

UTAH MINUTEMAN

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109th Air Control Squadron Returns From Deployment

ETT, 211th GSAB, and 142nd MI All Deploy Overseas



The Adjutant General's Corner



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet

By MG Brian Tarbet

DRAPER, Utah — I am pleased to update you on many events that have taken place over the past few months. I am reminded again of the spirit of sacrifice that you demonstrate in your service, the efforts of your families and employers and the concern and caring of the citizens of the State of Utah.

In the past several months alone, our local community has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of goods and services to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust, a trust that fills the financial gap in which some of our Soldiers and Airmen occasionally find themselves. In the last few months alone, StampinUp! provided the opportunity for 85 members of this organization to take a well-deserved vacation; TriWest donated \$20,000; a local LDS ward donated \$10,000--these are just a few of the donations we've received. These financial contributions are our community's way of saying thank you for all you do to keep us safe and free. We are very grateful to all our donors, large and small.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our wonderful Family Support volunteers and employees. As a result of the countless hours these unsung heroes volunteered, over 94 families had a memorable holiday that they might not have otherwise had.

To our employers I also say thank you. We recognize the sacrifices that you endure when a valued member of your team is deployed. Without your support, our Soldiers and Airmen would have to worry about their future and that of their families upon their return. I look forward to hosting a good number of employers at the mobilization station at Fort Sill, Okla., to visit Soldiers of the 2-211th Aviation who will be deploying to Afghanistan in a few months and to visit Soldiers of the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Soldiers who will be at Fort Lewis, Wash. before they too head out to Afghanistan. You will fly with some of the finest pilots and crew members of the Utah Air National Guard to the mobilization station to see firsthand the process of preparing Soldiers to deploy to a war zone.

Finally, a thank-you to our professional organizations: National Guard Association of the United States and Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and to their local chapters: National Guard Association of Utah and Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah. I once again encourage all members of the Utah National Guard to join and support these organizations. Without the efforts of our professional organizations, pieces of legislation like the National Guard Empowerment Act of 2007 simply would not have passed. The passing of the Empowerment Act which, among other things, gives the National Guard a four-star seat at the table, goes to show the value of these associations. Make no mistake--the passing of this Act reflects the high regard in which the Guard is held by members of Congress. The National Guard Association of Utah and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah do the legwork that we are not able to do ourselves.

The bottom line is the superb service of units deployed: the 109th Air Control Squadron, the 19th SF Group, the 145th FA, and the 116th SECFOR Company. These troops remain in our thoughts and prayers.

In closing, never forget that you are all valued members of this team and you have the support and admiration of the American public. Sergeant Jill Stevens, being chosen as "America's Choice" during the 2008 Miss America competition, once again drove this fact home. It is my privilege to serve alongside you. 

Major General Brian L. Tarbet
Adjutant General for Utah

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Cover Photo - MSgt Denise Bradshaw with the 109th Air Control Squadron, struggles to hold back emotions as she sees her family for the first time in four months. Bradshaw was deployed with approximately 60 members of her unit to Southwest Asia, providing air control and defense to coalition aircraft operating in the area.

Photo by MSgt Burke Baker

Inside Cover Photo: Members of the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion embrace spouses, children, family members and friends at the Utah National Guard Air Base as they begin the first leg of their deployment to Iraq. *Photos by Ileen Kennedy and Greg Cullis*

Back Cover: TOP PHOTO (left to right) SPC Nelson, PFC Atkinson, 1LT Christensen, 1SG Ludlow, PFC Henrie all serving in Iraq with 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery. BOTTOM PHOTO: Governor Jon Huntsman visits the command and staff of the 1-145th FA in Iraq. *Photos courtesy of 1-145th FA*

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

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Unit public affairs representatives have been trained to work with members of the Public Affairs Office to prepare the best possible presentation. For coverage of major events of statewide significance, contact MAJ Hank McIntire at (801) 523-4407 or Ileen Kennedy at (801) 523-4229.

Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — **D**uring the last few months I have gained a greater appreciation and insight of the total force we have in the State. I watched Soldiers from the Embedded Training Team as they said farewell to their families and loaded the bus to take them on their first stage of their deployment. That same afternoon I had the privilege to welcome home the 109th Air Control Squadron from their successful deployment from Iraq. It is always emotional to watch the reunion of the families after their return. We are preparing to send off two additional units in the near future: The 142nd Military Intelligence, and 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion. We wish them well and pray for their safe return.

We are also looking forward to the return this year of the 116th SECFOR Company and 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery. Both units have distinguished themselves in their missions and make us very proud. We have been called upon to do many nonstandard missions and our Service members have always exceeded expectations.

I have a concern that seems to be affecting us nationwide. We are witnessing an alarming number of our returning Veterans that are not requesting the help they may need. Tragically, some have even taken their own lives. My concern is how can we make sure these individuals know we have many



Photo by SFC Greg Cullis

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

programs and assets out there to help them? There are many factors out there and there is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Some of the problems take weeks, months or even years to manifest themselves. Leaders need to know our Soldiers and Airmen so well that we can recognize the signs as they appear. The Utah National Guard is staffing a program called Soldier Preventive Maintenance that we hope will be helpful for Service members and families to help them recognize the warning signs and resolve the issues. Our Soldiers, Airmen and their families are our greatest assets and we must do everything we can to help them in their time of need.

We have received the message that the wear-out date for the BDU is April 30, 2008. It has been a long transition period to change the uniforms, and we do not yet have all the ACU Gortex jackets for every Soldier in the State. The ACU Gortex and the Black fleece jacket is the authorized outer garment with the ACU Uniform. The message has authorized the Forest pattern of the Gortex Jacket and the Field Jacket for wear until 2010 or until all Soldiers have been issued the ACU-pattern jackets. Also the black fleece is not authorized as outer wear with the IPFU. Leaders must know and enforce the standards.

I want to thank everyone for their commitment to make this such a great organization. You can all be proud, no matter what your assignment is, that you have made our formations successful no matter what is required of us. Our Family Support programs do a great job in supporting our deployed Service members' families. I can't thank them enough for the hard work and tireless effort they employed during the holiday season. Many families were blessed because of their dedication. Thank you again for your service to this great State and Nation. 



Photo by Ileen Kennedy

CSM Bruce Summers (left) says farewell to Embedded Training Team Soldiers as they leave for the first part of their deployment.

Embedded Training Team Departs for Afghanistan



Photos by Ileen Kennedy

By SSG Cavett Ishihara

DRAPER, Utah — **D**espite icy roads and temperatures in the teens, dozens of family members and friends gathered at Joint Forces Headquarters in Draper, Utah, on the morning of Jan., 23 to bid adieu to the Embedded Training Team.

While grasping yellow roses and Kleenex tissues, loved ones shed tears and held longing embraces as friends and fellow troops extended regards of a safe return and mission success to the unit of approximately 20 Soldiers, which officially began its 12-month deployment just a few days prior to the send off.

The ETT Soldiers know they can be successful due to the skills they will provide to the mission.

“As members of the Utah Army National Guard, we will bring uniqueness to the mission,” said deploying CPT Bruce Roberts. “As citizen-Soldiers, we bring a wide variety of both military and civilian skills.”

Roberts also explained that many of the ETT Soldiers have deployed to a variety of countries prior to this mission, ranging from Iraq to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In addition, the ETT has trained on several tasks and skills in preparation for this mission. The training ranged from weapon systems and military tactics to Afghanistan’s language and culture. The effort of others towards their success is never far from these Soldiers’ minds.

As part of the Utah National Guard’s family culture, Roberts feels that family members sacrifice the most during deployments.

“Families always bear the deepest burden of deployment,” he said. “We are going to be busy with our mission,



Senior Leadership salute as the bus carrying Soldiers from the ETT pulls away from the Utah National Guard Headquarters. MG Brian Tarbet wishes CPT Richard Roberts a safe mission. Commander, MAJ Tyler Smith gives final instructions to the ETT Soldiers before boarding the bus leaving for the Salt Lake International Airport.

and our Family Support group will be back here supporting each other.”

The Family Support group helps maintain open lines of communication between troops and family members along with the Utah National Guard. Family Support group leader Maurine Smith explained that after being notified of mobilization, families often spend most of their energies on a Soldier’s readiness to mobilize and less time on what life will be like while their family is away on deployment.

“We need to stay strong and support each other and be there for one another.” said Smith.

This type of support was evident as the Embedded Training Team loaded onto the bus. While some clapped and cheered, many wives waved goodbye with one hand while they wrapped their other arm around another in need of comfort. As the bus slowly drove out of the parking lot, Soldiers and Airmen alike rendered proud military salutes. Others shed tears equal to such an honor.

From Utah the ETT will travel to Fort Riley, Kan., for several weeks of specialized training before heading overseas.

Once in country, the ETT will mentor the Afghan National Army to conduct sustained, independent counter insurgency operations in Afghanistan to assist the ANA to defeat terrorism within its borders.

The ETT will be responsible for training and mentoring the ANA in leadership, staff and support functions. This includes the planning, assessing, supporting and executing of operations and training doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures.

“Our team has been conducting intensive training over the last four months specifically aimed at preparing us for this mission,” said ETT Commander MAJ Tyler Smith. “Some of that training includes studying the history, culture and customs of Afghanistan, the Dari language, convoy operations, military operations in urban terrain and weapons training.”



Soldiers from the Embedded Training Team embrace family members, friends and fellow Soldiers as they deploy from the Utah National Guard Draper Headquarters bound for training at Fort Riley, Kan. with their final destination Afghanistan.

Utah Air National Guard Tests Their Wartime Skills During Recent ORI



The C-17 Globemaster III operated by the 437th Air Wing, Air Force Reserve, based out of Charleston, S.C., brought in much-needed supplies and deploying personnel to Gulfport CRTC.

By Maj Krista Carlos

GULFPORT, Miss. — Although the Air Force is heavily engaged in the Global War on Terrorism, Operational Readiness Inspections (ORI) are still taking place to test the service and its components on their wartime capabilities.

The Utah Air National Guard is no exception. From Jan. 27 to Feb. 1, 2008, approximately 700 Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah ANG; the 171st ARW, Pennsylvania ANG; and the 85th Aerial Port Squadron, Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., deployed to the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Mississippi to participate in a combined ORI.

This is the first ORI the Utah ANG has done in years, and the Wing leadership lauded their efforts.

“The 151st has not participated in an ORI as a whole Wing in more than 11 years,” said Col. Kelvin Findlay, 151 ARW commander. “Many of our Airmen have never actually gone through an official inspection, so I’m very proud of all the hard work and dedication that went into preparing for this. I think we did a great job.”

As Airmen filled sandbags, donned chemical gear and performed their job duties during the ORI, Air Mobility Command inspectors sporting black hats mingled and inspected their performance.

“There are four major graded areas in an ORI: the initial response period (generating airplanes, processing people and cargo, etc.), employment, mission support and the Ability to Survive and Operate (ATSO),” said Mr. Bill Bergen, Branch Chief of Scheduling and Resource Management, AMC Inspector General’s Office. “These four areas, along with the performance of the lowest-level Unit Type Codes, are combined to come up

Photos by SSgt Emily Monson

with a Wing grade.”

Although the ANG is constantly participating in worldwide Air Expeditionary Force deployments, Air Force leaders believe ORIs are important because they test units by demonstrating capabilities that aren’t performed on a day-to-day-basis or on AEFs.

“Generals are not worried about whether Wings can deploy or redeploy for a planned AEF... they’re worried about going to war in a 36-hour time frame or deploying to a short-notice contingency,” said Mr. Bergen. “Over 30 percent of Air Force units did not receive a “satisfactory” grade or higher on their ATSO last year...and that is a capability we may need for the next contingency.”

Regardless of the statistics, Col. Findlay is certain of the Wing’s success.

“Our Airmen are continuously deploying all over the world and perform their mission superbly,” he said. “I’m confident in our abilities to do the wartime mission and look forward to hearing the results of the inspection.”

AMC inspects about 20 Air Force units each fiscal year, and approximately eight of those are ANG units. Guard units are typically inspected every five years, and are graded on the same basis as Reserve and Active -duty units.

“The Air Force as a whole is a model image for inspectors,” said Mr. Bergen. “Unlike some of the other services, the IG uses the same criteria to inspect all units. There is no special standard, even for Wings that are mostly comprised of traditional Guardsmen – we treat everyone the same.”

“If you were the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, you wouldn’t want it any other way,” Bergen added. 



TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: MSgt Rebecca Galo (left) and SSgt Michelle Watts (right), 151st Medical Group help fill sandbags in preparation of base buildup efforts prior to the kickoff of the “simulated war.”

MSgt Charles Pierson, NCOIC of the Nuclear, Biological, Chemical cell operating from the Emergency Operations Center during the inspection. Sgt Pierson was responsible for advising the EOC director with the current status of any biological attacks, and making recommendations relating to chemical plume direction, persistence of chemical threat, and danger to airmen and facilities.

The 151st Air Refueling Wing deploys to Gulfport Combat and Readiness Training Center to participate in an Operational Readiness Inspection.



A Special Valentine’s Day Gift - ORI “Satisfactory” Passing Grade

By Lt Col Lisa Olsen

SALT LAKE CITY — **M**embers of the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, were presented a special Valentine’s Day gift as inspectors from Headquarters Air Mobility Command announced the Wing’s receipt of a “Satisfactory” passing grade on their Operational Readiness Inspection.

Airmen blew party horns and cheered as the results were announced during a presentation at the Air National Guard Base.

“This ORI shows you are absolutely ready to do your mission,” said Brig Gen Donald Lustig, Inspector General, Air Mobility Command Headquarters. “It is clearly evident that this grade is not luck... and I’m proud of each and every one of you.”

Approximately 300 Airmen from the Utah ANG deployed to the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center, Miss., to participate in the ORI from Jan. 27 to Feb. 1, 2008. During that time, the Wing was tested in several areas, including initial re-

sponse (generating aircraft, processing people and cargo, etc.), employment, mission support and the Ability to Survive and Operate.

“I’m absolutely tickled by our performance in all the areas,” said Col Kelvin Findlay, 151st ARW commander. “This is the first ORI our Wing has done as a whole in over 11 years, so I’m so proud of the teamwork and dedication of everyone who contributed to this inspection.”

While the Wing received an overall grade of “Satisfactory” on the inspection, several teams received special “Team” recognition from the inspectors, these include Civil Engineer Damage and Repair Team, Financial Management Team, Security Forces Flight Leadership Team and Security Forces Generation Area Close Boundary Team.

The Utah ANG will not be scheduled for another ORI until 2013. 

Torgau 2007: 115th Engineer Group Trains in Germany with the Russian Army

Story and photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Soldiers of the Utah Guard's 115th Engineers, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, I Corps Artillery and Joint Forces Headquarters spent Nov. 27 to Dec. 15 training with their Russian counterparts in Germany as part of an international military exercise called Torgau 2007.

Situated on the banks of the Elbe River, the town of Torgau, Germany, became famous as the meeting place for the victorious American and Russian armies as they pushed east and west, respectively, at the close of World War II. Although this exercise took place in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels, nearly 200 miles to the south of Torgau, military planners preserved the name as a symbol of the coming together of the two militaries in friendship and unity.

According to the Dec. 9 edition of *Stars and Stripes*, Torgau 2007 is the third in a series of exercises designed to foster friendship and cooperation between U.S. and Russian military forces. The venues alternate between locations in Russia and Germany, with another exercise planned for 2008, to be held in Russia.

More than 60 Soldiers of the Utah National Guard provided a third of the participants in the two-week exercise, joined by Soldiers of the Russian Army, as well as those from the Illinois, Puerto Rico and Washington National Guards, all supporting the U.S. Army's V Corps as the lead element.

The bulk of the Utah contingent worked at Grafenwöhr's Camp Aachen, where the computer-simulated portion of the exercise took place. In the battle scenario designed to test the performance of a Allied division, COL Don Summit, commander of the 115th Engineer Group and a resident of Delta, Utah, filled the role of a U.S. brigade commander serving in a fictional country called Berkshire. The U.S. and Russian units were part of a multinational task force facing an insurgent threat from the neighboring country of Pilsna.

Based on the current dynamic between Iraq and Iran, Berkshire is composed of a mix of Sunni and Shi'ia factions, while the primarily Shi'ia nation of Pilsna has an interest in destabilizing their neighboring country and is using terrorist tactics to achieve that goal, Summit explained.

And similar to a task-force scenario, Utah's 115th assigned Soldiers from JFHQ, ICA, and the 300th MI to work in their specialties to support the overall effort.

"We brought a really talented group of people with us," said Summit. "[Many of] our personnel haven't done these jobs at this level before."

Some who are learning new things include Utah's junior-enlisted Soldiers working with the Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation System learning the inputs, planning, resourcing, scheduling and executing the mission and producing a finished product.

Some of Utah's noncommissioned officers did similar tasks to what they performed during their deployments overseas. Sergeant Mark Simondi, of Herriman, Utah, personnel NCO with the 624th Vertical Construction Company, compiled personnel status reports for the Brigade—something he did for his battalion in Iraq—but he is also spending time with a map, plotting points and tracking unit movements.

"It's neat to be at brigade level and have a division above and learn what they care about," said Simondi. "It has been an eye-opener for me."

"People are gaining experience in things they have never done before," added Summit. "We're trying to take that attitude where we're allowing people to do new things and to take some risk."

With Americans and Russians working closely together in the exercise, both groups quickly noticed the stark organizational and philosophical differences between the two militaries. The Russian brigade staff totaled four (a commander, chief of staff, a logistics officer and an artillery officer), while Summit's team had 20 people to fulfill the traditional staff functions of personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, civil affairs, communications, chaplain and legal support.

"Our system has a lot of redundancy," observed Summit. "In their system, there's one guy who understands the operation, and he directs everything himself. Their redundancy is in their number of brigades; our redundancy is inside the brigade."

Fires officer LTC George Graff, of Santa Clara, Utah, who returned recently from a deployment to Afghanistan with ICA, applied his combat experience in managing artillery fires in response to the Pilsna insurgency but acknowledged that he had also learned much from the Russian officers.

"Their techniques are often simpler and more straightforward, and there are some advantages to that," said Graff. "It's been good for both groups to do some cross-leveling of these procedures. I think we'll both benefit."

From the Russian perspective, they are also expanding their knowledge base about the American approach to combat operations.

"Here I've gotten a clearer notion of the separate aspects of combat service support, classes of supply, the minimization of risk at each stage and a very careful approach to each phase of planning," said Lt. Col. Vasily Baldygyn, logistics officer for the Russian 2nd Motorized Infantry Brigade, 3rd Mechanized Division, through an interpreter.

"And this book allows for constructive dialog," said Baldygyn as he pulled out his copy of the exercise's joint operations manual, which offers parallel text in both English and Russian. "Our task organizations are different but not quite so

significant in my mind. We have these interoperability guides to help minimize these differences.”

When asked what the Americans have learned from him and his colleagues, Baldygin said with a smile, “We’ve been able to help them with open-mindedness and mutual understanding.”

Others seeing the benefit of this cooperative effort were the civilian contractors running the scenario. Jeff Deva, an employee of L3 Communications who worked with the Master Scenario Event List to make sure realistic situations were provided to the training audience.

“Once the MSELs are injected and they get the information, the players have to go through some sort of thought process and make a decision,” explained Deva. “These types of exercises are good for exercising staffs.”

“The interaction has been great,” said Dean Vertz, Joint MSEL operator for the cell. “[They are] learning each other’s methods and how each side works. They’ve done a good job at breaking through that barrier, making decisions and sticking with those decisions once they have been made.”

While top leaders were fulfilling the most visible roles, working behind the scenes was MAJ Talon Greeff, of Riverton, Utah, communications officer for the 115th Eng. He was assigned as the night-shift ‘mayor’ of the operation and supervised more than 20 Utah Soldiers. He was responsible for 18 buildings, 20 vehicles and meeting the food, housing, transportation, recreation and other needs of 200 people.

“We have an exceptional group of Soldiers,” said Greeff. “I don’t think it’s an accident that they come here with a wealth of experience and civilian-acquired skills.”

And Greeff admits that his abilities and his perspective have been stretched during his time here.

“I’m working with a much higher level than what I am used to,” he said. “It’s been good to work at a corps level and see how USAREUR (U.S. Army Europe) works. I’ve had a chance to meet Russian soldiers and talk to them. I was surprised at how friendly and outgoing they are.”

Of course, Russian and American Sol-



Map showing the nations of Berkshire and Pilsna, pitted against each other in a computer-simulated battle scenario for Torgau 2007.

diers mixed in some recreation time along with working hard every day. On their last Sunday in Germany, CPT Annette Barnes, of Pleasant Grove, Utah, the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation officer for the Utah group, arranged for a tour of Nuremberg, which was about a 90-minute bus ride from ‘Graf,’ as Soldiers called it.

The MWR trip included the world-famous Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt, located in the main market square, where there were shops, food booths, kiddie rides, bands and all things Christmas—German style.

Soldiers toured the old city of Nuremberg with Karen Christenson, a local guide, and learned about the history of the city, the castle, the emperor’s crown jewels, the roots of Hitler’s National Socialist party and the post-World War II war-crimes trials of Rudolf Hess, Hermann Göring and others.

Visitors tried the local fare, and the Bavarian-style bratwurst on a roll or the ½ meter-long wieners were big hits. Soldiers played as hard as they worked, and the day-long trip sightseeing and picking up souvenirs was a nice diversion for nearly everyone.

“It was nice to get out,” said Simondi.

While dedicated leaders and intrepid support personnel kept the operation running smoothly, holding it all together were the linguists. A total of 80 language specialists supported the exercise providing simultaneous interpretation, document translation and functioning as the critical link between American and Russian leaders and Soldiers.

SFC Class Jon Craig, a Louisiana native and 20-year veteran of the active Army, wore “a thousand hats” as he supervised the herculean translator/interpreter effort.

“Getting the right people to the right place at the right time every day, is almost overwhelming,” conceded Craig, who works as a Russian linguist for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and is stationed at Darmstadt, Germany. “And at the same time, we’re trying to manage a document throughput that averages 40-50 documents a day. Logistically, it’s a nightmare.”

Adding to his challenge was managing linguists in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels, which are about a 90-minute drive apart.

But the long hours put in by Craig and his team, which included 19 military lin-



TOP DOWN: American and Russian Soldiers gather for a briefing on the Torgau 2007 exercise held at Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels, Germany, in December. American and Russian Soldiers explore Nuremberg for a well-earned Morale, Welfare, and Recreation trip Dec. 9.

guists from the National Guard and the active Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines, made it look easy.

Chief Warrant Officer Cynthia Choo, of University Place, Wash., a senior Russian linguist with B Company, 341st Military Intelligence Battalion, Washington National Guard, has seen it all in her 35 years in the Guard and gave generous props to Craig and his team.

“I’ve been completely impressed by the preparations going into translation work here, and I believe it has made a much more professional impression for the Russians on what the U.S. Army is capable of and is willing to step up to do,” she said.

A substitute teacher with the Tacoma School District, Choo worked a U.S.-Russian exercise in 2002 at Hohenfels and believes that Army linguistic support has come a long way in five years. She even made it a point to praise Utah’s LTC Milada Copeland’s contribution to the translation effort. As commander of the 115th Engineer Battalion, Copeland, of Sandy, Utah, was participating as staff officer, but as a native of Russia who came to the U.S. at the age of 14, she deftly conversed with her Russian colleagues in their language and provided them some well-timed explanations.

“What I’m seeing is a continual close communication when things need to be done in quick order,” added Choo. “It’s amazing to watch. They do it with such ease, you barely notice that they are there because everything is flowing. But if they weren’t there, there would be chaos.”

Complementing the senior-level operation at Grafenwöhr were the field-training exercises at Hohenfels involving Russian and American Infantry companies. To ensure a maximum amount of interaction, American squads were inserted into each Russian platoon, and to return the favor each American platoon received a Russian squad.

Military Intelligence linguists from the Utah and Washington National Guards were assigned early on in the exercise to support the Russian company, and some of them spent both quality and quantity time in the field with infantrymen from both countries.

Of the five Guard MI linguists assigned to Hohenfels, SSG Cory Morrill, of St. George, Utah, from D Company, 141st MI Battalion, spent the greatest amount of time with the Infantry as they went through classroom instruction and field work. Soldiers received intensive training in tasks such as reacting to IEDs, running checkpoints, searching vehicles, cordon and search, clearing buildings, dismounted patrols and survival skills.

All these preparations culminated in a one-day, live-fire exercise where Russian Soldiers put into practice all the training they had received on the M4 and M16 rifles, M240 heavy machine gun and the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, or SAW.

“I’ve acquired a lot of military vocabulary,” said Morrill of how this exercise has helped his linguistic ability, initially acquired on a two-year church mission in Russia. “It’s given me a perspective of where my language skills are.”

Working in tandem with DTRA linguists, SGT Sam Saunders, a resident of Price, Utah, and a member of HHC, 300th MI Brigade, worked for the personnel officer as a liaison between

the mayor’s cell and the Russian battalion commander. He also honed his language skills by translating briefing slides and information signs into Russian for the Soldiers and staff at Hohenfels.

“I gained more confidence with the language,” said Saunders, whose civilian job is with Juvenile Justice Services for the State of Utah. “I picked up a lot more military terms and learned about how the Russian army works. If I wasn’t interpreting, I got to hear someone else’s interpretation, and it gave me more of a perspective on how I can translate better.”

Working in the arms room where Russian Soldiers would draw and turn in their weapons each day, SGT Matthew Trainor, of Pullman, Wash., a member of B Company, 341st MI Battalion, Washington National Guard, learned a great deal from this unique opportunity to interact with our Allies one-on-one.

“I had to figure out ways to explain things and still get my point across,” said Trainor, a full-time student at Washington State University. “When else do you get to talk about rifles, magazines, blank adapters and stuff like that? It was a big help in that sense.”

“The Russian NCO Corps isn’t nearly as experienced as we are, so I had the preconceived notion that Russian enlisted didn’t do anything,” admitted SGT Shane Mitchell, a Utah State University student and member of B Company, 141st MI Battalion. “But I have seen them take charge and do some really great things.”

“We had a lot of fun just sitting down and talking to the Russians,” the Logan, Utah, resident added. “We built camaraderie with these soldiers that we used to see as our enemy. So that’s been really good.”

SSG Dann Oppfelt, of Sequim, Wash., a member of Detachment 1, A Company, 341st MI Battalion, sees how this type of interaction has been and will be of benefit to both Russians and Americans.

“I’ll be busy when I get back, plugging it all in and finding out how I can get my Soldiers some real-world training,” said Oppfelt, who is self-employed in logistics development with partners in Russia and China. “Our army works because of the responsibility we place on our NCOs, and I think that is something the Russians will take away.”

“For many of these American and Russian soldiers, this is the first time they have met their counterparts up close and personal,” continued Oppfelt. “And that’s always a good thing, breaking down barriers of ignorance.”

“We don’t see ourselves as Russians or Americans; we are soldiers,” concluded Saunders, capturing the essence of why this kind of endeavor is important. “If we needed their help [down the road], they know how we work, and that can only build the bond between our two militaries.”

And sizing up the contribution that the Utah and Washington linguists made to the success of Torgau 2007, SFC Craig was generous in his praise.

“It’s been great having them here,” he said. “The Guard linguists, they get grabbed a lot: ‘Hey you, I want to talk to this guy.’ And they knock it out.” ■

Linguists Leave for Afghanistan

By Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — This is not the first deployment for many Soldiers with the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist). They are a well-trained, seasoned group of dedicated Service members en route to Afghanistan for a 12-month deployment.

Members in this unit speak more than 25 different languages and dialects and are trained in a variety of military intelligence skills.

“We have some of the main ones (languages) for this area of the world: Farsi, Dari, Urdu, Baluchi, and Pashtu a lot of those tribal languages that are used around the Afghanistan borders,” said MAJ Joseph Green, commander of Charlie Company. “We have some really well-trained, experienced Soldiers--some with 30 years of experience.”

The Battalion is comprised of approximately 300 members in four companies including 64 Soldiers from the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion. They are one of the larger Battalions to deploy from the Utah National Guard. Once in country they will be sent to serve in different locations.

“We will have Soldiers in over a dozen areas in Afghanistan,” said Green.

On previous missions, the 142nd translated documents but this mission will be different. The Soldiers will use the skills they have trained on as they work among the Afghan locals.

“I feel quite confident in our ability to execute this mission. We will be out meeting and greeting people and using our human skills to be the eyes and ears for the maneuver commanders,” said MAJ Richard Montoya, Alpha Company commander. “Our goal is to strengthen the government of Afghanistan.”





Families, friends and Soldiers from the 142nd MI know it's not easy to let a loved one go. They take a moment for hugs and kisses, and with teary eyes watch as the Linguists board their flight.
Photos by Greg Cullis and Ileen Kennedy

“This is probably the best military intelligence operation the Battalion has ever had,” said LTC Derek Tolman, the Battalion commander, who previously served with the 142nd in Iraq in 2003-04.

At the deployment ceremony LTC Alan Garrett told the Soldiers, “We recognize that there are lots of emotions and a lot of feelings out there among family, spouses and friends.”

Then he called SPC Trista Wynn and SPC Thomas O’Leary to the stage for what he called a special order of business. After saluting his commander O’Leary knelt in front of Wynn and proposed.

“I know how war works and sometimes you don’t get a

chance to say the thing you need to say, so this is the perfect opportunity to do that,” said O’Leary.

Governor Jon Huntsman, their commander-in-chief, took a few moments to express his gratitude for their service.

“You’re doing what everybody else would like to be doing. But they don’t have the sense of courage and purpose and mission and sense of sacrifice that you do. I just want to salute you and congratulate you on what you’re doing,” he said.

While in Afghanistan, the 142nd will be assigned to support the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and will conduct a variety of intelligence missions, as well as humanitarian missions throughout the region. ■

Distinguished Flying Cross: Guard Pilot Saves Lives in Helicopter Crash

By Stephen Speckman

WEST JORDAN, Utah — It was about 11 a.m., Feb. 21, 2007, in Iraq when Blackhawk helicopter pilot Scott Upton earned his Distinguished Flying Cross while possibly saving nine lives, including his own, in what the 22-year military veteran called a “controlled crash.”

Upton, 42, a chief warrant officer in the Utah Army National Guard, called his wife, Barbie, and four children on the same day. He wanted to tell his wife everything, but he wasn’t sure how much he should say.

“I just told her, ‘I got shot down,’” he said. “She goes, ‘What?’”

After learning that he was OK, Barbie asked why he wasn’t sent home.

Back inside his office at the Utah Guard Army Aviation Facility recently, Upton said it doesn’t work that way.

In fact, he was flying again in a week, about seven months into a full-year’s deployment in Iraq.

He also called his mother, Jeffie Upton, in his home state of Alabama on crash day.

It was the same drill with Jeffie Upton, who in the 1950s was

a member of the Navy’s Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, the WAVES. That experience taught her that if there was something wrong with her son, he wouldn’t be able to say much over the phone while he was still in Iraq for fear their conversation might be overheard by the enemy.

Later he wrote a letter and sent a few photos, explaining everything to his mother. Upton’s father, James Upton, who was also in the Navy when he met Jeffie, died about four years ago.

What Upton didn’t talk about on the phone last February became the reason a general pinned the Distinguished Flying Cross on Upton’s uniform in July while he was in Balad, a few weeks before coming home to Clinton.

Upton is an instructor pilot and has been flying since 1993, about three years after he transferred from the Air Force to the Guard. By that time he had years of experience as a mechanic working on helicopters. In terms of knowing his aircraft inside and out, “reliable” is a word that comes to mind when describing Upton’s expertise in the air and on the ground.

As a pilot he has been to Singapore, Kuwait (after the Persian Gulf War), Nicaragua and Iraq. Prior to crash day, Upton’s

LEFT TO RIGHT: CW2 Lloyd Nelson, SGT Brian Carver, SGT Joe Bass, and CW4 Scott Upton proudly display an American flag in front of the crashed Blackhawk helicopter that almost took nine lives.

“I thank God and luck a lot for me. My crew that was on my aircraft they did an exceptional job of support, they did a very textbook professional job doing exactly what needs to be done. They deserve as much gratitude and heroism as I have,” said Upton.



Photo courtesy of CW4 Scott Upton

chopper had been hit once by a single bullet while on a night mission, but it wasn't fatal to the aircraft's ability to fly.

It was before noon in February when Upton and the pilot of a second Blackhawk were transporting troops from one forward operating base to another. They were on their way to Taji, about 20 miles north of Baghdad.

It was daylight when Upton saw a "fireball" flying into his chopper, known as No. 503 among Utah's cache of Blackhawks.

The impact on the chopper's fuselage, Upton said, "felt like someone punched the whole aircraft on the side."

His left door gunner, Brian Carver, instantly returned fire. Upton's crew could see at least one vehicle and the source of enemy fire coming from the barren landscape.

Upton dropped 503 to about 30 feet off the ground at a speed of about 150 mph, trying to make himself less of a target.

Upton asked for a damage assessment, and the news coming back from pilot Lloyd Nelson was good. Everything was running fine at the time and everyone, including crew chief Joe Bass, was OK.

The chopper, however, had been hit four times. He learned how bad the damage was when he tried to turn the aircraft after flying for about a full minute, which put the Blackhawk about three miles away from where it was hit. He thought about flying back to Balad.

"I heard a loud boom," Upton said.

The chopper's nose dipped and pulled to the right, still traveling at about 150 mph. About 300 feet away, Lance Robb, pilot of the second Blackhawk helping with the troop movement mission that day, saw what was happening.

"I knew that I had a tail rotor problem," Upton said. In short, the tail rotor "disintegrated" in the air.

"It was, 'Brace for impact,'" he thought to himself.

But there was a berm. He came in tail first, slamming to the ground as he slid about 100 feet. The berm ripped off the left tire, and the chopper rolled onto its side not far from a house. People in the area moved in.

From three miles away, the enemy would have been able to see that one of their targets was down. They would be coming soon.

Upton heard gunshots. "I'm thinking the enemy is coming," he said. He climbed out with his semiautomatic rifle ready.

But the fire came from Chock 2, the second Blackhawk that now sent out warning shots for Iraqis moving to the crash site. So the Iraqis stayed away.

Upton and his crew emptied the broken Blackhawk of equipment and "sensitive" items while they secured a perimeter around the helicopter with guns drawn.

Two OH-58D Kiowa Warrior gunships flew in within minutes after Wyatt Smith in Robb's chopper radioed about a chopper down. The gunships allowed Robb to land his Blackhawk and cram aboard Upton, his crew and passengers, stacked like cordwood inside.

Within about five minutes, or what "seemed like forever," Robb's helicopter arrived safely in Taji.

Two Apache helicopters also rushed to the crash scene. A quick reaction force was there in 30 minutes, surrounded by a Bradley fighting vehicle, a Humvee, the four armed helicopters and several ground troops.

Upton figures that within 12 hours of the crash, his battered Blackhawk was on a flatbed truck and back in Balad. From there, he's not sure what became of it.

CPT Micah Tebbs applied for the medal on Upton's behalf. Upton received the award during his deployment, but the more important ceremony, Tebbs said, will be the one where he is recognized in front of family and friends.

Tebbs was A Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation's commander in Iraq during the group's deployment through August 2007. During that time, Tebbs' 48 charges, which included 20 pilots, flew more than 6,200 combat flight hours, conducting 111 air-assault operations and more than 700 missions.

"They performed some of the most difficult aviation missions that a Blackhawk company can perform — and they did them well," Tebbs said.

Upton's Flying Cross is housed in a box in a building separate from his office. The ceremonial presentation of the award is expected in December. 🇺🇸

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LEFT TO RIGHT: MG Brian Tarbet pins CW4 Scott Upton with the Distinguished Flying Cross during the 211th Freedom Salute at Copper Hills High School. CW4 Scott Upton is applauded by the audience and his commanders on Dec. 8 at the Freedom Salute.



Utah Biathlon Team Takes Second at Nationals

By SFC Shawn Blanke

BURLINGTON, Vt. —

Amidst tough competition and difficult conditions, the Utah National Guard Biathlon Team won three silver medals at the 2007 CNGB National Championships in Burlington, Vermont.

Biathlon is a Winter Olympic sport which combines the disciplines of cross-country skiing and precision target shooting. Biathletes are required to ski over difficult terrain while carrying a rifle, and then hit very small targets from both prone and standing positions. Athletes who miss targets are either required to ski an additional penalty loop per missed shot or are assessed a one-minute penalty per miss, depending on the race format.

Utah won its first silver medal in the relay event behind a very strong Vermont team. SFC Gerald Robinson (RTI), SFC Shawn Blanke (19th SF), WO1 Lynn Adams (211th AVN), and SSG Ben Dahl (Recruiting) worked together to turn in the second-fastest time of the day.

In the Patrol Race, Adams, Blanke, Dahl and Robinson again turned in the second-fastest time to take another silver medal. In spite of bitter cold and windy conditions, the patrol team only missed one shot during the race which helped Utah win another silver medal.

When all the team results were combined, Utah garnered yet another silver medal in the Team Category behind Vermont, followed closely by Montana.

During the individual competition phase, Robinson finished well enough during the Sprint and Individual Competitions to earn a place on the All-Guard Biathlon team. Robinson will join several former Olympians in representing the National Guard and the United States in National and International competitions during 2007-2008.

Utah Coaches CW2 Ryan Runk (211 AVN) and SSG Jesse Peterson (19th SFG) were pleased with the results. When asked about the team's performances at CNGB Championships, Runk said, "Some of our strongest athletes were deployed, so we weren't sure what to expect at Nationals. But the team performed consistently,

(OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN) LEFT: Utah Biathlon Team members midway through the Patrol competition. SSG Ben Dahl descends on the relay event. SFC Shawn Blanke on the shooting line. Looking downrange in the prone shooting position. Biathlon athletes cross a bridge in Burlington, Vt. MIDDLE: WO1 Lynn Adams, SFC Gerald Robinson, SFC Shawn Blanke, and SFC Gerald Robinson compete in the relay event. RIGHT: SSG Ben Dahl and SSG Jesse Peterson ski and shoot during the competition. Utah coaches look through spotting scopes at the course.



Utah Biathlon Team at Nationals

TOP ROW: SSG Jacob Paul, WO1 Lynn Adams, SSG Ben Dahl, SSG Jesse Peterson, CW2 Ryan Runk. BOTTOM ROW: SFC Gerald Robinson and SFC Shawn Blanke.

Photos courtesy of Utah Biathlon Team

day in and day out, with very few mistakes, and I think that is what made the difference for us".

More recently, Utah traveled to West Yellowstone, Mont., to compete in the 2007 National Guard Bureau North American Cup Western Regional Biathlon Championships. This year's Western Regional Event was the largest in NGB history, including

teams and individuals from 27 states (National Guard athletes) as well as representatives from the U.S. and Canadian National Teams who were using this event to qualify athletes for their country's respective World Cup teams.

Following five days of competition, Utah put a total of five athletes on the podium: Robinson, (Bronze Medal) in the 10K Sprint; SFC Doug Bernard, 19th SF (Bronze Medal) in the 12K Pursuit; and Robinson, Bernard, and Blanke, (Bronze Medal) in the team event.

The Utah Biathlon Team also saw strong performances from Dahl and Peterson. Dahl posted his best regional finish ever as the third Utah athlete across the line in the 10K Sprint race, with Peterson close behind. SSG Joey Muramoto (19th SF), on only his fifth day of skiing (ever), completed both races successfully, qualifying himself to join the team at Nationals. Another key performance came from Adams, serving as coach during the Regional Event. Adams did an outstanding job, without which the team could not have been successful.

The Utah National Guard Biathlon Program would like to thank all those who have come together to support the team. Thousands of hours have been donated by many individuals and organizations to train our athletes to not only represent the Utah National Guard, but also to improve the fitness and marksmanship of our Soldiers. ■



Utah Guard Plays Key Role in State Pandemic Exercise

Story and photos by Shad West

MONTEZUMA CREEK, Utah —

Less than 24 hours after the Utah National Guard's Joint Operation Center stood up Sept. 18 to support the State Health Department's large-scale flu pandemic exercise, a single UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter circled this dusty desert town looking for the makeshift landing zone.

With a pass over the San Juan County hamlet that sits on the edge of the Navajo Nation Reservation in Southeastern Utah, the pilots spotted the wooden stakes with plastic streamers and a fire engine blocking traffic from a single-lane street just off of Trading Post Road. A surge of the helicopter's engines brought the aircraft in at a sharper-than-anticipated angle to avoid hanging power lines, setting the helicopter down onto the blacktop.

On board the Blackhawk was a simulated batch of Tamiflu, part of the 200,000 courses of the antiviral the State had received from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to be distributed state-wide. The helicopter was also stocked with supplies for the Utah Navajo Health System (UNHS)—the community's health center.

"The supplies were for our emergency-response trailer," said Dennis Hammond, a UNHS spokesman. "Our clinic is very central for the local community. We work with communities both on and off of the Navajo Reservation."

Hammond said the clinic is the central point for emergency distribution in the area, and the exercise allowed many of the clinic's employees to experience vital hands-on training.

"This was a very good experience for us," Hammond said. "The exercise was very enlightening for us."

This was the second stop for the three-person helicopter crew. They had delivered a batch of the simulated vaccine to health officials in St. George two hours earlier.

These were just two of the key distri-





OPPOSITE PAGE TOP DOWN: *State of Utah officials activate the Emergency Operations Center at the State Capitol to monitor the situation as it unfolds. A Utah National Guard member, right, assists an employee of UNHS in unloading supplies for a local clinic in Montezuma Creek. Exercise participant Paulette Valentine, left, reviews equipment lists with SGT Camron Haag.*

ABOVE: *A Utah National Guard member, right, assists an employee of UNHS in unloading supplies.*

bution locations across the state where health officials would dispense medicine to the most critically-ill patients through medical providers. Health officials from ten other health districts throughout the State were involved in the exercise in their own jurisdictions, and in an actual emergency, the Utah National Guard would have worked hand in hand with officials to distribute supplies throughout all the districts.

While this (Wednesday, Sept. 19) was only the second “physical” day of the exercise for Guard participants, in the scenario it was actually Tuesday morning, when public health officials received word of the first “confirmed” H5N1 influenza case and activated their emergency operations center. That action was quickly followed by the standing up of the State’s Department of Homeland Security EOC below the Capitol complex in downtown Salt Lake City.

Within minutes of Guard representatives’ reporting to the EOC at the Capitol, officials in Draper activated the Guard’s Joint Operation Center.

In actuality, Wednesday represented the second

week of the emergency exercise.

Besides health officials, representatives from the Utah National Guard, local jurisdictions—including county emergency managers—and school districts were involved. The exercise also relied heavily on simulated alerts from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

The exercise also included “use” of the State’s emergency notification system and a hotline that received calls from the “public,” the “media” and “health-care professionals.”

For the National Guard this exercise was a chance to test senior leadership in a scenario that could affect them at a very personal level, said Brig. Gen. Scott Harrison, Deputy Commander of the Utah Guard’s Joint Forces Headquarters.

“This is a scenario that is brand new to us,” he said. “I want to see how they (leaders) organize themselves and see how they respond to a very personal crisis.”

Harrison, an astute student of history, believes that past epidemics have been shown to affect all walks of life, leaving few immune from its effects.

“We may have personnel who have family members affected by an outbreak such as this, or our own senior leadership who may be home sick themselves,” he said.

Besides using the exercise as a way to gauge Guard readiness, Harrison said the pandemic exercise is a way to tighten relations with other State agencies.

“This is an opportunity to close up any gap there may be between us and other State agencies. We didn’t experience a gap with Katrina and Rita, but we just don’t have an opportunity to work with State officials as often as we would like,” he added.

Major Andrew Archuleta was the Utah National Guard liaison in the EOC at the Capitol and was the first to be notified that the State needed the Guard’s help.

“Their first phone call was to me and they asked us to provide security for the EOC,” he said.

Archuleta immediately arrived at the Capitol to get a situation briefing on the exercise and called the J3, the Guard’s operations officer, advising him of the event.

As the EOC began getting requests from local-level government throughout the State, it tasked state agencies to handle the requests. For this exercise the National Guard’s role was critical.

“We have a very limited role because it is a public health exercise,” said Archuleta. “At this point we assigned security here at the EOC and are looking into other taskings such as controlling the Strategic National Stockpile at the Salt Lake Air Base.”

Archuleta said once the tasking to distribute the stockpiled supplies was issued, either the highway patrol or National Guard would handle delivery of those supplies to the distribution centers in the health districts. For health districts along the Wasatch Front, delivery over the state highway system would be adequate.

For districts in other regions such as Southern Utah, the Guard would more than likely handle the delivery.

“In a case where it is time sensitive to get vaccines to distribution points, we could get those delivered within a few hours with our Aviation unit,” Archuleta said.

Health officials said that while the National Guard’s role was limited, it was still critical.



LTC Charles Dressen monitors event traffic on the incident-management system at the State Capitol Emergency Operations Center.



A Utah National Guard member, right, and an employee of UNHS look over supplies that were flown in for a local clinic.

“The Guard is instrumental in this exercise,” said Dr. Don Wood, MD, medical director and disaster planner for the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. “They will be flying the vaccinations to our locations.”

Wood continued, “We are so happy that they are involved in this exercise; we are physically, functionally and realistically testing this capability. As far as the Guard’s role in this, this is not a tabletop exercise.”

Harrison, who chose not to know the full exercise scenario before it began, said the pandemic outbreak was a great tool for the Guard to test its State role.

“I wanted my senior commanders here to see the types of limitations they may be up against in an exercise scenario,” he said. “That’s why we exercise, to ensure we work out any of those issues we may see.” ■

Utah Air National Guard 109th ACS Returns

By MSgt Sterling Poulson

Photos by Burke Baker

SALT LAKE CITY — Families and friends welcomed home approximately 60 Airmen from the Utah Air National Guard’s 109th Air Control Squadron Jan. 23, 2008.

After four months in an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, the Wing, but most important, the families of the deployed were thrilled to have the squadron and loved ones home. “The families are the real heroes,” said TSgt Craig Henrie, 109th ACS Surveillance Technician, “Spouses and kids are the ones that face the toughest battle.”

The Squadron deployed to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia Sept. 9, 2007, in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The deployment was an outstanding success and achieved an unprecedented 99-percent operational rate without any incidents or mishaps.

Not only did the deployment fulfill its mission, it gave the unit a chance to strengthen its overall position as one of the leading worldwide-deployable, battle-management platforms, manned by operations, maintenance, and combat support personnel

“We experienced a lot of hands-on training,” said MSgt Sheen Driggs, NCOIC, Surveillance Technicians, “Our unit picked up

a vast amount of experience while providing essential support of the mission in our assigned area.”

Their mission included radar surveillance, identification and command and control of coalition aircraft. This deployment marked the unit’s fourth mobilization in seven years.

“Opportunities to better yourself are unlimited,” said TSgt Christian Ulberg, 109th ACS Radar Technician. “Working overlapping positions gives you training that you just don’t get during weekend drill.”

The six-day workweek was hard, but it wasn’t all work according to SSgt Juanita Doll, 109th ACS Surveillance Technician. “During off-duty time I was able to continue my on-line education at the learning center.”

The Squadron’s first activation was in 2000, when members deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch. In the days following Sept. 11, 2001, the unit was mobilized again for almost a year for Operation Noble Eagle. They provided radar coverage and protection over the Western United States and for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. In late 2003, the unit was again called to active duty and deployed over 60 members to three locations in Iraq for seven months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. ■

OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP DOWN: Family members and friends of the 109th ACS anxiously await the arrival of the plane carrying members of the Utah Air National Guard. Members of the 109th ACS are happily greeted upon their return from their overseas deployment.



Heroes Then and Now

52nd Annual Veterans Day Concert

By LTC Dallen Atack

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard celebrated the 52nd annual Veteran's Day Concert on Nov. 10, at the University of Utah's Huntsman Center. The 23rd Army Band and the Granite School District's Combined High School Choir performed several patriotic and inspiring numbers in honor of our Nation and its Veterans.

The theme for this year's event was "Heroes Then and Now." To emphasize this year's theme, the band and choir performed a medley of numbers that were popular in each era that our country has been at war.

One of the biggest crowd pleasers was country music singer Toby Keith's "American Soldier," sung by SSG Benjamin Jacobson and accompanied by SSG Loren Clark, SGT Peter Fintak, SGT Adam Pyper, SPC Narciso Wessman and SPC Tyler Putnam.

"'American Soldier' was the highlight of the concert. Toby Keith had some genius in writing this song," said SFC Michael Paul. "With the current state of the country and the war we are in, I think it just strikes home and sends a message in its words to the audience and the American citizen of what we are trying to do as Soldiers."

The concert acknowledged all Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard members by playing each service's song as they stood and received recognition.

Master Sergeant Sterling Poulson served as the master of ceremonies. He provided excellent insight, narrative and commentary throughout the evening's performance. MG Peter Cooke, commanding general of the 96th Regional Readiness Command, was the concert's keynote speaker. He gave a special thanks to all that have served our Nation; both to the Veterans of past wars and to the Soldiers serving today.

The Utah National Guard is already planning the 53rd Veteran's Day Concert once again honoring veteran heroes of yesterday and today. 🇺🇸





Charitable Trust Donations Help Service Members

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Trust gives families who have exhausted all other available resources the ability to work their way to greater financial and emotional stability. In its three-year history, the Trust has given aid to more than 100 military families, fulfilling a critical role in easing the financial strains that come to those who sacrifice for their country.

The Trust has many volunteers that have provided valuable financial counseling to military families in financial hardship. They have helped families reduce debt and eliminate unnecessary expenses, effectively giving them the tools they need to move toward self-reliance.

Here are a few examples of how these emergency relief funds are used:

- To cover transportation to, and lodging costs at, military treatment facilities for a spouse of an Airman or Soldier who has been seriously injured while on active duty overseas.
- Families of Airmen or Soldiers deployed for combat or a military school often struggle with meeting basic needs due to the difference between their military and civilian salaries. In such cases, the Trust will provide families in need with grocery-store gift cards.
- Emergency home repairs represent a significant burden for the spouse of a deployed Airman or Soldier. Broken pipes, major appliance breakdowns, and unexpected car repairs are commonplace occurrences for military families. In many cases a member of the National Guard will perform the repairs so the only cost to the Trust is for materials.

To make a donation to the Charitable Trust please contact Mrs. Tonia Johnson from the Utah National Guard Family Programs Office at (801) 523-4219. 📧



Photo by Ileen Kennedy

Members of the Draper 10th Ward present MG Brian Tarbet, center, with a check for \$10,000 Dec. 18 for the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust. The funds will benefit Utah military families in need during the holiday season and throughout the year.



Photo by Greg Cullis

Businessman Con Wadsworth (left) presents MG Brian Tarbet with a check for the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust from proceeds of a fund raiser drive and 5K race hosted by Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction Company.



Photo by Greg Cullis

MG Brian Tarbet (center) with Xavier Matheson and Thomas Marron of Salt Lake City at the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust Awards Ceremony where the two 9-year old boys gave a single \$300 donation. The boys held a joint birthday party this summer. Instead of asking for gifts, they asked for money, which they donated to the Trust as a way of honoring their grandparents and other relatives who served in the military.



Photo by Ileen Kennedy

(Left to Right) Brig. Gen. Scott Harrison, COL Larry Schmidt, Ms. Alice Demarais, TriWest's Market Vice-President and BG Jeff Burton receive a \$20,000 donation from TriWest Dec. 11, 2007.

“(TriWest) would really like to get this contribution in the hands of the Utah National Guard’s Charitable Trust so it can be used for the NG families, especially those in need during this time of year so they can use it during the holidays,” said Mr. Tom Eurek, TriWest’s Service Area Director for Utah.

The funds will be used to assist military members and their families during financial hardship.

Army and Navy Artillery Exercise

Story and photos by SGT Scott Faddis

SAN DIEGO — **J**oint Army and Navy exercise improve inter-service relationships and battlefield expertise. The Army and Navy systems were able to integrate on a digital level without the use of voice communications.

An Army Infantry unit is on patrol and spots an enemy tank. Their forward observer programs into his computer the location of the enemy tank and requests the Artillery to fire on the tank. If the Infantry unit is out of the Artillery's range or the Artillery is working other missions, the Artillery computer system can immediately send the targeted tank's location to the Naval Strike Force. The Navy can then either use their big guns to destroy the tank, or they can send a fighter plane to attack.

This mission helps the Army see the total capacity of a strike group, and it also "helps add a joint flavor to the Naval Training," said John Johnson, Systems Analyst for L3 Communications who works at Point Loma Naval Base training deploying Strike Groups.

I Corp Artillery was joined by a Patriot Missile Battalion as part of the role to train the commander, Carrier Strike Group Seven is commanded by Rear Admiral Phil Wisecup. Carrier Strike Group Seven is comprised of an Aircraft Carrier, three Destroyers, one Frigate, and one Cruiser.

SSG Chester Day really appreciated the opportunity to work with the Navy in this operation. "Sometimes when you get into your own little world you forget how your job impacts the entire battlefield," said Day. "It is great to see how all of the pieces fit together."



Soldiers from Utah's I Corp Artillery are simulating being in an Artillery Tactical Operation Center and sending information to the Naval Command Strike Group Seven.



(Left to Right) BG Michael Liechty, CSM Larry Hansen and CSM Bruce Summers discuss the operation with CPT Terry Kraft, the commander of the Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

Utah National Guard Family Assistance Centers

Air National Guard
(801) 245-2524

Camp Williams
(801) 878-5037

Fillmore
(435) 743-5470

Ogden
(801) 476-3800

St. George
(435) 986-6705

Blanding
(435) 678-2008

Cedar City
435-438-2262

Logan
(435) 753-3155

Orem
(801) 722-6811

West Jordan
(801) 560-0864

Beaver
(435) 438-2262

Draper
(801) 523-4902

Manti
(435) 835-6156

Spanish Fork
(801) 794-6011

Richfield
(435) 896-4326

Family Programs Upcoming Events

April 25-26
St George Boot Camp
St. George Armory

April 19 and/or May 17
Super Saturday
10-2 p.m. Draper

May 2-3
TAGs Symposium for Family Programs
Youth Leadership Symposium
Downtown Marriott, 75 S. West Temple

June 16-21
UTNG Kids Youth Camp
Camp Williams

July 7-11
Great Utah Road Tour

October 25
The Halloween Extravaganza

Utah's Stevens Gains America's Choice Nod During Miss America Finale



Miss Utah, Jill Stevens (far right), waves to Soldiers and supporters in the crowd while the 16 semifinalists wait for the judges' decision to see who will be going on to the next round.

By SSG Rebecca Doucette

Photos by 2LT Cavett Ishihara

LAS VEGAS — **U**tah Army National Guard SGT Jill Stevens' quest to capture the crown as the 80th Miss America ended with a flurry of pushups on the stage of the nationally televised pageant Saturday, Jan. 26.

Stevens, Miss Utah, immediately assumed the front-leaning rest position and gave the audience at least 10 pushups after host Mark Steines announced that she would not be one of the evening's 10 finalists. Other contestants joined "G.I. Jill" during the brief demonstration of upper-body strength.

She did, however, find satisfaction from winning the "America's Choice" part of the competition which made her one of the 16 initial finalists. A panel of celebrity judges eliminated her and five others following the swimsuit competition, the first event during the final night of the pageant televised live on cable's TLC.

"I think it made a stronger statement than winning Miss America," Stevens said the following day. "To be "America's

Choice" is an honor. To me, I won last night."

Kirsten Haglund, Miss Michigan, won the 2008 Miss America crown, that she will wear for the next year, and a \$50,000 college scholarship.

Stevens walked off the stage with a smile and a wave to join the other contestants who the judges had previously eliminated. She received a \$4,000 scholarship.

"I think I have shown that you can be a woman and a Soldier," said Stevens, an Army Guard medic who served in Afghanistan between November 2003 and April 2005.

Stevens was named the last of the initial 16 finalists because of the "America's Choice" competition that permitted the public to vote for a favorite contestant. It is believed that many National Guard members and others affiliated with the U.S. military services voted for Stevens.

The other 15 initial finalists were selected by the judges following a week of intense competition leading up to the



Saturday night finale.

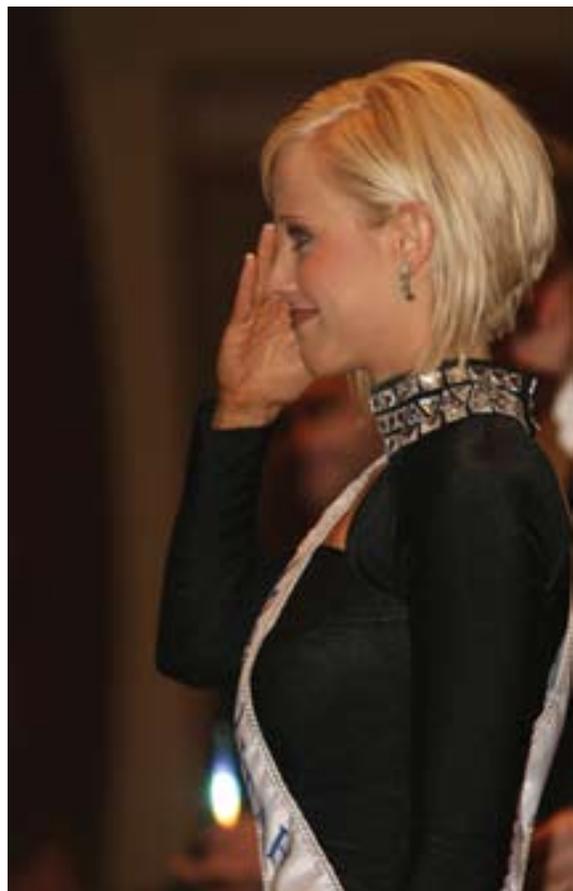
Stevens, according to pageant officials, was the first Miss America contestant since 1992 to be affiliated with the National Guard. Had she won, she would have become the first Miss America to have served in a combat zone.

“Being chosen as “America’s Choice” shows that Jill is a special person and that America supports our Soldiers,” said BG Jefferson Burton, the Utah Guard’s newly-appointed assistant adjutant general-Army. “We are very proud of Jill. She has handled it all very well.”

Her reign as Miss Utah will end in July. 🇺🇸

Story courtesy of National Guard Bureau

Miss Utah, Jill Stevens (right) waits for the announcement to see if she will compete in the next event for the Miss America pageant held in Las Vegas. Jill Stevens salutes her supporters during a scholarship award ceremony after the Miss America pageant. Jill Stevens drops and knocks out push-ups along with several other contestants when the host announces the judges’ decision stating she will not go on in the competition. The judges’ decision resulted in a loud booing from the audience. Jill Stevens congratulates and comforts other Miss America contestants after Miss Michigan was crowned the new Miss America for 2008.



Utah Guard's 'G.I. Jill' Runs in Marine Corps Marathon

By SSG Mary Flynn

ARLINGTON, Va. — **W**hat's another marathon, really, when you're Jill Stevens?

The 2007 Miss Utah is no stranger to the physical and mental discipline required to knock out 26.2 miles. She ran the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington on Oct. 28 finishing in about 3½ hours.

It's the third marathon she's run since winning the pageant title in June. "I love challenges," she said. "That's why I joined the military."

No, that's not a misprint. For one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, Miss Utah becomes SGT Stevens of the Utah National Guard.

She trades in her high heels and gown for combat boots and ACUs, her bouquet of roses for a combat medic aid bag, and her sparkling tiara for a beret or patrol cap.

Wearing the uniform, she says, feels more natural to her. "I'm first-off a Soldier. Always," said Stevens, who had originally laughed at the idea of participating in a beauty pageant. "I don't do heels. I didn't even know where to buy them!"

Having deployed as a combat medic with the 1st of the 211th Aviation Group in April 2004 to Afghanistan, Steven's lifestyle isn't what one would expect of the typical beauty queen.

The 25-year-old had previously shared the same opinion of beauty pageant contestants that many people hold. "I thought that all these girls do is wave their hand, look pretty and do nothing. I didn't want to be associated with that."

She soon discovered, however, that the organization actually had a lot in common with the military. The Miss America program promotes education and teaches leadership, she says. It also promotes fitness and well-being, while focusing on bringing out one's best.

"I saw a great opportunity that would open doors," she said, referring to the titleholder's position as a chance to start organizations or pass bills to create change. "[These women] can move people to action and really make a difference."

One way Stevens has chosen to make a difference is by raising funds and awareness for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a support network for the families of those who have died in service.

TAPS offers peer support and assists survivors through a



Photo by SS Mary Flynn

Reigning Miss Utah, SGT Jill Stevens, Utah National Guard, just after crossing the finish line of the Marine Corps Marathon Oct. 28.

wide variety of programs, including programs for youth.

"[I'm running] for my battle buddies and their families -- people who have lost loved ones over there," she said.

While in D.C., Stevens met with some of the families and visited Soldiers recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. "I thought of them along this run. I'm doing this for them."

Stevens intends to participate in more marathons before her reign as Miss Utah is over. In each one, she will run for TAPS.

Stevens was first exposed to the National Guard when recruiters set up a booth in her high school. Beyond the tuition assistance and the hands-on medical experience she would receive as a combat medic, she was drawn to the challenge that being a Soldier presented.

"I wondered, 'Can I hack that?'" she recalls.

Today, the recent graduate of Southern Utah University has a bachelor's in nursing, 12 marathons under her belt, six years as a combat medic in the Utah National Guard and she's just applied for a direct commission to become an Army nurse.

Stevens attributes much of her success to her experiences in the Guard. "The military has really, truly provided me with a lot of opportunity" in addition to teaching her to make the best of a difficult situation, she said. "I turned Afghanistan into a positive experience, an incredible experience, and I'm

able to share [it].”

Since her return in April 2005, Stevens has frequently been invited to give talks on her experiences. She said it’s an opportunity to give back, one that has only been fueled since her venture into pageantry.

Her schedule is packed with speaking engagements at junior high and elementary schools, where she discusses her platform – “Ready When Disaster Strikes: Emergency Pre-

paredness for Everyone,” and teaches the importance of living life to the fullest.

“I love giving back,” she says, citing her opportunities as a Soldier, a medic, a nurse and now, a titleholder, “It gives me the best feeling in life – it’s my passion.”

Stevens will compete for the Miss America crown in January 2008. 

Story courtesy of National Guard Bureau



Photo by SFC Roger Mommearrts, Jr.

SGT Jill Stevens, right, visits with SSG John Faulkenberry, from Midland, Texas, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center Oct. 24.



Photo courtesy of Jill Stevens

SGT Jill Stevens visits with Halima, a young Afghan girl who received eyesight-saving surgery through the efforts of Utah Soldiers in 2004.

New MC4 Digital System Helps Injured-Soldier Tracking Go Paperless

By Shad West

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he 19th Special Forces Group is receiving training on a system that doctors say should make reporting field injuries more accurate.



Photo courtesy of 19th Special Forces Group

Soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) receive training on the new Medical Communications Combat Casualty Care system.

Currently, when a Soldier gets hurt in the field, a medic evaluates the injury and writes it on paper. The paper gets sent with the Soldier to the next destination, which could be anywhere from a triage area to a hospital, depending on the situation.

With the Medical Communications Combat Casualty Care (MC4) digital recording system, the clinic or hospital that will treat a wounded Soldier should have the injury information from the point of injury.

The system should also better prepare hospitals and clinics by giving them more detailed injury information before wounded Soldiers arrive.

“MC4 will be the implementing technology that will offer deployed forces the full spectrum of force health protection,” said Lt. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, Surgeon General and Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Command. 

2-211th Aviation Bound for Kuwait

By Ileen Kennedy

Photos by Greg Cullis and Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — Approximately 200 Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 211th Army Aviation Regiment, departed from the Utah Air National Guard Base Feb. 20 on the first leg of their 12-month deployment.

“I think it’s a great mission. Everyone is trained and ready to go, so it’s a good thing,” said 1LT Gordon Pedersen, D Company commander and resident of Woods Cross. “It’s a new unit that started from a detachment. It started with no people and no equipment and has grown from there. When you look at other units they have been around for a long time, and we have really come a long way in two years.”

From Utah the 2-211th will travel to Fort Sill, Okla., for several weeks of specialized training before heading overseas.

“The task force’s name is Ghost Rider. We’re meeting up with the flight company today and will be doing some advance training for about two months,” said LTC LaMar Blair, commander of the 2-211th.

Soldiers from Utah’s 2-211th and New Jersey’s 2-104th will make up Task Force 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion. Prior to entering a combat environment they will train together at Fort Sill and combine procedures so that they synchronize as a task force.

“The training is tailored to Aviation. The focus of the training is allowing more flight time and will be aviation-specific training,” said MAJ Pete Adams, executive officer.

After the approximately 80 days of training at Fort Sill, Ghost Rider Task Force will continue to Kuwait. Their primary mission will be air movement of distinguished visitors, as well as movement of equipment and personnel throughout the Middle East.

“We will be housed in Northern Kuwait, and provide transportation throughout Kuwait proper. We will have three to four missions a week that will go cross-border to the southern part of Iraq,” said Adams.

One unique aspect of Ghost Rider Task Force will be a number of married couples deploying with them.

CPT Kaj Petersen, HHC commander will be deploying with his spouse, Assistant Operations Officer 1LT Sarah Petersen. CPT Petersen explained deploying with a spouse poses a few challenges.

“It’s a little scary. It will be nice to have the companionship and the closeness, but it poses its own challenges as well,” said Petersen. “We really have to be professional at all times in front of the Soldiers.”

Another married couple deploying together were both deployed previous to meeting and being married.

“This is the first time we’ve gone over together. Before we were married, we were both deployed,” said SGT Justin Day. “It will be a unique experience for us and our Battalion as well.”

Originally born and raised in South Africa, SSG Chevy Day, wife of SSG Justin Day, joined the National Guard almost 10 years ago and received her citizenship just prior to her first deployment.

“I was so impressed with America when I came here, I really felt I wanted to serve and give back to the people who gave me so much,” explained SSG Chevy Day. “I’m excited to go over with my husband; it’s a very unique and fortunate situation.”

Families of 2-211th Soldiers play an important role. One element that helped make this deployment run smoothly is the extensive lead time the Brigade has had to prepare. Alert status came almost a year ago.

“My stress level went up trying to do the honey-do list,” said Adams. Having been deployed on more than one occasion, Adams continued, “My family never gets used to it, but they are strong enough to get through it.”

The families in this unit are strong and supportive to each other and plan to help each other get through this year.

“My son is looking forward in one aspect because he wants to show me that he can be the man of the house while I’m gone,” said Adams. **E**



Soldiers from the 2-211th kick up their heels as they board the plane with other members of their Regiment.

Opposite Page: Soldiers from the 2-211th take a few moments to say good-bye to family and friends before standing in formation to receive final instructions as they deploy for a year-long mission.



Youth Travel to North Africa for a Taste of Culture

Story and photos by SSG Kelly Collett

CASABLANCA, Morocco — **T**he National Guard is meant to better individuals, and those individuals in turn better their families. So when an opportunity arose to send their children overseas to take part in a “Culture Exchange,” eight Utah Guard families readily gave up their teenagers who would embark on a two-week excursion in North Africa.

The exchange went in hand in hand with Utah’s State Partnership Program, which focuses on strengthening ties with the country of Morocco and its military.

The young men and women ranged in ages from 17-18 years old and spent two weeks in Morocco with host families as part of the culture awareness and exchange program instituted by the Utah National Guard Youth Program.

The National Guard youth recently branched out on a tour overseas to learn the culture of their Moroccan youth counterparts in August 2007.

For most of the youth, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Each young adult had something different which they found truly interesting.

Brance Brown said the best thing for him was, “learning about the culture and the food. It was just cool to find how other people eat and live,” he said.

The National Guard youth had recently entertained a group of Moroccan youth delegates during a two-week trip around Utah. The Moroccans were immersed in American culture by visiting many of Utah’s scenic or historical landmarks during the National Guard’s “Great Utah Road Trip.”

The young men and women spent time with a Moroccan family who hosted them in their homes while in country. American and Moroccan youth then toured many of the major cities of Morocco as a group and were instructed about the countries rich heritage dating back to before the 13th century.

Emily Hoferitza, one of the youths, said, “It was definitely a learning experience. It was a culture shock. It was loads of fun. I got to know everybody better.”

As part of the trip, the youth toured the third-largest mosque in the world. They learned about the importance of the mosque to the Muslim people and how it also fits into their political culture as well.

They also learned many new Arabic and French words to help them communicate with others, especially in the markets of Morocco and with their host families.

Some youths were surprised to see that Moroccans speak multiple languages which include Arabic and French.

“I was completely clueless when I went over there. I came back and realized that I had to learn French,” said Hoferitza after returning home from Morocco.

They spent several days at a Moroccan military youth camp in the mountains where they met other young men and women from Germany, Switzerland and France. While there, they rode horses, mules, bikes and danced. They were also treated to a welcoming party which included a Moroccan band and Moroccan food.

Kelly Barnes, director of Child and Youth Programs for the Utah National Guard stated what he felt was the most important aspect of the trip. “We have forged relationships with the families and kids. The Moroccans treated us like royalty with a new cultural experience every day. But when the day was over the relationships and personal experiences are the greatest thing which we took away.”

The teenagers returned with a newfound love and interest for other cultures and especially for their new friends lovingly known as “the Moroccans.” **E**

Utah National Guard Youth visit Morocco, a country rich with heritage and culture. They spent two weeks with host families as part of the culture awareness and exchange program.





COL Linda Higgins Retires After 30 Years of Military Service

By 2LT Cavett Ishihara

DRAPER, Utah — Minutes on film barely touched on decades of selfless service as history displayed on Juan Diego High School's auditorium movie screen. Digitalized photographs spanning years of accomplishment flashed to music as hundreds of friends, family, peers and troops reminisced the distinguished military career of Army COL Linda P. Higgins during her retirement on the afternoon of Nov. 4, 2007.

Apparent in the dozens of photographs and newspaper clippings, ranging from the early 1970s through 2007, were historical images of a Soldier who was determined to give her every effort toward achieving success.

The audience cheered and nodded in agreement as they acknowledged Higgins' efforts and leadership demonstrated in the photographs spanning her basic-training experiences to Airborne school as well as enlisted to officer time.

"I want you to know how much I appreciate her," explained MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard's adjutant general. "She's done such a remarkable job. She is such a wonderful example."

This example was evident by Higgins' response to MG Tarbet's remarks. "There isn't a Soldier in these seats who hasn't had an impact on me," said Higgins. "I've been so influenced by the Soldiers that I've served with, and I hope I served you well."

Higgins' 30-year service ranged from enlisted time with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Special Forces Group, to several commands as officer. Those commands included commander of the 115th Maintenance Company; detachment commander, Headquarters, Utah State Area Command; commander, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; commander, 2nd Battalion, 640th Regiment Training Institute; commander, Headquarters, 640th RTI; and commander, Headquarters, 97th Troop Command.

Each unit presented words and gifts to Higgins during the retirement ceremony. Many outlined Higgins' work ethic and sacrifice for the individual Soldier. Highlights of the presentations included the 23rd Army Band, playing Glen Miller's "In the Mood."

In addition, 97th Troop Command CSM Raelynn Oman praised Higgins for her leadership and teamwork. In her light-hearted presentation, Oman returned dozens of pairs of "lost" or "stolen" reading eyeglasses, berets and car keys, bringing the audience to its feet in applause and ovation.

Despite the cheers, jeers and tears of the event, Higgins led with grace and tact, thanking her peers, her troops and her family, "I have to tell my family—thank you very much," Higgins said. "I could not-and would not-be in the National Guard without the support of my family." ■

TOP DOWN: MG Brian Tarbet pins Higgins at her retirement ceremony Nov. 4. CSM Bruce Summers and Higgins salute. ISG Wesley Glenn presents Higgins a race-car replica from the 115th Maintenance Company. From the audience, COL Higgins' family watches the retirement ceremony.



Photos by Greg Cullis

Sub for Santa Helps a Record Number of Service Members in 2007



Members of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion help package, wrap and organize donated gifts for Sub for Santa. The conference room was filled with generously donated gifts for Service members.



Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **E**ach year the Utah National Guard Family Readiness assistant Tonia Johnson organizes Sub for Santa donations for Guard members and their families who are in need during the holiday season.

“The first year I took over Sub for Santa we helped 14 families. This year we have helped 94,” said Johnson. “Each year the need seems to double.”

The ability to help Guard families is made possible by the generous charitable contributions from organizations and individuals who want to give back to the Soldiers who selflessly serve our country.

MAJ Alexander Faletti arranged for 20 active-duty Guard Soldiers from the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion to spend a morning packaging and wrapping presents, loading vans and transporting donations to armories across the State.

“Most of the Soldiers working today were deployed over the Christmas holiday last year,” said Faletti. “Most understand what it is like to have a parent deployed.”

More and more families of deployed Service members are not able to provide food, clothing or gifts for their families. The requests for Sub for Santa have doubled as a growing number of Utah National Guard members are deployed.

“We were able to help families from Logan to St. George and everywhere in between,” said Johnson.

The Utah National Guard has a record number of Service members deployed. As they serve our country almost 40 percent are compensated much less than their civilian jobs pay,

creating a great burden for the families.

“I think it’s awesome to see people share their love and help out other people. It’s just great,” said SSG Ben Goodrich, one of the 141st MI Soldiers who helped to wrap presents.

The Utah National Guard has a network of Family Assistance Centers (FAC) located at 13 armories across the State. The FAC coordinator provides a local contact for Guard members and their families. Struggling families can turn to the FAC coordinator for assistance or apply on the Family Programs Web site at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family/index.htm.

“We uphold confidentiality for all the families. All the gifts are sent to the Family Assistance Centers. For many families it is really hard to ask for help, so confidentiality is really important,” said Johnson. “We have Soldiers who want to give the gifts and drive them over to the homes. We can’t allow that for the privacy for the families, so all gifts are delivered to the FAC and then distributed.”

Guard members, families, volunteers and organizations are all honored to help with this service and happy for a way to give something back to our Airmen and Soldiers who serve our State and our country. 

Utah Places 2nd in First Honor Guard Competition

By SSG Scott Faddis

RENO, Nev. — **U**tah's team recently took second in a competition to separate the best from the best. The top team from each region competed to see how close to perfection they could come. Teams of seven Soldiers each came from Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah to compete at the Stead Training Facility, an Army Guard site on the outskirts of Reno.

"Perfection is the standard to which we hold ourselves," said SSG Jan Rigby, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Utah Army National Guard's Military Program. "It is an elusive goal to reach, so we must spend countless hours practicing and preparing ourselves and our uniforms for each funeral mission. Rarely do we ever feel that we have achieved perfection, but we will not allow ourselves to settle for anything less than perfection."

The margin of error was less than two percent separating the first and second place teams. There was also less than two percent separating the second- and third-place teams. Oregon took first place, Utah second and Tennessee third.

The competition was the result of National Guard Bureau's efforts to standardize the way that state teams render funeral honors for Veterans and their families. The teams are judged from the standards that are taught at the Army National Guard Honor Guard Training Course at the Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark. Students of the course receive 80 hours of intense training from former members of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard). Judging for the competition reflects the standards taught at the course.

"These are probably the best teams from across the nation," said Ari Morales, operations coordinator for Nevada's honor-guard program. "They are competing in order to identify what team is upholding our standards the most and representing the National Guard Bureau in the way that they should be," added Morales who also helped coordinate the competition.

Members of the Old Guard from Fort Myer, Va., which participates in thousands of funerals every year and guards the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, were the evaluators.

Each day began with an exhaustive in-ranks inspection during which Old Guard NCOs "hard-eyed" each Soldier from head to toe. They used rulers to check the uniforms; they wrote down the "gigs," or discrepancies. "One thirty-second of an inch is too far off for a measurement of the uniform," said



The Utah Team prepares its first volley of rounds. In a funeral with a firing party, five to seven Soldiers fire three rounds of volleys. Often mistakenly called the 21-gun salute, the firing party is a military tradition to honor the fallen.

LEFT: SFC Allen Jackson hands his weapon to SSG Jan Rigby at the conclusion of the firing party. Jackson will stay behind until the family turns their back on the grave site. At that time Jackson will pick up all of the shell casings.



ABOVE: Utah Team (left) and New York Team (right) compete in the speed portion of the obstacle course. Teams carried a casket with 200 lbs. of weight inside. RIGHT: In the formal portion of the obstacle course teams were required to take the caskets slowly and move around obstacles that are commonly found in cemeteries.





TOP DOWN: *The Utah Team prepares to raise the flag as part of a six-man flag fold. The six-man flag fold is reserved as one of the highest military funeral honors. It is an honor that is reserved for Veterans that require full military honors.*



SFC John Mark (left) and SSG Darrell Willson start the more common three-man flag fold being careful not to let the flag touch the casket. The Utah team scored perfectly on this event, not missing a single point.

BELOW: *SFC John Mark pretends to present the flag to the next of kin. He is being graded on every word and action he*



RIGHT: *The Old Guard judge inspects the Ohio team. Teams were inspected for hours at a time judged on both their appearance and military bearing. BELOW: The Old Guard judge checks SSG Todd Perry's ribbons and medals for placement. Judges measure uniforms to 1/32 of an inch.*



Rigby.

“The team members spend hours preparing their uniforms before each funeral and also before the inspection,” said Jim Slade, coordinator of Utah’s Honor Guard Program.

Every night each team member steams out any wrinkles on their uniform. Then they double-- and triple-check their measurements on their uniform. In the morning they will quickly steam their uniform again and go over it with a lint brush before having another team member check them over.

After hours of preparation, the judges will still be able to find small “gigs.” Perfection is unattainable, that is the standard of the Old Guard. To outsiders this intense scrutiny seems like nit-picking but to the teams it is part of the job. Rigby summed it up by saying, “You can begin to understand how far we take perfection.”

After the inspections teams competed in all aspects of performing a funeral for a fallen Veteran, from lifting caskets and urns out of hearses to firing the customary salute with M-14 rifles and presenting the folded flag to a deceased’s family member.

The participants ran a grueling, timed obstacle course which had to be done twice - once for time and then repeated in full dress blues while performing honors, both while carrying a casket weighted down by 200 pounds of sandbags. They also took a 60-question written exam on the history of memorial affairs.

“It is a grueling competition,” said Slade. “The teams are beat to death during the hours of competition. There is a lot of preparation that each Soldier does on their own time.”

The contest was a great experience for the Utah team, but more important than the competition was the level of perfection the team reached. Preparing and competing at such a high level raised the level of professionalism that has since been achieved on the day to day funeral in Utah.

“The most difficult part of Military Funeral Honors is meeting people when they are likely experiencing the worst time of their lives--the loss of their loved ones,” said Rigby. “Although some situations are more difficult than others, all people we come in contact with are mourning.”

Utah’s Military Funeral Honors team consisted of SFC Allen Jackson, SFC John Mark, SFC Craig Rundell, SFC Shaun Harris, SSG Jan Rigby, SSG Darrell Willson, SSG Todd Perry, and SSG Scott Faddis. They were all awarded the Utah Medal of Merit by MG Brian Tarbet for their hard work preparing for the competition and their diligence of performing Military Funeral Honors in the State. ■

SSG W. Michael Houk staff writer for the National Guard Bureau contributed to this article.

Freedom Academy

By SGT Brock Jones

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **S**eventy-one high school students from Utah and Colorado participated in the forty-sixth annual Freedom Academy held at Camp Williams, Utah.

The Freedom Academy, an annual event hosted by the Utah Army and Air National Guard, is a weeklong gathering of student leaders from high schools around the state. The purpose of Freedom Academy is to promote a sense of patriotism and provide motivation to be actively involved in preserving the freedoms we enjoy.

“The Freedom Academy gives student-body officers the opportunity to participate in a weeklong academy to promote the principles and ideals of freedom,” said Air Force Maj. David Osborne, director of this year’s Academy. “It is centered around freedom.”

The delegates listened to distinguished speakers throughout the week and discussed topics ranging from freedom and leadership to drug prevention. They toured the Utah State Prison in Draper, Utah, and the Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City. The delegates tackled an obstacle course, jumped off rappel towers and engaged in friendly competition with a speech contest and talent show. Musical entertainment was provided by the 23rd Army Band and the a cappella group, Tongue Tied.

“The Freedom Academy exceeded my expectations, for sure,” said Cami Poll, senior class vice president of Morgan High School. She added that the speakers and the counselors were the highlight of the Academy for her.

Members of the Utah Army and Air National Guard make up the staff of counselors and support personnel who are the driving force behind the Academy’s long and successful history. Most of the staff return year after year, finding satisfaction in helping tomorrow’s leaders learn lessons that will guide them through high school and beyond. 🇺🇸

High School students from Utah and Colorado participate in leadership-building activities during Freedom Academy held at Camp Williams, Utah. Students were also given the opportunity to tour the Utah Air National Guard Base and a KC-135R aircraft.



Photos courtesy of 128th MPAD

COL Jefferson Burton Promoted to Brigadier General

By Capt Karen Nuccitelli

DRAPER, Utah — Colonel Jefferson Burton was appointed as Assistant Adjutant General for Army of the Utah National Guard and was promoted to brigadier general in a ceremony Jan. 10, 2008, at the Utah Guard's Draper headquarters.

The ceremony included opening remarks from Utah National Guard Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet, introductions of Burton's family and friends, Burton's wife, daughter and granddaughter pinning his general star and concluded with a standing ovation.

Burton was brief in his remarks. "I just always tried to do my job and take care of folks; the rest takes care of itself. This is not a job, it's a calling, and I'm grateful for the calling. Leadership is not about you, it's about the organization," he said. He concluded his remarks by thanking his wife who "supported me through all this."

Once the ceremony was concluded a receiving line quickly formed and lasted for nearly forty-five minutes while family, friends and co-workers congratulated and offered well wishes to Burton and his family.

A long-time resident of Payson, Burton enlisted as an artilleryman in 1982. He graduated from Brigham Young University's ROTC program and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1984.

After serving on active duty for six years as a Military Police officer with the 7th U.S. Corps and the 4th Infantry Division, he joined the Utah National Guard in 1991 where he transferred to the Engineer Corps.

With the Engineers, Burton has served in various positions to include company commander, battalion executive officer, assistant professor of Military Science at both Brigham Young University and Utah Valley State College, Director of Civil/Military Relations and Director of Personnel. He also served as commander of the Utah Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion,

In 2003, as commander of the 1457th Engineer Battalion, he led his 450 Soldiers on their deployment to Iraq with the 1st Armored Division Task Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In his current position Burton is responsible for the training and support of 5,200 Soldiers. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Badge and Parachutist Wings. 



Photos by Greg Cullis

ABOVE: BG Burton with his wife Sharn and granddaughter wait while his daughter pins his general star on his uniform. BELOW: MG Brian Tarbet presents the Legion of Merit and salutes COL Burton as he is promoted to brigadier general.

In Memoriam

SFC Stephen Michael Mays Jr.
Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

SFC Austin Douglas Moos
HHC, First Attack Helicopter Battalion, 211th Aviation

Combat Veteran Eligibility Extended

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

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

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

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

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





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- Secret Security Clearance or higher
- No more than eleven years active Federal service
- Be in good standing with their M-Day unit



KC-135 Maintenance Crews Keep Tankers Flying

By SMSgt Corey Quintana

Photo courtesy 151st Maintenance Group

SALT LAKE CITY — **M**embers of the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Maintenance Group keep the KC-135R Stratotanker flying to support the primary mission of the United States Air Force. This mission is global vigilance, reach and power. The 151st is comprised of 234 men and women of whom 114 are full-time employees. The 151st is committed to providing quality maintenance, resources and service to accomplish mission requirements to the State, Nation and world.

The KC-135's primary mission is air refueling. It provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps aircraft as well as aircraft of Allied nations. In addition to air refueling, the KC-135 has other uses such as transporting litter and ambulatory patients, troops, airlift and humanitarian missions.

Maintainers know they have been entrusted with a multi-million-dollar aircraft as well as the safety and well-being of the flight crews. Every time one of their aircraft takes off, the mechanics have worked many long hours to make certain that the aircraft is safe and fully mission capable. The maintainers identify and repair problems, perform rigging of flight controls, landing gear, major airframe components and engine throttle controls. They also perform periodic inspections, scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, towing, refueling, defueling, engine operations, launch and recovery. For every hour a flight crew

spends in the air, maintenance performs at least 10 hours of inspections, repairs and routine maintenance. Maintenance crews are key to keeping the aging fleet of refueling aircraft mission capable at all times.

The average age of the aircraft maintained by the 151st is 50 years. In recent years the KC-135 has undergone upgrades to many of its major systems. Avionics upgrades include cockpit enhancements such as liquid-crystal, flat-panel multifunction displays, forward-looking predictive wind-shear weather radar, Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System and an embedded global positioning system. The KC-135R has been updated with CFM 56 engines. The re-engined aircraft can offload 50 percent more fuel, is 25 percent more fuel efficient, costs 25 percent less to operate, and is 96 percent quieter than previous models. Each CFM 56 also produces 21,600 pounds of thrust.

Constant maintenance, attention to detail, team effort, long work hours and dedicated Airmen keep the aircraft and its service life going year after year. A rigorous daily maintenance routine means the 151st Air Refueling Wing can fly the missions it has been tasked with. We can expect the KC-135 to be in our inventory for years to come since a tanker replacement has not been decided. This makes it critical for maintainers to preserve the fleet for the future.

General Characteristics

Ceiling:	50,000 feet	Prime Contractor:	The Boeing Company
Maximum Takeoff Weight:	322,500 pounds	Wingspan:	130 feet, 10 inches
Maximum Transfer Fuel Load:	200,000 pounds	Length:	136 feet, 3 inches
Maximum Cargo Capability:	83,000 pounds	Height:	41 feet, 8 inches
Crew:	Three: pilot, copilot and boom operator.	Speed:	530 miles per hour at 30,000 feet

KC-135 Facts:

The average passenger car would operate for more than a year on the amount of fuel transferred through the air-refueling boom in one minute. A gas station pump operating continuously for 24 hours could not pump as much fuel as a KC-135R pushes through its boom in eight minutes.

There is enough rubber in the tires of the tanker to produce 100 car tires.

The heat generated to provide window anti-icing is sufficient to keep a seven room house comfortably warm.

Fuel cells in the KC-135 are made of nylon fabric less than 1/16 of an inch thick. A fuel cell weighing 80 pounds will hold seven tons of fuel.

5000 wires totaling 14.5 miles in length are needed in the electrical circuits of the tanker.

Under normal landing conditions, the brakes absorb enough energy to stop simultaneously 461 cars traveling at 50 miles per hour. Under full braking power, the brakes would stop almost 1,042 cars.

At an ambient air temperature of 59 degrees Fahrenheit, at takeoff power each of the engines uses 2,836,800 lbs. of air per hour, or about 15,030,400 cubic feet of air per hour. This volume is equal to the same amount of volume in a 39-story building that measures 100 feet wide and 300 feet long. 

The 151st Maintenance Group at the Utah Air National Guard Base in front of one of the KC-135R they maintain.



Two Utah Guard Soldiers Receive Joint Award in Iraq

By MAJ Hank McIntire



PFC Trevor Barney, right, receives the Joint Service Achievement Medal from GEN David Petraeus, commander of Multinational Forces-Iraq Nov 27.



SGT Thomas Payeur, center, poses for a photo with GEN David Petraeus, left, after receiving the Joint Service Achievement Medal.
Photos courtesy of 1-145th Field Artillery

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq — **S**ergeant Thomas Payeur, of Kearns, and PFC Trevor Barney, of Richfield, both of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, received the Joint Service Achievement Medal Nov. 27, 2007, for their role in the discovery of escape tunnels dug by enemy prisoners at Camp Bucca, Iraq.

General David Petraeus, commanding general of Multinational Forces-Iraq, presented the medals personally to the two Soldiers at a combined awards ceremony.

The Joint Service Achievement Medal is awarded to those members of the United States Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by outstanding performance of duty or meritorious achievement while assigned to a joint activity.

The 450 Soldiers of the 1-145th deployed in June 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit is providing support to detention operations at the camp in southern Iraq, which has the capacity to hold up to 6,000 prisoners.

According to the globesecurity.org Web site, Camp Bucca is the Coalition's primary facility for enemy prisoners of war.

"The Soldiers of the 1-145th are doing an outstanding job here at Camp Bucca," said Payeur and Barney's commander, 1LT Justin Christensen, of Lehi. "And their diligence is being noticed." **E**



Utah Marriage Commission Awards Banquet

By Marilyn Stewart

SALT LAKE CITY — **A**t the Utah Marriage Commission Awards Banquet Feb. 1, 2008, MG Brian Tarbet poses with SPC Jacoby Mattson, who is currently serving at Camp Bucca, Iraq, but home on leave, and three generations of military service from his family.

LEFT TO RIGHT: MG Brian Tarbet, SPC Jacoby Mattson's father, Robert (Bob) Mattson – Army; his grandfather Lamar Stewart – Army WWII veteran; SPC Mattson – Utah National Guard; and his Uncle, Scott Stewart – Utah National Guard. **E**



Photo courtesy of Marilyn Stewart

BG Bruce Frandsen Retires After 32 Years of Service

By Caleb Warnock

DRAPER, Utah — **A**t a ceremony marking his retirement after 32 years in the Utah National Guard, BG Bruce C. Frandsen was given some advice for his leisure days to come: “Run ‘er ‘til she seizes.”

The ceremony, which lasted about 45 minutes, consisted of a stream of accolades and gifts from colleagues. Frandsen was presented with plaques, books, a jacket, sweatshirt, statues, display boxes of his medals, flags and gift certificates. The ceremony was held at the Utah National Guard’s Draper Headquarters.

Nearing the end of the event, Utah National Guard Counter Drug Coordinator, COL Neil Hansen, said the tributes were going too fast and he was going to tell tales on Frandsen. “The two men joined the National Guard together, both sworn in by Frandsen’s father, Mel Frandsen, who was also a brigadier general,” Hansen said.

Bruce Frandsen became famous for once taking a colleague to task. While overseeing the construction of the Cedar Fort cemetery, a dump-truck driver, attempting to leave work early, “concocted a story about having engine problems,” Hansen said. “Seeing through the ploy, he (Frandsen) said ‘Run ‘er ‘til she seizes!’ ... My advice for your retirement days is ‘Run ‘er ‘til she seizes.’”

Early in his career, Frandsen showed “his tenacity to get a job done” when he hiked to his own home to get tools to fix a broken military vehicle, Hansen said. And once, when a helicopter engine began to fail mid-flight, Frandsen stuck an orange Starburst candy in his mouth, saying he wanted to enjoy his last moments and orange was his favorite flavor.

“And we hit hard,” interrupted Frandsen, speaking of the helicopter landing.

Being more serious, Hansen said Frandsen had taught him by word and example to have a sacred respect for training because “sweat in training means you bleed less in war.”

MG Brian Tarbet, Adjutant General for the Utah National Guard, called Frandsen’s retirement a sad day, saying it would be the first time in generations that one of the Frandsen family would not be in uniform.

Frandsen wrapped up the ceremony by paying tribute to his family and colleagues.

“It was a privilege to have a job that was so fulfilling to me and appreciated by the citizens of this great State and Nation,” he said.

As a teen, the phone would ring repeatedly every Monday night with commanders calling in reports to his

father, he said. His father was not able to attend Thursday’s ceremony but every time father and son visit, “he asks me two things: How is the strength (of the military) and how are the enlisted men doing.”

Calling them “the most important people,” Frandsen thanked his family, saying his wife had no idea what she was getting into when she married a National Guardsman.

“Thank you all,” Frandsen said in closing, addressing the one hundred or so members of the National Guard in the audience. “It’s been an honor to serve with you.”

A lifelong resident of American Fork, Frandsen had served as assistant adjutant general of the Utah Army National Guard since 2005. Concurrent with his assignment as assistant adjutant general, Frandsen also served as deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., said Utah National Guard spokesman MAJ Hank McIntire, in a statement.

Frandsen’s responsibilities at Fort Leonard Wood included overseeing the training and equipping of more than 40,000 engineer, chemical and military police soldiers in the Army National Guard nationwide.

Beginning his military career in 1975, Frandsen attained the rank of staff sergeant before attending the Utah Military Academy Officer Candidate School and receiving his commission in 1980.

Frandsen served in numerous leadership positions in the Utah Guard, including platoon leader; detachment, company and battalion commander; executive officer; training officer; deputy chief of staff for personnel; and joint chief of staff in the Utah National Guard’s Joint Forces Headquarters.

COL Jefferson Burton has been named the new Assistant Adjutant General-Army, having most recently served as deputy chief of staff for personnel of the Utah National Guard. As commander of the 1457th Engineer Battalion, Burton led his 400 soldiers in Iraq in 2003-04 as they fulfilled combat engineer missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 

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Nyla Frandsen, center, wife of BG Bruce Frandsen, right, receives flowers and certificate of appreciation from COL Jeff Burton.

CSM Dell Smith Retires After 36 Years of Guard Service

By Caleb Warnock

Photos by Greg Cullis



Connie Smith, center, receives a hug from Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet after he presented her with the Civilian Superior Service Award for her dedication

LEFT: Unaccustomed to the spotlight, CSM Dell Smith, thanks colleagues, friends, and family for their support at his retirement ceremony.



RIGHT: CSM Joseph Spencer, left, presents Connie and Dell Smith with matching jackets for their upcoming Alaska cruise.

DRAPER, Utah — **W**ith choked emotions, piles of gifts and congratulations from around the globe, the Utah National Guard said goodbye to one of its own on Thursday.

After 36 years of service, CSM Dell Smith of Springville, senior non-commissioned officer of the Utah Army National Guard, and his wife, Connie, were given an emotional two-hour send-off in honor of his retirement during an official ceremony at the Guard's Draper headquarters.

"I don't know what to say," Smith said at the end of the ceremony. "Basically all I cared about were the Soldiers. I would tell them the truth about what I could and could not do, and what I could and could not support."

Smith then paused for over a minute, fighting to gain composure.

"Whew," he said, finally. "I can't look at my daughter down there. I have missed her birthday for 20-plus years. I have never been home on her birthday."

He spent last Thanksgiving visiting troops in the Middle East, he said. He is looking forward to spending time with his family in retirement.

"There is always an upside and a downside," he said, pointing to his extended family seated on the front rows of the audience. "The downside went to the people on the front rows, and the upside went to the people in uniform."

About two dozen representatives of different organizations within the military lined up to present Smith and his wife with honors. The couple were presented with a sword, matching regimental jackets, donations toward an Alaskan cruise, a framed reproduction of the Constitution, a flag flown at military outposts around the world, plaques, trophies, certificates, honorary titles and even folding chairs.

Connie Smith was awarded a medal for superior civilian service for her volunteer work helping military families.

CSM Joe Spencer said the Smiths often spent their Friday night date night

at meetings preparing new recruits to enter boot camp, where Connie Smith would encourage the young men and women to stay in touch with their families.

“I’m not sure that anyone else has had such a broad affect, and I would like to thank you for fighting and working hard on the living conditions of our Soldiers,” said Spencer of CSM Smith.

“I think everyone loves CSM Smith,” said COL Larry Schmidt. “I don’t think he has any enemies at all, which is quite an accomplishment for 36 years.”

Other speakers called CSM Smith an outstanding American who gave sage and candid advice.

“The great thing about Dell is that he accumulates and keeps friends,” said MG Brian Tarbet. “Professionally he has made a huge contribution. The thing about Dell was that he knew how to fix the underlying problem. He used his gift to the advantage of the Soldiers. He has blessed our lives for nearly four decades, and we are grateful, and we will miss him.”

Smith served as command sergeant major since 2001. During his career he served as supply sergeant and personnel sergeant with the 145th Field Artillery; enlisted personnel manager for the deputy chief of staff for personnel; and as command sergeant major of the 97th Troop Command, according to a statement from the National Guard.

CSM Bruce D. Summers will take over for Smith. He is a Richfield resident. 

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TOP DOWN: COL Jefferson Burton, left, presents CSM Dell Smith with a gift in tribute to Smith’s service during his distinguished career.

CMSgt Michael Scoresby, 169th Intelligence Squadron, gives Smith a flag flown in many locations around the world.

SFC Allen Jackson, left, presents Smith with a ceremonial sword in recognition of his 36 years of devoted service to the NCO Corps.



Springville Library Gets Some Professional Touch-up from the 624th Engineer Company

By SFC David Hegg

SPRINGVILLE, Utah — Soldiers from the 624th Engineer Company recently applied their skills and talents on various projects at the Springville Public Library.

Pamela Vaughn, director of the Springville Public Library, requested help from the local Utah Army National Guard unit with repairing roof leaks, reconfiguring the check-out area, drilling wire access holes and painting damaged walls.

“The library is a 40-year-old building that gets heavy usage of approximately 1,000 patrons per day,” said Vaughn.

A new library will hopefully be constructed soon, but in the meantime the city cares for the old library the best they can. Officials are reluctant to expend funds on major repairs for the building which in all likelihood will be torn down after the new library is constructed. Soldiers from the 624th provided expertise and tools, and Springville City provided the necessary supplies and materials.

“Our Soldiers have to use their skills in electrical work, plumbing, as well as carpentry and masonry,” said CPT Jeremy Neville, the 624th’s commanding officer. “It’s a valuable experience where we’re able to help not only our Soldiers work on a skill, but also they feel like they’ve contributed. They feel like their time’s been worthwhile.”

The main focus for the Soldiers was repairing the leaks on the library’s flat roof in order to stop water from damaging books and computers inside. After getting a briefing from Mr. Shawn Orton of the Springville Facility Maintenance Department, Soldiers were divided up into four teams, one for each project, and they went to work.

The roofing team, led by SSG Fredrick Castillo, applied rolls of modified bitumen roofing using the torch-application method.

This process basically consists of heating the bitumen with propane torches so the roofing material adheres to the roof. Rolls are overlapped to prevent water from penetrating the seams.

The Soldiers’ second priority was to reconfigure the library’s book checkout area. The old counter and shelving were removed and a new counter area was built. SGT Udell Winkler took the lead for this project, and with the help of his fellow Soldiers they were able to reconfigure this area to the satisfaction and great appreciation of the library staff.

“We gave them some options and tried to use the same materials so they didn’t have to spend more money for new materials,” said Winkler. “We had to be careful in our demolition as we converted the existing into a more workable workspace.”

For the last two projects Soldiers drilled a half-dozen holes through the floor into the basement so wiring could be strung for computer stations. They finished by applying touch-up paint to areas that displayed wear and tear from many years of use.

The 624th Engineer Company is a vertical construction unit comprised of Soldiers trained as carpenters, plumbers and electricians. The Springville Public Library projects allowed Soldiers to perform in their military occupation specialty and at the same time contribute to the local community.

“It’s nice to be able to serve the community and show people that we don’t just go defend our country; we try to help in the community,” said Winkler. “We get hands-on training that we don’t always get to do if we don’t have projects like this.”

Winkler especially enjoyed the library project because he lives in Springville, just a few blocks from the library. The next time he is in the library with his family, he can point out to them that he built the counter where they are checking out their books. ■



Members of the 624th Engineer Co. (Vertical Construction) prepare the tar paper before installing it at the Springville Public Library.



After dismantling the old countertops, members of the 624th Engineer Co. (Vertical Construction) use the existing materials to build a new counter for the checkout area of the library.

Photos courtesy of 624th Engineer Company

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Utah Guard Marathon Team Wins at National Contest

By Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard marathon team has been placing high during the 2007-08 season. The first weekend in May 2007, SFC Ray Workman, MAJ Eric Petersen and CPT DeAnne Trauba were selected at the Lincoln-National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb., to be members of the All-Guard team.

All-Guard Marathon Team members also attended competitions in San Diego; Virginia Beach, Va.; Las Vegas; Columbus, Ohio; and Myrtle Beach, S.C.

At Myrtle Beach, both Petersen and Workman competed in the Masters marathon relay, placing first overall.

“The conditions were really cold for Myrtle Beach,” said Workman. “In the morning it was below freezing, but it was fun and we enjoyed it.”

With two very experienced runners competing, Utah placed well, even with the unexpected conditions.

“It was tough conditions. It was windy all day until about the last six miles when you had a little bit of a tailwind. Everybody ran pretty cautiously,” said Workman. “I was happy to be able to hang with the tailwind and place well.”

MAJ Petersen took first place overall in the 5K competition at the Air Force Marathon.

In June, two marathon team members, SGT Jill Stevens and Petersen participated as part of a mixed team in the Ragnar Wasatch Back Relay, a 188-mile course from Logan to Park City. Out of 300 teams, Utah’s team finished 6th overall and 2nd place in the Open Mixed Division.

“The only teams finishing ahead of us were the BYU and Weber State collegiate running teams, and a few teams sponsored by running stores (who use primarily former collegiate running stars),” said Petersen. “Jill did a great job filling in at the last minute. Especially since it was the same week she was competing again in the Miss Utah Pageant!”

In August, the Utah Guard Marathon Team participated in Salt Lake County’s Corporate Games taking first place overall in the 5K cross-country event.

The team also competed individually at the Wadsworth-Utah National Guard Charitable Trust 5K Run held in Draper. Petersen was the first Guard member to cross the finish line and the fifth place overall runner.

In February 2008, the marathon team participated at Austin, Texas, for a half marathon, placing well.



Photos courtesy Utah Marathon Team

ABOVE: CPT DeAnne Trauba runs in the center of the pack during the Lincoln-National Guard Marathon in Lincoln, Neb.



LEFT TO RIGHT: 2LT Holly Moody, CPT DeAnne Trauba, MAJ Eric Petersen and SFC Dallas Workman, all members of the 2007 Utah National Guard Marathon Team.



RIGHT: MAJ Eric Petersen running in the Las Vegas half marathon.

The marathon team is always looking for serious and motivated runners to join their ranks. To qualify to be a member of the Utah National Guard Marathon Team a male runner needs to run under 3:30. To participate in the Lincoln-National Guard Marathon, a male Soldier must usually run a marathon distance in under three hours and female Soldiers in under four hours. Attendance at the Lincoln Marathon is limited to available funding, and most states usually send four or five runners. Runners posting the fastest times during the year at other races will have first priority for participation at Lincoln.

If interested please contact State Marathon Coordinator MAJ Eric Petersen at eric.d.petersen@us.army.mil. 

Utah National Guard Association's Group Term Life Insurance Program

Sponsored by: The Utah National Guard Association
Underwritten by: ING/Reliastar Life Insurance Company and AFBA/5 Star Life Insurance Company

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

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

LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

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

BENEFICIARY

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PLAN FEATURES

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- No aviation clause
- No terrorism clause
- No overseas clause
- No Hazardous-Duty or Civilian-Occupation Restriction
- Premium deducted directly from drill pay
- Group coverage available until age 70
- Coverage and premium remains the same when member leaves the National Guard

MEMBER COVERAGE

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

* Non Tobacco-User Rates

SPOUSE COVERAGE

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

* Non Tobacco-User Rates

DEPENDENT COVERAGE

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

For more information or to schedule a unit briefing call

1-800-462-7441

Always Room at the Inn, Thanks to the Innkeeper

By CDT Andrew Howells

RIVERTON, Utah — **B**illeting keeper at Camp Williams retires leaving behind heavy shoes to fill. MSG Clair Hugie, who recently retired as the "Innkeeper" served at Camp Williams since 1987.

"He was known as the innkeeper, and the man single-handedly responsible for making billeting what it is today," said MSG Mike Melantine, the senior supply sergeant for Camp Williams.

Camp Williams is the main training site for the Utah National Guard. Nestled on the west slope of the Traverse Mountains between Provo and Salt Lake City, Williams is a training site consisting of over 28,000 acres. Camp Williams also has the ability to support hardened quarters for 2,800 troops, due in large part to Hugie.

"It was important to Hugie to ensure every Soldier that stayed on site had an adequate and comfortable place to sleep," said Melantine.

Hugie knew that if the Soldiers were comfortable, the morale and work quality would be increased, as well as the level of training each Soldier would receive.

"Hugie placed great importance in his work, because of the impact on the life of the Soldiers," said Melantine. "He felt that we should give them the best we have to offer."

Hugie began his career in the active duty Army in the early 70s. He served a tour of duty both in Holland and Korea. After being on active duty, Hugie decided to leave and join the Utah Guard and was assigned to Delta Battery of the old 140 Field Artillery, in Smithfield.

After downsizing, Hugie took a position at Camp Williams in 1987; it was here where Hugie began his long-established reign as the Innkeeper.

"Hugie developed Camp Williams Billeting from the inadequate state it was in, to what it has become today," said Melantine. "There was a program in place-it was a hit and miss-but because of his expertise and attention to detail he brought the program up to date, increasing the standard of living and making the billeting program what it is today," he added.

Over the past 20 years the facilities at Camp Williams have grown and expanded with many upgrades to buildings.

"Hugie's organization skills are absolutely the best, very dedicated to the Utah Guard, and he was instrumental in upgrading the buildings to make the Soldiers' stay much better," Melantine said. "He stood up and fought the fights when he felt it would benefit the Soldiers." Melantine added that he picked his battles very carefully.

"Many Soldiers find the comforts of home when they enter their room; such amenities like TV's, fridges, and even suites where they can bring their spouse make billeting standards comparable to home life," said Melantine.

Hugie had such an insight for what Camp Williams would become. Because of the potential he saw for this site, he created the facilities to make the mission more comfortable for all those who would stay at Camp Williams. 

ESGR and the Utah Guard Host Soldiers' Civilian Employees at Fort Bliss

By MAJ Hank McIntire

Photo by MAJ Hank McIntire

FORT BLISS, Texas — “**O**verwhelming.”

That is how Valerie Newson, a corporate manager in the auditing division of the Utah State Tax Commission, described her visit to Fort Bliss, Texas, to observe the training of one of her employees here who is currently preparing for deployment as a member of First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, of the Utah National Guard.

Newson, along with 43 other employers of Soldiers with the 1-145th, came to Texas Aug. 16-18 as part of the Boss Lift, a Department of Defense-sponsored program administered by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. This organization works to educate civilian employers on the military service of their employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve and their reemployment rights upon returning from full-time duty.

“I had no idea exactly what [Soldiers] were doing, how much they were being trained and how much work they were really doing out here,” said Newson after observing her employee, SSG Riley Anderson, and his fellow 1-145th Soldiers as they went through some very rigorous training. “I’m amazed at their ability to do it.”

Primarily from Utah, this group of employers started the trip on a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker and witnessed the midair refueling of a B-1 bomber from the 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, and then continued on to Biggs Army Airfield at Fort Bliss, located near El Paso.

Once at Fort Bliss, officials hosted the visitors at the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Museum and provided them with a tour and briefing of Team Bliss’s mission to train their employee-Soldiers and prepare them to support detention operations at Camp Bucca, Iraq, in early fall.

To give employers the most realistic taste of Soldier training, Day 2 started at 5:15 a.m. They boarded buses for the 45-minute drive north to Camp McGregor, the training area on the New Mexico side of Fort Bliss, to meet a six-o’clock time hack to eat breakfast with their Soldiers.

After the standard Army meal of eggs, bacon, potatoes, and coffee, employers were herded into a formation and were given a little hurry-up-and-wait training before the next event on the itinerary.

During this pause, several employers were issued sets of 60-pound Individual Body Armor (IBA), complete with Small-arms Protective Insert (SAPI) plates and a Kevlar helmet. The initial wearers of the gear ‘generously’ handed it over to others during the day to give as many as possible the experience of wearing the full ‘battle rattle’ that Soldiers rely on daily in a



Utah employers with Soldiers from the 1-145th FA at Fort Bliss, Texas.

theater of combat.

After being issued Meals Ready to Eat for their lunch, visitors boarded buses for the training area and were met there by MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, and CSM Dell Smith, who joined them for the morning’s events.

Employers were treated to a broad spectrum of training as they saw Soldiers labor in the West Texas heat to respond to mock disturbances in a detention camp, extract uncooperative detainees from their cells, clear houses of suspected insurgents, take the combat-lifesaver course and pass marksmanship tests on their assigned weapons.

As employers arrived at the various venues during the day, they looked anxiously for their Soldiers and when they found them, there were exchanges of handshakes, hugs, and slaps on the back. Genuine appreciation shone in Soldiers’ eyes as they visited with their bosses and heard about what was going on back in the workplace.

“It’s neat for employers to come out here because they miss their employees being there and wonder if it’s worth having people go out and serve,” said SGT Jacob Dyreng, whose ‘office’ is actually an 800-cow dairy farm in Gunnison, Utah, where he and his brother, SGT Bradford Dyreng, are employed by their father, Allen.

“Dad’s always been really interested in what I do, and it’s been hard to explain what it’s like to go through everything,” added Jacob. “So it’s a good opportunity for him to see what we’re doing and that we’re working and training hard and motivated to do what we’re called upon to do.”

An added bonus for the senior Dyreng was to pin on his boys’ new rank as they were both promoted to sergeant during



Valerie Newson, right, observes refueling operations aboard a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 as MSgt. Dave Hudson operates the boom.



Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

Boss Lift participants and their Soldier-employees receive a typical early-morning Army breakfast at the Camp McGregor dining facility.

a special ceremony at Texas rancher Jimmy Bowen's Triple B Ranch near El Paso. While there, the entire Battalion and employers were hosted for a steak-and-ribs dinner after the long, hot training day.

"It was an honor for me to present that to my sons, said Allen Dyreng. "This was a real treat. They are good Soldiers."

"I didn't expect to see and feel the things that I saw and felt here," he added. "I'm very impressed with the efforts that they've gone to in this training. Every situation that could possibly happen they seem to have developed a system to handle it. I understand more now how prepared and what the Army does to accomplish their goal."

Valerie Newsom spent the entire time at the Triple B with her employee, Anderson, and former employee, 1LT Shane Day, also of the 1-145th. It was evident that these Soldiers were missed by their civilian employer.

"His absence has really been quite noticed," said Newsom, acknowledging the hole left behind by employee-Soldiers when they deploy. "Our other auditors have pitched in and picked up the slack, making it work out and getting it done."

Although his boss at the U.S. Postal Service was not a part of this Boss Lift, SFC Rob Hathaway of the 1-145th was also touched by the visitors' presence and their willingness to take time to come down and see them in person.

"It's very important for Soldiers to see that employers saw what they were going through," he said. "And it was really good for employers to see the hard work the Soldiers are doing in preparing to go. It really reinforces [us], knowing there is a better chance of having a job to come back to when you come home and support for your family."

LTC Karl Wright, commander of the 1-145th, also spent time with employers to answer their questions and explain the mission his Soldiers will fulfill in Iraq and how their experiences in combat will help make them better employees when they return home next year.

"This is a very difficult environment where Soldiers have to make decisions [and go through] a mental thought process that demonstrates respect for others," he said. "It will improve their social skills and how they interact with others. And their attention-to-detail skills will vastly increase. That's a valuable skill in any workplace."

As he observed employers interact with Soldiers at the riot-control range, MG Tarbet, who has attended a number of Boss Lifts during his tenure, outlined the desired results of inviting employers to see employee-Soldiers training in person.

"It's important that we knit employers together with Soldiers so they continue to have that relationship," he said. "Now these folks will go back and become our best ambassadors with the public. They come back feeling very good about

Utah employers are briefed on and watch the training their employees receive before heading to Iraq.



Photos courtesy Fort Bliss, Texas PAO

the training that they are getting, that they are being as well prepared as the Army can make them for this deployment.”

According to organizer Kim Watts, full-time ESGR representative in Utah, who put in hundreds of hours to arrange the trip, Tabet’s objectives are being achieved here.

“The reward that we’re after is to increase the support in the employer base in the business community for our Soldiers,” he said. “It’s worth it because there is no better way to show an employer the value of an employee who is in the Guard or Reserve without letting them see them train in preparation for a hazardous mission.”

“It’s helped to validate and reinforce . . . the magic involved in one of these [trips],” Watts continued. “The comments we hear from these employers over and over is, ‘This is amazing. Thank you so much.’”

Soldiers of the 1-145th Field Artillery practice riot-control techniques under the hot West Texas sun as their civilian employers look on.



Charitable Trust Awards Ceremony and 5K Run

By Shad West

Photos by MAJ Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — A group of more than 40 corporate and individual philanthropists were publicly acknowledged for their generosity in a ceremony held at the Utah National Guard Headquarters on Aug. 21.

During the ceremony, Con Wadsworth, representing the Draper-based Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction Company and its corporate partners, presented a check to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust for \$100,000, which was accepted by MG Brian Tabet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

Other donors were also recognized at the event to include a single \$300 donation by two 9-year-old

boys. Xavier Matheson and Thomas Marron of Salt Lake City held a joint birthday party this summer. Instead of asking for gifts, they asked for money, which they donated to the Trust as a way of honoring their grandparents and other relatives who served in the military.

“My grandpa was in the Air Force, and we wanted to donate the money to the Air Force or

Guard members and civilians participate at the 5K Race to support the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust.



the Army, so we wanted to give it to the families of Soldiers in Iraq,” Marron said.

The idea of giving away their birthday money amazed most of their friends.

“Our friends were surprised when we told them what we wanted to do,” Matheson said. “But we have enough presents.”

While the boys’ donation will directly impact a National Guard family, organizations like Ralph L. Wadsworth Construction Company raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year which help with projects of a broader scope.

“The Charitable Trust plays a vital part in servicing our military families,” said MAJ Patrick Osmond, legal counsel for the Trust. “It basically fills the gaps. For example, the Trust can gather proceeds and give emergency financial assistance to family members if need be. The Trust also helps fund the annual Veterans’ Day Concert and will help build a non-denominational chapel at Camp Williams.”

More than \$250,000 has been donated to the Trust since it was established in 2005, and the Guard organized the awards ceremony to show appreciation to Wadsworth and other contributors for all the help they give to the Trust.

“We wanted to pick a charity where you can see the results of our donation,” said Con Wadsworth about the decision to approach the Utah National Guard about helping Soldiers and Airmen. “This gives us the opportunity to help the families that protect us.”

But rather than just donating money, the construction company has also established an annual 5K run which raises additional funds for the Trust.

“Their actions speak volumes,” Osmond said. “Without the help of companies such as Wadsworth we wouldn’t be able to help as many military families as we do. Wadsworth is a good solid company, and it takes care of the Trust. We deeply appreciate all their efforts.”

Harmons’ grocery store prepared and served breakfast at the 5K Race.



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Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008
at Draper Park
Plan now to participate!**

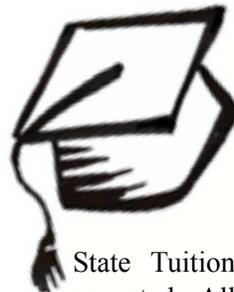


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and gain his or her support!**

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**Having problems with your employer?
Contact Utah ESGR for assistance**

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Benefits and Education

Scholarships

State Tuition Waivers (Scholarships) are now being accepted. All Utah National Guard Soldiers attending or planning to attend the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters may apply for tuition waivers. These waivers are good at any State university or college. Apply now, before the deadline of May 31, 2008, 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 who were mobilized in support of GWOT under Title 10, USC.

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

Feed Uncle Sam

By Ileen Kennedy

Photos courtesy of Jennie Taylor

SALT LAKE CITY — **I**n late 2007, Utah residents from around the State opened their hearts and pocketbooks to send care packages to deployed Soldiers and Airmen serving in the Utah National Guard.

Tooele, Utah, resident and account manager for MESA Systems, Ranae Spall-Goldsmith, presented the concept for care packages to her boss, Kevan Head, president and CEO of MESA Systems, a local Salt Lake City business.

“I came up with the idea; I got Kevan to back me, and with that I was able to branch it off and make it more,” said Spall-Goldsmith.

The care-package effort later grew to include donations and volunteers from the entire State coming together to support deployed Service members.

“I have a few employees who have deployed loved ones,” said Head. “Seeing what they go through firsthand definitely makes you, as an American, want to help.”

While brainstorming on what would make her life easier since her husband, SFC Lee Goldsmith, was deployed, Spall-Goldsmith felt it would be amazing to send his unit care packages for Christmas but knew this would be financially difficult for her to do on her own.

“Families can’t always support their deployed Soldier due to financial problems that come along,” she said. “I thought that giving the Soldier the backing and support of the communities and the families will bring that over to them, make them do a better job and make them feel like they are still a part of their families. When they come back it will give them something to come back to. It’s a long time to be away.”

Spall-Goldsmith turned the idea over to Jennie Taylor, Family Readiness Group volunteer, whose husband, 2LT Brent Taylor, is currently deployed with the 116th Security Forces Company,

Taylor, of Orem, Utah, enlisted the help of a few of the other Soldiers’ wives and family members. Together they coordinated the Feed Uncle Sam campaign to send care packages to the 116th, a group of 170 Soldiers, and the 145th Field Artillery Battalion, which boasts more than 400 Soldiers.

Once efforts were underway, they decided there was enough support and interest to send care packages to all Utah National Guard Airmen and Soldiers currently deployed.

PHOTOS TOP DOWN: (Left to right) Jennie Taylor and daughter, Kevan Head and Ranae Spall-Goldsmith at the SECFOR family Christmas party Dec. 8. A SAM storage unit awaits donations at one of the drop locations across the State. Volunteers at MESA Systems warehouse assemble care packages to be shipped to SECFOR Soldiers serving in Iraq.





Schoolkids across the State donated items to be included in the Christmas care packages for Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Taylor said they were able to assemble more than 700 packages to send overseas.

“When we started with this idea, the only concern was whether we could get it going or not and whether we would have enough support from the community,” Taylor said.

MESA Systems provided SAM (store and move) units and warehouse space free of charge to house the donations and shipping boxes for each Soldier to receive an individual care package. SAM units were placed at various locations around the State.

Taylor said she has been overwhelmed by the response given to the project since it started.

“I set up a SAM unit at a Wal-Mart recently when it was raining and cold, and within two hours we had six boxes filled and we collected over \$900,” she said.

Over 40 schools and businesses helped collect donations and assemble the care packages.

“The day all the volunteers came in and were packaging up the packages was one of the proudest days of being in business,” said Head.

Head was awarded the Silver Service Award Dec. 8 for his generous contribution. The award was presented by MG Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

“It’s an honor to be recognized,” said Head. “I’m honored and humbled, but my sacrifice is nothing. These families have loved ones in harm’s way. There are heroes on both sides of this.”

Having traveled to Iraq on a number of occasions, Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, who was present at the award ceremony, feels the care packages will help Soldiers’ morale and show love and support from the citizens of the great State of Utah.

“It’s going to be a little dose of home, and home is love,” said Huntsman. “I think [Soldiers] will see an outpouring of love that should provide a boost of energy to some very important

people to our State.”

“I’m really thrilled about the progress (in Iraq),” he added. “Having been there just a couple of weeks ago you can see and sense the progress of a more secure environment that these good public servants are responsible for.”

The support from the community not only boosts the Soldiers serving in Iraq but impacts the families serving at home as well.

“It means something when you have this support. It means something,” said Spall-Goldsmith. “It’s good to have something good happen to the Soldiers. The things they see and have to do on a daily basis can be overwhelming. It means something to that Soldier. It really does take my breath away. Freedom does count for something.”

Citizens and businesses across the entire State got involved to make the Feed Uncle Sam campaign a great success.

Jody Buckalew, a State Farm Insurance employee from the South Jordan office helped organize her company’s participation. Over a two-month period, every time an agent sold a new policy, they would receive a care package to donate and money would go into a fund. After two months their office donated \$12,000 and hundreds of items to the Feed Uncle Sam campaign.

Initially, shipping costs to send the care packages were a big concern. Taylor said that if she had had to send the kits herself it would have cost \$15,000-\$20,000, so monetary support was extremely essential.

“The community support has been wonderful. We received \$50,000 worth of donated items and around \$25,000 in cash for shipping, and the donations continue to come in,” she said.

Head wants MESA Systems to stay involved and continue with the campaign. He would like to see a project like this go nationally.

“If somebody will organize it, people will support our troops,” Head said. “It was a really good feel-good moment.” ■

Soldiers of the 116th are Making a Difference In Iraq



2nd Platoon led by 2LT Riley Beck and SFC Michael Dunn participate in a company run.



CPL Fatto with kids from the Kurdish region.



Specialists Cody Wilkes, Andrew Davis, and Casey Singer take a moment before their convoy starts to walk with children from the Kurdish region as they go home from school. The kids who can now go to school and grow up in peace make the Soldiers feel like their time here is worth it.



SPC Matthew Larson (left) and SPC Cody Wilkes (right) take a picture with "Pablo," the platoon mascot and good luck charm before a convoy mission starts.



Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, 116th Engineer Company enjoy a traditional Kurdish meal at the crowd pleasing Barzani Restaurant after a convoy in Northern Iraq. The meal usually starts with giant pita-like bread and a tasty dipping sauce.



2LT Brent Taylor sends home a Christmas wish.

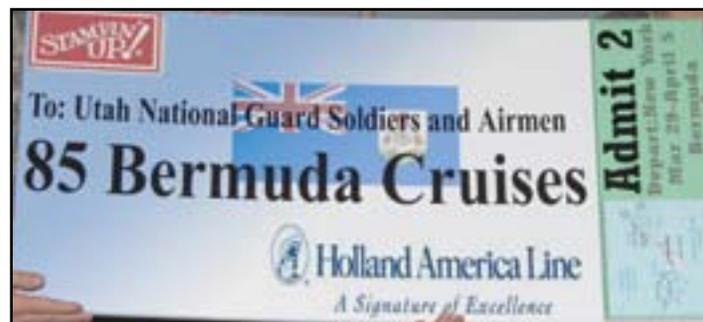
Utah National Guard and Stampin' Up! Surprise Guard Members with a Special Bermuda 'Tour of Duty'

Stampin' Up! donates 85 cruise cabins worth more than \$300,000 to the Utah National Guard

By Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard and Utah-based Stampin' Up! surprised Guard members Jan. 16 with a special 'tour of duty' — a seven-day cruise to Bermuda that leaves New York City on March 29. During a specially coordinated Guard meeting in the auditorium at the Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper, Stampin' Up!'s CEO and cofounder, Shelli Gardner, thanked Guard members for their service and announced that each of them won a cruise to Bermuda with a loved one. Stampin' Up!'s donation of the 85, double-occupancy, cruise cabins is worth more than \$300,000.

"We are grateful to all of the Guard members for their ser-



vice in representing and protect-

ing Utah and the U.S.," Gardner said. "They demonstrate true loyalty and selflessness in fulfilling their duties locally and overseas. As a token of appreciation from Stampin' Up!, we are extremely thrilled and honored to donate these cruise cabins to the Utah National Guard."

The Utah National Guard's Family Programs' Office, which enhances the readiness and well-being of military families, coordinated the selection of Guard members who will be going on the cruise. Guard members were invited to enter a random drawing to win one of the 85 Bermuda cruise cabins. A significant number of those chosen are Guard members who have been deployed, or



Photos by Greg Cullis

ABOVE: Excited Guard members applaud after finding out they were the lucky winners of a Bermuda cruise.

will soon be deployed, to Iraq or Afghanistan. Many of these men and women have served multiple tours of duty overseas and have faced separations from their families and friends for great lengths of time.

“We thank Stampin’ Up! for their generous donation to the Utah National Guard and for thinking of those Guard members who diligently serve our country,” said Annette Barnes, director of the Utah National Guard’s Family Programs Office. “This cruise will be a wonderful opportunity for Guard members to relax and enjoy a much-deserved vacation with a loved one.”

Most of the Guard members attending the special meeting were unaware that they had won a cruise. The winners were each handed a number when they entered the auditorium. Once it was announced that they were the winners, the auditorium was filled with applause and shouts of excitement.

“I was shocked and very humbled by the fact that Stampin’ Up! donated this tremendous gift. It’s going to be a great trip,” said MSgt Burke Baker, with the Utah Air National Guard’s 151st Air Refueling Wing. “My wife and I never got a honeymoon, so I’m very excited; this will be the honeymoon that my wife and I have never been able to afford to go on.”

Guard members can leave their boots behind for this tour of duty on the sandy Bermuda beach and spend some much-needed quality time with a loved one.

“I am just completely ecstatic. To see something like this from a local company, I’m just shocked,” said CW2 Rick Gardner, Joint Forces Headquarters, Utah National Guard. “To afford a cruise like this isn’t something a typical Soldier could afford. They are giving us something that we would not typically be able to afford for ourselves. This is really an extremely huge donation.”

“Having been deployed, this really means a lot. When you are deployed you don’t realize what all the people are doing back home,” continued Gardner. “It means a lot to have a company do something like this for me and my family, for having been de-

ployed. I am very thankful.”

Each year, Stampin’ Up!, a leading manufacturer and distributor of decorative rubber stamps and accessories, rewards its top independent sales consultants, called ‘demonstrators,’ with wonderful and well-earned incentive cruises. With a strong belief in giving back to neighboring communities, Stampin’ Up! has donated cruise cabins to local charities for the past three years for use in their fundraising efforts. In addition to the 85 cabins donated to the Utah National Guard this year, Stampin’ Up! donated an additional 50 cabins to 25 local nonprofit organizations. 

RIGHT: BG Jeff Burton and Shelli Gardner, Stampin’ Up! CEO, hold a ticket displaying the 85 double-occupancy, Bermuda cruise cabins donated by Stampin’ Up!



LEFT: Winning Guard members phone their spouses as they fill out the paperwork needed for their cruise vacations.

A R M Y P R

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Borg, Dennis R
Brackner, David L
Dunn, Clinton W
Kinsman, Timmy L
Parke, David H
Taylor, Douglas G
Warner, Reed C

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Goldsberry, Robert K
Greenhalgh, Eric B
Hawkes, Boyd B
Healey, Gary L
Laney, Stephen S
Lang, Kevin J
Linde, Craig A
Middleton, John D
Montano, Chantell I
Stitt, Ralph J
Woodward, William K
Yardley, Brian D

BRIGADIER GENERAL

Burton, Jefferson S
Liechty, Michael R

COLONEL

Norton, Michael J
Peterson, Val L
Schmidt, Lawrence A

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Archibald, David S
Behunin, Gordon D
Drown, Mark D
Luke, Matthew M
Munger, Dan D
Rollins, Rich L
Sharp, John K

MAJOR

Brenchley, Steven T
Dygart, Daniel K
Greeff, Talon E
Nesbit, Robert D Jr
Walton, Nathaniel P
Watkins, Michael A

CAPTAIN

Holmer, Brandon L
Oshitoeye, Emmanuel O Jr
Workman, Kendall D
Anderson, Clayton F
Anderson, Jeffrey G
Anderson, Patrick I
Anderson, Russell C
Barrera, Aaron
Bartholomew, Gary J
Carson, Christopher E
Ekker, Daniel D
Kerbo, Martin W
Lopez, Christopher J
Madsen, Samantha L
Merlette, James B
Ogden, Phillip K
Petersen, Kaj W
Peterson, Matthew J
Price, David P
Rhinehart, Michael S
Sorenson, Burke D

Stevenson, Jeremy H
Stewart, Brandon V
Ward, Brian T
Watson, Hans R
Young, William T

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Blunck, Bradley
Buck, Tyler T
Carlile, Kristopher J
Christiansen, Shane N
Detrent, Bryson E
Haroldsen, V Lorraine
Inman, Theresa D
Jenkins, Kevin R
Merlette, John B Jr
Nielsen, Micah S
Pierce, Sterling P
Slaugh, Scott L
Winter, David L

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Birchenough, James R III

SERGEANT MAJOR

Bollinger, Bruce S
Davie, Thomas J
Gerhauser, Charles L
Roberts, Con K

MASTER SERGEANT

Allmon, Kenneth L
Fallon, Paul E
Gonzales, Ronny A
Jennings, Scott W
Kertamus, Ramon J
Lee, Darren D
Mckendrick, Stephen B
Moody, Ronald J
Nope, Michael E
Shepherd, Eric D
Sylvester, Victor L
Walter, David E

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Ash, David S
Auer, Jonathan M
Banuelos, Jonathan
Benslow, John N
Blankenship, Lance R
Bollinger, Corey L
Bonzo, Howard K
Brady, Timothy R
Christensen, Alan N
Delaney, Laurisa D
Dixon, David L
Duke, Kent B
Edenfield, Grady L
Ennis, Jonathan S
Fox, Calvin L
Gardner, William D
Harker, Lance F
Hawthorne, Cecil J Jr
Hicks, Byron J
Holmer, Kirk A
Johnston, Garrad J
Jolley, Robert H
Judd, Derik S
Keel, Christopher F
Kinsman, Eric J
Larsen, Russell J
Lopez, David J

Love, Jonathan C
Lyons, Jeffrey E
Marsh, James P
McLaughlan, Jared J
Moore, Brandon V
Mundy, Robert K
Nielsen, Luke A
Nuffer, Myron D
Openshaw, David M
Page, Casey R
Pasaol, Robert W
Pierro, Sean M
Plewe, Russell D II
Rylander, April E
Silcox, Heath N
Stene, Stephen E
Stirling, Robert M
Thompson, David O
Tillman, Bishop L
Valdengo, Justin P
Ward, Jesse H
Wheatley, Durrell M

STAFF SERGEANT

Adams, Mathew B
Allen, Don T
Allred, James D Jr
Andelin, Brian D Jr
Andersen, Steven J
Anderson, Song H
Anderson, Troy Al
Ashton, Thomas S
Atnip, Sunya M
Balboa, Nonito N
Barlow, Steven A
Beekman, Daniel T
Berman, Adam B
Berta, Martin A
Bills, Brian L
Boardman, Levi E
Bourgeois, Jess W
Brady, Jason C
Brandt, Daniel R
Branham, Marcus J
Brown, James F
Bryant, Mark O
Burk, Roland A
Burn, Wade R
Call, Daniel R
Carpenter, Cole R
Christley, Garrett M
Cockayne, Christopher M
Collett, Kelly K
Cooper, Chad L
Cox, Randy J
Crowther, Jeremy B
Davis, Robert F
Derosier, Ryan R
Earl, Nathan V
Edison, John R IV
Edwards, Stephen R
Ellett, Lisa J
Erickson, Christina L
Estes, Nathan C
Famulary, Adam J
Fegley, Blanden T
Fifield, Caleb K
Finn, James C
Frame, Tina N
Fugal, Brigham B
Garn, Justin E
Gibler, Matthew D L

Goodrich, Benjamin A
Gustamantes, Ricardo M
Guymon, Montell K
Harding, Ryan C
Harris, Brett L
Harris, Christian L
Hatch, Brett G
Hernandez, Rafael C
Hicks, Daniel C
Homer, Julio C D
Houchin, Davien C
Hunt, Roderick D
Janes, William M
Jones, Brock M
Jones, Charles E P
Jones, Eric L
Judkins, Jeffrey S
Keddington, Joseph R
Keegan, Jeffrey S
Lagunas, Cristobal N
Lawrence, Shannon P
Leavitt, Jeffrey T
Leavitt, Richard J
Leon, Rigoberto A
Lister, William D
Malmgren, Edwin D
Maxfield, Randall D
May, Joshua L
Mcknight, Samuel B
Mecham, Paul D
Melendez, Jaysen
Miller, Clayton L
Mitchell, Darren M
Mitchell, Kameron L
Mitchell, Kirk A
Mitchell, William C
Mrykalo, John E
Olson, Aaron C
Oswald, Erik E
Ottley, Randell S
Pace, Craig M
Palfreyman, Dan M
Patterson, Clarke W
Paul, Jacob S
Raddon, Brett J
Rasmussen, Stuart L
Ray, David E
Reid, Michael A
Richards, Shaine T
Roach, Shawn R
Robertson, Thomas R
Rodrigue, Ronald P Jr
Santiago, David
Saunders, Daniel G
Schultz, Michael D
Seifert, Michael W Jr
Sherman, Adam C
Smith, John D
Smith, Steven L
Spackman, Adam J
Spitznogle, Christopher W
Summers, James K
Sumner, John M
Thomassen, Bart W
Tisi, Jermaine D
Tobin, Thomas W IV
Torgerson, Jace M6
Trump, Jeremy M
Tukuafu, Daniel F
Vaughan, Glen A
Walker, Jerrod R
Wallis, Robert W

Warren, Richard L
West, Jonathan R
West, Sterling E
Whiting, Michael J
Wissmar, Daniel G
Witte, Christopher C
Wood, Darian D
Wright, Joel C
Yates, Isaac
Zaine, Jeffery S
Zaugg, Jeremy J
Zechlin, John D

SERGEANT

Adams, Tyler G
Allen, Todd L
Allred, George O
Allred, James L
Allred, Joshua G
Alvey, Jacob R
Amavisca, Ezekiel I
Anderson, Aaron W
Anderson, Robert C
Archer, Jared D
Ashley, Jeremiah B
Badger, William T A
Balls, Brian L
Bass, Joseph M
Bateman, Brandon G
Belliston, Reyn K
Berry, Thomas G
Billings, Vince J
Bishop, Brad D
Blackhair, Leallen A
Bonifacio, Marck R
Boyer, Larry O
Bradley, Sean L
Branin, Cody W
Broadhead, Michael L
Brower, Joseph P
Brown, Craig W
Brown, Daniel K
Brown, James C
Bullock, Michael J
Carey, John P
Carroll, John I
Carter, Brad
Casebolt, Tad L
Christensen, Lorrinda A
Christenson, Jacob D
Christiansen, Jens J L
Christofferson, Kindy
Coconis, John P
Cooper, Garek R
Corriea, John J
Crane, Brady B5
Davis, Andrew W
Dimond, Kevin D
Dyrenge, Bradford B
Dyrenge, Jacob A
Eversole, John K
Fatt, Bryon L
Felt, Ryan C
Foisy, David S
Fonua, Sunia M
Frame, Derrick C
Freemont, Kevin L II
Furst, Samuel J
Futch, Joshua D
Gabrielson, Brian S
Garrett, Jayrod P
Gilmore, Josiah A

O M O T I O N S

Good, Thomas B
 Gordon, Andrew D
 Haag, Camron E
 Hales, Richard D
 Hall, Andrew C
 Halsted, Kier M
 Hampton, Ian T
 Hansen, Riley R
 Hardman, Andrew D
 Hare, Cody B
 Hartley, Cameron M
 Hayes, Keith T
 Hermida, John A Jr
 Hill, Andrew T
 Hill, Aubrey L
 Hill, Jeremy W
 Hill, Ronald R
 Holm, Michael S
 Hunter, Michael R
 Isom, Ronald A
 Jacobsen, Matthew H
 Jenkins, Brady D
 Jewkes, Tyler W
 Johnson, Benjamin R
 Johnson, Justin H
 Johnson, Neil O
 Johnson, Ryan T R
 Jones, Bevin W
 Jurgens, Kurt J
 Kasischke, Kaipo S
 Kaylor, David J
 Keime, Hyrum J
 Kelley, Robert A
 Kerttula, Eevert J
 Klein, Stephen A
 Kofford, James D
 Lance, John M
 Larmore, David O
 Larson, Curtis G
 Lennon, Bryan J
 Lewis, Joel N
 Lloyd, Brandon T
 Lofgren, Stephen A
 Madsen, Matthew T
 Maghinay, Mara G
 Marble, Jacob G
 Markland, Clint R
 Massey, Lewis N
 Matthews, Selena A
 Mitchell, Kaden D
 Mitchell, Travis S
 Moncur, Ryan S
 Montgomery, Mark D
 Moore, Mitchell V
 Moulding, Brendon W S
 Muirbrook, Brandon S
 Mulholland, Matthew P
 Napper, Ian D
 Nelligan, Jason D
 Nelson, David A
 Nusser, Jeffrey B
 Olson, Kevin C
 Opheikens, Trevor
 Ott, Matilde I
 Ottley, Colby D
 Owens, Mitchell D
 Patton, Jeremy M
 Peck, Joshua B
 Perez, Jaime R
 Perkins, Joshua M O
 Peterson, Deven J
 Pettet, Matt David

Phelps, Raegan
 Pierce, Jason T
 Platt, Lyman D
 Prather, William M
 Raby, Carter D
 Rappleye, Ryan C
 Record, Kurt W
 Redhouse, James Jr
 Reymus, Desmond E
 Rice, Kevin I
 Ricker, Randal F
 Roberts, David M
 Robinson, Jared T
 Rodriguez, Joel D
 Ruf, Michael A
 Schafer, Stephanie R
 Scheel, Stephen Z
 Schiess, Timothy W
 Scott, Jonathan M
 Shawcroft, Joseph G
 Short, Jason G
 Sinclair, Joshua A
 Slade, Joshua T5
 Smith, Cole W
 Smith, Jordan M
 Smith, Travis J
 Soderquist, William D
 Staheli, Thomas E
 Stevenson, Samuel J
 Stewart, Cameron J
 Stone, Jesse B
 Stucki, Jonathan B
 Suksutthirot, Theerawong
 Summers, James A
 Sutorius, Joseph A
 Tabbal, Tory N
 Taylor, Matthew J
 Thomas, Nicholas V
 Thompson, Will N
 Tingey, Kendall F5
 Tolman, Matthew W
 Traines, Graham S
 Vaughan, Mary A
 Veater, Derick G
 Walkenhorst, Dallin J
 Welch, Joshua T
 White, Thomas
 Wilcox, Richard C
 Wilde, Matthew
 Willardson, Daniel G
 Winterton, Christopher D
 Woods, Jonathan S
 Wright, Jeffrey J
 Yockey, Nicholas D
 Young, Bradley G5
 Zimmerman, Luke A
 Zufelt, Justin L

SPECIALIST

Adams, Byron J
 Alder, Fresia E
 Alder, Gerrit H
 Allred, Justin T
 Andersen, Shane R
 Andrews, Morgan J
 Aparcana, Claudia V
 Applegate, Tyrone J
 Artalejo, Jose M
 Atkinson, Ian K
 Baer, Karl D
 Ballard, David J
 Barney, Trevor D

Bartholomew, Jay B
 Barton, Cortny M
 Bates, Jessica
 Bills, Donald O Jr
 Bitton, Shayne R
 Blazzard, Katherine M
 Bradford, Curtiss B
 Brennan, Jeremiah P
 Brice, Justin J
 Buffington, Michael P
 Bushman, Dan J
 Campbell, Zackrison K
 Carr, Bradford M
 Case, Tucker L
 Christensen, Leslie M
 Christensen, Richard J
 Clarkson, Kyle P
 Curtis, John R
 Curtis, Marcus E
 Davis, Alan L
 Davis, Layne L
 Davis, Robert W
 Dayzie, Michael T
 Delgado, Matthew
 Denny, Waynette W
 Durfee, Jesse J
 Ellington, Joshua S
 Enfield, David B
 Eskelsen, Elijah R
 Farnsworth, Shaun A
 Ferguson, Ryan B
 Finnegan, Brandon M
 Fulton, Derrick T
 Galvez, Jason P
 Gerhart, Stephen R
 Gerry, Sean M
 Gillies, Winston S
 Goudy, Hayden B
 Green, Kerry W
 Hadlock, Brian P
 Hammond, Bradley D
 Hansen, Benjamin F
 Haws, Michael D
 Hendricks, Somsak
 Henrie, Patrick S
 Herrera-ortuno, Manuel O
 Herzog, Jeffery A
 Hooper, Jared Rm
 Howell, Sterling T
 Hunt, John C
 Hunter, Steven
 Huntsman, Gerrick L
 Hurley, Steven J
 Hutchins, Benjamin J
 Jameson, Devin L
 Johnson, Joseph A
 Johnson, Tyler A
 Kerans, Amber L
 Kerkman, Steven C
 Knudsen, Aaron M
 Lambert, Andre W
 Lanier, Jared W
 Larsen, Peter K
 Larson, Matthew C
 Lay, Cresson D
 Liebel, Patrick S
 Lindgren, Zachariah J
 Lizzio, Justin D
 Lowry, Tausha J
 Macfarlane, Brandon L
 Madsen, Timothy L
 Marquardson, Nathan E

Marsh, David L
 Mayne, Jacob R
 Mendoza, Abel J
 Miller, Tyler J
 Mitani, Zackery T I
 Mock, Darrel R
 Molloy, Thomas S
 Monson, Joshua W
 Montgomery, Jullienne C
 Moody, Braidy T
 Morrill, John S
 Nelson, Michael R
 Nielsen, Michael L
 Ocana, Jose X
 Oliver, Russell J Jr
 Orozco, Rafael G
 Overson, Tyler J
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 Patterson, Mitch L
 Paul, Joshua J
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 Peterson, Justin P
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 Price, William J
 Privett, Jami R
 Quan, Alfred A
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 Randle, Ramie K
 Rodriguez, Katie L
 Romrell, Jerry J
 Rutka, Erica C
 Santome, Adam C
 Saulls, Travis T
 Savala, Emmanuel J
 Sehy, Christopher C
 Shiner, Jesse H
 Shirtz, Daniel J
 Skougard, Jacqueline T
 Smith, Edwin S R
 Smith, Jeremy T
 Smith, Justin C
 Smith, Rebecca M
 Snider, William J
 Stapp, Zakary E
 Steen, Kimberly A
 Stewart, Nicholas S
 Stocks, Joshua J
 Stoor, Alexander J
 Stott, Jordan C
 Summers, Skyler J
 Swenson, Nathan J
 Taylor, Andrew J
 Taylor, Jesse D
 Teagle, Skyler W
 Tedesco, Marc A
 Thompson, Colby B
 Thorne, Kenlan R
 Vandrimmelen, Joseph P K
 Verwer, Heather D
 Verwer, Justin S
 Walker, Jeffrey P
 Walker, Jeffrey T
 Welch, Jacob E
 West, Justin K
 White, Travis
 Wiese, Jacob M
 Williams, Thomas K
 Witte, Bryan P
 Wood, Daniel A
 Wood, Joshua S
 Wynn, Trista N
 Young, Nelson T

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Adams, Zackary J
 Anderson, Adam A
 Archuleta, Logan B
 Bartholomew, Benjamin H
 Bates, Edward B II
 Baxter, Thomas L
 Bills, Jessalynn L
 Boatwright, Alexa L
 Brady, Buck E
 Brown, Timothy J
 Brown, Timothy J
 Busk, Jacob D
 Call, Colton W
 Casper, Cheyne D
 Chambers, Matthew T
 Chen, Jian N
 Christman, Joseph J
 Cope, Jeremy R3
 Crawford, Dexter R
 Cummins, Charles N
 Dailey, Jonathan M
 Davis, Benjamin T
 Deppe, James A
 Devito, Frank J
 Dotson, Steven M
 Drollette, Matthew W
 Eaton, Lee D IV
 Egan, Christopher B
 Elliott, Samuel J
 Elmer, Clint R
 Erler, Trevor M
 Fotheringham, Tadd C
 Gale, Ryan M
 Garcia, Ray Jr
 Gashler, Steven J
 Giddings, Daniel J
 Glad, James Neil
 Gomez, Carlos E Jr
 Gonzales, Anthony A
 Gonzalez, Guillermo
 Gordon, Garrett L
 Gornik, Kyle S
 Green, Alex T
 Greening, Jeffery C Jr
 Gubler, Keaton C
 Hall, Daniel C
 Henderson, Spencer W
 Herman, Jared T
 Hernandez, Andrew A
 Hinchcliffe, Robert A
 Howell, Jesse L
 Irons, Colby B
 Jaramillo, Harold E
 Jeppesen, Stetson W
 Jessamine, Andrew J
 Jimenez, Fatima L
 Johnson, Beau D
 Knuteson, Thomas H
 Larson, Travis K
 Latting, Terrence M
 Lawrence, Shan X
 Leblanc, Matthew R
 Lee, Anthony J
 Litster, Matthew A
 Long, Melissa A
 Malone, Aaron S
 Martinez, Jesse R
 Michel, Loren C
 Musselman, Kedric J
 Nebeker, Zachary T

Nehrer, Marie C
Nielsen, Ryan W
Niewiadomski, Joshua R
Palmer, Kyle S
Patterson, Cody C
Pelletier, Christopher
Reed, Jerry D
Remine, Joshuwa L
Riddle, Andrew B
Ringler, Mathew R
Roberts, Kristopher B
Rogers, Kyle J
Rogers, Tyler T
Roynance, Ryan W
Ryan, Christopher M
Ryan, Timothy J
Sander, Richard A II
Shear, Cory G
Scott, Marwin
Sidhu, Jonathan W
Simmons, Jennae S
Small, Tyson K
Smuin, Jeremy H
Spencer, Toby J
Spendlove, Jamie J
Staheli, Rustin M
Stanton, Aaron J
Stevens, Jeffery B
Stohel, Thomas D

Stowe, Brian M
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Turnerdrown, Catherine J
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Wallace, Benjamin
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Zamora, Brandon J

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Anderson, Ryan R
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Ashworth, Cory P

Benson, Trase G
Berg, Joshua J
Bissell, Aaron P
Bowcutt, Jay D
Brown, Jeffrey R
Burton, Zachary B S
Caldwell, Brian S
Caldwell, Lee R
Cardon, Richard L
Chapman, Patrick M II
Clements, Kelsea E
Cracraft, Theron R
Crookston, Daniel T
Davis, Randy C
Demontigny, Alexander B
Desorcy, Adam A
Dransfield, Lyndsey R
Dujardin, Justin L
Ellenberger, Mathew S
Goatz, Thomas R D
Hablison, Dezaray N
Hanlon, John D
Hansen, Bryce K
Harris, Richard R
Hendricksen, David R Jr
Herkimer, Jordan T
Hillstead, John G
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Jacobs, Troy D

Jacox, Tyler B
Jaques, Robert V
Jensen, Tyler C
Jessop, Levi
Johnson, Kevin L
Keltner, Kayla D
Killian, Steven M
Kittell, David L
Kremer, Kenneth C
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Larson, Eric B
Leach, Brittni E
Lewis, Stephanie E
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Lloyd, Paul G
Long, Jesse P
Loosle, Kohnor R
Ludlow, Steven S
Marler, David J
Marshall, David T
Martinez, Robert L
Maylone, Derrick L
Mayne, Clinton J
Mcgaha, Matthew J
Merritt, Krystina M
Mitchell, Tory J
Mora, Jesus
Muir, Derrel T2
Munzo, Jose G

Nelson, Mark B
Neuenschwander, Joshua L
Norman, Martin A
Olsen, Devin J
Patrikyus, Ryan R
Petajan, Bohzidar D
Peterson, Cameron M II
Peterson, Trevor W
Pollock, Kazen
Puffer, Lenzy J
Roberts, Taylor S
Roberts, Thomas D
Rogers, Blaine T
Romanowski, Anton W
Romero, Dustin J
Saari, Justin K
Schaaf, Vincent P III
Snow, Sarah M
Sorgente, Anthony R
Stream, Ryan A
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Woodcox, Cameron L
Workman, Jason L

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Hewitt, Richard H
Nylander, Glenn T
Ulberg, Ronald S

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Perry, Travis J
Rodriguez, Ricardo P
Woodman, Cliff H

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JDillingham, Kyle A
Forman, Keith S
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Lacome, Lawrence A
Nichols, Dennis R
Quintana, Corey R
Westfall, William G

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Daley, Shawn W
Dalton, Roland L
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Hockett, Patrick B
Hoferitza, Mark A
Stanger, Larry W

MASTER SERGEANT

Anderson, Terry A
Brown, Kirk J

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Chavez, Julian
Christensen, Phillip R
Dzubin, Laura M
Edwards, Andrew D
Goff, Barry R
Greene, Carl E
Heard, Chad A
Heckman, Shawn M
Howard, Rebecca L
Hutchings, Clinton R
Johnson, Kristal L
Loveridge, Kevin C
Mackay, Terry G
Meacham, Kristine J
Nicholas, John
Rands, Leland G
Ranger, Marc A
Spainhower, Ryan M

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Heywood, Casey T
Hockett, Crystal V
Mcentire, Michelle V
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Muir, Elray C
Myers, Micah W
Overfelt, Mary Ann
Ramirez, Pascual L Iii

Riebe, Brian A
Roberts, Lance P
Rudd, Vallaree J
Sagers, Stephen V
Scheid, Jacob D
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Silver, Gerald A Jr
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Stuart, George E Iv
Volk, Lawrence Dallas

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Treutlein, Eric
Abejar, Nathanael C
Allred, Heath D
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Coburn, Todd K

Conway, Todd William Jr
Duffield, Matthew W
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Mar, Travis J
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Roller, Devin S
Sanders, Kerryne Lea
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Sharp, Simeon Dion
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Smith, Stephanie L
Smith, Timothy C
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Stevens, Jason L
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Worsencroft, Gordon O

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Bo, Tyler W
Dahms, Timothy J
Duane, Brittany M
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Gammon, Seth S
Green, Matthew D
Griguhn, Brad W
Hendrickson, David M
Hintze, Bradley J
Howey, Chad S
Hussman, William P
Jenkins, Adam T

Johnson, Matthew D
Lunt, Jeffery M
Moses, Brandon R
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Roach, Cory S
Scharman, Bryan G
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Winchester, Preston James
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Carlson, Sidney S
Cornell, Nichole M
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Huff, Jon C
Lance, Joseph S
Larsen, Timothy James
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Stewart, Phillip J
Vaughn, Robby B
Wahlen, Dustin R
Young, Paul S

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