

UTAH MINUTEMAN

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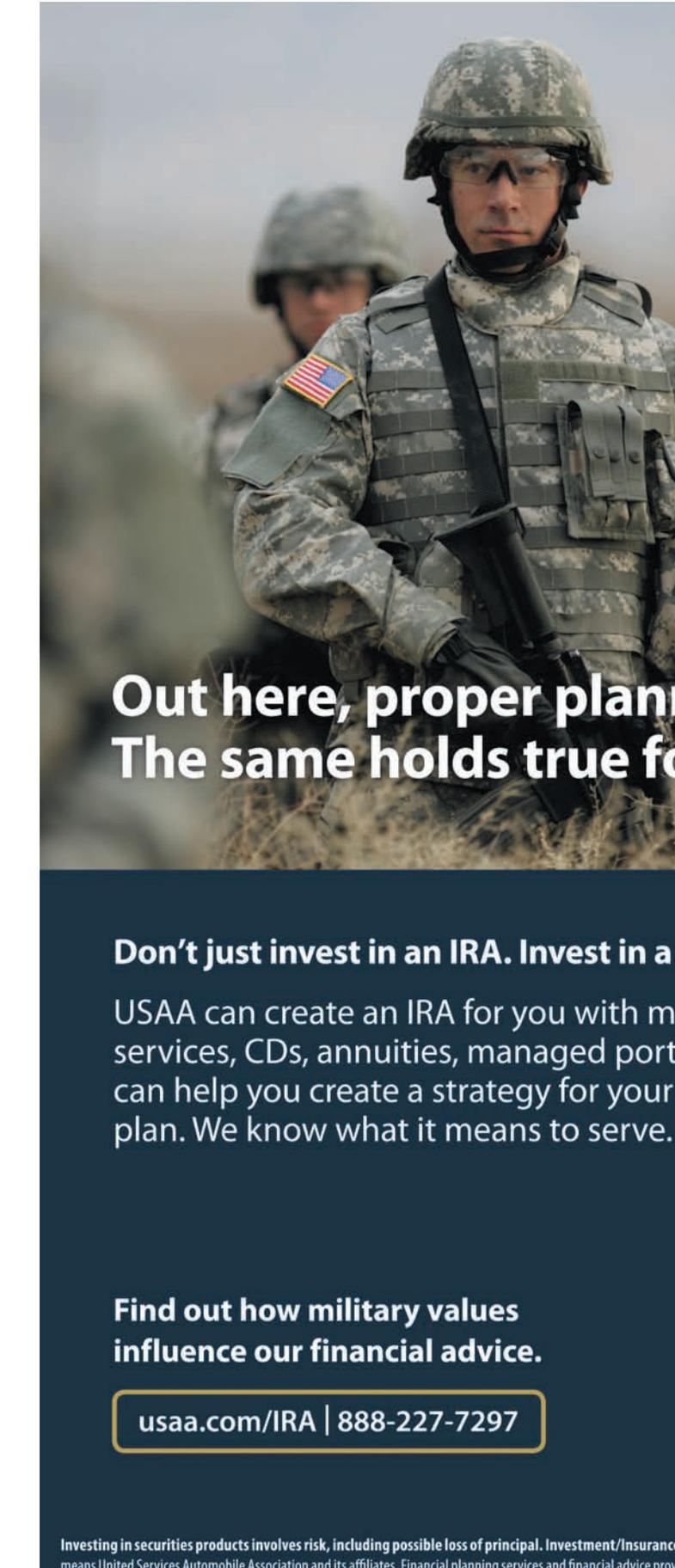
Spring 2011

109th ACS Returns Home

**Camp Williams Training Event
Sparks Herriman Fire**

**Operation Christmas Blanket
Aeromedical Mission to Afghanistan**





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*The Adjutant General
Major General Brian L. Tarbet*

The Adjutant General's Corner

DRAPER, Utah — **O**ver the holidays, I had one of the best experiences of my military career. CSM Summers and I traveled to Afghanistan to participate in a MEDEVAC mission being flown by eight members of the 151st Air Refueling Wing. These fine Air Guardsmen had volunteered to fly five missions from Ramstein

AFB in Germany to Bagram AFB in Afghanistan during the last two weeks of December. This aircrew gave up the holidays with their families to care for and bring relief to our wounded Warriors.

CSM Summers and I left the United States on Tuesday, Dec. 21, and flew to Frankfurt. We then drove to Ramstein, changed into our uniforms and boarded the KC-135R tanker. Aboard was a team of doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel heading back into the war zone. After a seven-hour flight, we arrived at Bagram. This began three of the most memorable hours in my life.

In Afghanistan, we met with CPT Dave Stefl and members of the 144th Medical Company of the Utah National Guard currently working at Bagram. Many other members of the 144th are on duty throughout Afghanistan. It was great to see these fine Utahns, receive a briefing on their mission and tour the hospital at the base. We delivered to the unit many blankets prepared by the families of the 151st for use by wounded Troops.

After the brief tour of the hospital we returned to the flight line with CPT Stefl and his Troops to await the transport of the wounded onto the aircraft. There, near midnight, we loaded seven wounded

on their stretchers onto a K-loader to be lifted onto the plane. A K-loader can best be described as a flatbed trailer that elevates up to the level of the plane. The temperature on the tarmac was 16° F, with winds of 30 mph. We then loaded two critically wounded onto the plane, both with severe, life-threatening injuries. We then transferred approximately eight more Troops onto the plane.

Aboard the plane, medical personnel went to work to assure the welfare of the Troops. I would guess that about an equal number of doctors, nurses and attendants were aboard as were wounded. As soon as the patients were secured, we quickly departed the base and headed for Germany. We had been on the ground a scant three hours.

We arrived at Ramstein in approximately seven hours and landed in foggy conditions with about 100 feet of visibility above the minimums. Then we offloaded the patients onto a more civilized platform, an RV-like contraption which sheltered the patients from the weather. We were able to give each of the patients a blanket from the Utah Air Guard families. The patients were then transported to Landstuhl Army Hospital for further care. As one of the stretcher-bound Soldiers was lifted from the plane to the "RV," he rendered a salute. Imagine—a Soldier in pain and in transit takes the time and effort to be a great professional. I was humbled by this Soldier and all those who were MEDEVACed. These are amazing young people who have given much to their country, not the least by their extraordinary example.

These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are representative of the fine young people who serve today. Many, including about 650 Utah Guardsmen, are in battle today. We owe them and their families our best efforts and support. It is a privilege to serve with them and you. 🇺🇸



*LEFT: MG Brian Tarbet and CSM Bruce Summers meet with members of the 144th Area Support Medical Company in Afghanistan.
RIGHT: A K-loader offloads wounded Soldiers from a KC-135 at Ramstein AFB, Germany.*



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UTAH MINUTEMAN

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Cover Photo:
SFC Brent Portwood (right) and SSG Brian Koka with the 1-145th Field Artillery load the 75 mm cannon in preparation for the 19-gun salute for Gov. Gary Herbert's inauguration.

Photo by MSgt Gary Rihn

Additional photos can be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/utahnationalguard



Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

DRAPER, Utah — **T**raining Year 2010 was an extremely busy year and TY 11 has the appearance of being even busier. Last September, BG Jeff Burton and I had the privilege of traveling to Iraq to visit Soldiers of the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion and 19th Special Forces Group Support Company to learn how important their missions are to the units they support in theater. Both of the command groups they serve had nothing but praise for the men and women of these organizations. They are working in miserable conditions but continue to show their strength, agility and professionalism that make us proud of them.

We also traveled to Qatar to visit members of the 109th Air Control Squadron and talk to those great Airmen also serving in a tough and challenging environment. Their dedication and professionalism are examples of the excellence they bring to any mission, anywhere and anytime they are called upon. We continued our travel to Djibouti to visit with members of the 19th Special Forces Group and receive briefings on the missions and tasks they are accomplishing in the Horn of Africa. They are proving to Africa Command how versatile they are and what a great asset this organization is for this new combatant command. It was a tough and grueling trip but very rewarding and once again proved to us that we have the very best Soldiers and Airmen in uniform, and they can and will be successful in any environment, any task and any mission around the world.

In December, MG Brian Tarbet and I traveled to Germany, visiting members of the 151st Air Refueling Wing and riding with them on their mission to Afghanistan to pick up wounded Warriors and return them to Germany for further medical treatment. It was an amazing experience—one I will never forget. The flight crews were amazing in their attitude about giving up their holidays to fly these missions. The medical flight crews were absolutely phenomenal in their care of the wounded and the dedication to them during the return flight from



Photo by Greg Cullis

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

Afghanistan to Germany. I am extremely proud of these great Americans. While on the ground in Afghanistan, we visited with members of the 144th Area Support Medical Company. We were only on the ground for a short three hours, but they gave us a tour of their TOC, the hospital and their other working areas.

MG Tarbet and I were disappointed that we were not able to visit or see anyone from the 118th

Sappers during our short visit. The 118th Sappers have a very dangerous, but important mission of clearing the roads. It was with great sadness that we received word in early December that SFC James Thode paid the ultimate sacrifice while conducting this mission. Thode was a great father, husband, NCO and Guardsman. He leaves large shoes to fill in that organization. He leaves a legacy of duty, devotion and respect for the Soldiers he had the privilege to lead.

As other units prepare to deploy this summer, NCOs must dedicate themselves to the tried and true values of standards and discipline. Never forget that the job of the NCO is to train Soldiers and Airmen. It is our inherent responsibility to give them the tools and training to make them successful, no matter the mission, and to give them the skills to be successful. "NCOs own the outcome." 



ABOVE: MG Brian Tarbet (right) and CSM Bruce Summers (front left) carry one of many litters with wounded Warriors onto the awaiting Utah Air National Guard KC-135 in Bagram, Afghanistan. LEFT: BG Jeff Burton (second from right) and CSM Bruce Summers (right) meet with members of the 141st MI during their visit to Iraq.



109th ACS Returns Home

Story and photos by MSgt Gary Rihn

SALT LAKE CITY — After six months of waiting and worrying, the families of the 109th Air Control Squadron roared as the chartered 767 carrying their loved ones touched down on the Utah Air National Guard Base's flight line on the evening of Nov. 18.

After a few rowdy minutes of celebratory cheering, mixed with a bit of joyous tears, the plane finally arrived in front of the hangar, led by a convoy of flashing lights and sirens. As the aircraft door opened, anxious looks were replaced by relief, as one by one, the men and women of the 109th ACS came into view at the top of the stairs. Emotions overflowed as husbands and wives, mothers and sons, fathers and children, were reunited in hugs and gatherings of friends and family.

Daniel Mulder, the 8-year-old son of MSgt Cate Mulder, said that the return of his mother had extra special meaning for him. Not only was he ready for some of her good home cooking again, but she returned on his birthday, a very special present this year.

Over the past 10 years, the 109th has deployed five times. The unit's most recent deployment found them in the scorching heat of Southeast Asia. They were supporting ground forces half a continent away by coordinating air combat support for troops who were in contact with enemy forces in Afghanistan.

"During our six-month deployment, the 109th ACS worked at least six days a week to ensure equipment was operational in order to maintain a 24-hour, air-defense posture, as well as to provide air support to the warfighters on the ground in Afghanistan," explained Maj Randy Stevens, 109th ACS commander. "I consider myself extremely privileged to be the squadron commander of the 109th ACS, and consider myself fortunate to be able to lead these great Americans to war."

The 109th ACS is one of only a handful of units that can provide the necessary radar surveillance and identification, along with command and control, of Coalition aircraft. For this reason, they find themselves frequently in demand and often deployed to some of the most remote battleground locations. Although the high demand for their services keeps them busy, chances are you'd be hard pressed to find one of them who wouldn't willingly get back on another plane to go do it again.

When asked if she would be willing to deploy again, SMSgt Pam Hamburg immediately replied, "I can tell you that whole unit would say that."

The 109th is scheduled to deploy again in 2014. Of course, with their skills and value to combatant commanders, they know that this is always fluid and subject to change—and they wouldn't have it any other way.

"Anytime the Warlocks get called upon to provide support to the war, every one of my Airmen eagerly responds," said Maj Stevens. "Warfighting is our business...this is what we do." 



TSgt Randon Beckstead kisses his wife after returning with the 109th Air Control Squadron from a six-month deployment to Southeast Asia.



Capt David Mulder, 109th Air Control Squadron, is interviewed for a local TV station while he waits for his wife, MSgt Cate Mulder, to arrive at the Utah Air National Guard Base Nov. 18.



Patriot Guard lines the hangar at the Utah Air National Guard Base as families await returning Airmen with the 109th Air Control Squadron.

Utah National Guard Helps with Successful Inauguration of Governor Gary Herbert



Utah Governor Gary Herbert and Lt. Gov. Greg Bell are sworn into office Jan. 3 in the Utah Capitol rotunda.

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — Citizens and dignitaries at the Jan. 3 inauguration of Utah Governor Gary Herbert were treated to a spectacle that combined the pageantry of tradition and a simplicity dictated by challenging economic times.

“[Governor Herbert] wanted to stress that he’s preserving the history and the dignity of the office while maintaining his responsibilities as a conservative fiscally,” said COL Scot Olson, legislative liaison with the Utah National Guard.

By all accounts, the ceremony in which Herbert took the oath of office as Utah’s 17th governor was carried out with hardly a hitch, and the Utah National Guard, in its prominent and behind-the-scenes roles, was a big part of that success.

“For the National Guard, this was our opportunity to welcome in our commander in chief,” said Olson, who estimated that more than 200 Utah Airmen and Soldiers supported the event.

Working his seventh inauguration, Olson was impressed with the response of Utah Guard leaders and members to do whatever was asked of them, to include before the Guard had received specific guidance from the governor’s office.

“Commanders quickly embraced the responsibilities associated with conducting the inauguration,” he said. “We moved forward with our plans even before we had definitive direction from the Capitol.”

Dating back more than 100 years, the Utah Guard has taken part in the inaugurations of its commanders in chief. In 1896, Guard units marched in a pre-inauguration parade through the streets of Salt Lake City to the Salt Lake Tabernacle, where Herbert M. Wells took the oath of office as Utah’s first

Photos by Ileen Kennedy, TSgt Kelly Collett, MSgt Gary Rihn and 1LT Ryan Sutherland

governor. In 1909, the Utah National Guard fired a 17-gun ceremonial salute to newly sworn Governor William Spry, and that tradition has continued to the present day.

For this year’s ceremony, Soldiers from the 1-145th Field Artillery rendered a 19-gun salute with their 75mm M1 cannons to Governor Herbert as he observed them from the south steps of the Capitol.

Another honor rendered by the Utah Guard at recent inaugurations is aircraft flyovers. This year featured an AH-64D Apache, flanked by two UH-64 Blackhawk helicopters from the 211th Aviation. Coordinating by radio the timing of the flyover to coincide with the artillery salute was CW5 Gary Wallin of the 211th, who was inside the Capitol.

In recent decades, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard has served as master of ceremonies, and MG Brian Tarbet fulfilled that role in this inauguration. Prior to the ceremony, MAJ DeAnne Trauba, Joint Forces Headquarters, served as announcer for the party of dignitaries as they filed into the rotunda for the swearing-in.

“It was a good eye-opener to see what goes on,” said Trauba. “I had never been to an inauguration before. To be asked to be a part of it was a privilege and an honor.”

Also an inauguration staple is the 23rd Army Band, which has performed at every swearing-in for the last several decades. Under the direction of CW2 Denny Saunders, the 26-piece band performed in the rotunda, and a woodwind quintet played in the Gold Room for the document-signing and dignitary reception following the ceremony.



TOP LEFT: Prior to the ceremony, MAJ DeAnne Trauba, Joint Forces Headquarters, announces dignitaries as they are seated in the rotunda. TOP RIGHT: Members of the Utah National Guard Honor Guard post colors to begin the inauguration ceremony. CENTER LEFT: Governor Gary Herbert and First Lady Jeanette Herbert exit the Capitol to view the 19-gun salute and helicopter flyover. CENTER RIGHT: Governor Gary Herbert (left) salutes MG Brian Tarbet on the Capitol steps. BOTTOM LEFT: In the sky above the Capitol, an AH-64D Apache, flanked by two UH-64 Blackhawk helicopters from the 211th Aviation,

render honors with a flyover. BOTTOM RIGHT: Chief Justice Christine Durham is escorted to the stage by CPT Jason Elphick prior to the swearing-in. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT: Utah National Guard Airmen and Soldiers set up 2,000 chairs in the rotunda in preparation for the inauguration. TOP RIGHT: Governor Gary Herbert (center) with the four living Utah Governors: Norm Bangerter, Mike Leavitt, Olene Walker and now-U.S. Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman. BOTTOM: Soldiers from the 1-145th Field Artillery render a 19-gun salute with their 75 mm M1 cannons on the south lawn of the Capitol.



Less visible but equally important roles were filled by Utah Guard officers and enlisted members to include dignitary hosts and escorts, security, public affairs and the setting up and taking down of nearly 2,000 chairs for the ceremony.

For the last two inaugurations Utah Guard leaders made the conscious decision to incorporate younger officers in the planning and execution of the event.

“We wanted to get them more familiar with the role the Guard plays in our connection with state elected officials,” explained Olson. “This will pay many dividends over the long run, making it more productive as they understand that role.”

“No two inaugurations are identical,” he continued. “Each incorporates the choices and character of the governor and first lady. Many told me that they felt that it was the best coordinated, best conducted inauguration they had seen.” 



Close to Home

Story by ILT Ryan Sutherland

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **F**or pilots, life on the front lines is full of pendulum swings. There are, of course, the adrenaline-fueled moments: taking fire in a combat zone or rushing a wounded Soldier out of the fight. There is the planning that goes into the mission, the reliance on their training and of their fellow pilots and crew. And then there is the thought of home that holds everything together.

But that safe notion of home was shaken Sept. 19 when a spark from a .50-caliber weapon leaped from its confines of the M31 live-fire training range on Camp Williams and brought the front lines home.

Months have come and gone, but the memory of the fire that charred the land in and around Camp Williams and resulted in the evacuation of nearly 1,250 homes is still as vivid as the day it occurred.

Captain Jeremy Tannahill, a maintenance test pilot with the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), started the day like many others in his neighborhood: he went to church. He started home around 4:30 p.m., and like many Herriman residents that day, Tannahill looked up at the fire in disbelief.

“I live right on the boundary of Camp Williams, and saw a big plume of smoke,” said Tannahill. “I called one of my friends, an instructor pilot here, and he said there was a big fire at Camp Williams and that they needed an additional aircraft to go fight the fire. I ran home, changed clothes, drove out to the facility and we were in the air in about an hour.

They didn’t know how it started, but they were the first to respond. First Lieutenant Chris Tarbet, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 2-211th Aviation, was on firefighting stand-by when he received the call: “There’s a fire at Camp Williams, we need to launch.”

“Chief Warrant Officer 4 Scott Upton and I were the first aircraft to respond,” said Tarbet. “We were worried about launching right off the bat. There’s a limitation for the Blackhawk—you can’t start or stop it if there are winds of more than 45 knots. When we were launching, it was already at 40. After we got to Camp Williams and saw what it was looking like, Scott made the call and said that we’d probably want to get another aircraft in the air. Captain Tannahill and co-pilot CW3 Richard Johnson were in flight shortly after, so we had two aircraft on the fire for two or so hours. And they would say the same thing: it was crazy how fast the fire raced across the impact zone.”

“When I first saw the fire, and I knew that there was an aircraft up there fighting it, and knowing how aggressive Camp Williams is at fighting fires, I wasn’t too worried at all,” said Tannahill. “As we got up and started fighting the fire, and I realized that there were 40-foot flames and there was a lot of heat and wind and a whole lot of smoke, I started getting a little more nervous.”



Photos by Ileen Kennedy

A Utah Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter carries a “Bambi bucket” in their effort to prevent the spread of a wildfire that started on Camp Williams.

“There was no way we were going to be able to get ahead of it as helicopters—that’s why they were trying to call the tankers in,” Tarbet explained. “We had 40-mile-per-hour winds just rushing that fire across, and there was no way we could get underneath the smoke because we didn’t want to bury one of the helicopters. But when it went up and over that ridge, it was just amazing.”

“Now I’ve flown combat missions in Iraq, and I’ve been engaged in gunfights there,” said Tannahill. “Fighting fires is the hardest flying I have ever done. Other more-experienced pilots might tell you different, but to me this is the hardest mission we have because you’re so under the limit of power. You’re fighting the fire in high altitude, it’s hot and your aircraft is heavy. All of those things equal hard maneuvering for the aircraft, and it’s just hard to fly it.”

The terrain and difficult conditions weren’t the only things the pilots were fighting that day, as it became evident that the fire was inching closer and closer to the homes of their friends and families.

“The first day, Air Attack wanted us to drop water on the most intense portion, which was going towards my neighborhood. When we first tried to get in, it was pretty tricky and there was

no way that we could,” said Tannahill. “The wind was blowing the smoke into the path and we couldn’t see. The terrain was uphill and we don’t do uphill drops, and so we actually had to tell Air Attack that we couldn’t drop on that position. It was disheartening.”

“Some of the flames were 30, 40 feet tall, and I remember thinking that the last couple of buckets we dropped were by homes,” added Tarbet. “I was looking at these homes thinking, ‘That home is gone, and that home is gone’ because the flames were huge. But the next morning when we went back there must have been a wind shift because all of those homes were there. Amazingly those homes somehow didn’t burn down.”

Countless acts of heroism unfolded over the days that the fire threatened the community. Ground crews and firefighters tirelessly met the blaze on the ground, bulldozer operators cut firebreaks across the mountainside and maintenance crews did a remarkable job of keeping helicopters in the air. As the days wore on, the community showed their appreciation for those efforts.

“My neighbors were let back into their homes about 3:00 or 4:00 Monday afternoon, and I got home later that evening,” said Tannahill. When I got home, the neighbors that drove by and the people who saw me in the street all waved, and people stopped and said thank you.”

“People were extremely supportive of me personally and individually for fighting the fire, but on the bigger picture they were extremely supportive of the Guard,” he continued. “I actually had one neighbor say to me, ‘Whoever it was that pulled the trigger on the machine gun to start that fire, I know that kid didn’t want to be there on a Sunday. And I’m sure that kid didn’t want to be there because he was preparing to go to war. But he was preparing to defend me and my family, so how can I be mad at that? Even if I would have lost everything, how can I be mad at that?’”

The fire that threatened his and his neighbors’ homes strengthened Tannahill’s perspective as well.

“The air crews, and the guys on the ground fighting the fire, we were out there putting our lives on the line to protect those



Photo by Greg Cutler

ABOVE: A Blackhawk helicopter drops water on the advancing Herriman fire. BELOW: Four Blackhawks prepare to take off and load their buckets to fight the Herriman Fire.



Photo by CW5 Lynn Higgins

homes and those families’ lives. That’s what it all boils down to,” he said. “We’re Guardsmen because we want to serve. And for me, that was my opportunity to serve my friends, my neighbors and those brothers and sisters I love and care about. It was my chance to actually see all of the hard work and dedication I have poured into my profession, to actually be able to serve those who live in my neighborhood and see the results. It’s an awesome feeling.” 



Utah Guard Honors Bulldozer Operators for Herriman Fire Heroics

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard honored three bulldozer operators who responded to the Sept. 19 Herriman Fire in a ceremony at Draper headquarters Dec. 16.

Major General Brian Tarbet, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, presented the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Kevin Williams, Shawn Wright and Roger Frantz for their role in response to the recent Herriman Fire.

Here's how the three came to be standing on the stage in the auditorium at Draper headquarters, being applauded by hundreds of members and employees of the Utah Guard:

As the Camp Williams-sparked fire crept down the foothills toward Herriman on the night of Sept. 19-20, officials in the command center at the Herriman Fire Station stared at a map on the east wall—some with phones on each ear and others with handheld radios blaring staccatoed static.

Chiefs and captains were calling for anyone they could get to come and help. Among those to respond were Williams, Wright and Frantz—bulldozer operators, all.

Williams, a safety coordinator for Salt Lake County, also operates heavy equipment at the county landfill; Wright is a transportation technician with the Utah Department of Transportation; Frantz is a UDOT station supervisor in Parley's Canyon.

"Not all of the heroes wear uniforms," said Tarbet at the awards ceremony. "We have three of them here today. These guys were down dealing with 50-foot flames, cutting those dozer trails."

"[They] stopped the fire in its tracks," Unified Fire Authority Chief Michael Jensen told *The Salt Lake Tribune*, "[They] definitely put [themselves] in harm's way and made a difference in the fire."

Fire crews worked right alongside dozer operators all that night, fighting the flames while Williams, Wright and Frantz cut makeshift firebreaks, saving perhaps hundreds of homes.

"There's a lot of things that go through your mind when you've got flames right to the side of your dozer," Wright told ABC 4 News after the ceremony. "You just go along. And the firefighters were great. They kept us safe, and shoot, that's all that matters. Everybody went home that night."

"It was scary," Frantz told Fox 13. "I was surprised that we were able to save any of the houses, as fast as the fire was coming."

The Commander's Award for Civilian Service is awarded to "recognize exceptional service of major significance to the organization or local community," according to Army Regulation 672-20.



*Roger Frantz (left), Shawn Wright (center) and Kevin Williams received the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from the Utah National Guard for their heroic work with their bulldozers during the Herriman Fire.
Photo by 1LT Ryan Sutherland*



*Kevin Williams, Shawn Wright and Roger Frantz cut firebreaks during the Herriman Fire, saving many homes and property from damage.
Photo by Greg Cutler*

The citations for Williams, Wright and Frantz read in part, "Your efforts under the direction of the Unified Fire Authority as a heavy-equipment operator allowed for the decisive action of cutting a firebreak on the northeast shoulder of the fire. Your actions protected countless homes that were in immediate danger of being destroyed. Your efforts bring great credit upon yourself, this community and the State of Utah."

"They are representative of a lot of folks in Herriman," said Tarbet. "They really cut the human costs and the property costs significantly." 

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Camp Williams Training Event Sparks Herriman Fire

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — A unit conducting training on the M31 range at Camp Williams about 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, saw sparks from the weapons-familiarization exercise ignite a small brush fire. The fire crew on stand-by at the scene responded immediately to extinguish the five-acre blaze.

Firefighters believed that the flames had been contained, but gusts of wind re-ignited the smoldering remains of the fire, driving it northward. The fire quickly grew beyond the capabilities of those at the scene and moved into an artillery impact area.

The threat of unexploded ordnance hampered efforts to fight the fire actively from the ground and from the air. Civilian fire responders were notified and advised that the fire was heading toward Camp Williams' northern boundary.

Military fire personnel and helicopter crews from the Utah Guard's 211th Aviation fought the fire on Camp Williams, and Unified Fire Authority spearheaded the effort from the Herriman side.

The fire crested the hills above Herriman about 5 p.m., continuing to move north and threaten neighborhoods. By that time UFA had established a command center at the Herriman Fire Station, joined by representatives from the Utah Guard, as well as local, state, and federal jurisdictions. Authorities issued an evacuation order about 9 p.m. to remove approximately 5,000 residents from 1,600 homes, and the Red Cross opened a shelter at Herriman High School for those unable to stay elsewhere with family or friends.

At a press conference later that evening Governor Gary Herbert announced that he had activated 125 members of the Utah National Guard to assist civilian authorities with communications, controlling traffic, building firebreaks and attacking the fire from the air.

With the speed and intensity of the fire due to the high winds, the unspoken expectation of officials in the command center was that hundreds of Herriman homes would be lost. Fire crews fought the fire overnight and bulldozer operators worked dangerously close to the flames, creating emergency firebreaks in the foothills to protect as many homes as possible.

Thanks to these efforts, as well as a significant change in wind from south to north, by Monday morning, Sept. 20, miraculously only three homes had been destroyed, and a fourth sustained significant exterior damage.

The media reported throughout the day Monday that the previous Friday the National Weather Service had



TOP DOWN: Utah National Guard leadership convene in the Joint Operations Center at Draper, Utah. The Herriman Fire advances dangerously close to homes in Herriman. Unified Fire crews battle the Herriman Fire. OPPOSITE PAGE: Military members help direct traffic around the operations center in Herriman.

Photos by Ileen Kennedy and Greg Cutler

issued a red-flag warning for high winds through the weekend. The question reporters asked over and over was ‘Why did the National Guard conduct live-fire training on Camp Williams with such a warning in effect?’

Utah Guard officials worked quickly that day to examine the chain of events that led to the fire, and their preliminary finding was that there were personnel who were aware of the warning, but that information was not communicated to decision makers on the ground.

MG Tarbet announced this information at a press conference at 4 p.m. on Monday, taking responsibility for the start of the fire, promising a full investigation and committing that the Utah Guard would do everything possible to make things right.

“Our mission is to support our citizens—not to endanger them,” said Tarbet. “And we failed in that mission yesterday. We shot in the face of the red-flag warning. That is something we do not do. If we had known that the red-flag warning was in effect—as we should have—we would not have fired on Sunday.”

Utah Guardmembers and civilian responders continued to fight the fire on Camp Williams and in Herriman for the next few days, and Guard officials worked around the clock with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to establish a claims center for residents to be reimbursed for damages suffered from the fire.

The claims center opened Thursday, Sept. 23, the day before the fire was officially declared contained, and for the next three weeks, officials reviewed residents’ claims and made payments on the spot to more than 1,800 claimants in excess of three million dollars.

Guard officials met personally with the residents who lost their homes and assigned assistance officers to work directly with them to make sure their needs were taken care of as soon as possible.

Four investigations have been or will be launched to gather as much information about the events that led to the fire and to review procedures, assess responsibility and determine what changes need to be made going forward. For its part, the Utah National Guard conducted a commander’s inquiry and internal review, while the U.S. Army’s Safety Center in Fort Rucker, Ala., sent representatives to investigate. The State of Utah is in the process of conducting its own investigation.

While investigations were ongoing, MG Tarbet ordered a cessation of all live-fire activities on Camp Williams. He and other officials also attended a number of public meetings to engage citizens directly, hear their concerns and provide information to them. The Utah National Guard also had some of its members participate on their own time in reseeded operations in the Herriman foothills to help prevent future flooding and mudslides.

After a full review of events and existing procedures, Guard officials held a news conference Nov. 3 to announce resumption of full operations at Camp Williams with the exception of

artillery fire and to outline changes in procedures. Mayors from the surrounding communities were in attendance, and the regular dialog between the Utah Guard and local elected officials (which predated the fire) is ongoing.

Changes in Camp Williams procedures include the following:

- A four-times-daily check for red-flag wind warnings, as well as a shift in emphasis from real-time weather data to giving heavier weight to forecasted data in the decision-making process.

- Units at all levels will be empowered to make decisions at any stage of training when concerns arise about the safety and prudence of conducting a training event.

- No live-fire or spark-producing activities during red-flag conditions without the approval of the adjutant general; no live-fire or spark-producing activities during Extreme conditions without the approval of the post commander; and Utah National Guard aircraft will be on shortened response time during red-flag, Extreme and High fire conditions.

In total, more than 500 Guardmembers (both traditional and full-time) were involved in the response to the Herriman Fire. Guard officials continue to support the claims process, now based at Fort Carson, Colo., and are cooperating fully in the investigations that remain open. Public support for the Guard continues to be strong, and as an organization it is committed to working with citizens and elected officials to balance safety concerns with the need to maintain a ready, trained force capable of responding locally, regionally, nationwide and overseas. 🇺🇸



Utah National Guard Soldier Killed in Afghanistan

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **S**ergeant First Class James E. Thode, a member of Blanding-based Detachment 1, 118th Engineer (Sapper) Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, died Dec. 2 in Sabari District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

A resident of Kirtland, N.M., Thode deployed to Afghanistan in July 2010 with the 118th. The unit's mission is to provide route-clearance support to Coalition forces in Afghanistan.

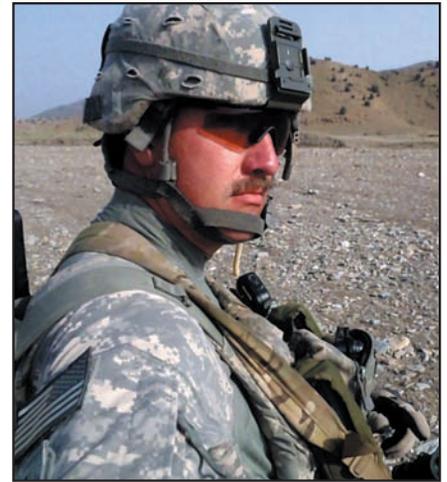
Thode, 45, enlisted in the military in 1984 and joined the Utah National Guard as a 12B combat engineer in 2002. He deployed to Iraq as a member of the Utah Guard's 1457th Engineer Battalion in 2003-2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a platoon sergeant in his unit.

"We're deeply saddened by the death of SFC James Thode in Afghanistan," said MG Brian Tarbet, the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard. "It's a terrible loss for his family, the Soldiers of the 118th Sapper Company and the Utah National Guard."

"Our condolences go out to Mrs. Thode, her two children, and to SFC Thode's parents," Tarbet continued. "He was killed while leading his Soldiers in combat, doing what great NCOs of our military have done for generations. The citizens of Utah should know that one of their finest has fallen."



PHOTOS: Sergeant First Class James Thode on deployment with the 118th Sapper Company in Afghanistan.



Photos courtesy of the Thode family

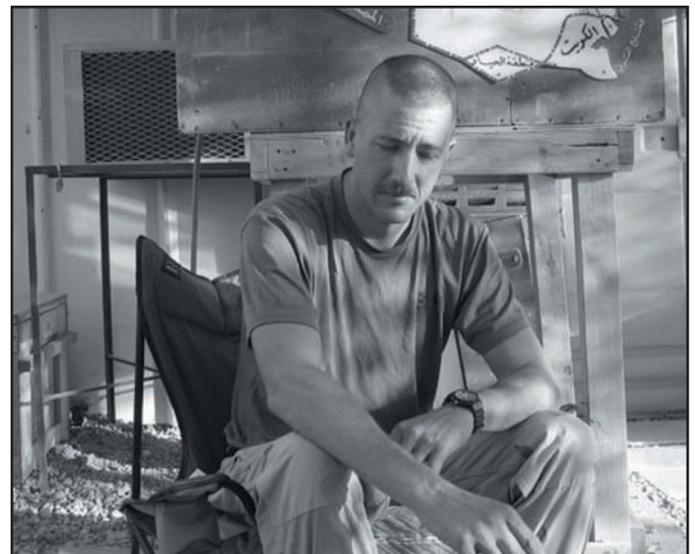
In his civilian employment, Thode had served in the Farmington (New Mexico) Police Department for 14 years. He worked as a field training officer and member of the SWAT team. He was honored as Supervisor of the Year in 2009.

"This is a very difficult time for the police department, all city employees and our community," acting Farmington Police Chief Kyle Westall told the Deseret News. "We lost a decorated officer, Soldier, father, husband, son and citizen. He is a hero to our nation and a hero to this community."

"The death of Thode is a devastating loss to the men he led, to those with whom he worked and to the wife and two children that he leaves behind," wrote the Dec. 8 San Juan Record. "He was known as an inspiration to all who knew him."

Thode is the sixth Utah National Guard Soldier who has died since 9/11 while serving in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He leaves behind a wife and two children. A memorial fund has been set up for them, and those who wish to donate may do so at any Wells Fargo branch.

Soldiers in his Utah unit remember him as a man with an absolute commitment to the mission and to his Soldiers.



Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Grimmett, commander of the 1457th Engineers recalled how Thode was so dedicated to his job that he gave up an opportunity for a command position with a different unit.

“He chose to stay with his men, knowing the risk,” he said. “He had a deep concern and care for every one of his men in that platoon, and they looked to him as a father. I know it’s hitting very hard.”

“Jim Thode was a great man and a great Soldier,” added SFC David Liddle.

Hundreds, including Soldiers and police officers from the Four Corners area, turned out for Thode’s funeral in Farmington.

Thode’s commander in Iraq and current Assistant Adjutant General—Army for the Utah National Guard, BG Jefferson Burton, spoke at the service.

“Some men are born with their boots on,” said Burton. “He was meant to wear the uniform.”



Sergeant First Class James Thode stands in formation with his unit at the Utah Air National Guard Base prior to boarding the plane to begin his deployment to Afghanistan. Thode’s wife Carlotta holds the American flag that draped his casket during funeral services in Farmington, N.M.

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Veterans Day Concert 2010

Story by LTC Marc Savageau

Photos by SFC Stacey Berg

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard hosted the 55th Annual Veterans Day Concert and celebration Nov. 11, at the University of Utah's Jon M. Huntsman Center. We say celebration because we chose this year to highlight and celebrate the achievements of a few of our many outstanding Veterans. The Honorary Colonels Corps again helped fund the event. We thank them for their support and attendance.

The theme of this year's event was "Stories Untold." Senior Master Sergeant Sterling Poulson again hosted in his final concert emcee role before his retirement. Alyce Mutter from Kearns High School sang the National Anthem to begin the two-hour program.

Soldiers and Airmen, retired military members, and their families filled the available seats and responded enthusiastically to the music, the



The Granite School District high school combined choir performs with the 23rd Army Band for the Veterans Day Concert.



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Source: Javelin Strategy & Research. "2010 Identity Fraud Survey Report." February 2010.

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Todd and Kim Olsen, parents of fallen Marine Lance Corporal Nigel Olsen, are recognized during a special spotlight at the concert.



MG Brian Tarbet at the podium presented SMSgt Sterling Poulson a microphone plaque, thanking him for his many years of service. Poulson will be retiring in 2011 from the Utah Air National Guard.

narration and especially the stories spotlighting Navy Machinist Mate 3rd Class Noel Page; Army Corporal Max Lemoine Whitten; a member of the WASPs, Ms. Nell "Mickey" Bright; and U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Nigel K. Olsen.

The 23rd Army Band commander, CW2 Denny Saunders, conducted the Band, and the 400-voice Granite School District high school combined choir was organized by Ms. Carol Goodson who took over the duties of the late Clint Frohm, the music curriculum specialist for the Granite School District. Vocal arrangements were conducted by music directors from each of the high schools attending.

Zions Bank made a special presentation to honor Veteran Terry Scow for his work with the Veterans Administration in Utah. The featured speaker for this year's concert was the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, MG Brian Tarbet, who praised the dedication of Utah Soldiers and Airmen. Tarbet also presented SMSgt Sterling Poulson with a microphone plaque as a token of appreciation for his commitment to the event over the years. 

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Family Matters

2010 TAG Symposium

Story by ISG Charles Schmidt

ALTA, Utah — Utah National Guard command teams and Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers attended the 2010 TAG Symposium held at the Cliff Lodge at Snowbird ski resort Nov. 5-6. This year's theme and focus of the conference was Family Matters. Family Matters is not just a theme but a statement that is close to home for all members of the Guard.

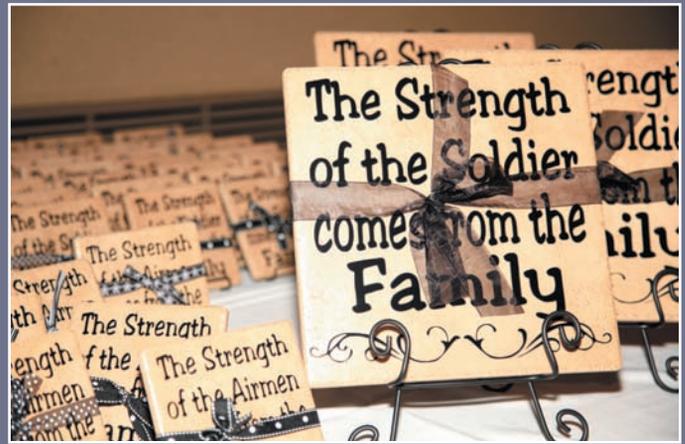
Major General Brian Tarbet, adjutant general, Utah National Guard, said that family does matter, and he recognizes the importance of families and the strength they bring to the Guard.

In his opening remarks Tarbet commented on Family Programs and the value of them saying, "I've learned these lessons early on; without Family Programs, we are all in big trouble!"

To show appreciation and understanding for the sacrifice of FRG volunteers, Tarbet presented each with an award for their service and contribution to the Family Readiness Program. Several military leaders were also presented with awards for their outstanding support to their FRGs and Soldiers' families. Although family readiness is a commander's responsibility, every unit in the Utah Army and Air National Guard is supported by volunteers. These individuals are true patriots who spend their own time working to ensure their Soldiers' families are taken care of in times of war and peace.

"The hardest thing about being an FRG volunteer is the diversity of the Soldiers and their families," said Don Ipson, FRG volunteer with Medical Detachment, 97th Troop Command. "However, there is no more rewarding act than giving service to those who are in service to our country."

The service that FRG volunteers provide includes information and resources for family needs such as loan interest savings, youth services, single Soldier services,



The TAG Symposium provides training and brings military leaders and Family Readiness volunteers together.

food, employment services, family life counseling and many more resources. They also coordinate social gatherings for Soldiers and their families in efforts to bring the units' families together and build relationships that instill the military mindedness that will help during deployments.

The goal of the TAG symposium is to link FRG volunteers with commanders and leaders they support and to provide training that pertains to the uniqueness of volunteering for a military organization.

Tricia Baker, FRG volunteer, 1457th Forward Support Company, said, "These conferences are helpful for learning the information to take back to the FRG and use to help families."

This year's training programs included Communication Boot Camp, Military Child Education Coalition and Incorporating the Total Guard Family.

Don Ipson receives an award from MG Brian Tarbet for his volunteerism for his wife's unit, the Medical Detachment, and his involvement with the Family Readiness Group.

Sister musicians, Cassy and Alyssa Gaddis, perform their original song, "Make a Difference," and other songs during the TAG Symposium. Kassie Leavitt receives an award from MG Brian Tarbet for her volunteerism for her husband's unit, the 144th Area Support Medical Company.



Keynote speaker Wendy Day, communication instructor for more than 14 years, made this statement while teaching a breakout session entitled Communication Boot Camp: “The Military is only as strong as its families, and families are only as strong as the marriages.”

The entertainment for the conference was not only entertaining but motivational and touching. Cassy and Alyssa Gaddis, military children from Illinois now living

in Nashville, perform all around the country inspiring and sharing their message about the power we all have to “Make a Difference.” These young ladies 14 and 18, respectively, are true supporters of our military and of American patriots. Several volunteers said singing their songs for our volunteers, Soldiers and Airmen was a true thank-you.

“Their songs wiped me out,” Ipson said. “I couldn’t even get out of my chair after they sang “Price of Peace.” 🇺🇸

Utah Tankers Keep Aircraft Flying Over Afghanistan

Story by SGT Darron Salzer

Photo by SSG Eric Harris

ARLINGTON, Va. — **H**igh in the skies of Afghanistan, KC-135R Stratotanker crews work long hours supporting other types of aircraft as an aerial refueling point, giving those assets the ability to continue their missions.

“Our job is to provide air-refueling support for aircraft like the F-15 [Eagle] and F-16 [Falcon],” said Lt Col Jeff Smith of the Utah Air National Guard’s 151st Air Refueling Wing. “We provide fuel to them to extend in the area much longer than they could otherwise.”

Sometimes their job can make the difference between life and death.

“There have been times during firefights, when air support has been called in by a guy on the ground, and you don’t want that pilot to have to say he needs to return for fuel,” said MSgt Eric Henderson, also from the 151st. “Ultimately, we’re there to support the guys in boots and on the ground.”

Both men say that refueling fighters and heavies, who support personnel on the ground, is the most important and rewarding part of their mission. It takes not only a skilled refueling crew to get the job done, but also a skilled receiver pilot who knows what they are doing.

“Obviously, boom operators are the ones who make the connection, but if the receiver can position the aircraft right, it makes everything a lot simpler,” said Henderson.

The operation is simple: two pilots in the front of the aircraft conduct the rendezvous with the receiver aircraft, and the boom operator in the back of the plane, lying on their stomach, operates the boom with a joystick as the receiver comes up for the fuel.

“Up front, we control the pumps and the amount of fuel that is given, while the boom operator makes sure there is good contact with the other airplane,” said Henderson.

A good refueling crew can make mid-air refueling seem simple, but there are a few things crews have to pay attention to and adjust for if they want to have a smooth operation.



Master Sergeant Eric Henderson, 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, deploys in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“One of the most important things is listening to the radio,” said Henderson. “Being on your headset is pretty much key to the whole operation. Your tasking for refueling might change, so you really have to be in tune to what is coming up to you.

“What’s scheduled, and what actually happens, can be two very different things, so you have to be fluid.”

When it comes to operating the actual boom, Henderson said that depth perception is key “to making a good connection, especially when there is changing light, because this is when your eyes can play tricks on you.”

“Obviously in the daytime, you can see what’s going on, and at night you can pretty much also see, but depth perception is always key,” he said.

Henderson added that going through your checklist and having everything set up is also important.

Though their mission is not engaging enemy combatants, what tanker crews do is just as important as any other mission operating in the skies above Afghanistan.

“The job we’re assigned to do is very fulfilling,” said Smith. “We fly sorties every day, supporting other tactical airplanes who need the fuel.

“We feel very much a part of the operation,” he said. 🇺🇸

Real Salt Lake Honors Fallen Soldiers

Story and photos by PFC Ariel Solomon

SANDY, Utah — **A**merican professional soccer club Real Salt Lake honored Soldiers and families of the Utah National Guard in a pregame flag ceremony and moment of silence at Rio Tinto Stadium Nov. 5.

The ceremony was meant to bring awareness to the Wounded Warrior Project and specifically to Utah Soldiers who had recently passed away, said Rachel King, corporate service coordinator with Real Salt Lake, who coordinates all the pregame and halftime ceremonies for the team.

“To set our recognition apart, the families of three fallen Soldiers were asked to participate along with our players in the pregame ceremony that also included a moment of silence,” King said.

The ceremony, which took place just before Game Two of Real’s playoff series with FC Dallas, began with a line of Soldiers and civilians carrying the closed flag onto the field. The flag was quickly opened up and covered a portion of the field. The announcer named the Utah Soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a moment of silence was held just before the National Anthem was played. After the Anthem, the flag was gathered and the flag bearers left the field.

“It was good. It was very exciting,” said SSG William Soderquist, who serves with the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, 300th MI Brigade, Utah Army National Guard. Soderquist was one of the flag bearers during the ceremony that held the flag over the field.

“I think this instills a sense of pride in the military,” said MAJ David Crockett, who serves with the 65th Fires Brigade, about the ceremony.

King said that Real Salt Lake holds several events each year in conjunction with games and other activities to demonstrate RSL’s support for the military, specifically for the Utah-based Troops who sacrifice so much.

“This was especially important to both our ownership group and internal staff, as these Soldiers are protecting our safety and ability to live freely,” King said. 🇺🇸

Soldiers and Airmen display a large American flag for the pregame ceremony at Rio Tinto Stadium Nov. 5.





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Operation Christmas Blanket—More than a Gift

Story by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — “Service before Self” is one of the Air Force core values. That was what was exemplified recently by an all-volunteer aircrew to serve during the Christmas holiday instead of being home with family and friends. They say they gained more than they gave from this unforgettable aeromedical evacuation mission to Afghanistan.

“Our boom operator, MSgt Brian Jensen, and I were the first ones to sign up,” said Lt Col Lisa Berente, 151st Air Refueling Wing chief of safety. “We thought, ‘It’s over Christmas; this is our chance to get the mission, because so many want it.’”

This particular mission was dubbed Operation Christmas Blanket when Jensen’s daughter Ashley had the idea to provide a homemade quilt for every evacuated patient. The crew was scheduled to fly four sorties with the capacity to carry 22 patients per flight for a total of 88 possible wounded. Ashley and her mother organized their neighbors and others in the community to make a quilt for every single patient.

“We were inundated with donations. We had to stop receiving quilts at around 240,” said Berente. “They were nice; something we would want to have in our homes.”

“It’s hard to relate the looks or the feelings shown by the Servicemen as they were handed the blanket and told ‘Merry Christmas from the folks back home,’” said Jensen. “Some just stared while others held it close like a newborn child. Others stroked it, feeling the softness in total contrast to the harsh world they had just come from. To see these Servicemen wrapped up in these blankets with the warmth they provided invoked a metaphorical image of a bear hug from some unknown, but certainly caring individual.”

“One gentleman looked up and said he was going to give his blanket to his wife so she could wrap their newborn child in it, whom he has not yet seen other than pictures over the Internet,” continued Jensen. “Others arrived on litters cocooned in their

Photos courtesy of CPT Elizabeth Hays and CSM Bruce Summers

new blankets, covering body parts that are no longer there or covering a wound elsewhere. Not only do they provide warmth, they shield the Soldier from the cruel world they are coming from.”

On the second sortie from Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, to Bagram, Afghanistan, MG Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general, and CSM Bruce Summers were also on board. Upon learning about the blankets, they were so taken aback that words escaped them.

“They asked who had made them so they could personally call and thank them,” Jensen said. “My only reply was, ‘Sir, [it was] a grateful community who stood behind their Soldiers in their time of need and the freedoms they help secure.’”

At the end of the flight Tarbet and Summers stood at the cargo door and presented each Soldier his blanket and saluted them. The unconscious litter patients were quietly covered or sent with a beautifully made blanket, folded by their side.

“For the men—our Soldiers receiving them—it was pretty tender,” said Berente. “The TAG and CSM got to hand them out. We gave them also to the hospital so then the patients started coming out already shrouded with beautiful handmade quilts to cover them. It was something. It was Christmas.”

Tarbet and Summers met up with the Utah Airmen Dec. 21-23 and helped load and offload eight litters, with two critical and six walking wounded from the aircraft to be transported by ambulance to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

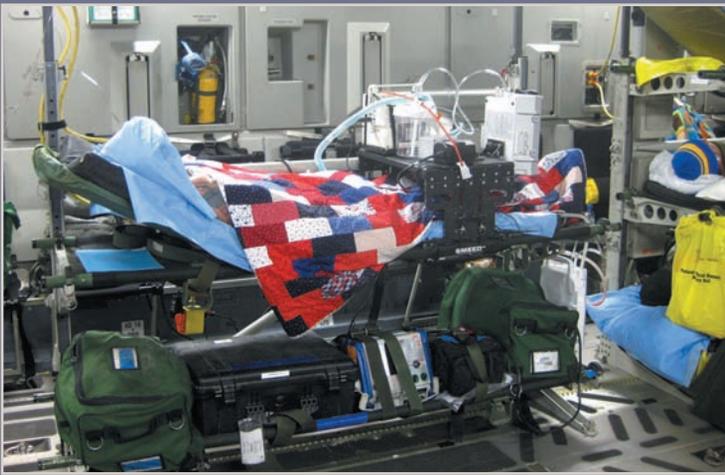
“It was the most memorable three days I’ve spent in uniform,” said Tarbet.

The Utah Air National Guard KC-135 and eight-member crew left Utah Dec. 17 and flew four aeromedical evacuation missions the week before and after Christmas, returning on Dec. 29. Virtually nothing went according to plan on any of the



*Wounded patients being offloaded after their flight from Bagram, Afghanistan.
The inside of a KC-135 converted for an aeromedical evacuation mission.
A critically wounded Soldier’s handmade quilt sits atop his medical equipment.*





A wounded Warrior is wrapped in one of the handmade quilts provided by Utah communities. Utah Air National Guard crew and leadership: (back row) CSM Bruce Summers, SSgt Brad Westover, MG Brian Tarbet, TSgt Ryan Veenstra, TSgt Santiago Avila, Maj Mike Flocco, SSgt Enoch Pitzer, Lt Col Lisa Berente, 1Lt Jamie Ridgeway and MSgt Brian Jensen. Inside a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 in flight to Bagram, Afghanistan, for an aeromedical evacuation mission.



sorties. It was as if an unseen force were throwing curve balls as they stood in the batter's box.

"We would take two steps forward and one step back, as if an invisible, yet omnipresent force existed solely to thwart our efforts in taking to the skies in a timely and efficient manner," said Maj Mike Flocco, aircraft commander.

"[It was] very challenging. To make it happen we had to be on our game," said Berente. "We had to know the rules, know our systems. Every aspect was challenging."

Europe was experiencing some of the worst weather in decades. Flights were being diverted or cancelled, airfields from the United Kingdom to Romania were snarled by massive amounts of snow, de-icing trucks were depleted, and there were low cloud decks and restricted visibility.

"It was bad and icy, and the first mission was delayed for four-and-a-half hours. We thought we weren't going to be able to go, the weather was bad," said Berente. "This was true for all four missions, there really was a reason not to go, there was legitimate thinking at least on the first three that 'This won't go. This will cancel; the weather is bad.'"

"During any given mission, our crew could have elected to cancel, and with good reason," said Flocco. "Yet something in the background of our operations seemed to discourage—if not completely disallow—any such intention. Perhaps it was the urgent and important nature of these missions. Without patting ourselves on the back, it's quite possible that lives were saved on some of these missions. Perhaps it was a sense of pride in our jobs, our Squadron and its proud heritage and our Country. Perhaps we were just a little bit stubborn and not willing to cede to these frustrating conditions without a bit of a fight."

There was "a bit of a fight" in many on board. The doctors, nurses and medical techs fought to keep their patients stabilized, the flight crew fought the weather to complete the mission and some patients fought to stay alive.

"All the patients matter; all the patients need to get back," said Berente. "We had long days, we had max crosswind on two sorties—almost every mission we landed at or just above weather minimums. The ceiling was so low, you made a decision to land or divert to England."

The KC-135 was never designed as a platform for an aeromedical evacuation. The aircraft has to be reconfigured, a process that can take many hours. The jet's cargo door sits high so a K-loader has to be used to raise the patients up so they can be carried on board. It's a slower process than driving passengers and equipment onto a C-17.

"Our jets are older, so we don't have the lighting like the C-17, which has better lighting inside," said Berente. "We don't have the number of outlets that the C-17 has; we have enough but it's not as many as them. But they need us and they like us because we are reliable. We are available

and we are fast. We asked the C-17 crew how long it takes them and they said nine hours. We do it in seven. When you have somebody whose life is in a life-threatening or critical state, if you can cut two hours off the tube time, that's significant. The ER docs and nurses love us."

A K-loader in Germany loads medical equipment onto a Utah KC-135.



Soldiers, Employers and Families Discuss Impact of Deployment

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he University of Utah's Veterans Day committee sponsored an on-campus panel Nov. 11 entitled "Deployment: From Family to Foxhole" to highlight the challenges faced by Servicemembers, families and employers during mobilization.

Speakers included COL Kenneth Wade, a recently returned Soldier from Afghanistan; Kassie and Lynnzie Leavitt, wife and daughter, respectively, of a currently deployed Soldier; Shannon Atkinson, supervisor of a Soldier now serving in Afghanistan; and MAJ Annette Barnes, director of the Utah National Guard's Servicemember and Family Support Services.

Having returned from Afghanistan only six weeks previously, Wade was moderator of the panel and gave a thorough overview of the mission of the 144th Area Support Medical Company, the unit he deployed with from March to October 2010.

"The stresses that the Soldier undergoes come from all angles: family life, military life and civilian job life," said Wade, who was the sole health-care provider for 7,500 troops at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Wade described the stresses common to Soldiers of the 42 countries represented at the NATO training headquarters where he served.

"We have been singing your crews' praise as being the best temperature-regulated flight we have been on since mid September," said MAJ Medori Hill, one of the flight nurses. "Your crew was truly concerned with our battle-injured patients and was willing to do whatever it took to make them comfortable on the long flight. Everyone pitched in to help from the safe onload and offload of patients, to helping the AE crew safely get their equipment off the aircraft despite the inclement weather. You all made that mission one of our best ever!"

"I think that's what does it for us; that's why we never have a shortage for volunteers. It can be Christmas and we want to go," said Berente. "We said this all the way through; if we can't be home with our families on Christmas, this is exactly what we want to do. It puts everything into perspective. In the Air Force we have 'Service before Self'; it's one of our core values. There isn't one person—ops or maintenance—who goes on this mission and comes back the same." 

"Soldiers from all the other nations had exactly the same problems and concerns and fears as the U.S. Soldiers," he said. "It was reassuring to know that we were all alike. We were family people first and Soldiers second."

Kassie Leavitt, a Family Readiness Group leader with her husband's unit, talked about the highs and lows of their second deployment.

"There is a sense of unity among families, but at times it's been difficult because you hear about things you wish you didn't know," she said. "I've had a front-row seat in dealing with those who give birth to a child without having their husband there. It's a very tender experience."

Dealing with a surgery for her son and a flooded basement were among the challenges she had to face. The instant communication that today's technology provides Soldiers and families has been a big help, but it also has its downside.

"It's a double-edged sword," Kassie explained. "It's a wonderful thing, yet at the same time it can bring a lot of anxiety because Soldiers hear about things and there's nothing they can do. Communication can make both parties quite anxious."

Kassie's daughter Lynnzie, a high school junior, gave her perspective on how deployment affects children of deployed Servicemembers.

"During the first deployment, I felt my dad was missing my childhood," she said. "For a while I was really bitter about that."

But this time Lynnzie has found ways to work through the separation. She has spearheaded fundraisers and taken up quilt making, making blankets for wounded Warriors.

"They became my heroes. I want to become an occupational therapist and help Veterans," she added.

Lynnzie has other heroes too: the Soldiers and families who lived through other wars.



TOP LEFT: COL Kenneth Wade, Kassie and Lynnzie Leavitt, Shannon Atkinson, Robert Voyles and MAJ Annette Barnes. TOP RIGHT: Panel members listen while COL Kenneth Wade, a recently returned Soldier from Afghanistan, talks about his experiences. BOTTOM RIGHT: Lynnzie Leavitt (left) gets emotional explaining what kids go through as she talks about her father's second deployment.



“I look back on previous generations and the things they had to endure,” she said. “They had nothing like we have today to help them through it.”

Shannon Atkinson, who is SSG Rachael Kotter’s supervisor at Intermountain Medical Center, discussed the issues faced by employers during deployment.

“When Rachael came and told me she had orders to deploy, I panicked,” said Atkinson, not knowing how she and her staff would deal with her absence.

“But I was amazed at the reaction of her co-workers,” she continued. “They wanted to give Rachael comfort and support. It was a reality check for them.”

Acknowledging the stress of being short-staffed, Atkinson said that knowing where Kotter is and what she is doing has made it bearable.

“We have made a real effort to keep her name alive in our department,” Atkinson explained. “We have a big picture of her in her uniform in the workroom. I want everyone to know who she is so that when she comes back she is welcomed right back into her place.”

In April 2010 Atkinson took part in a Boss Lift, a trip sponsored by the Department of Defense’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. She spent three days at Fort Lewis, Wash., to observe Kotter’s unit after they left Utah en route to Afghanistan.

“I came back from the Boss Lift with an absolute personal commitment that I was going to give Rachael all the support that she could possibly hope from an employer,” said Atkinson.

Rounding out the panel was MAJ Annette Barnes, who sees all the pieces come together from her position as director of Servicemember and Family Support Services.

“Every family reacts to a deployment differently,” said Barnes. “We’re in a constant state of growth in Servicemember and family care.”

The Utah Guard has established 12 Family Assistance Centers throughout the state, and they help meet the needs of military families, whether they are Guard, Reserve or active duty.

As critical as family needs are during deployment, Barnes knows that the toughest days come after a Soldier returns to his or her family.

“Nine years into this war, we know that a lot of our challenges will be when our Servicemembers come home,” said Barnes. “When they are gone, we want them to be hypervigilant, but that’s not the best thing to do when they come home. We need to help our Servicemembers ramp down.”

“We don’t only want our families to struggle during deployments, we want them to thrive,” said Barnes, outlining her staff’s overall goal. “We want them to be better than ever when their Servicemember gets back. That’s what our Family Program is all about.”

Each panel member expressed appreciation for the invitation to tell their slice of the story, recognizing that many Americans have no idea what Servicemembers, families and employers go through.

“I’m extremely honored,” said Lynnzie Leavitt. “Being a military child has its challenges. There are things that come up that I wish I didn’t have to deal with.”

“You are always at risk; you are never in a completely safe zone, so there is always that stress,” added Wade. “The fear of letting people down becomes the biggest fear.”

“My children are proud of their father,” said Kassie Leavitt. “They know that what he does makes a difference.”

Family Tradition Strong During Deployment

Story and photos by SFC Scott Faddis

BALAD, Iraq — **T**he National Guard has traditionally been a close-knit family. Guard membership is a family tradition passed on from generation to generation since the early beginnings of our Nation. With the current deployment of the 141st Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (Linguist), the tradition has continued. Currently there are four sets of brothers, two married couples, three sets of father and sons, and one set of cousins all in Iraq supporting Operation New Dawn.

Historically, it has been fathers inspiring their children to serve in the military. In the Larsen family it started that way, but took an unusual turn for SSG Allen Larsen.

“Corey asked if he could join the National Guard at 17,” Allen said. “I went into the recruiter’s office to sign my approval. Then recruiters made a point to let me know they knew I had served 14 years of service in the Navy, and that was a lot of time to waste towards retirement. They presented their offer to get me back in. I agreed and signed up.”

Allen says the best thing about deploying together is the opportunity to see Corey’s recent promotion and to assist him through some hard challenges.

Specialist Jarrod Coffey, 141st MI, and his father CW3 (ret.) Brian Coffey, a contractor, ended up in Iraq together due to the most unlikely circumstances. Jarrod was in the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) when he was called back to active duty to be mobilized with the 141st MI Battalion.

“I was in the IRR for 12 days when I get the notice in the mail,” said Jarrod. He maintains a good attitude even though he was not expecting to be in Iraq.

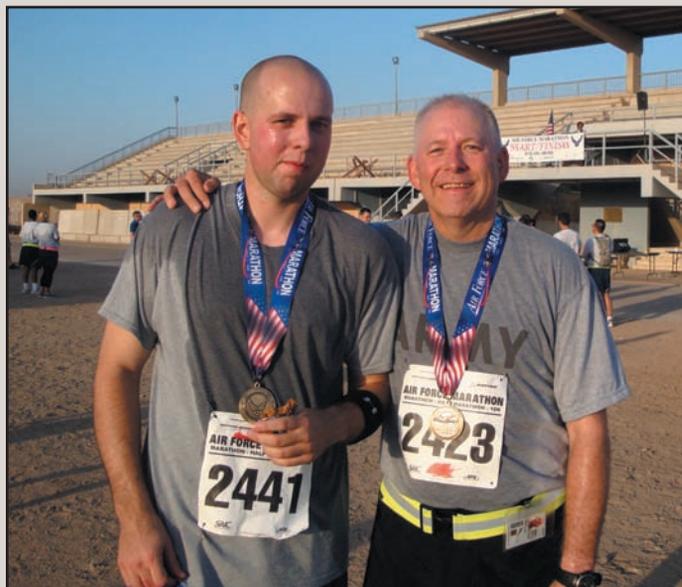
“My family is a military family and understands that sacrifice is necessary to facilitate the safety of our nation and her interests,” said Jarrod. “My family is proud of my father and me.”

The Doxstader brothers are not both part of the 141st MI BN, but they both ended up serving in Iraq at the same time. Specialist Brayton Doxstader is a member of the 141st, while SSG Michael Doxstader serves with the Utah National Guard’s 19th Special Forces Group. The brothers say they come from a family with a strong military heritage.

Brayton says the best thing about being deployed together is how their mother feels about their service.

“She is extremely proud of her sons and even proudly displays her support of all Soldiers in front of her yard on her flagpole,” he said.

Staff Sergeant Chris Radcliff and SGT Misti Radcliff are husband and wife. When not deployed, the Arizona couple both serve as police officers. They joined the military to serve their



TOP DOWN: Father and son, CW2 Sam Howlett (left) and SPC Justin Howlett, 19th Special Forces, after running the Air Force 1/2 Marathon on Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Brothers 1LT Joseph Brandt, SSG Jacob Brandt, and SGT Richard Brandt pose together at the range in Kuwait. SSG Allen Larsen and SPC Corey Larsen training on the Machine Gun Range in Fort Lewis, Wash.

country and to travel. For the Radcliffs, the best thing about deploying together is being together.

“We get to see each other a lot more than if we had different jobs, and we have always worked well together,” said Misti.

Specialists Jeremy and Tasha Cope first met while in training in the Army. When they aren’t deployed Jeremy works full time for the National Guard, and Natasha is a student. Jeremy is a Michigan native, and Natasha is from Illinois. They feel the deployment is a great experience, and both are grateful for the opportunity.

“Tasha helps me stay calm and is a good reminder that I can always be better,” said Jeremy. “She helps me work harder and helps me be better in everything I do.”

Being deployed together is nothing new for brothers 1LT Joseph Brandt, SSG Jacob Brandt and SGT Richard Brandt. Joseph and Jacob deployed together in 2002 as part of Operation Noble Eagle II. Jacob and Richard were later deployed together in 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is Jake’s third deployment and Joe’s and Rich’s second deployment.

“We all joined at age 17 in our junior year in high school,” said Joseph. “We felt it was our duty. We also had peer pressure.

Jake and Joe joined with two of their closest friends, Riley Anderson and Derek Mickelson. Rich joined with two of his close friends, Kasey Hansen and Brady Willardson. Both our parents spoke very highly of the military when we were young and encouraged us to serve our country. Our dad and both his parents were all in the military. It’s in our blood.”

“Knowing that you have a true brother in arms right at your side helps tremendously,” he added. “It helps knowing that your brother is going through the same things you’re going through. It helps when times are tough, and it magnifies the good times.”

“Having a mother worry while three of her sons are at war takes its toll,” Joseph continued. “Although our mother is very patriotic and wouldn’t have it any other way, she isn’t immune to worrying. It’s very possible that all four of us brothers could be at war at any given moment. Although she has high regard for the military, having four boys at war at the same time does weigh heavy on her. This is Mom’s second time that she’s had three at war at one time. She’s never had all four of us deployed in a combat zone at any given time—yet.”

LTC Bob Vrana and CPT Marie Roberts contributed to this report.

Recruiting Sustainment Program Soldiers Support Guarding the Environment

Story and photos by SSG Joshua Lowery

DRAPER, Utah — **M**embers of Alpha Company, Recruiting Sustainment Program, feel strongly that it is important to assist our local communities in preserving our natural resources and doing our part to ensure that future generations will enjoy beautiful country as we have. Guarding the Environment is a great way for Soldiers to give back.

Early on a Saturday morning, 60 Soldiers, accompanied by their Cadre from Alpha Company, arrived at Tree Utah’s Salt Lake City Echo Garden to assist the volunteer staff in planting trees, cover cropping, weeding, building retaining walls and laying out new mulch. They were able to spend several hours beautifying this essential community garden.

Echo Garden is a place where young and old community members alike can go to learn about the benefit of planting gardens, trees and ground cover. Children have a reading area on the site where they can learn about various trees and plants and what they do for our environment. Recruiting Sustainment Soldiers were happy to help make a dramatic difference and to accomplish in one half day, by hand, what would have taken the regular staff of three several weeks to do otherwise. 🇺🇸



Members of Alpha Company, Recruiting Sustainment Program, help beautify the community by planting trees and improving the grounds at Echo Gardens as part of Guarding the Environment.

WWII Vet Receives Bronze Star 65 Years Later

Story by SGT Shana Hutchins

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **A** Utah World War II veteran finally received the Bronze Star medal he earned more than 65 years ago in a ceremony hosted by 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation, of the Utah Army National Guard, at the E. J. Garn Aviation Complex in West Jordan Nov. 19.

Richard Johnson, of Herriman, saved the life of a fellow U.S. Soldier near Rechrival, Belgium, in January 1945, qualifying him for the honor, but he never was presented the medal officially until the Nov. 19 ceremony.

Johnson, now 83 years old, was an infantry machine gunner in Europe during World War II with the 194th Glider Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division.

During the ceremony LTC Pete Adams, commander of 2nd Battalion, described what Johnson did to earn the medal.

“On 10 January 1945, PFC Richard Johnson distinguished himself by selflessly exposing himself to grave danger by leaving the protection of his defilade position to rescue a severely wounded Soldier. Private First Class Johnson charged forward through enemy fire with total disregard for his own safety and dragged his fallen comrade to safety. His selfless actions were reported, unbeknownst to him, to his superiors. Six years went by until one day in July 1951 a package containing his award was delivered through the mail.”



Photos by Brock Jones

Captain Jeremy Tannahill, commander of Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation, is a neighbor of the Johnsons and said his young son, Braden, often goes to visit and help the Johnsons. It was during one of these visits that Braden noticed some war memorabilia Johnson had in his home. After hearing about Johnson’s mementos from his son, Tannahill said he went over to visit Johnson and ask if he would be willing to share some of his World War II experiences with his unit. Tannahill eventually discovered that Johnson had never been formally awarded the Bronze Star in a proper military ceremony, and a plan to do just that began to take shape in his mind. He approached Adams about holding a ceremony for Johnson.

“He’s a hero and he hadn’t been recognized,” said Tannahill. “A man who does what he did needs to be recognized for his service. He deserves it.”

Brigadier General Michael Liechty, land component commander of the Utah Army National Guard, pinned the award on Johnson’s lapel. Johnson rendered a salute and the crowd of Soldiers and civilians gave him a round of applause.

After receiving the medal, Johnson was invited to speak, and he gave a brief overview of the gliders used in World War II. He also provided additional details to Adams’ narrative about how he’d come to earn the Bronze Star.



LEFT: Brigadier General Michael Liechty pins the Bronze Star Medal on Richard Johnson, after he earned it 65 years ago. Richard Johnson, fourth from right, with his family at the West Jordan Armory. ABOVE: Richard Johnson earned the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic actions, rescuing a wounded Soldier during World War II.





LEFT: With his wife by his side, Richard Johnson of Herriman, Utah, cuts a cake created in his honor. ABOVE: The citation and Bronze Star Medal was earned by Richard Johnson 65 years ago, during WWII, and finally presented to him at a ceremony in West Jordan Nov. 19.

“I was a machine gunner at the time and machine gunners would fall in with rifle squads, and fortunately we had some cover—some defilade. An 88 shell hit about 20 feet ahead of us, severely wounding a rifleman. He was screaming and bleeding, one leg just hanging there.”

Johnson said the others began concentrating fire on where they could see the enemy tracers coming from, and he ran out and grabbed the wounded Soldier and pulled him back to the creek bed.

“It was nothing special. Any one of you would have done the same thing in the same circumstances,” he said. 🇺🇸

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Utah Cross Awarded to Utah Soldiers Training in Cambodia

Story by CPT Choli Ence

DRAPER, Utah — **T**wo Utah Army National Guard Soldiers from the 197th Special Troops Company (Airborne) were awarded the Utah Cross during a ceremony held at Camp Williams Dec. 4.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Cieslak, of Mountain Green, and SGT Joseph Lee, of South Jordan, were cited for their exemplary actions in rendering aid to an injured moped driver during a training exercise in Kampong Speu, Cambodia.

“The Utah Cross is the second highest award presented by the Utah National Guard,” said LTC Brent Baxter, executive officer, 97th Troop Command. “The Utah Cross is presented to any member of the Utah National Guard who distinguishes himself or herself through a voluntary course of action. Such actions include the acceptance of existing danger or extraordinary responsibilities with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage that are clearly above and beyond the call of duty.”

Colonel Milada Copeland, commander of the 97th, said this award “goes to show that these two Soldiers when they were in the situation where they were in a foreign country, didn’t speak the language, they could have really driven off. They actually took the time and assisted the individual and then went to great lengths to make sure the person got proper medical care and his life was saved.”

In the early morning hours of June 17, Lee witnessed a moped, carrying baskets full of eggs, collide with a pedestrian on the busy highway outside of the Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces.

Recognizing the severity of the accident, Lee quickly summoned Cieslak, the company medic, to assist him in treating the injured driver. While waiting for Cieslak to

TOP DOWN: Staff Sergeant Matthew Cieslak (center) and SGT Joseph Lee (right) salute MG Brian Tarbet after being presented with the Utah Cross at a ceremony Dec. 4 at Camp Williams, Utah. Lee was the first responder to a moped-pedestrian accident in Kampong Speu, Cambodia. Lee summoned Cieslak, and the two rendered aid to a severely injured moped driver and the pedestrian he collided with. The two 197th Special Troops Company (Airborne) Soldiers were in Cambodia participating in training for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces.

Top photo by MAJ Wencke Tate and remaining photos courtesy of the 197th Special Troops Company.



to arrive, Lee began to perform first aid on both the driver of the moped and the pedestrian.

"I just started cutting up clothing to put bandages on [the driver] to stop the blood, waiting for the medic to arrive. I then ran to the other guy and cut the remainder of the shirt and put it on him," said Lee.

Cieslak explained that the injuries to the driver were severe and consisted of numerous facial fractures, which could have resulted in his airway being completely blocked by swelling.

Upon stabilizing the driver, Cieslak and Lee arranged with their interpreter to transport the driver to the nearest medical clinic. Once at the clinic, the medical staff began trying to treat the injured driver incorrectly for his type of injury. Cieslak immediately recognized the potential danger of their treatment and told the medical staff.

Determined to save the driver's life, Cieslak and Lee opted to take the driver to the public hospital located 45 minutes away in Phnom Penh, which had the capability to take X-rays and CT scans.

Once at the hospital, Cieslak attempted to relay the driver's vital signs and condition to one of the doctors. However, the doctor paid little attention to Cieslak and continued working.

"The interpreter explained that the doctor would need to be bribed, so we emptied both of our wallets, which ended up being around 40 bucks," Lee said.

Eventually, another doctor who spoke English approached Cieslak about the driver. Cieslak was able to inform the doctor about the condition of the driver and then ensured that the doctor understood that an X-ray and CT scan were necessary.

After the driver had recovered from the accident, he and his parents met with Cieslak and Lee to thank them for saving his life.

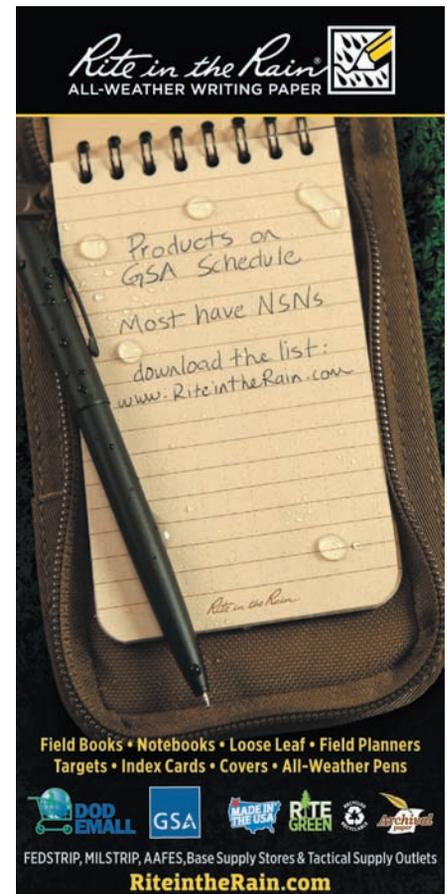
Sergeant First Class Gordon Shute, engineer platoon sergeant, 197th STC, said the driver's mother "couldn't say thank you enough...she was so, so grateful. It about broke my heart...I had trouble choking back tears."

Prior to leaving Cambodia, the Soldiers of 97th TC collected donations, which were enough to cover the driver's hospital bills. A dentist in the area also agreed to fix the driver's teeth pro bono.

"They are exceptional Soldiers," said Copeland. "There are a lot of exceptional Soldiers in the Utah Guard. This is a prestigious award that we don't give out a lot."

Cieslak and Lee humbly accepted their Utah Crosses from MG Brian Tarbet, adjutant general, in front of their fellow Soldiers, friends and family.

"It's an honor, and the real honor was that he got taken care of," said Cieslak. "It really should be an award for 197th STC for all the work they did out there. 



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Utah Air Guardsman is a Local Celebrity with Complementary Dual Roles

Story by AIC Lillian Chatwin

SALT LAKE CITY — **W**hen asked about the upcoming weather forecast, Senior Master Sgt Sterling Poulson states the obvious in his “TV voice,” an easily recognizable voice to viewers who watch the nightly KUTV Channel 2News. “It’s 70 degrees outside and pretty nice!”

“People come in here five or six times a day wanting to know what the weather’s going to be like,” explained Sergeant Poulson, the Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Utah Air National Guard State Headquarters.

When prodded a little further, though, he makes a few clicks on his keyboard, looks at a bunch of multicolored dotted lines on a map of the U.S. and then presents a full weather report with the fervor of a “veteran” forecaster.

“Looks like snow Monday night and Tuesday morning with another storm rolling in here on Wednesday. It’s going to get cold, with temperatures in the forties. Friday will be partly cloudy and a little warmer, with a high of 48. Looks like snow on Saturday, and temperatures probably won’t climb out of the 30’s this weekend.”

“Summer is pretty much over!” said Poulson with a chuckle. “There’s going to be a storm about every four days, and it just keeps getting colder and colder!”

“Can you delay that?” asked Lt Col Cecilia Nackowski, chief of plans and programs, whose desk sits directly across from Poulson’s.

“For how long?” asked Poulson after only a short pause.

“Three weeks!” replied the colonel.

Poulson gave a hearty laugh before responding with, “In three weeks you will have shoveled your driveway three more times!”

Poulson’s dual civilian-Guard career fields—as a meteorologist and PA specialist—are complementary and have proved mutually beneficial, he said.

“Everything I learned about weather, I learned in the military,” said Poulson. “When I first went to Offutt Air Force Base, I worked under Colonel Robert Miller. He’s the one who wrote ‘the book’ on severe weather forecasting, and I got to learn a lot from him. I soaked it up like a sponge. It was like going to a seminar every day!”

Poulson began his Air Force career right out of high school in 1969 as an Aerospace Ground Equipment operator. He served in that capacity during a deployment to Vietnam for 13 months in 1970-1971. In 1975, Poulson decided to cross-train in weather forecasting in pursuit of a childhood fascination with weather that he gained after observing eight

inches of rainfall within 24 hours. After training, he served as severe-storms forecaster in support of the Air Force Global Weather Center.

After completing 10 years of active-duty service, Poulson transitioned to Reserve status in 1980, assigned to the weather detachment at Hill Air Force Base. He attended college at the University of Utah, where choral arts first sparked his interest. In 1984, he became a weather producer for KSL-TV. He started his long-running career as an anchorman, weather producer and meteorologist for 2News in 1989.

Poulson has been a public affairs specialist with the Utah Air National Guard since 2000. He writes his own scripts and acts as the master of ceremonies for most of the Utah Guard’s major annual events like the Governor’s Day parade, and Armed Forces Day and Veterans Day concerts. He has hosted several Minuteman and Hometown Hero Award ceremonies. He was also the narrator for the history of the Utah Air National Guard’s DVD production “60 Years of Distinction.”

“They call me the Voice of the Guard,” said Poulson with a slight smile.

He attributes his ease at public-speaking engagements to his 21 years of experience being on camera at KUTV. 2News is also very supportive of the military and his role in the Guard, said Poulson.

“The cool thing about my employment at 2News is I can give the Guard a little visibility,” said Poulson. “I can do live shots at the VA concert in uniform and make sure we talk about the concert on TV. I can do PA spots, and place public service announcements that let people know about the event.”

Since his college days, Poulson has had a strong interest in music and he founded Choral Arts Society of Utah in 1987. As the music director of this 100-voice choir, he collaborated several times with the Utah Guard’s 23rd Army Band for events like the Armed Forces Day concert.

As a Citizen-Airman, Poulson has been recognized in both his military and media careers. In 2008, he won a Silver Utah Broadcaster Award for the television news story he covered in Morocco in support of the African Lion medical mission with the 151st Medical Group. Additionally, he was awarded the 2010 Senior NCO of the Year for the Utah Air National Guard.

Poulson is scheduled to retire from the Guard in September 2011. He resides in Centerville with his wife, Danette. He has five children and seven grandchildren. 🇺🇸

19th Special Forces Soldiers Commemorate 9/11 in a Combat Zone



Members of the Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) render honors to the American flag in commemoration of the ninth anniversary of 9/11. Soldiers voluntarily spent Patriot Day raising and lowering 40 American flags.

Story and photo by SSG John Etheridge

CAMP SYVERSON, Iraq — **W**hile the nation paused to remember our fallen Countrymen today, a group of 15 Soldiers from the Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) voluntarily spent Patriot Day raising and lowering American flags to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The group of Soldiers spent two and a half hours in 107-degree heat in front of the Camp Syverson command center until they had finished raising and lowering 40 American flags.

The Soldiers treated each flag with proper military etiquette and respect. Each one was raised and then lowered to half-staff, a gesture to the fallen, before they were carefully brought down and folded.

"Today's flag ceremonies are symbolic," said MSG Paul Fallon with 19th Group. "We flew the flags in the face of the enemy, on a day that is reserved for the honoring of patriots, and we flew the flags to honor them."

"The flags that we raised will act as a token of this day that we can present to others as a sign of our gratitude for their support," said SSG Robert Mount, an operations

noncommissioned officer with the 19th. "They are a sign of remembrance and reverence to what happened on 9/11 nine years ago."

Flying the flags on the anniversary of 9/11 at an American combat outpost gives them special meaning for Soldiers on the detail, most of whom plan to keep the flags as a memento of their deployment to Iraq, said Mount.

Although all the flags raised today will have special meaning, one flag in particular has extra-special meaning for one Soldier. Fallon raised the flag he received last spring in honor of his pending retirement from the Army.

"I decided to put that date on hold so I could be here," said Fallon. "We flew my flag in conjunction with the same time that the plane flew into the Pentagon on 9/11. Now that flag will have special significance for me because nine years from the minute that the plane hit the Pentagon, I was actually deployed to a combat zone in support of Operation New Dawn, in the Global War on Terrorism."

Each flag flown will be accompanied by a certificate stating that the flag was flown at Camp Syverson, Iraq, on Sept. 11, 2010, during Operation New Dawn. 

In Memoriam

PV2 David W. Adams
HHC, 1457th Engineer Battalion

PFC Justin C. Hillock
Delta Company, 1-211th Aviation

SGT Christopher L. Buckwalter
116th Engineer (Horizontal) Company

SGT Lewis A. Tracy
624th Engineer (Vertical) Company

SFC James E. Thode
118th Sapper Company

New PX Opens at Camp Williams

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard held an official ribbon-cutting for its new Camp Williams Troop Store Oct. 21.

The new Troop Store is an upgrade from the existing Post Exchange (PX) adding 3,500 square feet of space, doubling the size of the old PX.

Built at a cost of \$499,000, the new store will feature a much larger selection of military-clothing supplies, electronics, reading material and food in order to better serve the thousands of Soldiers who train or are employed at Camp Williams. **E**

Photos by Ileen Kennedy



Left to right: LTC Joseph Grimmert, Training Site Command; Steven Collier, general manager of the Utah stores of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service; MG Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general; and COL Scot Olson, Construction Facilities Management Office director, cut the ribbon, opening the new PX at Camp Williams.

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Utah Guard Opens Remodeled Fillmore, Vernal and Springville Armories

Story by Ileen Kennedy

Photos by SFC Stacey Berg

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard reopened three remodeled armories during 2010. Two ribbon-cuttings were on the same day, Dec. 13, for armories in Fillmore and Vernal.

Fillmore Armory

The Fillmore Armory was originally built in 1938 and has significant historical character that was preserved during the updating of the interior and exterior of the building. One area of the historic building the contractors maintained was the architectural shape they preserved when installing the new energy-efficient windows.

“We had to contract specifically to match the window architecture,” explained COL Scot Olson, Construction Facilities Management Office director. “We maintained the appearance but increased the efficiency of the building.”

The project was completed in 10 months at a cost of \$750,000 and included new stucco, landscaping and building-access ramps for the exterior and new paint, carpet, flooring, gym floor, restrooms, ceiling tiles, heating and cooling system upgrades, communication and data-system infrastructure for the interior.

“In 1983-84, Dennis Stevens and I asked ourselves: ‘How can we make this armory more pleasing, more efficient?’” Commissioner Bart Whatcott, a retired Guardsman, told the *Millard County Chronicle Progress*. “We asked for new windows, new supply rooms and more. Now it has happened.”

Currently, the armory is home for Utah National Guard Soldiers in Detachment 1, Charlie Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery.

“We must never change the quality of the Soldiers who join the Guard in Fillmore,” said MG Brian Tarbet. “They serve with distinction. They are tremendous Soldiers. Some of our best leaders come from here.”



The Fillmore Armory not only serves Soldiers training for their military service, but it is also used by the community.

“We are glad the community enjoys the building. We are glad you can use it. The Armory’s primary function is to provide the community with a safe haven in case of a catastrophic event,” said Tarbet. “Armories are needed for helping in case of natural disasters. They are needed for community events. They are needed.”

Vernal Armory

The half-century-old Vernal Armory renovation was completed over a seven-month period at a cost of approximately \$300,000. The facility received new paint, carpet, floor and ceiling tiles, heating and cooling system, ADA-compliant restrooms and building-access ramps, and communication and data-system infrastructure with minor improvements to the exterior of the building and landscaping.

“We started the remodel almost two years ago,” Scott Potter, project manager for the Vernal Armory told the *Vernal Express* at the ceremony. “We’ve replaced the HVAC system, made the structure more energy efficient, painted the floors, replaced the ceiling and refurbished the landscaping, among other things.”

“Most of Vernal was cosmetic; it didn’t require a lot of structural integrity or bracing,” said Olson. “We put a new front on it; the approach is very different than it was. We want the community to look at that armory and have a sense of pride in it.”

One of the challenges units face during a renovation project is housing the unit displaced by the remodeling.

“It creates a real strain on the unit because we don’t have additional buildings to put those units in,” explained Olson. “They have to double-bunk somewhere during that year that we are working on that building.”



The Fillmore Armory (left) and Vernal Armory (right) both held ribbon cutting Dec. 13.



Soldiers with Detachment 2, 624th Engineer Company (Vertical), cut the ribbon opening their newly remodeled Vernal Armory.

“They have to double-bunk somewhere during that year that we are working on that building.”

Some units have to relocate to another armory location during certain stages of the construction. For units in remote locations, this can be an additional travel cost for Soldiers. Soldiers with Detachment 2, 624th Engineer Company (Vertical) are pleased with the look of their remodeled armory.

Springville Armory

The Springville Armory was rededicated Sept. 23 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by MG Brian Tarbet, along with local leaders participating in the rededication.

“I thank those [Soldiers],” Springville Mayor Wilford W. Clyde told the *Daily Herald*, “particularly those who have to leave families and normal employment that dedicate time to the protection of our country.”

Built in the late 1950s, the Springville Armory underwent a 10-month, \$1.3-million renovation, which included new paint, carpet, floor and ceiling tiles, gym floor, windows, heating and cooling system, replacing and updating wiring, communication and data-system infrastructure, installation of new ADA-compliant restrooms and building-access ramps, landscaping and a new updated kitchen with all-stainless-steel appliances.

The finished product was completed on time and on budget and will continue to be the headquarters of the 624th Engineer Company (Vertical).

“What you guarantee is our presence for the next 20 to 25 years,” Olson said of the state-funded renovation and community support. 🇺🇸

The Daily Herald, Millard County Chronicle Progress and Vernal Express contributed to this article.

TriWest Presents \$15,000 Donation to Utah Guard Charitable Trust

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **T**he TriWest Healthcare Alliance presented a \$15,000 donation to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust in a ceremony Jan. 6 at the Utah Guard’s Draper headquarters.

Brigadier General Jefferson Burton, Assistant Adjutant General—Army for the Utah National Guard, accepted the donation from David Saeva, TriWest’s service-area director for Utah, Southern Nevada and Southern California.

TriWest is a Phoenix-based company contracted by the Department of Defense to administer the U.S. Military’s health-insurance program, TRICARE, in 21 states. Since the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust was established in 2005, TriWest has made a number of donations to the Trust.

“We deeply appreciate the sacrifice on your part that helps us to take care of our Soldiers,” said Burton to Saeva and other TriWest officials on hand for the presentation.

The Trust provides funds so that wives can travel to the bedside of their wounded husbands or to accompany them for

treatment out of state, Burton explained.

“TriWest makes these contributions because the whole company feels it’s important that we give back to the people and families that serve this country,” said Saeva. “It’s fundamental to us that we serve those who serve this country.”

“We have only one customer, and it’s the U.S. Military,” Saeva continued. “Our partnership with them is very strong and very close.”

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

Since its creation, the Trust has disbursed more than \$500,000 to help Utah families, regardless of the Armed Service with which they are affiliated.

“The Trust provides support to Soldiers and families that we simply couldn’t do otherwise,” added Burton. 🇺🇸



Soldiers, recovering from wounds received in service, face off for a round of sled hockey at the Park City Ice Arena.

National Ability Center Hosts WTU Soldiers

Story by Ileen Kennedy

Photos by MAJ Scott Reading

PARK CITY, Utah — **T**he National Ability Center and U.S. Paralympics hosted activities for Soldiers recovering from injuries received during their service while deployed. These Soldiers are part of the Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit at Camp Williams.

The sponsored activities provide a therapeutic setting for military personnel as part of their rehabilitative care. Sled hockey, horseback riding, skiing, biking and rock-climbing are some of the events they participated in.



The Warrior Transition Unit focuses on personalized goals so that wounded Soldiers can regain their strength and heal as they return to full-time military service after finishing treatment for their injuries. Others, after a review by a medical board, transition out of military service and choose to attend school or pursue a new career path.



The National Ability Center sponsored activities for wounded Warriors as part of the Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit.

Utah Communities Support Sub for Santa for Soldiers

Story by Tonia Johnson

SALT LAKE CITY — **O**nce again, the Utah National Guard Servicemember and Family Support Services (SFSS) staff was busy at work during the Christmas holiday season to support the Utah National Guard's Sub for Santa program.

This program is designed to assist Utah National Guard Servicemembers and their families with gifts and food during the holidays who otherwise may have gone without.

The program relies on outside assistance from donors within the community who want to adopt a family for the holidays and purchase gifts. Again this year, our biggest donor, Goldman Sachs from Salt Lake City, donated \$12,000 to the program. They shopped at a local store to purchase gifts and clothes for 32 families totaling more than 100 children.

Utah National Guardmember, SGT Krystal Dowker, from SFSS, helped to assist with the Goldman Sachs shopping trip. Dowker also coordinated with the Community Covenants team to assist in delivering the gifts to local armories and was in charge of making sure the bags of toys made it into the correct vehicle on the night of shopping with Goldman Sachs. There were more than 200 bags to coordinate.

"This is so amazing that the community supports our military families this way," said Dowker. "It is wonderful to see this kind of assistance each year. Our military families are so lucky to have this kind of support for the holidays from our very own community."

This year, the program assisted 136 military families in Utah, totaling 349 children.

"Each year the program grows just a little bit more; we have more families in need, and amazingly, we have more outside assistance and community support. This year, I received a phone call from two donors who said their friend has done this in years past and they too wanted to help. We also had a family who received assistance from our program a few years ago and as the family stated, they wanted to 'Pay it Forward,'" said Tonia Johnson, Military OneSource Consultant, who has coordinated the program for the last seven years.

Beginning in September each year, families can submit an application online outlining their needs, sizes and wish lists for their children. If you would like to find out more about this program, as well as others offered through the Utah National Guard SFSS, please visit www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family. 

CES Chief of Operations Receives Bronze Star

Story by AIC Emily Hulse

Photo by TSgt Kelly Collett

SALT LAKE CITY — **L**ieutenant Colonel Nate Nelson, chief of operations with the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal Nov. 7, in a Civil Engineering Squadron commander's Call.

Colonel Nelson served at the Contingency Operations Base Adder in Iraq from November 2009 through May 2010 in support of the Army's 34th Infantry Division and the 1st Infantry Division.

During his deployment, he led a 15-man team that assisted the Army with large projects while dealing with a decreasing level of forces.

"The big scope of what was going on there was that they were undergoing the drawdown of forces," he explained. "In closing these smaller bases, they were pulling the functions back to several main bases."

He also was involved with the launch of the first Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) Squadron, which he explained was a new Air Force squadron that was created as a result of a command structure change that took them from direct operational control of the Army.

"We were a fairly small team, and we were scattered, but we had a lot of resources that we could draw on," he



Lt Col Nathan Nelson (right), 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, receives a Bronze Star from MG Brian Tarbet at a ceremony Nov. 7. Nelson received the award for his distinguished service as the Facility Engineering Team officer in charge in Iraq from November 2009 through May 2010.

said. “If we learned of a safety problem at some remote base, we could draw on our network of skilled people, and by the next day I could have an electrical engineer on a helicopter heading out there to help them with their problem.”

Overall, Nelson felt that the most significant thing his teams did was serve a lot of different units.

“We weren’t just helping one particular unit,” he said. “We were able to provide the Army with a lot of experience and knowledge that otherwise they would have had trouble with. Also, as a Guardmember, you usually train with your unit and have all the people that you know and work with, and you know their capabilities. Out here, most of us were just onesie-twosies pulled together from all these various Guard bases.”

With the decreasing amount of forces in the area, many base functions were consolidated to main bases, allowing bases to be handed back over to the Iraqis.

“It became a priority for the American general to clean up sites because we were getting ready to leave Iraq, and he wanted to turn these bases back over to the Iraqis,” he said.

For his efforts, Nelson was awarded the Bronze Star by MG Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, during the commander’s call, in conjunction with two other medal awards.

Lieutenant Colonel Tony Faaborg, 151 CES commander, said the award is significant because it was awarded by the Army.

“It recognizes the contribution of our engineers in a joint environment,” Faaborg said.

Overall, Nelson said he felt that it was better to look at the big picture.

“I feel that this award is manifest by a team of good people. The main thing to me is that we were able to branch out and provide a solid resource to the Army,” said Nelson. 🇺🇸

Family Assistance Centers

By Katrina Rhinehart

DRAPER, Utah — What is a family assistance center?

Family Assistance Centers (FAC) are designed to assist the families of military Servicemembers during peacetime and during training or mobilization. Centers are open to all branches of the military (Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve Components).

Family Assistance Centers provide “one-stop shopping” and resources to help family members cope with any issue they encounter as a military dependent. Locate your local FAC and contact them today.

For more information, visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family/index.htm.

What services are provided by a FAC?

Basic services provided by FACs include the following, regardless of location:

- TRICARE/TRICARE Dental assistance • Financial Assistance/ Counseling
- Point of contact (POC) for legal and pay issues • ID Cards referral
- POC for community support • Emergency-assistance coordination
- Counseling Support/Referral • Family/Household Emergencies
- Family Care Plan Information • Site for family communication
- POC for Casualty Assistance Information, Referral, Follow-Up and Outreach
- DEERS information (Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System)
- Support FRG programs

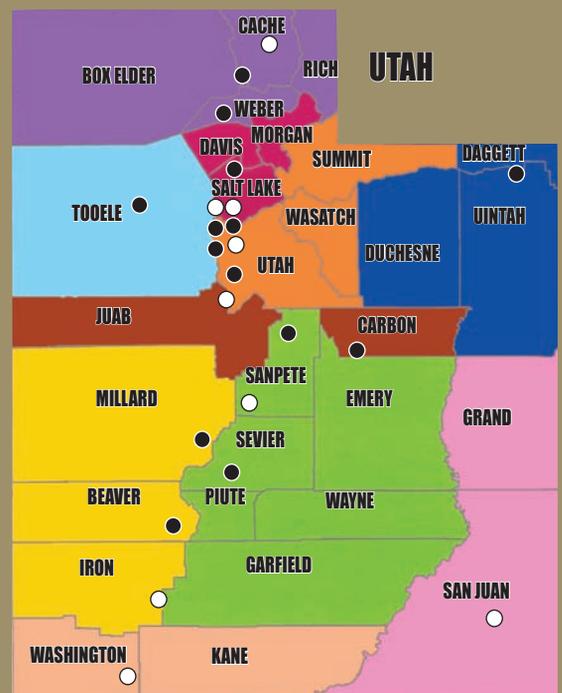
Please do not hesitate to contact our FACs for any questions or issues you may have. We are here to serve you! 🇺🇸

Utah FAC Locations

○ Armory and Family Assistance Center Locations

● Armory Locations

- Region 1 • Logan (435) 753-3155
- Region 2 • Riverton (801) 878-5037
- Region 3 • Salt Lake City (801) 560-0864
- Region 4 • Orem (801) 722-6913
- Region 5 • Vernal (435) 789-3691
- Region 6 • Spanish Fork (801) 794-6011
- Region 7 • Cedar City (435) 867-6513
- Region 8 • Manti (435) 896-4326
- Region 9 • Blanding (435) 678-2008
- Region 10 • St. George (435) 986-6705



TAG Briefs Guardmembers About Suicide Awareness in Preparation for the Holidays

Story by AIC Emily Hulse

SALT LAKE CITY – National Guard Headquarters leaders gave a briefing in the North Hangar at the Utah Air National Guard Base Dec. 4 in light of the approaching holiday season. Adjutant General MG Brian Tarbet, as well as Col Wayne Lee and Army CSM Bruce Summers, spoke on difficulties everyone faces in life and gave counsel to anyone who may be experiencing hard times.

Summers began the brief with a short message about suicide and the effect on the lives of the surrounding friends and family.

“It is always difficult when we lose one of our own,” he said. “It is even more difficult to lose one when you don’t have to.”

Summers also spoke specifically to non-commissioned officers, explaining that they need to know what’s going on in their Airmen’s personal lives.

“NCOs need to have quality, caring leadership,” he said. “They need to understand what is going on in younger Airmen and Soldier’s education, military and social lives.”

Lee emphasized the importance of enjoying time spent during the holiday season.

“Take a step back and enjoy this time,” Lee said. “Then hit the ground running in January 2011.”

He also spoke about using the wingman system within units and offices and accessing the tools available to Guardmembers and their families.

“We need to pay attention and take care of each other,” Lee said. “Also, if you need help, you need to ask. There are great tools out there available to assist us. It’s also available to your family members if they need help too.”

General Tarbet stressed the effects of suicide, not only within Utah, but specifically within the National Guard.

“Suicide is so corrosive to those left behind,” Tarbet said. “And the numbers in Utah are unacceptably high. This is the video-game generation, but you don’t get a reset button in real life.”

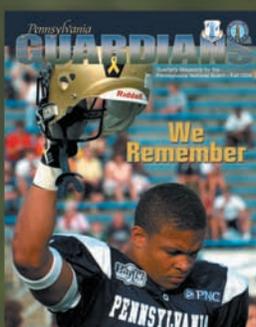
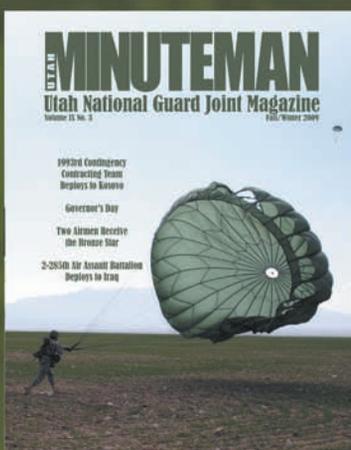
Tarbet mentioned a time when he himself was enduring hard times in his own life. He spoke of a specialist who said, “We’ve got your back, sir.”

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General Tarbet then advised Guardmembers to step forward if they need help. “There is no stigma in the military if you need help,” he said. “There will be no repercussions. It will not affect your records. It will not affect your security clearance. I can guarantee I’ve got your back.”

General Tarbet said we need to be sensitive to our fellow Soldiers’ and Airmen’s feelings, and reach out and touch people.

“Look to your left, and look to your right,” he said. “We leave no Soldier behind.”



Major General Brian Tarbet speaks with Airmen of the 151st Air Refueling Wing regarding suicide prevention at the Utah Air National Guard Base Dec. 5. Tarbet is on a statewide tour with his message, visiting every Utah National Guard location.

Army Promotions

COLONEL

Blair Lamar Jr

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Balaban Ihor Taras
Coates David Jon
Green Joseph Walton
McNeil Jay W
Miller David Alfred
Takmili Shahram Afshar
Waldron Paul Edward
White Bronson Bowen

MAJOR

Christopherson David Martin
Cousins Matthew William
Devlin Stuart A
Johnson Thomas Christopher
Ray Dustin Price
Sanderson Samuel Guy
Strong Cody James
Tate Wencke Leigh
Webb Lance Jay

CAPTAIN

Azouz Azzedine
Beard James Kevin

Bolliger Benjamin Jackson
Christiansen Shane Newman
Christopherson Enoch Daniel
Cleverly Rachel Jean
Fullmer Jeffrey Darrell
Harris Jacob
Hurst James Van Jr
Jeppson Jared Bruce
Martin Benjamin Dale
Morris Brandon Jay
Perez Victor Manuel
Plowman Clifford Dean
Ririe Taylor Martin
Taylor Brent Russell
Wimmer Ryan Elwood
Zaugg Ryan Neil

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Beal Andrew James
Fogle Jason Lee
Johnson Jerry Alan
Smith Emily Susann
Stavlund Nicholas Brett
Steele Mackenzie Robert
Wade K Andrew
Wolfe Kevin Charles
Yardley Brian Dan

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Adams Brandon Mack
Berry Thomas Glen
Bringhurst Samuel Wade

Dilworth Vincent Edward
Henriquez Walter Antonio
Hills Daniel Lyman
Marden Chad Dewayne
Olsen Brian Brendan
Reddish Trevor Hugh
Sharp Caleb Chad
Smart Benjamin Scott
Sorensen Jared Lloyd
Sorensen Shane Tucker
Ssejinja David Robinson
Williams Michael Gerald
Winder Joshua Logan
Witte Christopher Cord

Army Promotions (continued)

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

Jensen Andrew Leon
Remund Bruce William
Williams Robert Bruce

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Gardner Richard Russell
Gonzales Ronald Bradley
Hess Kenneth Duane
Runk Ryan J
Shepherd Sean Douglas

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Bishop Bruce Alan
Blackham Paul Marion
Case Tucker Lundy
Estes Nathan Clark
Garrand Matthew Leonard
Johnson Bartley Gordon
Lebaron Merrill Sutherland
Read Jason Thomas
Vandrimmelen Joseph P K
Zesiger Michael Paul

WARRANT OFFICER 1

Eldredge David Asa
Frischknecht Shay Kent
Gilbert Myles Thomas
Hicks Daniel Casey
Mercer Jason Robert
Newman Ronald Brent
Smith John David
Wilcox Jason Dean

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Anderson Eric Walter
Cady Michael Given
Watkins Grant Morgan

SERGEANT MAJOR

Cowan Tyler Dee
Gonzalez Victor Hugo
Stearman Gary Charles

MASTER SERGEANT

Davis Derek Brian
Helvy Ray Lee
Howell Brad M
Johnson Jess Clay
Stuparich Vernon Michael

FIRST SERGEANT

Olsen Christopher Kay
Sessions Dean L
Wilkinson William Bradford

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Blackburn Jeffrey Mark
Carmioli Erick G
Christensen Joseph Jensen

Cooper Caleb Levi
Davis David Bernard
Doucette Rebecca Louise
Earl Shawn Dennis
Garcia Pedro Alanis
Grant Scott Avan
Hawthorne Cecil Jay Jr
John Levi Scott
Mitchell William Cody
Moody Matthew Ryan
Moon Keith Richard
Mueller Alexander Nichols
Nicol Scott Brady
Smith Douglas Scott
Sorensen Kenneth Ray
Sweet Rodney Jackson
West Travis Henry

STAFF SERGEANT

Allred James Lewis
Andersen Steven Labron
Arreguin Alfredo Jr
Bailey Curtis Scott
Bailey Klancie Jones
Bowman Jonathan David
Brower Joseph Peter
Brubaker Ryan Enos
Bushman Dan Jesse
Christiansen Jacob Reed
Cline Aaron Neil
Cluff Joshua Thomas
Conorich Sean Douglas
Coombs Bruce Pichnell
Cordero Justin Ross
Creer Kyle Dain
Curtis Bryce Stuart
Curtis James George
Fatt Bryon Lee
Foisy David Scott
Francis Ross Amos
Gaylord Chauncey Jerome
Gregson Jacob John
Hayes Keith Thomas
Hosier Steven Chester
Hunt Nicholas Dover
Hyde Zachary Ryan
Jacobsen Layne Oscar
Janes Andrew Michael
Jenkins Brian Ray
Jensen Steven Milo
Jones Joseph William
Kaaihue Joemaka Lomiga Keaw
Kasischke Kaipoo Sean
Kelly Ryan Ord
Kerbo Allison Elizabeth
Kruse Nathan Jeremy
Liebel Patrick Scott
Lieske Albert Charles III
Lorz Kim Aaron
Loveland John Harold
Lux Thomas James
Madsen Ronald Jens Christia
Makela Ty Christopher
McKean Clyde Weston
Mease Brian Cory
Miles Reuben Enoch
Miller Scott Douglas

Newren Joshua Chance
Nixon Zachary William
Oliver Russell Joseph Jr
Parry Lamoni Adriel
Peterson Denton Richard
Scarlett Robert
Sillitoe Traviss Lloyd
Smith Matthew Willard
Sorensen Robby Wintyen
Sprecher Joshua James
Stark Joshua Mckay
Talamantez Manuel Junior
Taylor Lester Charles III
Thacker Mark Kevin
Thompson Micah Soren
Tischner Alan Wade
Twitchell Jeffrey John
Tyler Val
Vanalstyne Joshua Brandon
Walker Ryan Porter
Wall Daniel Alexander
Wall Daniel David
Young Ryan Patrick
Young Scott Ivor

SERGEANT

Abrams Shawn William
Adams Kenneth Thomas II
Adolpho Gregory Akaka Jr
Anderson Blake Tyler
Andriafanomezana Romeo Guy
Archuleta Logan Benjamin
Baer Karl Dean
Ballif Marc Nelson
Barlow Robert Leonard
Barney Trevor David
Bates Jessica
Baum Ashley Renee
Bell Hans Peter
Benson Trase Gordon
Blunk Thomas Turner
Boden Nathan Ellis
Brewer Joshua K
Broadhead Kenneth Zed
Brown Timothy Jared
Burgess Christopher Michael
Burningham Eli Andrew
Burrows Robert Leon
Burton Brandon Palmer
Calton Joshua Legrand
Carter Shane Michael
Carter Thomas Spencer
Chard Nicholas Kent
Cope Steven Duane
Cox Garin Steven
Crawford Dexter Robert
Dacus Billy Dale Jr
Davis Benjamin Ross
Davis Robert Wade
Dean Travis James
Diamond Joshua Craig
Erler Trevor Michael
Esplin Shea Justet
Fleischman Ryan Lee
Ford Tynan Taylor
Furtney Eric Russell
Gabrielson Brian S

Gardner Brent Lee
Gehret Curt Allen
Gelinias Andrew Mitchell
Gillies Winston Shea
Grimes Scott Richard
Gubler Charles Harmon
Hadlock Brian Patrick
Hammond Bradley Donald
Hansen Paul Raymond
Hansen Rebecca Ruth
Haynes Michael Gene
Hendrickson David Benjamin
Herzog Jeffery Allen
Hess Matthew Jon
Hitchcock Joshua Kenneth
Howard Jeremy David
Hudson Kellen James
Issa Brandon Tyler
Jenny Robert John Jr
Jensen Tyler Curtis
Johns Justin Vernal
Johnson Michele Lynn
Jolley Tyson Max
Jones Alvin Woodruff
Jones David Scott
Jones Stefania Rose
Kelder Erik Joseph
Keune Johncharles Colton
Keyte Sky Lowell
Koopman Bryan Alexander
Lay Cresson David
Le Henrick
Lee Joseph Lepage
Leiendecker Todd Eric
Leslie Timothy Alan
Leung Wai Ming
Long Jesse Paul
Lucero Chance Alex
Lunceford Casey William
Mackelprang Lance Devon
McWilliams Kenneth John
Meacham Joshua Russell
Merrill Gary Paul
Milberger Anthony Wayne
Molina Roberto Joseph
Moucur Ryan Scott
Montanez Roger Thomas
Moody Mark Joseph
Moreno Juan Maricio Ortiz
Munford Thomas Robert
Neuenschwander Joshua Lane
Norris Ryan Lyndsey
Ortega Jose Antonio
Palmer Jesse Colt
Parke Brett K
Payton Connor Daniel
Peters Samuel Sylvester
Peterson Cameron Michael II
Peterson Gary Eugene
Post Tyrone Nipon
Prax Lyndsey Ray
Quinn Adam Christopher
Ramirez Annie Marie
Ray Daniel Lemoine III
Reber Ty Pace
Redmond Kendall Dee
Rhoden John Pierce
Riddle Andrew Blair

Robinson Jerel Austin
Schear Cory G
Shiner Jesse Hughes
Sillitoe Derek Phillip
Simmons Nathan Chad
Sims James Eric
Slade Robert Jon
Smith Casey Morgan
Stalling Mark Glen
Stoor Alexander John
Strange Daniel Joseph
Swanger James Russell
Taylor Devin Burke
Terry Jared Michael
Thomas Barbara Jean
Thomas Troy West
Tisher Gabriel Uriah
Tucker Micheal Anthony
Turner James Glen
Valentine Aaron Gregory
Varney James Robert
Volkmar John William
Walker Zackary Earl
Wells Spencer Ammon
Whitaker Bryan Ray
Williams Michael Homer
Williamson Jeremy Dale
Wilson Harper Dustin
Wolfe Danny Lawrence
Woods Nathan Andrew

SPECIALIST

Albrecht Colten Virgil
Anderson Rio J
Andrew Claire Marion
Anusiem Francis Ebere
Aranda Bryan Eugene
Arndt Derek Hunter
Arnold Kevin Maxfield
Ayers Ronald Paul Jr
Baize Nathan David
Balderree Thomas Ian
Barlow Kirk D
Barnes Chloe Amanda
Bartholomew Andrew Keith
Barton Jesse Ray
Batson Christopher Steven
Baumgartner Sheldon Casey
Beckstrand Christopher W
Bell Benjamin Taylor
Benavides Jonathan Rueban
Bitter Darron Joseph
Black Julia Ann
Bowers Andrew Jacob
Brown Richard Eric
Bruhn Jillian Rebecca
Bugg Richard Edward
Busenbark Todd Garrett Jr
Butterfield Dallan Ian
Butts Brandon James
Cheney Brett Alan
Childs Colby Lavoy
Church Andrew Jon
Coates Cade Stephen
Cook Dallin Craig
Cooper Jon Steven II
Cope Joseph James

Cornejo Christianne Sharlen
Cuevas Oscar
Daroczi Mitchell Laszlo
Day Patrick Keith
Deagostini Felipe Gaertner
Deubler Tracee Lee
Draney Jason Troy
Durham Justin Cardelle
Duty Jeremy Shayne
Eckersley Joseph K
Erickson Justin Chad
Eubanks Robert Connor
Evans Robert Anthony
Fakhrolmobasheri Abbas
Feron Brian Ernesto
Fitz Tyler Vernon
Flick Jonathan Hales
Forester Brent Richard
Foster Brad Russell
Ghershi Monica Avelina
Gibbs Jace Brinton
Gifford Joshua Greg
Goldhardt Nathan Taylor
Gonzales Michael Johnson
Gonzalez Benjamin Santiago
Hall Clayton John
Halle Mark Alan
Hammer Brock William
Harkness Joshua David
Harper Cody Wade
Harris Brady Bieler
Harris Nathan Wesley
Hatch Derick Elwood
Hatch Steven Milton
Herdegen Michael Gerrard B
Higgs Austin Lee
Hilton Jared Allen
Hoffman Jacob Paul
Howlett Justin Samuel
Huffaker Solomon Dustin
Janes Mark Trevor
Jarman Taylor Dean
Johnson Jason Eugene
Johnson Jason Ryan
Kartchner David Brian
Keate Jared Jeffs
Lancaster Brittney Ann
Landon Kara
Larsen Corey Allen
Lewis Melody Lynn
Lindsey Amber Nicole
Luke Conlee Ted
Mahfood John Paul
Marchant Brandon Michael
Martin Michael Steve
Martindale Jason Randy
Mattison Nathan Allen
May Shane Derek
Mellor Caleb J
Merrill Zachary
Miller James Phillip
Moeller Scott Michael
Moore Macade Spencer
Moultrie Clay Thomas
Murray Neil James
Novosel Joseph Michael
Olsen Joshua Jeffrey
Osborne Warren Alexander

Oscarson Joel Erick William
Ostler Jeffrey Charles
Pack Lance Richard
Parker Scott Bryce
Parr Charles Jordan
Pereira Sandro Laucas
Perrins Grant Daniel
Petersen Gabriel Lynn
Pettit Daniel Robert
Pfau Eusebius Jacob
Przybylski Edward Alan
Radle Steven Gregory
Rawson Raymond Ford
Richardson Aaron Michael
Richardson Chase W
Rigby Jonathan David
Riley Justin Keith
Robertson Michelle Dawn
Rodriguez Jose Santiago
Rollins James Allen
Rose Caleb Collin
Sams Travis Jay
Schramm Jameson Matthew
Seifert Joshua Aaron
Sherratt Dustin Loraine
Simmons Mitchall Lee
Smith Jaimee Carole
Sparks Brian Ellery
Spencer Jessica
Staheli Matthew William
Stewart Joshua Pratt
Stroud Eric Scott
Stuart Roger Earl
Tall Jordan William
Taylor Brady Lee
Taylor Bryan Andrew
Teare Ian James
Thompson Jesse Thomas
Tidwell Megan Noelle
Toledo Luis Felipe
Turner Jason Keith
Turner John Allen
Turner Jordan Layne
Waggoner Jason Robert
Wanlass Matthew Robert
Watson Randy Allen
Watts Charles Zachariah
Webber John Andrew
White Travis
Whitney Paul Kenneth
Wilcox Brady Layne
Williamson David Victor
Willis Kyle Andrew
Wilson Jared Thomas
Wilstead Brandon Steven
Wood Nathan Zachariah
Woodstock Jonathan Scott
Zimmerman Jonathan Lee
Zinn Dale Cannell

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Arroyo Robert Jose
Ballard David Jay
Barber Bradley Thomas
Barnes Jake Mecham
Barnes Matthew Kendal
Bartlett Megan Nicole

Barton Alex Justin
Beazel Abram Arthur
Beazer Mitchell J
Beckmann Charles Joachim
Best Shane Alan
Boice Cooper Thomas
Booher James Edward
Brown Curtis Jay
Butler Morgan Mcrae
Calderwood Kristin
Campbell Kaleb Carter
Carrillo Luis Lorenzo
Chesleigh Jeffery M II
Clark Sarah Ann
Collins Sheldon Zane
Colomb Robert Jay Jr
Davis Benjamin Tyler
Day Christopher Jared
Demass Bradley Mehren
Deollos John Garrett
Dover Elizabeth Jenor
Drennen Mark Aaron
Ervine Maverick Nathan
Evans Ty Colten
Finicum Robert Cantell
Flowers Timothy Paul
Fobert Scott William
Frandsen Amanda Marie
Frandsen Daniel Roy
Fryar Bracken David
Gluch Cache Johann
Graff Andrea
Granado Freddie Anthony
Greer Timothy Karl II
Hakes Joshua Rowe
Hanson Jason Michael
Harris David Allen
Hemsley Kenton Ashley
Henderson Scott James
Hercules Andrew Daniel
Herrera Christopher Antonio
Heywood Jeremy Chad
Housley Trenton James
Huish Scott Andersen Jr
Hussein Alan Salah
Jacobs Dallon Brownie
Jacobsen Kenneth Reid
Jacobson Wendell Reed
Johnson Justin Gordon
Johnson Thayne Elam
Jones Andrew Willis
Josephson Cody Michael
Kelley Steven Grabill
Kinsman Robert Eugene
Knight Andrew Vincent
Kowallis Joseph Steed
Lamprecht Jefery Lance
Larsen Lance Brent
Lechtenberg James Wyatt
Lerma Jorge
Light Keaton John
Lopez Edward Belen
Lunsford Chase Michael
Macgregor Laureen
Maciel Francisco Javier
Magill Spencer Grant
Matheson Luke Ashby
McDougle Destin Day

McKay Spencer Leland
Morrill Jesse Homer
Moses Bobbi Lynn
Mullen James David
Naumann Erik John
Neeley Robert Scott
Neilsen Ian Brent
Nielsen Zachery Ron
Nielson Dustin Jack
Olds Richard Tyler Orric
Olschewski Christopher Beag
Olsen Jeremy Todd
Perkins David Allen
Perry Jacob Anthony
Petersen Matthew Carl
Phipps Michael Patrick
Powell Mitchel Jordan
Prescott Charles Frederick
Prisbrey Hayden Blaine
Rasmussen Marc Alden
Raymond Landon Clayton
Rhodes Brenin Arthur
Richey Travis Larry
Roberts Alan Dana
Rosenhan Alan Neil
Rueckert Brian Joseph
Russell Matthew Gene
Salas Johnson Adriana Eliza
Schafer Andrew Wilkinson
Schroemges John Quinten
Scott Zachary Guy
Shelley Julie Ann
Shumway Drakkar Jordan
Sorensen David Scott
Stallings Jake Evan
Steck Spencer Vincent
Taufers Nicholas Wayne
Thiriout Jon J
Tidlund Riley Craig
Tomlinson Travis Ren
Torres Andres Clemente
Tuckett Steven Lamar
Turk Ryan Anthony
Tuttle Amber Lynn
Violette William James
Wahlquist Simon Richard
Ward Ian David
Willden Jeramy Dean
Wilson Greg L
Wright Joshua Stephens
Yadon Sean Kent
Yates Byron Jason
Zollinger Russell Oliver

PRIVATE (PV2)

Adams Tyson Garn
Adkins William Lindzey
Allen Ronald Mcallister
Andersen Jason Verlan
Anderson Eric James
Armstrong Alexander Jeff
Ashdown Cameron William
Bagley Christopher Jesse
Barron Megan Elizabeth
Batchelor Jacob Matthew
Beagley Gavin Scott
Begay Deidre Ryan

Bennett Shawn Dale
Bickham Kyle Jamison
Boehme Derrick Matthew
Brauer Michael David
Breuer Wesley James
Brinton Robert Samuel
Brown Steven Jay
Bunker Brett Jordan
Burgess Garrett Dean
Butler Spencer Grant
Cardenas Hernan David
Carlton Michael John
Carly Nikolas Brent
Ciserella Vincent Paul
Coleman Jacob Ezra
Couvrette Sunne Bryce
Crockett Joshua Alan
Crossette Nicholas
Dabb Michael Larry
Daimaru Brent Dayton
Darger Heber Joseph
Davis Alex Jeffrey
Denke Cassie Shurie
Felshaw Jeffrey Louis
Finley Aaron Blake
Fullmer Thomas Arthur
Gale Brent James
Garfield Amber
Garfield Braeden Mitchell
Golsan Rodney Scott
Goodall Ryan Lee
Greenhalgh Cimony Faith
Griffall Preston Yukio
Grimshaw Kenneth Dane
Halpin Ammon Peter
Hanson Allison Marie
Haskell Beau Gregory
Hawkins Colten Ralph
Hinton Andrew James
Horlacher Jeremy Samuel
Howell Sarah Elaine
Ibarra Anthony Kurtis
Jackson Alexandria Nicole
Jackson Brandon Robert
Johnson Shaunee Mary
Jones Jeremiah William
Leota Demetrius Afaese
Lutes Timothy Richard
Mahaffey Sean Patrick
Marcelin Beecaretonn
Marcusen Jared Vincent
Maynes Gregory Kurt
McCowin Stuart Ron
McWilliams Christopher D
Medina Tyson Ross
Meeks Kristofer Blane
Meinhardt Breanne
Mercado Ivan Andrew
Miller Duwayne
Moos Tyler Austin
Morfin Francisco Javier
Mull Addison Fynn
Murdock Daniel Duane
Newbold Ryan Kent
Ortman Christopher Michael
Partain Vincent Robert
Patane Keith Joseph
Patterson Wade Lyle

Army Promotions (continued)

Perea Nicole Cheri
Perks Jonathan Baikie
Person Timothy Dean
Prince Clinton Scott
Privett Thomas Lee
Rasmussen Baylen Avery
Roberts Kendrick Gregory
Robinson Jesse Adam
Robison Shaun Paul
Roseborough Coleton J
Rosen Alex Christopher
Rubio Juan Carlos
Savage Brandon Dean
Scholte Peter Joseph
Schroeder Christian Jason
Seeley Andelyn Paige
Shields Brandon Berrett
Smith Nicholas R
South John Christopher
Standing Cambridge Joseph
Sterger Luke Daren
Stock Jonathan Taylor

Teynor Patrick Vincent
Thompson Eric Brent
Torres Chandler Matthew
Veylupek Emily Kayleen
Vo Kuangchung
Vogl Zachary Taylor
Wallace Daniel Nathan
Whittier Jacob Joseph
Wilde Jodie Lyn
Woodward David Lee
Woolsey Trevor Scott
Young Scott Casey

PRIVATE (PV1)

Anderson Gareth David
Banbury Brendon Charles
Barnes Patrick Hayden
Berdan Heidi Ann
Black Corbin Mason
Bloxham Camrin Lee
Bowman Trendon Tyrone

Brown Charles Jonathan
Carson Tyler David
Chamberlin Mark Thatcher
Crose Robert Joseph
Cummings Robert Allen II
Dahl Tyler Jay
Dalley Austin Robert
Darger Alan Mc
Davidson Camille Lynne
Day David Douglas
Demasters Orlas Gwaine
Derrick Kurtis Jay
Despain Spencer Lee
Dutchie Lashanda Jeanean
Eggett Taylee
Ericksen Ryelle Capri
Evans Russell Adam
Ewell Ashley Nicole
Fashion Amanda Kathryn
Fernstedt Sam Ray
Franco Jacom Nicholas
Freeman Ronald Tyson

Fullmer Jackson Conrad
Gallegos Marcus Amelio
Gatoloai William Tiaina
Gillett Austin David
Grenko Ross Karl
Gunn David Andrew
Halford Sara Raquel
Hansen Gary Kent
Hansen Zackery Todd
Hanson Jerod Ryan
Hershey Kyle William
Jackson Tyrone Anthony
Jones Corey Kenneth
Jones Matthew Steven
Juarez David
Knight Andrew Russell
Laposa Joseph William
Lawrence Akasha Skye
Lea Steven George
Lozano Trexton Joel
Maxfield Cory Allan
Mena Jhosep Elexers
Miller Ashton Ray
Miller Jordan Beau

Munson Tyler James
Nelson Dallin Jase
Odriscoll Dillon Ray
Orton Kyler Mont
Pacheco Vinicius Resende
Parry Hyrum Nathan
Potter Richard Lewis
Sandoval Thomas Eleazar
Shough Zackery Robin
Shuck Cody Weston
Stephens Tyson J
Stitcher Colton J Allen
Tromble Chance Levi
Turner Vaughn James
Vanbeuge Daniel Roy
Vandersteen Bryce R
Velasquez Nicolas Ray
Voigt Colten Edward
Wegener Brandon Jay
Weimer Clint David
Wood Trevor James
Wright Russell Morgan
Yazzie Danlee
Young Tazmin Dee

Air Promotions

Brigadier General

Lee Wayne E

Lieutenant Colonel

Whitney Brent R

CAPTAIN

Loveridge Kevin Carl
Topham Daniel D
Vantassell Travis J
Wade Keith A

First Lieutenant

Gorringe Barry L
Jessop Vainuupo R
Palmer David K
Riding Seth T

Second Lieutenant

Barber Jesse R
Saberin Jason R
Whaley Ryan M

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Davis Laura B

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Christensen Dwight G
Crow John D
Egbert John A
Hood Randall R
Huerta Jorge Enrique

Loveland Lance E
Mconahay Eric W
Morbach Daniel L
Trinchitella Charles P

MASTER SERGEANT

Allred Justin A
Buchmiller Randall J Jr
East William J
Fernelius David C
Ford John P
Hockett Crystal V
Mcfarlane Roberto A
Moravec Dale F
Muller Brian T
Myers Micah W
Nawrocki Erik
Salazar John S
Schramm Bryan Lynn
Taylor Michael D
Waters Michael
Webb Darrel E

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Bojorquez Sergio D
Bresee Adam Keith Marl
Butterfield Jason Thomas
Cook Andrea
Dominguez Daniel
Fuentes Anthony M
Hiett Bernadine Y
Holmes Craig Leonard
Littleford Dusty J
Meyer Alicia Ida
Peltier Scott J
Whaley Ryan

STAFF SERGEANT

Baggett Andre Josph
Bettis Sean Michael
Brunt Rosalina M
Griguhn Brad W
Homme Jeremy Michael
Hussman William P
Hutchings Cameron D
Juergens Justin Douglas
Lamb Tayva J
Larsen Timothy James
Lunt Jeffery M
Margulies Sandra R
Moses Brandon R
Spencer Melissa N
Valcarce Brian T
Westover Bradley Edward
Young Casey J

SENIOR AIRMAN

Bagley Rebecca A
Blackett Katherine L
Chatwin Lillian R
Church Amanda K
Fox Colton A
Hard Cody A
Jones Nathan D
Kohl K J
Lemon Justin C
Lesley Ainslee
Mayfield Tyson L
Rodriguez Jayme J
Rodriguez Jeremy R
Snyder Stephen P



Not sure if you've
had too many?

I'll check for you.

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- Call a taxi or ...
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wherever you choose
to celebrate.



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