMITH, LORIN R

Chief Warrant Officer 3

BUCKLEY, NEIL E
CALLISTER, GARY L
DAVIS, BRANDON B
DAVIS, DANIEL C
GROVER, STEPHEN A
MABEY, ROBERT S
NOBLE, LARRY D
ROBB, LANCE B

Chief Warrant Officer 2

LLOYD, JOHN M
PALMER, ROYCE B

Sergeant Major

JOHNSON, GARY K
PECHTEL, DOUGLAS G
RIDDLE, BRADFORD P

Master Sergeant

BAILEY, EDWARD A
BUDGE, DARREN S
DAVIE, THOMAS J
DOOLEY, RONALD A
FELLOWS, BYRON K
GERHAUSER, CHARLES L
GLAD, MICHAEL D
GREENHALGH, ERIC B
HARLEY, KEVIN R
HARRISON, MARK B
JENSEN, ROGER S
KAUFMAN, ROGER W
MAGUIRE, JAMES Y
MEEK, DANA B
PYATT, RORY D
ROBERTS, CON K
STOUT, ROBERT J
TUOHY, DANIEL K
WARNER, BRENT W
WEST, PETER L
WHATCOTT, BARTON A

Sergeant First Class

ATWOOD, QUESNEL D
BARKEY, CHARLES M
BARNEY, KEMP R
BEARD, THOMAS G
BERNARD DOUGLAS P
BIRD BRYCE C
BLANKE, SHAWN A
BOEHME, MATTHEW D
COVERSTONE, BART L
FLOYD, JERRID A

GIBSON, KYLE N
GREAVES, ROBERT R
GUBLER, DANIEL L
HARVEY, DAMON P
HULET, JOHN M
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Members of the 115th Engineer Group gather before the Dave Letterman show on December 24, 2004. Dave Letterman performed with Paul Shaffer for over 3,000 service members at Tallil, Iraq, on Christmas Eve.

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