

UTAH MINUTEMAN

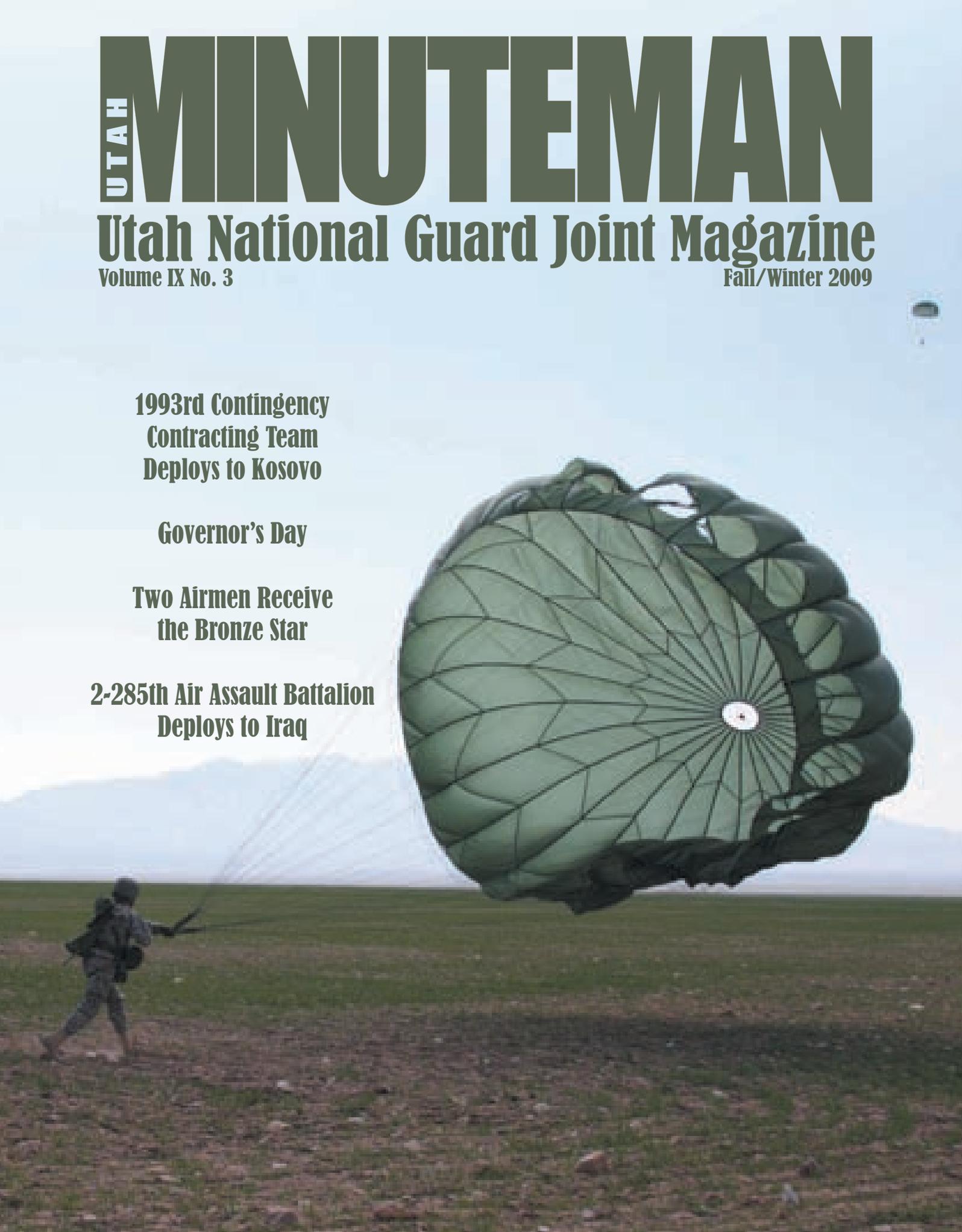
Utah National Guard Joint Magazine
Volume IX No. 3 Fall/Winter 2009

**1993rd Contingency
Contracting Team
Deploys to Kosovo**

Governor's Day

**Two Airmen Receive
the Bronze Star**

**2-285th Air Assault Battalion
Deploys to Iraq**



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The Adjutant General's Corner

DRAPER, Utah — As we look back upon the last fiscal and training year, we can take great pride in the accomplishments of our Soldiers and Airmen, and in the support they receive from their families and employers. It has been a year of unstinting effort in the warfight and in fulfilling our state mission.

The Utah National Guard has been busily engaged throughout the world. Of course, our participation in the efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan has been essential in the overall strategy in those countries. We have also seen deployments in Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Curacao, and Morocco. Additionally, we have seen training in Germany, Georgia, Thailand, Japan and Korea. Our Soldiers and Airmen have met or exceeded all of their goals.

We continue to meet with great success in achieving our recruitment and retention goals, both in the Army and the Air Guard. Talented and physically fit young people continue to join our ranks, and seasoned and tested veterans remain in our formations to provide leadership for future deployments.

Our physical facilities continue to improve. We will dedicate the new North Salt Lake armory this fall, and the RTI complex, the crown jewel of our training efforts, has been a great addition to

Camp Williams. We are in the process of renovating many of our dated armories in Vernal, Price, Springville and at Camp Williams to provide better facilities for our Soldiers. Additionally, ground was recently broken for the new fire station at Salt Lake Air Base.

We appreciate the great support of our Congressional delegation and the members of our State Legislature. This support has been vital in preparing us for the future. Of particular note is the consolidation of the real estate oversee at Camp Williams.

I am especially grateful to our uniformed personnel and civilians, both staff and volunteers, who do so much to support our Family Support Programs. They are tireless and have been a mainstay in supporting our troops and their families. We would not succeed without them.

Our State Partnership relationship with Morocco continues to thrive. We learn a great deal from our Moroccan colleagues in terms of military acumen and in preparation for domestic emergencies. Our children greatly enjoy the exchange each year, and it has become a capstone event in the Partnership.

This year, we had the privilege of conducting two inaugurations. It has been an honor to serve Governor Huntsman, who has now become the U.S. ambassador to China. We welcome Governor Herbert, a former Guardsman, and look forward to his service as our commander in chief.



Photo by Greg Cullis

The Adjutant General,
MG Brian L. Tarbet



Photo by SFC Stacey Berg

ABOVE: MG Brian Tarbet and Gov. Gary Herbert wait to review Utah National Guard troops at Governor's Day Sept. 19. RIGHT: MG Brian Tarbet reflects for a moment on the shore of Omaha Beach, in Normandy, France.



Photo by MSgt Burke Baker

We have much left to do. In the coming year, we will be preparing units for numerous challenging and difficult deployments. We will need the support of each and every one of you. Thank you for all you have done and for the great things you will yet accomplish. E

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Cover Photo: A 197th Special Troops Company Soldier lands at Drop Zone Ashau during their first unit jump.

Photo by SGT Samantha Xanthos



Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — **T**his is the second year I have watched a Soldier from Utah compete in the Army's "Best Warrior Competition." SPC Jeremy Whipple, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, represented the Army National Guard during last year's competition. This year the great State of Utah has another outstanding Soldier, SPC Guy Mellor, 1st Battalion, 145 Field Artillery. He represents the 358,200 members of the Army National Guard.

This competition is hosted by the Command Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston, at Fort Lee, Va. There are a total of 24 competitors, 12 NCOs and 12 Soldiers. They come from all major commands across the Army. The competition is a weeklong event starting out with a formal board appearance. Other events include media interviews, a written exam, followed by a written essay. The first physical event, of course, is the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). The competitors are also tested on Warrior tasks at the urban warfare orienteering course to include tasks tested both day and night. They also fire M-9s at the qualification range, day and night. They have a stress shoot that tests their skills and endurance while dragging a wounded Soldier out of the line of fire while engaging targets with live ammunition. We as a State are extremely proud of SPC Mellor's accomplishments, and wish him luck in his future endeavors.



Photo by Greg Cullis

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

It has been a busy year, as you all know. During the last weekend in September we held the Senior NCO Conference. We have the finest NCO corps anywhere. Both the Army and Air NCOs are dedicated, capable leaders with a strong vision of who we are and where we want to take our organizations. But the most important reason for any of our success is the support we receive from our spouses and families. Without that strong base, it is nearly impossible for any of us to keep focused on what we need to accomplish. I want to thank the families for their support and all they do to make this organization resilient and ready. You are the silent heroes of the Utah National Guard.

The question asked of me frequently is "How do we develop young Soldiers and Airmen to become NCOs?" It starts with engaged leaders, first-line supervisors, sergeants and corporals extending through the NCO support channel and the chain of command. They must create an environment where our most important goal is to understand that our job is to develop leaders. We do that by enforcing standards and discipline in our units through our example, dedication and hard work. Remember, NCOs inspect what they expect. It is all leaders' responsibility to know the standard, teach the standard and enforce the standard.

Thank you to our Soldiers, Airmen, and most of all, thank you to the spouses: you are the strength of the Utah National Guard. 🇺🇸



Photo by SGT Whitney Houston

CSM Bruce Summers (right) and CCMSgt Robert Hill salute the Troops of the Utah National Guard during Governor's Day Sept. 19 at Rice-Eccles Stadium.

Two Utah Airmen Receive the Bronze Star

Story by Maj Krista DeAngelis

Photos by SSgt Emily Monson

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**wo Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, were recently presented Bronze Stars at an awards ceremony during Family Day, Aug. 1. Bronze Stars are awarded for bravery, acts of merit or meritorious service.

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Bullivant and Tech. Sgt. Barry Duffield were awarded the medals for meritorious service for serving as team leaders in the 506th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight while deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. The deployment was in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Tech. Sgt. Bullivant:

During the deployment, Bullivant was recognized for leading 136 missions, accumulating 550 combat hours and enduring 11 enemy attacks against his team. He destroyed 20 IEDs, (Improvised Explosive Devices), 16 suspect and hoax IEDs, 2,127 enemy ordnance items and 1,800 pounds of explosives.

On Dec. 3, 2007, Bullivant's convoy was struck by an IED during a 12-hour combat patrol. He ensured the scene was cleared and led a post-blast investigation on the platoon commander's vehicle where he had to secure additional IEDs. He assisted the commander with finding a safe return route and mitigated further loss

of life. He also provided crucial support to the U.S. Secret Service on March 18, 2008, during Vice President Cheney's visit to the Kirkuk region. He directed airport searches, cleared 41 motorized vehicles and secured the motorcade route to the Kurdish president's palace.

Tech. Sgt. Barry Duffield:

Duffield was recognized for the destruction of 48 IEDs and five vehicle-borne IEDs during his deployment. He accumulated 373 combat hours conducting 125 combat missions and was responsible for clearing 2,540 miles of critical and alternate supply routes through Iraq.

On Feb. 18, 2008, Duffield's combat-leadership skills were put to the test while responding to an IED threat. Duffield performed a post-blast analysis of the IED's damage while under concentrated machine-gun fire less than 100 meters away. He directed his vehicles to maneuver and return fire, silencing enemy fighting positions and enabling all patrols to safely clear the firefight location and return to base. 



Bronze Stars were awarded to TSgts Kevin Bullivant and Barry Duffield from the 151st Air Refueling Wing at an awards ceremony Aug. 1. The Airmen were awarded the medals for serving as team leaders in the 506th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight while deployed to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

Utah Civil Engineers Train at Guantanamo

Story by SSgt Blair Heusdens

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — **N**ot just anybody gets the opportunity to board a plane and visit Joint Task Force Guantanamo. For approximately 35 Utah Air National Guardsmen with the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay provided an exotic and unique location to conduct their two-week annual training.

“The [National Guard Bureau] has certain projects available in different states and countries,” said Air Force CMSgt Doug Lukes, chief of operations for the mission. “We were given different options and we chose [Guantanamo Bay].”

The Salt Lake City-based engineers arrived in August and were kept busy working on projects to enhance the quality of life for Servicemembers throughout the base – they made repairs to docks and bleachers, installed sheetrock in buildings on the leeward side of the naval station and traced electrical circuits at the hospital. The variety of projects allowed all of the unit’s carpenters, electricians and heavy-equipment operators to use and hone their individual skills.

“[The people at Guantanamo Bay] provided anything to us that we didn’t have,” said Lukes.

These projects gave the Servicemembers an opportunity to work on skills they would not normally have the chance to practice at their home station. They have had to find ways to work around challenges here – such as repairing the end of a dock from a boat – which none have ever done before.

“Normally, we would be doing more on-base, smaller projects,” said Lukes. “We wouldn’t be getting the hands-on [experience] that we have been able to get here.”

Staff Sgt Merrill Brown, a carpenter with the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, makes repairs to a dock during training at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 19.

Photo by SSgt Emily Monson



According to the Guardsmen, training back home generally consists of interior work inside small rooms. Working in a different atmosphere and with different equipment proved to be a positive experience as they tackle projects outdoors with larger lumber and materials.

“The whole experience has been a learning experience,” said SSgt Merrill Brown, who is working as superintendent of a project for the first time.

Along on this deployment were five firefighters from the same unit who volunteered to assist with the engineering mission. For them, the experience provided an opportunity to learn a new skill. According to Air Force A1C Michelle Manuel, the firefighters learned what their strengths are in the carpentry and structures field.

“If you’re good at something, you do it,” said Manuel, who’s been in the Air National Guard now for just a year. “If not, someone will show you how to do it.”

Manuel related some tasks to her firefighting skills. Using tools to tear boards off the dock was similar to performing vehicle extractions. Other tasks – such as nailing and using certain tools – were not as familiar.

“I’ve never done anything like this,” said Manuel. “It’s all brand new to me.”

Their time there wasn’t all work, though. The Utah Airmen have been able to take some time to enjoy the recreation activities the naval station had to offer, such as fishing, boating and snorkeling. 🇺🇸

Staff Sgt David Thain and SrA Jesse Call, heavy-equipment operators assigned to the 151st Civil Engineering Squadron attached to the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, level ground in preparation for a storage unit being installed at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Aug. 19.

Photo by PFC Christopher Vann



Utah Guard Enlists Help From 'A Few Good Goats'



Goats nibble on some "fire fuel" on Camp Williams, Utah.



Few people, however, think of goats as a firefighting tool; but goats are exactly what the Utah National Guard is using to lessen the potential of wildfires at this installation near Salt Lake City.

The Utah Guard has enlisted more than 1,200 goats and sheep to consume sagebrush and oak brush before this year's fire season, said Sean Hammond, manager of the Utah Guard's Integrated Training Area. Less brush means less fuel for wildfires, he explained.

But contrary to popular belief, goats won't eat everything.

"There are certain plants that they would just have to be starved to eat," said Doug Johnson, natural resources manager for the Utah Army National Guard. "But they'll eat a lot of our heavy fuels pretty readily, like the sagebrush and the oak brush. And they do a great job dealing with those fields."

The goats were first introduced in 1999 as an experiment in cooperation with Utah State University, Hammond said. Two years later during a massive wildfire that spread through the camp, the goats proved their worth.

"The 'goat firebreak' had only been constructed a very short distance,"

Hammond said, "but where it was constructed, the fire stopped – even when it jumped roads and other firebreaks."

In 2003, the goats were officially added to Camp Williams' fire-prevention plan and were used to construct more firebreaks. The Utah Guard has steadily increased the length of those areas over the past six years, and currently has about 10 miles of goat-cleared firebreaks, Hammond said.

By SSG Jon Soucy

Photos by LTC Hank McIntire

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **W**hen it comes to fighting wildfires, most people immediately think of water or fire retardant dropped from helicopters and other aircraft, or soot-covered firefighters using hoses and foam to battle back towering blazes.



The value of the goats' efforts was proven again in 2006, when another major wildfire broke out on the camp.

"The fire was driven by winds approaching 20 mph into twin, bulldozed firebreaks," Hammond said. "The twin firebreaks held for between 10 and 15 minutes before the fire jumped the lines and raced uphill toward the camp's northern boundary."

At that point, pushed by nearly 40 mph winds, the blaze neared the top of the ridge, when it hit the area cleared by the goats.

"The fire line plowed into the goat firebreak and stopped," Hammond said. "Personnel on the ridge at the time ... remarked that had it not been for the goats, the fire would not have stopped at the ridgeline."

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: Jason Garn checks on his goats, which the Utah Army National Guard is using to create a firebreak on Camp Williams, near Salt Lake City. The Utah Guard has enlisted more than 1,200 goats and sheep to consume fire fuels such as sagebrush and oak brush before the fire season. The goats have proven their worth during more than one fire season by consuming brush that would fuel wildfires.

If the fire had not stopped there, Hammond explained, it most likely would have continued on to nearby housing developments.

The goats also have helped to clear Camp Williams of other unwanted items. In 2007, an unexploded artillery shell was found after the goats had cleared an area along the camp's artillery-impact area. Suspected to have been fired during training in the mid-1980s, the round sat unnoticed in heavy brush before the goats got to it.

"They eat [just about] everything down to stubble," said Army LTC Hank McIntire, the state public affairs officer. "It makes it look like a wasteland. Once the area was cleared off by the goats, the round was easily seen."

A berm was built around the shell for safety, and an explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the shell with an explosive charge. The wildfires of the previous year had come within 200 meters of the shell, McIntire said.

The goats' success has strengthened ties with those who live near the camp, McIntire added. Plans are under way to increase the number of goat-built firebreaks. An extension is to be built along the western edge of the camp, and the Utah State Forestry and Fire Department will pick up the addition's cost, Hammond said. 



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EAGLE GATE COLLEGE

Governor Gary Herbert, Utah's 17th Governor



Governor Gary Herbert takes the oath of office at the Utah Capitol Aug. 11. BELOW: Utah's 17th governor during the inauguration ceremony.

Story by TSgt Kelly Collett

Photos by SFC Stacey Berg

SALT LAKE CITY — **O**n August 11, hundreds of politicians, ex-governors and Utah citizens gathered in the State Capitol to view the ceremony for Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert to succeed to the office of governor. Governor Jon M. Huntsman resigned his office and was sworn in as the new U.S. ambassador to China before the ceremony. Herbert was then sworn in as Utah's 17th governor.

Utah's Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet, was master of ceremonies and gave his praise to the outgoing governor. "As a point of privilege, I must say, it's been an honor to serve with you."

Huntsman took the podium and gave his farewell speech as Utah's 16th governor. Huntsman responded to Tarbet's remarks by saying, "It has indeed been an honor to serve with you and the Troops."

Utah National Guard Troops participated throughout the ceremony, beginning with posting the colors and performing a 19-gun salute after Herbert completed the official oath. The 23rd Army Band also contributed by playing music for the ceremony.

"Now since I'm not here asking for anyone's vote – or concessions from the legislature – this becomes a rare liberating moment in politics," said Huntsman, who received laughter from the audience with his comment.

Huntsman expounded on his "rare liberating moment in politics," by saying "Every day in this job, serving the people of Utah, has been a privilege. In return, we have felt enormous support, particularly during a challenging transition that will take us halfway around the world. Our family cannot thank you enough."

Huntsman did not forget the Troops when he talked about many of the things he has done during his office. He spoke fondly of his time visiting Troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and leaving a State and people his family loves.

Herbert also talked about the Troops and gave them thanks during his inauguration speech saying, "Many have paid the price for freedom, both past and present. We will never take for granted their sacrifices."

He continued later in his speech saying, "We honor and salute these noble Citizen-Soldiers. I'm proud that I was once numbered amongst their ranks. As a State we do not forget that our nation is still at war. And as a people we will not forget the sacrifices made in distant lands that make it possible for us to enjoy freedom and live in peace here at home today."

One of the comments most responded to by the audience was when Herbert said, "We as a nation created the federal government and it was not the other way around." His words received a monumental applause from the crowd.

The ceremony ended and Huntsman and Herbert left the building followed by supporters and well-wishers. Huntsman removed his tie and jacket and donned a helmet to ride off in a motorcycle motorcade consisting of police officers and supporters as Herbert waved a fond farewell to the outgoing governor. 🇺🇸





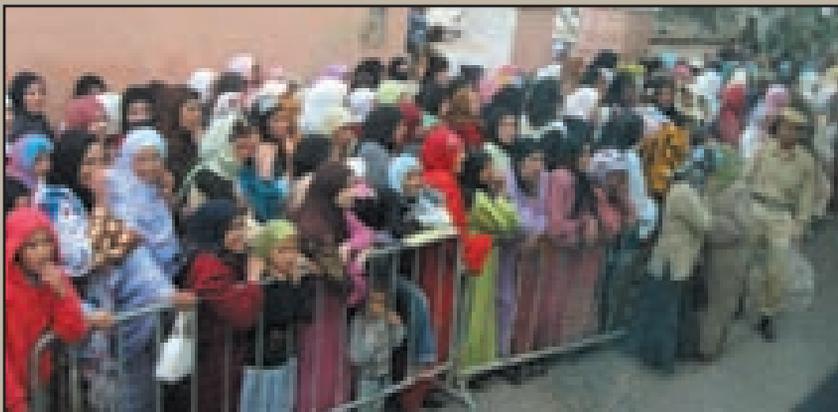
Morocco Medical Support

Story and photos by SFC David Openshaw

AGADIR, Morocco — **I**n May 2009, Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah Army and Air National Guard participated in “African Lion,” a bilateral, joint overseas deployment training exercise in Agadir, Morocco. Members from the Medical Detachment, 19th Special Forces, various Military Intelligence units and 151st Medical Group (ANG) worked jointly in the success of a Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA) event, providing medical, dental and veterinary services to the citizens of Morocco.

The African Lion training exercise this year was truly a joint venture. All branches of the U.S. Military participated in providing services to more than 8,000 Moroccans. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen traveled to Agadir to train with Moroccan military counterparts. The exercise was conducted in two phases: Bilateral training and the HCA. Bilateral training consisted of classroom instruction and hands-on training of Tactical Combat Casualty Care, basics of the Combat Life Saver Program, CPR and an overview of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) operations. Both Forces offered new ideas and procedures in dealing with emergency care and CBRNE operations. Linguists from the 141st and 142nd Military Intelligence Battalions assisted with translating mission-critical information during all aspects of training and humanitarian services throughout the entire African Lion exercise.

TOP: Members of the Utah National Guard medical support team working in Agadir, Morocco. BELOW: Villagers within the Province of Taroudant wait for medical treatment from U.S. military doctors. RIGHT: SPC Millar translates for LTC Luke.



Humanitarian operations were conducted over a five-day period in four villages within the Province of Taroudant, a southern area of the country. Sites were selected based on demographics, availability of medical care and veterinary services in Sid Dahmane, Ighrem, Argana and Taliouine. Each day, personnel convoyed and set up new operating sites in these different communities. Doctors, physician assistants, nurses and medics provided medical services in dermatology, optometry, pediatrics, OB/GYN and internal and general medicine, providing more than 4,000 treatments to the local population. The U.S. Navy provided a pharmacist that assisted tremendously with local formulary medications and expertise in dispensing more than 12,000 prescriptions. Dental teams provided 1,200 patient treatments to include extractions, restorative care and dental exams. Chief Master Sergeant Joe Guimond was instrumental in supporting the dental teams with equipment expertise.



One of the largest contributions to this mission was the veterinarian team. This team was composed of MAJ Chris Larsen and SGT “Drew” Lewis from the 19th Special Forces, as well as PFC Bert Smith from the MED DET. An important aspect of Moroccan culture is their livestock and production of various types of honey from their bee colonies. More than 10,000 goats, sheep, donkeys and cows were treated, vaccinated and de-wormed. In addition, more than 3,000 bee colonies were treated for disease prevention.

African Lion was an excellent opportunity for our Guard members. These exercises continue to provide invaluable experience and friendships to the Servicemen and women of the Utah National Guard, providing a joint training environment that would otherwise not be available. **E**

2-285th Aviation Heads To Iraq

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **F**our UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters carrying Utah Army National Guard's 2-285th Aviation Battalion Soldiers bound for Iraq, departed Utah Oct. 5 en route to a 12-month deployment.

Pilots and crews of the 2-285th left the Utah Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan in their assigned Blackhawks bound for Fort Sill, Okla., where they will receive several weeks of training to support U.S. Central Command operations. Other members of the unit left the following day by commercial air.

The four helicopters flown out of West Jordan will be left at Fort Sill for a returning unit to use, while the 2-285th will inherit helicopters already in country.

"The aircraft over there are going to be very similar to what we have here," said 1LT Rory McCarthy, detachment commander of the 2-285th. "As we are scaling back in Iraq we aren't going to take more equipment over there, so we are going to use the aircraft already over there."

The detachment of 44 Soldiers from the 2-285th are part of a four-state operation and will combine with units from Arizona, the Battalion headquarters, as well as North Dakota and Oklahoma for their assigned mission to transport personnel, equipment and supplies. The 2-285th is a relatively new detachment to Utah, being formed just two years ago.



The 2-285th stand in formation during their deployment ceremony. Four UH-60 Blackhawks take off from West Jordan beginning the 12-month deployment to Iraq for Soldiers with the 2-285th Air Assault.

"We have a great mix of people on their third and fourth deployment and also a lot of youth who are very ambitious and excited to do a great job and make their mark," said McCarthy. "For every newer person we have, we seem to have another experienced person who has 'been there, done that' to balance them out. We have a great mix of new and experienced Soldiers."

One of the more experienced Veterans in the group is CW2 Casey Lowry, a pilot in command of one of the Blackhawks.





TOP DOWN: PVT Aubrey Ayers hugs her mom prior to her leaving for Iraq. CW2 Casey Lowry confirms with MG Brian Tarbet that this is her fourth deployment. A young daughter waits patiently to watch her father fly off in his Blackhawk.

“The TAG (MG Brian Tarbet) asked how many deployments this was for me and it’s been four,” said Lowry. “I’ve been in 10 years, so four times in 10 years.”

Melissa Hunt, a Bluffdale resident and mother to PFC Rachel Hunt, one of the newer members of the 2-285th, explained her feelings of her daughter’s relatively new enlistment.

“She knows her job really well. She’s ready to go and excited about it,” said Hunt. “It’s a little scary, but I’m excited for her. We are always really proud of her.”

Another new member is crew chief PVT Aubrey Ayers.

“This will be my first deployment,” said Ayers. “This mission is great and I’m really excited to get out there and do something for this country.”

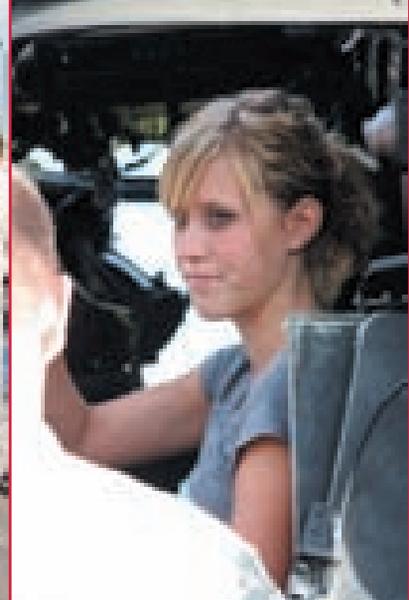
The unit is made up primarily of Soldiers who volunteered for this mission.

“I volunteered while in flight school before I even graduated,” said McCarthy. “It’s a great opportunity to serve and gain experience. Everyone in our unit is a volunteer. It says a lot, everyone working with everyone. It’s great to have a bunch of volunteers who want to do the job.”

McCarthy, in his farewell remarks, spoke briefly of his unit’s goals to both his Soldiers and the group gathered to say their goodbyes.

“We want to come home safe. We want to do our missions but realize that our hearts are here,” said McCarthy. 🇺🇸





Guard Hosts 48th Freedom Academy

Story by SPC Lyndsey Dransfield

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **H**igh school student leaders from throughout Utah were provided the opportunity to better understand the meaning of freedom and to learn and practice leadership skills from Utah Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen.

For the past 48 years, the Utah Air and Army National Guard have sponsored and hosted the week-long summer camp, allowing a select group of Utah high school students to further their knowledge of leadership. This year, 106 students attended the academy held at Camp Williams Aug. 2-7.

“The purpose of the academy it is not to recruit members for the National Guard, but rather to promote the ideals of freedom to our future leaders so that we don’t lose the freedoms our forefathers established for us,” said Lt. Col. David Osborne, Freedom Academy director, who has been involved with the academy for the past 14 years.

“Their involvement in the student government and the energy these kids bring to their schools is incredible,” he said. “There’s so much negativity in schools, but when you’re with this group of people it is such a positive experience.”

After settling into their living quarters on the first day of the academy, the students’ week-long adventures kicked off with motivational and entertaining stories by Olympic gold-medalist Mike Schlappi, who was paralyzed at the age of 14 from a gunshot wound, and former Utah Senator Jake Garn, the first sitting member of the United States Congress to fly in space aboard the space shuttle Discovery in 1985.

The second day was a more humbling experience with a tour of the Utah State Prison in Bluffdale, where students spoke with a panel of inmates about the impact of personal choice and what it’s like to live without everyday freedoms.





PHOTOS: High school students from around the State participate in a weeklong leadership training course. They were given opportunities to understand our freedoms and hopefully use that

training in their student governments in their high schools. Part of the activities gave them a taste of military life as they toured facilities at the Utah Air and Army National Guard.

Photos by SPC Lyndsey Dransfield and SSG Brock Jones

“[I realized] I can do anything I want and it’s basic freedoms that we take for granted that I appreciate more,” said Ryan Palmer, senior class vice president at Syracuse High School, about the experience.

Kenlynn Carter, student-body secretary at Cedar High School, agreed. “It’s up to you where you end up in life. Sure, people can influence you, but ultimately it’s up to you.”

Throughout the week the students toured the State Capitol, the local CBS affiliate, KUTV, and the federal courthouse, allowing them to ask questions and gain different perspectives of freedom.

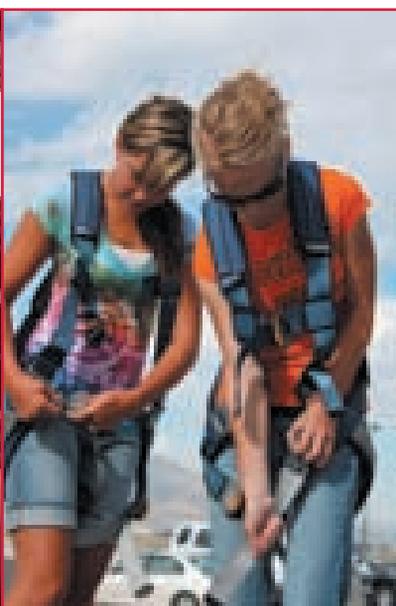
In addition to the tours, they participated in various military activities to give them a taste of military life. They jumped from an airborne training tower, fired M-16 rifles, explored a KC-135 Stratotanker airplane, a Paladin self-propelled

howitzer and put their leadership skills into practice.

“Doing these different activities has definitely given me an appreciation for Soldiers and what they do for us,” said Kaylee Cloward, from Maple Mountain High School, after trying to pick up a penny on the ground while wearing an explosive ordinance disposal suit weighing more than 140 pounds.

To wind down each day’s activities, the nights concluded with activities allowing the students to mingle and get to know each other.

“My favorite thing was meeting everybody. It was so great to meet other people around Utah who have the same goals for our country as I do,” said Aubree Jones, of Woods Cross High School. 🇺🇸



Utah Soldier Represents Guard in Best Warrior Competition

competitors from every Major Command in the Army. The Soldiers competing were the best of the best.

Story and photos by SFC Scott Faddis

FORT LEE, Va. — **U**tah Guard SPC Guy Mellor, B Company, 1-145th Field Artillery, represented the National Guard against 24 of the top NCOs and Soldiers in the U.S. Army by competing in the “Super Bowl” of Army competitions. Mellor won the National Guard Best Warrior Competition in August, securing his place in the All-Army event.

Mellor, originally from Fayette, a small town in central Utah with a population of 200, had already proven himself against some of the best Soldiers in the Army. This competition would test his skills against top

After the week of competition, Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston would determine which Soldiers would be the 2009 NCO and Soldier of the Year.

“For most of these competitors the competition began more than eight months ago starting with their unit. They then progress through six to eight different levels of competition with each level getting more competitive,” said SSG Michael Noyce Merino, the 2008 Army NCO of the Year and Montana National Guard Soldier.

The competition started with arguably the most stressful event. The president of the board was SMA Preston with six other senior command sergeants major, which, naturally,



would intimidate anyone. The board asked competitors questions about every Army discipline and program. For Mellor, this was his seventh board he had competed in since December.

“I felt good about my answers,” said Mellor.

This competition is the “Super Bowl” because each Soldier is tested on every aspect of being a Soldier. Each competitor was tested on their ability to think on their feet in a series of realistic battle drills. The first scenario had competitors traveling in a convoy that was hit by an IED. Two members of their team were injured and two dead. The competitors had to treat the injuries while engaging the enemy.

“Each competitor had to be a subject-matter expert on all of their weapons,” said Preston. “These Soldiers proved that they have mastered every Soldier skill.”

Mellor credits his success through the competitions with his family’s having deep military roots.

“My grandpa was a Marine and fought in World War II, and it’s part of the family. That is why I joined. My dad was in and my brother is, and we were in the same unit for a while,” Mellor said.

“SPC Mellor represents the best of the Utah National Guard. He was more mature, professional, and educated than the typical Army Soldier. Those characteristics are why he was so successful in the competition,” said his Battalion CSM, Gregg Ludlow. “His dad recently retired from the Utah Guard, and his brother was in the same unit he was. These ties are what make the Guard so strong.”

SPC Clancy Henderson, representing U.S. Army Forces Command, won Soldier of the Year; and SFC Aaron Beckman, representing U.S. Army Europe, is the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. ■

PHOTOS: SPC Guy Mellor, B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, competes at the Army’s Best Warrior Competition at Fort Lee, Va., where he represented Utah after being named the National Guard 2009 Soldier of the Year.



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23rd Army Band Commander Retires After 43 Years of Service

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — Chief Warrant Officer Jay “Mike” Cottam, commander of the 23rd Army Band, retired Sept. 24 after spending his entire 43-year military career in the unit.

A Saratoga Springs resident, Cottam joined the Band in 1966 and has commanded the unit since 1998.

At a concert held July 3 at Brigham Young Memorial Park in downtown Salt Lake City, Cottam officially relinquished command to WO1 Denny Saunders.

Cottam’s last official duties in the Band were to lead his Soldiers as they provided the music at Governor’s Day held at Rice-Eccles Stadium Sept. 19.

In his civilian occupation, he retired in 2007 as an educator and trainer with Alpine School District. During his teaching career, he was honored with the U.S. Department of Education recognition for outstanding achievement in drug and alcohol education, the Alpine Excellence in Teaching award and the Utah State PTA Friend of Children award. In 2006, he received the prestigious Utah National Guard Minuteman Award for four decades of outstanding military service to his country.

Cottam began his career on the clarinet, became a percussionist and spent the last several years as conductor of the Band.

Turning the reins over to Saunders, Cottam has no reservations whatsoever about where the new commander will take the Band.

“He’s not a drummer; he’s a real musician,” said Cottam with a smile, talking about his replacement, a full-time band teacher at South Hills Middle School in Riverton.

Thinking back over his long career, Cottam admits he thought often of the day he would hang up the baton.

“Forty-three years ago I thought this day would come,” he said. “I told myself, ‘I’ll just do this until it quits being fun.’ And I’ve been waiting for the day when it would stop being fun, but it never has. That’s why they call it *playing* music, because we play.”

Cottam has traveled all over Utah and throughout the world, inspiring audiences with his energy and personality as much as his music. He is well known for his impersonation of March King John Philip Sousa, right down to the accent, false goatee and vintage band uniform.

One of Cottam’s fondest memories is a recent trip to Germany where the Band performed for Troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“A big, tall first sergeant with his troops came up to me while we were playing on the tarmac,” recalled Cottam. “He said, in tears, ‘I have come home a lot of times, and I have never had an Army band play for me.’ It was a wonderful thing to know how much military music means to someone who has been of service to their country.”

As acclaimed as Cottam is, however, he is quick to shift the credit for his success to his Soldiers.

“A conductor makes no sound; it’s those 45 Soldiers in the Band who make the music,” he said.

And it’s those boys (and girls) in the Band he will remember most.

“I look at old pictures of the Band and I can name every person,” said Cottam. “It’s been humbling to create musical sounds that have lifted people’s hearts. It’s made me appreciate the power of service and the power of music.”

BELOW: At their change of command, WO1 Denny Saunders and CW3 Mike Cottam exchange a salute.



BELOW: The 23rd Army Band performs at Brigham Young Historic Park in Salt Lake City July 30.

ABOVE: COLEd Gundersen, 97th Troop Command, thanks Cottam for his service to the Band.



Utah Guard Supports Spanish Fork Flag Retirement

Story by SSG Scotten Whaley

SPANISH FORK, Utah – **A**s Taps played in the background, members of Utah Army National Guard slowly lowered the 30-by-50-foot American flag from its staff July 20 and silently carried it over to the pyre burning in the center of Spanish Fork Fairgrounds. Soldiers placed Old Glory over the coals and saluted as she began to burn.

According to U.S. Code Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 8 (k), “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

For each of the last 11 summers, Spanish Fork City has held an official flag-retirement ceremony where local citizens bring in flags no longer fit for display to be retired in the proper manner.

Members of C Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, appropriately retired hundreds of U. S. flags at the ceremony. They were assisted by local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who carried the flags to the pyre while clutching the folded national emblem to their chests. Scouts marched across the fairgrounds

Photos by SSG Brock Jones and Ileen Kennedy

and handed flags to the artillerymen. Taking each flag in both hands, Soldiers made an about-face and took a few steps toward the flames. They deposited the flags in the fire and saluted before returning to their position on the line.

For nearly 20 minutes, Scout after Scout brought flags to Soldiers. As the last Scout carried the final flag to the pyre, those in attendance had a moment of silence for all those who had died in service of the nation. The ceremony’s grand marshal then handed over a brand-new flag to C Battery’s Commander, CPT Gary Bartholomew, who in turn gave it to his Soldiers to hoist. A trumpeter from the 23rd Army Band played Reveille as the new flag was raised and citizens who gathered for the event recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The hour-long ceremony included a keynote speech by CPT Keir Scoubes, commander of Headquarters Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist), describing their deployment to Afghanistan in 2008. In his civilian employment Scoubes is a fifth-grade schoolteacher in Spanish Fork.



Scoubes began his remarks by quoting the Preamble to the Constitution. “[These principles] give us direction as to how we may live our lives to fully enjoy our inalienable rights of ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,’ as stated in the Declaration of Independence.”

As the event fell on the 40th anniversary of man’s first walk on the moon, CPT Scoubes recalled President John F. Kennedy’s words when he asked the Nation to send a man to the moon.

“We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things,” said Kennedy at the time, “not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

“[While] it was hard, I was blessed with the opportunity to serve my country, my God and my ... community in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Scoubes, reflecting on his two difficult deployments in two theaters of war in the last five years.

He said all the Veterans’ and Scouts’ service to their nation and communities are shadowed and supported by the National Colors. It is the flag that provides a constant reminder of what it means to be an American.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were the Spanish Fork Fiesta Days grand marshals Jack and Deanna Swenson, Fiesta Days chairman Brad Gonzales, and event organizer Mark Harrison. Members of the Spanish Fork city council and the Spanish Fork City royalty were also seated on the flatbed trailer-turned-stage. Fred Mason and Thad Jensen represented the American Legion as the State commander and Pass commander, respectively. And from the Utah National Guard were the Assistant Adjutant General – Army BG Jefferson Burton, and CSM Bruce Summers.

Jensen was instrumental in the initial organization of the event 11 years ago and was honored by the Spanish Fork city council and the American Legion with both a plaque and certificate of appreciation.

It was an inspirational event, and Scoubes may have best summed up the evening’s activities with these words:

“Our Star-Spangled Banner has been a symbol of these duties and obligations we have for each other,” he said. “She has proudly waivered over this land and helped us to set our sights higher. She has been a comfort to the Soldier in foreign lands, a guide to masses for liberty and a beacon for truth and freedom for all. May we honor her tonight as she is retired and new flags brought forth throughout our community to stand watch.”



OPPOSITE PAGE AND ABOVE: Hundreds of American flags are retired by Utah National Guard Soldiers from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, as well as Cub and Boy Scouts at the Spanish Fork flag-retirement ceremony July 20.

Family Assistance Centers (FAC)

Family Assistance Centers provide “one-stop shopping” and resources to help family members cope with any issue they encounter as a military dependent.

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Region 2	Region 6	Armories
Region 3	Region 7	FAC Locations
Region 4	Region 8	

Utah FAC Locations	
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3 • West Jordan	(801) 816-3406
4 • Draper	(801) 432-4902
2 • Riverton	(801) 878-5037
4 • Orem	(801) 722-6913
5 • Spanish Fork	(801) 794-6011
7 • Richfield	(435) 835-5241
7 • Manti	(435) 896-4326
6 • Cedar City	(435) 867-6513
8 • Blanding	(435) 678-2008
9 • St. George	(435) 986-6705

Utah's New Commander in Chief Meets Troops on Governor's Day

Story by AIC Emily Hoferitza and AIC Lillian Chatwin

SALT LAKE CITY — **D**uring the 56th Annual Governor's Family Day event, approximately 6,500 Utah Air and Army Guardsmen marched in a parade at Rice-Eccles Stadium at the University of Utah Sept. 19.

In observance of this time-honored military tradition, Air Force squadrons and Army battalions lined up across the football field for review and inspection by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, MG Brian Tarbet and BG Michael Liechty.

In his address to the Troops, Gov. Herbert said the units were an awesome sight and he felt honored to be at the event. He also extended his gratitude to the Utah National Guard.

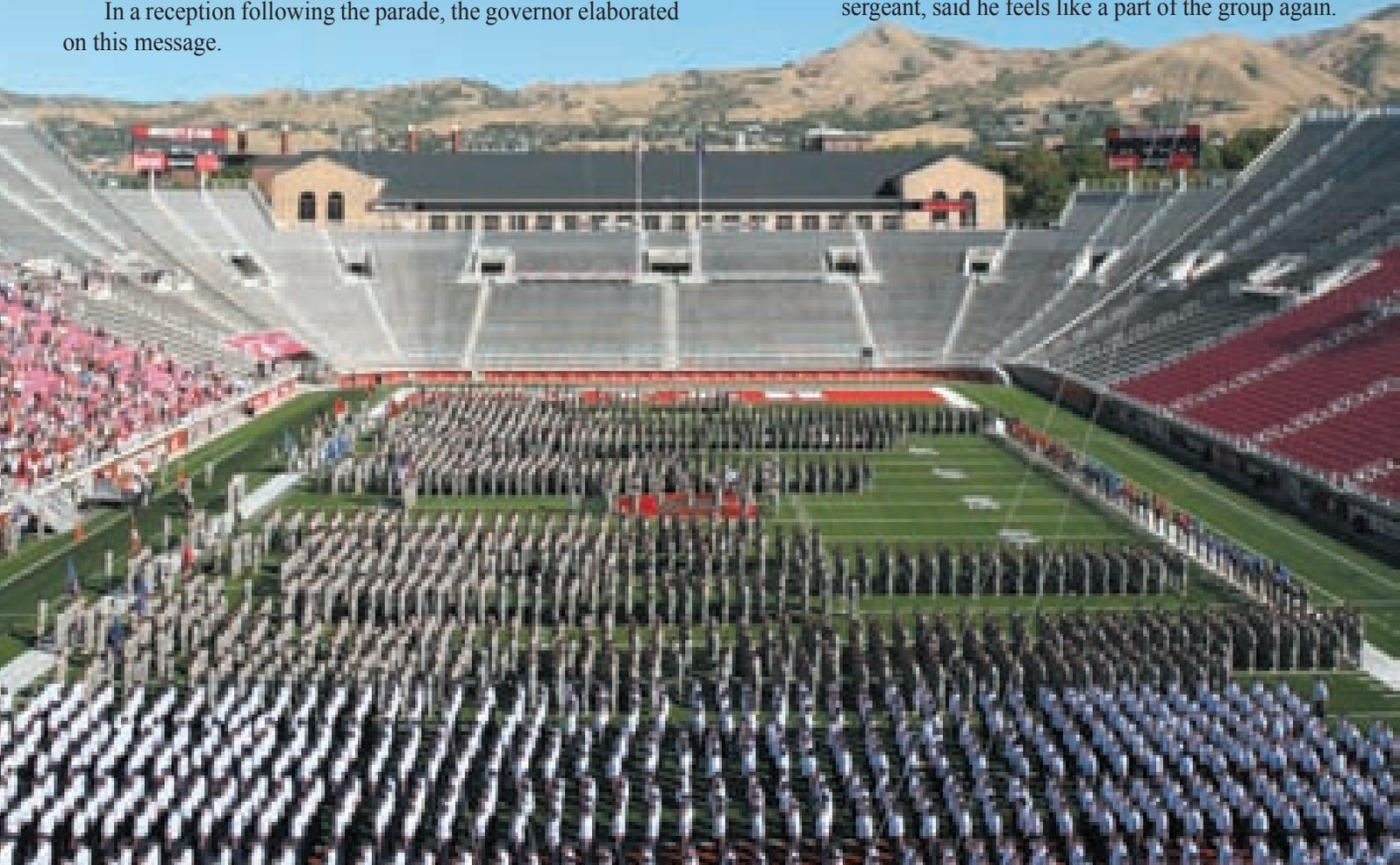
"As Utahns and as Americans, we cannot, and we will not forget the sacrifice you and your families make to support the mission of the National Guard," said Herbert

In a reception following the parade, the governor elaborated on this message.



"We can't thank you enough," said Herbert. "I know the importance of military service. It is something we as Utahns and as Americans appreciate, and sometimes take too much for granted. We need to make sure that you have the equipment, the training and the leadership to be successful wherever you are deployed."

Herbert, who served as a member of the Army National Guard from 1970 to 1976 as staff sergeant, said he feels like a part of the group again.





“I feel like I’ve been activated again – now as commander in chief,” said Herbert. “It’s an honor I don’t take lightly. I know we have such wonderful men and women here serving, and to be numbered amongst their ranks is a terrific honor – really one of the greatest honors I’ve ever received.”

Several outstanding Airmen, Soldiers and units were recognized at the Governor’s Day celebration.

Alyssa Brown, daughter of MSgt Mike Brown, 109th Air Control Squadron, was recognized for her 2009 Air National Guard Youth of the Year award.

Additionally, the 299th Range Control Squadron “Clover Control” flag was ceremonially retired after 40 years of service in the Utah Air National Guard.

Following the parade and ceremony, Guard members and their families enjoyed several fun activities, static displays and food booths.

Bill Dunlap of Sandy, Utah, an Army veteran of 42 years, expressed his gratitude to the National Guardsmen.

“I commanded a National Guard unit in Vietnam,” said Dunlap. “I believe our strength and strong national defense would not be there without the Citizen-Soldier. We could not have withstood the assaults that we’ve had otherwise. It’s that simple.”

TOP DOWN: Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, MG Brian Tarbet and Utah National Guard senior leaders salute Airmen and Soldiers during a Pass and Review. Governor Herbert congratulates Alyssa Brown, daughter of MSgt Mike Brown, 109th Air Control Squadron, for her 2009 Air National Guard Youth of the Year award. Utah National Guard 23rd Army Band performs for the crowd at Governor’s Day. OPPOSITE PAGE: Two KC-135s fly with booms lowered over Rice-Eccles Stadium during the annual Governor’s Day event.

*Photos by SGT Shana Hutchins, SFC Stacey Berg, SSG Whitney Houston
Photo opposite page by CPT Wencke Tate*

Operation Military Kids on the Great Utah Road Tour

Story by Deborah Ramsay

MOAB, Utah — **T**hanks to a partnership with Operation Military Kids (OMK), this year’s Great Utah Road Trip (GURT) expanded to include 70 youth from the Utah National Youth Council, Moroccan Youth Exchange program and several 4-H youth leaders. OMK is a national program designed to help military youth deal with the deployment of a parent or loved one.

“OMK decided to participate in this year’s road trip to provide opportunities for more children to attend by giving out grant money,” said Connie Packer, Operation Military Kids program coordinator. “OMK also decided to participate to get to know the youth better and to gain friendships with each one of the kids to show support.”

Differences in language, location and labels faded into the background as youth boarded buses headed for the red-rock canyons of Southern Utah. During the first day in Moab, youth left modern conveniences behind to start a two-day rafting adventure on the rust-colored Colorado River.

“My favorite moment on the trip was when we were on the river,” said 17-year-old Rachel Green. “We were all having water fights and trying to push everyone in.”

The purpose of the trip was to let the military kids get to know each other and have some fun.

“They made new friendships,” said Packer. “They worked together on the river learning how to be a team on their boats.”

After stopping on a beach for the night, the youth used the time for games and talking.

Utah Guard Trains with Morocco Military

Story and photo by SFC Scott Faddis

RABAT, Morocco — Utah is in the sixth year of the State Partnership Program with the Kingdom of Morocco. Both countries benefit from the mutual exchange of ideas and culture. In 2009, Utah and Morocco supported six different missions to include medical missions, engineering missions, disaster response, and Pandemic Disease Control taught by Utah state medical professionals.

Morocco is currently in the process of purchasing 24 F-16s from the U.S. government.

According to Moroccan Maj. Gen. Ahmed Boutaleb, Inspector of the Royal Air Force, “We chose the F-16s not only because of the planes, but also because of the repair program that comes along with the planes.”

The Moroccan Air Force is requesting air-refueling training missions with the Utah National Guard. “We need practice with the boom,” said the Boutaleb. “We need some help from you in terms of air refueling with the KC-135.”

“Eighty percent of what our KC-135 crews do is boom operations,” said MG Brian Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general to his Moroccan counterparts. “When you get new airplanes in 2011, I hope they are following a Utah tanker across the Atlantic.”

For the U.S. Navy, planes are typically refueled using a basket that the pilots fly the nose of the plane towards, and the



ABOVE: MG Brian Tarbet walks with MG Ali Abrouk as the Moroccan military stands in formation.



LEFT: MG Brian Tarbet (center) meets MG Ali Abrouk, commander of the Moroccan Health Department.

“My friends and I definitely always talk about deployments,” said Green. “It’s a big part of our lives and no one really understands what we go through but other military kids.”

The rest of the trip gave youth new experiences and greater understanding of the Utah landscape, history and each other. After five days, youth had enjoyed and endured many miles and smiles, but they were ready for their own beds and the familiar faces of home.

Sixteen-year-old Jessica Bills shared her mixed feelings on the last day of GURT.

“I was glad to go home because I was worn out and tired,” said Bills. “But I didn’t want to go home because of the atmosphere. Everyone is accepted. My friends at home don’t know how it really is because they haven’t gone through it, but GURT is another opportunity to connect with other people on a daily basis who are going through the same thing you are.”

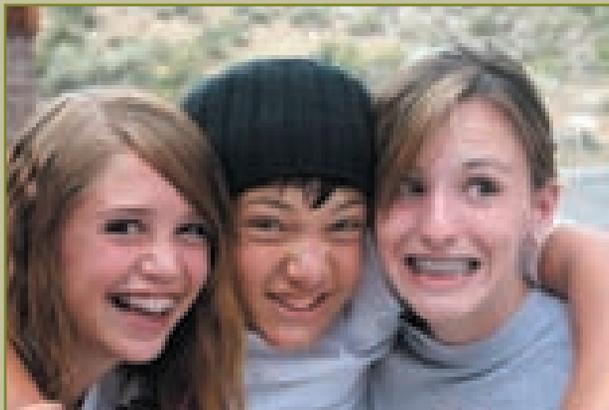
Kelly Barnes, UTNG youth coordinator and trip organizer, was glad to return all youth safe and sound to their parents.

“This was our biggest trip ever,” said Barnes. “Safety was my top concern, but fun came in a close second.”

“The teens that participated in GURT benefited greatly from this road trip,” said Packer. “They got a break from the stresses of their situations at home, and they got to see parts of our state they had never seen before. I am very happy I represent OMK and I am very glad to have been of service to America’s finest kids.” **E**

The visit was offered through Operation Military Kids, an organization created by the U.S. Army to work with local communities to help support children and youth who are impacted by military member deployments. In Utah, OMK offers children and youth of all the military branches many opportunities for support and recreation.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Ashley Whimpey, Tyson Roberts and Nikki Mullins bond on the Great Utah Road Tour.





TOP CLOCKWISE: MSG Ron Moody works with Moroccan firefighters running fire hoses and hooking up to a fire truck. Moroccan military trains with a Utah Engineer in search-and-rescue techniques.

suction creates the seal when refueling. The U.S. Air Force planes use a boom system that a boom operator controls to create the seal and send the fuel into the air plane.

“We have the basket but no booms,” said Boutaleb.

“I hope we are acting as good listeners and good students,” said Tarbet. “We have a lot to learn from our Moroccan partners.”

Utah also has a lot to teach our Moroccan partners. Our technology allows us to track pandemic diseases and provide up-to-the-minute information on the spread of disease. Dr. Don Wood from Utah’s Bureau of EMS and Preparedness gave the Moroccan Military’s Medical Department including Inspector of Medical Services BG Ali Abrouk, a briefing on the H1N1 flu.

Dr. Sundwall provided the latest on the spread of the H1N1 virus. At the time, Morocco had six confirmed cases of H1N1 and was very concerned about the possibility of a widespread pandemic flu outbreak.

The Moroccan military and the Utah National Guard share the similar responsibility of providing disaster response. The Moroccan military has more experience in response than the Utah National Guard because they are the primary and first responders and have in recent years had to face both fires and a major earthquake.

“The American-Moroccan friendship dates back to the late 18th century, and it has not been interrupted,” said LTG Bennani.

“We are still young by Moroccan standards where they measure time not in decades but in dynasties,” said Tarbet. 



ABOVE and LEFT: Moroccan Mountain Infantry Soldiers in Oukaimeden demonstrate some of their rescue skills. Photos by COL Mark Zodda

19th Special Forces Soldiers Welcomed Home



*LEFT: A Chinook helicopter lands at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Qalat.
TOP DOWN: SGT Michael Begaii gives a gift to a young boy in Afghanistan. SFC Lucas Evans and a military working dog at Kandahar Airfield prepare for a tactical ground movement.*

Story by SSG John Etheridge

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) welcomed home 46 Soldiers from their Headquarters and Group Support companies who returned from mid July to early September after a year-long deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Soldiers were mobilized last October to give administrative, signal and various types of combat support to 3rd Special Forces Group in Afghanistan.

Upon mobilization the Soldiers were sent to the High Desert Special Operations Center in Nevada, where they joined their active-duty counterparts from 3rd Group.

“In Nevada we were able to meet and integrate with the Soldiers we were going to work with on the deployment,” said SFC Lucas Evans, senior personnel noncommissioned officer with HHC, 19th Special Forces Group. “We also learned the proper ways to interface with our higher headquarters at Special Operations Command.”

In early November, after spending two weeks in Nevada, Soldiers shipped out to Camp Atterbury, Ind., for premobilization training.

Training at Camp Atterbury consisted of basic combat soldiering skills, Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle training, and Special Forces Basic Combat Course, a requirement for support personnel assigned to 3rd Group.

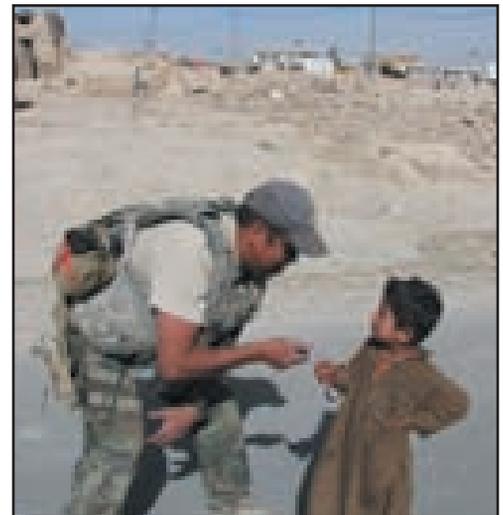
During the first two weeks of January, Soldiers deployed in small groups to Afghanistan. The majority of Soldiers from the 19th were stationed at Bagram Airfield and supported the 3rd Special Forces command center. Remaining Soldiers supported 3rd Group Special Forces teams at various other bases around Afghanistan.

“My team was very fortunate, we had a lot of active-duty experience and several deployments among us, so we were able to blend in seamlessly with 3rd Group,” said MSG Edward Bailey, a signal-intelligence team leader with Group Support Company, 19th Special Forces Group.

The signal team also played an integral part in helping set up the Afghan Public Protection Program in Wardak Province, located in central Afghanistan.

“The program is a type of “neighborhood watch” program to help Afghans in remote areas protect their villages and ensure law and order for their communities,” said Bailey.

After spending approximately seven and a half months in Afghanistan, Soldiers with the 19th began to redeploy home to Utah, ending their successful attachment to 3rd Group.



“We did so well on our deployment that one of the Special Forces company commanders said he wanted to adopt our team and bring us back to 3rd Group,” said Bailey. ■

2009 EANGUS National Conference

Story and photo by CSM Derek Dimond

ROCHESTER, Minn. — **T**he National Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) conference was held this year in Rochester, Minn., Aug. 8-12. Utah had 30 local-chapter members attend this year.



Utah National Guard Soldiers march in the EANGUS conference parade in Rochester, Minn., Aug. 8.

The conference kicked off with a parade through the middle of Rochester featuring Soldiers from almost every state. Utah Soldiers carried their home-state flag and the colors of each of the major commands in the Utah National Guard.

Some of the distinguished guest speakers at the conference included Chief of National Guard Bureau Gen. Craig McKinley; Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth Preston; Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Roy and many others.

State delegates passed 25 resolutions during the conference. Some of the more notable included TRICARE for “Gray-Area” retirees, elimination of BAH II, tax credits for employers of National Guard Members, compensation for distance learning, concurrent pay of military and disability pay, reduction of age for retirement; military technician enlistment bonuses, and extended Space-A travel for Guard members. **E**

Camp Williams Food Services: Changing How We Do Business

Story by MSG Kim Shane Peterson

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he National Guard is going through changes when it comes to food service. As a state, we are starting the process once again to get back to Soldiers Supporting Soldiers. We are able to support our food service needs by giving our Soldiers a solid, well-balanced and tasty meal.

We have made great strides to meet this new challenge by replacing the contract system at Camp Williams with a military support system, funded mostly by the 640th Regional Training Institute. This change has greatly improved quality and Soldier readiness throughout the state. Currently many states are looking to Utah as an example to make changes in their food service programs that could meet possible budget shortfalls. In changing the way we service Soldiers, we are better prepared to support ourselves and our communities if called up to do so. **E**

Camp Williams serves hot meals seven days a week.

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48th Annual Minuteman Awards

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

Photos by Greg Cullis

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Adjutant General, MG Brian Tarbet (right), and Honorary Colonels Corps commander, retired Brig Gen E.J. “Jake” Garn (left), present Bronze Minuteman awards to the 48th annual Minuteman Awards Dinner recipients for their individual devoted service to and leadership among the citizens of Utah. The event was held at the Grand America Hotel June 10. 

Mrs. Terry Ogborn, an educator, has been an advocate for at-risk students for over 25 years. She is well known in Utah for going to great lengths to provide students with the support needed to obtain an education. She was on the original committee which developed the guidelines for Millcreek High School, an alternative school in Washington County. She was appointed as its principal when it opened in 1986.



Dr. Michael Ballam’s operatic and recital career spans four decades. He has performed in the major concert halls of America, Europe, Asia, Russia and the Middle East, with command performances at the Vatican and the White House. His operatic repertoire includes more than 600 performances of more than 70 major roles. He is a professor of music at Utah State University and an accomplished pianist and oboist.

Honorary Colonel Paul Swenson has co-owned and operated Colonial Flag for 25 years. He is responsible for the creation of the Healing Field, a field of flags to honor those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks or who died fighting the War on Terrorism. He was the 2004 recipient of the George Washington Medal of Honor awarded by the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge for his contribution to encourage patriotism.



Mr. Kim Robinson is president of Robinson Transport, Inc., in Salina, Utah. His company provides \$1,000 a month to its Citizen-Soldier employees who serve their country in deployments around the world. Robinson sponsors community, school and civic events of all kinds. In 2008, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the highest honor given to an employer by the U.S. Government for service and contributions to members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Mrs. Jill Stevens Shepherd deployed to Afghanistan in 2003-2005 as a combat medic in the Utah National Guard, earning five medals for her outstanding service, and was the first female to complete the inaugural Afghanistan Marathon. She earned the highest fitness award during Army Basic Training. In 2007, she was crowned Miss Utah and later competed in the Miss America pageant in 2008, where she was named “America’s Choice” as one of 16 finalists.





General Robert Voyles retired from the Utah National Guard in 1997 after 34 years of service. He was then appointed as Director of the Fort Douglas Military Museum. In 2000, he was assigned by Governor Leavitt to command the Utah State Defense Force and promoted to brigadier general. Voyles, with the support of National Guard Bureau, organized a Museum Advisory Council that provides information on Guard museums nationwide and assists the Bureau in developing policy and support for them.

Utah Guard Member Named National Army Band Reserve Component Soldier of the Year

Story by SGT Andrew Howells

WEST JORDAN, Utah — Utah Army National Guard's SPC Karri Leigh Davis was the first Guard member to win National Soldier of the Year during the Army Band Reserve Component Soldier of the Year competition held in April.

Davis, who plays clarinet for Utah's 23rd Army Band, competed against all other Soldiers in the entire Army Band system. The ceremony, held at the U.S. Army School of Music April 22, took place during the annual Army band leader training.

Davis is from Rigby, a small town in southeastern Idaho. She is the seventh of nine children. Davis began her musical training on piano at the young age of four. After picking up the clarinet at 11, she soon became her school's youngest principal clarinetist.

During her high school years Davis studied with one of the area's most respected clarinetists. In high school and college Davis won competitions and placed in contests such as the Idaho Solo Ensemble Festival. Davis attended Idaho State University, where she obtained her Bachelor's degree in music, summa cum laude.

In 2006, Davis joined the Utah 23rd Army Band. She has performed as a soloist with the Band, the most recent of which being the Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto, which performance brought audience and fellow band members enthusiastically to their feet for a standing ovation.

Davis has also performed with the world-acclaimed Orchestra at Temple Square as the associate principal clarinet for the orchestra. This orchestra performs with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for their weekly radio and television national broadcast "Music and the Spoken Word"

Aside from being a member of the 23rd Army Band, Davis is now primarily a stay-at-home mother of two children.

"Her talent and devotion as a Soldier to the Army values

Photo by LTC Hank McIntire



SPC Karri Davis performs with the 23rd Army Band at Brigham Young Historic Park in Salt Lake City July 30.

is an asset that any commander would desire," said WO1 Denny Saunders, commander of the 23rd Army Band.

"Specialist Davis stands as an example to not only the members of our band, but to the entire Utah National Guard," added Saunders. 

Salt Lake City Hosts Air Force Week

Story by AIC Lillian Chatwin

SALT LAKE CITY — As 16 Utah mayors and city council members pace the floor of the KC-135 Stratotanker, the first flock of F-15 fighter jets arrive. One jet zooms up and paces alongside the KC-135 like a Lamborghini taunting a semi truck. Another jet sprints nimbly under the refueling tanker the way a Rolls Royce might approach a full-service gas station.

If luxury cars had the capacity to refuel from a tanker truck drive-by in the same fashion a fighter jet refuels from a tanker jet, then perhaps the spectacle these civic leaders were about to behold wouldn't be quite so impressive. However, this is only one of the unique jobs the Utah Air National Guard performs every day. And on June 2, these 16 civic leaders experienced a taste of the Guard's unique mission on a KC-135 orientation flight during Salt Lake City's Air Force Week, June 1-7.

Salt Lake City was one of only three cities across the nation selected to host the 2009 AF Week festivities showcasing America's Airmen. The purpose of AF Week is for the local community to meet the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Air Force. The Utah ANG assisted Hill Air Force Base in hosting the city-wide celebrations by providing aircraft and aircrews for flyovers and civic-leader events, as well as providing static and equipment displays at Pioneer Park, Hill AFB and other venues throughout the Wasatch Front.

During "Our Nation's Defenders Showcase" at Pioneer Park, the ANG supplied a recruiter station and two static displays: a low-profile boom truck that the 130th Electronic Installation Squadron uses to set up power lines and a Joint Incident Site Communications Capability demonstration tent. The two displays showcased the ANG's ability to respond during a natural disaster to quickly restore crucial communication lines.

In addition to the displays, the 151st Air Refueling Wing's KC-135 Stratotankers participated in several flyover events including a Salt Lake Bees baseball game at Spring Mobile Ballpark June 1, and on June 6 a Real Salt Lake soccer game at Rio Tinto Stadium and a patriotic concert at the Silver Lake Amphitheater.

The Air Guard also hosted KC-135 static displays at Hill AFB's Open House June 6-7. During the



The 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, hosts static displays of the KC-135R and the retired KC-135E during an open house at Hill Air Force Base June 6. The KC-135E was part of the UTANG's fleet for 30 years. Photos by TSgt Michael Evans

Chief Master Sgt Don Johnson, 151st Communication Squadron, talks with Scott Stein of Murray (left) and Kelly Dansie of Salt Lake City, about the Joint Incident Site Communication Center (JISCC) at Pioneer Park during Air Force Week June 1. The JISCC allows the Air and Utah Army NG to provide communications with multiple government and civilian agencies during times of disasters by linking multiple radio frequencies and phone lines at the same time. Pioneer Park in Salt Lake City was one of the locations for the public to meet and learn about the Air Force capabilities during AF Week.



Utah Cross Awarded to 116th Engineer Soldier

show the public toured two types of Stratotankers, an older 'E' model and the current 'R' model.

"We wanted to bring the 'R' model to the show to give people a sense of what we're flying so they can learn about what the Guard does," said Capt Zachery Love, a pilot with the 191st Air Refueling Squadron. "People enter [the display] not realizing this plane refuels other planes, but they leave knowing that."

But perhaps the most impressive event of all was the KC-135R model in flight during the air-refueling mission with the local mayors June 2.

Two by two, mayors dropped below deck into the boom pod during their orientation flight. They observed the operation by peering out the pod window at the rear of the Stratotanker as eight thirsty F-15Es from the Oregon and Idaho Air Guards attached to fill up with needed fuel. They watched lying flat on their stomachs, one flanking each side of TSgt Tony Kalakis, the flight's boom operator, who said it was fun to have an audience while doing his job.

"It's the best office window view in the world to be a boom operator," added Sgt Kalakis.

Michael W. Daniels, mayor of Pleasant Grove, saw the first jet to arrive during the flight and said he was impressed the way it came right up, pulled in, and "boom, it was done."

"I thought it was incredible the way the pilots and boom operator have to line up at 450 miles per hour to attach to the boom," he said.

This year's AF Week culminated with an aerial demonstration by the world-famous Thunderbirds at Hill AFB. The crowds cheered as the F-16s showed off their precision skills. With all of the flyovers, static displays and events, this year's event was quite a success for the Utah Air Guard. For more information on AF Week, visit www.airforceweek.af.mil. ■

Story by SSG Scotten Whaley

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **S**ergeant Phillip McClure was awarded the Utah Cross, the second highest medal the state of Utah can bestow, by Adjutant General, MG Brian Tarbet Sept. 30.

McClure received the award for his actions in September 2008 while commuting to work. Driving on I-15, McClure was passed by a classic truck that he admired as it went by. It was then that the truck went off the road, came back on, rolled, caught fire and settled upside down. The admiration quickly changed to automatic response and the need to help whoever was in the truck.

"After it came to a stop," McClure recounted, "I pulled over and ran to it. I unbuckled the driver and pulled him out the window and carried him over in front of my vehicle."

Flames engulfed the vehicle and McClure relied on his training and instincts to remain calm as he moved the man to safety. McClure said one of the few thoughts going through his mind at the time was, "I've watched too many movies where cars blow up, so 'oh, please, don't blow up!'"

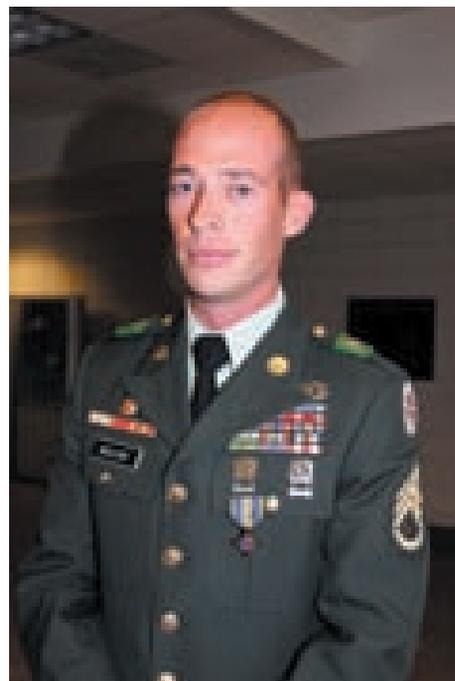
Other passersby also stopped to help and were directed by McClure. One man, trying to assist in moving the man further to safety, was having difficulty remaining calm and could not get a good hold of the victim and kept falling.

"I told him to calm down and take three breaths. 'We're just going to slowly walk away.'" The man calmed down and they were able to move the victim further away from the burning vehicle.

Once he administered first aid, McClure also directed others who stopped to help to search the area around the truck in case there were passengers who may have been thrown from the vehicle when it flipped and rolled. Fortunately, the driver was the only occupant. He also instructed those who had arrived with fire extinguishers to start putting out the vehicle fire.

McClure stayed with the man until first responders arrived on the scene and could take over the situation. After turning it over to them, he continued on his way to work. While his supervisors excused his tardiness, they commended him for his efforts and allowed him to begin his daily duties.

He received the Utah Cross for heroism. He had previously been awarded the Army Achievement Medal and four Army Commendation Medals. ■



SSG Phillip McClure received the Utah Cross at Camp Williams, Utah.

Photo by Ileen Kennedy

Live-Fire Artillery Open House at Camp Williams

Story by Ileen Kennedy

Photos by TSgt Kelly Collett

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he Utah National Guard invited citizens, public officials and the media to observe a Utah National Guard artillery exercise at Camp Williams June 3.

“We invited the mayors and city leaders to come out and see what this is all about when they get the phone calls from their patrons of ‘What’s that noise?’” said BG Michael Liechty, Utah National Guard’s Land Component commander.

The event coincided with Annual Training for the 450 Soldiers of Second Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, who conducted artillery exercises June 1-5. The last time such an exercise like this was held at Camp Williams was in 2003.

“At Dugway, it’s flat and open and not as challenging as Camp Williams for maneuvering,” said Liechty. “Camp Williams is a nice place to come and do this type of training.”

The training ground at Camp Williams is very similar to conditions that exist in parts of Afghanistan, one area where Utah National Guard Soldiers are currently serving.

“It’s critical to our readiness that our Soldiers continue to train and prepare for their wartime mission,” said LTC Hank McIntire, spokesman for the Utah National Guard. “And we also want to be good neighbors by ensuring that residents in the area of Camp Williams know ahead of time that there may be some noise that they don’t normally hear.”

Camp Williams observes restrictions where they cease live firing at 11:00 p.m. and resume the following morning at 5:00 a.m. Most of the time during the moonlight portion of the exercise a couple of flank guns shoot illumes in the air and then the guns fire rounds under them. The purpose of the illumes is to light up the area for the forward observers to get the coordinates for the targets and then fire artillery while the illumes are still up and they can see the rounds strike the impact area and readjust as needed.

TOP DOWN: A young visitor prepares for the firing to begin. CPT Michael Kjar explains the artillery exercise to civilian observers. Members of the Salt Lake City Police Department watch the firing during a break from their training at Camp Williams. Soldiers with the 222nd FA wait atop their Paladins for the artillery exercise to begin.



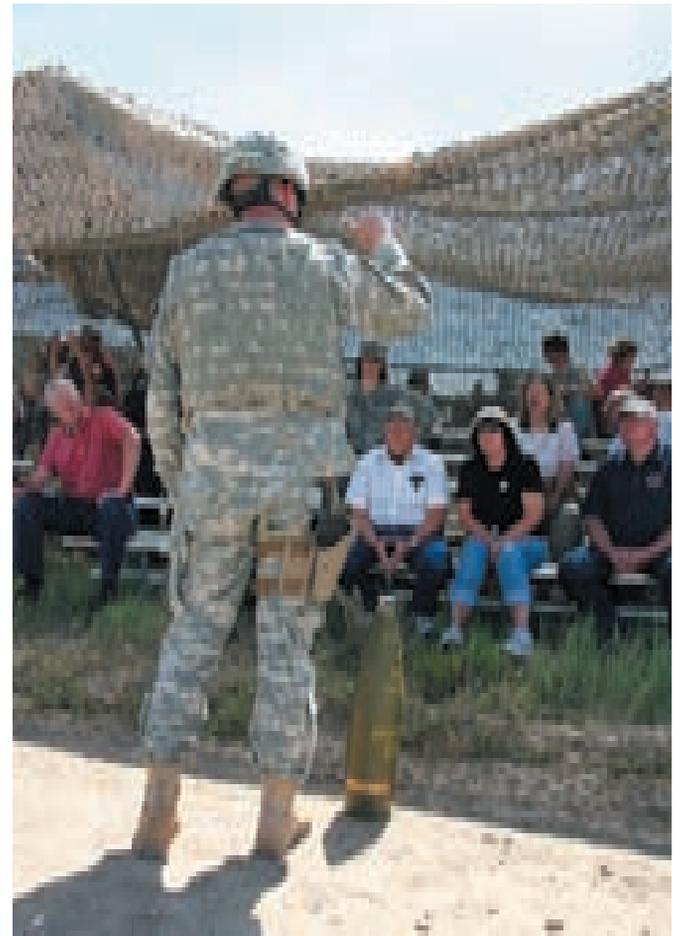


Troy Anderson, Salt Lake City Police Department detective expressed his feelings while watching the exercise. “It’s pretty impressive, and cool looking, that you can see the rounds shooting through the sky.”

The Utah National Guard begins notifying the public of these exercises well in advance so they are fully aware of what is causing the noise, rumblings and in some cases lights.

“We want to be good neighbors and we want them to be good neighbors as well and realize they are really close to this military-training facility,” said Liechty. “We don’t ever want to lose Camp Williams as a live-fire artillery range. That’s why we have invited the public out here today so they can really see and understand [the artillery rounds] when they hear that noise.”

First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, conducted similar training June 16-24, but the exercise was not open to the public. The two June exercises are events that are typically scheduled at Camp Williams every fourth or fifth year. 🇺🇸



TOP DOWN: The 155mm rounds are stored in a common ammunition transporter (CAT). PFC Austin Miller loads artillery rounds into the howitzers. Paladins with the 222nd fire on their target. Artillery rounds strike the impact area at Camp Williams. CPT Michael Kjar displays a 155mm artillery round during his visitor orientation at the artillery exercise.

Utah Air Guard Celebrates Family Day

Story by A1C Lillian Chatwin

Photos by SSgt Emily Monson

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah Air National Guard celebrated Family Day Aug. 1.

For the first time in three years, Utah Air Guard members brought their loved ones on base to enjoy Family Day, an event dedicated to families. The festivities included live music, food, activities for the kids, KC-135 refueling tanker flybys, aircraft static displays and numerous military and unit exhibits.

Families saw where Guard members work, got an idea of what they do and met their co-workers.

“Family Day gives units a chance to open up their houses and say ‘Here’s what we do,’” said Capt Bruce Lewis, 151st Air Refueling Wing budget officer and Family Day coordinator.

Master Sgt Mark Pendleton, 151st Mission Support Flight, expressed the importance of Family Day.

“The whole emphasis of the Air National Guard is family, and I think having an event like this not only helps them see what their spouses do, but it enables them to meet other Guardsmen and reinforces the whole Guard family.”

Pendleton’s wife Valita agreed.

“Family Day is important not only because it helps inform us about the job our spouses do, but because it helps us understand why our spouses have to leave once a month.”

Valita Pendleton also said the event was a lot bigger than she was expecting, and she was impressed with all the fun activities for the kids.

Coordinating this event took several months of planning with a large committee of volunteers from each squadron, and Lewis attributes the success of Family Day to the hard work of the committee.

“There were a lot of people who came in, even on the last hour when we really needed the help,” said Lewis. “They really stepped up and got everything done to make this a very successful event.” ■



ABOVE: Jared Thompson poses with tiger face painting and field gear at the Family Day event held Aug. 1 at the Utah Air National Guard Base.



BELOW: The Utah ANG Family Day celebration included live music, food, kids activities, aircraft static displays, KC-135 flybys and numerous military exhibits.



151st ARW Pilots Train NATO AWACS Aircrews in Germany

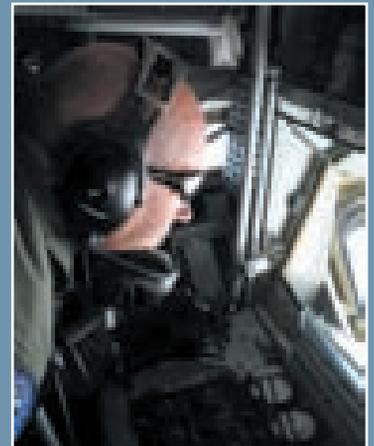
Story by Maj Krista DeAngelis

GEILENKIRCHEN AIR BASE, Germany — **S**itting in the dining room of the Hotel Jabusch, the Utah Air Guard KC-135 aircrew is all smiles as they reminisce about the day's mission that originated nearly 24 hours earlier in Salt Lake City and ended at Geilenkirchen Air Base, Germany. It's been a long, exhausting day, yet spirits are high as the group orders a variety of schnitzel to kick off their two-week training rotation to Germany.

For this mini-deployment, 35 maintenance and operations Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing made the 10-hour trip to Europe to provide critical air-refueling training to NATO E-3 AWACS aircrews stationed at Geilenkirchen.

"The ANGLO job is a three-year tour and a one-man show," McKinney explained. "I liaise between the NATO community here and the E-3 AWACS and the ANG KC-135 tankers. This operation has been going on for 15 years at GK and I'm the fourth full-time liaison. The job entails scheduling billeting, cars and basically anything you have on a normal deployment."

"The ANG has an 88-week contract to support the air refueling missions, so various Guard units rotate in and out on a two- to three-week basis," he continued. "The closest other unit the AWACS can use is Mildenhall, but because the operations tempo of the Air Force is so high, their KC-135s are used all over the place. The reason for the contract is because



PHOTOS: A Utah Air National Guard KC-135 tanker refuels a NATO E-3 Sentry AWACS above northern Germany July 29 during an air refueling training mission. The Utah Air National Guard deployed for a two-week rotation to Geilenkirchen Air Base in Germany to support the NATO AWACS missions.

Photos by A1C Lillian Chatwin

These multinational NATO crews were composed of 11 nations and were preparing to deploy downrange in support of the International Security Assistance Force. The 151st ARW is just one of several Guard units that deploy each year to help train the AWACS aircrews, which allows them to perform their airborne-surveillance and command-and-control missions. This year's training took place from July 26 through August 7.

Upon arrival at Geilenkirchen, also known as "GK," the group was met by the very outgoing and knowledgeable Air National Guard Liaison Officer, Lt Col Dave McKinney. McKinney was the full-time liaison poised to provide logistics and support at any time to Guard KC-135 crews deploying for the air-refueling training missions.

the AWACS community wanted dedicated air refueling for their crews."

While the primary reason for the contract may be training for AWACS crews, the KC-135 crews and maintainers also receive critical training they aren't able to get from flying and supporting stateside missions.

First Lt Dave Geerdes, a KC-135 copilot and a first-timer at GK, explains some of the challenges associated with flying missions overseas.

"What makes [the missions] demanding overseas is working with air traffic controllers with accents in their communications. We all speak English; however, sometimes things come out a little different, and it makes it a little bit challenging to understand exactly what it is. We learn a little

bit more about international relationships with the foreign receivers, and not knowing exactly what to expect from them keeps you on your toes.”

During the trip, pilots aren’t the only ones enjoying the location and cultural challenges. Maintenance crews are also having some fun of their own, not just with the local scenery, but with some of the aircraft’s batteries, parts and engine issues.

“This mission has been interesting, and we’ve had a few unusual occurrences,” said MSgt Clint Hutchings, one of the Wing’s maintainers. “Sometimes you get deployments where everything is smooth and nothing is out of the ordinary, but this allows us to exercise our maintenance [skills] that we’ve been taught back home and use it to fix broken aircraft.”

Engine and battery issues allowed the maintainers to utilize their supply system to acquire new parts from other bases, as well as enabled some of the back-shop specialists to troubleshoot some of the problems. With a variety of interesting challenges, the trip has enabled some of the Wing’s traditional maintenance Guardsmen to observe and deal with overseas maintenance issues firsthand.

“It’s been a great experience here,” said Hutchings. “The workload is light enough that we can bring new traditional Guardsmen and not overwhelm them. If we were deployed to a forward location, the workload there can be so heavy and so constant that it sometimes overwhelms them.”

And with the hard work and ingenuity of the Wing’s maintainers, the KC-135s have been able to successfully fly two missions a day during the first leg of the trip. Lt Col Boyd Badali, 191st Air Refueling Squadron’s director of operations, has benefitted from the fruits of Maintenance’s labor by flying several of the week’s missions.

“Today’s mission went great. We rendezvoused on time with the NATO receiver aircraft and got a lot of training,” explained Badali during the July 29 mission. “The rotation over here, just to sum it up, is fantastic training for everybody. We get the experience in deploying with the units. Both our operations and maintenance folks come overseas for vital training, and the legs back and forth are just as important for training for the flyers as the legs here. The base is set up great to take care of us, the facilities are good and it’s a win-win situation for everyone. I know the NATO AWACS are happy with us and its great training for the KC-135 Guard crews.”

Utah Guard’s 1993rd CCT Deploys to Kosovo

Story and photos by LTC Hank McIntire

DRAPER, Utah — **F**our Soldiers of the Utah National Guard’s newest unit, the 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team, departed Utah Aug. 29, en route to a year-long deployment to Kosovo.

The 1993rd, based in Draper, was created in the fall of 2008 along with National Guard counterpart units in 54 states and territories to meet the growing need to manage tactical- and operational-level U.S. Military contracts for goods and services in combat theaters of operations.

“The experience we gain on this deployment will help us be a resource for providing goods and services in a military setting,” said MAJ Chris Patterson, commander of the 1993rd. “It will also give us critical skills to be a resource for first responders in the state in the event of a natural disaster or civil emergency.”

Members of the 1993rd will spend time training at Fort Benning, Ga., and Hohenfels, Germany, before arriving in Kosovo late this fall. 



BG Jeff Burton (far right) sends off the 1993rd CCT at the Salt Lake International Airport. LEFT TO RIGHT: MAJ Chris Patterson, commander; SSG J.D. Warby; ILT John Merlette and SPC Daniel Christensen.



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Biathletes Win **Gold** in Germany

Story by SFC Shawn Blanke

LANGDORF/REGEN, Germany — **B**raving sub-zero temperatures, continuous snow flurries and a race course so difficult that even the race director said it was too hard, Utah National Guard athletes brought home gold and silver medals from the Brigade International Military Ski Championships (IBSM) held in the mountains of Langdorf and Regen Germany, Feb. 16-20.

The IBSM is an international winter warfare competition which brings together more than 1,600 competitors from among the top military winter warfare teams in the world. These individuals and teams then square off for five days to compete for medals and bragging rights.

The 2009 IBSM included events such as Biathlon, Military Patrol and Giant Slalom. The 2009 IBSM included teams from eight different countries, including powerhouses Germany, Romania and Spain.

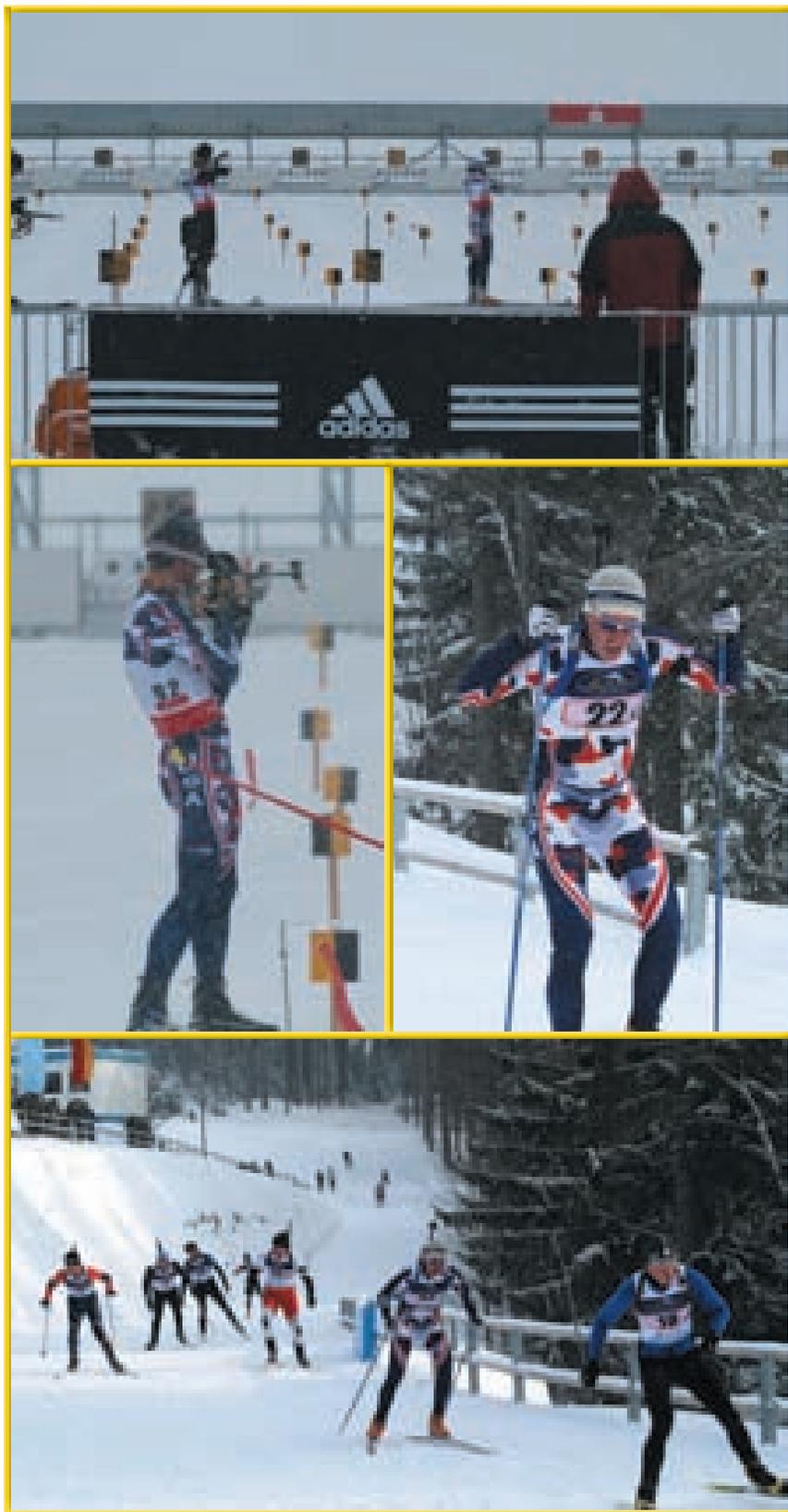
Each year, National Guard Sports selects from among the top winter athletes in the National Guard to represent the U.S. and the U.S. Military in international winter competitions such as the IBSM.

From the Utah National Guard, MSG Doug Bernard (19th SFG), SFC Gerald Robinson (RTI), SFC Shawn Blanke (19th SFG), SPC Brandon Adams (19th SFG), and Barbara Jensen (CIV-19th SFG FRG) were invited to compete as biathletes for the U.S. team. Unfortunately, Bernard and Robinson were not able to attend due to other Guard-related conflicts.

Utah biathletes faced a very challenging course in the first biathlon race of the event, a 10 kilometer Sprint which included prone and standing, the two shooting formats in biathlon. The weather turned ugly with heavy snows and a course that included long steep climbs and treacherous downhill sections.

“The sharp, hairpin turns on the downhill sections were the hardest part of the course,” said Adams “It was all I could do to stay in control on those sections.”

TOP DOWN: Competitors sight in their rifles at the firing line. MSG Doug Bernard shoots standing. SPC Brandon Adams crosses a bridge on the course. Biathletes begin the race.



Army Medic Credits Cyclist's 'Fight' for Keeping Him Alive

Story by Jed Boal

In spite of heavy snows, which made both skiing and shooting conditions difficult, two Utah athletes found themselves on the podium after the Sprint. Blanke combined a solid ski time with near-perfect shooting to win a gold medal in Division III (Masters).

Jensen, representing the 19th SFG(A) FRG as a civilian, competed as a "Guest" and responded by skiing a near perfect race and winning a silver medal in the "General" class. When asked about the race, Jensen said, "I really didn't expect to win anything in such a tough field, but I'll take it!"

Other U.S. team members also brought home medals during the IBSM. CW3 Andrew Busse (South Dakota) won a Silver medal in the Giant Slalom and a Silver in the "Triathlon," which is a combined Biathlon-Slalom event. TSgt Mike Zeigle (Wisconsin) and MAJ Wyatt Hansen (South Dakota) won gold in their respective classes in the Giant Slalom competition and Biathlon Sprint.

"The team did a great job at this event, working together and supporting each other in some pretty tough conditions," said Coach Don Strom (SGM-Retired, Montana) during closing ceremonies. "I think the U.S. military was very well represented this year at the IBSM."

The next stop for Utah Biathletes will be South America in August, where Utah biathletes have been invited to compete in the Intercontinental Military Ski Competition (Portillo, Chile) and the 10th International Military Ski Championships in Bariloche, Argentina. 

SALT LAKE CITY — Monday, August 24, brought better news about the cyclist who slammed into the back of an SUV in a charity race Aug. 22. Family members say Dave Collins of Mesa, Ariz., continues to recover each day and they are feeling very encouraged.

They are also very thankful for the efforts of an Army medic and others with medical training who helped stabilize Collins when he was losing a lot of blood.

When Collins hit the SUV, he was going about 45 miles per hour in American Fork Canyon while participating in the 1,000 Warrior charity bike race. He was cut from his jugular vein to his sternum. Friends on the scene feared he might die right there, but several people with the right training jumped in to help.

Sergeant 1st Class Brady Johnson says it was cyclist Dave Collins' own will and desire to live that kept him breathing.

A military medic and two EMT-trained riders tended to Collins' severe wounds while they waited for the ambulance. In addition to the severe bleeding, the Provo native broke his jaw and damaged a nerve in his shoulder.

Johnson of the Utah Army National Guard was headed up the canyon with his wife and two boys when he saw the chaos, pulled over and jumped out with his medical bag.

"It was pretty amazing, the fight that he had in him," Johnson said.

The Green Beret medic says he has never had to use his skills outside the military, but he says that's why they train.

"We didn't really understand how injured he was until we turned him over. Then we realized he had some big gashes on his neck and chest area," Johnson said.

He was impressed with Collins' ability to keep breathing even though he was unconscious.

"Through his own will and desire, he was able to continue to breathe, and we were able to stop the bleeding and keep him stable enough that the paramedics could get him out," Johnson said.

The Utah Highway Patrol says the driver of the SUV braked quickly to avoid a vehicle in the opposite lane. Collins and Steven Beck crashed into the SUV. Three other riders wrecked trying to avoid the vehicle; all of those riders are part of a Mesa cycling club that made the trip to Utah.

Earlier Monday evening, Johnson got a call from the Collins' family.

"Just to say thanks," Johnson explained. "And tell me he was improving and everything that they were hearing back was positive. That's always good to hear."

Johnson is still amazed that Collins survived.

"That was the most surprising thing about it. As you see some of the photos after of the vehicle and his bike and the severity of his wounds, how strong a person he must be physically and mentally to be able to continue to fight and breathe on his own," Johnson said.

The 1,000 Warriors bike ride is an annual event that raises money for scholarships for wounded war veterans and the children of veterans killed in action. It is held in conjunction with, but is not related to, the Tour of Utah.

The race was stopped to allow a medical helicopter to land. It resumed with riders crossing the finish line at Snowbird.

Collins underwent 14 hours of surgery and will have follow-up surgery Aug. 28, but they feel very encouraged. 

Reprinted courtesy of www.ksl.com

Utah Guard Leaders, Airmen and Soldiers Take an Unforgettable Staff Ride in Normandy



ABOVE: Soldiers and Airmen pause for a picnic lunch on Omaha Beach in Normandy Aug. 6. BELOW: Craters left by Allied naval gunfire at Pointe du Hoc. Photo by CPT DeAnn Trauba

Story by LTC Hank McIntire

BAYEUX, France — **S**oldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard spent an unforgettable week as part of a staff ride on the French coast of Normandy Aug. 2-7.

In this 65th anniversary year of D-Day, senior officers and enlisted men and women of the Utah Air and Army Guard, to include the 2009 NCOs and first sergeants of the year, toured sites associated with the June 6, 1944, invasion that turned the tide in favor of the Allies in World War II.

Staff rides are common practice in the U.S. Military, where Servicemembers travel to places of historical significance to study and apply lessons learned based on decisions made by military planners and opposing commanders on the battlefield.

While an overseas staff ride is a first for the Utah Guard, officials made sure to communicate with National Guards from other states that had taken similar trips and obtained every required authorization and approval for this mission from the Department of Defense, National Guard Bureau and Governor Huntsman's office.

To minimize travel costs, Utah Guard officials arranged the trip to coincide with a Utah Air National Guard refueling mission to Geilenkirchen, Germany. The aircrew flew a KC-135R Stratotanker from the Utah Air Guard Base in Salt Lake City directly to Cherbourg, France, dropped off its passengers and then picked up the group in Cherbourg a few days later on the way home. Participants further economized by following an itinerary that consisted of 12-hour days of site visits, terrain walks and leadership discussions.

In the end, the trip to Normandy represented a lower cost than sending the same number of Soldiers and Airmen to the Washington, D.C., area for the same number of days.

Prior to departure, the participants were asked to read *The Bedford Boys*, by Alex Kershaw, and *D-Day* by Stephen Ambrose.

Retired Army COL Steve Bowman, Ph.D., led the tour that included stops at each of the five D-Day beaches: Sword, Juno, Gold, Utah and Omaha, as well as other key locations and points of interest in Normandy.

“My job is to bring this Battle of Normandy to life for the group here and to take them to the historical spots and then help apply those lessons to what we can use professionally today,” said Bowman.

After the 10-hour flight from Utah the group began their tour right at the Cherbourg Airport by visiting a monument to the 9th Air Force, located just meters from the front door of the terminal. This memorial was but the first of dozens that the group would see during their stay in France.

The first two full days in Normandy, the group visited a number of historic sites to include these: Pegasus Bridge, Sword, Juno, and Gold Beaches, Arromanches, German Naval coastal defense batteries, 101st Airborne Division Landing and Drop Zones, Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the 82nd Airborne Museum, Utah Beach and La Cambe German Cemetery.

One of the areas of focus for both the site visits and the evening discussions was the initiative and leadership shown by junior officers and senior NCOs when operational plans went awry, commanders became casualties or pre-invasion intelligence was incorrect or insufficient.

“The wars we fight now are so technical, we expect to bring everybody home,” admitted 1SG Jason Turville, 489th Brigade Support Battalion. “They didn’t have that back then. They expected to have casualties and that’s something I don’t think we’ve had to deal with, and we can learn from that.”

“There was some pretty gallant leadership at all levels of command up and down the ranks,” said Lt Col Paul Byrd, commander



Photo by MSgt Burke Baker



ABOVE: CSM James Sproul, 300th MI Brigade, at Pointe du Hoc. BELOW: Utah Beach and German coastal-defense batteries in Normandy. Photos by MSgt Burke Baker and MSgt Mario Reeve

of 151st Medical Group, as he stood overlooking Pointe du Hoc. “It’s proof positive that leadership isn’t a quality of rank; it’s a quality of character.”

After walking the beaches and cemeteries of Normandy, Airmen and Soldiers agreed that to achieve the fullest possible understanding of what took place on D-Day, it is necessary to see these locations in person.

“Leadership lessons are best learned on the ground as opposed to out of a book,” observed BG Jefferson Burton, Assistant Adjutant General – Army. “We had the privilege of doing some studying before we came, but to actually come here on the ground and look at what these leaders experienced is very instructive.”

“Coming here in person and seeing the actual battle sites, evaluating the terrain and analyzing the attacks is so much more

realistic and brings home the lesson of that war to today’s modern Soldier,” said CSM RaeLynn Oman, 97th Troop Command.

“You can read about these things forever, and you get a flavor, but until you stand on that ground and look up at those cliffs, you don’t realize what they really faced,” added Bowman. “I never cease to be amazed at the incredible bravery of these Soldiers who came ashore on all of these beaches. I look and I say, ‘How could they do that?’”

Planners intended for the activities of Aug. 6 to be the culmination of the staff ride with visits to Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery. To add to the solemnity of the occasion, Soldiers and Airmen dressed in their ACUs (Army Combat Uniform) and ABUs (Air Battle Uniform), respectively.

At Pointe du Hoc, the group meandered among craters left by Allied naval gunfire in the attempt to destroy the six German gun emplacements on the cliffs 100 feet above the shore, the same cliffs that U.S. Army Rangers scaled in mere seconds after landing on the beach below, explained Bowman.

As the bus took the group from Pointe du Hoc to its first stop on Omaha Beach, Bowman showed a clip from Steven Spielberg’s *Saving Private Ryan* to emphasize the extreme difficulties created by German obstacles and firepower as the Americans stormed the beach.

At Dog Green, the site of the landing of the unit described in *The Bedford Boys*, Utah Guard members paused for a group photo at the National Guard Memorial and paid their respects to their predecessors from Bedford, Va., and hundreds of other communities throughout the nation that lost their Citizen-Soldiers on D-Day.

As members of the group walked the beach or collected souvenir sand to take home, others reflected on their own family members who fought in Europe and who were personally involved in the invasion.

“Both of my grandfathers fought in this war—on this continent,” recalled Oman.

“My father flew with the 9th Air Force,” added Byrd. “He flew two missions on D-Day in a B-26, and they bombed the area that we’re in. It’s really hard to imagine being in a situation like that.”

Adding to the irony of the time and place, as Utah Guard members stood and listened to Bowman recount the fateful events of June 6 on that very shore, local residents could be





Photo by SSG Scott Faddis

seen fishing off the Omaha Beach pier, riding in sailboats, sunbathing or splashing in the waves.

“You come across a beach like this and it seems serene, but then when you think about the sacrifices made here and the youth – not just those

Photo by MSgt Mario Reeve

who died, but the youth that was lost – it drives it home,” said MSgt Mario Reeve, 151st Mission Support Group.

“I’m extremely humbled to wear the same uniform that these men wore,” added Burton. “What I take from this is the tremendous courage it took to cover that 300 yards of beach and have the fortitude to keep pushing and keep fighting.”

At the Normandy American Cemetery, which most Utah Guard members felt was the highlight of the trip, the uniformed group caused quite a stir as they toured the museum and the grounds. Visitor after visitor came up to ask Soldiers and Airmen to pose with them for pictures or to simply say *merci, gracias, danke, grazie, and thank you.*

The photographs of the fallen and the rows upon rows of white crosses and Stars of David were a sobering sight for many in the group.

“I feel the burden of responsibility here,” said Oman. “You feel reverent to be in a place like this. You realize that many of the people who died here, the weight of the world was on their shoulders.”

“I noticed a French mother as she was escorting her children,” said Byrd. “She told them to be quiet and whisper. It reminded me that other people feel the same [way]; it really is hallowed ground.”



Photo by MSgt Burke Baker



PHOTOS: Utah Airmen and Soldiers at the Normandy American Cemetery near Colleville-sur-Mer, France, Aug. 6.

Photos by MSgt Burke Baker

The cemetery director himself took the group on a tour of the grounds and shared the stories of the Medal of Honor winners buried there: BG Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 1LT Jimmie W. Monteith and TSgt Frank D. Peregory.

Rounding out the visit to the cemetery was the flag-lowering ceremony carried out by members of the Utah National Guard as they retrieved the Colors from the two main flagpoles at the center of the grounds. Two sets of eight Soldiers and Airmen lowered the flag, folded it and presented it to cemetery officials as hundreds of civilian visitors looked on. The cemetery director commented afterward that it was the finest, most respectful, well-organized flag ceremony he had ever seen there.

Observers were not the only ones who were moved by the ceremony.

“To be part of a flag ceremony at one of the most famous World War II memorials in the world – in Normandy, on my birthday – was a phenomenal experience for me as an individual and as a Soldier,” said Turville. 🇺🇸

Morocco Exchange

Story by Kelly Barnes

Photos by Linda DuVall



TOP DOWN: Utah National Guard youth toured a mosque in Casablanca. In Agadir, youth toured a shipbuilding yard. Youth pose with their Moroccan hosts after being treated to a camel ride. A little easier to ride than camels were the donkeys the youth rode to a desert oasis.

DRAPER, Utah — Utah National Guard Youth Program has been involved in a cultural exchange program with Morocco for the past four years. One aspect of the program is to host youth from Morocco, as well as send Utah Guard youth to their country. As the exchange program has evolved, it has given 24 youth from the UTNG Youth Program the opportunity to visit a country much different from their own.

This year youth traveled to Agadir, a small and very beautiful coastal town rich in history. Families gathered at the Salt Lake International Airport and said goodbye to their youth. Some 20 hours later, they landed in Casablanca and boarded a bus for a long journey to Agadir, a trip that included running out of gas twice on long, narrow roads through agricultural areas. After arriving in Agadir, youth were paired with their host families and left to get some much-needed rest.

The hosts had a busy and active schedule planned. The group traveled to Teroudant, Essouria and Marrakesh where each stop had its own unique feel.

Teroudant is an agricultural region where the “argon” nut is produced. It is one of two regions in the world that harvest this oil used in cosmetic applications. First stop was a visit to an apothecary where youth got to touch and smell many herbal remedies and lotions. Then a donkey trek to an oasis in the middle of the desert, followed by a fine traditional meal of couscous and tagine rounded out the day.

Marrakesh offered a unique look at the Moroccan culture. Inland and in the desert, Marrakesh is a diverse cultural city that is the last bastion before the Sahara desert. Marrakesh is one of the Royal Cities, meaning one of the kings had taken residence there. There were many mosques and historically significant buildings, as well as great shopping.

Essouria is a very laid-back city on the sea and is known for great windsurfing and fishing. Several hundred years ago it was a naval hub. Youth were treated to seafood and a tour inside the “medinah” or old city.

Agadir served as home base during their stay. The city was surrounded by the ocean to the north and mountains to the south and east. Agadir is a popular tourist stop for both Moroccans and Europeans who come via ferry and make the long drive to enjoy the city and its charm.

“Each year we travel to different regions in Morocco,” said Kelly Barnes, state youth coordinator. “We’ve visited Casablanca, Rabat, Meknes, Marrakesh and Fez over the past few years, and each city has something different for the youth to experience.

“This was one of the best trips we’ve experienced. The relationships forged by the youth with their Moroccan counterparts is the core philosophy of this exchange. It is essential for the youth to embrace the culture, as well as try to gain an understanding of a Muslim country and the Islamic faith. We are privileged to continue this exchange and look to make each trip better than the last. I am confident the youth have made friends that will last a lifetime.”

Youth traveling to Morocco must be part of the UTNG Youth Program. They must also be between the ages of 13-16 and host Moroccans when they come to Utah. If your youth, between the ages of 10-18, would like to know more about the UTNG Youth Program, please contact jon.kelly.barnes@us.army.mil for more information.

Sexual Assault Prevention Coordinator Works With Utah National Guard Soldiers

Story and photo by SGT Shana Hutchins

DRAPER, Utah — Awareness of sexual-assault prevention is on the rise in the Utah National Guard. An eight-percent increase in the number of reports last year shows Soldiers are becoming more aware of the program and more comfortable and confident in what the program can do.

“Soldiers are finally aware of the program and are starting to feel comfortable with going to victim advocates within the units,” said MAJ Bernadette Brockman, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Utah National Guard. “Knowing they have an avenue to go to, and it’s an avenue that they can trust, increases the reporting process.”

RIGHT: Major Bernadette Brockman, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Utah National Guard, talks openly regarding the importance of sexual assault prevention.



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This increased awareness is due to the efforts of victim advocates, commanders and chaplains throughout the Utah Guard who take the guidelines from National Guard Bureau and make sure they are put in place within the major commands. The program of training military members and its leaders about sexual assault prevention was implemented in 2003 throughout the Department of Defense.

Brockman is responsible for building the program and for training and recertification of the victim advocates. She took the position in April.

“My focus is to make sure that people know that victim advocates are established in the units,” said Brockman. “I want leaders to understand their roles and responsibilities regarding the program so they are protected and they can take care of their men and women.

She has been working with victims of sexual assault since 1999 and was a victim advocate volunteer at Montana State University.

According to Brockman, sexual assault prevention is a mission-readiness issue. Sexual assault degrades the mission effectiveness of the Soldier and has the potential to degrade the effectiveness of the squad, platoon and unit as a whole.

“If we can eliminate that or prevent sexual assault then we are helping all Soldiers and not just the victim,” she said.

The program provides two different ways for Servicemembers to file a sexual-assault report. The individual can request the report be restricted in which the commander will be informed of a sexual assault in the unit without identifying information. They can also request an unrestricted report where the chain of command is informed and a police report is filed. Both forms of reporting give the individual the right to see a doctor, receive counseling and other assistance.

“The bottom line is to let Servicemembers know they have choices, and we give them options to empower them to make their decisions,” said CPT Camille Smith, victim advocate and assistant operations officer, 97th Troop Command. “We preserve their privacy, and we can refer them to civilian centers, not just military.”

Brockman said the most important part of the program is victim advocacy and awareness training and said she has been very impressed with the support for the program from commanders. They

want the training done and they are asking what needs to be done, she said, and are finding people who want to be victim advocates.

“General Tarbet is very supportive and very proactive with the program,” Brockman said. “I am seeing a lot of support which is really good. It’s excellent when you get that from the highest levels and helps to make the job easier. General Tarbet does not just give lip service; he is really truly interested in the Soldier.”

Brockman said that when Soldiers become open to discussion about sexual assault prevention, that is when awareness starts to bloom.

“It needs to be talked about and it needs to be addressed. Hopefully it will bring about a cultural change because that is what we are wanting,” Brockman said.

“My goal, and I am so passionate about it, is to get the word out and to create a cultural change within the Guard,” she said. “One person can change somebody else’s point of view. Then that person has the potential to change others and so on and so forth. For me it’s about ensuring all Servicemembers are protected, and the level of awareness, training, prevention and cultural change is afforded to every military member.”

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Engineers Doing What They Do Best: Building Stuff

Story by SSC Scotton Whaley

HOHENFELS, Germany — **E**ach Utah National Guard Soldier is required to perform a two-week Annual Training (AT). In most cases, these ATs are part of a company or battalion exercise. Sometimes Utah Guard members stay close to home and simply train at Camp Williams for a fortnight, but then sometimes an opportunity arises where a unit may head to a distant location. Such was the case for the annual training of the 1457th Engineer Battalion.

From Aug. 29 to Sept. 19 more than 300 members of Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Forward Support Company, 624th Vertical Company and 116th Horizontal Company worked in Hohenfels, Germany.

Hohenfels is home to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC). The JMRC is a training area in southern Germany where units of all sizes go to train and prepare for international deployments. Countries from across Europe and NATO train at the installation. With all the units that come through the ranges in Bavarian forests and mountains, the facilities get more than their share of wear and tear. Construction rotations are essential to keep ranges and training grounds in good, operational condition.

Photos Courtesy of 1457th Engineers

BELOW: Members of the 624th Vertical Company work during their Annual Training to construct buildings at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

RIGHT: At Hohenfels, the 116th Horizontal Company improved parking lots and built roads for the Military Operations on Urban Terrain sites.



The 624th Vertical specializes in constructing buildings and structures. Their rotation included rebuilding some of the JMRC's Military Operations on Urban Terrain sites and adding stucco to multiple buildings. The 116th Horizontal's traditional focus is on road building, it repaired and expanded range roads and improved several parking lots on the installation.

Cooks and medics also stayed busy manning the dining facilities and troop medical clinics, while those in the maintenance sections kept busy sustaining vehicles and equipment.

Battalion executive officer, CPT Andrew Owens, said the unit has a great rapport with Hohenfels, and a standing invitation to return for another rotation.

"When we go there, we work long and hard. They [Hohenfels] got more work done and had fewer problems than with other units." One of the JMRC officers said the installation commander extends a return invitation to every unit, but he actually meant it with the 1457th.

The 1457th Engineers are now looking forward to their annual training next summer at Fort Hood, Texas. **E**

Biathletes Rescue Helicopter Crash Victims in Chile

Story by MSG Greg Rudl

ARLINGTON, Va. — **T**hree members of the National Guard biathlon team risked the threat of explosion and electrocution to help rescue victims of a helicopter crash Aug. 16 in Chile.

Utah Army National Guard members SPC Andrew Gelinas, SFC Shawn Blanke and MSG Douglas Bernard were in Chile to compete in the South American Biathlon Championships in the resort town of Portillo when a helicopter almost crashed on top of them.

As three Special Forces trained Soldiers left the Chilean Army Mountain School training facility in Rio Blanco after breakfast, they noticed two helicopters taking off from a nearby soccer field. One soon developed problems.

“We stopped and watched the two helicopters rapidly taking off and circling the airfield as they picked up speed and altitude,” said Blanke in a report.

The engine on the trailing helicopter emitted a loud pop followed by smoke from its exhaust port.

The struggling helicopter then careened toward them and two of the Guard members took cover, except for Bernard, who later said he didn’t have time. It crashed not more than 50 feet from where they were.

“My first thought after the horrible impact was that we would be doing nothing more than body recovery,” said Blanke. “I did not think that anybody could have survived that impact.”

“Bernard was very close to ground zero and immediately took charge of the crash site,” said Blanke.

Bernard told Blanke to go for help, so he ran to the medical clinic for an ambulance. On the way, he stopped a truck full

of Chilean soldiers and explained to them (in Spanish) what had happened and directed them to get an ambulance, fire extinguishers

and more Soldiers to help at the crash site.

Returning to the scene, Blanke noticed “fuel spilling all over the aircraft and the ground, and that the engine was not only still running, but increasing in speed.” He also saw the helicopter

Photos courtesy of SFC Shawn Blanke

had hit power lines and still had one of them wrapped around its tail.

With several Chilean soldiers, he grabbed an extinguisher and sprayed down the engine area, doing his best to step around power and telephone lines.

With the possibility of the helicopter exploding into flames, Gelinas and Bernard worked to extract the pilot and passenger.

At one point when Bernard attempted to get the passenger out of the back seat, he received an electric shock through his hands.

After removing the injured passenger, Bernard continued

to talk to him. Blanke and Bernard assessed the victim’s injuries and noticed his back appeared to be broken, though they could not find any evidence of external bleeding or other injuries.

They strapped him to a backboard and Bernard continued to talk to the victim and directed his evacuation down the snow-covered hill to the Chilean Mountain School’s medical clinic.

Both were later airlifted to a Santiago, Chile, hospital for treatment. Although severely injured, both victims survived and were expected to make a full recovery.

The helicopter was on its way to the race course after heavy snows made driving there difficult to impossible. On board were its pilot and an International Biathlon Union technical delegate from Sweden. 🇸🇪



Three 19th Special Forces Soldiers, (left to right) SPC Andrew Gelinas, MSG Douglas Bernard and SFC Shawn Blanke rescue two crash victims moments after the helicopter crashes in front of them.

Guardsmen Train at MAC 7 Event

Story and photo by SPC Ashley Baum

SALT LAKE CITY — Training Site Command maintenance specialist, SGT Tyler Nielsen's left hand tensely grips the cold, black plastic on his M16 rifle, while his right thumb cautiously rests near the metal safety switch by the rifle's trigger. Nielsen, along with 27 Soldiers and 10 Airmen, anxiously maneuvers his way through an open field in silence except for the crunching of sage brush under his feet.

The Rifle RT322 Rundown was one of five events National Guard Soldiers and Airmen competed in during the Regional Marksmanship Advisory Council. Seven states comprise the MAC 7 region: Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawaii and Guam. Camp Williams hosted the three-day annual event, which included teams representing Arizona, Nevada, California and Utah. Organizers of the event stressed that MAC 7 was more of a comprehensive training exercise rather than a competition.

MAC 7 opened with an advanced distance sharpshooter competition where two-man teams worked together to locate targets scattered throughout eight acres of field. One Soldier operated the weapon while the other provided an extra set of eyes as the spotter. The shooter had 20 minutes to hit 20 targets before switching positions with the spotter.

The Machine Gun MT300 shoot followed the sharpshooter event. Two-man teams had four minutes to fire 240 rounds with a 249 Squad Automatic Weapon at a target board consisting of eight banks, or groups. One target in each bank represented a POW. Five points were deducted from the team's score if the POW target

was hit. To achieve a high score, teamwork and bullet distribution was essential.

MAC 7 continued the following day with the Excellence in Competition (EIC) events. Individual competitors relied heavily on their personal skills and techniques during the EIC, which tested their expertise in rifle and pistol reflexive firing. During the Rifle RI300 Rundown, competitors started at the 300-yard line and engaged targets every 100 yards from various shooting positions, with each position receiving less shooting time than the last. Shooters received points based on a center mass ring system, similar to a bulls-eye, with the center ring worth five points.

The EIC Pistol PI200 involved shooters engaging targets from 15 yards with strict time limits from seven to four seconds and each time requirement becoming increasingly more difficult. Shooters received points for hitting targets using anti-body armor tactics: two shots to the body and one shot to the head.

"What's important about the pistol and reflexive fire is that this is urban-style tactics," said SSG Levi Boardman.

"Many real-world situations are urban combat; shooters need to train and build accurate muscle memory to engage targets (or enemy) at close range instinctively and react instantly by not spending extra time on sight picture and breathing."

The EIC events separate the top marksmen from the rest of the competitors. The top 10 percent of the participants in the PI300 and the PI200 earn "leg" points. Those who earn 30 points over their career in each discipline of pistol and rifle become a "Distinguished" Rifleman or Pistol Shot. Those who earn 30 points in both disciplines are known as "Double Distinguished."





“Less than one percent of the entire military are distinguished [marksmen],” said Boardman. “And only a very small fraction of those are double distinguished in both rifle and pistol.”

Utah has competed in the MAC 7 for nine years, and Soldiers continuously work on improving their own marksmanship techniques and skills. Marksmanship exercises like the MAC 7 are important in enhancing rifle and pistol skills. It’s critical for participants to not only take the event seriously, but to learn from their mistakes, so when they are downrange Soldiers will know how to effectively use their weapons during a mission.

“It’s amazing how much detail goes into these events and marksmanship that you don’t even think about,” says SPC

Julio Arevalo, Nevada Army National Guard. “Your breathing, your heart rate, and your aim all work together to shoot one single shot, and you have to learn how to control each factor to be successful in marksmanship.”

Arizona placed first with Utah close behind in second. MAC 7 first-timer, Nevada, came in third. Boardman said the Soldiers and Airmen performed well overall with multiple teams building good marksmanship training habits. ■

OPPOSITE PAGE and ABOVE: Competitors participate in MAC 7 events at Camp Williams. Arizona took first place, Utah second and Nevada third.

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Blackhawk Crews Assist in Search for Missing BASE Jumper

Story and photo by LTC Pete Adams

DELTA, Utah — **A**fter three days of intensive searching, Utah Army National Guard helicopter crews located the body of SSG LeRoy Buckley, a drill sergeant stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Buckley was on leave in the remote Notch Peak area approximately 50 miles west of Delta, Utah, when he went missing.

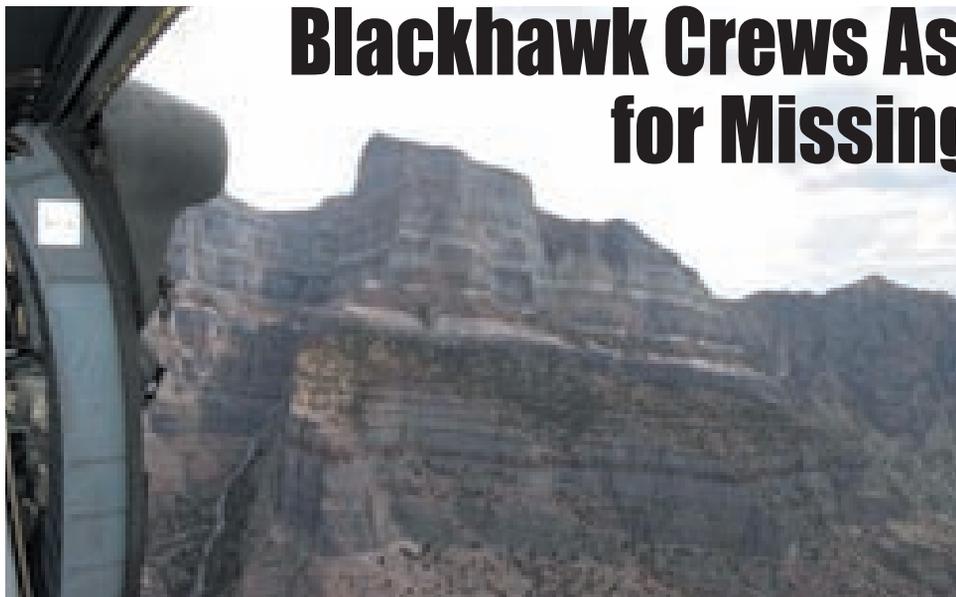
Buckley was hiking with Kurt Gregory of Twin Falls, Idaho, a fellow BASE (Building, Antennas, Structures, Earth) jumper when the two became separated Sept. 9. Physically exhausted from the climb, Gregory turned around before reaching the summit while Buckley continued to the top. That was the last time that Buckley was seen alive.

Gregory was subsequently rescued by a Department of Public Safety (DPS) helicopter flown by AH-64 Apache pilot, CW4 Steve Rugg, 1-211th Aviation.

In the ensuing days, DPS helicopters and search teams scoured the mountains from the ground and in the air searching for Buckley.

On Sept. 12, the Millard County Sheriff's office requested assistance from the Utah National Guard. The decision was made to launch two UH-60 Blackhawks from West Jordan, Utah, to assist in the search. LTC Pete

TOP DOWN: An AH-64 Blackhawk aerial view of the south face of Notch Peak, where multiple agencies worked together to recover SSG LeRoy Buckley. LTC Pete Adams, center, discusses areas searched by members of the Utah National Guard. A Blackhawk prepares to resume search efforts as it leaves the command center in Millard County.



Adams was the air-mission commander, he and CW2 Ken Hess immediately identified crews, and both aircraft launched within three hours of initial notification.

Initially, the local sheriff requested that the Blackhawks search an area 15 miles west of Notch Peak. An eyewitness reported seeing a man that fit Buckley's description wandering in this area. With this renewed hope that Buckley was alive, the search intensified. The two Blackhawks searched every square inch of those canyons and valleys. Crews hovered along cliffs hundreds of feet in the air while visually searching the entrances of caves for any sign of human activity. At the end of the day, the results were the same: no sign of Buckley anywhere.

The Millard County Sheriff requested National Guard support again the next day. With such an exhaustive search completed on Saturday, authorities decided to try Notch Peak again. Blackhawk crews were asked to focus on areas inaccessible on foot. The expectation of the flight crews was that this was still a search-and-rescue rather than a body-recovery mission. Our hopes were strong that Buckley was still alive and in need of medical attention.

Sunday was not a day of rest for any of the search volunteers. Ground teams were out in force. Volunteers and BASE jumping enthusiasts from around the country were showing up to participate. Unfortunately, the weather was not going to make this easy. Winds were gusting to over 30 miles an hour, which made flying in the canyons extremely challenging. Not only was the search emotionally draining, but by the end of the second day, each of the Blackhawk crews had logged almost 14 hours of flight time, making this a mentally and physically challenging search as well. With the winds not letting up, Adams made the decision to call off the search before the aircrews became the victims.

Since a combined 28 hours of search time by the Blackhawk crews revealed no new leads, the Millard County Sheriff suspended the search. Uncomfortable with the thought of leaving a fellow Soldier behind, Adams requested copies of the text messages Buckley sent to his girlfriend the day he went missing. The messages were sent from a Personal Locator Device that Buckley could utilize without activating a distress signal. Each message included a short text indicating that he was OK. More importantly, these messages included his GPS position and a date/time stamp. From this Adams was able to plot Buckley's path with each of the 12 messages he sent. Buckley's movement was plotted from the time he started on the trail until he reached the top of Notch Peak. The last message was sent at 01:11 Zulu (Greenwich Mean

Time) Sept. 10. The location indicated he planned to BASE jump off the south face of Notch Peak. Due to the high winds on Sunday, this was one of the few areas we were unable to search by air.

The weather on Monday and Tuesday prevented air assets from participating in the search. By Wednesday the weather was clear enough to launch a 2-211th helicopter, and crews were approved to continue the search on Wednesday.

Adams used the coordinates he had plotted from the text messages, inputting them on Google Earth and was able to print off a 3D terrain relief map of what he believed was Buckley's last known location.

On Thursday Utah National Guard leaders authorized one final day of search efforts. Using the 3D map image, the Blackhawk crew went right to the area and within the first 10 minutes of searching spotted the parachute and body of SSG LeRoy Buckley. Buckley's parachute appeared to have malfunctioned, and his body was approximately 1,600 feet down the face of the cliff on a ledge.

Inaccessible by foot, Adams and his crew transported the recovery team, including 1SG Richard Carter, 1-145th Field Artillery, and Millard County Search and Rescue to a small landing area approximately 200 yards from Buckley's body. Those 200 yards were very treacherous and proved too much for the search team to ascend with SSG Buckley's remains. On the controls of the Blackhawk was CW3 Lewis Scovill, who exhausted every effort to land near the body so that it could be loaded into the aircraft and transported to the sheriff's command post at the base of the canyon. The reality was that the helicopter was not hoist-equipped and did not have any slingload capability to lift the remains off the cliff. The agonizing decision was made to leave the remains on the mountain until more suitable options were available.

The following day, Friday, Sept. 18, CW4 Steve Rugg, the same pilot who picked up Kurt Gregory a week prior, picked up the mission in the State DPS helicopter and was able to recover the body with the assistance of Carter, who loaded Buckley's body into the DPS helicopter.

This story's ending is clearly tragic. However, amidst the many twists and turns of events, the fact remained that SSG Buckley was a combat Veteran. For this reason his search took on a very personal tone for all of the National Guard members who participated.

This unique mission clearly demonstrates the capability of the National Guard and Reserves and the role of National Guard members in the community. "Leave no one behind" means more to us now than ever before. ■

ARMY PROMOTIONS

COLONEL

Hadfield Gregory James
Sharp Scott Christian
Woodall James Holman

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Allison Mark L
Faletto Paul Jason
Petersen Eric David
Tierney Charles Bryan

MAJOR

Amendola Roland John
Darrington John Lorenzo
Erickson Rodney Dean
Mendenhall Russel Lance
Merryweather Erin Marie
Powell Tina Margareta
Sheely Duane Allen
Smith Ricky Neal
Waldron David Thomas
Wiedmeier Erick Randall
Wiggins Aaron James
Williams Chad Val

CAPTAIN

Allen Matthew Anderson
Beard Eric Peter
Berdan Kevin Michael
Biesinger William Kunze
Carlile Kristopher Jason
Chan Stuart Chung
Chandler Scott Aaron
Day Shane Draper
Ence Choli Camil
Evans Mark Thain
Fullmer Jeffrey Darrell
Jackson Jeffrey Kenneth
Kuhni Matthew Scott
Mair Garrett Don
Morken Daniel John
Mundy Ryan Dustun
Puro Tandra Leigh
Tatum Broc Steve
Taylor Shane Trent
Thomas Jaime Rae

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Griffith Sunny Christopher
Ishihara Cavett S
Kerr Michael James
Matthews Penny Jo
Rasmussen Cody Lon
Worden Jefferson Dario

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Fairhurst Timothy David
Hardy Jason Alexander
Henderson Otha Ballard Jr
Ingebritson Jacob David
Lessing Randon Cade
Wade K Andrew
Wright Jeffrey Jay

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

Bauer David Allan
Leifson Lynn William
Salazar Fabian

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Carter Douglas Shane
Issa Jeffrey Glenn
Koyle Gregory Merrill
Miasnik Christopher Stephen
Plewe Tyler David

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Brakke Brian Edward
Bulkeley Jason Ross
Ellington Joel Scott
Galbraith Joseph Atine
Grimstead Benjamin Erik
Hansen Bradley Allen
Hoagland Jeremy Dean
Hunsaker Adam Hall
Jeffs Barton Anthony
Kreitzer Eric Josef
Mackay Jeffrey Bryon
Pannell Lucas James
Patterson Anthony David

WARRANT OFFICER 1

Bovo Troy Lehi
Brusik Richard Michael
Dunn Michael Loren
Hoepfner Elizabeth Anne
Satalino Curtis Matthew
Schramm Robert Alan
Taylor Martin Buck

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Durrant William Charles
Fowden Curtis R
Leavitt Adrein Rod

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Allman Bryan Lee
Butler Jennifer Lea
Cowan Brian Robert
Ewert William Herbert
Golden Craig Norman
Greenleaf Nathan David
Hancock Weston Franz
Hardenbrook Jeffrey Lee
Hulet John Michael
Litster Michael Thomas
McKellar John David
Morse Jeromy James
Parker Joseph Ian
Stephens Robert Eldon
West Peter Lynn

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Andelin Brian David Jr
Avery Brandon Charles

Avery Brice Allen
Barlow Steven Andrew
Barry Jacob William
Benkenstein Kurt Georg
Boehm Karl Wayne
Bramall Franklyn James
Carter Derek Michael
Clifford Douglas Lynn
Cobb Mikel Lee
Crane Jared Paul
Dallas Sandi Jo
Davisson Kenneth Roy
Day Coty B
Dickinson Gordon Paul
Faddis Scott Sims
Fellingham Daniel Warren
Garretson Dale Adam
Graham Darrell Jerry
Hager Edward Lee
Hathaway Robert Daniel
Hicks Frank Jason
Houchin Davien Cray
Jorgensen Richard Thomas
Kies Michael Wayne
Kitchen Don Sherman
Larsen Lyle E
Lindsay Vance Robert
McVay Russell Joel Tony
Mrykalo John Earl
Nehring Daniel August
Nielson Jim Orr
Phillips Darren Lee
Richards Shaime Thomas
Schutz Matthew Christopher
Shreve Timothy Wayne
Sibio Zachary Bennett
Simpson Bric Dee
Thomas Marten Gerald
Vincent Darren J
Walton Zachary Durham
Warren Sidney Morris
West Sterling Eugene
Wilkerson Dallas
Zaugg Jeremy John

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Anderson Michael Gordon
Badgett Chad Eric
Bartholomew Jed Day
Bawden David Brian
Begaii Michael Ladell
Benoit Benjamin Clifford
Bonzo Aaron James
Brandt Jacob Stephen
Byergo Devere Verl
Carter Andrew Glen
Carter Jacob Clark
Crookston Alan Ted
Day James Reuben
Decapot Celeste
Donato Manuel Luis
Dumas Ricky Edwards
Etheridge John Garland
Foote Allen James
Galer Joshua Stephen
Gillispie Caren Anne

Gordon Jeremy Raymond
Haag Robert Alexanderfranci
Haskell Gregory Scott
Hibbens Mark Allen
Hinton David Rymalireland
Hone Benjamin J
Huybregts Frank Gerardus
Johnson Matthew Spencer
Keele Blake Lee
Lagiglia Gino Joseph
Lanier Larry Dean
Lara Ricardo Arturo
Lennon Bryan Jonathan
Lewis Joshua James
Markland Clint Ray
Millward Stephen Anthony
Mitchell Daniel Thomas
Nunnely Shawn Thomas
Opheikens Trevor J
Peterson Shawn Reber
Ralph Mark Dean
Roberts Patrick David
Rollins Mary Ann
Sanchez Jorge Eduardo
Shapiro Levi Bradley
Shawcroft Joseph Grant
Skelton Mark Timothy Jr
Smith Jeremy Clarence
Smith Travis J
Stark Bryce Reynolds
Stephenson Jeffrey Terry
Stevens Ammon Jesse
Stevens Justin Jay
Swinyard Daniel Jacob
Taylor Matthew James
Tripp Justin Clay
Waite Dustin Gerald
Warby Joseph Daniel
Warner Ronald Henline
Wilde Matthew
Workman Kyle David

SERGEANT

Adams Joseph Malcolm
Adamson Daniel Scott
Allred Justin Tyler
Bamford Christopher Andrew
Beutler Samuel Jay
Birdsall Matthew Page
Brandt Richard Jay
Buffington Michael Paul
Carpenter Paul Steven
Chaparro Derrick Lloyd
Chappell Cameron Thomas
Christensen Robert Eric
Cleveland Kristin Lee
Cook Christopher Lynn
Cresswell Rede Joe
Cummins Charles Nicholas
Dilworth Virginia
Donovan Meredith Anne
Driver Justin Paul
Evans Gary Lee
Fife Coban Blaze
Green James Montel III
Gustafson Andrew Jacob

Harris Steven Wayne Sr
Hash John Marion
Huber Tavis Chad
Huff Brent J
Iorg Michael Sidney
Jeppsen Colby Jay
Johnson Michael Lawrence
Jones Deanna Suki
Jones Kimball Joseph
Kerbo Allison Elizabeth
Larsen Shane Justin
Lee Jennifer Ann
Lemley Daniel Barrus
McCombs Leigh Douglas
McKenzie Daniel George
Meacham Ron Jay Jr
Merten Paul Townsend
Miles Reuben Enoch
Monson Jacob Warren
Nydegger Isaac Roy
Olsen Brian Brendan
Olsen Devin Dean
Rasmussen David Isaac
Rodriguez Jose Raul
Russo Daniel Thomas
Sapper John Leroy
Schiltz Todd Michael
Son Young Woo
Spencer Lance England
Sprague Susan Marie
Streeter Mark Alan
Tabbal Tory Nickolas
Turley Joseph Eugene
Villamil Bon Benedict Valer
Villarreal Omar Alberto
Viola Alex Anthony
West Justin Kendall
Wilkinson William Shane
Worthen Keisha Lyn

SPECIALIST

Adams Kyle Jacob
Adams Todd Wesley
Adamson David William III
Allen Cooper Owen
Alvarado Anthony Craig
Andriafanomezana Romeo Guy
Anstead Matthew Clay
Ballif Marc Nelson
Bassett Phillip Noel
Baum Ashley Renee
Benson Trase Gordon
Bills Jessalynn Lisa
Black Kendal Clarence
Boden Nathan Ellis
Bond Andrew Lawrence
Bradshaw Kyle Lee
Brewer Joshua K
Broadhead Kenneth Zed
Bruno Anthony Dominic
Campos Ivan
Carroll Andrew Scott
Case Glenn Charles
Chen Jian Nmn
Christiansen Angela Marie
Churchfield Raymond Earl

Clark Chelsea Ann
Collins David Bradley
Cope Jeremy Richard
Cope Steven Duane
Coward Justin Davis
Cox Benjamin Wayne
Cox Garin Steven
Cracraft Theron Ray
Crookston Daniel Tyler
Cropper Craig Leigh Jr
Dalton Jesse James
Daniels Thomas Anthony
Davis William Lance
Dean Jonathan Steven
Demontigny Alexander Bebris
Denton Wyatt McLane
Dumas William II
Dunn Matthew Preston
Eaton Lee Daines IV
Edmunds Devin James
Ellison Clayton Jerome
Farley Eric Kent
Farmer Chase Robert
Feuers Benjermin Wayne
Gale Ryan Michael
Garrett Reg Spencer
Garrison Ethan Jess
Gee Andrew James
Gomez Carlos Emery Jr
Green Adam Daniel Davies
Green Matthew Derrick
Hanlon John David
Hansen Rebecca Ruth
Harris Kirby Leroy II
Hendricks David Leon
Hernandez Ivan Corona
Hickman Elliot James
Hillstead John Gray
Hinderman Jonathan Michael
Hymas Dustin D
Jensen Leonardo Keith
Jensen Tyler Curtis
Jones Stefania Rose
Judd Breck Knapp
Klindt Dustin Lee
Laffarga Joshua
Lane Jose Luis
Leiendecker Todd Eric
Linford Daniel Stephen
Lucero Chance Alex
Lundquist Ryan Jay
Lyday Amanda Joy
Manning William Madison
Marston Derrick Allen
Matthews Kevin Christopher
McGonigal Michael Francis
Mitsou Leslie George
Mortensen Roy Allen
Nielson David Eric
Norman Martin Allen
Nunez Esteban Jose
Otis Matthew Dean
Owen Sam Daniel
Palmer Kyle Steven
Pantos Joshua Mitchel
Pelletier Christopher M
Peterson Cameron Michael II
Pierattini Cesar Alejandro
Poppitz Kyle Andrew
Pouillon Nathan Dee
Power Weston Blake
Ramirez Annie Marie
Redzich Joseph Michael

Reeder Samuel Larry
Remillard Logan James
Rhinehart Damen Lee
Rhoden John Pierce
Rice John Reuben
Robison Matthew Welling
Rodriguez Ryan Joseph
Saavedra Omar Francisco
Scholes Aaron Francis
Sifuentes Noah Japheth
Smith Casey Morgan
Smith Roberta Diane
Smith Tyler James
Son Leah Jean
Sorensen Jacob Lawrence
Stowe Brian Mack
Tangney Kevin John
Taylor Travis Lee
Tisher Gabriel Uriah
Tramposh Noah Reed
Tucker Mark Evan
Tucker Micheal Anthony
Voelkl Cory Lee
Whaley Joseph Lee
Wheiler Brandon Jon
Willenborg Jessica Juree Ka
Williamson Jeremy Dale
Woods Nathan Andrew
Workman Jason Loney
Wozab Heather Joy
Zenger Janelle Kay
Zimmerman Zachary Mark
Zogg Leonard Joseph

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Abner Corey Ray
Allen Ryan Kevin
Alvarez Steven
Amidan R Daven Kelsey
Anderson Rio J
Anderson Tyler D
Angel Rudy James
Aranarajo Ervin Francisco F
Armstrong Christopher Allen
Avila Alfonso Arechiga Jr
Bake Thomas James
Barlow Kirk D
Barnes Kevin Michael
Bartholomew Andrew Keith
Bennett Michael Edward
Bird Tyson Ray
Bonar Blake Wesley
Bracken Wesley Kirk
Bradley Christopher Rex
Brennan Patrick Simon
Broadhead Colton Grant
Brockbank Jarom Paul
Brown Jeffrey Ryan
Brown Nathan Miles
Bruhn Jillian Rebecca
Cameron Katie Marlene
Cebrowski John Michael
Christensen Cole Jerry
Christensen Jacob Kelly
Clifford James William Jr
Cloward Nicolas Adam
Combs Joshua Isaac
Compton Jacob Michael
Cox Tyler Lee
Cuevas Oscar
Cullen David Robert Jr
Daroczi Mitchell Laszlo

Decker Alexander Jonathan
Deis Brett Thomas
Denny Waynette Wenona
Desouza Rosenilda A
Dougherty Michael Reid
Duke Taylor Hatch
Dunn Tommy Mac
Durrant Ian Aric
Eddington Jordan Michael
Edwards Jessie Charles
Edwards Tyson Merrill
Eldredge Colton James
Engum Eric Wade
Eversole Jeffrey Kenneth
Faletto Andrew Paul
Ferris Jerami John
Flamm David Michael
Flottum Timothy John
Ford Evelyn Mae
Ford Michael Alexander
Franco Luis Angel
Fraser Scott William
Gillett Breyden Scott
Glessner Donald Allen
Golden Trevor Dale
Gonzalez Benjamin Santiago
Goodwin Sheldon Bradley
Halbert Justin
Hall Chad Robert
Hansen Zachary Bruce
Hawkins Robert Tyrel
Hawley Bleu Marcus
Hemsley Aaron Thomas
Henderson Brad Andrew
Hettich Ashlee Anne
Hincks Samuel Coy
Holbrook Shawn Edward
Holloway Brittany Chere
Howell Christyna Nichole
Jackson Paul Elias
Jarrett Bryce Collier
Jarvis Jeremy Wilson
Jett Isaac Duane
Johansson Charles Erik
Johns Justin Scott
Johnson Bradley Ivar
Johnson Jason Ryan
Johnson Luke Benjamin
Junk Cory Steven
Kartchner David Brian
Keller Marson James
Kennedy Patrick Thomas
Kester Joshua Aaron
Kevern Myles Carl
Kirkland Dent Temples
Kramer Jessica Ann
Krulisky Richard Anthony Jr
Labarca Nelson Abraham
Lee Abraham Lucien
Lindsay John Andrew
Loder Ryan William
Lopez Carlos Adrian Jr
Lux Adam Jeffery
Mahfood John Paul
Matheson Casey Cooper
May Shane Derek
Maylone Derrick Leroy
McKenna Thomas Oldham
McLaughlin Nathan Shawn
Meryhew Kurt W
Midgley Steven King
Miller James Phillip
Mitchell Joshua Jeffrey

Molnar John Paul
Monson James Lawrence
Moore Jaimee Carole
Moore Macade Spencer
Morris Brandon Don
Morrison Paul Andrew
Moxon Joseph William
Murray Wren Evan
Myrin Tyra Chenee
Nell Lisa Breitling
Nelson Kevin Porter
Nicely Kenneth Lee
Odell Harrison Thomas
Osborne Warren Alexander
Parkin Shandra Nichole
Peck Phillip Jaymes
Peterson Clarence James
Peterson Jeremy Dean
Provost Trent K
Ray Michael Andrew
Richardson Chase W
Rico Neiro Fernando
Rivera Jose Alberto
Roberts Jared Michael
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Rogers Frank Anthony
Roundy Alma Roy
Sams Travis Jay
Schear Jesson Ray
Schrock Colin Thomas
Seeley Janae Evelyn
Shanks Cody William
Simmons Trevor Jay
Smart Christopher James
Smith Zachary Bruce
Sneddon Russell Thomas
Snowden Allanna C
Stark Austin James Forrester
Steed Nicole Marie
Suarez Hyrum Moroni
Swemmer Frederik Johan
Tapi Fernandez Julio Cesar
Taylor Brady Lee
Taylor Nicholas Evan
Thompson Jesse Thomas
Torgerson Richard Knighton
Turner Jordan Layne
Twitchell James Anthony
Waggoner Jason Robert
Wallingford Stephen Mac
Wardle Joshua Kevin
Whitaker Nathaniel Paul
Wilkinson Clifford Allen
Williams Michael Gerald
Wilson Chandler Brooks
Wilstead Brandon Steven
Young Joshua Lewis

PRIVATE (PV2)

Anderson Shawn Evans
Arnold Jordan Levi
Bawden Scott Thomas
Blackmon David Scott
Brown Richard Eric
Burns Thomas Emmett
Campbell Kaleb Carter
Card Jason Erik
Cheney Brett Alan
Clark Andrea Joyce
Cleveland Trent Kelly
Coates Cade Stephen
Cole Seth Jason

Courtney Craig Russell
Cox Jeffrey Thomas
Cox Kevin Marshall
Cruise Ashley Lenae
Daly Jacen Todd
Dillelo Michael Don
Dunham Joseph Jay
Dunston Kailub Matthew
Fitz Tyler Vernon
Flavel Michael Thomas
Galloway Dustin Laurence
Gardner Joseph Michael
Goekle Dustin Blair
Granado Freddie Anthony
Gurule Kevin Andrew
Halbert Jordan Mitchell
Hall Nathan Andrew
Hansen Dustin Gary
Harper Cody Wade
Hatch Derick Elwood
Heaps Christopher Shawn
Jensen Anthony John
Jensen Colton Austin
Kawamura Robert Shigeo
Keate Jared Jeffs
Langston Taylor Vance
Larsen Lance Brent
Lloyd Bryan Dustin
Lloyd Steven Michael
Marble Jonathyn James
Marquardson Curtis Alan
Merrill Gary Paul
Miller Samuel Aaron
Milligan Matthew Robert
Mintz Tyler Daniel
Mitros Michaela Nicole
Morgan Craig Charles
Morris Jordan David
Nielsen Dustin Leo
Nixon Zachary Dean
Olsen Jordan Jeffery
Owens Ronald Errol III
Oyelowo Baba Tunde John
Perkins David Allen
Pullan Kyle Kevin
Rowley Nicholas Paul
Saupan Paul Robert
Seifert Joshua Aaron
Smart Quinton Milo
Stinger Chelsea Brianne
Thomas Jeremy Delorme
Tippetts Micheal Shayne Jr
Toledo Luis Felipe
Torrestamai Alejandro Moron
Travis Ian
Tripp Casey Lee
Turkington Lucas Bradley
Villanueva Hugo Rolando
Wallberg Ashley Hazel
Warren Samuel Derek
Webster Samuel Kirk
Welch Brooklyn Donna
Wenzl Christopher Michael
Westwood Samuel Jerard
Whitcott Camille Judy
White Steven Craig
Wilcox Nathan Rex
York Chase Dillon

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL Larson, Scott H			STAFF SERGEANT Anderson, Joseph W Blunck, Samuel L Durtschi, Walter M Fallows, David C Gallacher, Brandon J Hodgkinson, Matthew S Howey, Chad S Menlove, Amanda J Mulcahy, Warren C Nascimento, Gabriel Nelson, Joel J Parr, Daniel Sliwa, Tarra A Stephens, David M Verrill, Joel A Whetstone, William A	AIRMAN FIRST CLASS Mowery, Ryan G
CAPTAIN Craythorne, Tyson R Frost, Daniel E Jimenez, Jill M	MASTER SERGEANT Ahlstrom, James L Baksis, Peter P Batura, Nicholas M Chapman, Jason E Decker, Scott V Henrie, Craig A Martin, Steve J Myers, Jacob J Parnell, James M Taylor, Gregory R Tuero, Kristie A Wiley, Andrea L			SENIOR AIRMAN Cannon, Christopher R Creek, Derrin J David, Joshua S Erickson, Michael D Foreman, Bobby E Gale, James C Hardle, Richard L Lyday, Amanda J Mallory, Jennifer McBride, Maurice S Sutter, Dale R Wasden, Aaron G
FIRST LIEUTENANT Hale, Brett Lavell Holbrook, Jason Ryan Reeves, Jesse L				
SECOND LIEUTENANT Dunn, Richard S				
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT Schiele, Steven J				

151st Security Forces Squadron Capture Top Gun Award

Story by A1C Lillian Chatwin

SALT LAKE CITY — **E**ight members of the 151st Security Forces Squadron, Utah Air National Guard, recently won the Top Gun team award in the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center competition at Camp Butner, N.C., Sept. 14-17.

The purpose of the competition is to support the ANG marksmanship program, and provide relevant full-distance designated marksman training for security forces.

“I’m proud of the team,” said Lt Col David Meyer, commander of the 151st SFS. “They went out there—the least equipped of the teams—and won. That tells you the caliber of the men we have.”

The 151st SFS competed against eight other Air National Guard Security Forces Squadrons from around the country in the training program’s first competition. The Top Gun team award tallied the three-day scores of each competing individual, and the team with the highest overall score was declared the winner.

Staff Sgt Stuart Mackey assisted as an instructor of the team, and also won third place in the individual Top Shooter contest. Staff Sgt Gatherum placed

eight, and SrA David Defriez placed ninth in the Top Shooter awards. The team also includes SSgt Michael Beckwith, SSgt Thomas Carpenter, SSgt Dominick LaGiglia, SSgt Jared Kidman and SSgt Alan Robins.

Mackey stated that as one of the instructors he is also proud of the team, and as a participant, the course was a good refresher for him.

“It was an eye-awakening experience,” said Mackey. “For some team members, it was their first time practicing distance shooting and engaging targets at 200 to 500 meters. Some people only get to train once a year, so this was also an excellent training opportunity.”

The course included a 25-meter designated marksman qualification, a four-point, entry-level combat rifle fire course, a night-fire portion, and training on target detection and range estimation. Distances ranged from 100 meters to 500 meters using both the Back-Up Iron Sight and the Advanced Compact Optical Gunsight for the M-4 carbine weapon system.

The National Guard Bureau hopes to continue the program annually as part of the Security Forces training. 

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