

UTAH MINUTEMAN

Utah National Guard Joint Magazine

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Spring 2010

**Aeromedical Evacuation
Mission in Afghanistan**

**New Apache Longbow
AH-64D Comes to Utah**

Immediate Response 2010





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The Adjutant General's Corner

DRAPER, Utah — **A**s we begin the new year, it is always good to take stock of the year just passed. It has been a relatively quiet last six months for our pace of deployments, but the pace is about to quicken. We remain mindful of those still downrange: Det 50, 1-211th Aviation, 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team, 2-285th Aviation and many individuals from both the Army and the Air Guard. Their service is vital to our efforts, and we appreciate their sacrifice, as well as that of their families and their employers.

The coming year will be a dramatically different one than last year. Large units will again deploy, and many will be preparing for coming deployments. First out of the gate will be the 144th Medical Company, followed shortly by the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, the 118th Sapper Company, and HQ, 19th Special Forces. Our efforts will be concentrated on getting these units as ready as possible and in setting the conditions for them to succeed when deployed.

In the Air National Guard, the year looks daunting. The 151st Air Refueling Wing will deploy to CENTCOM this year, followed by a deployment to Guam; the 109th Air Control Squadron will deploy for its fifth time in ten years, and the 169th Intelligence Squadron will again set the standard for the intelligence community with deployments slated for CENTCOM, SOUTHCOM and AFRICOM.

This was a pivotal year for Army aviation when it welcomed the new Longbow configuration of the AH-64D to our ramps. The aircraft came in deplorable condition and will require much sweat and treasure to bring it into acceptable condition. The transition of the pilots from 'A' to 'D' models will continue, and all efforts will be focused on getting ready for the deployment scheduled for FY11. The deployments of our UH-60s continue, and we will prepare for the future assault and medical evacuation roles.

In November, we held our annual TAG Symposium for our Family Readiness Groups as well as commanders. It was a forum for me to thank those who work so tirelessly on behalf of our families, both staff and volunteers. Our commanders had the opportunity to be trained and to exchange best practices. In my opinion, this was our best conference ever and will get us off to a fast start in the challenging year we face.

Our State Partnership with Morocco continues to flourish. Our tankers will participate at the air show in Marrakesh in January, together with F-16 fighters from the State of South Carolina. At the request of the American embassy in Rabat, the ANG worked hard to make this happen with great help from 17th Air Force in Germany and AFRICOM in Stuttgart. This is



Photo by Greg Cullis

*The Adjutant General
Major General Brian L. Tarbet*

an important event in light of the recent purchase of F-16s by the Kingdom of Morocco. Thanks to all.

In the fall, it was announced that the National Security Agency will build a large data-management facility on the old Total Force Field at Camp Williams. The airstrip will be rendered unusable by the new right of way for the Mountain View Corridor, which will be constructed in a few years. We welcome this new tenant and look forward to a beneficial relationship. Thanks to COL Scot Olson and his staff, along with our federal Congressional delegation, for bringing this multibillion-dollar project to Utah.

We will shortly dedicate the new North Salt Lake Armory, a much-needed project for many of our units, especially the 85th Civil Support Team. The new Ammunition Supply Point at Camp Williams is well underway, and plans are being made to enlarge the new PX at the camp. Additionally, the renovations approved by the Legislature for many of our armories are ongoing, and new bids are being let for projects that will be completed this year. This will prolong the life of many of our vital buildings and allow us to stay in many of our far-flung communities.

It will be a tough and demanding year. We will continue to train for the federal mission and stand by to deal with the state mission if called upon. I am grateful to serve with committed and dedicated professionals who have taken an oath to protect and defend the constitution of both the Nation and the State of Utah. This is our inviolate pledge, and you all do much to assure that it will be kept. Thanks to you all. 🇺🇸

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UTAH MINUTEMAN

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Cover Photo:

Utah National Guard Soldier SPC Guy Mellor 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.

Photo by SFC Scott Faddis



Joint Forces and Army Enlisted Comments

By CSM Bruce Summers

DRAPER, Utah — **L**ast January the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff declared 2009 as “The Year of the NCO.” Why is that important and what does that really mean? What is an NCO? What are their duties and responsibilities? Why are they so important to our organizations?

Our NCO Corps is unrivaled by any Army in the world, envied by our allies and feared by our enemies. Throughout the Army’s history, the NCO has been a pivotal figure, but never more so than today with our full spectrum of operations: tank-on-tank fighting as during the invasion of Iraq, the guerrilla/insurgency war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. As NCOs embrace their ever-growing responsibilities in the 21st century, we as leaders must help them remember how they came to be the “backbone of our Army.”

Today, NCOs lead their troops in combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. These NCOs continue the history and traditions of those who went before them. They retain the duties and responsibilities given to them during the American Revolution and the role as a small-unit leader received on the Western Plains. They are leaders who train and prepare their Soldiers for combat as they did in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm and throughout our nation’s history.

Today’s NCO is an innovative, competent and professional leader grounded in heritage, values and tradition. Today’s NCO embodies the Warrior Ethos, champions continuous learning and is capable of leading, training and motivating diverse teams. Today’s NCO is an adaptive leader who is proficient in joint and combined expeditionary warfare; continuous-simultaneous, full-spectrum operations; and is culturally astute and resilient to uncertain and ambiguous environments.

Today’s NCO must lead by example, train from experience, maintain and enforce standards, take care of Soldiers and adapt to a changing world.

Today’s NCOs are accomplished military professionals who have combined civilian and military educational opportunities to become the Army’s preeminent body of leadership. NCOs are known as the “backbone of the American Army” and are the standard keepers for the military—training, leading, coaching and mentoring Soldiers. They are an invaluable and essential part of the Army.

General George Casey, Chief of Staff of the Army told us at SMA Prestons’ conference last January:



Photo by Greg Cullis

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

“The NCO Corps provides invaluable service and sacrifice in the line of duty. They continually prove their dedication and their willingness to make great sacrifices on behalf of our nation. As I said, there’s no doubt in my mind that our Noncommissioned Officer Corps is the glue that is holding this Army together and that has allowed us to accomplish the impossible every day.”

We have accomplished a great deal in the last few years, but we are not done. As we prepare to send more units to Iraq and Afghanistan, we must remain vigilant in training our Soldiers and Airmen for the tasks to come and prepare them physically and emotionally. Remember the families and friends who support these great young Warriors. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for all you do for this nation and this great state. Most of all I want to thank the families who are the true heroes today. God Bless. 🇺🇸

Utah National Guard Pilots Fly New Apache Longbow Helicopters

Story by SPC Lyndsey Dransfield

Photos by PFC Nicolas Cloward

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **T**he Utah Army National Guard received the first of 24 Apache Longbow AH-64D helicopters at the Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan, Oct. 7.

It has been more than a year since 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment (Attack/Reconnaissance), began the process of replacing the AH-64A Apache helicopters with the modernized and advance model.

“Looking at the Apache helicopters, they appear to be similar, but there is a considerable difference in the two aircraft,” said MAJ Ricky Smith, operations officer of 1-211th. “The advanced model has a digital cockpit allowing the pilot

to obtain relevant information on multifunctional displays. This assists the pilot in making better decisions both tactically and technically.”

The Longbow is also equipped with improved sighting and optics, Fire Control RADAR and RADAR guided hellfire missiles. In addition the existing weapons are made to be more accurate, simplified and easier to deploy. These improvements allow the helicopter to function and survive in combat operations.

“Throughout the next two years—possibly longer—pilots will undergo complex training,” Smith continued, “and will have to demonstrate they can fight the helicopter and function in a combat environment.”





The first AH-64D Apache Longbows land at West Jordan Armory Dec. 7.

“Now that we have the aircraft, we are just beginning the process of becoming an AH-64D Longbow combat-certified unit,” he added.

In addition to the helicopters, the unit also received an AH-64D Apache Longbow Apache flight simulator, providing the pilots more convenient flight training.

“Each National Guard pilot is required to accomplish 70 flight hours and 15 simulator hours every six months, the same amount of flight hours as an active-duty pilot. They’re also required to complete 12 hours of flight-simulation time,” said MAJ Greg Hartvigsen, executive officer of the unit.

In the past, pilots have completed their simulation hours in Tucson, Ariz., sometimes causing schedule conflicts due to the fact that most National Guard Soldiers hold full-time jobs as civilians.

“Having the simulator here is a very important asset and has significantly improved our training,” Hartvigsen added with enthusiasm.

Essentially the 1-211th mission will stay the same, but the addition of the helicopters brings a greater capability to the unit allowing them to accomplish their mission more effectively.

“We’re fighting a new war that requires new technology,” said instructor pilot Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Eyre, who has been flying Apache helicopters for the past 21 years. “This technology is bringing us to a modern-day fight.”

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Utah Guard's 1993rd CCT: On the Job in Kosovo



Members of the 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team with their active-duty counterparts in Kosovo in November.

Story By Angelika Lantz Photos by MAJ Chris Patterson

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — **T**he 409th Contracting Support Brigade might as well spell training with a capital “T” because it is such an essential factor to their success. The 409th CSB serves as the executive agent for expeditionary contracting in the Balkans, and its 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion provides a continuous boots-on-the-ground presence at the Camp Bondsteel office. Additionally, the Army National Guard (ARNG), which rotates contingency contracting teams through the Kosovo office, provides vital workload assistance.

Since the ARNG CCTs' nine-month deployments do not afford the luxury of easing into the work, intensive contracting-specific training becomes imperative.

“Our part of the Kosovo peacekeeping mission is 24/7, 365 days a year, and we have the responsibility to ensure the office is manned with teams that can execute our missions from the get-go,” said LTC David Hosna, commander of the 903rd CCB.

The 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team, a four-person ARNG unit from Utah, recently completed their training with the 409th CSB’s Regional Contracting Office, Bavaria, and relieved the 1933rd Contingency Contracting Team from California at Camp Bondsteel.

“The Utah team was able to see joint multinational training operations as well as work in a contracting office with seasoned contract specialists who are proven practitioners at providing training and reach-back support to deployed contingency members,” said JoAnna Lovett-Black, chief of the 409th CSB’s RCO Bavaria.

In addition to formal classroom instruction, the more than 120 training hours for the Utah team incorporated real-world, hands-on components in order to provide team members

with the competencies required to execute commercial and construction contracts, she explained.

Hosna and Lovett-Black agreed that it is critical to assess the competencies and capabilities of incoming team members immediately.

“Some team members come with prior experience from the business world, or they currently work at a purchasing office,” Lovett-Black said. We have the flexibility to adjust our training scenarios and assigned tasks to reinforce those areas and skills and focus our training where it is most needed.”

“It’s a huge challenge,” Hosna said. “In addition to being technically proficient in expeditionary contracting, contracting professionals must be good stewards of taxpayer money and procure the services and supplies at the best value possible.

The Kosovo contracting office executed commercial contracts for services and supplies to support the Kosovo task force and humanitarian assistance projects within the European Command area of responsibility for more than \$22 million during the 2009 fiscal year. The approximately 124 contracting actions ranged from resurfacing the helipad to janitorial services to procuring personal-protection equipment, Hosna explained. Nonetheless, the members of the 1993rd CCT are confident in their ability to execute their mission.

“Our training at RCO Bavaria has been on point in many significant ways,” said MAJ Chris Patterson, commander of the 1993rd CCT. “The coordination with the incumbent ARNG CCT was important, and RCO Bavaria arranged for two members (one from the California CCT and an active-duty



ILT John Merlette of the Utah Guard's 1993rd CCT, left, observes a U.S. Army Engineer explain a statement of work to a group of local vendors in Kosovo.

CCT member) to provide relevant training on current issues and expectations for the office in Kosovo. We leave feeling confident in our skills and knowing that an umbrella of long-term assistance is only a phone call away.”

Utah Guard's SGT Shauna Rohbock Takes Bobsled Gold in World Cup Competition in Italy

Story by Amanda Bird

CESANA, Italy — **T**he U.S. women's bobsled team is on its way to qualifying three sleds in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games after all three drivers finished in the top six standings in the Cesana, Italy, World Cup competition.

Shauna Rohbock, a sergeant in the Utah Army National Guard, has been chasing the elusive gold medal on the 2006 Olympic track, and finally sank her teeth into a victory Dec. 5.

"It only took me four years to finally get it," said Rohbock. "Beating the Germans by this much just doesn't happen, so it definitely feels good."

Rohbock teamed with Michelle Rzepka to not just win the competition, but to dominate the field of 21 sleds by 0.34 seconds with a combined time of 1:56.09 in a sport that's won by hundredths of a second.

Rohbock's sliding résumé on the Cesana track has three silver medals, including the 2006 Olympic silver medal. The gold escaped her until Dec. 5.

"I've been waiting for this," said Rohbock. "My first run felt good, but I knew I finally won during my second run. It felt pretty awesome."

The Olympian navigated her Bodyn sled down the course in 57.96 and 58.13 seconds for the fastest runs of the competition. Rohbock and Rzepka teamed together to give the sled momentum at the start, pushing times of 5.22 and 5.21 seconds.

Germany's Cathleen Martini teamed with Romy Logsch for the silver medal with a combined time of 1:56.09 after sliding runs of 58.10 and 58.33 seconds. In third was reigning Olympic champion Sandra Kiriasis who teamed with Berit Wiacker for a total time of 1:56.45 (58.03, 58.42).

Erin Pac almost made it onto the podium, finishing fifth with a two-run total of 1:56.58. Pac and push athlete Elana Meyers teamed together for a first-run push time of 5.17 seconds for a run of 58.23 seconds, placing the duo in seventh.

Pac and Meyers powered off the block with another exceptional start time of 5.19 seconds in the final heat on their way to a finish time of 58.35 seconds. Their second run was enough to move the team up two positions into fifth place.



Photo by Charlie Booker, bobseld.teamusa.org

ABOVE: SGT Shauna Rohbock, right, and her teammate, Michelle Rzepka, teamed up to win the two-man bobsled World Cup competition Dec. 5.

BELOW: SGT Shauna Rohbock, right, and her brakeman competed in the Women's bobsled event in Calgary last year.



Photo courtesy of universalsports.com

Bree Schaaf competed on the Cesana track as a World Cup skeleton athlete, but drove the course in a bobsled for the first time this week. Schaaf teamed with Emily Azevedo to finish sixth with a two-run total of 1:56.70.

Schaaf and Azevedo pushed start times of 5.30 and 5.29 seconds for finish times of 58.27 and 58.43 seconds, respectively.

"I am really proud of the team," said U.S. head coach Sepp Plozza. "Shauna's win was great, and we were hoping she could do it today. Erin and Bree continue to prove they are in the mix with the best drivers in the world, and we are in a good position going into next week."

Former Utah Guardsman Steve Holcomb also took gold in Cesana in the Men's four-man bobsled competition. 🏆

85th Civil Support Team Undergoes Federal Recertification



were sent to the hospital and first responders were called to evaluate the situation, said Smith.

“Once the capabilities of the CST are required, we are called to the scene to identify whatever it is that is making people sick,” said Smith.

Staff Sgt Samuel Voss, a team chief with the 85th CST, got suited up in his fully encapsulated, vapor-sealed suit and headed downrange. His thoughts were not on his well-being, but the mission at hand.

“I don’t really think about it,” said Voss. “I understand and trust my equipment. Mostly, what I’m trying to do as team chief is focus on what I need to do and what I need to direct my Soldiers to do,” he said.

Training such as this gives these Airmen and Soldiers of the 85th a chance to build relationships with first responders and civil authorities so that when these events happen they are already familiar with how each other works, said Smith.

“We’re trying to hone our skills,” said Voss. “We’re trying to make ourselves better, but were also hoping to work with the first responders and help them become better at what they do.”

The 85th passed their evaluation and are now certified to provide support to local authorities for another 18 months. 

Story by PFC Nicolas Cloward

SANDY, Utah — **S**oldiers and Airmen of the Lehi-based 85th Civil Support Team underwent federal recertification at a training exercise Dec. 9 at the South Towne Expo Center in Sandy.

The CST specializes in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) incident response and must be evaluated every 18 months by U.S. Army North (ARNORTH) to ensure that it maintains itself qualified and capable of performing its mission.

ARNORTH is assigned by the Secretary of Defense to design scenarios based on federal standards and then tasked to verify and confirm that the team is indeed qualified to perform their duties such as establishing communication, medical support and conducting CBRNE analytical functions, along with a long list of other tasks and subtasks, said LTC Tyler Smith, commander of the 85th.

The training scenario began with a mock terrorist attack at the South Towne Expo Center during a conference held that morning.

People attending the conference began to experience symptoms such as red eyes and burning in the throat. At this point in the simulation, the building was evacuated, victims

Photos by 2LT Ryan Sutherland





Members of the 85th CST support local first responders as part of their recertification exercise at the South Towne Expo Center.





A Patriot Receives a Patriot Award

MG Brian L. Tarbet receives the Patriot Award during the BYU ROTC's presidential review Nov. 12.

Story and photos by SGT Shana Hutchins

PROVO, Utah — **M**ajor General Brian L. Tarbet, Utah National Guard adjutant general, received the Patriot award Nov. 12 during the presidential review for Brigham Young University's Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Each year during Patriot week on BYU campus, the Army and Air Force ROTCs hold a presidential review. The purpose of the review is for the president of the university to inspect Army and Air Force cadets for overall unit readiness and recognize them for their hard work in service to our country.

To kick off the ceremony, the BYU Army ROTC honor guard posted the colors as the Air Force ROTC choir sang the National Anthem. Cadet Davis Wallentine, executive officer for Cougar Battalion, was master of ceremonies and introduced the troops of Army ROTC Alpha Company Cougar Battalion and Air Force ROTC Detachment 855 to BYU President Cecil O. Samuelson and MG Tarbet.

While Samuelson and Tarbet reviewed the cadets, Wallentine recounted for the audience the long history of these two organizations at the university.

After reviewing the troops Samuelson made a few remarks regarding the pride he felt in the cadets and their values.

Wallentine then introduced Tarbet by listing his many awards and military, civilian and educational accomplishments.

"We have wanted to recognize him for a while and this was the appropriate forum," said Wallentine. "We were looking for somebody who not only demonstrates the values of freedom and courage but is also in a position administratively to ensure those values are preserved and maintained."

The award is an eagle that is a symbol of the values of patriotism, courage and freedom," Wallentine continued. "He will be recognized as one of those people who has directly influenced BYU's ROTC program for both the Army and Air Force."

In alternating years, the BYU Army and Air Force ROTC recognize a distinguished leader either in the military or a civilian field who has had a significant impact on both fields. Recipients are either prior military or current military.

"What we are trying to do is recognize outstanding leadership in the community at the state, federal or local level, said CPT Phil Williams, assistant professor of military science at BYU and an active-duty infantry officer. "It's



BYU Army ROTC Color Guard posts colors at the presidential review Nov. 12.



TOP: BYU President Cecil Samuelson and MG Brian Tarbet (holding the Patriot award he was awarded) seated during the ceremony. BELOW: Air Force ROTC Detachment 855 salutes the colors during the presidential review on BYU campus.

obvious General Tarbet has had an enormous impact over the past several years for Utah and the entire state in general. It's an easy choice in my opinion."

In accepting the award, Tarbet told a story of an officer being asked what his credentials are and the officer gestured to his Soldiers and said, "These are my credentials."

"It has been my privilege for many months now to have Soldiers and Airmen as my credentials," said Tarbet. "I am honored to be here today on this campus with these two great corps of cadets."

Tarbet described various challenges that each group of cadets would face in their respective services they had chosen.

"[The] Air Force desperately needs to recapitalize and needs new equipment," remarked Tarbet. "My pilots fly aircraft built during the Kennedy and Eisenhower administrations. That, in and of itself, is astonishing. But what's more astonishing is they will fly them for 30 more years."

"To you who wear the green," added Tarbet, "you will come in to an army which has cancelled many of its future combat systems; an army which is labor intensive; and when you are in a cost cutting environment, labor intensive is the first thing that we cut."

Tarbet urged cadets not to be discouraged about the challenges ahead and be prepared to be called upon to do great and extraordinary things for the country.

"[This is] a nation that has become more concerned about its entitlements than its obligations. You're not in the entitlement business, you're in the I-have-sworn-an-oath-to-defend-the-Constitution business."

Judging by his insights and remarks, to this writer it is very clear why General Tarbet was chosen to receive an award that has "Patriot" in its title.

"What is unique about his service is he has made a major impact on both Airmen and Soldiers here in the state and contributed to our nation as a whole," said Lt Col Ted N. Ludlow, professor of military science at BYU. 



As the 23rd Army Band plays, WO1 Denny Saunders leads the audience and high school choir members in singing the National Anthem at the opening of the 54th annual Veterans Day Concert.

Utah National Guard Hosts 54th Annual Veterans Day Concert

Story by SMSgt Sterling Poulson

Photos by Ileen Kennedy

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard held its 54th Annual Veterans Day concert Nov. 11 at the University of Utah's Jon M. Huntsman Center.

Soldiers and Airmen, along with many retired military members and their families, were in attendance. Wearing their red coats, members of the Honorary Colonels, who helped fund the event, were also present.

Band conductor Warrant Officer Denny Saunders led the 23rd Army Band in his first Veterans Day Concert as its commander, following the retirement of CW3 J. Michael Cottam.

The program featured musical numbers by the Band as well as a combined choir. The 23rd Army Rock Band also performed numbers such as "American Soldier" by Toby Keith, featuring soloist SSG Ben Jacobson.

The 700-voice Granite School District high school combined choir was organized by Clinton Frohm, music

curriculum specialist for the Granite School District and retired military member, and was conducted by music directors from each of the high schools.

Senior MSgt Sterling Poulson hosted the concert, themed "The Last Full Measure." The concert included remarks by The Adjutant General, MG Brian L. Tarbet and Assistant Adjutant General for Army, BG Jefferson S. Burton.

Burton spoke about the devotion of the Utah National Guard.

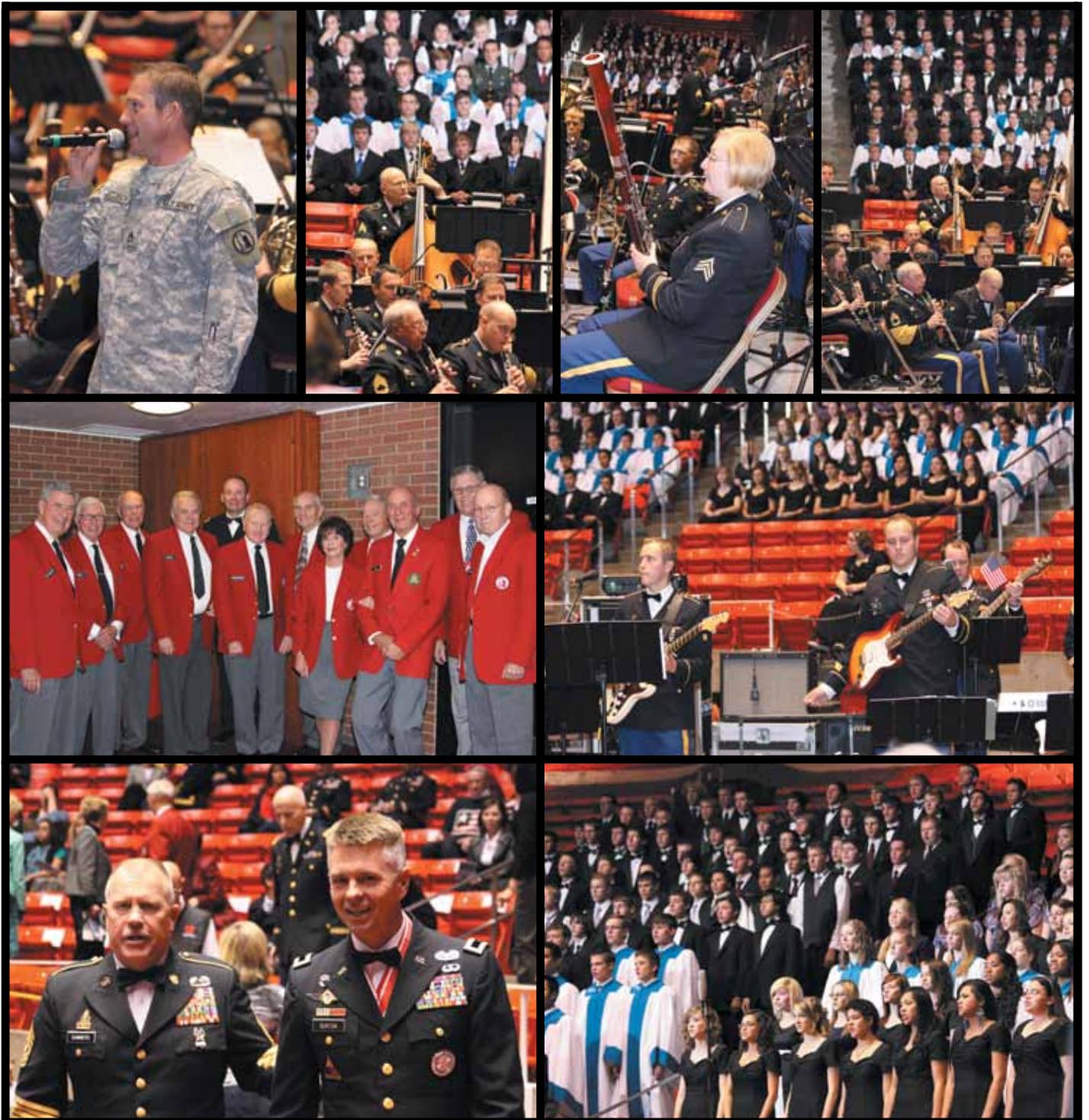
"It's my honor to lead the finest men and women in uniform," he said, "and I know that they are ready at a moment's notice to give that last full measure of devotion."

The lights in the hall dimmed, and under a single spotlight Rod Decker, a KUTV 2 News reporter, read the Gettysburg Address. Immediately following the reading, "Taps" rang through the silent hall while people stood in honor of the fallen.

Chief MSgt David Herrscher, a member of the Utah Air National Guard, was in attendance with his 85-year-old father.

“It was a great experience to be at the concert with my dad who was in the third wave of Soldiers to land at Omaha Beach during World War II. During the Armed Forces Medley, I was able to stand for the Air Force Song and with my dad for the Army Song.”

Soloist SSG Ben Jacobson sings Toby Keith’s “American Soldier.” The 23rd Army Band members play a variety of music during the concert. Members of the Honorary Colonels Corps attend the concert, donning their traditional red coats. The 23rd Army Rock Band livens up the tempo with their songs. CSM Bruce Summers and BG Jeff Burton attended the event, where Burton was the featured guest speaker. Members of the combined Granite School District high school choirs delight the audience with their voices.



Utah National Guard's Top Shooters in Winston P. Wilson Matches

Story and photos by SPC Lyndsey Dransfield

LITTLE ROCK, Ark — Utah's Army and Air National Guard's top eight marksmen parked themselves in the crowded room at the National Guard Professional Education Center at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Oct. 29, and eagerly awaited the results of the 39th annual Winston P. Wilson Warfighter Sustainment Training Exercise.

"Regardless of who takes home the hardware displayed, you are all winners," MG William Wofford, adjutant general of Arkansas, told the 400-plus competitors. "When you do warfighter competitions the intent is to make it as tough and challenging as possible."

This year the eight competitors who represented Utah were PFC Mathew Ellenberger, 118th Sapper Company; SPC Joseph Christman, 213th Forward Support Company; MSgt Bryant Buttars, 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron; MSgt Ray Miller, 151st Maintenance Squadron; SPC Cole Carpenter, 213th Forward Support Company; TSgt Steven Smellie, 109th Air Control Squadron; 1st Lt Travis Van Tassel, 191st Air Refueling Squadron; and SPC Robert Jaques, 213th Forward Support Company.



SPC Joseph Christman fires an M-9 Pistol during the Individual Combat Pistol Match on the second day of the 2009 Winston P. Wilson Warfighter Sustainment Training Exercise held at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Oct. 25-29.

Prior to this event the Utah contestants participated in local and state matches and were split into two teams based on their scores. Additionally they held monthly trainings to improve their skills and develop discipline.

The four-day event consisted of numerous team and individual live-fire exercises designed to promote marksmanship training and test marksmanship skills in a combat-focused environment. The added dimension of rain this year certainly made the exercises more challenging.

"This competition gives you training under realistic conditions," Buttars said. "I have much more confidence in my abilities as a marksman. How often do you get to train for four days soaking wet in the rain?"

BELOW: Master Sgt Ray Miller reviews his target after competing in a pistol match. RIGHT: SPC Robert Jaques fires the M-16 rifle during the Close-Quarter Battle/NBC match.





Captain Tommy Edwards has been the operations officer with the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center for the past five years. He has witnessed the match evolve from a simple marksman training exercise into a realistic battle-focused event.

“I myself am a combat vet who just got back from Iraq this past December,” he said. “Coming back from that, I get to see some of the events we do here and how they have progressed and changed to prepare Soldiers to go into combat with those marksmanship skills.”

Each exercise implements stress-induced scenarios combining tactics that may require maneuvering between firing positions, reloading or changing weapons during an allotted amount of time,” Edwards said.

Carpenter, who has also been deployed in the past, is a first-time participant in the WPW and agrees with Edwards.

“Competing improves my marksmanship skills, and as a Soldier, that’s a vital skill,” Carpenter agreed. “In the training exercises you do rapid fires, reflexive fires and so forth—all exercises to train a Soldier for real combat,” Carpenter said. “I can improve in every aspect and that’s what’s so fun about it. Regardless of your level, the only person you need to beat is yourself.”

After all of the targets were scored, Buttars took third place in the Individual Combat Pistol (PI 303) and Van Tassel took second in the Pistol Aggregate Novice. Both competitors also received the National Guard Chief’s 50 Marksmanship Badge, awarded to the top 50 participants of the combined aggregate of all individual exercises.

“Regardless of whether or not their name ends up on a plaque, the most critical aspect of the training is for each participant to take what they have learned and educate their

ABOVE LEFT: Master Sgt Bryant Buttars, MSgt Ray Miller, PFC Mathew Ellenberger and SPC Joseph Christman fire the M-249 semiautomatic weapon in the 10-meter Prisoner of War match. ABOVE RIGHT: Master Sgt Bryant Buttars prepares to fire his M-16 rifle during the Unknown Distance firing match. RIGHT: Specialist Robert Jaques, 1st Lt Travis Van Tassel, SPC Cole Carpenter and TSgt Steven Smellie run through the mud carrying a litter during the Fallen Comrades match on the last day of the exercise.





PFC Mathew Ellenburger loads an M-16 rifle magazine before a firing match.

fellow Servicemembers,” explained COL Steven Miles, commander of the NGMCT during the awards ceremony.

“I think it’s critical for all of our armed forces to be well trained in marksmanship because we never know what position we are going to be in or whose shoes we’re going to have to fill, should the call come,” said Smellie.

If you are interested in becoming involved in combat marksmanship training the Small—Arms Readiness Training Section tries to conduct monthly training sessions starting with basic marksmanship skills and anyone is welcome to join, said SSG Levi Boardman, state marksmanship coordinator.

Furthermore, every year in May the Utah National Guard conducts the Adjutant General’s exercise, usually held at Camp Williams.

“This competition is an excellent platform for shooters on any level to receive outstanding combat marksmanship training,” Boardman said. 📧



Apphia Dooley pulls toys from the stacked shelves of the Family Programs conference room as she helps fill Sub for Santa orders from Utah National Guard families requesting assistance. Also pictured are Joe Trujillo and Susan Summers.

Sub for Santa

Story by Tonia Johnson

Photo by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **O**nce again, the Utah National Guard Servicemember and Family Support Services (SFSS) staff was busy at work during the Christmas holiday season to support the Utah National Guard’s Sub for Santa program. This program is designed to assist Utah National Guard Servicemembers and their families with gifts and food during the holidays who otherwise may have gone without.

The program relies on outside assistance from donors within the community who want to adopt a family for the holidays and purchase gifts. This year, Goldman Sachs from Salt Lake City donated \$12,000 to the program. They shopped at local stores to purchase gifts for 23 families totaling more than 70 children.

Utah National Guard member SGT Krystal Dowker from the SFSS office coordinated with the Goldman Sachs team.

“This is so amazing that the community supports our military families this way,” said Dowker. “It is wonderful to see this kind of assistance.”

This year, the program assisted 103 military families in Utah, consisting of 320 children.

“Each year the program grows just a little bit more,” said Tonia Johnson, Military OneSource consultant, who has coordinated the program for the last five years.

Beginning in September of each year, families can submit an application online outlining their needs, sizes, and wish lists for their children. If you would like to find out more about this program, as well as others offered through the Utah National Guard SFSS, please visit www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family or call (801) 432-4080. 📧

Utah National Guard's Brigadier General Scott Harrison Retires After 35 Years

Story by AFC Lillian Chatwin

SALT LAKE CITY — **B**rig Gen Scott B. Harrison, deputy commander of Joint Forces Headquarters, Utah National Guard, formally retired from the Guard in a ceremony at the Utah Air National Guard Base Jan. 9.

Harrison is a 35-year veteran, and has served as deputy commander since 2006. During the ceremony, the Adjutant General, MG Brian Tarbet, awarded Harrison the Joint Medal of Merit for his Joint Forces service and then publicly thanked him.

“What you have done in the Service these last three decades has kept this country safe,” said Tarbet. “You can be very proud of all you’ve done.”

Harrison began his military career in 1974 with the active-duty Air Force. He served as both a navigator and instructor navigator on the KC-135 Stratotanker’s A and D models. In 1987, he joined the Utah Air National Guard, serving as an instructor, evaluator navigator and operations officer on the KC-135E model. He is a master navigator with more than 5,000 flight hours.

“In this man’s history is our nation’s history,” said Tarbet, as he explained some of Harrison’s military contributions.

Harrison has flown and participated in several combat and overseas military operations. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. He also served in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, Deny Flight and Allied Force. Additionally, Harrison served a three-year tour in England as a command-post controller and senior controller. During his career, Harrison received more than 15 other meritorious service awards and decorations.

Among Harrison’s recent service, he provided security and ancillary support for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. He also provided extensive support to Task Force Utah in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He developed, orchestrated and implemented the reception and operations plan of nearly 600 evacuees from Louisiana.

Utah National Guard Land Component Commander BG Michael Liechty described Harrison as someone who is sincere in what he does, and one who loves his Soldiers and Airmen. He also credited the great progress Utah Joint Forces has made to Harrison.



MG Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general, awards Brig Gen Scott Harrison the Joint Medal of Merit for his service during a retirement ceremony Jan. 9, at the Utah Air National Guard Base. Harrison was deputy commander of Joint Forces Headquarters, Utah National Guard and officially retired from the Guard after 35 years.
Photo by SSgt Emily Monson

“He has done more to bring the Army and Air together than anyone else,” said Liechty.

In his retirement speech, Harrison explained his motto has been to, “Get the job done, and take care of the people who did it.”

Harrison is a resident of Sandy, Utah. He comes from a military family, and has five brothers. He also has a wife of 36 years and 12 children. Harrison described his family as a hundred different personalities all working together.

Harrison also addressed the military members of the audience in his speech.

“Your career goes by fast,” said Harrison. “Take advantage of every single day you get to work here. It is a privilege to get to work for the Utah National Guard.”

Then Harrison praised the military attendees.

“When I look out over the audience I see massive practiced confidence,” continued Harrison. “I am confident that there isn’t any problem that we can’t solve.”

Yama Sakura: Guardsmen Experience Japanese Culture

Story by SFC Jason Shepherd and SGT Gerardo DeAvila

Photos by SGT Gerardo DeAvila

CAMP HIGASHI-CHITOSE, Japan — **T**ea ceremonies, paper folding and sword demonstrations aren't usually the first things to come to mind when you think of a command-post exercise with one of the U.S.'s strongest military allies.

Yet, the more than 1,500 troops participating in Yama Sakura 57 had the opportunity to visit Japanese children with special needs and practice the art of calligraphy and origami before the start of this year's exercise.

These events were part of a series of exchanges Dec. 7-13 designed to foster a better understanding of Japanese culture and traditions.

The Northern Army of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, the U.S. military's bilateral partner for this year's exercise, planned and executed the cultural series. Each day featured a different event, hosted on the Northern Army's camp on the island of Hokkaido, Japan's most northern island.

One of the first cultural activities offered was a Japanese home visit, which was designed to let U.S. participants experience Japanese home life firsthand.

SSG Andrew Knight of the Colorado National Guard's 169th Fires Brigade helped prepare a northern Japanese staple, *mochi gome*, or sticky rice, during his home visit.

"One of the neater things we got to do was take steamed rice and put it in this big bowl and started pounding on it with a hammer," he said. "Later, [our host's wife] came back with soup and the rice was in it. It was absolutely delicious."

Knight also added that experiencing the home life of an average Japanese family was something he has always wanted to do.

"I've always been intrigued by [East Asian] culture," he said. "So many ancient traditions that we as Americans don't get to see too often. It was very eye opening to be able to see this in person and actually visit with a Japanese family and see how they live and how they view America."

"I was humbled by this experience, and I love the respect and honor I felt being at my host's home," said SPC Latangia Oliver, 40th Special Troops Battalion, California National Guard. "This is my first trip to Japan and did not know what to expect and felt a little apprehensive, but after tonight I feel right at home."

During the home visit, 1LT Kyosuke Moriguchi, Northern Army, JGSDF, served as an interpreter. He said that he was happy to experience the interaction between the U.S. and the family.



TOP DOWN: Utah National Guardsman CPT Ryan Mundy learns the art of Japanese calligraphy from members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. As part of the cultural awareness, Soldiers enjoy "Wadaiko" music played on traditional Japanese drums. A Japanese swordsman treats participants to a demonstration before the start of Yama Sakura 57.

“The U.S. military and the host family made a good connection,” he added. “I hope the JGSDF and U.S. military make as good a connection [during Yama Sakura].”

CPT Ryan Mundy, Utah National Guard, learned how to write his name in Japanese during the calligraphy class.

“I am amazed at the beauty and difficulty of writing Japanese,” he said. “It’s a beautiful language.”

SGT Lizeth Reyes of the California National Guard’s 40th Infantry Division participated in a tea ceremony and enjoyed the attention to detail placed on such an important part of Japanese life.

“This has given me a great appreciation in working with my counterparts, and I’m glad they made an effort to share their world with me,” she said.

Other classes during the week included the Japanese art of flower arranging, or *kado* and the proper wear of a kimono.

For many, the best part of the cultural exchange was the joint U.S.-JGSDF visit to children with special needs. The 29 U.S. and 29 JGSDF troops played wheelchair soccer and had a great time, according to CSM Alveno Hodge, United States Army, Pacific Special Troops Battalion.

“When you come to different countries you usually only get to see what’s on that particular installation during that military operation,” Hodge said. “But here, our host, the JGSDF, has done so much for us. They have gone out of their way to make us feel comfortable in their country.”

“I saw lots of smiling,” said CSM Hisanoria Honda, Northern Army, JGSDF. “I believe that the U.S. participants will have some good memories to bring home.

More than 1,500 U.S. military personnel and nearly 3,500 members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force participated in the exercise Dec. 7-13. Yama Sakura, which means “mountain cherry blossom,” is an annual, bilateral exercise designed to strengthen military operations and ties between the U.S. Army and the JGSDF. 🇺🇸

Family Assistance Centers (FAC)

By Katrina Rhinehart

DRAPER, Utah — What is a family assistance center?

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

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

What services are provided by a FAC?

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

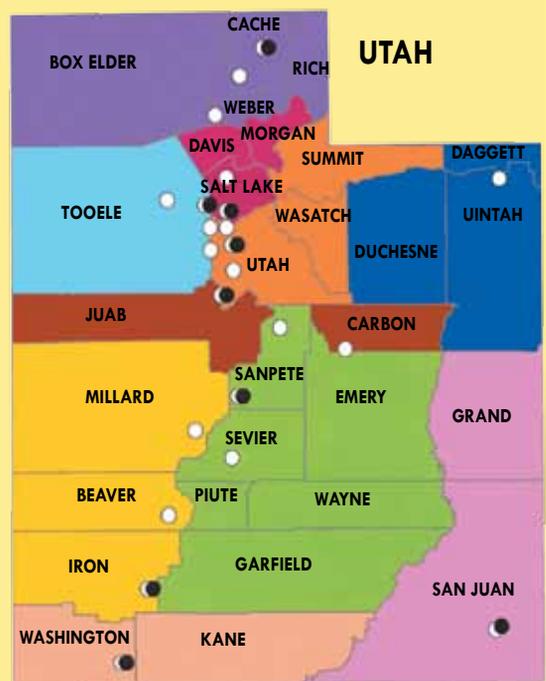
- TRICARE/TRICARE Dental assistance
- Financial Assistance/Counseling
- Point of contact (POC) for legal and pay issues
- POC for community support
- Emergency-assistance coordination
- Counseling Support/Referral
- Family/Household Emergencies
- Family Care Plan Information
- POC for Casualty Assistance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

Utah FAC Locations

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

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

For more information visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil. 🇺🇸



Utah Guard Biathlon Team Dominates at Regional Championship

Story and photos by SSG John Etheridge

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. — **F**our Soldiers from the Utah National Guard biathlon team brought home three medals after the team traveled to the outskirts of Yellowstone National Park to compete in the CNGB Western Regional Biathlon Championship held Dec. 10-12.

Approximately 50 biathletes from National Guard units around the Western region braved sub-zero temperatures and unfavorable ski conditions to compete in the cross-country ski and rifle marksmanship event.

The Utah team arrived with a mix of skilled veterans and hard-charging newcomers to the sport:

- SFC Shawn Blanke, team captain, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, has four seasons with the team and also has the advantage of being married to a former biathlon coach.
- MSG Doug Bernard, also of 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, is a several-year veteran of biathlon, and a back-country ski guide.
- LTC Eric Petersen, JAG officer from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 97th Aviation Troop Command, has two seasons in the sport and is also a marathon runner
- SPC Brandon Adams, A Company, Recruit Sustainment Program, with two years in biathlon and many more in cross-country skiing, is the Utah team's rising star.

The event started Dec. 10 with a race-prep day. Temperatures hovered around seven degrees below zero and teams converged on Rendezvous Ski Trail to assess the ski conditions, familiarize themselves with the course and to zero their rifles with help from their coach, SSG Jonathan Carlson, A Company, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion.

The sub-zero temperatures and meager amount of snow offered the Utah team a challenging situation.

"The snow is extremely slow," said Blanke. "With the low temperatures, the snow crystals are so sharp it slows the skis down. We'll expend two to three times more energy to finish this course than usual because the skis don't have any glide."

After a half day acquainting themselves to the race course and perfecting their shot group at the course rifle range, the team headed back to the hotel to plan their race day and participate in workshops for novice skiers.

Because of their athletic reputation and vast biathlon experience, Utah team members are often asked to give workshops and wax tips at the National Guard biathlon competitions.

"We try to do the workshops so the novice biathletes aren't just turned loose to figure the sport out on their own," said Blanke.

"There's a lot of mythology and knowledge that you take for granted when you're experienced," said Bernard, who gave a ski-waxing workshop at the event. "And when you're a novice in the sport it's overwhelming. What seems like common sense to me can be earth shattering for someone just starting out."

10K SPRINT

"Start out fast, then take it down a notch," said Bernard, imparting his wisdom to his teammates at dinner Thursday night. "Ski a little conservative coming into the range, because it's all uphill."

The morning of Dec. 11, biathletes prepared for the first race of the championship, the 10K sprint. Regional competitors were joined by three teams from outside the region, South Dakota, North Dakota and Indiana. Although these teams are allowed to compete in the event, they are not awarded medals or trophies for placing because they are from outside the Western region.

Before the race starts, each biathlete is seeded based on skill level and past performance. The race starts with the number-one racer leaving the gate, followed every 30 seconds by the next-seeded racer.

Each racer must ski three times around the course to finish. At the end of the first and second lap, the biathlete must stop at the rifle range and shoot to clear five targets with their .22 caliber rifle. For each target the racer misses, he must ski a penalty lap of about 150 meters before he can continue with the race.

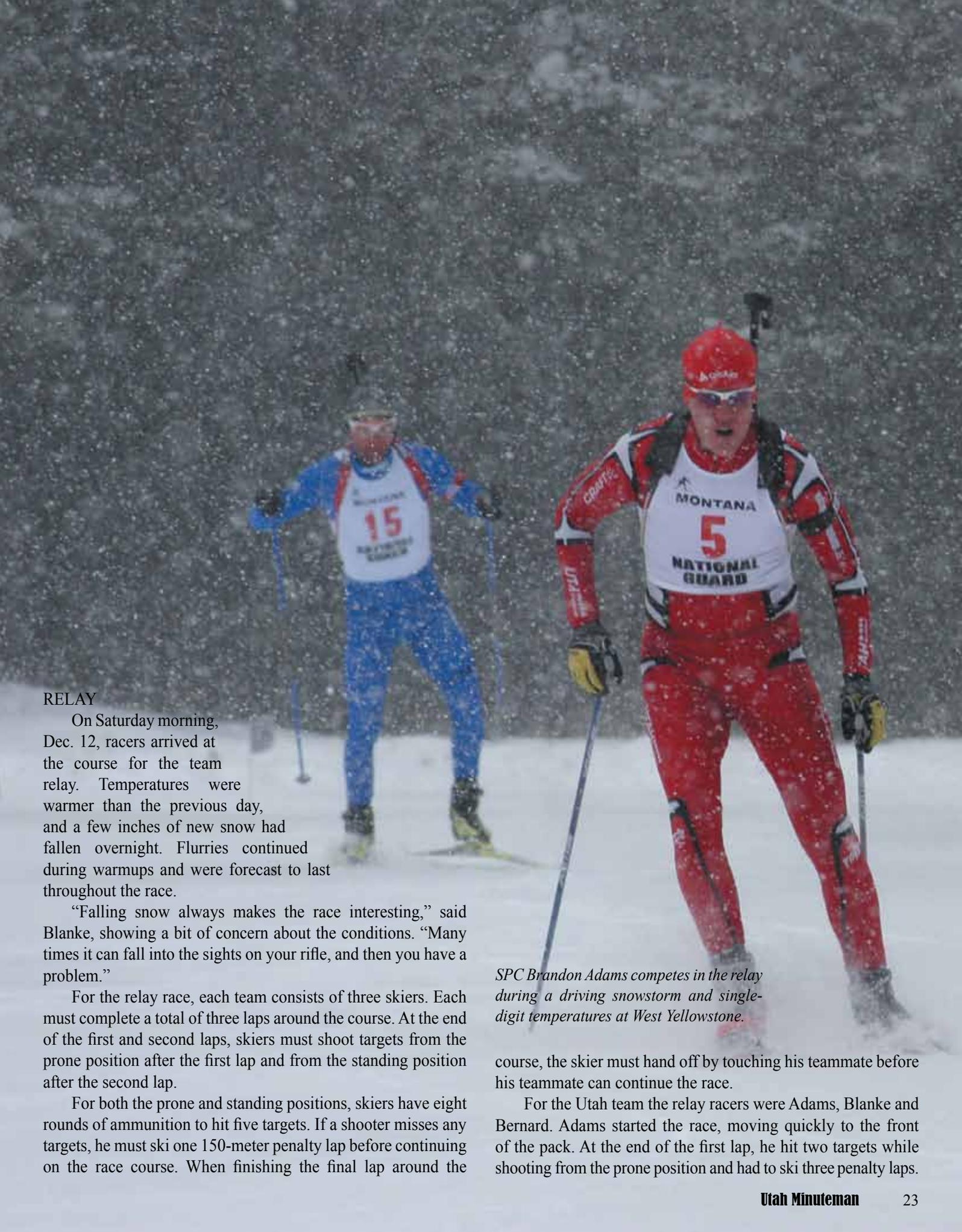
The race started with Utah racers seeded as follows: Doug Bernard, one; Shawn Blanke, two; Brandon Adams, eight; and Eric Petersen, 30.

Bernard started the race strong. Shooting from the prone position after his first lap, Bernard hit four targets. From the standing position after his second lap, he was only able to hit two targets. With a total of four penalty laps assessed to him, Bernard was still able to ski strong and finish second place overall and first among regional competitors.

Blanke, in the number-two spot, started the race 30 seconds after Bernard. Hitting six of ten targets between his two rounds of shooting, Blanke finished the race eighth overall and fourth for the regional competition.

Adams, despite hitting a total of only three targets and skiing seven penalty laps, his superior skiing abilities enabled him to catch up and cross the finish line with Blanke. Adams finished the race sixth overall and third in the regional competition.

Petersen, seeded with the intermediate skiers, hit three targets and after skiing his three laps and seven penalty laps was able to finish with the pack and finish 31st overall.



RELAY

On Saturday morning, Dec. 12, racers arrived at the course for the team relay. Temperatures were warmer than the previous day, and a few inches of new snow had fallen overnight. Flurries continued during warmups and were forecast to last throughout the race.

“Falling snow always makes the race interesting,” said Blanke, showing a bit of concern about the conditions. “Many times it can fall into the sights on your rifle, and then you have a problem.”

For the relay race, each team consists of three skiers. Each must complete a total of three laps around the course. At the end of the first and second laps, skiers must shoot targets from the prone position after the first lap and from the standing position after the second lap.

For both the prone and standing positions, skiers have eight rounds of ammunition to hit five targets. If a shooter misses any targets, he must ski one 150-meter penalty lap before continuing on the race course. When finishing the final lap around the

SPC Brandon Adams competes in the relay during a driving snowstorm and single-digit temperatures at West Yellowstone.

course, the skier must hand off by touching his teammate before his teammate can continue the race.

For the Utah team the relay racers were Adams, Blanke and Bernard. Adams started the race, moving quickly to the front of the pack. At the end of the first lap, he hit two targets while shooting from the prone position and had to ski three penalty laps.

When Adams came around to the range from his second lap, he also hit two targets shooting from the standing position and had to ski three more penalty laps.

“It motivated me to ski faster,” said Adams afterwards, showing a bit of frustration about his shooting.

After his third lap, Adams’ hard skiing put his teammate in good position as he handed off to Blanke, five minutes behind the overall leader, South Dakota, and a minute and a half behind Alaska, the regional leader.

Shooting from the prone position after his first lap, Blanke made quick work of the targets by hitting all five. Without any penalty laps to ski, Blanke was able to pass the Alaskan team and close the gap on the team from South Dakota.

In the standing position, after his second lap, Blanke shot four out of five. With only one penalty lap, Blanke continued to gain on the leader.

Because of his excellent shooting, by the end of his third lap Blanke had made up nearly five minutes for his team as he handed off to their fastest skier, Bernard, now about 40 seconds behind South Dakota.

By the time Bernard finished his first lap, he had already passed and taken the lead from South Dakota. Shooting from the prone position, Bernard hit all five of his targets. With no penalty laps to ski, Bernard skied on, solidifying the Utah lead.

After his second lap, shooting from the standing position, Bernard hit three of his targets. Incurring two penalty laps, Bernard skied on with the nearest competitor about three minutes behind him.

Coming off his third lap, Bernard crossed the finish line securing the first-place win for the Utah team, the nearest competitor three and a half minutes behind.

Saturday afternoon, after the end of the races, the biathletes gathered at the Bear’s Den Cinema for the regional championships awards ceremony. At the ceremony, Bernard was awarded the first place medal and Adams was awarded the third place medal for the 10K sprint.

The Utah relay team, Adams, Blanke and Bernard were also awarded the first-place trophy for their relay-race win.

“As a team, I think our performance was strong,” said Blanke. “While it is hard to argue with beating the next team in the West by over seven minutes, there is room for improvement.”

“Our chances at Nationals are excellent if we can send our best to this event, but with deployments looming, that is going to be one of our biggest challenges,” said Blanke, looking forward to the CNGB National Biathlon Championships later this season. 🇺🇸



TOP DOWN: MSG Doug Bernard leads the pack at the start of the relay race. SFC Shawn Blanke takes aim as he zeroes his rifle prior to the race. LTC Eric Petersen fires from the prone position to solidify Utah's lead at the Western Regionals Dec 11.

Yellow Ribbon Program Aids Guardsmen with Deployment

Story by PFC Ariel Solomon

Photo by CPT Wencke Tate

DRAPER, Utah — **S**oldiers, Airmen, and families of the Utah National Guard have at their disposal a program to help them move smoothly back into a normal life after a long deployment.

The Yellow Ribbon program, mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, was instituted to help ease the strain of returning home. One of its main purposes is to give Soldiers a cooldown time after a deployment, while allowing their leaders to keep a caring eye on them as they move back into their civilian lives.

“Yellow Ribbon is a reintegration program that helps Servicemembers and their families prepare for deployment and brings families back together when it’s time to come home,” said MAJ Annette Barnes, Utah National Guard Servicemember and Family Services director. “Following 9/11, Guard Soldiers and leaders noticed that active-duty Servicemembers were having fewer problems with reintegration because they would come home, take a week or two off, and then come back to work. For many Guardsmen, by the time they would come back, after the 90 day “hands-off” period following deployment, they would be facing challenges alone, without the Army’s or unit members’ help. Because they were seeing so many more issues with the Guard, they changed the 90-day policy.”

The mandatory Yellow Ribbon family events are scheduled 30 and 60 days after the Servicemember returns home. At the events, Servicemembers and their spouses can talk about any problems they have noticed during their first month of reintegration. There is another event held at 90 days, where only the Soldier or Airman comes to drill to complete a post-deployment health reassessment.

“They answer questions about how they’re feeling, if they’re having any struggles, and at that point we can find anyone who seems to be having any particular issue or challenge,” said Barnes.

At the end of 180 days, if a commander sees that there are still problems with a good portion of his or her people, they can ask for a continued event every 180 days up to five years.

“Communication is the key to most of our struggles for life in general,” said Barnes, about some of the objectives of the Yellow Ribbon program. “So if we can get families talking to each other, then they know where to go to get answers to their questions and get the resources they need. We don’t want families to just be struggling through this process; we want families to get super pro at [working through issues] so they can thrive through this process.”



Susan Summers welcomes Servicemembers to the 30-day post-reintegration event held at the Hyatt Summerfield Suites Jan. 9.

“The Guard Family Program was always doing this, but now additional resources have been provided for pre-deployment events as well. On the way out the door for deployment, Servicemembers and their families go through training to get any pre-deployment help they may need,” added Barnes. “Before their Soldier or Airman comes home, spouses participate in reunion briefings to help them prepare for their Servicemember’s return and to explain to them what to expect.”

“Your Servicemember might not be sleeping as well as they used to sleep, they might be startled by loud noises or they might be easily agitated,” explained Barnes. “It’s part of ramping a Soldier down. We try to prepare families, spouses and parents of Servicemembers to be aware of what may be happening.”

The new Yellow Ribbon program came about because of the National Defense Authorization Act, passed in 2008, which made it a mandated program.

“So we’re not just scraping by and begging and borrowing to try to provide these things,” said Barnes.

Because of the NDA Act, National Guard leaders are now required to provide these mandated programs for Servicemembers.

“I want the leadership to realize this is a mandatory program,” Barnes said. “From the time you come out of Basic Training, you always hear about preventive-maintenance checks and services (PMCS). We need to do PMCS on our Servicemembers too, because they’re the ones at the trigger, or at the steering wheel or at the end of a pen performing these tasks for us, and so they are more important than the equipment. They are our number-one resource.”

Utah TAG Symposium



Members of 97th Troop Command and their Family Readiness Group volunteers pose proudly by the winning 'tower.' The group was given instruction to build the tallest tower with items provided.

Story and photos by CPT Wencke Tate

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**hree hundred civilians and military leaders attended to the annual TAG Symposium held at the Salt Lake City Hilton Nov. 7-8. During the conference questions like the following were posed:

“Do we compete when we don’t have to?”

“Is it about me or the mission?”

“Leadership has little to do with rank; it has to do with who’s best at the given task.”

MAJ Annette Barnes, Family Program coordinator, hosts the conference on behalf of the adjutant general (TAG) annually.

“Although it has only been called the “TAG (The Adjutant General) Symposium” for the past two years, this event has been conducted for ‘many years’ under the name Family Program Conference,” said Barnes.

“The TAG has taken a real vested interest for families and Servicemembers and he wanted to have his name tied into this event so it would give emphasis to get military leaders to attend,” explained Barnes.

“He wanted to make sure volunteers knew this was his symposium, and he was very committed to all the Family Readiness Groups and their success,” Barnes added.

The main goal of the TAG symposium was to link up the Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers with

the commanders and leaders in the units they support, to train together and for the volunteers to get good information that pertains to the uniqueness of volunteering for a military organization.

“The Family Readiness Program is a commanders’ program; it’s not my program,” said Barnes. “And because commanders have so many mission-oriented things and training to do, they often do not get specific time to just concentrate only on their FRG groups and their volunteers. We try to facilitate that at this conference, so they can train together to be a team. It’s a reminder to them that this is their team and learn to work with them and get to know them better.”

Family Programs staff members and volunteers from each major command attended the National Family Program Conference this past summer. During the conference they attended many classes, where they selected their top picks for suggested curriculum for the two-day event in Utah.

To help make the TAG Symposium a success, Barnes booked Jenner Marcucci, a motivational speaker and founder of Summit Leadership Group.

“On a fundamental level, I want people to walk away with a renewed sense of purpose or direction,” said Marcucci. “I want people to feel stronger about themselves. On the practical side, I want to equip people with tools for the stress of deployments and also to be able to contribute more in their own teams.”

“Jenner’s main focus was the importance in having a good emotional intelligence, particularly when working with families and civilians,” said Barnes. “When we’re working with families, you can’t always be so rigid, and things are flexible when working with civilians and volunteers.”

Misty Amendola, FRG volunteer, Alpha Company, 141st Military Intelligence, said, “Jenner was excellent. I learned good leadership techniques from him. It’s nice to support my husband and do something for the families too.”

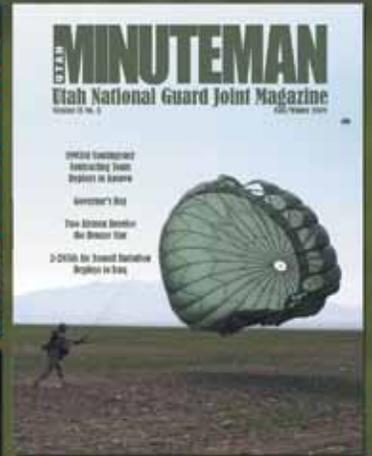
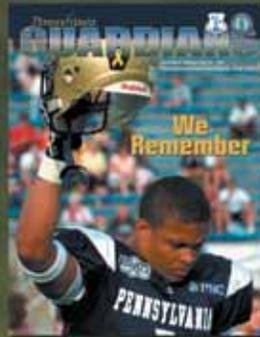
Other offerings at the conference were breakout sessions covering everything from finances to how to motivate volunteer. In the foyer,



Laughing with onlookers, Apphia Dooley works the Family Programs table ready to hand out magazines and pamphlets. Many booths and tables were set up for volunteers to get information on a variety of different programs and services.

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Kylie Kramer, FRG volunteer with the 141st MI, shakes the hand of MG Brian Tarbet, the adjutant general, and receives an award for her volunteerism.

And that is exactly what Barnes hoped would happen.

“I think everybody benefits from going to this conference,” explained Barnes. “The families that the volunteers are serving are benefiting from it because they are getting a volunteer that is trained and appreciated and gets to know their unit leadership and gets to deliver a better product to the families and get those FRG groups really strong. And commanders benefit because we’re giving them concentrated time with their volunteers to work together as a team and get to know each other.

Ending the event, volunteers were recognized with awards and bags of gifts for their dedicated service to volunteer work with the FRG, and the TAG personally shook each volunteer’s hand. 🇺🇸

many informational booths were set up covering programs such as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and Youth Programs.

For Rebecca Duncan, volunteer, 489th HHD, BSB, this is her first time being part of a Family Readiness Group.

“For me, there’s a lot of great information to take back with me and reevaluate my role as part of the FRG,” she said. “I’m asking myself, ‘How can I better serve the families within our group?’ I think I definitely learned better ways to understand the importance of being family ready and having a strong FRG in place.”



SFC Nichole Bonham, 128th MPAD, watches Jenner Marcucci, Summit Leadership Group founder, brief the audience to watch a clip of “The 4-Hour House” during a breakout session.

Utah Army National Guard Soldiers Compete in Mixed Martial Arts Combatives

Story and photos by CW4 Dave Lucero

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Utah Army National Guard took their first Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) combative team to Fort Benning, Ga., to attend the 5th annual All-Army Combatives Tournament Sept. 18. There were 180 participants competing in seven different weight classes with 360 bouts.

Each of the Utah Guard participants had at least three good bouts but were unable to continue to Day Two of the competition because of losses.

The whole purpose of the system is not to allow you to walk into the room and clean up, it's to give you the tools to survive long enough until your buddy shows up and helps you. The biggest thing is that it gives you the confidence to do the techniques and do the job you need to do regardless of the situation.



(Left to right) TOP ROW:

MAJ Jeffery Bruce, Coach Rob Hadley, SSG Kyle Cross, SFC Brady Johnson
BOTTOM ROW: 2LT Martin Berta, Manager CW4 Dave Lucero, SGT Jeremy Walker

Utah National Guard Mixed Martial Arts Competitors

SGT Jeremy Walker
19th Special Forces, 163-170 lbs.

2LT Martin Berta
19th Special Forces, 163-170 lbs.

SSG Kyle Cross
19th Special Forces, 180-185 lbs.

MAJ Jeffery Bruce
19th Special Forces, 186-205 lbs.

SFC Brady Johnson
19th Special Forces, 205 and up

CW4 David Lucero
Joint Forces Headquarters
Team Manager

Coach Rob Hadley
Absolute Mixed Martial Arts



Wearing the blue belt, 2LT Martin Berta competes during Day One of the All-Army Combatives Tournament Sept. 18.

While struggling for bragging rights, staying in shape and relieving stress are all important aspects of the Modern Army Combatives, none are near as significant as reinforcing the Warrior Ethos.

The Utah Guard team had an opportunity to assist a Soldier from Utah, Jacob South. Coach Hadley worked Jacob South's corner and was able to coach him to a victory and first-place finish.

Prior to the start of Jacob's fight, Hadley asked Jacob how was his ground-and-pound game.

"How hard could it be?" Jacob answered. "You just hit them."

Hadley was able to take a moment and explain that the ground-and-pound game is a game of patience, picking your shots wisely and finishing the fight without giving up your position.

South won the fight with a knockout utilizing Hadley's ground-and-pound advice. The rest of the team rooted for Jacobs, making him feel that the crowd was behind him. 🇺🇸



MAJ Jeffery Bruce, wearing the red belt, scored some great points during this match, but lost this one at the end.

SFC Brady Johnson, wearing the red belt, battles the All-Army Combatives heavyweight second-place winner.



Tournament Rules

Day One: The tournament is split into three different levels of intensity. The standard-rule fights do not allow strikes and are based entirely on grappling. Submissions are the key, but a point system for improving position is also enforced. On Day One, a round lasts six minutes.

Day Two: The intermediate level allows for open-palmed strikes to the face, punches and kicks to the neck and below, and knees to below the waist along with the aforementioned grappling rules. On Day Two a round lasts 11 minutes.

Day Three: The advanced bracket incorporates nearly the exact rules as present-day MMA, except elbows are not allowed. Depending on who hosts the tournament, on Day Three there are three rounds that last five minutes each.

Immediate Response 2010: U.S. and Georgian Troops Train Together for Afghanistan

Story by SSG John Etheridge, CPT Greg Jones and LTC Hank McIntire

Photos courtesy UTNG Public Affairs

TBILISI, Republic of Georgia — **A**t Vaziani Training Area near Tbilisi from Oct. 24 to Nov. 6, nearly 400 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines participated in Immediate Response 2010, a bilateral exercise designed to prepare U.S. and Georgian troops for upcoming deployments to Afghanistan.

The exercise was specifically geared toward the kind of counterinsurgency operations the troops can expect to encounter in Afghanistan. Exercise events include individual and small-unit training tasks, a live-fire exercise, and a company-level, force-on-force training exercise. During the same time frame, medical professionals from both militaries carried out a Medical Civil Assistance program in various locations throughout Georgia.

The U.S. troops involved in the exercise included the U.S. Army's 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment; U.S. Marine Corps' 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; U.S. Army's 21st Theater Sustainment Command; Joint Multinational Readiness Center; Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR); Utah Army National Guard; Georgia Air National Guard; U.S. Army Reserve; U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy.

The bulk of the U.S. troops were from the 2nd SCR and Marine Corps. They joined with Georgian troops to form a combined U.S.-Georgian battalion as well as an opposing force for training purposes and all operated under the direction



A member of U.S. Marine Corps' 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, plays the role of the opposing force in defending a building during a high-value target exercise at Vaziani Training Area.

of a combined U.S.-Georgian exercise command cell, which roughly resembled a brigade headquarters. The command cell was formed primarily from the 21st TSC, USAREUR, and the Utah Army National Guard.

Included in the U.S. contingent were the same JMRC training teams that prepare U.S. troops for deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world. These teams design the training programs, oversee the conduct of the training, and help

U.S. and Georgian Soldiers train together in a company-level exercise as part of Immediate Response 2010 at Vaziani Training Area near Tbilisi, Georgia.





Participants in Immediate Response 2010 fulfill their assigned support or combat duties as part of the joint U.S.-Georgian exercise to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan.

trained units develop lessons learned from the training. These lessons learned are then turned into specific techniques the troops can implement during their operational deployments.

This exercise is the third Immediate Response exercise to be conducted with Georgia. The Immediate Response series of exercises partners the U.S. with various countries throughout the region. Past events have been conducted with Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Georgia. The overall focus of these exercises is to continue to improve the ability of participating nations to execute joint and multinational operations together. This year's exercise focused on preparing Georgian troops for upcoming deployments in support of the International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan.

"Georgia is a valued partner in these types of endeavors," said COL Randy Rosenberg, U.S. co-director of the exercise. "I was personally thrilled to be tasked, together with the Georgian co-director, with training these U.S. and Georgian soldiers for further contribution to these operations."

"It gave us an idea of how they work, how we work, and how we can learn to work together better," said SPC Andrew Kirchoff, of Company B, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, whose unit merged with a Georgian unit to form a combined U.S. and Georgian company.

"This was very interesting training, and the process was very intense" said Cpl. Zedgenidze Merabi, with the 4th Brigade, 43rd Infantry Battalion, Georgian army. "I was very happy to work with the Americans and have gained a lot of experience."

UTAH GUARD MEMBERS BEHIND THE SCENES

Forming the backbone of the exercise were 54 Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah National Guard, many of whom provided the logistical support for IR10.

Among the services that Soldiers of Camp Williams Training Site Command provided or facilitated were billeting, laundry, meals, maintenance, information technology, ammunition, MWR, sick call, and religious services.

Soldiers from U.S. and Georgian forces stand in formation at the opening ceremonies of Immediate Response 2010 Oct. 26.





MG Patricia McQuiston, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, second from right, hears COL Randy Rosenberg, IR10 co-director, right, explain the purpose of this military vehicle.



Visiting leaders BG Jefferson Burton, second from right, and CSM Bruce Summers, right, listen to an overview briefing for Immediate Response 2010 at Vaziani Training Area.

“Base Ops was the nerve center of the operation,” said Major Stephan Jarvis, Dugway Detachment commander for Training Site Command, who served as base operations commander for the exercise. “Without that logistical support, it would not have been as successful as it was.”

Jarvis and many of his Soldiers in Georgia fulfilled a similar role at Cooperative Spirit, a multinational exercise held in September 2008 at Hohenfels, Germany, for U.S., Canadian, British, Australian, and New Zealand troops.

“Cooperative Spirit gave us a snapshot of our strengths and weaknesses,” said Jarvis. “We had a solid idea of what we really had instead of just what we saw on paper going into Immediate Response.” said Jarvis.

Utah Guard members also rounded out many of the exercise staff positions in Personnel, Intelligence, Operations, Logistics, Information Management, Medical, Protocol and Public Affairs.

“The mission in Georgia was a good opportunity to get out and do our jobs and interact with the other Services and militaries,” said LTC David Norris, executive officer of Training Site Command, who served as officer in charge of the Combined Operations and Intelligence cell for the exercise. “We showed that we could do the job just as well as our active-duty counterparts can.”

Specialist Shane Miller, a full-time technician with the Ammunition Supply Point at Camp Williams, saw some practical benefits to being assigned to handle ammunition for U.S. troops in Georgia.

“I have to learn all the [ammunition] processes in my day job,” he said. “Being here helps me see why regulations are in place. It helped me understand proper storage procedures and the importance of packaging and labeling. It was a real eye-opener.” “I also had more time to get to know the guys I work with every day,” Miller continued. “And I saw people in my own chain of command and got to know them a little better.”

Among the Utah contingent were a father and son, SFC Sterling Cope and SPC Steven Cope. Sterling wrapped up his 40-year military career, spending his last Annual Training stint with his son, a medic with the 144th Area Support Medical Company, who is on his first overseas mission with the military.

“I not only helped him, but he helped me a lot,” said the elder Cope. “It was important to work side by side with Steven. There’s nothing more enjoyable than to serve as father and son for your country in doing something you love.”

“It’s his last chance and my first,” added son Steven, who joined the Guard a couple of years ago. “We really worked hard to spend time together, doing PT (physical training) in the morning. It’s been a bonding experience; something I’ll remember with fondness for the rest of my life.”

As Servicemembers carried out their duties in the exercise, a number of distinguished visitors spent time observing the training and asking questions. Among them were General Carter Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe; BG Jefferson Burton, Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Utah National Guard; and John Bass, U.S. ambassador to Georgia.

“You have a special challenge transitioning back and forth [between military and civilian life],” said Bass, singling out Guardsmen and Reservists during his visit to the base Nov. 5. “Folks back home don’t necessarily appreciate the challenges you face. Thank you for mastering [your craft], being available, and being real Citizen-Soldiers.”

MEDCAP MISSION

During the two weeks of Immediate Response 2010, a contingent of American and Georgian military medical personnel conducted a humanitarian aid mission, enduring daily two-hour journeys filled with roadside potholes and winding roads, to bring much-needed medical aid to the residents of Dmanisi, Duisi and Akhalsikhe, Georgia.



1LT Kevin Spicer, tests the eyesight of a young Georgian boy during the MEDCAP exercise of Immediate Response 10. A Georgian woman waits her turn to be seen by U.S. and Georgian medical professionals during the MEDCAP exercise in October 2009. SPC Steven Cope, 144th ASMC, Utah National Guard, whose civilian job is with 1-800 CONTACTS in Draper, confers with a Georgian patient about eyewear in Dmanisi. A U.S. Soldier takes the pulse of a Georgian woman in the town of Dmanisi as part of IR10's MEDCAP exercise. BELOW: SSG Joey Muramoto, 19th Special Forces Group, Utah National Guard, listens to a Georgian mother's description of her son's symptoms during the IR10 MEDCAP exercise.

The Medical Civil-Assistance Program, or MEDCAP, team was composed of 27 Georgians from the Georgian army and Ministry of Health, and 23 Americans representing the U.S. Army Reserve, Utah Army National Guard and the Georgia Air National Guard.

“MEDCAPs enable us to go to other countries and be able to perform our medical mission,” said David Englerth, an observer with U.S. Army Europe’s Plans and Operations, “and joined with that, we get to train with and assist the host nation.”

The MEDCAP mission enabled American and Georgian medical teams to enhance their partnership and foster interoperability for future missions, while also supporting the existing Georgian medical infrastructure.

“The American doctor on the MEDCAP team worked one on one with the Georgian doctor and trained him on newer optometric methods and equipment—some of which the Georgian doctor had never used,” said Englerth. “So he was able to treat twice as many patients.”

“I was very surprised at how fast we became a cohesive unit, being that we’ve come from so many avenues and walks of life and countries,” said 1LT Shawn Spicer, 418th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve.

Over the course of the exercise, the team handed out medical prescriptions and eyeglasses donated by Lions Clubs in the United States. Nearly 700 patients were treated in general practice and optometric care.

Not only did the MEDCAP mission provide critical experience and training for U.S. and Georgian medical personnel, it also made a difference in the lives of Georgian citizens, many

of whom do not have access to what Americans would consider basic health care.

“There was an older gentleman who hadn’t been able to see clearly for many years,” said Col. Kenneth Wade, medical officer in charge for IR10, as he described a man who came for treatment at Dmanisi. “In the eyeglass kits provided by the Lions Club, there was his exact prescription. When they put the glasses on him and he could see for the first time in years, tears came to his eyes and to everybody around him.”

“The Georgians definitely responded positively to this event—so much so—that, unfortunately, our biggest constraint is not supplies or technology, but time,” added Spicer. “We just didn’t have enough time at each site to see all the people that need to be seen.”



Utah Places First in Guard Mix at Army 10-Miler

Story and photos by SFC Scott Faddis

WASHINGTON, DC — **S**ix Utah Soldiers competed in the 25th annual Army Ten-Miler Oct. 4. The Soldiers are all part of the Utah National Guard Marathon Team. They were confident they would compete well and ended up taking first place in the Guard Mixed category.

The Army Ten-Miler is one of the largest ten-mile races in the world and is the Army's premier running event. This year 30,000 runners registered with 759 teams competing in the race. In theater more than 12 camps will host a Shadow Run, with an additional 5,000 runners around the world.

Military and civilian runners come from all across the world to be a part of this annual tradition. International teams and participants from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ireland and Denmark compete in the race.

The race course started and finished at the Pentagon and ran through the nation's capital. For many spectators one of the many highlights was the members of the Missing Parts in Action Team (Wounded Warriors). The cheers for the Warriors were the loudest of all.

Utah National Guard Warriors overall time 04:17:28

Name	Time	Overall	Bib
SGT Christopher Odekirk	0:59:01	133	189
LTC Eric Petersen	1:03:10	320	375
MSG Ray Workman	1:03:12	323	28613
LTC George Graff	1:04:10	388	1117
CPT DeAnne Trauba	1:12:06	1375	2139
MAJ Tammy Manwaring	1:17:19	2622	4734

One of the missions of the Army Ten-Miler is to build esprit de corps and teamwork. The Utah National Guard Warriors lived the goal by working as a team from the day they registered for the race. In 2008, the team took third place in the Guard Mixed category, and in 2009 they were focused on improving their place.

"From the start, [LTC Petersen] was sending out training plans and reminders," said CPT DeAnne Trauba. "Although

Left to right: CSM Bruce Summers, MSG Ray Workman, MAJ Tammy Manwaring, LTC George Graff, LTC Eric Petersen, CPT DeAnne Trauba, SGT Christopher Odekirk, and BG Jeff Burton.





running is an individual sport, we all really love competing as a team. The Army 10-Miler focuses on the teamwork concept.”

For MSG Ray Workman, 2009 will be his last ten-miler. He ran in 2008 but due to an injury did not finish as well as he would have normally.

“It was really satisfying to be able to run the 10-Miler healthy and to contribute positively to the team,” said Workman.

BG Jeff Burton was at the 10-Miler to cheer on the team.

“I am exceptionally proud of the Utah Guard Warriors,” said Burton. “The Mixed event is one of the harder categories to win. The team set a great example of teamwork for both the Guard and the Army.”

TOP DOWN: SGT Christopher Odekirk finishes as the first member of Utah National Guard Warriors team with a time of 59:01. LTC Eric Petersen rounds the corner to finish off the Army 10-Miler with MSG Ray Workman right behind him. LTC George Graff finishes with a time of 1:04:10. A U.S. Marine runs the Army Ten-Miler in his BDUs.

MINUTEMAN 5K

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Organ Donor Honored in Rose Parade

Story and photos by SPC Lyndsey Dransfield

PASADENA, Calif. — **E**very New Year's Day, thousands of people assemble on the streets of Pasadena to watch the Tournament of Roses New Year celebration. The annual festival is composed of flower-covered floats and marching bands, followed by a college football game.

This year, 28-year-old Tyla Newbold and 12-year-old Carter Bryant sat on a float with 23 others to celebrate not only the New Year, but another year of life given to them at the cost of another.

On Aug. 1, 1997, MAJ Coy Bryant, Active Guard Reserve manager in the Utah National Guard, was riding as a passenger in his car driven by his very pregnant wife, Caroline Ball Bryant.

In preparation for their first child, the couple was in the process of moving into a bigger house in Cedar City, Utah. On the way to relinquish the keys to the apartment they were living in, Caroline started feeling queasy and decided to turn around.

"She did a U-turn at the intersection and when she turned a truck was pulling through and broad sided us," Coy said. "For me it felt like we slid across the road then stopped. I turned and asked if she was okay and realized she was unconscious."

The driver of the truck immediately called an ambulance, and Caroline was rushed to the hospital. Medical staff monitored the swelling of her brain and the blood pressure of both her and the baby.

"When the baby's heart rate became too high, the doctors told me I had to make a decision fast," Coy said.

The decision was made to conduct an emergency C-section and Carter Bryant was born the same day.

Caroline suffered massive head trauma and never regained consciousness. She passed away the next day, at the age of 21.

"It was the hardest thing I've ever gone through," Lynn Ball said of the death of her daughter. "Some people are prepared for death, but with Caroline it was just a phone call in the morning and it was just sheer panic. It just knocks you sideways because you haven't prepared for it. When I look back, someone or something got us through it, but I still don't know how."

Throughout the tragic day, difficult choices had to be made, but one decision was certain.

"We had talked about organ donation before and we'd both agreed that if anything ever happened we wanted to be organ donors. The decision wasn't hard for me," Coy said. "We donated her internal organs."



ABOVE: Major Coy Bryant, Utah National Guard, and his son Carter place a rose on the 2010 Donate Life Rose Parade float, dedicated to wife and mother Caroline Ball Bryant. Caroline died after a tragic car accident in 1997 while pregnant with Carter.

Caroline Ball Bryant, deceased wife of MAJ Coy Bryant of the Utah National Guard and mother of Carter Bryant. Caroline died after a tragic car accident in 1997 while pregnant with Carter. As a registered organ donor, her organs saved six lives. Carter and Caroline's liver recipient, Tyla Newbold, rode the 2010 Donate Life Parade float to honor Caroline and encourage all to register as organ donors.

A few weeks after the tragedy, the Bryants received a letter from Intermountain Donor Services informing them that Caroline's organs saved six lives. One of the lives was a 16-year-old-girl from Sandy, Utah.

Approximately 240 miles away, 16-year-old Tyla Newbold was getting prepared for surgery.

At the age of 12, Tyla was diagnosed with a rare blood-clotting disease called primary antiphospholipid syndrome. The life-threatening disease clotted the three hepatic veins from her heart to her liver, causing her liver to enlarge and forcing Tyla to live her life in a hospital bed.

For more than three years Tyla went through numerous life-saving surgeries.

"With little hope she would survive, her doctor finally agreed to add her to the transplant list," said Teresa Newbold, Tyla's mother.

Teresa and her husband Shane strongly believed rather than focusing on the fact their daughter was dying, they would focus on positive distractions.

"I was trying to give as much joy and laughter in her life to give her the energy to live longer," Teresa said.

front of the 2010 Donate Life Rose Parade float Dec. 29, with Tyla Newbold, recipient of a liver from Carter's deceased mother, Caroline Ball Bryant. BELOW: Organ, eye or tissue recipients wave ecstatically to the crowd from the Donate Life float during the 2010 Rose Parade, held in Pasadena Calif., Jan.1.

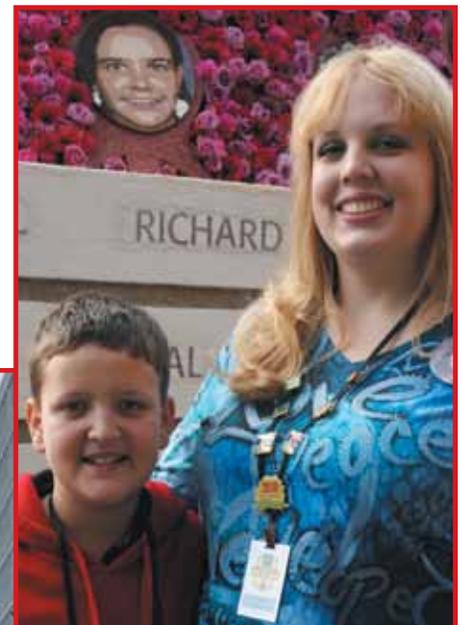
One of the most memorable moments for Tyla was meeting her favorite musicians All-4-One.

"When I was 13 they were performing in Utah and I wanted to go so bad! I'm one of their biggest fans," Tyla explained. "My mom called their manager and asked if they would call me. They said they were up in the area, so they would just stop by. They gave me my own concert in my hospital room. They're incredible guys and we've stayed in touch since then and have become great friends."

After 18 months on the waiting list, Tyla's condition worsened. She was given two weeks to live when they got the call that Tyla would receive a new liver.

"It was a humbling experience because we knew that another family had lost their loved one in order for our daughter to live," Teresa said. "We are so grateful they made the choice [to donate her organs.]"

RIGHT: Carter Bryant, left, son of MAJ Coy Bryant, Utah National Guard, stands in



Later, mutual acquaintances of the Newbolds and Bryants realized that Tyla received a liver near the time of Caroline's death and put the pieces together to confirm she was the donor. The two families met in December 1998.

"The first time I met Caroline's father (Roger Ball), we were at the State Capitol advocating children's health," Shane said. "It was so humbling I couldn't even speak. I just hugged him and cried because I knew of the pain and the sacrifice he was going through and the joy I was having. I felt in many ways it wasn't fair. Sometimes it's very hard knowing they've sacrificed so much, and we're the recipients who receive the joy."

The families have remained casual acquaintances throughout the years. When Tyla, now a spokesperson for American Red Cross, was invited to ride the Donate Life float in honor of Caroline, she invited Carter to ride along with her.

"Out of all organ donors, they chose my mom to honor in the parade, and I'm really proud they picked her," said Carter, clearly excited to be involved in the parade.

After meeting Tyla, the members of All-4-One became involved in promoting organ donation and came to Shriners' Hospital in Salt Lake City Dec. 15 to present the family with the partially finished floragraph, a portrait created of all natural ingredients to be mounted on the float. Together the Bryants, Newbolds, and Balls humbly completed the portrait of Caroline.

Along with 22 other donor recipients, donors' families and volunteers, they met again Dec. 29, in Pasadena, Calif., to contribute to the completion of the float and prepare for the New Year parade.

"It is quite overwhelming to realize how many people and how much work goes into organizing this float and this entire parade," Roger said, crediting the volunteers who make it happen. "It's amazing!"

Coy, who has since remarried, has two daughters, Makenna and Payton, with wife Leia. He was sure to involve his family in the events.

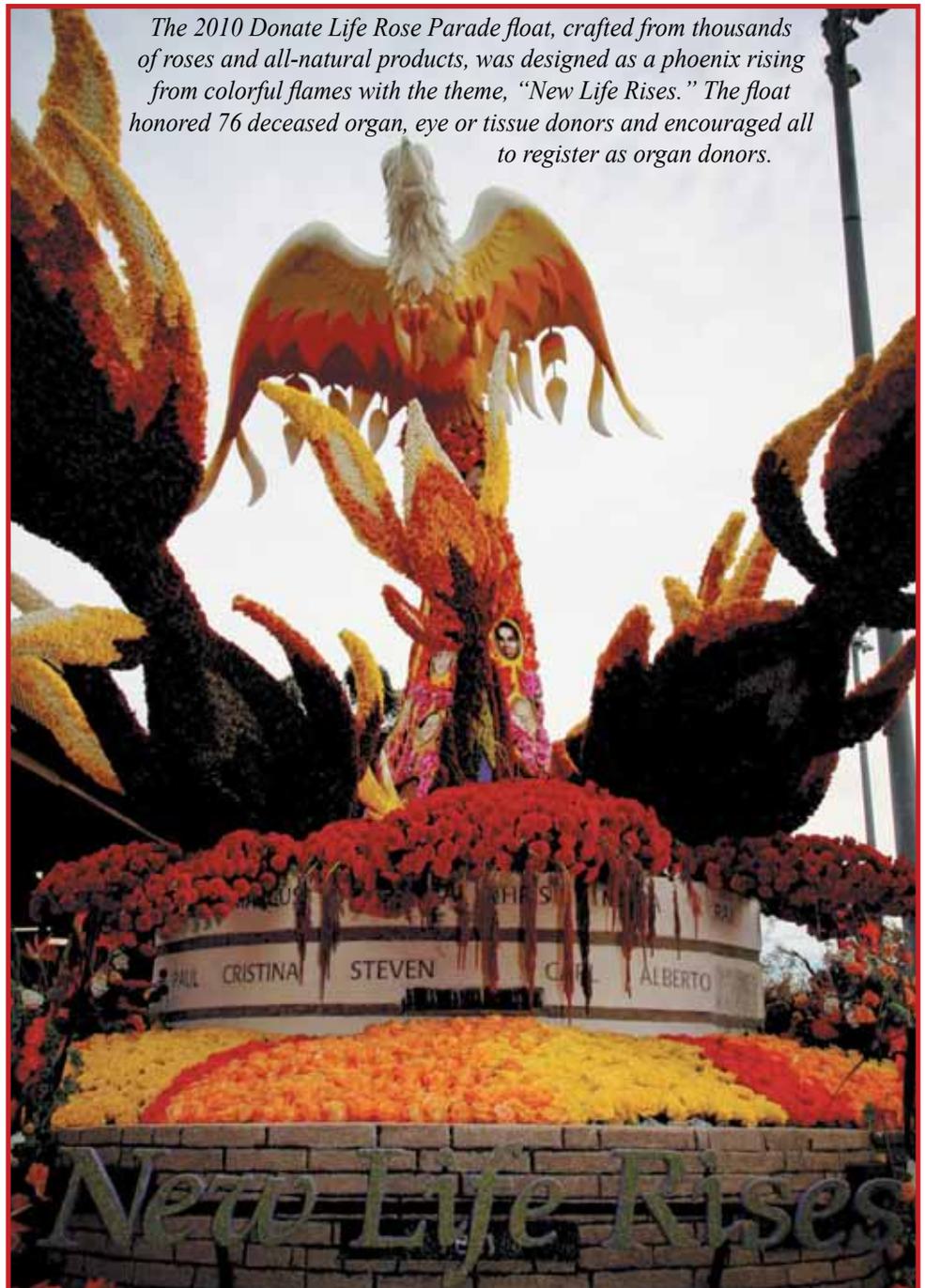
"It's funny how one moment can change your life forever," he said. "This experience has brought back a lot of memories, but overall it's a very positive experience. It's brought a lot of good

things out in my family. It's good to see the impact on Carter and let him know what his mother did for him and others."

The unique experience not only strengthened the bond between the families, it gave them all a chance to meet others who have experienced similar feelings of happiness, pleasure, loss and pain.

"It's fantastic to meet other people who have experienced the same situation we have and see the good that has come out of it," Lynn said. "Certainly the experience of meeting them will stay with me."

Early New Year's morning the families gathered at the grandstand and cheered as the Donate Life float went by.



“This is a celebration of life!” Teresa said. “It’s a celebration of Caroline’s life and the life she gave to Carter, Tyla and five others.”

The float was crafted into a phoenix rising from colorful flames with the theme “New Life Rises.” Along the streaming tail were 76 floragraphs, each depicting a deceased organ, eye or tissue donor. Tyla and Carter sat below the portrait of Caroline and ecstatically waved to the crowd.

“Words can’t express the gratitude I have for Carry’s family,” Tyla said. “Knowing she made that choice and was thinking about other people is just incredible. I was two weeks away from dying when I finally got my transplant and I’m here today. I have a life and get to be with my family all because somebody made the choice to be an organ donor.”



Are you a Donor?

According to the Donate Life Web site, transplantation is one of the most notable success stories in the history of medicine. It gives hope to thousands of people with organ failure and provides others with active and renewed lives. Although there are advances in medical technology and donation, the demand for organ, eye and tissue donation still exceeds the number of donors.

There are more than 100,000 men, women and children who currently need life-saving organ transplants, and an average of 18 people die each day from lack of available organs. Despite continuing efforts at public education, misconceptions about donation persist. Learn how you can be involved and the facts to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation at www.donatelife.net and www.unos.org.

Utah’s KC-135 Aircrew Performs Aeromedical Evacuation in Afghanistan

Story by Maj Krista DeAngelis

SALT LAKE CITY — **L**anding in the black of night, a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 air-refueling tanker touches down at the Bagram Air Base airfield in Afghanistan. With no external lights and the clock ticking, crews on the plane know they only have a limited time to refuel and load injured patients onto their “air ambulance” for transport to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

With lives on the line, aeromedical evacuation (AE) crews scurry to load a handful of patients who have lost limbs or suffered head trauma and other injuries into the back of a reconfigured aircraft. Having loaded the KC-135 with medical support equipment in Germany, aeromedical crews have virtually turned the back of the plane into a mobile hospital.

“When we arrived in Germany on the evening of December 27, Ramstein aeromedical crews began to configure the jet with patient-support pallets,” said Maj Dan Boyack, a 191st Air Refueling Squadron pilot who flew his first AE mission during this trip. “While medical personnel arranged the aircraft, we went into crew rest to prepare for the next day’s evacuation sortie.”

That mission took them on a six-and-a-half-hour flight from Ramstein AB to Bagram to pick up wounded patients. With only two and a half hours on the ground, the aircrew fueled up, AE crews loaded up the patients and the KC-135 turned around for another seven-and-a-half-hour flight back to Germany.

Photo by Maj Dan Boyack



Aeromedical ground crews stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, offload injured patients from a Utah Air National Guard KC-135.



“It ends up being about a 22-hour day from start to finish,” said Maj. Corey Love, 191st ARS pilot. “We land at about midnight when it’s dark for security reasons. Although there is currently no surface-to-air threat there, the biggest threat is small-arms fire...which is why we perform a tactical descent and arrival with all of our lights out. The KC-135 is the only non-defensible airframe allowed to land at Bagram, so we have to be very safety conscious.”

Once the aircraft lands at Bagram, the AE crews and/or critical-care teams take over and load the patients, who range from civilian contractors to U.S. and coalition military members, into the back of the aircraft and prepare them for the flight to Germany. In flight, medical crews monitor the patients, take their vitals, provide medication and try to assist with their comfort levels. Once the plane lands at the Ramstein flightline, aeromedical ground crews offload the patients on K-Loaders and transport them via ambulance bus to LRMC where they receive the critical medical attention they require.

“A team of about 15 people is usually waiting for us when we land,” explained Love. “They have ambulances—those big medical busses on the ramp—and usually a flight surgeon

ABOVE: Specialized medical crews transport injured patients to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center where they will receive further medical attention for injuries sustained in Afghanistan. BELOW: A specialized medical K-Loader prepares to offload patients from a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 arriving from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, at Ramstein AB, Germany, en route to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for further medical attention.

Photos by Maj Dan Boyack





Photo by Maj Corey Love



Photo by Maj Corey Love



Aeromedical evacuation personnel configure the back of a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 in flight from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, Dec. 30. These specialized medical crews ensure the back of the aircraft is prepared to medically support the injured patients they will transport from Bagram to Germany. Back row left to right: Maj Corey Love, Maj Daniel Boyack, SSgt Enoch Pitzer, SSgt John Lawson, TSgt Jeffrey Hall and 1st Lt David Geerdes. Kneeling: TSgt George Kalakis and MSgt Brian Lawson.

who will take control of the patients. It usually takes about 30 minutes to get them all off.”

By the end of their two-week rotation to Ramstein, the Utah aircrew had flown four AE missions on Dec. 28 and 30 and Jan. 1 and 3, as well as transported nine critical-care patients, 33 litter patients, 18 ambulatory patients and 20 medical attendants. The crew arrived safely back in Salt Lake Jan. 6.

“There was no down time on this trip,” said Love. “We were either in crew rest or flying for 13 straight days, so it was busy.”

Historically, the Utah ANG’s primary focus has been the KC-135’s air-refueling capability. The AE mission has often been understated, but aircrews agree that it is the most satisfying of all missions.

“It was the most rewarding and demanding mission I’ve ever done,” said Love. “This is the first time I’ve felt like we were really involved in what was happening in the war. You’re pretty much detached when you’re air refueling. You go up there and refuel fighters or bombers or cargo planes, then you go home and land somewhere safe and warm. But this time, it was rewarding to land where people are actually getting injured and putting their lives on the line, and then we get to bring them home.”

The pilots weren’t the only ones who felt the AE mission was worthwhile.

“People really hustled and the crew chiefs really got into their jobs on this mission,” said Boyack. “Traditionally, you might hear a few complaints when you ask people to work a 22-hour day, but there were absolutely no complaints on this trip. It’s really hard to complain that you’re working a long day when you’re transporting guys who are missing legs and arms.”

“We also talked to some of the medical crews out there who are deployed for four to six months, and you hear the same kinds of things from them, that this is the most rewarding mission they’ve been a part of,” said Love.

Boyack echoed the sentiment and explained how their mission was also integrally intertwined with current events.

“It was pretty interesting to go back to the room and watch the news and know what you were probably going to be doing the next day,” he said. “We were actually on the ground when the bomb went off and injured the CIA guys, and we ended up bringing some of the wounded back for that.”

Over the past several years, the 151st Air Refueling Wing has performed five AE missions. The Wing is currently scheduled to fly another mission in March 2010. 🇺🇸

Trunk or Treat at Camp Williams

Story by Kelly Barnes

Camp Williams, Utah — **T**his year due to the large crowds, Child and Youth Program hosted their annual Halloween event at Camp Williams, Oct. 24. Youth Council members helped plan and execute the event along with several volunteers that provided ‘trunks’ for the hundreds of costumed children to receive their treats.

State Youth Coordinator Kelly Barnes estimated there were between 1,200 to 1,500 people in attendance.

“We served 1,000 hot dogs within the first hour and a half,” Barnes said.

Included in the “trunk or treat” were balloon-twisting clowns, jump houses, a DJ, cake walks, craft stations, cotton candy machine and food and drinks for everyone. Each child received a bag filled with goodies and candy when they arrived.

“This year, we invited people from some of our Veteran Service Organizations to hand out literature and educate our Servicemembers and Veterans about products and services available to them,” said Barnes. “When you have a crowd this size, it’s a great opportunity to provide this service.”

Prior to the event start, the winds at Camp picked up, and it became very cold and rainy. Not to be deterred by this set-back, people braved the elements and enjoyed a very busy and fun event.

“It was great to see so many people attend. I was actually overwhelmed by the numbers,” said Barnes. “The most important part of any event this size is the willingness of our awesome volunteers from the Air and Army National Guard and Youth Council, who assisted in pulling this off. Each year, we try for bigger and better, so next year, bigger, perhaps, but better will be tough.”

Success has Family Programs Needing More Counselors

Story by SPC Rebecca R. Hansen

Photo by Ileen Kennedy

DRAPER, Utah — **A**fter being deployed away from their families for a year if not longer, Servicemembers and their families sometimes need a little help getting reintegrated into their daily civilian lives.

“We are taught from Day One at Basic Training to always do [Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services] on our equipment to be fully functional, but we need to make sure we PMCS ourselves too,” said Maj. Annette Barnes, Joint Force Headquarters, Servicemember and Family Support Services program director.

The Utah National Guard’s SFSS program added licensed clinical workers as counselors to their program, and their success has created the need to add two more counselors.

When Servicemembers come home from deployment, they and their families sometimes have a hard time with reintegration. As this became apparent, SFSS added two counselors, Gary Broadbent, director of Psychological Health, and Terry Routt, Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC). Because of demand for their services, Broadbent and Routt have had to take turns traveling throughout Utah.

“Active-duty [units have] always had these consultants, but the National Guard and Reserve didn’t and needed it,” said Barnes. “Our two

counselors have been so successful they have had their schedules booked.”

When the two new counselors are hired, one of them will work with Servicemembers in Southern Utah, from Spanish Fork to St. George. The other will focus on working out of the new Youth Center building at Camp Williams, but will also be available to all Utah Servicemembers.

The MFLCs are available 24 hours and seven days a week. They provide short-term therapy for Servicemembers and their families with couple, family and individual therapy. If counselors find that their patients need longer-term therapy, they will find them the resources to do so.

Servicemembers need to know they are not the only ones having challenges adjusting after they come home from a deployment, and they can get help without its keeping them from receiving security clearances or having a negative effect on their military career, said Barnes.

Those wishing to meet with a counselor can get connected to them through Military OneSource or can call Terry Routt at (801) 432-4921 and Gary Broadbent at (801) 432-4972. Their services are available to all Utah Servicemembers and their families.

Military and Family Life Consultant Terry Routt counsels Servicemembers and their families. Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Paladin Gets a Facelift

By MAJ Steven Fairbourn

Photo by Ileen Kennedy

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — **T**he guns of the 65th Fires Brigade are getting a well-deserved facelift! The M109A6 Paladin howitzers of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, and 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, are going to receive significant upgrades to improve the readiness, survivability, and lethality of this battle-proven platform. With these changes, the Paladin will remain relevant to the fight and support our maneuver units and Soldiers through the year 2060.

Field Artillery is updating the fleet of M109 Paladins. The Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program will take years to fully implement. Phase One of the transformation is under way now for the artillery of Utah. This includes updating the Paladin Digital Fire Control System (PDFCS) and the Automatic Fire-Extinguishing System (AFES) in the M992A2 Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicle (FAASV).

With the updated PDFCS, our elements will now be able to employ cutting-edge artillery munitions such as the Excaliber, XM982, precision-guided munition (PGM). PGMs have become a vital asset to the counter insurgency (COIN) fight and fire-support employment in urban areas. This enabling capability revitalizes the need for the Paladin fire support. The new PDFCS, in addition to consolidating the number of components required, also affords our Soldiers Blue Force Tracker capability, which provides real-time visibility of other friendly elements in the complex battlefield.

Phase One also replaces the troublesome AFES of the FAASV. The former suppression system has experienced reliability and maintenance issues. With the reliable and effective AFES in both the Paladin and the FAASV, the safety of our men is greatly enhanced.

Subsequent upgrades are targeted to begin in 2012 that will, simply stated, take the existing turret assembly (upper half of the howitzer) off the existing foundation and snap it onto a new-and-improved chassis. This chassis will be common with the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon (NLOS-C) and the heavy



Paladin CERBERUS from C Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, during Annual Training in June 2009.

brigade combat team's Bradley Fighting Vehicle. The FAASVs will also receive this chassis replacement.

This chassis upgrade brings a multitude of advantages to the system. With the new powerful 600Hp engine, sections will be able to "shoot and scoot" faster than ever before. Artillery elements currently struggle to keep up with the fast-paced Bradley, Stryker and other maneuver fighting vehicles on the battlefield. No longer! Paladins and FAASVs will soon be able to keep pace with their maneuver counterparts to provide support where and when needed.

Furthermore, emulating the NLOS-C, this chassis will enable our elements with modern automatic gun rammer and electric-gun drive systems. The existing hydraulically operated drives were originally designed in the 1960s. These components, as with other hydraulic systems, were prone to leaking. No more of the troublesome puddles of "cherry juice!"

Additionally, the common platform greatly enhances readiness and sustainability of the system. Maintenance facilities will have shared expertise across multiple systems and benefit from parts commonality. This will reduce down time and keep our Paladins operational and mission ready.

Phase One upgrades have been completed, and the new equipment training for these changes will be conducted during the first quarter of 2010. Paladin elements of the 65th Fires Brigade are embracing this modernization effort and, as always, stand ready to accomplish the mission! 



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