

SUMMIT

Information and Entertainment for the Utah National Guard

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Editor's Corner

Acknowledging our Roots

Over the last two months, as I was organizing the stories and photos for this month's Summit, I realized what a special organization the National Guard is. Not just the organization but the Soldiers and Airman who make up the Guard, who stand ready to support their state and country in cases of emergencies.

Over the last couple of months there have been several instances where country and state have called on these fine guard members. Super storm Sandy and winter storm Nemo are just two examples where the Guard has helped their fellow countrymen in need. Not to mention the several units that have been called upon recently to help support our armed forces around the globe. Just this month, the Utah National Guard welcomed home one of those units as the 1-211 Aviation Regiment came home from their long deployment to Afghanistan.

Not only do these Guard members stand ready for emergencies, but stand ready to support their communities in other ways also. Like the Soldiers with the Utah National Guard who played a major role at Governor Gary Herbert's inauguration last month, rendering him a cannon salute and performing other duties, as he took his oath of office again.

The operational pace of the Guard is astonishing. It is truly remarkable that a part time force can accomplish so much. This can be attributed to the dedication and hard work of the Soldiers and Airman who make it happen. And I consider it an honor to serve with these dedicated people and serve this special organization.

By Staff Sgt. John Etheridge

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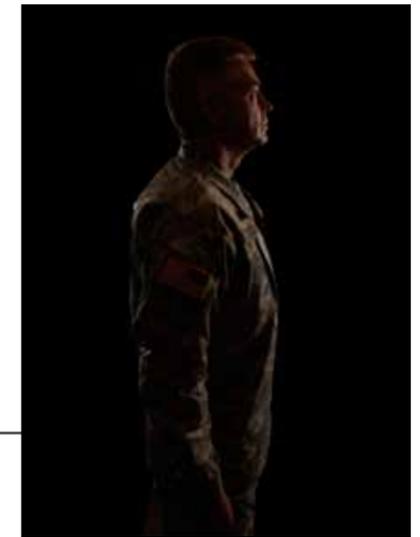
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Cover Art by
Sgt. Nicolas Cloward,
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Grass: Sequestration devastating to National Guard, Defense Departments

ARLINGTON, Va. (2/12/13) - Sequestration and a yearlong continuing resolution would significantly hinder the National Guard's ability to protect and defend the homeland, Army Gen. Frank Grass told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Sequestration will be devastating to the Department of Defense and the National Guard," the chief of the National Guard Bureau said in a statement delivered to the committee. "Although National Guard warfighters will continue to receive support, the ability to provide ready forces and equipment to respond to disasters in support of our



nation's governors and to meet our federal obligations will be negatively impacted," Grass said

Under sequestration, Grass said: About 115,000 traditional Guard members would not get annual medical or dental exams. "Within one year, readiness will be degraded to pre-war levels," Grass said.

The National Guard's civilian workforce would face a potential furlough. "Furloughs of these essential personnel will further

reduce the readiness of our people, equipment, facilities and training," he said. That's because military technicians and civilian employees support maintenance and training.

The Army would cancel or reduce depot-level equipment maintenance, including the reset of materiel returning from deployment. "National Guard units will return to their states with equipment in a low state of readiness, and it may not be available to the unit to support state authorities in response to tornados, floods or wildfires – or a complex catastrophe," he said.

The Air National Guard would be forced to "park" aircraft, degrading readiness.

Military construction projects would be cut.

Some facility security, fire fighting, grounds keeping, custodial, snow removal and maintenance contracts might have to be cancelled – affecting jobs in communities and costing even more money in penalties for early termination.

Equipment shortages would degrade training opportunities.

Training cuts by the Army and the Air Force would affect both the Army and Air Guard. "Under sequestration, most flying units (in the Air Guard) will be below acceptable readiness standards by the end of this fiscal year," Grass said.

Same-sex couples can claim new benefits by October

WASHINGTON (2/11/13) - Military members and retirees with same-sex partners will qualify for up to 24 new benefits under policy changes Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced today.

In a memo to the service chiefs outlining

the new policy, Panetta noted the department has "essentially completed" repeal of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that barred gay and lesbian military members from serving openly.

Now, the secretary wrote to the chiefs, military



leaders' work must "expand to changing our policies and practices to ensure fairness and equal treatment and to taking care of all of our service members and their families, to the extent allowable under law."

Two of the new benefits are available at the service member's election: hospital visitation and Family Readiness Group membership. For 22 other benefits, service members and their same-sex partners may file a "declaration of domestic partnership." That declaration entitles same-sex partners to military identification cards, commissary and exchange shopping privileges, child care and youth programs, sexual assault counseling and other benefits.

Housing, medical and dental care, and overseas command sponsorship for same-sex partners are not included in this round of policy changes. As Panetta noted in a statement, those benefits are restricted under the Defense of Marriage Act, commonly known as DOMA, which defines "spouse" as someone married to a person of the opposite sex. The Supreme Court is reviewing the law, and is expected to rule on it later this year.

Defense Department expands women's combat role

WASHINGTON (1/24/13) - Following a unanimous recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced Thursday the end of the direct ground combat exclusion rule for female service members.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the Joint Chiefs chairman, joined Panetta at a Pentagon news conference in announcing the policy change.

The secretary also announced that the service branches will continue to move forward with a plan to eliminate all unnecessary gender-based barriers to service.

The change is intended to ensure that the best qualified and most capable service members, regardless of gender, are available to carry out the mission, Panetta said.

"If members of our military can meet the qualifications for a job, then they should have the right to serve, regardless of creed, color, gender or sexual orientation," he said.

In a statement released following the announcement, President Barack Obama praised the decision.

"This milestone reflects the courageous and patriotic service of women through more than two centuries of American history and the indispensable role of women in today's military," the president said.

"We are all committed to implementing this change without compromising readiness or morale or our war-fighting capabilities," Panetta said. "For this change in policy to succeed, it must be done in a responsible, measured and a coherent way."

Occupations and assignments will open incrementally, but "as expeditiously as possible," a senior defense official said. "We would fully expect that ... we will open positions throughout the year as we go forward," the official said.

TAG Talks Leadership



DRAPER, Utah — The Utah National Guard has evolved significantly over the past thirteen years. Soldiers and Airmen have left their families and gone halfway across the world to fight the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During this time, they've seen many leaders stepping down and relinquishing their positions to a new era of war fighters. The most notable to step down is Ret. Maj. Gen. Brian L. Tarbet who held his position

as Adjutant General for the Utah National Guard since before the wars began in 2001.

As leaders retire and transition back into civilian life, others are just beginning the long journey to make a difference with their organization, like Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton, who took command of the Utah National Guard last year.

"It's a very important position. My entire career I've felt like leadership is a sacred trust and that we have a heavy responsibility.

Never have I felt it heavier than with this new calling as the TAG."

Burton takes his new position very seriously and stresses the importance that Soldiers and Airmen know that the values he expects from them he lives himself.

"I think that leadership is all about example and putting yourself out there and being that example."

Leadership is only one of the traits that Burton brings to the table. Burton said his time as a battalion commander downrange has helped, but it's really been an incremental process spread across his 30 years of experience that's prepared him to take his position.

"I think honestly, it starts at the very beginning in the Army. It's wonderful in a way, that it gives us opportunities at all levels to lead."

Burton admits he's not worried about making history, instead he feels it's more important to take care of Soldiers and Airmen in the present.

"I think the legacy that all of us should be trying to leave is to train our replacement and build a bench so that this legacy is carried on."

There are many challenges that Burton faces by taking charge in his new level of leadership. One challenge that he faces is the looming budget cuts and sequestration.

"As leaders and Soldier and Airmen, our challenge is going to be maintaining our readiness the very best we can in lieu of the budget crisis. That's going to be a challenge. We need to get back to the basics of Soldiering. It's those very basic Soldier skills, those basic things that make us different. We're going to do the best we can to continue collective training, even in the face of budget cuts."

It's the little things that will help him in accomplishing his goals during his tenure as the Adjutant General he said.

"For the last eleven years we've been going down range and fighting. I think we've kind of lost sight of some of the important things that are contained in being Soldiers and Airmen. I want to get back to the basics of pride and ownership. Taking care of the things we have and having pride in our unit."

Burton said it's professionalism that identifies Airmen, Soldiers and service members. He wants to get out into the communities and interact with the people of Utah and build the pride that should exist in every military unit.

"I'm a very hands on guy. I like interaction with people. I like one-on-one dialog. I want people to understand that I'm available. In fact, I encourage folks to talk to me. I believe that communication is paramount in every unit and bad things happen when we don't communicate."

This communication isn't limited to Utah communities either, he encourages open dialog with Soldiers and Airmen of all ranks.

"I encourage that open communication. I listen to all ideas understanding this isn't a democracy, but at the same time, I believe that some of the greatest ideas I've gotten were from privates in my unit that had wonderful ideas. I'm open. I want to listen. I want to hear what people have to say and I want folks to know that I'm accessible."

Open communication, dedication to subordinates and hard work are all part of Burton's leadership philosophy. But how can one reach this level of leadership?

"I have this phrase I use often, so listen carefully: if you want to be the guy, be the guy. People come to me all the time and ask me what it is they need to do to advance their career and I tell them that if they're worried about their career, then they're probably worried about the wrong thing. I never thought about being a general, not once in my whole career. I focused on taking care of people and trying to do a good job with the job I had at the time, so my advice to anybody would be just work very hard and take care of your people."

Leadership is a sacred trust that all service members are responsible for. True leaders take care of their people and do their very best no matter what. Once a Soldier or Airmen does that, the rest of it takes care of itself.

"Take the hard jobs, do them well and take care of your people, and the rest just happens," said Burton. S

211th Aviation Returns Home: All the Little Things



They say it is the little things that count.

It is such a simple concept, but it is also true.

Deployed Soldiers find themselves in an unfamiliar place, immersed in a culture different from their own, and separated from the very people that could probably lessen this kind of shocking transition the most: their Families and loved ones.

It is also something that the Utah National Guard's 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, doesn't have to worry about right now. The first group of these 300 Soldiers came home on Jan. 17. It was a frigid winter day; different from the one they left on only in that the snow was piled on the ground instead of falling sideways. The hangar at the Salt Lake Air Base where the Soldiers were to arrive had friends and family waiting inside, hours before the planes were scheduled to arrive.

These men and women flew, maintained, and supplied Apache Longbows that conducted reconnaissance and armed escorts in Afghanistan for Coalition members. Their jobs were in a foreign country and amongst a culture that left them adrift from what they knew. So they turned to the little things for comfort.

Something as simple as a deck of cards, because you can start a hand any time and any place, or simply a flavor of gum that the little shopette at your outpost doesn't carry.

Spc. Chase Richardson, with Echo Troop, 1st Bn., 211th Avn. Regt., didn't ask for much more than that according to his mother.

"He didn't ask for big things," said Lanette Richardson. "Protein bars, because all he could do was work out over there and of course movies and pictures on those..." She paused for a moment and then described an external hard drive in great detail before remembering what it was called.

The only unique thing he asked for were Christmas tree lights he used around his tent for Christmas, she said. "And he asked for candy canes to decorate."

When Staff Sgt. Joe Maka Kaaihue and his nephew came down the boarding ramp, they found over twenty family members waiting to celebrate their return. Some of the cousins and nephews offered a quick infusion of some of their Polynesian heritage by dancing a Haka, a war dance given to warriors leaving to and returning from battle using shouts, chanting and resounding foot stomps.

Maka's sister, Loikalani Afalava had been using Facebook to keep in touch with him periodically throughout the deployment. The only thing he really asked for were Red Vines, she said, while trying to talk over the background din of everyone from the family trying to talk to Maka and Masami at once.

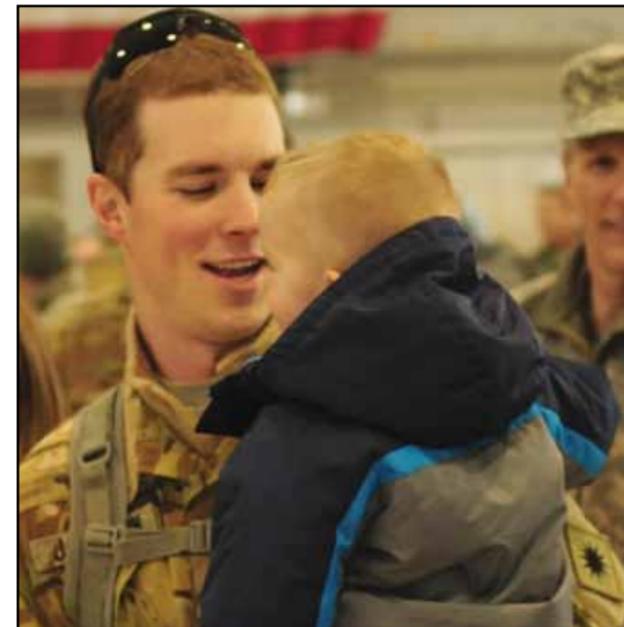


She raised her voice to make sure she was heard correctly, "He liked his Red Vines!"

Mayra Holm was anxiously waiting for her husband, Staff Sgt. Michael Holm, an Apache weapons specialist. She was waiting in the hangar for hours before his plane arrived

Holm left three days after he and Mayra were married. She says they plan to have their delayed honeymoon in Orlando.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeremy Hoagland is an Apache pilot who opted not to return home on leave



during this latest deployment, his second rotation to Afghanistan. His wife Mandee said that this tour of duty seemed different than the other one, now that she

knows what to expect from a deployment

"It was shorter," she said firmly, glad that the wait was down to minutes instead of months and days. "The first time was almost one and a half years."

Hoagland was welcomed not only by his wife and children, but the same extended family that waved goodbye last January, said his brother T J Ford.

"The same people are here to welcome him back as came to see him off," said Ford, who was also there to see him leave for his first tour.

After Spc. Richardson said hello to his family, and his mom had slowed down on taking pictures, he noticed his son Liam's shoe was untied. Everyone else in the family seemed to notice the untied shoes at the same time and a few offered to take care of it for him.

"I got this," Chase said, waving away their offers with a smile as he sat down on a nearby chair with 18 month-old Liam on his lap.

The little things are simple: Christmas lights at Christmas, your favorite candy, planning a trip as soon as you get back or knowing the same people who said goodbye would say hello when you got back. It's tying your son's shoe for the first time.

But it is the simple things that make sacrifice worth it and get you through. ■

Opposite page: Lanette Richardson takes a picture of her son, Spc. Chase Richardson, after a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. Top: Families and friends prepare to welcome Utah National Guard Soldiers home from a deployment to Afghanistan January 17, 2013.

Ready to Respond

Homeland Response Force holds Air Mobility training

DRAPER, Utah. - Soldiers and Airmen involved with the Homeland Response Force (HRF) held an exercise on Jan. 10, 2013, at the Utah National Guard Air Base in Salt Lake. The exercise was a test of interstate, joint service cooperation as well as how quickly HRF crews could load and unload an aircraft in support of a HRF mission.

Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah National Guard worked closely with an air crew from the Mississippi Air National Guard to load four truck and trailer units correctly onto a C-17 Globemaster aircraft.

"We've never worked with aircraft before," said Spc. Stuart McCowin of 19th Special Forces Group Support. "It's completely fresh to us, learning the procedures, making sure of weights. It's all new to us."

McCowin also stated that the crew were good trainers and made it very easy for the Soldiers loading cargo.

Tech Sgt Robert Zepeda of the Utah Air Guard also commented, "It's been going super smooth. The Mississippi Air Guard, with the Utah Guard, have been working well together."

With speed being evaluated, the crews meshed together to exceed the expected time.

"2:45 is the standard time to load," said Zepeda. "We're killing that."

The flight line was in constant motion as the trucks were safely loaded and secured onboard the aircraft. The only halt in the action was a command inspection to evaluate the quality of the load before it was unloaded, completing the exercise.

This exercise helped prepare the Homeland Response Force for an emergency where ever they are called in the country. s



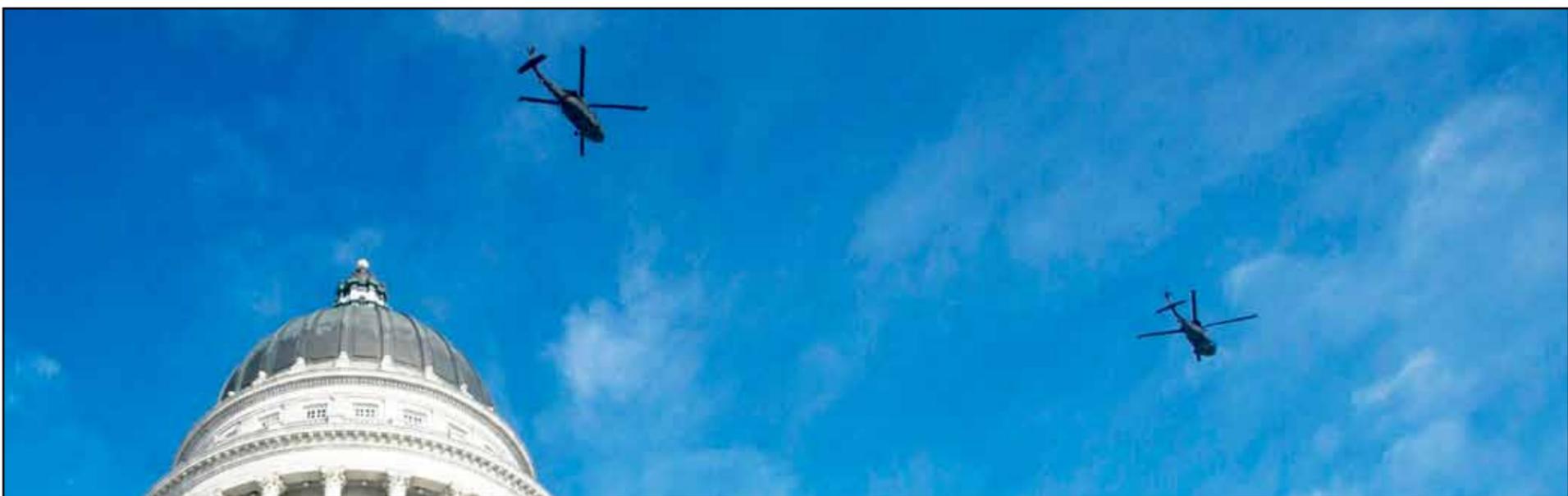


“Primarily we’ve been loading and unloading trucks and making sure everything is in the correct chalk.” –Spc. Timothy Greer, 19th Special Forces Group Support



The inaugural ceremony for Governor Gary R. Herbert was held January 7, 2013, at the Utah State Capitol Rotunda. During the ceremony, Utah National Guard members played various roles. The Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton was the master of ceremonies. The 145th Field Artillery fired a 19-gun cannon salute. There was a fly over of three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 211th Aviation. The Utah Honor Guard posted the colors, and music was provided by the 23rd Army Band.

Layout and design by Sgt. Rebecca Hansen, 128th MPAD, with photos by Staff Sgt. Renae Saylock, 2nd Combat Camera Squadron and Sgt. Rebecca Hansen



Resilience

As I See it

For the last fourteen months I have been working on the state resilience team and learning about resilience through the Army's new Resilience program. When I was first introduced to the program, my supervisors told me I would become a Master Resilience Trainer; I had some serious reservations. I was raised by a WWII, Korea and Vietnam vet and these concepts they were teaching me were already taught to me by my parents, school of 'hard knocks' or life in general. I saw the program as a way of making the Army too soft, or at the very least, another way the Army was telling me to be nice. One would think these things are common sense to most people but there seems to be a serious disconnect between the Soldier my father and his fellow Soldiers were

compared to the Soldiers of today.

My fathers stories portrayed harsh environments, bad living conditions, life threatening circumstances and when they came home an unwelcoming country and in some cases families. So, what made them different in how they dealt with these issues compared to this generation of service members?

As the suicide rates and other domestic issues are hitting our war-weary service members harder than they ever have before the Army has gone outside themselves in a bid to make our Soldiers stronger mentally. With help from the University of Pennsylvania behavioral specialists, the Army has rolled out the Resilience program in conjunction with the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness

program. The theory is that this program will assist them on the battlefield and in their everyday lives through positive thinking.

There are six main competencies to the resilience program: Connection, Optimism, Self-Awareness, Self-Regulation, Strength in Character and Mental Agility.

While all the main competencies often intertwine to make one a more resilient person, optimism is the hinge-pin to the entire program. Through an exercise called, "Hunt the Good Stuff," an individual lists three positive things that have happened to them that day, explain what it means to them, how they can make this good thing happen to them again, and in essence relive and focus on the good in their life. This will also

aid in building gratitude, building a more positive attitude, and will allow a person, in some cases, to get more sleep.

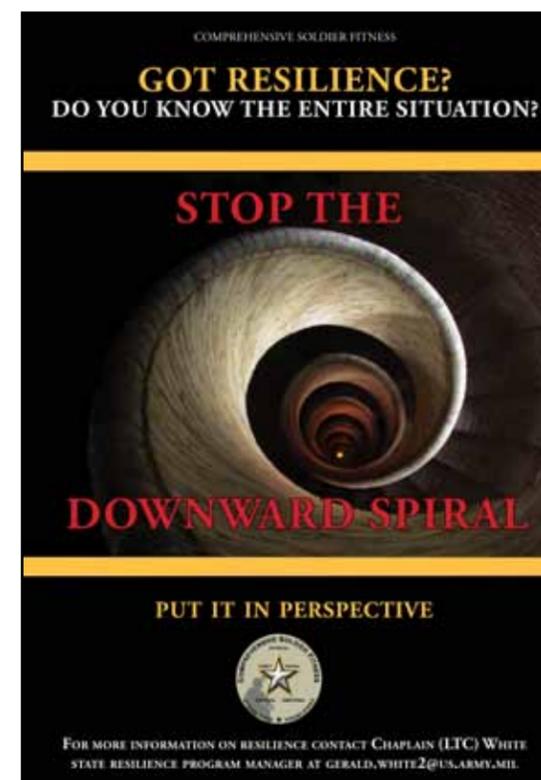
The next two of the competencies, Self-Awareness and Self-Regulation, are where a person learns how they or others view the world and what, if anything, they can do about the situation. Being aware of what kind of "glasses" you see everything around you with, and what kind of control you have is something most people learn through experience, and yet these two are probably the most under used of the competencies.

Strength in Character explores what is "good" in the person. Through an online survey that measures what the Soldier "does" and not what they value or believe, they are able to learn about their strengths and other people's strengths on their team. They learn about the weaker strengths they would like to improve and how to facilitate that growth in themselves. This is particularly helpful in an environment when savvy leaders are aware of the strengths of the team members and can use this as an advantage to complete missions and help with team cohesion.

In order for all these competencies to work together, Mental Agility is an integral part, as well. With mental games, an exercise in which you can learn different strategies to

refocus your mind, you can complete the task at hand. With more self-restraint, a different outlook, and often with a bit more energy.

Connection, in my opinion, is the most important of all the competencies. Individuals learn to take



a hard look at whom they count on in adverse situations or who counts on them. Mentorship is huge in the Army and that can't be accomplished without connecting. How do you build connections? Through caring, communicating and through humanity. Last I checked, these are really important aspects of character to have in our Soldiers and their leaders. Connections are

very important in the family life. Family members are usually the key to most Soldiers' happiness. Where would you be without the people in your life?

So, is this program working? In the overall Army, I don't know. In my personal life, that would be a resounding...yes. Even though I had already learned the basic principals through life, it's always good to be reminded of life lessons, common sense and teachings from those around you.

This is just a brief overview of resilience, as I see it. That's the point everybody "sees" resilience in a different way. Resilience is like life: it's a journey to grow and learn from the tough times, good times as well.

Our Soldiers in this generation aren't less resilient. They just need a reminder of the basics. You can't get the mission done without a healthy team and that means mentally and physically.

My father used to say, "You can't make everybody happy. There are some things you just can't control. Be aware of your surroundings and watch your mouth. Treat your enemies with kindness. Respect those around you and their property. Do what is correct in every situation and you will be good-to-go." And my all time favorite, "Life isn't fair, get over it." ■

Breaking Barriers

Just this past month, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta cleared the way and lifted the long-standing ban on women in the military serving in a combat position. This has stirred a lot of controversy from people on both sides of the fence. Regardless of this, women will soon be able to attend the proper military training schools to learn the skills required in each combat-oriented military occupation specialty. I do believe that this was the correct course of action that should have been taken a long time ago.

One of the issues I want to address is the idea that women will not physically be able to accomplish a mission required for the combat position. Yes, it is a well-known fact that men and women are built differently, but everyone is built differently from each other as well.

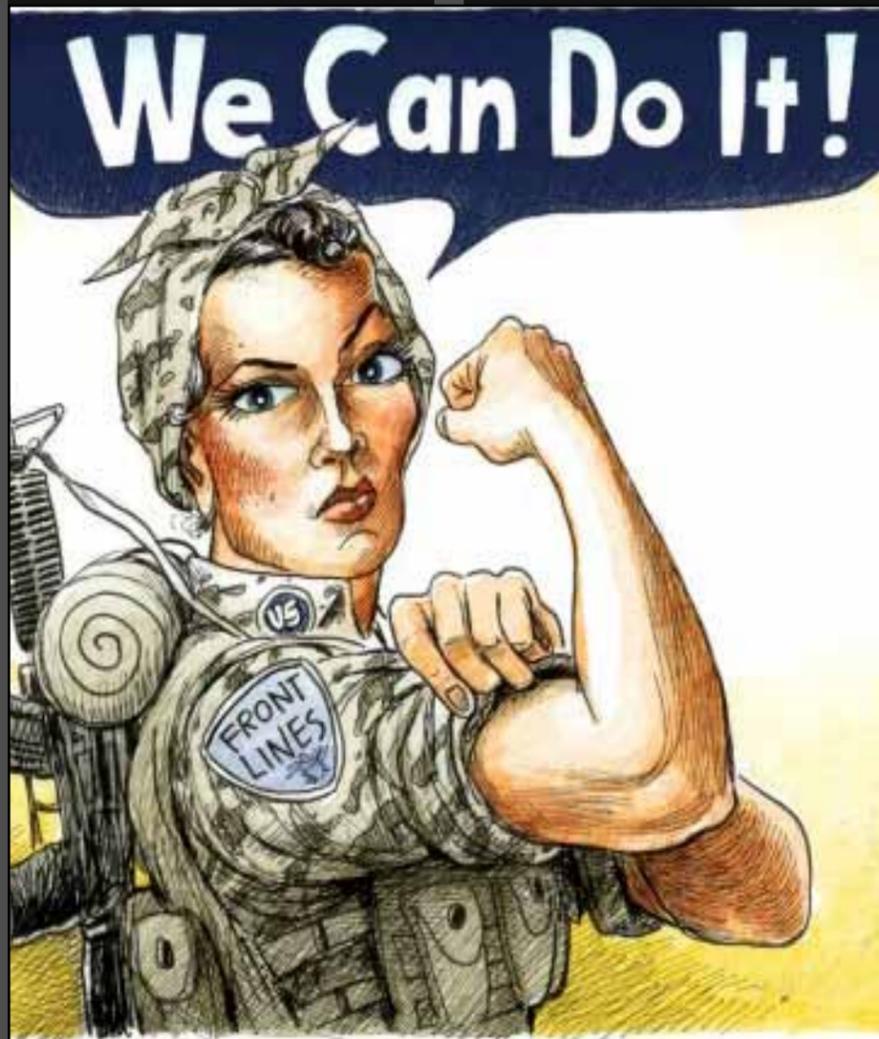
I know for a fact, that in my present physical condition I would not be able to perform the duties required for those MOS's. This doesn't mean that other women aren't able to. If a woman can pass the physical trials in the vigorous combat schools, then it proves they can do the job. At least this way we can know if each individual woman can handle it rather than assuming she couldn't because of her gender alone. Many men go to those same combat oriented schools and can't meet the physical requirements, after which they have to choose a different MOS.

Just like how some men are physically capable and other are not, some women will be physically capable and others will not.

Another issue people have is that if we are going to open up all jobs of the military to women, then females should register for the Selective Service at 18 just like men do. I totally agree. Women should have been in the first place. If women are going to be treated equal in certain aspects, then they

should be treated equal in all aspects as well.

The fact of the matter is we are all different physically and mentally. You cannot tell how a person is going to be in either of these aspects by gender. Let the tests of physical and mental endurance at the training schools be the judge of who can accomplish what mission. The world is evolving, and people need to evolve with it. ■



Parting Shot

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, Utah National Guard, download a AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter from a C-17 Globemaster III fix-winged aircraft Dec. 28, 2012, at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The 1-211th was returning home after nine months in Afghanistan.

Photo by: Staff Sgt. Staci Miller USAF