

UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah National Guard Joint Magazine

Volume VI No. 1

Spring 2006

**President Bush
Visits Utah**

**Team Raven Helps
Katrina Victims**





The Adjutant General's Corner

By MG Brian Tarbet

I have chronicled in this space many times the enormous contributions of Utah Soldiers and Airmen since Sep 11, 2001 in the Global War on Terrorism. The efforts of members of the Utah National Guard have been pivotal in keeping our nations from further attack and in the extraordinary support of both the 2002 Winter Olympics and in responding to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. You, your families and your fellow citizens may all be justifiably proud of these accomplishments.

There is now ongoing nationally the debate about the future of the defense of our nation. The Quadrennial Defense Review and the resultant national security, national military, and homeland security strategies will all generate important and illuminating discussion. These will weigh heavily on our future as a National Guard.

Permit me three thoughts: First, our status as Citizen-Soldiers/Airman is unique. Your civilian skills, coupled with your remarkable professional military abilities, make you a combat multiplier second to none. This has been proven time and time again in the battles and deployments of the past five years. But no less important is that special ability that you all have to relate to those whom we defend, whether it is Iraqis and Afghans, or our fellow Utahans. You simply relate better to those you protect than do our active-duty counterparts. This human quality is indispensable in the battlefield of today.

Second, as we consider our most important responsibility of defending our nation here at home, you Guardsmembers are the most important link in that chain of defense. I sometimes feel that many give lip service to the principle of defending the homeland; equipment needs are unmet and personnel needs are focused on the overseas warfight. LTG Blum calls this the "home and away games" and the Guard plays the home game far better than anyone else. This was underscored by the Guard's distinguished efforts in assisting our neighbors on the Gulf Coast. Within a week, over 50,000 National Guard troops were involved in bringing relief to



The Adjutant General of Utah, MG Brian L. Tarbet

Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

the victims of Katrina and Rita. Many in the Pentagon remain astonished by this effort—as well they should.

Third, you may have read of rumored cuts to Guard strength, both in the Army and the Air Force. Of course, there will be change and we must welcome and continue to be responsive to change. But you should know this: 52 state and territorial Governors and over two-thirds of the Senate have sent letters to the President and the Secretary of Defense opposing any cuts to the Guard. This astonishing show of support is due to your performance and accomplishments of the past many years. Thank you and your families for defending us so well that you have made unassailable the case for the continued vitality of the Guard and a firm recognition of the primacy of its mission.

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Cover photo by SGT Kelly Collett, of himself in protective gear during Iraqi sandstorm.
Back cover photo by MSgt. Burke Baker, President and Mrs. Bush wave before entering Air Force One as they leave Utah.

Inside Cover Photos Left to Right, Row 1: Photos by SGT Kelly Collett, 1457th Engineer Solider rests after daily duties; 1457th Engineer Soldier sits atop an up-armored humvee west of Baghdad; Row 2: Photo by MSgt. Burke Baker, TSgt. Robert Cooks sorts MRE’s; Photos by SGT Kelly Collett, Iraqi children pushing daily supplies; Checking convoy enroute to Baghdad; Row 3: Photo by Utah National Guard, MG Brian Tarbet visits members of the 141st and 142nd MI Bn in Iraq; MSgt. Jerry Jolley carrying MRE’s for camp; Row 4: Photos by MSgt. Burke Baker, SSG Mark Orton, SGT Jones, SGT Kelly Sommers, SGT Townsend, MSgt. Mike Clough wait for transportation after completion of Operation African Lion; Members of the 151st MDG returning from clinic in Tan Tan Morocco.

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

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Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Dell K. Smith

These past six months have been very busy with Soldiers and Airmen continuing to deploy while other units have returned home from overseas. It was great to welcome home the members of 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery, (stationed in Logan and Brigham City) after completing nearly 18 months of deployment in Iraq. The unit did marvelous things for the people of Iraq and performed their mission in an outstanding manner. We also welcomed home from Iraq Soldiers serving with our Military Intelligence community, who are constantly being deployed in small elements. During the next few months we anticipate the return of Soldiers from the 115th Maintenance Company, which is stationed in Draper, and members of 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, which is stationed in Southern Utah.

During the past few months the 144th Area Medical Support Company and the 120th Quartermaster Company (Water Purification), which are both stationed in Springville, were deployed and are currently serving in Iraq. The 169th Intelligence Squadron returned from their deployment in Columbia and did great work in helping the Colombian government. The Utah National Guard has also been very busy in supporting the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We deployed to Louisiana as a joint force (Army and Air) and did an outstanding job in assisting local authorities and civilians in trying to get their lives back together. The devastation caused by the hurricane was massive, and many families lost everything. The only thing left for them to return to was a cement pad where their house used to sit.



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

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

We appreciate the support and dedication expressed by our forces in helping the citizens of Louisiana.

I wish to express some thoughts I have in preparing and mentoring Soldiers and Airmen for future assignments. Every member of this organization needs to make sure they are prepared and ready for future assignments. Prepare yourself by making sure you are qualified and proficient in your duty assignment. Qualification in your Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) and Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) should be a priority for every Airman and Soldier. It is also very important to get enrolled and complete your noncommissioned officer education. Make sure you take advantage of any opportunity that comes available for promotion or reassignment. Also, ensure that you are qualified in all aspects of your military career.

Again, let me thank each member of the Utah National Guard and their families for their dedication and commitment to this organization. We are experiencing a demanding time with extreme demands placed on Soldiers, Airmen, and families. Keep up the good work; it is a pleasure to serve with each of you.

Deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom



Members of the 144th ASMC waving goodbye.

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — Cheers and tears accompanied the 120th Quartermaster Detachment and 144th Area Support Medical Company as they departed from the Salt Lake Air Base, Aug. 13, for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Approximately 15 Soldiers from the 120th and 80 from the 144th gathered early that morning with family, friends, their comrades in uniform, and their leaders, for a brief ceremony and to say goodbye for a season.

The mission of the Springville based 120th is to provide water purification support in their assigned area of operations. The 144th, which also drills in Springville, will provide medical care in the corps area of operations which will involve emergency care at the site of injury, sick call, and ambulance services.

The Adjutant General, MG Brian Tarbet, paid tribute to each unit individually at their federalization ceremony held at the Springville armory Aug. 10. "Your unit has been mobilized three times since 1990. We appreciate very much, your contribution," Tarbet told the Soldiers of the 120th.

To the 144th Tarbet said, "What you're involved in will literally save the lives of American Soldiers." Tarbet

added a caution for both units. "You're going into a very dangerous situation. Take care of yourselves. Take care of each other. We have faith that you'll be back safe in our parking lot," he said.

At the departure ceremony COL Linda Higgins, commander of 97th Troop Command, the unit responsible for overseeing the training, equipping, and staffing of the deploying units, praised Soldiers for their sacrifice.

SFC Carlyle Smith, commander of the 120th and going on his third deployment to include Desert Storm, thanked his Soldiers' families for their support and made them a solemn promise. "You, families that are here

"I've never been more proud to see Soldiers standing tall to answer the call." — COL Linda Higgins

to support these Soldiers, I can't say anything other than thank you so very much. Without you guys out there, we wouldn't be able to do it," Smith said. "These [Soldiers] in the 120th Quartermaster Detachment, I'd follow them anywhere. And I hope they'll follow me. We will bring them back home."

The 144th Commander 1LT Robert Dent also acknowledged the support of families and expressed his thoughts



Members of the deploying units spending precious time with their families prior to their departure.



120th QM detachment boarding the departure aircraft.

to those assembled. "I can't tell you how much it means to us to have you come out and support us. Your sacrifices that you're making here at home are critical to the successes that these two units will have," Dent said, "We have a great Family Support Group. Use each other to share the hard times and the good times as well. Our number one focus is to take care of your Soldiers, to bring them home and do things as safely as possible."

Following the ceremony, Soldiers and families spent a precious two hours talking, laughing, hugging, and crying before it came time to board the plane. Among them were three siblings and a spouse, all deploying with the 120th: SSG Shawn Weatherspoon; his wife, PFC Carrie Weatherspoon; her sister PFC Jessica Hyde, and brother PFC William Hyde. Shawn, who joined the Guard several years ago, was instrumental in bringing the other three on board.

"I was the recruiter. I told them about the benefits and their options in the Guard." Shawn said. "I just pointed them in this direction and they made the choice. I like it; it's good family unity."

His wife Carrie is looking forward to deploying to Iraq for the next 12-18 months. "I've always wanted to be in the military. I'm excited to serve my



*The Weatherspoons & the Hydys
deploying together with the 120th*

country and I love to travel. This is just another stamp in my passport,” she said.

“This is giving me an opportunity to serve my country. It’s something I’ve always wanted to do and I’m proud to do it,” added sister Jessica.

Brother William credits his family’s military background as an influence on his decision to serve. “Our whole family pretty much has been military. We’ve been raised with a military attitude. I like the fact that we’re going to do this as a family, and we can protect the freedom that everybody enjoys back home,” he said.

Members of the 144th have equally compelling stories to tell. Several volunteered to join the unit because they had skills the unit needed. SPC Donald Ferguson, a communications specialist with the 1457th Engineers, opted to join the 144th when he found out they needed a communications NCO.

This deployment will be Ferguson’s second tour in Iraq in as many years. In 2003 he was wounded in an explosion while traveling in a convoy and was awarded the Purple Heart. With all he accomplished with the 1457th the first time around, the decorated veteran has some unfinished business in the Middle East. “Last time I was over there I didn’t get to skinny-dip in the Persian Gulf, so I’m going to do that this time,” Ferguson joked.

While there was some laughter as they waited nervously for the boarding call, no one who saw the scene could fail to be moved as Soldiers

held infant sons and daughters while spouses, parents, and children clutched their loved ones in uniform for the last time for many months to come.

At 8:30 a.m. all said their last good byes, and families moved to the edge of the flight line as Soldiers lined up in formation to board the plane, a chartered commercial flight bound for Fort Bliss, Texas, where Soldiers will spend about three months training before heading to the Middle East.

The 120th boarded first, trailed by Commander Smith, and the 144th Dent stood with Utah Guard senior leaders to shake the hand of each of his Soldiers as they passed. Families waved and shouted encouragement to their Soldiers, and many in uniform returned the favor and gave the thumbs-up.

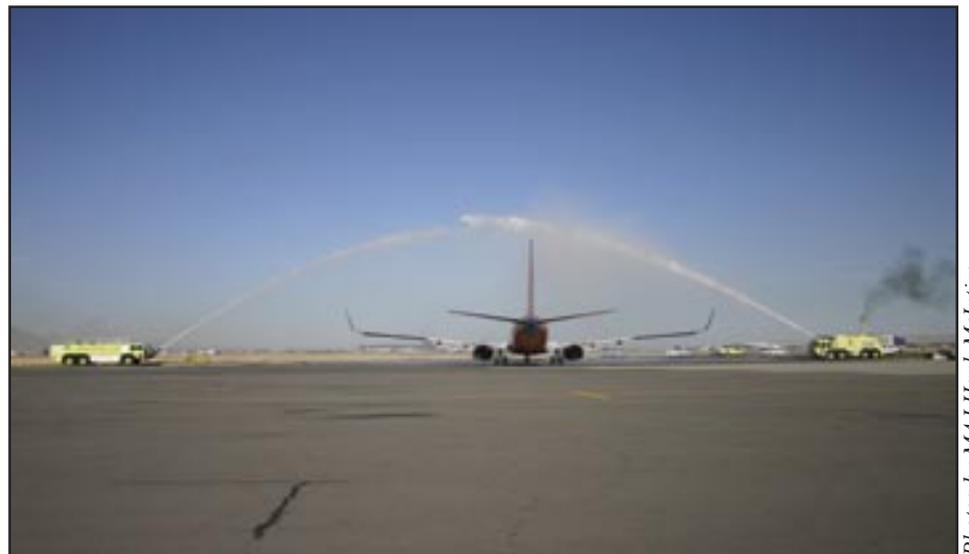
As the plane taxied toward the runway, in a fitting salute to these brave warriors, Air Guard fire trucks on either side of the plane opened up their water cannons to create a liquid arc over the aircraft. At the same time, Guard leaders stood in formation on the tarmac and rendered their traditional hand salute in honor of the service and sacrifice these Soldiers were about to make. When the fire hoses were turned off, a thick mist hung in the air over the plane. Then, as if on cue and to



Goodbye, Daddy.

the delight of the crowd, a perfect rainbow appeared over the plane and remained for nearly a minute.

Perhaps the spontaneous natural display of the rainbow was an indication of things to come for the 120th and 144th. They are well trained, equipped and ready to accomplish their mission. And families have the Family Support network to help them through. Working as a team, Soldiers will succeed as individuals and units, and families will also rise to the challenge. As Smith says, “We’ll get over there and do what we need to do.” And Smith’s wife Brenda is just as determined. “There are families [in Iraq] that need their help. And Carlyle’s a good guy and he can go help them,” she said. “I know that he’ll be okay and I’ll be okay. We’ll work together.”



Air Guard fire trucks on either side of the plane open up their water cannons to create a liquid arc over the aircraft.

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire



Command and staff members of 97th Troop Command give the traditional salute as the aircraft loaded with mobilized troops from the 144th ASMC and 120th QM departs for their tour of active duty to Fort Bliss, Texas, then on to the Middle East.

After the departure of the 120th and the 144th, we received a letter from LaMar and Linda Mabey expressing their appreciation for the incredible experience they and their family had as they came to see off their son, a member of the 144th.

“From the moment we turned into the airbase we were treated with such respect and were made to feel so welcomed. We arrived shortly after 5:30 a.m. and the first individual we met welcomed us and told us where to proceed. From that point on every young man or woman that greeted us did so in such a cheerful manner and with the attitude that we were doing them a favor by being there.

What we expected to be a burdensome experience turned out to be one which my family will treasure forever. One of my daughters stated that everyone should have the opportunity to go through sending a loved one off by military standards. My attention was directed to all the other military personnel as they stood at attention and saluted the departing plane. My heart swelled with pride that my son was part of the Utah National Guard.”

In Memoriam

PV2 SCOTT ALLAN REISER, 19th SF Gp

SGT BRANDON JAMES THOMAS, 19th SF Gp

CW4 THEODORE JAMES COTROMANES, 1-211th Avn Bn

SGT TRAVIS RANDALL NEIL, 1-148th FA

SGT RICCARDO RENZETTI, 97th Troop Command

SFC RONALD TANNER WOOD, 1-148th FA



Wing Comes Through for One of Their Own

By 2nd Lt. Wayne Lee

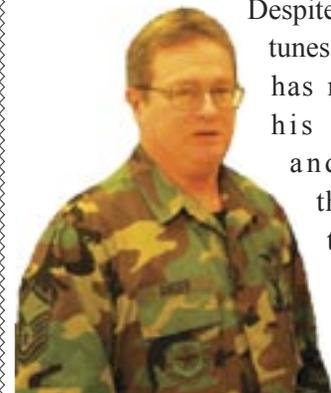
On December 5, Brig. Gen. Brent E. Winget, Utah Air National Guard Commander, and Chaplain Cless Young, 151st Air Refueling Wing Chaplain, presented MSgt. Mark Anger of the Maintenance Squadron with donation money raised by members of the Wing. Anger’s house burned down just prior to December’s drill and he lost everything. He was injured in the fire and was recuperating at the Intermountain Burn Center in Salt Lake City.

Anger, who received second-degree burns on his feet and minor burns on his face, recalled how he could not sleep and when he opened the door, smoke poured into the room. He went 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 then went through the kitchen, crossing the melting linoleum.

Anger went to the side door and hollered for Bubba, his dog, and his Siamese kitten, both still inside the engulfed home. Both animals eventually died of smoke inhalation.

Fire investigators discovered a faulty wire was 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.



A New Era Begins

Utah Air National Guard receives first of eight KC-135R

By SrA Christiana Elieson and MSgt. Burke Baker

On Oct. 5, 2005, the Utah Air National Guard took delivery of a KC-135R model. The aircraft, number 57-1499, is the first of eight soon to be stationed here and are replacing the KC-135E with its outdated engines.

The engine's modification from E to R allows the KC-135 to have "lower fuel consumption and increased performance which allow the tanker to take off with more fuel and carry it farther," stated the Federation of American Scientists Web site.

According to the Federation of American Scientists Web site, the KC-135R uses 27 percent less fuel than the KC-135A and will save \$1.7 billion on fuel over 15 years of operation of the fleet.

This aircraft was constructed in 1957 and was first assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, on Nov. 21, 1958. It was re-engined on June 3, 1990 from an A model to an R. The aircraft had 11,515 flying hours listed at the time of the change. It arrived at the Utah ANG base with 17,250 flying hours listed.



Photo by MSgt. Bob Thackson

An Air Force KC-135R model aircraft, prepares to leave for its new home at the Utah Air National Guard Base.

Lt. Col. Quinn Bridge, Maj. Lisa Berente, SMSgt. Marty Neilson and TSgt. Keith Campbell picked up the plane from Spokane, Wash, because the runway at Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND, where the plane was formerly stationed, was being repaired.

299th Range Control Squadron Supports First F/A-22 Deployment

By 1st Lt. Troy Gardner

Air traffic controllers and air battle managers at the 299th Range Control Squadron "Clover Control" are excited to be working the Air Forces' newest operational fighter aircraft on its first simulated combat deployment.

The 27th Fighter Wing from Langley Air Force Base, is at Hill Air Force Base for a two-week deployment to test the units' ability to operate at a foreign location. The Utah Test and Training Range, controlled by the 299th RCS, is the largest overland military training complex in the United States and is providing an excellent training location for the F/A-22 aircraft.

The 299th has been supporting test operations for



Photo by MSgt. Steve Ammons

the F/A-22, but this is the first time bombs have been dropped for training by an operational Raptor squadron on the UTTR.

The F/A-22 was initially designed to be an air superiority fighter aircraft but, has also proven a very capable bomber, using the Joint Direct Attack Munitions on the Utah test range complex.

Maj. Cecilia Nackowski, 299th RCS Director of Operations, said, "It is truly a unique experience and an exceptional opportunity to support the F/A-22, the Air Force's premiere fighter. As a new era of air superiority is ushered in, we at clover control look forward to providing outstanding range control services to the Raptor."

President George W. Bush Visits Utah

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett



President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush wave to the crowd as they arrive at Salt Lake Air Base.

SALT LAKE CITY — **F**or only the second time in his administration, President George W. Bush visited Utah Aug. 22.

The commander in chief was here to speak at the annual convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), held this year in Salt Lake City. Bush's first visit to Utah was in 2002 when he presided over the opening ceremonies of the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Air Force One touched down at Salt Lake Air Base at 10:37 a.m., beginning Bush's brief two hour stay in the state. First Lady Laura Bush and Sen. Orrin Hatch, Utah, exited the plane with the president and were met by a small welcoming party.

Among those who greeted the president were Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.; Utah Congressmen Jim Matheson and Chris Cannon; Utah National Guard Adjutant General Brian Tarbet; Command Chief Master Sgt. Allen Chapman, 151st Air Refueling Wing,

Utah Air National Guard, and Brigham City resident Willie Hunsaker, a member of the VFW and World War II veteran who was to receive a President's Volunteer Service Award.

From the air base Bush, traveled

Among the fortunate ones to go where so few have gone was LTC Michael Norton, senior logistics officer for the Utah National Guard, who was accompanied by his wife and three of their children. Norton was impressed by what he saw.

"Here is the president of the only superpower on earth, and the furnishings on the plane were not ostentatious at all," Norton said. "It wasn't overdone. Everything in there was necessary for him to fulfill his duties as president."

Norton said that his daughter Michelle noticed a hiking and mountain biking brochure sitting on the president's desk. She turned to her dad and said, "Wow, this president is cool!"

Summing up the tour,



Air Force One awaits the return of the president.

by motorcade to the Salt Palace where he delivered his speech to VFW members.

While the president was downtown, a small group of local citizens were treated to an exclusive inside look at Air Force One.

The tour included a walkthrough of the president's office and work area, sleeping quarters, conference room, galley and press cabin.



Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., and his wife Mary Kaye just after they exit the presidential limousine.

Norton added, "It's a humbling feeling to know that regular people can get an opportunity to be where the most power-



MG Brian Tarbet watches the arrival of the president.



President Bush with Willie Hunsaker, President's Volunteer Service Award recipient.

ful man in the world works, and I didn't have to pay money to do it! It's a representation of how great this country is."

As the tour was conducted and the jet was refueled, a group of nearly 100 Airman and Soldiers gathered in a designated area near the tarmac to await the return of the president in hopes of seeing their commander in chief up close. Their patience was rewarded when at about 12:25 p.m. the president and first lady returned to the base to prepare to depart for a few days of vacation in Idaho.

When they exited the limousine, the first couple were hailed by the small but enthusiastic group in uniform.

Unhurried, Bush took time to shake hands, pose for pictures, and joke with the crowd. He was also heard telling individual service members as he shook their hands, "Great job! Thank you for serving!"

Bush finished shaking hands first and waited alone on the tarmac while Mrs. Bush completed her good byes.

When she joined him moments later, they both turned and waved to the crowd, who erupted with cheers and applause. Climbing the stairs to the aircraft, they paused at the top and turned and waved again and received the same response from the crowd as before.

Utah Air and Army National Guard members who met the president and first lady that day came away very impressed with them and their personable nature.

"I thought it was amazing to see them up close and personal. Both of them shook my hand, looked me right in the eye and said, 'Thank you,'" said 2LT Teresa Morris, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a six-year veteran of the Utah Army National Guard.

"It meant a lot to me. It's the coolest thing the military has allowed me to do. I'm very proud to be serving. I've always liked President Bush and trusted his decisions, and even more so now," Morris added.

Similar sentiments were spoken by 2nd Lt. Wayne Lee, Headquarters, Utah Air National Guard.

"It was awesome. The president is someone I really admire," Lee said. "He looked me in the eye when he shook my hand. He's a good man. I have nothing but respect for him." 



President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush greet members of the Utah National Guard.

Bush Makes Stop in Salt Lake City

Civil Engineering supports efforts behind the scenes

By 2nd Lt. Wayne Lee

SALT LAKE CITY — **W**hen Air Force One landed Aug. 22, 2006 at the Utah Air National Guard Base with President George W. Bush to speak at the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Salt Lake City, there was naturally a lot of excitement.

The Secret Service arrived early to coordinate with the base's security forces. Barricades were set up to control access to certain parts of the base. Other areas were roped off for the media to set up their cameras. And members of the base were present in the hopes of getting a glimpse of the president himself.

Everything appeared to be running smoothly. However, behind the scenes was a different kind of excitement. Working with the base's security forces were members of the 151st Civil Engineers Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight.

"This is what we do," said SMSgt. William Westfall, disposal superintendent of the 151st. "We support security forces on base. If they find any suspicious items, we check them out. We look through luggage. We check cars coming on base. We look for anything out of the ordinary."

"The EOD Flight has seven members and has the mission to provide base support to the wing and Utah Air National Guard for any hazardous device and can assist civilian authorities also," said Westfall.

Staff Sgt. Barry Duffield has been a part of the EOD for 3 years. As he stands in the Emergency Response Trailer, he displays some of the equipment the EOD needs to effectively do their job. "The Emergency Response Trailer can be manned 24 hours a day if needed," he said.



Photos by TSgt. Keith Campbell

151st EOD:

"The Bomb Destroyers"

By SrA Christiana Eliason

Most jobs within the Utah Air National Guard are based on building things, from teams to office spaces to aircraft; however, one job is based on destroying bombs and stopping them from destroying other more important Air Guard assets like people or airplanes. It can be a very dangerous job, but someone has to do it and that someone is usually a robot.

Staff Sgt. Barry Duffield, a member of the 151st CES Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, said, "Pretty much the way we do things is remote as possible. We start out using the robot if we can possibly help it. You don't want to send anybody downrange unless you absolutely have to, and you definitely don't want to put your hands on whatever you are working on unless there is no other way."

The robot runs off a fiber-optic cable which is linked to a computer of sorts that looks like a mix between a panel in the cockpit of an airplane and an old Atari with a monitor attached.

"It used to have an RF, or radio package, for this, but it



ABOVE: SMSgt William Westfall demonstrates the F6A platform robot's abilities. The robot is capable of climbing angles up to 30 degrees and is armed with a 12-gauge shotgun which can be used for disarming or detonating a device or gaining access through locked doors. BELOW LEFT: SMSgt William Westfall assists SSgt Barry Duffield in suiting up in the EDOD8 bomb suit. BELOW RIGHT: SSgt Duffield examines an unexploded ordnance.

proved unreliable, especially in buildings," said Duffield. "Once you got it inside a building it just stopped, and it was pretty much useless then."

There are times that call for a person to work on the explosive itself and during those times the EOD guys get into a bomb suit. "Most of it is a Kevlar material," he said. "There is a reinforced plate in the front parts, and that's mainly where you get most of your protection. The suits weigh about 65 lbs."

The suits limit mobility quite a bit once you are in them, Duffield said, but they are coming out with better suits that make it easier for the person in the suit to move and to see what is going on around them.

They also work with civilians teaching them about improvised explosive devices and assisting with explosives when called upon.

"Sometimes the local civil authorities call us in for assistance," said Duffield. "And we do work with them from time to time on training events too." 



Photos by 2nd Lt. Kevin Larsen

Task Force 222 Field Artillery In Iraq

Story and photos by MAJ Sterling McMurrin

RAMADI, Iraq — **S**econd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, was activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2005. The Triple Deuce, with units in Beaver, Cedar City, Richfield and St. George began its federal service at Mobilization Center Shelby, located at Camp Shelby, Miss.

At Camp Shelby, the Triple Deuce began its transition to the fighting force it is today, from a General Support to a Direct Support field artillery unit for the 2/28th Brigade Combat Team. This intense process took five months and saw the unit grow from 490 to over 660 Soldiers.

Soldiers and equipment flowed in from over 18 different states and Puerto Rico to ensure the unit was fully staffed, trained and equipped for the mission.

After completing premobilization training, which included a successful rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., Task Force 222nd

Field Artillery, as it has been designated, departed the U.S. on 19 June 2006.

The Triple Deuce arrived at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, with other elements of the 2/28th. As the entire brigade of over 4,000 Soldiers transitioned into the area of operations, TF222FA started the reception, staging and integration process for its mission in Iraq. Assigned to the 2nd Marine Division in Al Anbar Province, the 2nd BCT and TF222FA would move into one of the most violent territories in Iraq: the city of Ar Ramadi.

The mission of TF222FA, as outlined in its mission statement, is to “conduct ammunition supply route security, forward operating base defense and artillery fires in order to disrupt insurgent operations in [the area of operations] and create stable and secure conditions

to facilitate Iraqi self governance.”

All unit members were retrained and equipped to conduct these missions. The three line batteries rotate duties, giving each unit a portion of the year on the ground in different missions. Currently the unit is in its second rotation.

Covering an area over 40 miles wide, the Patrol Battery is continually on the move conducting operations and maintaining freedom of maneuver through the battle space. Each platoon is supported by fire support teams and selected members of the Headquarters and Service Batteries. Under threat of improvised explosive devices (IED) and land mines, these Soldiers continue their



Ramadi Iraq: Manning a 240B 7.62 Machine Gun on OP Bridge. TF222FA Soldiers maintain freedom of maneuver on the ASR in the BDE battle space.



Manning a FOB perimeter OP, members of TF222FA keep a vigilant eye on activity near the FOB; TF222FA Paladin providing accurate fires 'On Time and On Target'.

mission 24 hours a day, roving the ASR, interdicting insurgents and IED emplacements, and keeping the ASR open and safe. In addition, Soldiers work in small fishing villages, develop intelligence, and assist local Iraqi citizens in security and stability.

The Artillery Battery is divided between two separate locations. With a distance of over 30 miles between platoons, their fires cover a large area. Platoons man guns 24 hours a day. The M109A6 Paladin howitzers have provided timely and accurate fires which have been overwhelming to the enemy. With confirmed counterfire kills and support to troops in contact, the artillery, using state-of-the-art digital technology, has significantly lowered counterbattery times, as well as the average time it

takes to clear maneuver, air, and civilian structures and process the mission from the radar through the Fire Direction Center to the Gun Line. With quality training and noncommissioned officer leadership the battalion has not shot one errant round in the last six months.

The Base Defense Battery has the most intense and demanding mission. Manning entry control points, guard towers and forward observation points under the threat of small-arms fire, mortar and rocket propelled grenade attacks, this unit is heavily tasked. Securing a FOB that supports military, civilian contractors and Iraqi

Army units requires discipline and teamwork. This unit is augmented with Soldiers from all the batteries as well as from other units on the FOB.

In addition to its three primary missions, the battalion fulfills many other needs of the brigade including emergency recovery, barrier movement and emplacement, logistical operations, tactical control of the Ramadi Glass Factory and a myriad of contingency operations to include air mobile search teams and quick reaction forces.

One of the most important components of TF222FA's mission is nonlethal effects. Using traditional artillery targeting and effects techniques, it is responsible for developing and implementing the



SPC Justin Johns, A Btry, TF222FA, talks with Iraqi children.



TF222FA Paladin providing accurate fires 'On Time and On Target'.

brigade's "nonlethal battle." Forward-support-element sections at each maneuver battalion engage local government, tribal, and religious leaders to lay the needed groundwork for success in Iraq.

Since arriving in the Ramadi Area,

the unit has conducted nonlethal operations which have led to historic successes such as the turnout for the December election, and more recently, a recruiting campaign to staff a new police force in the city and surrounding areas.

Currently, TF222FA is working with local government officials and tribal sheiks to set the conditions required to

reduce the Coalition Force presence and turn control of the city over to Iraqi forces.

In the coming months TF222FA will continue conducting operations in support of the 2/28th BCT. As always, they will be successful and never quit until their mission is completed. They are the "Golden Boys" from Utah and will continue to shine in the Euphrates River Valley upholding the great traditions of the Utah National Guard set by their predecessors.

The TF222FA wishes to mention the great support they continue to receive from their families and friends back home, as well as the support of the leaders and Soldiers of I Corps Artillery and the Utah National Guard.



Mountain Warfare Training Turns into Real-life Rescue for 19th Special Forces Group

By 1LT Ian Berg

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON, Utah —

A Mountain Warfare team from the 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, met reality head-on during their mountain rescue and mountaineer training Aug. 17 in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

While the 19th conducted rope ascents and descents, a pair of local civilian climbers began climbing on an adjacent bolted route. The lead climber reached and secured himself to the first bolt and continued onto the second bolt, which was approximately 30 feet off the ground.

The climber suddenly became dizzy and sat down on a small ledge next to the second bolt without connecting to it. Before anyone could react, the climber fell to the ground.

Members of the Special Forces team at the top of their route saw the fall, as did SFC Tracy Syddall, an 18D medic with 1st Battalion of the 19th, who was 15 feet into his ascent on a nearby route.

As Syddall quickly reversed his ascent and climbed down, he called up to the other team members to get

his aid bag and backboard out of their vehicle.

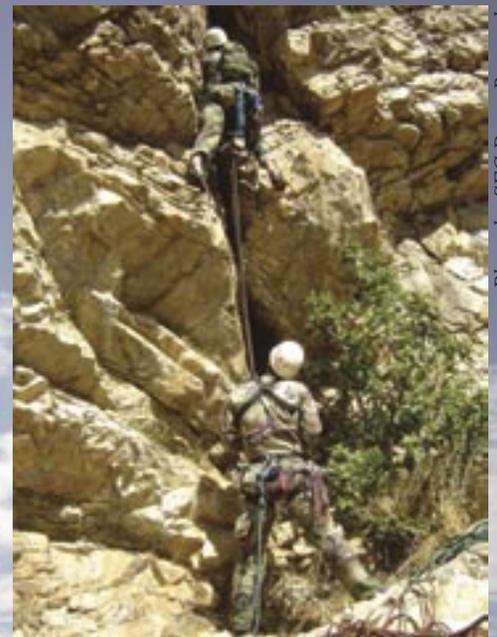
One member of the Special Forces team ran the nearly half-mile distance back to the vehicle to get the bag while the rest of the team members came to Syddall's assistance in providing first aid to the fallen climber.

The civilian climbers didn't have a cell phone, so Syddall gave his phone to the fallen climber's partner and told him to call 911.

While waiting for first responders to arrive, the Special Forces team, at the direction of Syddall, a West Valley fireman and paramedic, stabilized the climber, placed him on a backboard and applied a



Members of the 19th assist local authorities with evacuation.



SSG Syddall leading Tres Facile while 1LT Berg belays.

neck brace in preparation for evacuation.

When emergency personnel arrived about 15 minutes later, Syddall provided all of the climber's vital statistics and condition assessment to them.

The Special Forces team assisted with the evacuation by carrying the backboarded victim out of the climbing area. He was loaded into an ambulance and taken to Cottonwood Hospital for treatment.

Fortunately, the climber only needed a few stitches for some lacerations and was released.



Photo by SFC Doug Bernard

144th ASMC Arrives in Iraq

By CPT Robert Dent and SSG Jason Talcott

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq —

After tearful good byes, three months of intensive training, pre deployment leave and more tearful good byes, the 144th Area Support Medical Company has finally arrived “on ground” in southern Iraq. It’s hard to believe our deployment started almost four months ago!

Now that we have made it to Iraq we are well trained, fully mission capable, ready to accomplish our mission and anxious to make our families, state and nation proud.

As a unit we have been tasked with a wide variety of missions and presented with numerous challenges and will provide our Soldiers with additional training opportunities.

As is the tempo and motivation of this unit, we hit the ground running and have barely stopped to come up for air. The various sections of the company have been hard at work learning their respective roles in our mission. We have been busy putting in place the tools needed to run the best ASMC in the United States military.

Several of the clinic SOPs have appeared on the battalion Web site as “best practices,” and our maintenance shop led by SGT Martin was the source of many compliments to our unit. Operations has been putting in place all the various administrative procedures and sending the multitude of reports required.

Our Treatment platoon and all the noncommissioned officers in charge of the various sites are seeing patients and fine-tuning their operating procedures. The Supply section has been working to get us all the necessities we need.

Our Communications section has us all con-



SPC Ben Mecham lends a helping hand to a young local resident at Camp Scania.



144th ASMC Soldiers at Camp Echo transfer an Air MEDEVAC patient.

ected, online and in-touch. Everyone in the unit has been working hard and doing a great job. Hats off! CPT Robert Dent, commander of the 144th, thanks his Soldiers and sets the tone for their mission in Iraq: “To the Soldiers of the 144th ASMC: I want to publicly thank you for your hard work and professionalism here in the early stages. Since hitting the

ground Nov. 16 you have been dedicated to providing the highest standards of medical care and working overtime to improve the existing support system. Every section has been vital in executing our mission.”

In addition to caring for our own, we are providing training to the Iraqi Army and caring for local nationals which is keeping our medical sections very busy and providing them a broad range of experiences.

The 61st Multifunction Medical Battalion commander, LTC Grimes, visited several of our sites during the first week of December. He oversees 13 other units including five ASMCs. His comments to me are that the 144th is setting the standard.

The 144th ASMC looks forward to its deployment and safe return home. We have had many challenges in our short time in Iraq and intend to keep pushing the envelope to ensure that all those who need our support receive the very best in patient care that the Army has to offer.

Photo by SSG Timothy Stillman

Photo by SSG Terry Croff

Welcome to Utah

Guardsmen evacuate Hurricane Katrina victims from New Orleans

By 2nd Lt. Wayne L. Lee

Photo by TSgt. Michael Evans

WHEN the KC-135E landed at the Salt Lake Air Base in the early morning hours of Sept. 5, the weary 36 people from flood-damaged New Orleans were greeted with applause from the small crowd on the ground.

The crowd included paramedics, counselors and other emergency staff to attend to the needs of the survivors of Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.

“It was a living hell,” said Paul Cooper, one of the survivors who had been staying at the Superdome, on the flight to Salt Lake City. “I don’t ever want to go through something like that ever again.”

After initial evaluations were completed, the survivors were then taken to Camp Williams. It was there the survivors received rest, medical attention, a means to contact loved ones and ways to plan for their future.

“I love Utah,” said Cooper, after two days there. “The mountains are beautiful. The people are nice here. I think I want to just stay.” Around 600 people have come to Utah to escape the devastation of the areas hit by Katrina.

Three tankers from the base brought back evacuees along with a few planes from Jet Blue.



Medical technicians check an evacuee after arrival at the Utah Air National Guard Base.

Utah Security Forces Assist in Louisiana

By TSgt. Sterling Poulson

NEW ORLEANS NAVAL AIR STATION—

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Utah National Guard was tasked to send Security Forces on their first mission into the area. Guardsmen from the 151st Security Forces Squadron and the 19th Special Forces were deployed to New Orleans, Sept. 2, 2005.

“There is a sense of purpose to the mission,” said Brig. Gen. Ralph Dewsnup, Joint Force Headquarters Commander, “It’s awfully worthwhile. As we’ve seen what has happened to the city as related by the media, they need help. We can provide it, so that’s why we’re here.”

CMSgt. Andrew Brunt, chief of security forces said, “Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would respond to a neighboring state, but we are here and hopefully we can render assistance and try to inspire some hope in a desperate situation.”

These troops were tasked with restoring and maintaining peace on the streets of New Orleans, which meant carrying a loaded weapon. Brunt said “It’s a tool for my job. If I don’t carry the weapon I am not a cop. I would like to think of it as a goodwill mission to help these people get back on their feet. After all, they are fellow Americans and our brothers and sisters.”

Maj. Rich Hewitt, with the 191st ARS refueling squadron said “We’re doing Utah’s part. It’s a start and it shows that the Utah National Guard and more importantly the State of Utah want to help, and here we are.

There was a sense of incredible urgency

at the New Orleans Naval Air Station, with dozens of helicopters constantly inbound and outbound: C-17, C-130, and no less than a dozen KC-135 tankers were on the ramp from all over the country. Cargo was being off-loaded and troops from every branch of service were pouring into the area.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Kevin Larsen



C-130 being loaded with relief supplies headed to Louisiana.

After Hurricane Katrina

Team Raven Provides Communications

Story and photos by MAJ Andrew Archuleta

Utah Emergency Communications Team (TEAM RAVEN)

NEW ORLEANS — **A**ug. 30, 2005, one day after the Category 4 storm made landfall due east of Louisiana, all civilian and emergency communications infrastructure throughout New Orleans was virtually wiped out by powerful winds and flooding.

Over 75 percent of the city was flooded, with major portions of the city under at least 20 feet of water.

Joint Forces Headquarters of Louisiana, located in Jackson Barracks in the hard-hit St.

Bernard Parish had lost the majority of its communication equipment immediately afterwards. JFHQ-LA, in dire need of critical communications immediately requested additional military support from other states. JFHQ-LA needed to provide command and control to subordinate response elements, coordinate search and rescue missions, and oversee disaster relief operations.

In response to this request, Joint Forces Headquarters of Utah deployed Team Raven, a ten-person emergency communications team to New Orleans. Team Raven was to provide critical communications support to civil authorities and to assist in the repair and restoration of damaged communications infrastructure. Team Raven was comprised of personnel from various units from the Utah National Guard to include the JFHQ-UT J6 Communications, Joint Directorate of Military Support, 1-145th Field Artillery, and the 19th Special Forces Group.

Team Raven traveled by convoy which included four trucks pulling two generator light sets, a specialized satellite trailer, and a specialized communications trailer. This communications package was specifically tailored for emergency communications and for situations like Hurricane Katrina. Ironically, this communication package had been tested only weeks prior to Hurricane Katrina.

The emergency communications team first



Devastation in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



Team Raven members search house to house for survivors.

arrived into Carville, Louisiana late in the evening of Sept. 5, 2005, and linked up with the 62nd Civil Support Team of the Louisiana National Guard. The next morning they pushed forward into Baton Rouge and linked up with the Louisiana State Police for coordination and programming of the interoperable communications radios prior to arriving at New Orleans and Belle Chase Naval Station later that night. Due to its robust communications platform, Team Raven was immediately assigned to one of the hardest-hit areas of New Orleans: St. Bernard Parish. Team Raven was one of the first mobile communication teams to deploy mobile services into New Orleans to include satellite communication radios, satellite IRIDIUM phones, satellite TV, GSM cell phones, 800MHz radios, VHF, HF, FM, DSN phone lines, commercial phone lines, and Internet access.

Team Raven was assigned to provide communication support to Task Force St. Bernard, commanded by COL Kenneth Lull of the 169th Field Artillery (Colorado), who was conducting search-and-rescue missions in St. Bernard Parish.

Within just four hours of arrival, phone and In-

ternet services were established and operational. Deputy Commanding Officer LTC Bruce Holloman was amazed by the communication capabilities provided to them. To Team Raven's credit, TF St. Bernard was the only task force in New Orleans at the time that had fully operational communication systems and services. Team Raven continued to provide primary, alternate, and emergency means of communication to the 169th throughout their search-and-rescue missions.

Several members of Team Raven also participated in search-and-rescue missions throughout St. Bernard Parish. As the team walked from house to house through several neighborhoods in search of survivors, they witnessed the devastating aftermath of the storm.



Setting up communications infrastructure throughout New Orleans.

Every house in the area was completely destroyed. The odors were almost unbearable to the point that wearing face masks and using Vicks Vapo-Rub under their noses did help.

The team had to wade through environmentally contaminated waters (waist-deep in some areas) and through mud that was almost like quicksand. At the end of the day, the team would process through a decontamination point to clean off as much

of the mud and muck as possible. It was hard work and their were long days, but it was very satisfying to help out in any way possible.

Team Raven is very proud of representing the State of Utah and the Utah National Guard throughout the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. In providing communications infrastructure support to St. Bernard Parish and assisting in search-and-rescue efforts, the team acquired critical experience and lessons that will be valuable for responding to future disasters and emergencies within our state and nation. Above all, the team gained the unique satisfaction in assisting fellow Americans in their time of need and amassing memories that will last a lifetime.



*Members of the Utah Emergency Communications Team
MAJ Andrew J. Archuleta, WO1 Taven C. Brown, WO1 Dennis J. Cade, WOC Craig C. Curtis,
ISG Robert A. Logan, SFC Jason R. Mercer, SFC Eric P. Huntsman, SGT Eddie J. Lyman,
SPC Desmond E. Reymus, and PFC Eric J. Jenson.*

Task Force Utah Offers Helping Hand in Louisiana

Story and photos by SFC Gordon Hyde

ABBEVILLE, La. — **W**hen the Utah National Guard's Task Force Utah advance party arrived in Louisiana Sept. 25, no one knew where they would be assigned.

Initially, Task Force Louisiana considered splitting up Utah's approximately 450 Soldiers and Airmen to augment existing forces throughout the area; however, Task Force Commander COL Jeffrey Mitchell felt it was important to keep Utah's team together. With a little effort he convinced Louisiana's operations officer that Utah's contingent would be more effective as a separate unit.

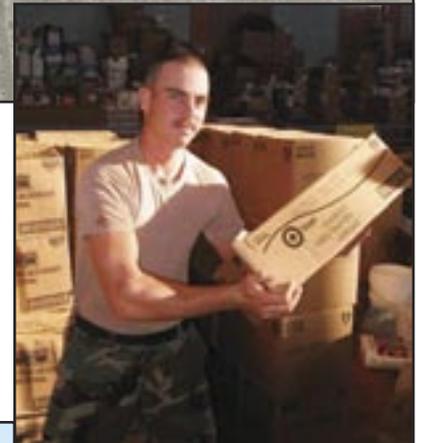
A few days later when the majority of Utah's forces arrived, they headed to the coast near the small town of Abbeville. Surprisingly, most of Abbeville seemed to be unaffected by the storm.

At first, some Soldiers wondered why they were there, but it didn't take long for them to see the overwhelming needs. Other nearby cities and farming communities had been hit hard by Hurricane Rita.



Task Force Utah from the 2-211th Aviation Battalion successfully completed numerous air support missions tasked to them by FEMA and the Hurricane Task Force out of Belle Chase Naval Air Station.

Only a few miles away, in the towns of Erath and Delcambre, floodwaters finally receded allowing residents to go back to their damaged homes.



SPC William Lewis distributes food

By then, local city officials and police officers had reached a breaking point. One newspaper headline depicted the acting mayor of Erath tearfully begging Louisiana's governor for help.

One of Mitchell's first steps was to assign two liaison officers to meet with city mayors daily. LTC Dallen Atack and LTC Robert Dunton assumed that role.

Tasks began pouring in. Many police officers had been working nonstop for over a week. Guard members eased their burden by providing crowd control, security checkpoints and roving patrols. They also assisted residents by



Heavy equipment is used to move and haul away debris from the many communities around Louisiana.



115th Engineer Soldiers prepare to lift vaults that were washed away from cemeteries.



loading food and water at aid points.

The presence of Soldiers seemed to have a calming effect on the community. Looting incidents decreased dramatically and to locals it seemed that the outside world was finally paying attention to their needs.

Citizens in several nearby farming communities were also struggling. Jesse Pitrie, a volunteer from Cow Island, was glad to see the troops.

“The people here need help and many

are too proud to ask for it. We appreciate you guys being here,” Pitrie said.

As the situation stabilized, the cleanup began. Schools, cemeteries, and parks were inundated with mud and swamp debris. Clearing the mess became one of the tasks for Utah Guard engineers.

Ssg Steven Greenwell, 115th Engineers, was excited to be doing ‘hands-on’ type work.

“Today feels really good to be out in public and to be able to see people

cleaning their yards while we’re helping clean their parks,” Greenwell said. “I would have never believed that the water here reached the 10-foot level.”

Throughout the various cleanup sites one threat was constant: poisonous snakes. It seemed that Louisiana’s entire snake population had been uprooted and scattered throughout the debris. In one location, Soldiers found and killed 30 snakes in a one-hour period. Although Guard members may have preferred relocating the venomous critters, their sheer numbers prevented that from being feasible—especially near populated areas.

Another unusual sight was the condition of many of the cemeteries. Caskets were scattered throughout the area. Some ended up by nearby roads while others drifted long distances into swamps and fields. Most caskets were enclosed in cement casings weighing between 1,500 and 3,000 pounds, but in spite of that weight, the force of the water was strong enough to move them easily. Moving them back was not so easy. Guard engineers used heavy equipment to lift and transport caskets back to cemeteries.

As missions continued, newspaper headlines in the area praised the efforts of Task Force Utah. One article featured a story along with two pages of photos showing Utah National Guard members helping in the community. The headline read: ‘Helping Hand: Utah’s National Guard 450 strong throughout Vermilion [Parish].’

Mitchell said he had several key people who made Task Force Utah a success.

“MAJ Andy Archuleta and his team deserve tremendous credit for providing the redundant (multiple) means of communication to run the operation. Because of that we’ve been able to perform our mission,” Mitchell said.

“A second person who really deserves recognition is LTC Derek Tolman, executive officer for Task Force Utah,” Mitchell added.



PHOTOS LEFT: *Destruction across New Orleans*; ABOVE: *2nd Lt. Wayne Lee stands at the front steps where a house once stood*; BELOW: *115th Engineer Soldier cleans up massive piles of destruction.*

According to Mitchell, Tolman supervised the staff so that Mitchell could focus his time more effectively. “[Tolman] has just performed above par,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell believes many other individuals have also been key to Utah’s success. Among those who stand out are LTC Attack, led the security element, and LTC Dunton, who headed up the “Sappers” (Engineers).

Mitchell is also pleased with the staff at Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper, Utah.

“I couldn’t be more happy with the support we’ve received out of Utah,” Mitchell said, “With the folks back at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center)



and the command back there, they’ve been very supportive—every single person. It’s been an amazing operation.”

“When I look at the Soldiers, they are the main reason for Task Force Utah’s success. I really want to praise them for the outstanding work that they’ve done. That’s according to the feedback I’ve received from the community. They’re

all saying what a tremendous group of Soldiers we have,” said Mitchell.

Toward the end of their mission Task Force Utah began sending Soldiers into New Orleans to perform security missions. Although Mitchell would have preferred to keep these troops in Vermillion Parish, they handled whatever task they were assigned. 

UTNG KIDS

June 2-3, 2006

State Youth Symposium

Youth leaders / Jr. Counselor Training

June 19-21, 2006 — June 21-23, 2006
Youth Camp 1 — Youth Camp 2

Join us for 3 full days of FUN!

July 24-27, 2006

National Youth Symposium

This year we are headed to Philadelphia!

July 10-14, 2006

Great Utah Road Tour

This is a great chance to meet UTNG Kids across the state.

We will tour the Great State of Utah there and back with pick-up and drop-off points all in between.

Aug 13-18, 2006

Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous

From each state, student essay contest winners will be selected to participate.

Interested in becoming a part of the UTNG Kids Youth Council or to receive our monthly activities? E-mail me at Annette.barnes@ut.ngb.army.mil. You must be over the age of 14 to join Youth Council.



Meet our current Youth Council Members

Sean Peek—President
Justin Jonas—Vice President / President Elect
Brance Brown—Secretary

Ben Omer—Treasurer / Wing Representative
Chloè Barnes—Historian
Tenesia Moore—Member at Large

Parkview Elementary Receives Donated Books

By MAJ Hank McIntire
Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos



SALT LAKE CITY - Smiles and giggles were everywhere at Salt Lake's Parkview Elementary when the Utah National Guard delivered more than 400 donated books there Jan. 26.

It wasn't just students and faculty who were happy that clear winter morning. Utah Guard employees who collected, sorted and boxed the books were also on hand to see schoolchildren's reaction to the new additions to the library's inventory.

"Seeing the kids so happy to receive these books made me want to cry," said Elaine Gomez.

Gomez, a Construction Facility Management Office accounting technician, is too modest to take any credit for the final result, but she was one of the driving forces behind the project.

In October, when CFMO employees discussed ideas for their annual Christmas service project, Gomez suggested a book drive to benefit students at a local elementary school; and she knew just which school should get the books.

Gomez called a close friend, Stephanie Young, a fifth-grade teacher at Parkview to see if the school was interested. They were, but not necessarily just to benefit the students.

Parkview, one of the newer elementary schools on the west side of Salt Lake, has students who speak 14 different native languages. Their parents, many of whom are immigrants to the U.S., speak little or no

English. Young suggested that Parkview students could use donated books to take home to read to their parents and help moms and dads achieve a better grasp of the language of their adoptive country.

Young cleared the idea with Principal Janine Smith, and CFMO employees set to work getting approval from Utah Guard Adjutant General Brian Tarbet.

Traditionally, CFMO's Christmas projects had been limited to its own employees, but the scope of the undertaking made it a no-brainer to open it up to any employee working in the Draper complex. Tarbet agreed and CFMO employees



LTC Jerry Oyler, Mary Beverly, Elaine Gomez and Margaret Cortsen sort through books for the school library.

placed a drop box in the sports court area to collect donated books.

Dr. Seuss, Encyclopedia Brown, Goosebumps, and The Great Brain were among the hundreds of new and

Parkview Elementary School student examines one of the books delivered by the Utah Guard.



SGT Kelly Collett visits with one of the young readers.



Principal Janine Smith thanks Lt. Col. Jerry Oyler for the wonderful books .

gently used titles provided by generous civilian and military employees.

“The response was really overwhelming,” said LTC Jerry Oyler, Deputy Director of CFMO. “I went through our own library of children’s books at home to find some to donate, and it brought back a lot of memories.”

Books were collected through Christmas, and CFMO employees spent a few days in their spare time during January sorting and boxing the books for delivery.

CFMO employees Oyler, Gomez, and Mary Beverly went to

the school to formally present books to Principal Smith and Parkview students.

Young brought her fifth-graders to the library to meet National Guard members in person and see the books they brought.

“Many of our students have never met a Soldier, so it was neat for them to see that they worked so hard to get these books for us,” said Young. “I think it was a powerful experience for them to meet people from the community who care about them.”

Parkview Elementary students eagerly enjoy the books presented to the school by the Utah Guard.



Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

Students search for just the right book.

As students picked through the books placed on tables in the school library, their excitement was evident.

“This is cool!” said one student.

“I’m going to take some home to read to my parents,” said another.

Smith, a teacher for 30 years and principal at Parkview for the past three, was visibly touched both by the gift and how students took to the new books.

“Reading is the foundation of everything we do,” said Smith. “Children who read at home every night are more successful in school.”

“These books are just one more tool we have to help families. If we can hook one more family because of what the National Guard has done for us, that’s great,” Smith added.

As the event came to a close and Gomez watched students leave the library, she was left almost without words.

“I was pleased to be a part of this. It was very rewarding,” she said.

115th Engineers Arrive in Iraq

Story and photos by 1LT Jonathan Kenworthy

The 115th Engineer Battalion now has 40 Soldiers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 115th, commanded by LTC John P. Moore, is now operating in Iraq with a unique mission known as the Explosives Hazards Coordination Center. Once trained, members of the unit specialize in command and control for construction and maintenance missions. The mission they have now been asked to perform for Multi-national Corps, Iraq incorporates much of that same C2 expertise, along with a new set of requirements. The EHCC focuses on a multi-faceted approach to minimizing the effects of Improvised Explosive Devices throughout Iraq.

The C2 cell working with and under the C7, staffs and oversees the Explosive Hazards Awareness Team that trains courses designed to provide Soldiers with the latest in IED avoidance. The program of instruction consists of intensive training on the most current tactics, techniques, and procedures currently being employed in theater and focuses on practical exercises simulating real-world events. Both Kuwait and Iraq are within their area of operation. They train American Soldiers, personnel from the other branches of service, and Coalition forces from such countries as Korea, Italy and Japan in emerging TTP. They are lead by 1LT Eric Thomas and SFC Monty Smith. Two Australian Soldiers, one Korean and a U.S. Marine help round out the eclectic training team.

SFC Kamron Wright and SSG Melissa Binns are taking the lead in training on the new AN/PSS-14 mine detector. This state-of-the-art-device requires extensive

training and is currently being used by engineer units throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Soon they too will become a mobile training team traveling to numerous sites throughout the Iraqi area of operations, setting up lanes and training Soldiers.

The EHCC Staff plays a pivotal role in the fielding of new route clearance equipment. The fielding staff, headed by 1LT Mike Smith and assisted by SFC Gordon Ewell and CPL James Lish, work in conjunction with civilian contrac-



The Alabama National Guard's 200th Engineer Battalion transfers authority to HHD, 115th Engineer Battalion in January 2006.



tors who manufacture and provide the labor instrumental to maintaining the new equipment. This team also ensures production and movement for this equipment to Coalition Forces Land Component Command and major subordinate commands.

The staff is busy with continuing and ever-evolving missions. The latest addition to the team will be Specialized Search Dog teams. The SSD supervisor is due to arrive early 2006. These teams will be deployed throughout Iraq to support commanders on the ground in the fight.

The 200th Engineer Battalion from the Alabama National Guard handed over the EHCC mission in January 2006. The unit, commanded by LTC James E. Porter Jr., did an outstanding job in shaping the mission for the counter insurgency fight. Porter, his staff and Soldiers greatly enhanced this ongoing and expanding mission.

As the torch passes from one unit to the other, the 115th Engineer Battalion will undoubtedly become instrumental in the protection and training of Soldiers in all aspects of the mission. Their projected year on the ground will add yet another layer to the ability of Utah National Guard Soldiers to conduct their missions and the training of future Soldiers.



SPC Daniel Swinyard trains in IED detection.



The deployed Soldiers of the HHD 115th Engineer Group.

Photos by 11LT Jonathan Kenworthy

The Utah State Veterans Nursing Home: Another Utah National Guard Success Story



Residents at the Utah State Veterans Nursing Home enjoy socializing and visiting with each other.

recognizes Medicare-certified providers who score high on quality-of-care measures to include pain management, resident comfort, and the percent of residents suffering from depression or anxiety. The nursing home was one of only eight in the Utah-Nevada region to receive the honor. “This is the first time we have received this award,” said Colleen Nichols, administrator of the facility opened in 1998 and operated by Traditions Health Care, a private contractor. “And we are in the running again this year.” Jeff Hanson, US-VNH director and Utah National Guard representative at the facility, calls it a team effort and gives Nichols a large share

of the credit for the award.

of the credit for the award. program which includes local sport and cultural events and in-house entertainment from local volunteers. The cost to individual residents is another aspect of the facility that draws veterans in. Federal funds cover about half of the cost of residency, and any who have received an honorable discharge from the military are eligible to live there. The Utah Division of Veterans Affairs Web site has information on eligibility requirements and veterans benefits at <http://www.ut.nvgb.army.mil/veterans/Default.htm>.

One of the hallmarks of USVNH is the quality of care the facility provides. Resident-based care, a concept that is gradually taking hold in nursing homes throughout the nation, is something that the staff of 94 has adopted and is seeing great results. Instead of making residents conform to a schedule that is more convenient for the staff, residents are allowed to eat, shower, and take recreation at times and frequencies that they became accustomed to when they lived at home.

“It’s a culture change in the industry and for our staff, but we’re really trying to provide resident-oriented care and meet individual needs,” says Nichols.

By MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah State Veterans Nursing Home, located on the Veterans Administration Hospital campus in Salt Lake City and operated under the auspices of the Utah National Guard, recently received a regional award for the quality of care it provides to its residents.

The facility is a recipient of the 2005 Quality Award from HealthInsight, which

of the credit for the award.

“Colleen always looks for ways to improve the quality of care. We also work together to improve the quality of life for our veterans,” said Hanson. “We do a number of things to try to help them feel at home and stay busy.”

One of the ways that US-VNH helps its 81 residents—all but five of whom are male and veterans of World War II or later conflicts—is to provide them a vigorous activities pro-



The feline resident Digit is groomed to look like a miniature lion.

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett



Lucy, a bloodhound, enjoys a playful game of fetch.

Meeting those needs includes adding a touch of home. Digit, the only feline resident at USVNH is very popular with the human residents and staff. Named for the extra toes on his front paws and groomed to look like a miniature lion, the cat pretty much

runs the place—or at least he thinks he does, says Hanson.

The facility also is home to Lucy, a bloodhound who, according to Nichols, washed out at Tracking School and came on board as a gift from the Utah State Department of Corrections.

And a recently opened bird aviary funded by the Disabled American Veterans (Chapter 6) and the George Q. Morris Foundation, is a favorite gathering place for residents—and for Digit.

Residents themselves also recognize a good thing when they see it. Bill Millner, a supply officer with the Army and Air Force in World War II and Korea, completed his 20 full-time years in the military in 1965 but came to USVNH only a few months ago.

“My wife had her mother in a nursing home. It was nothing like this,” said Millner. “What these people do for us old-time veterans is great. It’s really great. And they show a patience with us that is amazing.”

And for Hanson, a veteran of the Gulf War and a tour in Iraq in 2003-2004 with the Utah National Guard’s 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, the challenge is to never forget what USVNH residents have done for our nation.

“Being a veteran myself, it’s all come together for me. My own service overseas has helped me to appreciate what these guys went through. The residents here stepped up and made a difference in our world. It’s a wonderful experience to work here and be a part of this.”

Guard Family Action Plan

GFAP identifies issues of concern to Guard members, spouses, parents, children, retirees, and civilian employees. Issues may include any situation, requirement or event which affects the quality of life for Guard members, retirees, civilian employees or families. These issues impact positively on quality of life, family readiness and retention of a quality force. GFAP determines actions necessary to resolve issues and assigns responsibility for actions to the proper staff agency. The proper staff agency begins at the unit level within the chain of command and can include the Departments of the Army and Air Force and the Congress of the United States.



What GFAP does

- Identifies issues of concern to Guard members, their families, and retirees
- Determines actions necessary to resolve issues
- Assigns responsibility for actions to the proper staff agency
- Determines actions necessary at State, NGB, and DA/DAF Levels
- Promotes the well being of Guard members, their families, and retirees



Guard Family Team Building

Guard Family Team Building is a specially designed education and training program for and about the National Guard community. Program modules cover a wide variety of topics most often requested by families and National Guard leadership. It is modeled on the successful “Army Family Team Building” program and still tied to it through funding and guidance at the Department of the Army level. However, GFTB has been specifically developed to educate and empower those within the National Guard Community.

GFTB

- Provides training for volunteers to be instructors at the local level
 - Provides instruction by various means to all families
 - Is an ongoing and progressive program meeting the needs of Guard Families
 - Provides peace of mind for the deployed Guard Member by promoting family preparedness and self-reliance through training
 - Is an inviting, exciting and enjoyable training experience
- Program Goals
- Promote Family Readiness through programs designed to provide:
 1. Introduction to the National Guard
 2. Preparedness and Confidence Training
 3. Team Building
 4. Leadership Skills Training
 5. Problem-Solving Skills Training
 6. Networking Support
 - Deliver continuous and progressive programs to meet the needs of the Guard Community
 - Create an exciting and rewarding training experience
 - Enhance Family Readiness of Guard Members



For additional information contact: sundee.peterson@ut.ngb.army.mil or Web site: www.gfap.org and www.gfth.org

Utah National Guard Activates New Unit: Second Battalion, 211th Aviation Group

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard activated the new Second Battalion, 211th Aviation Group, in an official ceremony Dec. 3. at the West Jordan armory.

MAJ Lamar Blair assumed command of approximately 500 Soldiers in Utah, Iowa, and Minnesota. In his civilian employment Blair is a police officer with the Salt Lake Police Department.

CSM Danny Gordon will be the senior enlisted Soldier in the battalion.

The mission of the 2-211th is to function as a general-support aviation battalion by providing troop and equipment movement and supporting civilian, state, and federal agencies as needed with missions such as airlift, fighting wildfires, and search-and-rescue.

According to BG Bruce Frandsen, Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Utah National Guard, the selection



ABOVE: MAJ Lamar Blair, right, unfurls the 2-211th battalion colors for the first time with assistance from CSM Danny Gordon.

BELOW: Soldiers of the new 2-211th Aviation Battalion in formation.



of Utah as the home of this new battalion was due to the history of great support that the 211th has provided to the Army Aviation community.

“The 211th has performed admirably in its overseas missions over the years, and the leaders who have gone before have set the stage for this new opportunity,” Frandsen said.

The new helicopter battalion, which began operations Oct. 1, will include a UH-60 Blackhawk company, a UH-60Q Medevac Blackhawk company, a CH-47 Chinook company and maintenance and ground-support companies.

Two of the companies in the battalion are scheduled to deploy overseas sometime in the spring of 2006.

COL Dana Yetton, com-

mander of 211th Aviation Group, spoke to the Soldiers assembled.

"I'm excited for what your future holds. I'm confident in your leaders' ability to build you into this country's premier aviation organization. I know you will set the standard of excellence," Yetton said.

"With the creation and organization of this new battalion, our security and ability to respond to state and federal emergencies are greatly increased," Blair told his Soldiers in his remarks. "I approach my duties as your commander with humility yet secure in the knowledge that we will not fail."

"More important than anything to me is to work among fellow Soldiers who take care of each other. It's all about the team," Blair added. 



MAJ Lamar Blair speaks to the 2-211th Aviation Battalion for the first time as their new commander.

Alaska: The Last Frontier

151 Air Refueling Wing visits Eielson Air Force Base

By Lt. Col. Kurt Davis

During July 2006, the 151st Air Refueling Wing visited Eielson Air Force Base, home of the 168th Air Refueling Wing and the 354th Fighter Wing, and met with some of their active-duty and Guard counterparts.

"It was nice to get another personal readiness function's perspective, especially from a PACAF point of view," said Master Sgt. Jules Breaux, 151st Military Personnel Flight Personnel Readiness Function. "It was also nice to put a face with a name and further a greater networking relationship.

"The job is bigger than any one of us individually; we have to work together to make it happen," said Breaux.

"It was a good experience and allowed our members to broaden their networking capabilities," said Capt. Brent S. Lamb, 151st Military Personnel Flight, deployment commander.

"This trip benefitted both Utah and Alaska. We were able to do some work for the 168th and assist them in preparing for their upcoming unit compliance inspection and we were able to see some great scenery that most people will never see in their lifetime," said 2nd Lt. Kevin Larsen. "The members of the 168th and the 354th were more than willing to take us in for a few days and allow us to work right alongside them."

"It's especially helpful when we send trained personnel that can do the job," said Master Sgt. Betty Cheetham, 151st Mission Support Group, who was able to assist members of the 168th Supply



SrA Brenda Recksik, 151st LRS, cuts a piece of sheet metal to be used in fabricating a new section of the Alaska Pipeline.

Squadron in accomplishing tasks that were falling behind schedule.

Many of the members had some time to visit a few of the local area attractions after their duty day and on the weekend prior to returning to Salt Lake City. Some members took the opportunity to fly to the Arctic Circle on a sight seeing tour. 

Photo by SMSgt. Mark Savage

Security Forces Train on the M4

Story and photos by Dennis Kennedy

Security officers of Joint Forces Headquarters are on the range training with the M4. This last year they received an order to add the M4 carbines to inventory and train up on that weapons system. The Air National Guard requires assigned Security officers to carry and qualify with the same weapons as the Air Force Security Police.

Prior to this mandate officers carried the M9 pistol at the Air National Guard. The training officer for the Security Department required officers to at-

tend and complete a nationally recognized two-day Law Enforcement Patrol Rifle Operators course. During that training they learned weapons nomenclature in the classroom and performed weapons breakdown and assembly on the spur of the moment.

Weapons retention and close-quarters defense were part of the course. The officers got “down and dirty” on the training room floor learning how to fight on the ground and maintain control of duty weapons.



Tami Petersen, Ben Nelson, Bill Marler and Jonathan Williams begin training with the M4's on the range.

Range training consisted of live-fire drills with an electronic timer to induce stress and measure competence. Training outside in the snow and mud made the training tough and realistic. Officers were taught how to shoot on the move, close-quarters shooting techniques, immediate-action drills, and how to 'transition' back to the duty handgun when the M4 breaks down. The training ended with weapons cleaning and maintenance.

Training continues at this time until all officers are qualified to carry the M4. The weapons will be deployed during increased threat conditions or when there is a serious event.

The Security Forces Department continues an ongoing robust and dynamic training program.



*ABOVE: Tami Petersen and Bill Marler clean their weapons after training.
BELOW: Security Force officers practice close-quarter engagements.*



Brigham City and Logan Welcome Home the 1-148th FA

By MAJ Hank McIntire

BRIGHAM CITY and LOGAN, Utah —

Utah welcomed home the Soldiers of the Brigham City- and Logan-based Bravo Battery, 1-148th Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, at the Salt Lake Air Base Nov. 18.

Three days later, the two cities honored these Operation Iraqi Freedom heroes who deployed in June 2004 with separate community celebrations the same day.

Nov. 21 began with an early-morning ceremony at the Brigham City armory. CPT Darcy Burt, commander of Bravo Battery, 1-148th, stood at attention with his Soldiers dressed in their Desert Camouflage Uniforms in formation behind him, and the Utah National Guard's Honor Guard conducted a flag ceremony. The 25-voice Box Elder High School Madrigals, led by Claudia Bigler, then sang the first and last verses of the National Anthem.

Following the song the crowd erupted in spontaneous applause for the Soldiers, and Burt and his men were visibly moved.

Brigham City Mayor Lou Ann Christensen then spoke to the crowd of 300, which included Soldiers, families, friends, and older veterans in Air Force, Army, and Navy uniforms.

"I'm so absolutely proud that you Soldiers would put your lives on the line for each of us. You are heroes in my eyes. It's our privilege to honor you," Christensen said.

The cheerleading squad from Box Elder High performed several cheers for the troops, and the choir then sang "The Lord Bless and Keep You."

BG Patrick Wilson, commander of I Corps Artillery, spoke on behalf of the Utah National Guard and commended Soldiers for their service and sacrifice.

"Our ability to achieve and maintain our freedom comes from great individuals and their families like you see here today. You are truly my heroes. You are these families' heroes and this country's heroes," Wilson said.

After his remarks Wilson presented to Burt the yellow ribbon that Wilson had kept on his front porch since the 1-148th deployed to Iraq, officially welcoming the unit home.

The battery's senior enlisted Soldier, 1SG Kevin Martinez, then took a moment to tell those assembled what kind of men stood before them.

"These Soldiers set the standard for the rest of the brigade to follow. They did our state and our country proud," said Martinez. "Inside your heart you knew you were there for a reason, to help [Iraqis] be free and have a life like we have here in the U.S."

Among the families gathered at the ceremony was one who was not accompanied



TOP: Box Elder High School cheerleading squad performing a welcome-home cheer. LEFT: Box Elder High School Madrigals sing the National Anthem. BELOW: BG Patrick Wilson presents CPT Darcy Burt the yellow ribbon displayed on Wilson's front porch since the 1-148th deployed. BELOW LEFT: Motorcade escort from Brigham City to Logan.

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett



Ron Wood, left, Jody Wood, center, and SGT Nathan Wood pay tribute to SFC Ronald T. Wood at Brigham City Armory Nov. 21.

by their Soldier. SFC Ronald T. Wood was killed in combat July 16, 2005 in Kirkuk, Iraq, and his parents, Ron and Jody Wood, wearing their children's letterman jackets, and brother, SGT Nathan Wood, I Corps Artillery, in battle-dress uniform, attended in his memory.

Reserving their loudest ovation for the Wood family standing hand in hand before them, the crowd listened in tears as the Woods spoke of her their son's love for his country and acknowledged the tremendous outpouring of love they have received from so many.

"It's a great honor to be here with all you wonderful people. Thank you, Soldiers. We love you so very much. We know Ronnie's here," said Ron Wood.

"We want to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts because you have all supported and loved us so very, very much," added Jody Wood.

"Ronnie was the most selfless person that I have ever met. He is the best human being that I will ever know," said Nathan Wood.

Following the ceremony, Soldiers had a few moments with family and friends before boarding buses for a parade through town.

Les Dunn, member of American Legion Post 10 and World War II veteran, was there to support

the local Soldiers, knowing what they had been through. "Every war is the same. It doesn't matter which one it is; it's all tough stuff," Dunn said. "I look at these guys and it almost makes you want to cry. We support them 100 percent."

Angela Staheli kept the home fires burning while her husband, Spc. Thomas Staheli, volunteered to go from Charlie Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery, Spanish Fork.

"A year and a half makes you a little crazy, but the deployment has made our relationship a lot stronger. Our communication is much better now," Angela said.

Staheli, who left a two-week-old baby girl and returned to a walking, talking daughter, is focused more on what lies ahead rather than what he missed while he was away.

"Let's get it over with and move on," he said simply.

Just down the street from the ar-



Les Dunn, World War II veteran, watches with pride the welcome-home ceremony.

mory near the beginning of the parade route, students from Discovery Elementary School waited anxiously to cheer on the Soldiers of Bravo Battery.

Once the two Soldier buses accompanied by Brigham City fire trucks, police, and the Utah Highway Patrol reached the school, students waved flags, banners, and signs, enthusiastically chanting "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

This scene was repeated throughout Brigham City as citizens lined the streets, some of whom stopped their shopping or work momentarily to show or shout their support. And nearly every marquee in town blared a message



Students at Discovery Elementary in Brigham City await the arrival of 1-148th Soldier parade.

Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

Logan Fire Department creates makeshift archway over parade route.



Photos by SGT Kelly Collett

of welcome and thanks to the troops.

The motorcade left Brigham City for the 25-mile trip north to Logan, and about halfway between the two cities, the Brigham City contingent handed off the buses to their Logan counterparts.

As the vehicles arrived in Logan, the parade continued Logan style as citizens waved and cheered as Soldiers passed.

Near the end of the Logan parade route, two trucks from the

Logan Fire Department on either side of the road extended their ladders to form an archway under which the arriving heroes passed to Soldiers' and spectators' delight.

Arriving at the campus of Utah State University, Soldiers and families packed the Taggart Student Center auditorium for a tribute.

The Logan Fire Department provided the color guard, and Logan Mayor Doug Thompson, who has an Army son serving in Iraq, thanked Soldiers for what they stood for.

"You've not just served your country well, you've served the people of Iraq well with the humanitarian and civic things you've done," Thompson said. "I'm proud of you for serving so well, but I'm more proud for the way you defended our values."

MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard Adjutant General, reminded the 1-148th of the sobering realities of war.

"I thank God for your safe return, but we're one Soldier short. I think Ron Wood is here today teaching you one final lesson about this mobilization and its cost," said Tarbet. "We acknowledge his great service, and what a marvelous family! We

see courage, conviction, dedication, and devotion in their eyes."

Tarbet also praised Soldiers for not being passive observers in the fight and for doing the "heavy lifting" for the 116th Brigade Combat Team, the unit they supported in Iraq.

"This is a war being won by individual Soldiers. It's not the generals. It's not the colonels. It's the individual troops out in those gun trucks every day, making decisions in a split-second that are life-saving or life-ending. I salute you for what you've done, and I'm in awe of what you have accomplished," Tarbet said.

Addressing his Soldiers as a group for the last time, Bravo Company Commander CPT Darcy Burt, reviewed the highlights of their deployment.

Bravo Battery was attached to First Infantry Division in northeastern Iraq and worked side by side with Iraqi police and the newly formed Iraqi army.

"We are an artillery unit, but we learned infantry tactics. We became known as the 'Infantillery'" said Burt. "We were the 'Go-to Battery.'"

Soldiers were based in isolated camps along the Iran-Iraq border, ran mounted patrols day and night, completed infrastructure projects and carried out humanitarian and escort missions throughout Iraq and into Kuwait.

Later the battery moved to Kirkuk, Iraq. They were the first and last unit in the brigade to conduct offensive operations.

With emotion Burt told the group, "The Soldiers of Bravo Battery are the finest group of combat veterans you will find anywhere. Bravo Battery and families, you can be proud of all your accomplishments."

"I would like to remember our hero: SFC Ronald Wood," Burt said in conclusion. "Freedom is not free. We will never forget."



Soldier welcomed home by a family member.

Change of Command

By SPC Chris Gardner

Capt. Chris Patterson Takes Command of 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DRAPER, Utah — **A** change-of-command ceremony took place for the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Aug. 27 at Utah National Guard Draper Headquarters. MAJ Hank McIntire thanked his Soldiers before relinquishing command to CAPT Chris Patterson. “Any measure of success I’ve had as commander is because of you Soldiers,” McIntire said. “You stepped up, stood up and came through every time.”

McIntire had commanded the 128th since December 2002. During that time the unit has trained in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Germany, and throughout the United States. Most recently the unit returned in April after completing a one-year deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“MAJ McIntire has done a great service to this unit. He is a role model, leader, and a genuine friend to all,” said SPC Jody Metzger, photojournalist for the 128th. McIntire’s new assignment as the state public affairs officer will keep him close to the unit and he said he’ll never forget his Soldiers.

At the ceremony, Patterson assumed command of 20 Soldiers. The 128th is a split-state unit with 10 Soldiers assigned from the Utah National Guard and 10 from the Colorado National Guard.

With 16 years in the Guard, Patterson was previously a

Portuguese linguist. His civilian employment is with Zija, a liquid dietary supplement company based in Lindon, where he works as an attorney.

Deployed to Iraq for one year with the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Patterson was in charge of an 18-Soldier mobile exploitation team. Patterson is used to smaller groups and says he will enjoy working closely with his Soldiers. “It’s a privilege to have this opportunity,” he said. 



CPT Chris Patterson, left, receives the unit colors and assumes command of the 128th.

Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

By MAJ Hank McIntire

211th Aviation Group and 211th Aviation 1st Attack Helicopter Battalion Change Command

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **T**he 211th Aviation Group of the Utah Army National Guard conducted two change-of-command ceremonies Nov. 18 at the West Jordan armory.

In the first ceremony, COL Gregory Cluff officially relinquished command of the 211th to COL Dana Yetton. Immediately following, LTC Scott Robinson turned the reins of 1st Attack Helicopter Battalion, 211th Aviation, to new commander LTC William Cluff.

The mission of the 211th is to provide command, control and supervision of the Corps Attack Helicopter Battalions. Its subordinate units include Headquarters Company, 211th Aviation Regiment; 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment; 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment and Detachment 50, Operational Support Airlift.

During Cluff’s tenure, elements of the 211th served in Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, trained in Nicaragua and Korea and supported relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast region.

Robinson, outgoing commander of the 1-211th, led his 350 Soldiers during their deployment to Afghanistan in 2004-05. The unit’s accomplishments included logging 17,000 Apache helicopter flight hours, transporting more than 42,000 personnel, conducting 10 aircraft recoveries, capturing thousands of pounds of enemy munitions, hauling five million pounds of cargo and flying nearly 2,000 air-assault, escort, and security missions. The 1-211th also distributed over 100,000 pounds of humanitarian aid.

In addition to serving as commander of the 211th, Yetton will continue as the full-time Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel of the Utah National Guard. 



LTC William Cluff and COL Dana Yetton.

Photo by MAJ Hank McIntire

Governor's Day At Camp Williams

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah —

Governor's Day 2005, an annual event sponsored by the Utah National Guard at Camp Williams, had a few never-before-seen twists Sept. 10.

Utah Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., presided over the event for the



Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. and Maj. Gen. Tarbet observe troops; Governor's Day Honor Guard with troops in formation; CSM Steven Stone, LTC Robert Church, LTC Loren Fuller; LTC Steven Esplin render salute; Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., salutes passing troops.

first time, which not only featured the traditional military parade and tributes to deployed Soldiers and their families but also included dozens of guests from Louisiana who were being sheltered at the post as Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Huntsman spoke to Soldiers, Airmen and Guard families for the first time as the Utah National Guard's commander in chief and praised them for their service and sacrifice during a time of many challenges at home and abroad.

"You who wear the uniform today have stepped up, and I thank you as your governor for what you have done," Huntsman said.

"I have learned to respect and love those who wear the uniform of the armed forces. And I also admire and respect the families of those who some-

times are left behind. It is those individuals whom I and your first lady, Mary Kaye, salute here as well today," Huntsman added.

During the program which featured music from the Utah Guard's 23rd Army Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer Jay Cottam, the crowd of 10,000 was treated to flyovers of two KC-135 air-refueling tankers from the 151st Air Refueling Wing of the Utah Air National Guard and AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters of the Utah Army National Guard's 211th Aviation.

Ceremonies also included presentation of medals to individual Guard members for their service overseas to include SPC Erick Lund, 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery, who received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service and

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photos by SPC Chris Gardner

wounds received in combat in Iraq.

Two Soldiers were awarded the Utah Cross by Governor Huntsman for bravery here at home: 1LT Blake Bingham, Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion; and SGT Josh Blackmer, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Bingham saved the life of a fellow unit member March 18 in Vernal. A Soldier had just completed the two-mile run portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test when he collapsed and stopped breathing. Bingham was on hand and immediately administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After a few of Bingham's breaths the Soldier regained consciousness, was taken to the hospital and later released.

When asked if he had spoken since with the Soldier about the incident, Bingham downplayed his role in helping out another Guardsman.

"I've talked to him a few times, but I'm not sure he even knows that I was the one who helped

him—and that's the way I'd like to keep it," said Bingham. "I happened to be the one right there when it happened. I just did what anyone else would have done."

Blackmer received the medal for his actions Aug. 10 at the scene of an overturned tractor-trailer hauling explosives in Spanish Fork Canyon. He provided basic first aid to the two drivers, helped extract them from the truck, took them to safety, and warned other motorists of the danger before the cargo exploded, leaving a 30 x 70-foot crater in U.S. Highway 6.

Recalling the incident, Blackmer said, "I think it was just sheer luck that I was there at the time that I was."

While many call him a hero, Blackmer shrugs off that label. "The Army spent thousands of dollars training me, and I

just did what I was trained to do,” he said.

After the awards ceremony Huntsman stepped into a humvee driven by SPC Gregory Annis, Utah Army National Guard Soldier of the year, and reviewed the formation with MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Patrick Wilson, I Corps Artillery, commander of troops for the day’s events.

Once each unit filed past the reviewing stand to salute the governor and military leaders assembled, individual Airmen and Soldiers were then released to enjoy the other activities of the day with their families to include equipment displays, a rappelling tower, zip line, pony rides and food court.

It was a patriotic, exciting day, and—given the diversity of those in attendance brought together by design or by circumstance—one not likely to be duplicated anytime soon.

PHOTOS TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE:
Utah Gov. Huntsman greets young visitors; SPC Ryan Sutherland, 128th Mobile PA Det; Two KC-135 aircraft from the Utah Air National Guard fly over the parade field; SPC Erick Lund, 1-148FA receives the Purple Heart, SGT Thomas Crookston, 141 MI Bn, SFC Daryl Hall, 141 MI Bn, SFC Reese Nelson, 141 MI Bn receive Bronze Star; SGT Josh Blackmer, Co C, 1-19th SF Gp (Airborne), receives the Utah Cross

for bravery; ILT Blake Bingham, Det. 1., Co B, 1457th Engr Bn, receives the Utah Cross for lifesaving; Crowd assembled on Camp Williams lawn to watch the festivities; Two young visitors to Camp Williams enjoy the military parade along with Gov. Huntsman and MG Tarbet.



Photos by SPC Chris Gardner

1-211th Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year



MG Tarbet delivering the keynote speech.

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **T**he 211th Aviation Regiment conducted a yellow-ribbon ceremony for the 350 Soldiers of the 1-211th Attack Helicopter Battalion at Copper Hills High School gymnasium Aug. 6, 2005. The 1-211th returned in April after serving for more than a year in Bagram and Qandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Narrated by MAJ Paul Brady, the ceremony opened with music provided by the 23rd Army Band and the posting of the colors. Jolene Sjoblom sang the National Anthem and Chaplain MAJ Mark Allison offered an invocation.

Albert Winn, Boeing's Vice President for Apache Programs, then presented a Boeing Combat Pin to Chief Warrant Officer Stew Smith, the youngest aviator in the 1-211th. Each Soldier in the unit received a pin from Boeing, the manufacturer of the AH-64 Apache helicopter.

Soldiers then viewed a video recording of an awards presentation of the Army Aviation Association of America to leaders of

the 1-211th. Each year the association selects three outstanding aviation units to recognize: One in the Active Army, one in the Army Reserve and one in the National Guard. The association selected the 1-211th as the outstanding National Guard Aviation unit of the year.

LTC Scott Robinson, commander of the 1-211th, then presented a Freedom Salute Award to SPC Jeffery Walker, the youngest Soldier to deploy with the battalion. Each returning Soldier received the award which included an encased American flag, a commemorative coin, a "Defender of Freedom" certificate and lapel insignia. Before he spoke to his Soldiers, Robinson removed the yellow ribbon from his battalion's colors, signifying officially that the 1-211th had completed its mission and returned home.

In his remarks, Robinson highlighted the accomplishments of his unit in Afghanistan to include logging more than 17,000 Apache helicopter flight hours, transporting more

than 42,000 personnel, conducting 10 aircraft recoveries, capturing thousands of pounds of enemy munitions, hauling five million pounds of cargo and flying nearly 2,000 air-assault, escort, and security missions.

The 1-211th also distributed over 100,000 pounds of humanitarian aid sent by the Angels of Afghanistan, a charitable group organized and staffed by spouses of deployed Soldiers of the Battalion. While Robinson lauded these impressive results, he reserved his greatest praise for his Soldiers. "I appreciate these Soldiers first and foremost because I owe them my life. I love these men and women with all my heart," he said, to which

one Soldier spontaneously responded, "We love you too, sir!"

Robinson also paid tribute to his Soldiers who are still recovering from combat wounds and to SSG Alan Rogers of the 1-211th who died in Afghanistan, "He is my pirate brother, and I will always remember him as such" said Robinson.

COL Gregory Cluff, commander of the 211th, also spoke to Soldiers and commended them for the impact they had on



Freedom Salute Award



LTC Scott Robinson, left, MG Brian Tarbet, center, and Albert Winn, Boeing Vice President recognizing the unit's achievements in Operation Enduring Freedom.

the people of Afghanistan. "I want to thank you for upholding the tradition of the United States Army by leaving a country better than you found it. You touched the hearts of individuals by making their lives better," Cluff said.

MG Brian Tarbet, The Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, keynoted the ceremony with his characteristically brief and to-the-point remarks. "You are a sight for sore eyes. We thank God for your safe return," Tarbet said. "This is the number one Aviation unit in the

Army--period. It's a privilege to soldier with all of you." Pointing to the crowd of families and friends assembled in the bleachers, Tarbet told Soldiers, "The real heroes in this building are in these stands today."

Speaking directly to the families Tarbet added, "Thank you so much for what you do. We don't pin a lot of medals on you, but we should." Tarbet asked Soldiers of the 1-211th to stand and applaud their loved ones. They stood as one and cheered and clapped for those they had left behind for the past year and a half. Then Tarbet reminded Soldiers of what lies ahead of them. "The future of Aviation in Utah is bright, but we need every single one of you Soldiers to refit and rebuild [this unit]," he said.

Following the ceremony, Soldiers and families mingled with one another and their leaders. Chief Warrant Officer Devin Snowball, an Apache pilot with the 1-211th, summed up what the ceremony meant to him. "It's our final sigh

at the end. We made it; the families made it," Snowball said. "Now we have some time with our families, and we're able to rest and start training up again."



LTC Robinson and COL Cluff showing the Army Aviation Association of America Recognition Award



The American Soldier Defender of Freedom Award

Moroccan Helicopter Personnel Visit Utah



TOP: Photo by Ray Carsey
BELOW: Photo by LT Neil Glad

ABOVE: Capt. Oubkhane squats down for a closer look at the AH-64 Apache cannon.
RIGHT: Capt. Oubkhane sits in the co-pilot's seat of a KC-135R.

By Lt. Col. David Thomas

SALT LAKE CITY – **T**wo Moroccan Air Force captains and a sergeant major visited with the Utah National Guard in January 2006 to become familiar with how the UTNG operates helicopters at high altitudes and uses night vision goggles.

Capt. Said Oubkhane, Capt. EI Habib Selmani and Sgt. Maj. Hamid Idrissi, with LTC Neil Glad as their escort, flew into Las Vegas International Airport and then drove to Salt Lake City, taking in the snowy winter landscape.

“I am surprised at how much snow you have. We only have snow on our

mountain-tops,” said Oubkhane.

Both Oubkhane and Selmani were fluent in English, but an interpreter, TSgt. Gilles Gohier, was provided for Idrissi and to translate some of the technical terms. The Moroccans were brought to Utah via the State Partnership Program between Utah and Morocco.

The first order of business was to give them a tour of the Blackhawk they would be flying in and let them take a close look at an AH-64 Apache gunship. The Moroccans do not have anything like the Apache in their inventory.



The familiarization, conducted by the 211th Aviation, consisted of observing how the UTNG trains air crew and some hands-on training with night vision equipment. They were also shown the life-support section and given a tour of the maintenance facilities.

The experience culminated with two flights on a late afternoon in the West Desert. After the first terrain

TOP: Photo by LTC Neil Glad
BELOW: Photo by Lt. Col. David Thomas



Capt. Oubkhane, Sgt. Maj. Idrissi, and Capt. Selmani look as CW3 Cynthia Hudgens, a life-support technician, shows them the contents of a survival vest.



Capt. Selmani hangs in the parachute trainer at the ANG base while SRA Duncan instructs him.

familiarization flight during daylight, they repeated the flight in the dark actually using the night vision goggles.

The flights took place in the Blackhawk helicopter, which was a big change for the Moroccans. Oubkhane flies the French-made Gazelle at home while Selmani is a CH-47 Chinook pilot. Idrissi is the chief of mechanics for the AB-205 helicopters at Meknes Air Base. In Morocco all helicopters

are flown by Air Force personnel, so while here they took an opportunity to visit the Utah Air National Guard Base. They also used the parachute trainer and toured a KC-135R.

On the weekend, they visited the Hill Air Force Base Museum and Park City. They were amazed at all of the ski resorts. "We only have two ski stations in all of Morocco," said Selmani.

Selmani said they we all thankful for the kindness of the UTNG and the courtesies they had been shown while here.

Certification of the 85TH CST



Preliminary briefing

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

EHPRAIM and SOUTH SALT LAKE, Utah —

The heat was on for the Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team. Not only did the 22 highly trained, full-time members of the Air and Army National Guard battle the temperatures of a hot Utah summer, but they also underwent a certification exercise to see if they could meet federal standards for assisting local civil authorities in the event of an actual chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosives incident.

The mission of the 85th is to respond upon request through their chain of command to identify hazardous substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise local incident commanders on response measures, and assist with appropriate requests for additional support. An evaluation team from Fifth U.S. Army, responsible for providing training assistance and support for reserve-component units, observed the 85th in action in Ephraim and then evaluated the unit on 15 separate tasks at a simulated hazmat incident in South Salt Lake.

In the Ephraim scenario, located at the Snow College Theatre Scene Shop warehouse, first responders found suspected hazardous sub-



Communication is critical

stances and a victim with symptoms of chemical poisoning. The 85th was contacted for support, and they made the two-hour drive from West Jordan to respond. Upon arrival, the 85th worked with local authorities to assess and respond to the suspected CBRNE hazard. Local agencies involved in the exercise included the Sanpete and Sevier County Sheriffs, fire departments from Ephraim, Fairview, Mount Pleasant,

*"We've shown that through the right training we can deploy light, smart and fast."
— Lt. Col. Wendy Cline*

and Sterling, and police and ambulance units from Ephraim and Manti.

True to the goal of achieving seamless interoperability between civilian and military resources, two local firefighters from Fairview and Sterling donned chemical protective suits along with members of the 85th to enter the building to make an initial assessment of the hazmat threat.

Sanpete County Deputy Sheriff Kevin Holman, who played a major role in setting up the Ephraim exercise, said the multi-agency effort paid several dividends. "Every-



Tracking team's performance

body came together with an open mind, we went to work and we got it done. That's how it should be," said Holman. "The best part was that our guys didn't know the Guard was coming. They realized that this was something beyond their scope and actually decided on their own to call for help from the 85th CST."

Ephraim Fire Chief Ronde Larsen also saw the benefit of having his all-volunteer fire department work with the Guard. "Up until about three months ago, most of us didn't have any idea that the [85th CST] even did this," Larsen said. "Now that we know they're there, they're a good resource and if we need to use them we won't hesitate to call them."

The Ephraim exercise was a final opportunity for the 85th to tune up for their certification exercise. At the conclusion of the day's training, 85th Commander Lt. Col. Wendy Cline reflected on her team's performance.

"We've shown that through the right training we can deploy light, smart and fast. Coordination with our local responders will be the key." Cline said. "This is the first time we've worked with some of our hazmat counterparts in the state and for them, it was a huge eye-opener to see what a great resource we could be to both train and respond with. The excitement brought to this region

today, I think that was the fun part. They were asking, ‘When can we train with you again?’” added Cline.

MSG Darren Budge, unit first sergeant, noted some learning points from the Ephraim exercise but was confident that the 85th would make the adjustments necessary to do well for the actual certification.

“Every training event is a learning event. Any time you learn things it’s a good thing,” Budge said. “We focus on not making the same mistakes twice, and today showed how far we’ve really come in the past year.”

Leaders of the 85th knew that both scenarios would be no-notice exercises. With one scenario under their belt and little time to recover from it, the call came just two days later at 4 a.m. when the South Salt Lake Fire and Police Departments responded to a dumpster fire, vehicle explosion, and the discovery of a suspicious substance in an abandoned warehouse. The 85th was on scene in just over 90 minutes and began setting up operations.

One task for the 85th was to set up and maintain reach-back communications with government agencies for local responders in the event that backup communications were needed. From the incident site the unit could then pass secure or classified information back and forth between the 85th and federal agencies if necessary.

“This capability is driven by the CST’s mission to support the local

incident commander. If their own organic communications cannot meet that requirement, then they’ll look to the [CST] to get them on the system,” said Jack Carr, a Fifth Army evaluator.

In South Salt Lake members of the 85th put all their training and experience into this do-or-die exercise. They made a total of three entries into the warehouse to assess and mitigate the hazard, responded to a “man-down” situation where a team member became ill or injured and could not continue their as-

“We have an awesome responsibility and role in protecting our neighbors and families.”

—CPT Dean Roberts

signed mission, interfaced with first responders, dealt with the media and endured the 100-degree heat.

South Salt Lake Fire Chief Steve Foote was impressed with the amount of training and resources and expertise that the 85th made available to his department. “We didn’t know until today what they really can do for us. It expands our capability tenfold,” Foote said. “Regardless of what level of government you work in, we all have the same goal to protect life, protect property, and make sure our citizens know that their tax dollars are being spent wisely and can sleep well at night.”

LTC Bart Berry, Joint Director of

Military Support for the Utah National Guard and military liaison with state and federal entities participating in the exercise was equally impressed.

“The 85th has been needed in the state for quite a few years. They bring a robust capability to the program. These guys are relevant and ready, and we’re excited to have them,” Berry said.

In the end, the 85th completed all 15 evaluated tasks and passed with flying colors. A proud Lt. Col. Wendy Cline summed up what certification now means to the unit.

“As Governor Huntsman’s 911 WMD response force, we are really representing the very best of what the National Guard is all about. We have an awesome responsibility and role in protecting our neighbors and families as Citizen-Soldiers and Airman.” Putting it even more succinctly, CPT Dean Roberts, operations officer for the 85th said, “We are the pointy end of the spear for homeland defense.”

Now members of the 85th can respond to actual CBRNE emergencies in support of local first responders throughout the state. They not only have a certification they can hang on their wall, but they can also count on the respect and appreciation of their civilian counterparts.

“It’s been a long road. This week is the culmination of the past year.” Budge said. “We have an important role, and we’re proud to represent the Utah National Guard in serving the citizens of Utah.”



Training for hazards



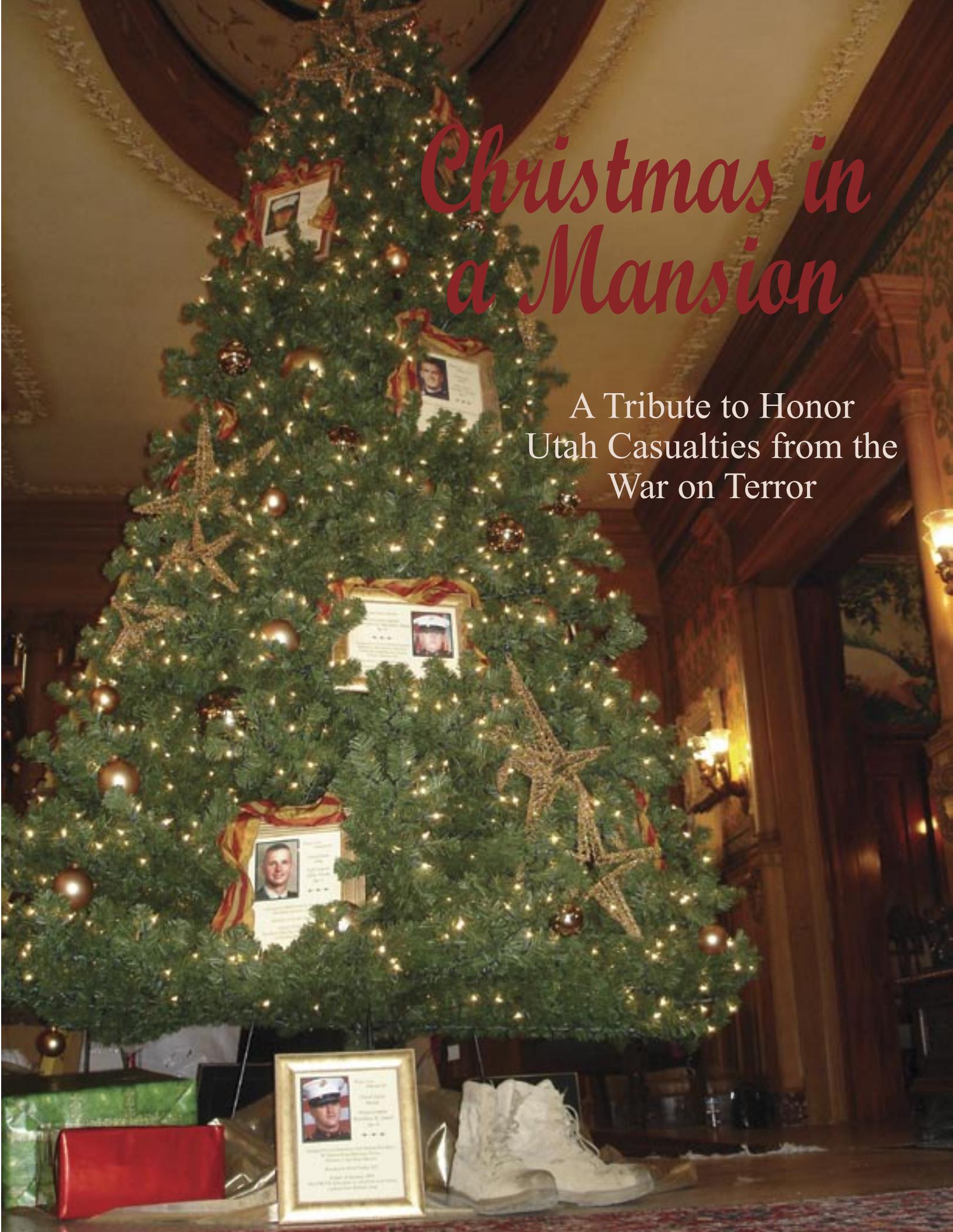
Working together



Mission success

Christmas in a Mansion

A Tribute to Honor
Utah Casualties from the
War on Terror





Photos by Tonia Johnson and Lynnae Chilcott

By Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY – **T**he Governor’s Mansion’s main Christmas tree this year was decorated with sparkling white lights, gold ornaments, glistening stars, red ribbons and gold picture frames encasing the portraits of Utah’s casualties from the nation’s War on Terror. First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman presented the idea for the tree to Tonia Johnson of the Family Programs Department for the Utah National Guard.

“At first I thought I would make it a fun red, white and blue tree,” said Johnson, who designed the tree. “I

was going to put up Christmas balls that say things like ‘U.S. Air Force’. I now call that the gaudy version of the tree. I realized the tree had to have a humbling feel to it.”

Placed beneath the tree next to the beautifully wrapped boxes is a desert-camouflage helmet, flight vest and boots all worn in Iraq by Utah National Guard Soldiers. The tree gave visitors an opportunity this Christmas season to stop in silence and pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. 

OPPOSITE: Tree displayed in Governor’s Mansion. TOP LEFT: Framed picture of Army Captain Nathan S. Dalley; Gold ornament nestled on the tree; Gear displayed beneath tree; Tonia Johnson preparing an ornament for display; GROUP PHOTO CLOCKWISE: Lynnae Chilcott, Sundee Peterson, Jill Lukes, MSgt. Brad Johnson, and Tonia Johnson all helped decorate the tree; Framed pictures of Marine Lance Corporal Gabricio Machaelo-Omos, Army Staff Sergeant Clint Ferrin, and Marine Corporal Matthew R. Smith.

Keeping Us Fit and Healthy

By 1LT Wencke Tate

DRAPER, Utah – **Y**ou may often see activities around the Draper Headquarters such as people getting poked with needles, group meetings or loud music and cheers from the gym every Tuesday and Thursday. One person is behind all of this: LTC Fran Marcus. Marcus is the Occupational Health Nurse for the Utah National Guard. One of the main goals in her job is to implement programs for the betterment of the employees in the Utah National Guard.

A C-reactive protein screen was one of the recent programs offered. A small vial of blood was collected from tested individuals to see if they were at risk for heart disease.

“I brought the C-reactive protein test here because it was one of the newest health tests for predicting who may be at risk for heart disease. It doesn’t mean



SPC Kim Kirts, MEDCOM, finishes up a blood draw on SGT Devin Shelley, 1457th Engineers. All employees were invited to have blood drawn to see if they are at risk for heart disease.

you will get heart disease if your results are bad, but it can indicate a problem and potentially make people aware of their health before they might get diagnosed with something later on,” said Marcus.

“The thing that was interesting about the outcome was many of us got results we didn’t like, but it made us aware that we should make some lifestyle changes.”

SGT James Bell received the notice by Email of this opportunity. “The reason I did it was because it was free and I figured I’d just see and get an idea of where my health might be because my dad died at a fairly young age,” said Bell. “[When I got the results] my reaction was one of shock that my score seemed so much higher than some of the other people in the room and they were older than me and had bad habits that I don’t have, like smoking. It made me take a look at what things I could be eating and analyze my activity level.”

With exercise and diet, C-reactive protein levels can be lowered.

“No test, no matter how good it is, changes anyone’s health. It’s what we do in response to the results that matters,” said Marcus.



SGT Devin Shelley, 1457th Engineer Battalion, patiently waits for SGT Kyle Gaerte, MEDCOM, to finish the blood draw. Approximately 200 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians took advantage of the free screening.

Photos by Tech SGT Brad Leiter

Another program Marcus sponsors is Weight Watchers. It has been offered at Draper for the past three years.

"I'm glad to see people do a healthy, non-gimmick, weight-reduction program. Weight Watchers is healthy and relatively inexpensive, and we help defray the cost to those who want to join. Best of all it is consistent, and if you stay with it you will lose weight," said Marcus.

One of the success stories of the Weight Watchers at Work Program is Raini Robison, a logistic systems analyst. Robison lost 41 pounds since she started the program last April.

"I truly don't know if I would have taken that step to walk into a center if it wasn't offered here at work. The convenience of it being at work is the number-one thing. If it wasn't offered here I probably would be where I was nine months ago," said Robison. "Now, I feel much better and have more energy and its fun getting into smaller clothes. Although I was healthy when I was carrying all that extra weight, I consider (my weight loss) preventive maintenance so I don't come down with health problems in the future, like diabetes and high cholesterol."

And learning healthy eating habits has not only benefited her - she brought her knowledge home to her family. "My house is stocked with different foods now. Whole foods and not processed foods. We've changed."

For the past ten years aerobics has been offered and recently has been funded by Occupational Health.

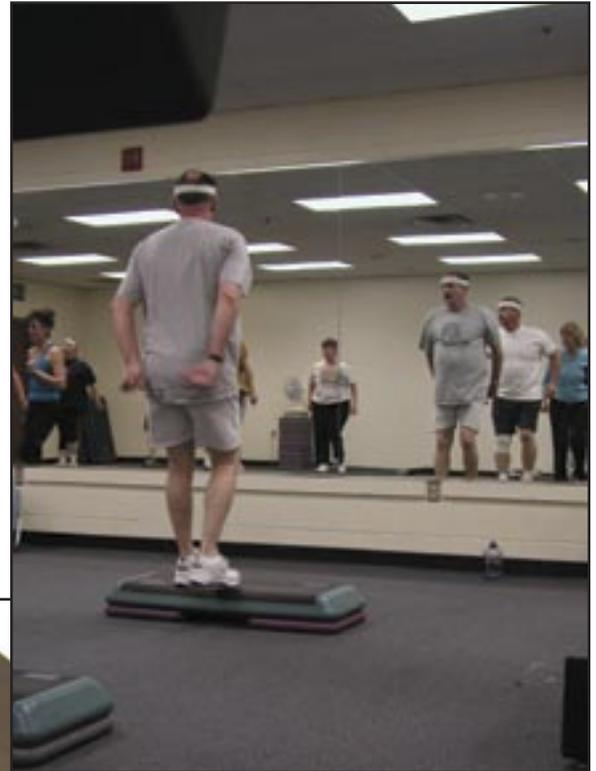
Frank Herring retired from the Utah Guard last year and now works in Draper as a civilian contractor. He has been an avid aerobics attendee at work and in his free time for the past 20 years and is happy they offer it as a cardio option at work.

"I ran a lot, but I like aerobics better because it gets my heart rate up faster than running and it's easier on my knees," said Herring. "And aerobics is not just for women. Guys can come. I encourage them. I think what most guys

think is they're uncoordinated or they can't dance, but you just learn the routine and it's a lot of fun and a good workout."

"We've had the instructor for the past 10 years and we've been very lucky to have an instructor that has been consistent, and we really appreciate her," said Marcus. "I encourage everyone to take an opportunity to try one of her classes on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 10:30 a.m."

Aerobics



Photos by LLT Wencke Tate



Joyce Anderson, ESGR, steps to the beat of the music in the aerobics class offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30.

Workout

For Marcus, who has been working as the Occupational Health Nurse for the past 13 years, her job can't be any more gratifying. "I love my job, I love the people, and the Guard has given me more opportunities than I could have imagined; much more than if I worked in a hospital." And for Marcus, the best part of her job is seeing the results from the lifestyle changes employees make from the programs being offered.

If you have any ideas that LTC Marcus might be able to incorporate for the wellness of the employees, stop by and see her with your suggestions.

"I would love it if people came up to me with ideas and tell me what they want because ultimately it is the Utah National Guard employees' program."

There are many more activities Marcus is planning.

"The Corporate Games are coming up. Last year we took first place. It's rewarding to see the camaraderie that's built and although winning isn't everything it was nice to see everyone pulling together with their best effort.

Two Moroccan Doctors Visit Utah

By SrA Christiana Elieson

The Moroccans were in town again. This time two public-health professionals came over to see the help we provide people in the United States who need trauma care; and the work and cleanup we can do in cases of terrorism, whether in a conventional, chemical or biological type of attack.

Commandant (Major) Mohamed Rabi, a public-health officer, and Zakaris Raissouni, an orthopedic surgeon and professor at the medical school in Rabat, Morocco, arrived in Utah Aug. 17.

They came to see the medical facilities and abilities to handle mass casualties that are available in the U.S. and find out what they can learn from the technology and plans that are laid out in case of biological or chemical spills and other disasters.

The trip went really well, said Lt. Col. David Thomas State Partnership Programs coordinator. “We matched most of the stuff they wanted and gave us a feel for what we can do for them, especially when we go over to Morocco.”

One of the most important opportunities they had, according to Thomas, was the opportunity to visit the University of Utah and see what abilities they have to treat trauma patients and the decontamination equipment of the 85th Civil Support Team.

Other places they were able to visit were Snowbird, Park City, and the weapons simulator at Camp Williams. They also attended a training seminar for Army medical personnel.

One of the pilots of the Air-Med helicopter poses while showing Commandants Mohamed Rabi and Zakaris Raissouni what they do for trauma victims in the air.



Photo courtesy of Jerrald Roberts, University of Utah School of Medicine

Photo by Lt. Col. David Thomas



Army, Air Guard Combine to Aid Navajo School

ABOVE: AIC Evans, SPC Romig, and SrA Orozco setting up computers for the school. RIGHT: TSgt. Thompson, SrA Oroznczo, SPC Romig, Lt. Col. Thomas and AIC Evans at Four Corners.

By AIC Benjamin Evans

TEEC NOS POS, Utah – **F**ive members of the Utah Army and Air National Guard took a six-day trip to the small town of Teec Nos Pos, on the Navajo Indian Reservation near Four Corners, to help set up 23 new federal grant-supplied computer systems for the T’iis Nazbas School.

The school recently lost their technology director, and needed help trouble shooting the systems and setting up the network. Lt. Col. David Thomas, the Utah National Guard State Partnership Programs coordinator, organized the trip and service for the school. TSgt. Michelle Thompson, SPC Josh Romig and SrA Nick Orozco all assisted on the trip.

The computer support is part of an ongoing partnership between the Utah ANG and the Navajo Nation to help their school obtain and use the latest technology. The Air Guard has provided computer support to the school for the past seven years. This is the first year the Army Guard has participated.

T’iis Nazbas Principal Dlephina John said, “I think it is awesome just knowing that a program is open to help the school move forward in technology. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you.” John also explained that a high percentage of children from her reservation serve in the military. She has a son at the Air Force Academy.



Photo by Utah National Guard

Small-screen Fun for Little Ones

Master Sgt. Pamela Hamburg, 109th Air Control Squadron, drops off over 100 movies donated by members of the 109th ACS to

Primary Children’s and Shriners’s Hospitals to help ease the pain for children at the hospitals.



Photo provided by the 109th ACS

Destination U.A.E.

Story and photos by MSG Mark E. Savage

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates – **T**he “tasking” was really not a tasking at all, more of a TDY (temporary duty). An Email from National Guard Bureau simply asked for a logistics planner to assist with a multinational exercise at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. I thought, ‘Wow. What an opportunity, and only 90 days? A piece of cake!’ I accepted. I then received another Email saying there is a need for another person, an administration type. Then, by happenstance, SMSgt. Dave Powell, the 151st Operations Support Flight Combat Crew Communications Superintendent, poked his head into the office and said, “I’m in!” and the team was born.

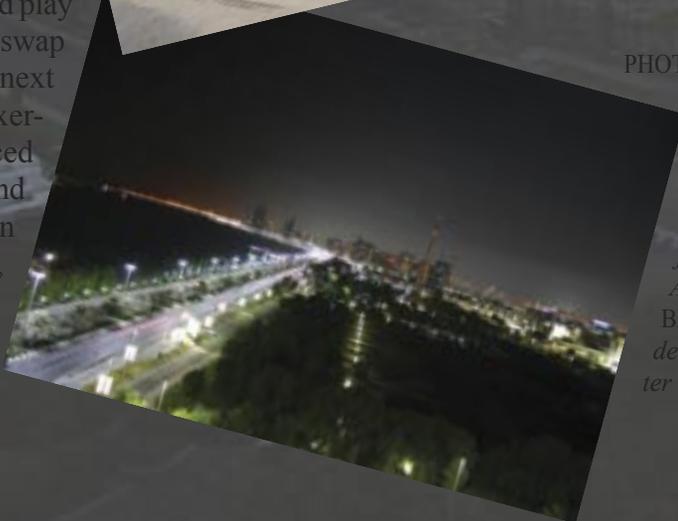
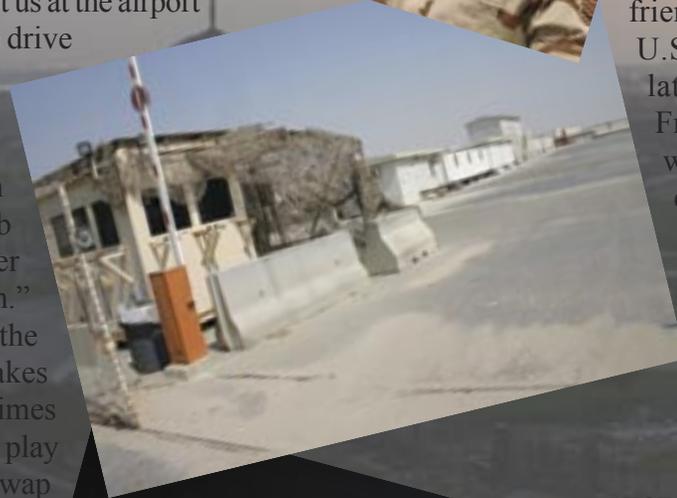
We departed Sept. 15 from Salt Lake International Airport. Leaving Utah during my favorite time of the year was hard for me to do, but I was excited for this adventure and proud to contribute to an important mission. Three airplanes and 24 hours later we touched down at the Abu Dhabi International Airport.

Our two active-duty escorts met us at the airport and we were off for the 45-minute drive to the hotel. The mission required us to work as a detachment through the U.S. Embassy with a multi-national force. Our mission was to support the United Arab Emirates Gulf Air Warfare Center for the exercise called “Iron Falcon.” This 30-day exercise is similar to the USAF Red Flag exercise that takes place at Nellis AFB, Nev. several times a year. Many units get together and play war games, evaluate their results, swap sides, and try to get better the next day. The Emirates were the exercise host, but the more experienced USAF established the scenarios and procedures for the participants. In addition to the U.A.E. and U.S., the British Royal Air Force, French Air Force, and the Saudi Air Force participated as well.

When we arrived for work, the permanent party of four active-duty personnel were in the process of getting the facilities ready for the arrival of the participants. We worked on a five-acre compound in the middle of the base out of mobile trailers. We did odd jobs every day to accomplish the mission at hand, which was to prepare for the arrival, operation, and redeployment of the exercise participants. The folks at HQ CENTAF-Shaw AFB, S.C., were my contacts for all things Logistics. I assisted with the setting up of contracts for billeting for USAF participants, which was off-base, rental cars, as well as other associated items. Planning the arrival of about 24 fighter jets, bringing in 100 short tons of

cargo and approximately 300 personnel was a challenge due to the host-nation holiday work schedules, equipment provided to support the exercise, and the important fact that the exercise could not impact real-world missions.

SMSgt. Powell and I learned a lot, made some good friends, and contributed to the U.S.A./USAF diplomatic relationships with the British, French, and Saudi Forces. I would recommend that everyone, if possible, volunteer for duties outside our comfortable Utah atmosphere to experience more of the big military picture.



PHOTOS FROM TOP: SMSgt. Mark Savage and SMSgt. Dave Powell stop for a photo while on location at Al Dhafra AB, U.A.E.; Looking through the security gate toward the USAF Air Warfare Center work site; Night at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. BACKGROUND PHOTO: The Presidential Palace and Conference Center at sunsets.

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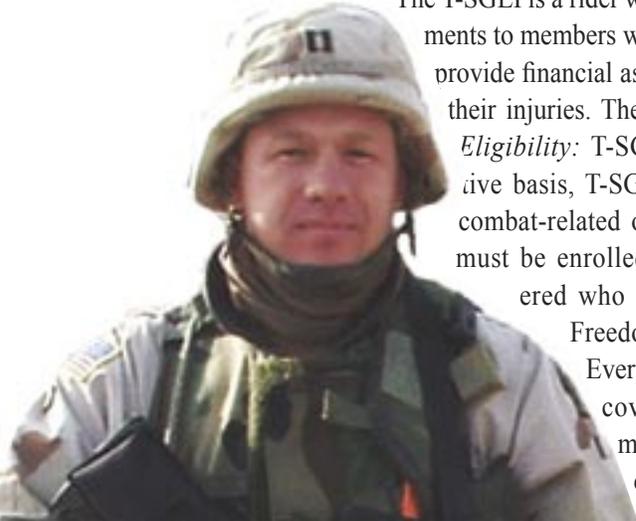
www.1800goguard.com/esar or call 1-800-GOGUARD, ext. 3727

Does not apply for full-time recruiting personnel or Soldiers performing recruiting activities while on orders.

This program is effective 18 January 2006

Note: ESAR cannot be used in conjunction with the new GRAP Program

Traumatic Servicemember Group Life Insurance Program



The T-SGLI is a rider which will be attached to SGLI coverage, and will provide for lump-sum insurance payments to members who suffer a traumatic injury. This coverage starts December 1, 2005 and is designed to provide financial assistance to members so their loved ones can be with them during their recovery from their injuries. The coverage ranges from \$25,000 to \$100,000 depending on the nature of the injury.

Eligibility: T-SGLI covers both prospective and certain past traumatic injuries. On a prospective basis, T-SGLI is designed to provide financial assistance to Service members who suffer a combat-related or accidental injury (not necessarily as a result of combat). Prospective members must be enrolled in SGLI to receive T-SGLI benefits. Retroactively, Servicemembers are covered who sustained a qualifying traumatic injury directly supporting Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom between October 7, 2001 and December 1, 2005.

Every member who has SGLI coverage will also have T-SGLI as of December 1, 2005. This coverage will apply to active-duty members, reservists, funeral honors duty and one-day muster duty. This coverage will not apply to spouses and children covered under Family SGLI.

The premium for T-SGLI will be a flat rate of \$1.00, regardless of coverage level. The \$1.00 T-SGLI premium will be added to the \$26.00 SGLI premium (for those with the full \$400k coverage). The deduction for \$27.00 will appear on the December LES. The member may not decline coverage unless they have declined SGLI coverage.

The T-SGLI is not disability compensation and has no effect on entitlement for compensation and pension benefits provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or disability benefits provided by the Department of Defense. Obtain a claim form by: Calling 1-866-275-0684, e-mail TSGLI@hoffman.army.mil, or download from Web page www.aw2.army.mil/tsgli/

TSGLI Program Facts	Injured between 7 OCT 2001 and 5 Dec 2005	Injured After 1 Dec 2005
Tax Free	yes	yes
Covered by SGLI	no	yes
One-time payment	yes	yes
Surviving family receives benefits	yes	yes
Payments processed in 2 weeks	yes	yes
File on behalf of eligible Servicemember	yes	yes
Receive payments electronically	yes	yes
Ability to submit applications electronically or by fax	yes	yes

Benefits and Education



Scholarships

State Tuition Waivers (Scholarships) are now being accepted. All Utah National Guard Soldiers attending or planning on attending the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters may apply for tuition waivers.

These waivers are good at any State University or College. Apply now, before the deadline of March 31, 2006 and get your schooling paid for. For more information and the application, see the following Web site: <http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil/education2>.

Chapter 1607

The VA is processing applications for Chapter 1607 for those Soldiers that were mobilized in support of GWOT under Title 10, USC. Soldiers that may be eligible need to go to the VA Web site – www.va.gov. They then need to click on Benefits and Education. That will bring up the location to find information about Chapter 1607. If applying for Chapter 1607 the Soldiers will need to enclose a copy of their mobilization and demobilization order as well as a copy of DD Form 214 releasing them from a mobilization status.

169th Intelligence Squadron Crew Awarded General Jerome F. O'Malley Award

By Maj. Scott Lythgoe

Air crew members from the 169th Intelligence Squadron were awarded the 2004 Air Force Association General Jerome F. O'Malley Award. The award is given to the "Best Reconnaissance Crew in the U.S. Air Force." The award was given to crew members of Senior Scout mission 1CY040605, which also consisted of members from the 192nd Airlift Squadron, Nevada, and the 97th Intelligence Squadron, Nebraska.

Members of the 169th were deployed to Uzbekistan in support of Combined Joint Task Force-76 Operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On June 8, 2004, a Senior Scout crew of the 169th departed in an EC-130 from the 192nd Airlift Squadron, Nevada Air National Guard. Their assigned mission was a routine operation in support of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit-Special Operations Capable.

Lt. Col. William G. Siddoway, 169th commander, said, "Upon arrival at the target area, the short-handed crew was informed by a small element of the 22MEU that it was surrounded by at least 120 anti-coalition militia who were preparing an ambush. The 22MEU requested the Senior Scout Crew to find and fix the locations of the sur-

rounding hostile elements, to provide imminent threat warning of attack, and 'Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield' for the impending ground operation."

Lt. Col. Siddoway continued, "Within 90 seconds of the request, Senior Scout crew members positively identified anti-coalition militants posing an imminent and capable threat. The militants were engaged by the 22MEU who reported that, following initial stiff resistance, the anti-coalition militants were fleeing."

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Senior Scout crew members continued to support ground operations by positioning the aircraft to continue to prosecute targets, maintain contact with ground elements, and deconflict airspace with other coalition attack aircraft. When the supported 22MEU elements were asked if the Senior Scout crew had provided the support necessary during the operation, they responded emphatically, "Hell yes!"

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Aircraft Mission 1CY040605 was conducted using a modified EC-130 aircraft provided by the 192nd Airlift Squadron, Nevada Air National Guard. The Senior Scout mission system was provided by the 169th Intelligence Squadron, Utah Air National Guard.



Aircraft Data and Crew of Mission 1CY040605

CREW

Capt. Andrew R. Kremers	192AS	Pilot/Aircraft Commander	MSgt. Richard T. Vandegrift	169IS	Back-up Airborne Systems Engineer
1Lt. Kevin Eikleberry	192AS	Copilot	MSgt. Daniel R. Joy	169IS	Lead Collection Operator
Lt. Col. Donald A. Harvey	192AS	Navigator	SSgt. Jeffrey N. Kennicott	169IS	Collection Operator
MSgt. Michael M. Martin	192AS	Flight Engineer	TSgt. Tom B. Garcia	169IS	Collection Operator
SSgt. Russell Stewart	192AS	Loadmaster	SSgt. Paul L. Glade	169IS	Collection Operator
SMSgt. Michael L. Scoresby	169IS	Airborne Mission Supervisor	TSgt. Casey D. Goldston	97IS	Special Signals Operator
MSgt. Mark L. Alfred	169IS	Airborne Analyst/Reporter	TSgt. David E. Anderson	169IS	ELINT Systems Operator
CMSgt. Dandy O. Diddle	169IS	Data Link Operator	Lt. Col. William G. Siddoway	169IS	169 EIS Detachment Commander / Observer
MSgt. Matthew A. Games	169IS	Lead Airborne Systems Engineer			

Veterans Day Concert at the University of Utah's Huntsman Center

By COL Craig Morgan and MAJ Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard honored veterans of all services again this year with a concert held at the University of Utah's Huntsman Center, Nov. 11.

The concert marked the 50th year of this annual event and showcased the 23rd Army Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer J. Mike Cottam, and the combined high school choirs from Granite School District.

The first concert in the series was held in 1955, and the event is the longest, continuously running Veterans Day celebration in the nation.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was TSgt. Sterling Poulson, a local television personality and member of the Utah Air National Guard. The program was produced by KUED Television for tape-delay broadcast on Channel 7 and for rebroadcast on the Armed Forces Network.

The program featured musical selections which have been

presented by the band and the choir over the past 50 years.

Songs included instrumental and vocal solos, and the audience was also treated to a dance number featuring the Utah Valley State Dance Team dressed as World War II Sailors, Soldiers and nurses.

During a special presentation, Millard County Sheriff Ed Phillips received the Pro Patria award, presented to him by Utah Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Chairman BG (Ret.) James Martin.

SFC Richard Carter, Battery A, 1-145th Field Artillery, nominated Phillips for the award for the tremendous support the sheriff's office, Carter's civilian employer, provided to him during his deployment to Iraq.

Commander in Chief of the Utah National Guard Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., keynoted the concert with some brief remarks to thank veterans old and new for their service.



Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

Honor Guard stands at attention.

Huntsman paid tribute to World War II Veterans Ray Casaday and Marvin Mower, and Vietnam prisoner of war Jay Jensen.

"They, along with thousands of other Utahns, have served and sacrificed for our nation and continue to do so," he said.

To those serving today, Huntsman added, "Since the start of the Global War on Terrorism, our deployment numbers are the highest in the history of the Utah National Guard. On behalf of a very grateful state, please accept deep thanks and appreciation."

One of the traditional highlights of the evening was the playing of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard songs. Master of Ceremonies Poulson invited veterans present to stand while their Service's song was played. The audience erupted with applause as Service members old and young stood for their song.

The evening also provided plenty of excitement for members of the combined choir. First-timer Oyoyo Bonner, a sophomore at Cyprus High School, was one of three soloists for the song, "So Many



The combined Granite School District high school choirs perform for veterans and families.



Dancers from Utah Valley State Dance Team present a big-band dance number at the 50th Annual Veterans Day concert sponsored by the Utah National Guard and the Honorary Colonels' Corps.



Photos by SPC Samantha Xanthos

Voices.” She was in awe of the pageantry and tribute to veterans.

“I’ve never done anything like this before. It felt good to be a part of it,” Bonner said after the concert. “Our veterans have done so much for us. I appreciate their sacrifice.”

Band members expressed appreciation for what the choir adds to the concert each year. SGT Randy Cox, tuba player with the 23rd Army Band, said it’s very rewarding to accompany the choir every year, but this year’s event took on even more meaning for him personally.

“I’m dedicating this year’s concert to my brother serving in the Middle East as a member of the Naval Reserve,” Cox said.

Adding a not-so-typical element to a brass-band concert, SFC Ron Stevens, Joint Forces Headquarters, Utah National Guard, played a beautiful and stirring violin solo, “Irish Tune from County Derry,” more popularly known as “Danny Boy.”

A veteran himself, Stevens deployed with the 144th Evacuation Hospital during Desert Storm. He has played the violin for more than 50 years and has performed as a soloist at the Tabernacle on Temple Square.

Stevens received a standing ovation and was coaxed into performing an encore number, “Romance,” with his daughter, Teresa Stevens Winder, at the piano.

“It was a real honor to perform with Teresa in this special setting. As a veteran myself, I know what

it feels like to be away from home and family,” Stevens said. “It was also fun to see the looks on many of my Guard colleagues’ faces who had no idea that I played the violin.”

The concert concluded with “Taps,” played by 1SG David Krueger, followed by the two concert staples over the years, “Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

Ray Casaday,

mentioned by the governor in his remarks, was a Marine who was wounded in the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943 in World War II. He was in attendance at the concert for the first time. He summed up for his fellow Utah veterans what it meant to have this honor paid to them.

“I loved it,” Casaday said. “It was a wonderful tribute.”



Air Force Veterans in the audience stand as their Service's song, “Wild Blue Yonder,” is played at the concert.

Utah Soldier Rescues Injured Motorist

By SGT Scott Faddis

PERSHING COUNTY, Nev. —

One Utah National Guard Soldier, SGT Scott Campbell, 640th Regional Training Institute, was returning home to Utah Jan. 22 from the Midwinter Enlisted Association Conference in Reno when a situation required his first-aid skills.

While traveling east of Reno along Interstate 80 with his wife Ellen and their young son, Campbell came upon an overturned sport utility vehicle in the median.

According to Campbell, at the scene the elderly driver, Robert Adams, was already out of the vehicle looking disoriented and stumbling around.

Immediately Campbell started to evaluate his condition, which showed the early stages of shock.

Adams explained that he had fallen asleep and that his 51-year-old daughter was still in the vehicle. Campbell and others who had stopped to help, wrapped Adams in a blanket and turned their attention to Adams' daughter, Stephanie Mathis.

Nevada State Trooper Peeples ar-

rived at the scene and asked if anyone had medical training. Campbell explained that he was a Soldier in the Utah National Guard and had some training.

Peeples instructed Campbell to help Mathis as the trooper led Adams to his vehicle. Peeples then informed Campbell that due to the remoteness of the location, EMTs were still several minutes away.

Mathis was lying on the ceiling of the vehicle and her head was wedged between the door frame and the seat's headrest. Campbell worked his way through the crushed passenger side window opening where there was about 15 inches of clearance. He tried to comfort and reassure Mathis while at the same time determining the extent of her injuries.

Mathis complained of severe pain in her arm, so Campbell started to feel his way along her limb to see if he could find the cause of her pain. Campbell noticed that her arm had gone through the window and was pinned under the vehicle as it lay on its roof.

At this point EMTs arrived and put a helmet on Campbell to pro-



Photo by Utah National Guard

SGT Scott Campbell
640th Regional Training Institute

tect him in case the SUV rolled.

EMTs slipped an air bag under the car to free her pinned arm. As they lifted the vehicle Campbell tried to hold her arm steady.

Upon seeing the severity of the injury, Campbell immediately called for a compress to stop the blood flow because she still was not in a position to be moved.

Campbell wrapped Mathis' arm with bandages and stayed in the vehicle with her to stabilize her arm, as the EMTs used the Jaws of Life to remove her from the wreckage.

Mathis was rushed to a hospital in Winnemucca and was later flown to a trauma center in Reno. According to the Nevada Highway Patrol she was in stable condition. Adams was treated for his injuries and released later that evening.

Campbell credits his ability to quickly assess and react to the situation to his years of Army Common Task Training.

"Two years ago the 640th taught the medical [common task training] to deploying units every weekend for two to three months," he said. "That training and experience allowed me to know exactly what to do."

Mother's Day Celebration

Thursday, May 11, 2006
6:30pm – 9:00pm
At Camp Williams

For the families of deployed Servicemen

Limited seating – for reservations and more information
call (801) 943-4230 or e-mail admin@wrcofslc.org
Hosted by The Women's Republican Club of Salt Lake City

Gifts*Prizes*Activities*Dinner

Free Tax-Filing Service to Military Members

By Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris M. Hwang, USN Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – **M**ilitary members and their families can now file their taxes for free, thanks to a partnership between a group that helps military people deal with financial issues and a civilian financial services company.

“Military OneSource” has partnered up with Intuit, a financial services company, to provide the TurboTax basic product for federal and state returns at no cost. Military members can download this program and also benefit from tax consultations and have access to appropriate resources. The Military OneSource Web site will provide annual upgrades to the TurboTax software at no cost.

“This tax consultant support for filing 2006 taxes is available telephon-

ically toll free (800-342-9647) and at no cost to servicemembers from any deployment location in the world,” acting Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy Jane Burke said. “Military OneSource tax consultants are also familiar with the IRS publication ‘Armed Forces Tax Guide.’”

Burke said DoD has a long history of offering tax assistance to military members, but this year the department is offering the opportunity for Servicemembers to self-file electronically at no cost, using a popular software product that double checks for accuracy.

“For many years, help has been available at many installations through the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program.

VITA volunteers will continue to be available through legal centers at most installations. VITA volunteers help servicemembers to file their taxes free of charge,” said Burke.

“DoD recognizes the reciprocal relationship that binds the military member, the military mission, and military families. The Department is working hard to make a difference in the quality of life of Servicemembers and their families,” Burke said. “The Military OneSource program, available worldwide 24/7, leverages technology to help Servicemembers and their families deal with the stresses of the military lifestyle. Providing access to electronic tax filing with the free telephonic support of a tax consultant is just one of the services offered by the Military OneSource service.”

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD 60TH ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 12, 2006

THERE WILL BE A BASE CELEBRATION FROM 9:00–1:00, WITH A DINNER AND DANCE THAT EVENING.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE FOOD, GAMES, STATIC DISPLAYS, JET-ENGINE DISPLAYS, A REDEDICATION CEREMONY, AND MUCH MORE.

ALL AIR NATIONAL GUARD & RETIRED AIR NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. BRING YOUR FAMILY OUT FOR A DAY OF ACTIVITIES AND FUN.

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Andrew Leon Jensen
Abe Kader
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