

UTAH MINUTEMAN

Summer 2016



**151st Civil Engineer Squadron
deploys overseas**

**19th SFG(A), 141st and 142nd MI
return from deployment**

**19th SFG(A) Soldier shares his
deployment experience**

EXPERTS NEEDED!



With the right MOS, you may qualify to become a Warrant Officer!

WOMOS	Warrant Officer Title	Enlisted Feeder MOS
120A	Construction Engineer Technician.....	12H, K, N, P, Q, R, T, W
125D	Geospatial Engineering Technician.....	12Y, 35F, 35G
131A	Field Artillery Targeting Technician.....	11C, 13B, D, F, M, P, R, T
140A	Command and Control Systems Technician.....	14G, 14H, 14S
140E	Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Tactician/Technician (Patriot Systems Technician)	14E, 14H, 14T, 94S
150A	Air Traffic Control Technician.....	15Q
150U	Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (TUAS) Operation Technician.....	15E, 15W
151A	Aviation Maintenance Technician.....	All CMF 15 MOS (Excluding 15P & 15Q)
153A	Rotary Wing Aviation.....	All MOS's
170A	Cyber Operations Technician.....	Preferred CMF 25 & 35 MOS
180A	Special Forces Warrant Officer.....	All CMF 18 MOS
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255N	Network Management Technician.....	All MOS's (must have 4 years IT experience IAW prerequisites)
270A	Legal Administrator.....	27D
290A	Electronic Warfare Technician.....	29E, 25B, 25E, or 13F with ASI 1J
311A	CID Special Agent.....	31D
350F	All Source Intelligence Technician.....	35F
350G	GEOINT Imagery Technician.....	35G
351L	Counterintelligence Technician.....	35L
351M	Human Intelligence Collection Technician.....	35M
325N	SIGINT Analysis Technician.....	35N, 35P, 35Q
325S	Signals Collection Technician.....	35S, 35Q
353T	Military Intelligence Systems Maintenance/Integration Technician.....	35T
420A	Human Resources Technician.....	42A/42F
420C	Bandmaster.....	All CMF 02 MOS's (All CMF 42R and 42S)
640A	Veterinary Services Food Safety Officer.....	68R, 68S
670A	Health Services Maintenance Technician.....	68A
740A	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Technician.....	74D
880A	Marine Deck Officer.....	88K
881A	Marine Engineering Officer.....	88L, 12P, w/ASI S2
882A	Mobility Officer.....	88N, 88M, 88H
890A	Ammunition Warrant Officer.....	89A, 89B, 89D
913A	Armament Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	91F, 91A, M, P, S
914A	Allied Trades Warrant Officer.....	91E
915A	Automotive Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	91A, B, C, D, H, L, M, P, S, X
919A	Engineer Equipment Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	91B, C, D, H, J, L, X
920A	Property Accounting Technician.....	92Y, 68J
920B	Supply Systems Technician.....	92A
921A	Airdrop Systems Technician.....	92R
922A	Food Service Technician.....	92G, 68M
923A	Petroleum System Technician.....	92F, 92L, and 92W
948B	Electronic Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	94D, E, F, H, M, R, W, Y, & Z (25S/with waiver only)
948D	Electronic Missile Systems Maintenance Warrant Officer.....	94A, M, P, S, T, X, & Z

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For more information contact your
 Warrant Officer Strength Manager.
 801.432.4900



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg



Major General Jefferson Burton The Adjutant General

As the weather changes from winter to spring, we are reminded of re-birth. We reflect on the blessings we have to be citizens of this great nation, and proudly wear the uniform bearing the name of our service. Perhaps we remember our ancestors; those who went before us and laid the foundation for our success.

This morning, I had the chance to spend some time with our World War II Veterans as they prepared to participate in the Honor Flight scheduled to take them to their memorial in Washington, D.C. More than 400,000 of our citizens died in that terrible war as our young people rose up to face the naked aggression of Fascist Europe. There is little doubt in my mind those Veterans never dreamed their job description would include the words “save the world,” but they did that more than 70 years ago. They were personally ready to handle the physical, mental, and spiritual deprivation required to defeat a committed enemy. Most of the Veterans I shook hands with were well over 90 years old, but they remain as humble and understated as always. No bravado about what they accomplished—just quiet competence. It has always been that way with real American heroes. No desire for recognition, no self-pity; just an internal fire to serve and to care for their battle buddies and wingmen. What an example!

We, who are privileged to wear the uniform today, stand in their shadow. Their service should continually remind us of what has made this country great—not self-service, but self-LESS service. Not, “what’s in it for me?” but,

“what can I do to make a difference?” Every one of us is an integral part of the team, whose primary mission is to “close with and destroy the enemies of the United States in close combat.”

Are we prepared physically, mentally and spiritually? Do we contribute openly and with all of our energy to make our teams great? Or do we hang back and simply observe outcomes? My experience after 35 years in a uniform is that members of the Utah National Guard are a cut above. Your work ethic, your moral compass and your desire to serve your fellow citizens is second to none.

As we face an uncertain future, I am convinced we, like our predecessors, will rise to meet the challenges facing us. Many hundreds of books have been written on leadership, but YOU get to practice it every day in the most extreme leadership laboratory known to man—the United States military. Take the Profession of Arms seriously. Be ready to excel on that “Worst Day in America,” when our citizens need us most. Strive to “maintain yourself, your arms and your equipment.”

It’s been said “management kills leadership,” so don’t be a bureaucrat. That job is already filled. Be an American Soldier, grounded in ethical behavior; the hope of your community and the world. I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with each one of you as we perform this sacred duty to assist, protect, and defend our citizens. May God bless each one of you and your families in this important endeavor.

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton

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Thrice-yearly magazine for members of the Utah National Guard

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Sgt. Michael Dougherty HHB, 65th FAB carries his unit's guidon during the ruck march at the Utah National Guard's State Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams April 9, 2016.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Houston



Command Sergeant Major Michael Miller Senior Enlisted Comments

Over the past several weeks, I was constantly reminded of the caliber of our organization and the service members who make it all possible. The Utah National Guard is one of the best-equipped, best-trained, and best-led organizations within the Department of Defense. What I feel separates us from others is our commitment to the profession, dedication to the future, both as an organization and as individuals, and the level of proficiency we possess within our perspective fields.

The adjutant general and I have the blessed opportunity to travel the country; we attend briefings, visit units, and hear from the national level about the status of our units. Nothing makes me more proud than to hear about Utah and our service members, which happens quite often. Whether it is a unit exceeding expectations while serving down range, a service member achieving individual success, or the sheer, collective-status reports of our units, Utah stands out and continues to set the standard. This is possible because of the commitment each of you, our families, our communities, and our employers pledge on a daily basis, to be a part of something larger than any one individual; a commitment of having a steadfast loyalty to our organizational values and our professions. In today's complex world, these attributes are vital for us to continue the high marks.

Continued success will happen largely as a result of the caliber of the training we conduct. This past month our Army units took part in the State Best Warrior Competition. This event was a huge success, not just for our competitors, but from an overall training standpoint. Every Army command took part in this training. The time each unit took to plan, resource, and execute was enormous. Yet again, we set the standard. We reached across unit lines, developed relationships, provided great training, and set an example to our future leaders what a great training venue looks like. True, all involved were

exhausted from the support staff to the competitors. However, I can tell you it was worth it. The level of training was awesome and each Soldier lived up to the values and the pillars of our profession. I am humbled by their performance and participation. Congratulations goes out to Master Sgt. John Oldroyd (Joint Forces Headquarters), Staff Sgt. Joseph Whaley (Medical Command), and Spc. Joseph Haymore (97th Aviation Troop Command), who took top honors in their respective fields. Good luck to Whaley and Haymore as they represent our great state in the Region VII competition in May in Arizona.

What we do today will affect tomorrow. Providing realistic, dynamic, and complex training will continue to shape the force both individually and collectively. In addition, it will give our junior leaders confidence in themselves and in those on their team. Leader development happens from every level. Training and being proficient within our Air Force specialty code or Army military occupational specialty is only one aspect of our development. Teaching and training our junior force is essential, especially by creating opportunities to expand their capacity and capability in the operational and institutional domains. The effort we put into those under our charge today will only enhance the entire organization tomorrow. I challenge every leader to be that example who contributes to the next generation of leaders and leave our force and the organization on a strong foundation.

The foundation of our profession is built on trust. Be the service member who lives the service values, who is a professional in and out of uniform, and is constantly challenging themselves and those they serve. The fortunate thing about the Utah National Guard is our members stand by these attributes each and every day. I am deeply honored and humbled to serve by your side, on the best team in the world and be a member of the Utah National Guard. Serve today to positively affect tomorrow.



Family members, friends, and loved ones greeted Soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) as they returned home on three separate flights Feb. 5 and 12 at the Salt Lake International Airport after a six-month, overseas deployment in Afghanistan.

19th SF Soldiers Return and Remembrance of One Lost

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is all too familiar with its Soldiers departing for extended, overseas deployments. However, witnessing the emotional homecomings as family and friends reunite with their heroes is a humbling experience.

Approximately 30 Soldiers returned home from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan on three separate flights Feb. 5 and 13 at the Salt Lake International Airport. The service members provided operational support for Operation Freedom's Sentinel for 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and coalition forces.

"It was hard with him gone, but I knew he was safe," said Brittney Gonzalez, wife of supply sergeant, Staff Sgt. Andres Gonzalez from Forward Support Company, Group Support Battalion, 19th SFG(A). "I missed my best friend and having him here with me. He's everything to me."

The 19th SFG(A) Soldiers' mission as part of the Special Operations Joint Task Force included training, advising, and assisting the Afghan national army in an effort to build, manage, and mentor a legitimate Afghan force to protect the citizens of their country. The Soldiers were mainly stationed in Baghram, Kandahar, and Kabul, and performed various duties within their military occupational specialties such as parachute riggers, satellite-communications operators, intelligence analysts, and supply specialists.

Capt. Jason Scott, signal detachment commander for Group Special Troops Company (GSTC), 19th SFG(A), performed as the director of communications for the Special Operations Advisor Group for Afghan national army Special Operations

Command, said he enjoyed working alongside coalition forces, which included members from Slovakia and Poland.

"There was a lot of interaction between the teams, so I learned how to not only bridge language gaps but also cultural barriers," said Scott. "It was great working and interacting with multinational coalitions and all working toward the same goal."

Working with 3rd SFG(A) allowed many of the 19th SFG(A) Soldiers to understand the operation tempo of an active-duty, Special Operations organization.

"Honestly, 1st Battalion, 3rd SFG(A) has great leaders," said Spc. Spencer Wilson, human resources specialist for Headquarters Headquarters Company, 19th SFG(A). He served as the National Guard liaison for the mobilized 19th SFG(A) Soldiers. "As National Guardsmen, we had to prove ourselves to the active-duty component. I felt like we were able to accomplish that. It was a lot of work though and was arduous, but it was a good pay off."

Although extended deployments are part of the 19th SFG(A) profession, family members expressed how proud they were of their loved ones and the sacrifice they continuously make for their country.

"I know Spencer, and I knew he wanted to go," said Karen Wilson, mother of Spc. Wilson. "I'm so very proud of him. I'm grateful he served his country, grateful he's my son, grateful he's back. He's my rock."





Even though the war is winding down in Afghanistan, 19th SFG(A) members were reminded of the stark reality that they are still at war after the loss of fellow Soldier and leader, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew McClintock, a Special Forces engineer sergeant for Operational Detachment Alpha 9115 from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) stationed in Buckley, Wash. McClintock died in combat while assisting in the medical evacuation of his wounded teammates in Helmand Province Jan. 5.

“Every loss to the 19th SFG(A) is an emotional event, but Sgt. 1st Class McClintock displayed extreme gallantry on the battlefield,” said Lt. Col. Larry Henry, commander of 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A). “We can look on his example with great pride as members of the 19th SFG(A).”

McClintock was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart and promoted to Sgt. 1st Class. 🇺🇸

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Ashley Baum

Soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) gathered to commemorate and honor fallen Special Forces Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew McClintock, engineer sergeant for Operational Detachment Alpha 9115, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) at a Battlefield Cross Memorial Service. McClintock died in combat assisting his wounded teammates on the battlefield in Helmand Province, Afghanistan Jan. 5. (Photo by Spc. Spencer Wilson)



Gift of Military Intelligence Homecoming for Utah Guard Birthday

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Utah National Guard received an early gift this year for its 122nd birthday—the proud return of 14 Military Intelligence professionals from their 10-month deployment to Jordan. These Utah Guard members from the 141st and 142nd Military Intelligence battalions returned to the Salt Lake International Airport in three iterations during the second week of March to roaring family, friends, and fellow service members only days before the Utah Guard’s March 24, 1894, organizational anniversary.

“I was very surprised at how many people showed up,” said Sgt. Ryan Thompson, senior cryptologic communications interceptor from Echo Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion. “And I was very excited to see my family.”

“These linguists provided critical, Arabic-language support to the U.S. Central Command region as they enabled interpreter support, aided in training between U.S. and Jordanian forces, supported key-leader engagements,” said Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Schaffer, human-intelligence (HUMINT) collection sergeant from Alpha Company, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion. She was proud that they also helped build friendly relations, cultural understanding, and enabled Soldiers to get out into the community with the required interpreter support.

Our Military Intelligence professionals have been mobilizing at a consistent pace for many years as they fulfill critical mission requirements in the Global War on Terror.

“Our Soldiers possess the skills the Army needs to be able to augment these



Soldiers with the 141st and 142nd Military Intelligence Battalions are greeted as they return to the Salt Lake International Airport after a 10-month deployment.

small teams, whether counter-intelligence or HUMINT collection, to be able to support the larger intelligence efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan,” said Col. Gregory Hadfield, commander of the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade and full-time Utah Army National Guard intelligence officer.

Hadfield wasn’t the only leader exuding pride at the return of these fine Soldiers.

“We have such a diverse mix of intelligence professionals. We provide human intelligence, signals intelligence, counter-intelligence, and on top of that, we have a diverse mix of linguist capabilities because of our rich mix of languages from LDS missionaries that return from all over the world,” said Capt. Timothy Kelley, commander of Echo Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion. “We provide such a rich pool of intelligence and language resources the Army relies on.”

The life-saving contributions of these Soldiers were not limited to Central Command, as Sgt. 1st Class Schaffer provided hands-on, life-saving action during her demobilization at Fort Hood. While enjoying some well-deserved decompression time getting a pedicure at a local nail salon near the post, Schaffer witnessed one of the nail technicians, Haley, keel over and fall on her



Civil Engineering Deployment

SALT LAKE CITY — Nearly 50 Utah Air National Guard (UTANG) members from the 151st Civil Engineer Squadron are deployed throughout Southwest Asia as part of the UTANG's regularly scheduled, reserve-component-deployment period, a six-month window where any individual can be tasked to deploy, at any time, for six months.

Among them is Chief Master Sgt. Mark Savage, deployed as the chief-enlisted manager, the commander's senior-enlisted advisor and personnel representative for 183 military personnel working within the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force (BEEF) Squadron (EPBS).

Savage, deployed for the last time in his more than 33-year-military career, said members of the squadron are part of a "hub-and-spoke" operation, where they are spoked out from the hub, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, to several countries.

"At the time of this writing, we have members in six different locations supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, Freedom Sentinel, and Operation Spartan Shield," Savage said. "The challenging part for me is learning about each individual and creating the environment to help them to balance the Air Force mission requirements with their own needs."

The squadron is involved in an important part of the mission in the area of operation, a part that is vital to the success of Air Force's Central Command, also known as AFCENT.

"We are working on projects, cradle to grave, that have hard-fast timeliness, moving hardware, airframes, and personnel to achieve the AFCENT objectives," Savage said. "What our EPBS does at our various sites impacts a specific mission—if we are not successful, the AFCENT mission may not be successful."



face. Stephanie was quick to act as she kept her airway clear, cradled her head to prevent injury, and directed the store manager to call 911. Her quick action and calm reassurance played a vital role in the critical minutes prior to the arrival of emergency responders.

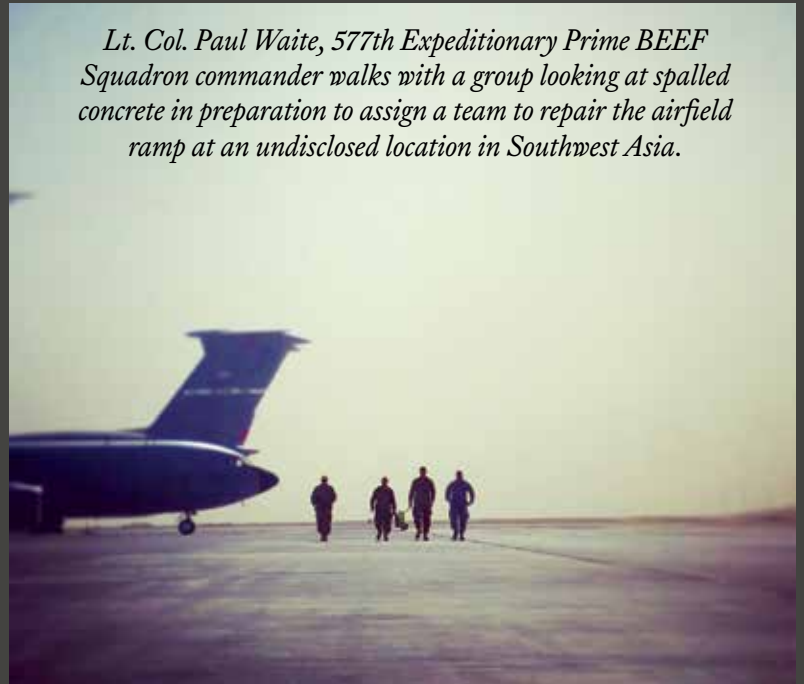
The Utah National Guard is fortunate to have skilled and dedicated service members like Schaffer, and was excited to have them home reunited with family and friends.

Schaffer, however, has a reflective view of the matter stating "Utah Guard is the best- it really is. I have been in different Guards, Colorado, California, things like that." The Utah Guard completely agrees with her final assessment as she continued "the people are awesome."

What a gift indeed. Welcome home to the men and women of Utah Guard's Military Intelligence. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn

Lt. Col. Paul Waite, 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron commander walks with a group looking at spalled concrete in preparation to assign a team to repair the airfield ramp at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.





That is a lot of responsibility weighing upon squadron members, but that doesn't seem to hinder their efforts as they are having success in their efforts. Just ask 1st Lt. Nathan Thornton, the CE project manager supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, who has already seen positive outcomes from his deployment.

He said the squadron has made a positive impact through the amount of information and work that comes through their office; from a new security-forces building to a new dining facility, to new maintenance facilities to support the various flight-line operations.

"The job is very rewarding as I am able to work across multiple organizations during the various phases of the construction projects," Thornton said. "I have met many outstanding Soldiers and Airmen that have performed their duties very well and have contributed to that feeling of honor and pride in service to our country."

"Other units look to civil engineering to improve their effectiveness and capability, putting CE in a unique role to contribute to the success of other units," Thornton said.

Senior Master Sgt. Barry Goff, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve as the deputy base fire chief, is on his fifth deployment. Goff has also made a positive impact to the fire department by making important corrections to the fire-protection program.

While there has been success, it should be noted that it doesn't come without some sacrifice.

"I was only home for one-and-a-half years since my last deployment," said Senior Airman Cory Tueller on his second deployment, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. "I left my wife with a two-month-old child and very sick family members."

Senior Airman Broden Parkin, who is also supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, thought it would be hotter with more tents and more camel spiders. And although he is on his first deployment, he gave some perceptive advice.

"Realize that you're in the desert and you can't have everything the way you want it," Parkin said.

There is no doubt that deploying is difficult. Anyone that has deployed will attest to that. In light of this, the squadron members gave some advice on how to ensure a successful and rewarding deployment.

Tech. Sgt. Jeff Mickelson, who is also supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and is deployed for the fourth time, gave some poignant family advice.

"Figure out how to keep in contact before you leave," Mickelson said. "Plan to send little mementos or cards at various times to let loved ones at home know you are thinking about them."

In thinking about what advice to give, aside from bringing more underwear, Goff suggested taking time prior to the deployment to make some realistic professional, personal and educational goals for the deployment. Thornton also had some sound advice for future deployers.

"It's been my observation that stressing about what you don't know detracts from the personal confidence needed to complete any assigned task," Thornton said. "A

Sun setting at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, the 577 Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron's home base where several 151 CES personnel are now deployed.



Structures Apprentice, Senior Airman Cody Schmidt, works on the finishing carpentry of a hand-built counter for a post office at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.



Structures Journeyman, Staff Sgt. Merrill Brown, cuts a piece of wood as he prepares to make a table to accommodate a computer server, at Camp Bastian/Shorab, Afghanistan.

positive, can-do attitude and the drive to succeed is what turns the initial lack of knowledge to increased intuition and competency.”

Savage, who has deployed nine times to Turkey, France, Cyprus, Crete, Iraq, U.A.E., Guam, Al Udeid, and Australia, and traveled in some sort of military status to Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Germany, Korea, Kuwait, and just about every state in our nation, has some lasting advice for any military career.

“If I could suggest anything to future deployers it would be to mentally prepare for the task,” Savage said. “Learn all you can about what you will be doing, and jump in 110 percent to get the mission completed.”

Truly sound advice gleaned from nearly 34 years of military service. 🇺🇸

*Story by 1st Lt. Steven Dillingham
Photos provided by Chief Master Sgt. Mark Savage*



The 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Paul Waite and Senior Master Sgt. Carl Greene, first sergeant pause after reviewing the progress on a project to modify an airfield-taxi way at Al Udeid AB, Qatar.



Chief Master Sgt. Mark Savage stands in the middle of the runway reviewing Power Pro members, the work of 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron, on their Mobile Arresting System in Kandahar, Afghanistan.



Tech. Sgt. Jared Webb, 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron structures lead, installing a roll-up door as Airman 1st Class Casey Weldon and Lt. Col. Paul Waite, 577th EPBS commander, watches while deployed to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

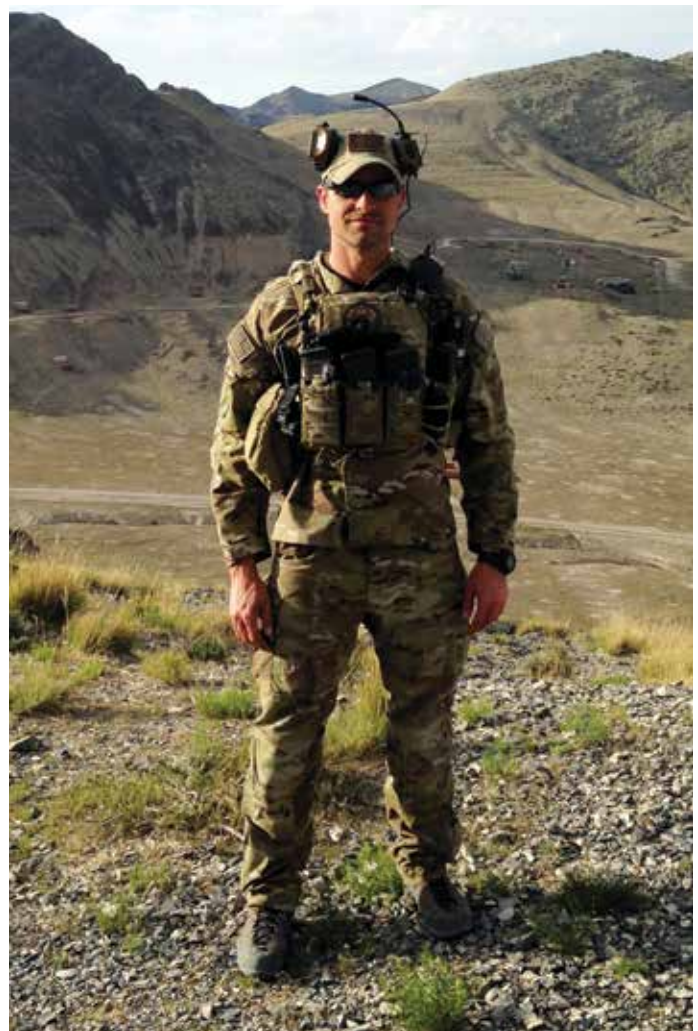
19th SFG(A) Soldier Shares Deployment Experience, Road to Recovery

Put silver wings on my son's chest. Make him one of America's best. He'll be a man they'll test one day. Have him win the Green Beret. - "Ballad of the Green Beret."

DRAPER, Utah — Enlisting more than 10 years ago as an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army Reserves, Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Brewer from Tucson, Ariz., knew he was destined to become a Green Beret.

After returning from a year-long deployment with the Reserves supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in Baghdad, Iraq in 2009, he enlisted in the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and was on his journey to fulfill his dream of completing the rigorous Special-Forces assessment and selection. In 2012, Brewer earned his Green Beret after graduating Special Forces Qualification Course on the commandant's list as a SF communications sergeant. That same year, Brewer found his home with an Operation Detachment-Alpha (ODA) in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) and thrived in the military life with the family he'd always wanted.

Brewer deployed in 2015, volunteering as an SF intelligence sergeant with members from Bravo and Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) and fell under 1st Battalion, 3rd SFG(A) in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan, where he was responsible for training



Brewer deployed September 2015 as a Special Forces intelligence sergeant with 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.



Brewer was part of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A)'s Mountain Operational Detachment-Alpha, in which members performed search-and-rescue missions in extreme-mountain terrain throughout Utah and perform unconventional warfare in mountainous regions throughout the world.

and advising his Afghan intelligence counterparts.

On Dec. 4, 2015, in the Helmand Province, on Brewer's 31st birthday, he demonstrated the true meaning of the "Quiet Professionals," living up to the SF motto: "De Oppresso Liber (To Free the Oppressed)."

Brewer's ODA was conducting clearance operations in a large compound in southern Afghanistan with another ODA and Afghani counterparts. Brewer said his teammates knew they would find IED materials in the area since previous missions resulted in locating and destroying large amounts of enemy caches. The ODAs and Afghanis were clearing the last building with the help of engineer and minesweeper personnel and a U.S. Army explosive-detection-canine team. Little did they know they were entering a building used by enemy elements as a bomb-making factory with caches of explosives and mortar rounds.

“I walked into the building, confirmed there were explosives in a hole in the ground and stepped out to make a radio call to higher,” said Brewer.

As Brewer went to call his higher command, he stepped on a hidden pressure plate, triggering the homemade explosives under him.

“At that point there was a loud explosion, and I was thrown through the air,” said Brewer. “Once the blackness and stars disappeared, I remember sitting in the blast crater and looking at the damage to my legs.”

Brewer’s right leg was missing above the knee and his left leg received extensive damage below the knee. He also sustained blast damage to his right hand and possible hearing damage. Seven other U.S. and Afghani personnel, including a German Shepherd from the explosive-detection-canine team, were injured in the blast. Luckily, no one died in the attack.

“I had a split second of panic thinking I couldn’t move my legs,” said Brewer. “Then, somehow, training kicked in. I remember pulling out my tourniquet and trying to apply it to my right leg.”

Brewer’s ODA warrant officer, who was approximately 10 meters from Brewer when the IED detonated, rushed through the dust and smoke, reaching him and immediately performed first aid on his teammate.

“Everything went white because there was so much dust,” said the team warrant officer. “I was wondering if he was even alive. We just went through this blast, and I see him sitting in that blast crater, completely conscious, trying to apply his own tourniquet and his right hand was shredded. There was no time to digest everything going on. You go straight into what you were trained to do and start going through the procedures. You think, ‘Get him stable, give him painkillers, call the MEDEVAC, and get him to safety and out of there.’”

Brewer and the other personnel were litter-carried to an open area where U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, flown by Utah and Wyoming Guard members from Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation and a Reservist MEDEVAC team, could land, all while receiving small-arms, enemy fire. Even with the extent of his injuries and surviving an IED blast, Brewer remained calm, even cracking jokes while others rendered first aid and got him to safety.

“The people treating me told me my blood pressure and pulse were normal for the first several minutes,” said Brewer. “They told me my calmness helped them remain calm and treat the seven other casualties without them losing control.”



All smiles on Christmas Day, 2015 as Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Brewer cozies up next to his wife of eight years, Ashley, and his daughters Evelyn, 6, and Emily, 18 mos., at the Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas. Brewer received two skin grafts on his left leg before transferring to the Center for the Intrepid to begin his rehabilitation and physical therapies.

“It would have been a completely different situation if Caleb had not remained calm and collected,” said his team warrant officer. “It could have been much, much worse.”

Since Brewer lost a large amount of blood, several service members stationed in Kandahar selflessly donated blood to help Brewer, once the B+ blood supply ran out. The immediate-tourniquet application by his teammates likely saved his life.

Brewer was transported to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, with his team’s senior medic by his side, for emergency medical care of his injuries. With the significant debris and dirt embedded in the wounds, medical personnel were worried about possible infections.

Back in Utah, Brewer’s former ODA teammate and SF intelligence sergeant was already determining the next step in the recovery process and began looking into physical therapy for his friend.

“We were so focused on the initial medical care and had not thought of all the logistical issues needing to be addressed,” said Brewer. “My former [ODA] intelligence sergeant filled in that gap.”

The Special Operations Command Care Coalition sends its wounded Soldiers to the Center for the Intrepid (CFI) in San Antonio, Texas, where service members receive the most current and advanced care for combat-related injuries.

Before relocating to the CFI, Brewer landed in Washington, D.C. and was rushed to Walter Reed Medical



Standing tall with his wife, Brewer said Ashley has supported him throughout his recovery journey. She has stuck by his side through his entire 10-year military career as an U.S. Army Reservist and member of the 19th Special Forces.

Center for emergency surgery for bacterial- and fungal-wound infections and blood clots in his lungs. Brewer said the doctors tried to save his left leg since most of the limb was still there, just not intact. However, since he had already lost a lot of blood and his major arteries sustained too much damage, it was decided his left leg would be amputated below the knee.

“In retrospect, I’m glad my leg was amputated because oftentimes limb-salvage patients have to undergo years of surgery to save limbs and usually elect to amputate years later,” said Brewer. “I probably would not be walking yet if they saved my leg. I find myself extremely fortunate nothing else was injured. Many times people suffer pelvic fractures and internal organ damage from IED blasts.”

Brewer arrived in San Antonio on Christmas Eve and began the next step in recovery. He underwent two skin-graft procedures at Brooke Army Medical Center to cover the large, open wound on his left leg. Brewer said he wanted to walk as soon as possible, but had to learn the importance of patience to allow his wounds to heal.

“SF Soldiers are wired to push through pain and drive on,” said Brewer. “With amputees, patience can mean the difference between waiting a month to walk and getting an infection resulting in more amputations.”

Brewer also learned how to suppress the pain following amputation, which he said was a daunting hurdle to overcome.

“After amputation, the body doesn’t know what to do with the excess nerve signals used to control the amputated limbs,” said Brewer. “Nerve pain can be extremely painful, can prevent sleep, and has no pattern. I’ve learned to deal with the nerve pain and take appropriate medication for it. People told me the pain usually spikes high plateaus, and then dissipates over time. Early on, I never thought the pain would go away. But my friends and family helped distract me through the pain and now it has dissipated dramatically.”

Brewer transferred to the CFI in January and began physical therapy. His former ODA SF intelligence sergeant helped ensure Brewer was cared for on his path to recovery.

“It was my privilege and honor Caleb and his wife trusted me enough to be part of his care during such a sensitive time,” said Brewer’s former intelligence sergeant. “With Caleb’s positive attitude and outlook on life, it brings me comfort and has only affected me in positive ways. Caleb has made me a stronger person.”

Throughout the entire recovery process, the extensive surgeries, and the endless and painful hours of rehabilitation, the love and devotion from Brewer’s wife, Ashley Brewer, and their two daughters, Evelyn, six, and Emily, 18 months, provided the support he needed to pick himself back up and walk again.

“As you can imagine the whole situation was pretty difficult for all involved,” said Brewer. “I know my whole family went into action more prepared for whatever they could do to help me through this process. Ashley is an absolute rock. Everyone who met her during and after the event was so impressed. I’m incredibly lucky to have her.”

Brewer was fitted with two prosthetic legs at the CFI and conducts regular physical therapy, allowing him to walk and adapt to his circumstances. He said his daughter, Evelyn, is already looking forward to witnessing his progress, especially running.

“Learning to walk again is a process,” said Brewer. “You can only walk once your body is able to. You definitely have to trust the prosthetics, and it’s easy to be afraid to fall. After a



Brewer poses with world-class-surf instructors during Operation Surf in Santa Cruz, Calif. April 2016. The organization teaches wounded warriors how to overcome physical limitations and disabilities and enjoy learning to surf.

while, you get used to the feeling of being tall again.”

In April, Brewer participated in Operation Surf, a civilian-sponsored, Veterans’ program, in Santa Cruz, Calif. World-class-surf instructors work with wounded warriors, teaching them to overcome their disabilities and enjoy learning to surf, which gave Brewer a much-needed break from five months in hospital beds and rehab.

“One of the most incredible parts of the trip was speaking to one of the organizers and finding out her little brother was part of the medevac team that was to pick me up [in Afghanistan]. It really helped bring the situation full circle for the National Guard organization. I remember her telling me she and her brother made a deal to take care of Soldiers on the battlefield and on the home front.”

An ODA is family. Teammates conduct extensive-training exercises, spend weeks or months at a time away from family,

and endure hardships from deployments and missions. When something happens to the team, everyone feels the ripple effect.

“This incident is just another challenge for Caleb, and he’s conquering it,” said Brewer’s team warrant officer. “He’s going through this with the right attitude.”

Several 19th SFG(A) Soldiers continue to support their teammate whom they consider their brother. Brewer said he is indebted to his unit for ensuring he and his family were well taken care of from the initial IED blast in Afghanistan through the entire recovery and rehabilitation at the various medical facilities.

“Caleb is an exceptional individual, which in turn makes him an exceptional Soldier,” said Brewer’s former SF intelligence sergeant. “I can easily predict he will stand out as an unselfish, humble contributor in anything he does.”

“The camaraderie I’ve experienced in the 19th SFG(A) has far surpassed any other environment,” said Brewer. “Serving with 11 brothers in close quarters on a team is a humbling experience. You all bring out the best in each other and strive to be better.”

Brewer anticipates returning home to Arizona this fall and is finding the delicate balance between the desire to reunite with family and receive the proper care and therapy he needs to heal. Once at home, he faces the new challenge of adjusting to everyday life.

“Caleb is a stud,” said Brewer’s team warrant officer. “He’s 100 percent professional and dedicated. Even after all this he’s gone through, he still wants to stay on a team. He’s a Green Beret out of a passion and pure service to his country and always goes above and beyond what’s asked of him. I can’t tell you how good of a Soldier he is.”

Brewer was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his actions while on his deployment to Afghanistan.

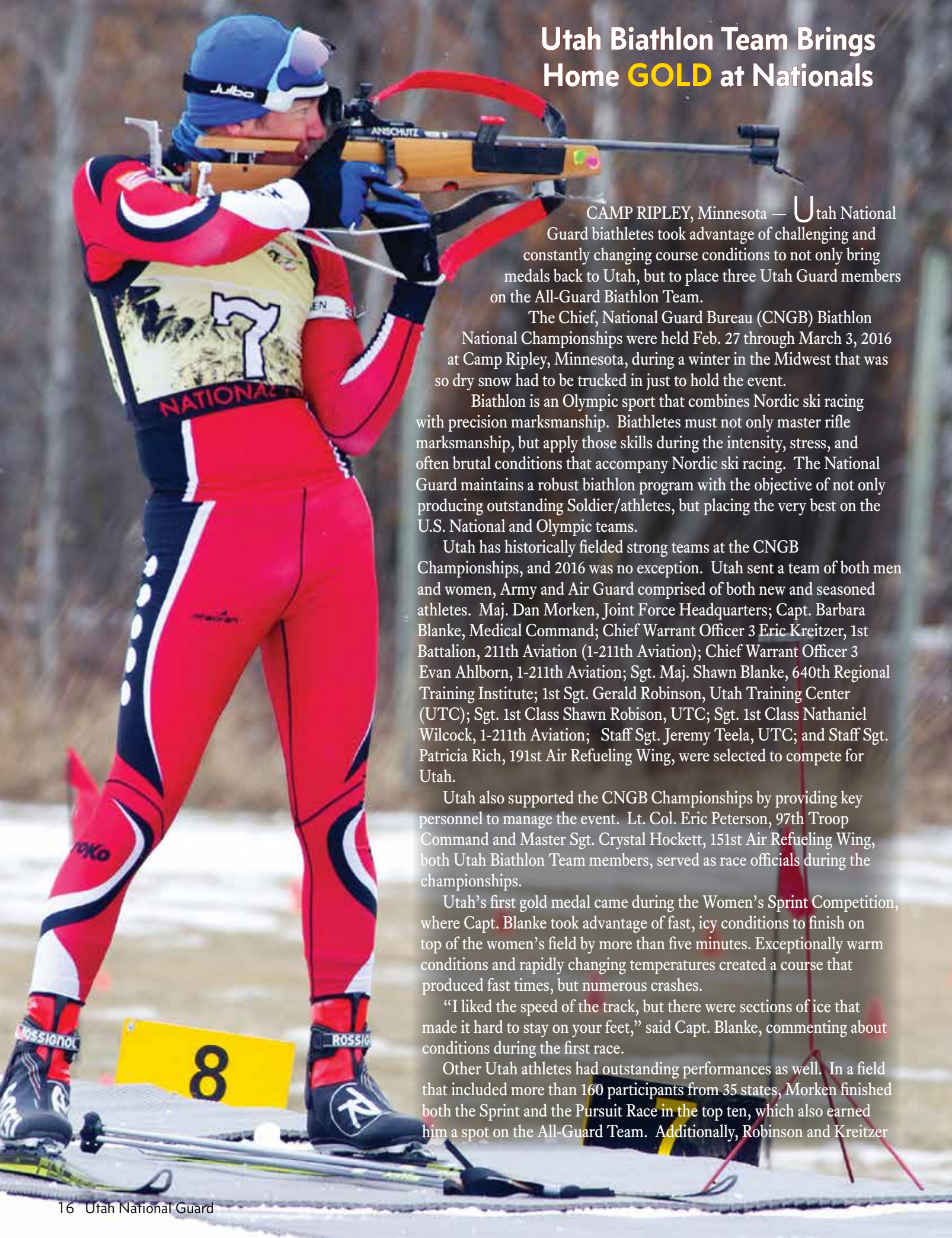
Brewer hopes his experience will inspire and motivate others who have endured combat-related injuries and not let their life-altering circumstances hinder them from achieving the life they deserve.

“Don’t identify yourself with what you used to be able to do,” said Brewer. “Look forward to what you can do now and know you can do anything. There are people out there who have overcome worse than what I went through. I understand I have to keep myself accountable to get better. I owe it to myself and to my family.

“I can’t be mad at the world for what happened. I signed up for the job knowing the risks. At the end of the day, I am thankful I am alive, and I know there is a reason for me still being here.” 📧

Story by Staff Sgt. Ashley Baum

Utah Biathlon Team Brings Home **GOLD** at Nationals



CAMP RIPLEY, Minnesota — Utah National Guard biathletes took advantage of challenging and constantly changing course conditions to not only bring medals back to Utah, but to place three Utah Guard members on the All-Guard Biathlon Team.

The Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) Biathlon National Championships were held Feb. 27 through March 3, 2016 at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, during a winter in the Midwest that was so dry snow had to be trucked in just to hold the event.

Biathlon is an Olympic sport that combines Nordic ski racing with precision marksmanship. Biathletes must not only master rifle marksmanship, but apply those skills during the intensity, stress, and often brutal conditions that accompany Nordic ski racing. The National Guard maintains a robust biathlon program with the objective of not only producing outstanding Soldier/athletes, but placing the very best on the U.S. National and Olympic teams.

Utah has historically fielded strong teams at the CNGB Championships, and 2016 was no exception. Utah sent a team of both men and women, Army and Air Guard comprised of both new and seasoned athletes. Maj. Dan Morken, Joint Force Headquarters; Capt. Barbara Blanke, Medical Command; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Kreitzer, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation (1-211th Aviation); Chief Warrant Officer 3 Evan Ahlborn, 1-211th Aviation; Sgt. Maj. Shawn Blanke, 640th Regional Training Institute; 1st Sgt. Gerald Robinson, Utah Training Center (UTC); Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Robison, UTC; Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Wilcock, 1-211th Aviation; Staff Sgt. Jeremy Teela, UTC; and Staff Sgt. Patricia Rich, 191st Air Refueling Wing, were selected to compete for Utah.

Utah also supported the CNGB Championships by providing key personnel to manage the event. Lt. Col. Eric Peterson, 97th Troop Command and Master Sgt. Crystal Hockett, 151st Air Refueling Wing, both Utah Biathlon Team members, served as race officials during the championships.

Utah's first gold medal came during the Women's Sprint Competition, where Capt. Blanke took advantage of fast, icy conditions to finish on top of the women's field by more than five minutes. Exceptionally warm conditions and rapidly changing temperatures created a course that produced fast times, but numerous crashes.

"I liked the speed of the track, but there were sections of ice that made it hard to stay on your feet," said Capt. Blanke, commenting about conditions during the first race.

Other Utah athletes had outstanding performances as well. In a field that included more than 160 participants from 35 states, Morken finished both the Sprint and the Pursuit Race in the top ten, which also earned him a spot on the All-Guard Team. Additionally, Robinson and Kreitzer

Utah's other medals came in the Women's Pursuit Race, which is a 10-kilometer course with four shooting stages. Capt. Blanke again finished on top of the women's field with fast skiing and consistent shooting, but the big story in the pursuit was the first-ever, silver-medal performance of Staff Sgt. Patricia Rich. Both Capt. Blanke and Staff Sgt. Rich were subsequently named to the All-Guard team.

The Utah Patrol and Relay teams also posted two very strong, fourth-place finishes, with the Patrol team missing a podium finish by mere seconds. The four-athlete Patrol team of Morken, Capt. Blanke, Robinson and Kreitzer was one of the few teams on the day to post perfect shooting.

"I was a little surprised at how close the Patrol team was to third place," said Coach Jeremy Teela, himself a three-time Olympian in biathlon for the U. S. "Solid skiing and perfect shooting made Utah a contender today in a tough field."

Although Utah has historically enjoyed success at both regional- and national-level Guard biathlon races, this year's race results represent a significant improvement in results. Much of this is due to Coach Teela's efforts to restructure the way the team trains and competes. With more than 20 years of racing at the World Cup and Olympic levels, Teela brings a unique perspective to the Utah National Guard biathlon.

"Jeremy [Teela] has transformed the way the team trains and races, and I think that is a major factor in the team's recent successes," remarked Robison, who not only serves as the team non-commissioned officer in charge, but races as well. "Teela's knowledge of skiing and shooting technique and his willingness to teach others has improved all of our abilities."

Although the CNGB event typically marks the end of the biathlon season for National Guard athletes, Capt. Blanke, Teela and Rich have been chosen to represent the U.S. in international competition. In August of 2016, these selected Utah athletes will travel to Portillo, Chile, for 10 days of intense competition.

"The altitude and time of year make Chile a very difficult race series, but Utah athletes will make some adjustments and be ready to compete," remarked Coach Teela about the upcoming event. 🇺🇸

*Story by Sgt. Maj. Shawn Blanke
Photos by Staff Sgt. Patricia Rich,
Anthony Housey, and Rachel Ahlborn*



1st Sgt. Robinson, Capt. Blanke, Chief Kreitzer and Maj. Morken crest a hill skiing in close formation during the 15-kilometer Patrol Race. Utah turned in a strong fourth-place finish with solid team work and perfect shooting.



Above: Utah National Guard Capt. Barbara Blanke approaches the range on her way to a gold-medal finish in the Women's 10-kilometer Pursuit Race. Below: Utah Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Patricia Rich (center), surrounded by competitors from Wyoming and Maine, hits targets from the "standing position" during her silver-medal performance in the Women's Pursuit Race. Opposite page: Utah's Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Kreitzer demonstrates a perfect "standing position" form during the Relay Race.





85th WMD-Civil Support Team at Operation Red Rocks 2016

ST. GEORGE, Utah — In the pre-dawn hours of March 14, the Utah National Guard’s 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, along with Colorado National Guard’s 8th Civil Support Team, descended upon southwest Utah to conduct Operation Red Rocks 2016.

Red Rocks has been an annual event in the St. George area since 2012. The operation this year kicked off with both teams responding to a chemical- and biological-terrorist event at the St. George Solid Waste Treatment facility. The teams were tasked with identifying a number of WMD laboratories, weaponized agents, and collecting intelligence, which was used to track activities of a simulated suspect throughout the remainder of the week.

Demonstrating the all-hazards-response package CSTs bring to the table, both teams were then tasked with a high-angle, rope-rescue scenario in the Green Canyon climbing area. The canyon extrication of multiple

Right: Staff Sgt. Jes Shepherd decontaminates Sgt. Alma Worthington after a mission. Sgts. Alma Worthington and Kristopher Pederson perform downrange-toxin analysis on a spray device. Above: Sgt. 1st Class Kim Baxter and Staff Sgt. Jes Shepherd observe the Hildale/Colorado City Fire Department decontamination corridor.



victims required a tremendous amount of teamwork, and for many was the highlight of the week.

High-angle rescue, noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. Jonathan Flick noted that it was a great exercise in identifying each team’s strengths and weaknesses.

“By forming teams of varying skill levels, at the end of the day, each unit was collectively stronger in its rescue proficiency,” he said.

The concluding exercise involved both teams again responding to a lone-wolf-terrorist event, this time at the old St. George airport. This challenging scenario required the CSTs to conduct joint, operations in an abandoned hangar which had been used for both explosives and chemical-lab production.

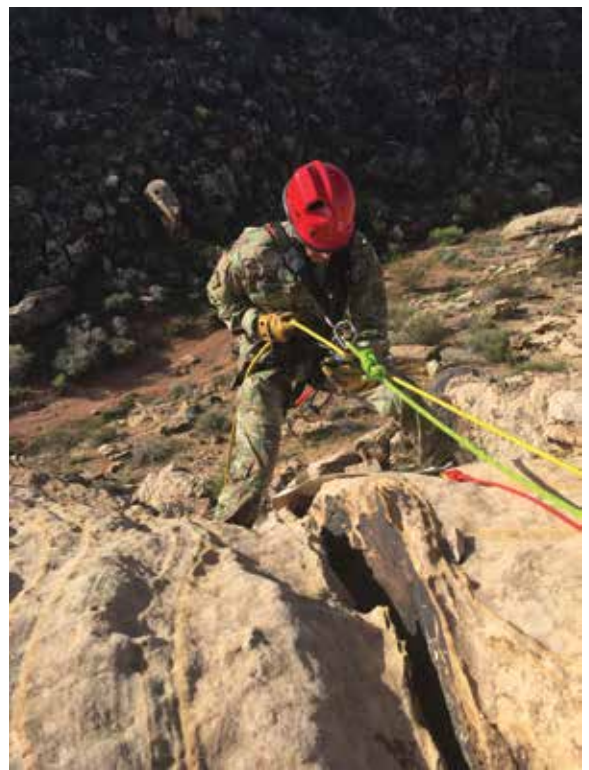
“Conducting joint training increases our flexibility and capacity to support our civilian partners,” said Lt. Col. Charles Beatty, 8th CST commander. “This kind of training mimics the real-world environment in which we expect to operate and forces us to deal with the complexities that we will face in a CBRN or disaster scenario.”

The 85th CST Survey noncommissioned officer, Sgt. Alma Worthington, led the final mission of the day in the hangar and noted that “every time we train with another CST, each team is able to take away a technique, tactic or procedure from the other team and makes each organization better.”

This year’s operation was unique in that during multiple points throughout the week, strike teams from the 85th were deployed to conduct outreach training with local fire departments.

The 85th CST commander Lt. Col. Craig Bello has placed a high priority on training with local responders throughout the state.

“Maintaining a close, working relationship with our first responders is so critical; they’re the ones that will always be first on the scene and set the stage for a CST to conduct a follow-on mission,” said Bello.



These outreach sessions were a great opportunity to teach, share tactics, practice interoperability and develop relationships with firefighters and medical personnel in the outlying communities. The 85th was able to train with St. George, Cedar City, Hildale and Colorado City fire departments.

Exercise planner, 1st Lt. Vince Pierce, stressed the importance of training with community partners that are smaller and geographically isolated.

“The impact of any event that would require the type of response we are training for here is so much greater in these smaller communities,” said Pierce. “It is imperative we develop and maintain cooperative relationships with them, and this is a great format for doing just that.”

“Training with the 85th CST and any National Guard entity is extremely valuable to our agency,” said Lyman Barlow, Training Center coordinator for the Hildale--Colorado City Fire Department. “We’re able to get a full understanding of what kind of resources are available in the event of a major incident, as well as getting to know the people we would be working with. To get this type of training any other way would cost a small department such as ours a fortune.”

These sessions set the stage for further training and exercise development between the National Guard and local agencies. 🇺🇸

1st Lt. Vince Pierce conducts refresher training for members of the 85th and 8th CSTs. Sgt. Kasey Sullivan rappels to rescue a waiting victim in the canyon below. Rescue officer Maj. Jared Gailey assists a member of the 8th CST with a rappel.

Story and photos by Maj. Robert Dent

UTARNG Leadership Summit 2015



CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Noncommissioned officers (NCOs) met for the first annual Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) Leadership Summit Nov. 17-19, 2015.

Using “Force 2025 and Beyond” and the “Not in My Squad” campaign as the overarching context, 41 NCOs from across all major commands (MACOMs) collaborated on a shared vision for the ideal UTARNG.

“The inter-MACOM collaboration was one of my favorite parts of the summit,” said Sgt. James Glad, Recruiting and Retention Battalion NCO. “It was a great opportunity to see Soldiers from different MOS’; working toward a larger goal.”

Sponsored by the State Senior Enlisted Leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, the summit was designed to empower adaptive leadership and instill a stakeholder mentality at every level of the NCO Corps.

Over three days, these NCOs brainstormed eight strategic initiatives to drive the shared visions. Using established UTARNG core strengths and best practices as the foundation for positive change, these eight initiatives focus on four ambitious outcomes: leader development, dynamic training, education, and community involvement. The summit culminated with presentations to Miller and MACOM command sergeants major on how to implement the initiatives.

“The summit was a great experience to get together with other NCOs throughout the state,” said Master Sgt. Kyle Harrison, senior supply sergeant for Headquarters

and Headquarters Company, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). “Everyone has different experiences, but all of us share the ultimate goal of developing leaders within the Utah National Guard to make it a better place to serve.”

Each of the inter-MACOM teams had the opportunity to brief the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, and his command staff on the initiatives and receive their feedback. At present each of these teams are working on plans to implement these initiatives within a three-year time line.

“So often we complain about issues but we don’t do anything to fix them,” said Staff Sgt. Eddy Blue, readiness NCO for HHC, 2-211th Aviation. “The fact that we were able to brief the CSMs and the TAG on our ideas and see how responsive they were, really made me feel like I was contributing to the National Guard in a strategic sense,” commented another participant.

To sustain momentum and achieve implementation of the initiatives, leadership summits for 2016 and 2017 are tentatively scheduled, to include Utah Air National Guard and traditional M-Day Soldier integration. The long-term goal is to cement this three-year process as a continuing strategy for NCO professional development and to strengthen organizational learning and innovation.

“The NCO Corps is the strongest it has ever been. These initiatives are our way of taking ownership of the future UTNG and transforming it into the ideal organization we envision,” said Staff Sgt. J.T. Skougard, executive assistant to the senior enlisted leader, Joint Force Headquarters. “By empowering leadership at every level, we can engage and utilize the untapped talent of each Soldier to spur the growth of our great organization.”

Story by Sgt. 1st Class John Sim



Utah National Guard noncommissioned officers participate in a large-group discussion during the first annual Leadership Summit at Camp Williams, Utah Nov. 17-19, 2015.

The 85th WMD-CST Participates in a Joint-Training Exercise on Saipan

CAPITOL HILL, Saipan — The Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team participated in an annual U.S. Army Pacific Command exercise known as "Konfitma" on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from Feb. 23–March 8, 2016.

The exercise was a terrorism-related scenario linking local and federal, law-enforcement agencies, local fire departments, and first responders with Civil Support Teams from Guam, Hawaii, Utah, Alaska and Washington. The objective was to build partnerships and increase readiness in the event of an incident threatening the community.

During this exercise, teams were notified, and vehicles arrived on scene within minutes. Soldiers and Airmen set up communications, detection and analysis equipment and science capabilities, allowing them to safely and accurately detect and mitigate suspicious substances found in a clandestine laboratory in an abandoned building.

A two-man team, dressed in Level A, protective suits began moving toward an abandoned building, where they field-screened and sampled the suspicious substances and captured photographic evidence. As the heat spiked past 90 degrees, the temperature in the orange biohazard suits reached more than 100; two members of the CST systematically continued their survey of the area before returning with samples, pictures, and information to be analyzed by the science officer.

"Everyone here has put forth a tremendous effort to train hard and realistically," said Lt. Col. Craig Bello, 85th CST commander. "The 85th CST is a force multiplier, assisting local, state, and federal first responders. These multiagency exercises help hone these skills. Whether the 85th is called upon to respond to a weapons-of-mass-destruction event or a natural or man-made disaster, the CST is well-trained and always ready, always there."



Members of the Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team participate in exercise Konfitma, on Saipan, with local and federal agencies as well as CSTs from Guam, Hawaii, Alaska and Washington.

In addition to working with local- and federal-first responders, and other CSTs from the region, the 85th CST was able to practice its air-load plan with the 151st Air Refueling Wing. Utah Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotankers provided airlift for the team.

"It is was a great experience to work with our local Air wing. They provided airlift that afforded us the opportunity to exercise our annual requirement to be moved via military air. Many thanks to the 151st for providing crews and airframes to help accomplish our mission," said Maj Dan Frost, deputy commander of the 85th CST.

The 85th CST is the state's all-hazard, response team capable of detecting chemical, biological, radiological and explosive materials. The unit responds to incidents of local, state and national significance and provides support to civilian authority and agencies such as local fire departments, police and sheriff departments, county emergency-management offices and other agencies of the first-responder community.

"We have a unique mission and a high training tempo challenging each member to perform their duties in an outstanding manner every day," said 85th CST 1st Sgt. Jason Myers. "It is evident every person on this team works very hard, cares deeply about what they do and knows the mission starts with each one of them." 🇺🇸

Story by Maj. Daniel Frost



Utah Guardsmen Conduct Mass-Casualty Exercise with Davis County First Responders

SALT LAKE CITY — Nearly 50 Utah Air and Army National Guardsmen with the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Region VIII Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P) teamed up with local emergency medical service providers on March 5 to respond to a simulated, mass-casualty exercise involving a chemical-exposure scenario at Lakeview Hospital in Bountiful, Utah.

The Airmen, who serve in the medical element of the CERF-P team, were called to the hospital to help perform medical triage, to provide treatment, and to stabilize simulated patients for evacuation via ambulance and an Air-Care helicopter. The Airmen also worked alongside two other CERF-P assets consisting of a Utah Army National Guard decontamination element and a Utah Army National Guard command and control element.

“We’re dealing with a potential refinery explosion that has caused a plume, a cloud that has gone throughout the neighborhood and has exposed numerous people,” said Matt Shupe, training battalion chief for South Davis Metro Fire. “We are unable to contain that area and had walking wounded coming up to the scene and presented themselves with various symptoms to Lakeview for treatment and care.”

These so-called “walking wounded” consisted of nearly 35 volunteers from the Davis Applied Technology Center and the Davis County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue team who acted as role players during the exercise—dressed in moulage and given fake injuries to better simulate an exposure to hazardous materials and to make the training more realistic.



Guardsmen with FEMAs Region VIII Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P), help transfer simulated patients through decontamination lines to receive treatment from medical personnel during a mass-casualty exercise held March 5, at Lakeview Hospital in Bountiful, Utah. Opposite page: Medics with the 151st Medical Group, apply moulage to volunteer role players. The makeup was intended to simulate chemical-exposure wounds due to a local refinery-explosion scenario in which nearly 50 Utah Air National Guardsmen took part.



“The best thing we get out of this kind of training is to move actual patients,” said Air Force Col. Marcus Peterson, 151st Medical Group commander. “I think that gives you a much more real-life scenario as opposed to going to an empty lot somewhere, setting up your tent, and then saying, ‘Okay, here we are, ready for business.’”

According to Staff Sgt. Erik Bornemeier, Davis County Search and Rescue commander and noncommissioned officer in charge of training for the CERF-P’s medical element, these types of exercises are held approximately four times each year and are critical in improving interoperability between the CERF-P and civilian EMS agencies.

“We need to perfect our abilities together because that’s how we become better as a team and how we take care of the people of Utah more effectively when the bad day comes,” said Bornemeier. “Many people do not know that sometimes 911 has to call for help too! The CERFP is one of those assets that is ready for that call.”

Dr. Matt Hinderaker, an emergency-room doctor at Lakeview Hospital, said this was his first time working with the military, and he’s now more confident in the state’s level of readiness.

“I think we’re in better shape than I thought we were,” he said. “I think there’s a lot of capability to respond should something happen.”

The joint Army and Air Guard elements of the CERF-P team can be called on to provide immediate response to a wide range of emergency situations not only in Utah but anywhere within FEMA Region VIII, which includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. 🇺🇸

*Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Amber Monio*



Utah National Guard Combines Best Warrior Competition with Army Reserves

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Twenty-three Utah Army National Guard Soldiers, representing all major commands throughout the state, accompanied by 12 Army Reservists gathered to compete in Utah's Best Warrior Competition April 8-10 at Camp Williams, Utah.

The 31 competitors fought it out over the three-day period for Utah's titles of Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer and Senior NCO of the Year. This combination of Guardsmen and Reservists is a first for Utah's BWC.

"This year we'll be hosting the first-ever, combined Best Warrior with the Utah Army Reserve Division," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller, Utah's state command sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Breck, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support), command sergeant major, and former Utah Guardsman explained that he and Command Sgt. Maj. Miller had made an agreement to make the competition happen and praised all who helped in its planning.

"It's a credit to both the Guard and Reserve," Breck said. "The individuals who made this happen have done a phenomenal job."

Although the two organizations competed together, their champions were awarded separately, and will go on to separate, follow-on competitions. The winning Guardsmen will go on to the Regional BWC in Arizona, and the winning Reservists will compete in the U. S. Army Reserve Command BWC.

Spc. Joseph Haymore, aviation operations specialist, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, competes during the essay event of Utah's Best Warrior Competition.



Spc. Adam Richardson, a chemical biological radiological nuclear specialist, who serves with the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, totes his 40-pound backpack nine miles during the final event of Utah's Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, Utah, April 10.

1st Sgt. Brady McDonald, first sergeant for Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery at the end of the push-up event of the Army Physical Fitness Test administered during Utah's Best Warrior Competition.



Of course,” Beck said, “all were there to gain the honor of “best of the best.

But most importantly, they were there for each other. The camaraderie and experience they learned to build are the most valuable things the Soldiers will bring back to their units.

The competitors were given tasks broad in scope and tested their intellectual, physical, and problem-solving capabilities. The individual Soldier’s focus and composure were paramount for them to perform their tasks to standard.

“In today’s Army we can’t just be grunts. We have to be innovative, and have keen, critical-thinking skills,” said Staff Sgt. Jacqueline (JT) Skougard, who serves as executive assistant to the senior enlisted leader. “We have to remain a step ahead intellectually. So what the Guard has done, is provide the competitors with a well-rounded competition based on the total-Soldier concept.”



Spc. Joshua Peel, a medic with Medical Command, is timed while reassembling a 240 Bravo machine gun, while competing in Utah’s Best Warrior Competition. Background photo of the Best Warrior Competition ruck march.



Skougard explained that a major focus of the BWC was to give the competitors scenarios that mount an adequate amount of pressure to cause them to dig deep.

“Creating realistic training gives these Soldiers an opportunity to put their best self forward,” Skougard said. “You can’t mimic this pressure and stress any other way, and it allows them to show themselves what they’re made of.”

“Although only two champions move forward to the Regional and USARC competitions, there aren’t any losers because if an error is made a lesson is learned,” Skougard said.

To make the cut to participate in Utah’s BWC, Soldiers were nominated by their unit as a worthy representative, and then they compete against their fellow Soldiers within their own major commands.

Warfighter Exercise Provides Invaluable Training

FORT BRAGG, North Carolina — **M**embers of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) recently deployed to Fort Bragg, N. C., and Fort Riley, Kansas to participate in Warfighter Exercise 16-4.

Approximately 180 troops deployed to support the three-week exercise from March 26 through April 16. Historically, this was the first time a Special Forces Group Headquarters participated in a Corps-level Warfighter as a training audience.

According to Sgt. Maj. Gary Barnes, operations sergeant major, 19th SFG(A), the group wanted a training opportunity where the staff could build competency and ability to make the unit more interoperable with conventional forces.

“We made a determination that our headquarters would almost always fight alongside some type of higher conventional headquarters,” said Barnes. “We wanted to start practicing that right now and make sure our staff was comfortable working inside the larger framework of a conventional forces organization.”

For almost a year, and with just a handful of full-time staff, the 19th SFG(A) took to the task of preparing for the exercise. With determination, a lot of long hours, and very-busy-drill weekends, the group incorporated operator-level training, staff training, two command post exercises and rehearsals. The group was up to the challenge to participate in this high-level-training exercise.

Spc. Emily Hoff, Human Resource specialist with HHC, Group Support Battalion, 19th SFG (A) said the best thing about participating in the warfighter was getting hands-on experience.

“I had no idea what to expect, but when the exercise started I saw how everything fit together; it was one big team effort,” said Hoff.



The winners of the Utah National Guard's Best Warrior Competition stand at attention with Army Commendation medals and their respective trophies at Camp Williams, Utah, April 10. From left to right: Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Master Sgt. John Oldroyd, Joint Forces Headquarters; NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. Joseph Whaley, Medical Command; and Soldier of the Year, Spc. Joseph Haymore, 97th Troop Command.

Once past the major command's competition, amidst the rhythms of daily life, the contestants were required to prepare for the BWC almost exclusively on their own time. For one competitor, it served as a way to exhibit pride in his family tradition of military service.

“I wanted to do this. It was difficult juggling civilian life, going to school full time and training for this,” said Spc. Jacob Vanroosendaal, who serves as a signal intelligence analyst for Battalion Support Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). “But, my father served, my grandfather served, so this is a way for me to continue that family tradition. One I'm very proud of.”

Skougard explained such experiences are a fundamental portion of the BWC. It brings out Utah's best Soldiers and NCOs and makes them better mentors when they go back to their units.

Shortly after the final event, the winners of the competition were announced at an awards banquet dinner Sunday afternoon. The winners of the 2016 Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition are: Soldier of the Year: Spc. Joseph Haymore, 97th Troop Command; NCO of the Year: Staff Sgt. Joseph Whaley, Medical Command; Senior NCO of the Year: Master Sgt. John Oldroyd, Joint Force Headquarters.

Both Whaley and Haymore, will go on to represent Utah in the National Guard's Regional BWC in Arizona in May. 🇺🇸

*Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Houston
Photos also by Sgt. Ariel J. Solomon and Spc. Nathaniel Free*



The Joint Operations Center, bustling with activity during Warfighter Exercise 16-4 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Nicholas Capozzi briefs Col. Mark Drown, commander, 19th SFG(A), during one of the Targeting Board meetings that address targets the unit will engage during the exercise. Lt. Col. Robert Nesbit, operations officer, 19th SFG(A), briefs Lt. Gen. Kenneth E. Tovo, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, commanding general, on the operating picture during the Warfighter Exercise 16-4.

A small group of 12 Soldiers went to Fort Riley to assist the conventional forces participating in the warfighter from that location to show how Special Operations Forces (SOF) could work and be utilized in their space.

“I think the conventional units I was working with learned much more than they anticipated from the 19th,” said, Spc. Aleix Graham, Group Special Troops Company, 19th SFG (A). “They were very interested in our capabilities and accepting advice and assets on every occasion on which we could provide them.”

The driving force behind the Warfighter Exercise was the Mission Command Training Program (MCTP). The MCTP supports the collective training of Army units as directed by the Chief of Staff of the Army. The MCTP creates computer-simulated-combat environments that are realistic, dynamic and challenging.

According to Col. Ed Bohnemann, commander, MCTP, it is incumbent upon MCTP to ensure training being provided to units conducting warfighter is as realistic as possible.

“The integration of Special Forces is extremely important as we build on those lessons we have observed and learned over the last 15 years,” said Bohnemann. “Alignment of special operations units with conventional forces for warfighters help the force better prepare for their wartime mission and is critical to maximizing the potential of both SOF and conventional forces as they conduct future operations.”

The MCTP’s role was not to evaluate the Group, but to provide mentorship.

“The MCTP group was fantastic to work with and assisted the GRP through some of the sticking points we encountered through the planning and preparation phases of the exercise,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Bruce, executive officer, 19th SFG(A). “They provided the ‘over the shoulder’ help we needed to get us to the next level of staff work.”

In previous warfighter exercises, role players replicated Special Operations Forces as well as subject-matter experts to assist in educating the training audience on the roles SOF may play in supporting major-combat operations. This time, with the 19th SFG(A) participating, Operations Group Juliet from the MCTP had the opportunity to assist an

SOF organization in training its leaders and staff in mission command.

“We have not reduced our responsibility in helping train both SOF and conventional forces in interoperability, integration and interdependence, but are doing so through inclusion of an actual Special Forces Group,” said Col. Glenn Thomas, chief, Operations Group Juliet, MCTP. “The participation by 19th Special Forces Group in this exercise provides Operations s Group Juliet and the Mission Command Training Program an opportunity to build a foundation to improve how we train both SOF and conventional forces in unified land operations.”

“The preparation for this exercise was the big win; it was pleasing to observe the staff evolve as we exercised our staff process focused on support to the Warfighting functions,” said Bruce. “I was excited to see the staff embrace the exercise and grow in their functional areas as we came together to deliver information to the commander to aid in decision-making and guidance.”

Story by Maj. Wencke Tate

What is a warfighter?

Warfighters are multi-echelon exercises simulating realistic, complex scenarios that Army units must be prepared to operate in. Warfighter exercises are designed to challenge all participants, creating the most realistic battlefield conditions through a virtual-training environment.

The overall objective of the multicomponent-joint force is to defeat notional enemy forces in an austere environment and restore the security and territorial integrity of a notional sovereign nation.

This combination of National Guard, Reserve and active-component forces creates a dynamic-multicomponent team, capable of leveraging unique capabilities to accomplish the Army’s strategic objectives in support of the National Security and Defense strategies.



Operation Seismos

The 213th FSC conducts Operation Seismos with Iron County communities

Spc. Tyson Nelson and Pfc. Jesse Hunt practice sling-load operations for emergency equipment and bulk commodities distribution.

CEDAR CITY, Utah — Soldiers with the Utah National Guard’s 213th Forward Support Company conducted a coordinated, mock disaster “Operation Seismos” with the Iron County Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Cedar City fire and police departments, and other local, first-responder agencies Feb. 5.

The operation parameters were a mock 7.7-magnitude earthquake occurring in Cedar City. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert activated the 213th FSC to support the community’s EOC by providing assistance with security, decontamination, and distribution of supplies.

“The training was focused on the support and assistance the Utah National Guard unit would provide to our community in case of an emergency; specifically in this instance a magnitude 7.7 earthquake,” said Cedar City Mayor Maile Wilson. “It was particularly beneficial not only for the National Guard to be able to conduct its training exercise, but also for the various city departments to have an opportunity to meet and work with the men and women from the 213th.”

The main focus of the operation was for the 213th FSC to coordinate with the EOC’s numerous elements on how to be most effective to those first responders already involved with a natural disaster. The 213th FSC dispatched 32 vehicles and 75 personnel to Cedar City for the 30-hour campaign.

Upon arrival, coordination meetings were conducted with the EOC along with the local fire and police departments to assign training times and responsibilities for the next 24-hour-stability exercise.

“Operation Seismos was a tremendous training opportunity for the Soldiers of the 213 FSC,” said 1st Lt. Megan Tidwell, 213th FSC executive officer and officer in charge of the operation.

Tidwell divided the three platoons into four equal-size elements to facilitate the request for assistance and training events. The next 24 hours were broken down into four missions:

1) Fire Department: Training on decontamination of fire trucks and equipment, packing and loading of fire hoses, proper deployment of fire extinguishers, and a firefighter-agility course.

2) Police Department: Presence patrols, securing sensitive areas such as the hospital, the college, grocery stores, banks, and pharmacies.

3) EOC-TOC (tactical operations center): Operations, reporting activities and progress, and HAM-radio introduction.

4) Military Operation: Maintenance, recovery, security, distribution, supply, and sling-load operations with 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation for equipment and supply reinforcement.

“The exercise provided civilians a view into the world of a National Guard Soldier, including even eating an MRE,” said Wilson. “From having a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in town, to a convoy of equipment and humvees patrolling the streets, our local first responders and citizens had the opportunity to see the resources available in a time of disaster first hand.”

In performing this exercise, safety was the number-one concern for the command team, ensuring each Soldier was aware of the mission and their individual responsibilities in its success. Safety briefings were conducted at the beginning of each patrol, training event, and operation. Proper presence in the community was also stressed, so the training did not create undue stress on the citizens of Cedar City or the departments involved.

“The willingness of the Cedar City community to allow us to operate maneuvers and scenarios with the assistance of their emergency operations center, fire and police departments has not only adequately prepared our unit to provide sustainment in the event of a future disaster, but exhibited the effectiveness of Soldiers and civilians being able to work together towards a common goal,” said Tidwell.

The culminating events for Operation Seismos were the sling-load operation with the 2-211th Aviation and a break-out session with Cedar City Mayor Maile Wilson at the Cedar City Armory. The training was accomplished in such a short period of time and was



Spc. Nickolas Taylor returning to the Cedar City Armory with rations to support Operation Seismos.



Spc. Dalen Bennett and Sgt. Jacob Whittier prepare to distribute fuel to vehicles going out on presence patrols in Cedar City.

invaluable for the Soldiers of the 213th FSC and the agencies involved.

“While we hope we never have to experience this type of disaster situation here in Cedar City,” said Wilson, “these trainings are invaluable and provide an avenue to build working relationships between the different entities that would respond in a given situation.”

At the conclusion, valuable lessons were learned from all agencies that participated. Everyone felt they had greatly broadened the capabilities of the 213th FSC to respond quickly and efficiently to a natural disaster. Cohesion was built with first responders, so if future events occur, fulfillment of the mission will be adequately met. The 213th FSC was able to bridge a gap, improving implementation of the Utah Army National Guard’s state mission objectives to better support its citizens. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Warrant Officer Lance Jensen



TAG Visits Mantlet 2016

Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton greets Utah National Guard members, Unified Fire Department personnel and Moroccan military members participating in Mantlet 2016 in Rabat, Morocco.

KENITRA, Morocco — **A**t the end of the first phase of Mantlet 2016, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, visited the exercise. During his visit, Burton observed key demonstrations by Moroccan first responders related to skills and techniques they learned during the exercise.

Burton observed Moroccan firefighters conduct a horizontal-litter rescue. While the Moroccans had previously

learned to conduct a vertical-litter rescue, they had not received instruction on the horizontal-rescue technique; by industry standard, offers greater stability for severely injured patients. 2nd Lt. Khalid Sghiouri, search-and-rescue unit of the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco, stated the horizontal-rope training proved significantly more helpful than he anticipated.



Next, Burton observed the Moroccan firefighters conduct two different fire-suppression drills using techniques taught to them by the Unified Fire Department personnel. The first technique known as a “mobile-stand-pipe evolution” required the trainees to extinguish a fire on a three-story building by elevating the fire hoses to the top of the building using a rope system that left the external stairway free of hose, thereby allowing the firefighters greater access to the building and greater facility to evacuate the wounded. The second drill related to extinguishing a fire in a fuel pump. For this event, the Moroccans learned the “fog curtain spray pattern” technique that allows firefighters to dispel flames and fumes while permitting the firefighters to get close enough to reduce the fire and turn the pump valve off, even when firefighters are fully engulfed in flames on all sides.

With regard to both fire-suppression techniques, Battalion Chief Michael White of the Unified Fire Department stated that the Moroccans were “very excited to learn the new techniques, and very grateful for the opportunity the training provided.”

White also praised the Moroccans for how efficiently and effectively they mastered the new skill sets.

After observing the exercise, Burton stated what he found most striking about the exercise was the improvement of the Moroccan and American interaction over time and the ability of the USS to respond to a disaster.

“I feel like they have come a long way in the ability to respond to a multitude of different types of disasters, and I think it’s because of our partnership over the last four or five years,” said Burton. “I am very encouraged by what I have seen here today.”

In terms of what comes next in the progression of the exercise, Burton identified improved and redundant communications as top priorities.

“Communication is always the key in a chaotic environment,” said Burton. “If we continue to practice, it will get better.”

The general also stated he was very pleased with the involvement of the Red Crescent and civilian medical personnel, citing participation of the civilian populous as another significant priority as the two countries continue their disaster-relief-training efforts. 🇲🇴

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Robert Lund

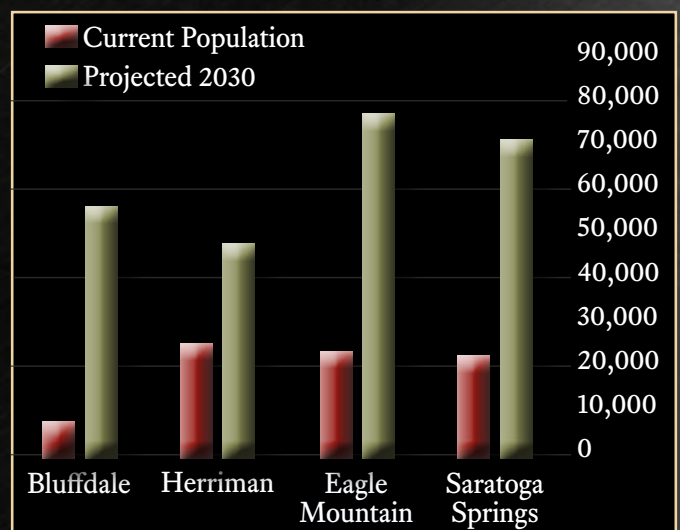
Creating a Buffer of Compatible Lands Around Camp Williams

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Many Soldiers who have deployed to theaters of war have said they credit their success in combat to their training conducted at Camp W.G. Williams.

Similar to many military installations, Camp Williams was originally established far from population centers. As Utah’s population continues to boom, urban sprawl now abuts the borders of Camp Williams impacting the ability to train, and poses some risk to surrounding communities. Camp Williams is an extremely active installation providing ranges, terrain, and facilities not only for all Soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard, but to all branches of the military.

Camp Williams has become the preferred training center for military units and federal agencies for pre-deployment training because of the landscape similarities between Camp Williams and regions in which the U.S. is currently deployed. This encroachment around Camp Williams and the growing development along the borders has resulted in commanders frequently being required to choose between sensitivities of the communities surrounding Camp Williams and meeting training and mission requirements.

In 2002, Congress provided legislative authority allowing military departments to partner with government or private organizations to establish buffer areas around active-training and testing areas. This authority entitled agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military testing, training, and operations. The Army created the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program to implement these authorities. The Department of Defense has a similar program to combat encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. All military installations, including the Utah National Guard facilities, are eligible to submit proposals to qualify for funds from the Readiness Environmental Program Initiative (REPI) in addition to the ACUB Program.



The ACUB and REPI programs allow installations to work with partners to encumber off-post land to protect habitat and buffer training without acquiring any new Army land ownership. Through ACUB, the Utah National Guard reaches out to partners to identify mutual objectives of land conservation and to manage development of critical, open areas. The U.S. Army can contribute funds to the partners' purchase of easements or properties from willing landowners. Establishing buffer areas around Army installations limits the effects of encroachment, and maximizes land inside the installation that can be used to support the installations' mission and improve the quality of life for surrounding communities.

After years of effort, Camp Williams was finally approved by the assistant chief of staff for Installation Management to participate in the ACUB program. Achieving the approval was a team effort led by Col. Tyler Smith, Camp Williams Garrison commander, who recognized the tremendous opportunity to participate in this program as the future of Camp Williams is at stake. Capt. Andrea Sievers, administrative officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 65th Field Artillery Brigade; and Master Sgt. (Ret.) Paul Raymond prepared the packet for submittal and worked tirelessly in finalizing a product that passed the intense scrutiny of National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon. Currently, a working group consisting of Col. (Ret.) Bryce Taggart; Capt. Earl Simmons, facility maintenance officer from Utah Training Center; and Master Sgt. (Ret.) Paul Raymond has been assigned to move the program forward.

Camp Williams and the ACUB partners now have a seat at the table to compete for federal funding to assist in managing encroachment along the borders in order to preserve the ability to train and ensure the safety of surrounding communities. Due to the hard work and commitment of all involved, the Camp Williams ACUB program was awarded \$2.7 million of Fiscal Year 2015 funds to begin the buffering process, and is in a great position to receive more in 2016.

Herriman City, an ACUB partner, used the funds to purchase 470 acres from willing landowners along the north border of Camp Williams.

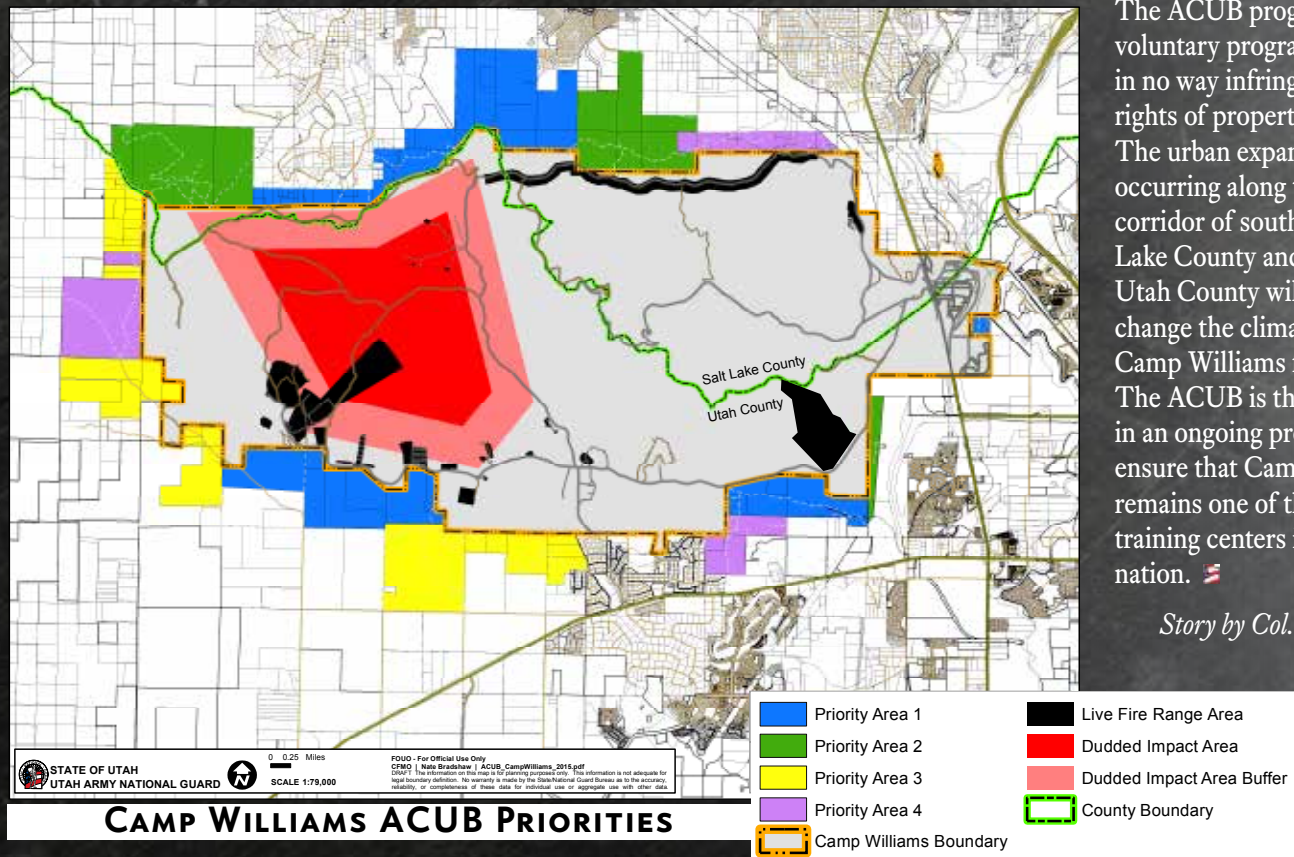
"We love Camp Williams and want to do all we can so it continues to be a tremendous place for Soldiers to train," said Gordon Haight, Herriman City assistant city manager.

Herriman plans to use that property for recreational hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. These activities are far more compatible to military training than high-density housing, which would have likely been developed had the ACUB program not been successful. Having a buffer of compatible lands between military and the community is a win/win scenario. The buffer not only preserves the ability to train but it mitigates the hazards for the communities that reside near the border where the terrain is susceptible to wildfire and curious children and adults that love to explore.

Other ACUB partners include the Conservation Fund, Eagle Mountain City, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The ACUB program is an ongoing process, and efforts are currently underway to work with landowners

along the south border. The ACUB program is a voluntary program, and in no way infringes on the rights of property owners. The urban expansion occurring along the corridor of southern Salt Lake County and northern Utah County will certainly change the climate of Camp Williams forever. The ACUB is the first step in an ongoing process to ensure that Camp Williams remains one of the finest training centers in the nation. 🇺🇸

Story by Col. Tyler Smith





*Retired Marine Cpl. Kenneth Toone shares his post-traumatic-stress disorder story with members of the Utah Air National Guard during the seventh annual Interfaith Devotional held at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Jan. 10, 2016.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Annie Edwards*

UTANG Guest Speaker Offers Personal Insight on PTSD, Overcoming Fears

ROLAND WRIGHT AIR BASE, Utah — **T**he 151st Air Refueling Wing hosted its seventh annual Interfaith Devotional at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base dining facility on Jan. 10, 2016, featuring retired Marine Cpl. Kenneth Toone as guest speaker.

During his speech, Toone described a traumatic experience he had while deployed to Iraq in 2003 in which he and his fellow Marines mistakenly killed and wounded several Iraqi civilians who, while trying to drive away from the chaos raging in their city, were caught in the midst of a firefight between Toone's Fox Company and the Iraqi army.

"I was not prepared to deal with the emotions that resulted from that day," said Toone. "I often wondered who those people were, what happened to them, and if they survived to get the medical help they so desperately needed."

Toone went on to describe his subsequent battle with post-traumatic-stress disorder (PTSD) following his deployment. He turned to drugs and alcohol and other self-harming behaviors to numb the pain and quiet the fears, he said, and eventually he lost his marriage, his home, his friendships, and his job.

"For years, feelings of guilt and shame welled inside of me," said Toone. "I would often, and sometimes still do, have

nightmares where I would shoot a car coming towards me and have it be my own family inside."

Then in 2012, nearly 10 years after his deployment, Toone received a phone call from a fellow Marine which gave him an opportunity for some peace of mind. The Marine told him he had managed to track down the family Toone and his team shot at in Baghdad nearly 10 years earlier, and was offering Toone a chance to meet them face to face.

"I had been part of a group that had killed the father and two sons of this family and also wounded the daughter," said Toone. "Fear overwhelmed me."

But after six months of deliberating, and with some newly-found confidence gained during a warrior's retreat, Toone accompanied two other Marines to California where he met the family in person. The mother and daughter who survived that day so many years ago opened their hearts to Toone, he said, and toward the end of the visit the two ultimately gave him the forgiveness he could not give himself.

Toone still suffers from PTSD, and he said overcoming his fears is a daily process, but he credits that encounter and his faith for getting him through.

"I know that once I felt that first twinge of forgiveness and of Jesus' love pouring out of a mother who had every right to hate me, I was able to start to feel the seeds of faith beginning to grow inside of me again," he said.

According to Lt. Col. Bruce Brewer, 151st Air Refueling Wing Chaplain, the spiritual resiliency Toone displays is common among Veterans returning from war, particularly those who suffer from some kind of moral injury.

"During my chaplaincy, I've been blessed to better understand the unique role faith plays in the actual healing process," said Brewer. "I've gained insights into the principles of spiritual resiliency, regrets, shame, mercy, forgiveness and love; and how Veterans have used them in aiding their own recovery from injuries that are extremely isolating, making one feel as if they weren't a good person, or that if anybody ever figured that out, they'd never be loved again."

For Toone, attending church, praying, and reading scriptures helped him to kick his unhealthy addictions, he said, and perhaps best of all he was able to marry his best friend.

"If you or someone you know is suffering from PTSD, I recommend calling the Salt Lake Vet Center at 801-266-1499," said Brewer. "They do anonymous support for Veterans, and it's completely confidential."



Story by Tech. Sgt. Amber Monio

MANTLET 2016: Preparing to Shield Morocco from Severe Disaster

SIDI YAHIIYA, Morocco — In old English parlance, the term “mantlet” means shield. In the spirit of shielding Morocco from disaster, and as part of on-going efforts between the United States and Morocco to conduct cooperative disaster-relief training, military service members and emergency first responders from both countries gathered together at various locations in Morocco to conduct another iteration of the Mantlet exercise between March 14-25, 2016.

The participants included representatives of the Utah National Guard’s Homeland Response Force (HRF) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives from Salt Lake and Park City area fire departments, members of the Search and Rescue Unit (USS) of the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco, and the Moroccan Civil Protection Service. The Spanish army also sent two representatives as observers of the exercise.

The partnership between the Utah National Guard and Moroccan military began in 2009. The initial training efforts included only military participation. However, with each year the partners have made a concerted effort to incorporate emergency first responders into the training. In 2013, the two countries conducted an exercise related to a serious earthquake. The 2014 exercise dealt with rapid response to a flooding incident. In 2015, the exercise responded to an earthquake and flooding, and in 2016, the exercise dealt with a hurricane and flooding. The Mantlet exercises represent a more concerted effort to conduct joint, interagency, and multinational training related to national-disaster-relief efforts.

In 2016 the Mantlet exercise focused on three main objectives: familiarization of the command and control process of a Unified Command Post, establishing interoperability in the monitoring and evaluating of an emergency situation, and developing the operational capabilities of mobilized response modules.

“This event provides a great opportunity for the sharing of resources and best practices in order to better prepare Morocco to save lives and prevent property damage in relation to any type of disaster,” said Col. Scott Burnhope, the HRF commander.

The training curriculum included horizontal-rope rescue, industrial-fire suppression, wide- and swift-water rescue, and decontamination operations.

The two-week exercise consisted of two phases. Phase one, the crawl-walk phase, took place in Kenitra and Sidi Yahiya and included a table-top exercise with follow-on injects from a simulation cell, and culminated with a vertical-rope



Moroccan firefighters exercise the “fog-curtain-spray-pattern” technique in Sidi Yahiya, Morocco.

rescue and the extinguishment of a high-rise industrial fire. Phase one intended to familiarize the participants with the four functional areas (command, plans, operations, and logistics) and how those areas interact with each other. The simulated injects attempted to action each of the functional areas and help participants identify capability shortfalls.

Hayat Balker, a nurse working with Morocco’s Division of Public Health and Emergency Management, participated in the plan’s cells. Ms. Balker expressed appreciation for the training, stating that it helped her to “better understand how to coordinate efforts between the International Federation of



Moroccan forces secure a patient for transport during a training exercise in Sidi Yahiya, Morocco.



Capt. Keith Garner of the Utah CERF-P conducts swift-water-rescue training to Moroccan forces in Lamjaara, Morocco.

Members of Morocco’s USS forces rescue a victim during wide-water training in Lamjaara, Morocco.

the Red Crescent, Morocco’s civil-protection agencies, and the Moroccan military.”

Phase two, the field exercise portion of the training commonly referred to as the “run phase,” took place in Lamjaara, Morocco, where the training participants incorporated all aspects of the previous week’s instruction. Participants in the field exercise in Lamjaara trained on water rescue, vertical-rope rescue, and command-post operations. The water rescue involved the recovery of four victims missing in a riverine area. Heavy rains during the exercise added an element of realism to the training. Three boats with swimming searchers deployed together with shore searchers to conduct a “wide-area search,” forming a perpendicular line across the river bed in search of the missing victims. In addition to exercising the search techniques, the exercise focused on establishing good communication back to the command post.

In the rope-rescue operations, the Americans taught the Moroccans to use belay lines as a redundant-safety measure, to use “bow lines” to further secure the rescuers, and to use a “hasty harness” to secure the patients. All three techniques

were new to the Moroccans. One of the trainers, Capt. Keith Garner of the Utah CERF-P, described the Moroccans as “true professionals who adapted well to the advanced techniques.”

The command-post exercise allowed multiple Moroccan participants to serve as the incident commander while exercising the transfer of authority, thereby learning the difficulty involved with that responsibility.

In comparison with past exercises, the 2016 Mantlet exercise marked the greatest level of interagency participation for both countries, and it also marked the greatest level of continuity of participation, with numerous returning participants.

In terms of what the future holds, both countries have ambitious goals and objectives for the exercise, including expanding regional participation, increasing participation of first responders, and increasing complexity of the event scenario. This year’s exercise clearly solidified the foundation to achieve those goals. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Robert Lund



What's Happening on the Hill? 2016 Legislative Session

SALT LAKE CITY — **T**he Minuteman is the well known and fitting symbol of the National Guard across the nation and here in Utah. Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution directs congress to “Provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the union, suppress Insurrections, and repel Invasions. Also to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority for training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.”

Early in our nation’s history, this constitutional language established and maintains the dual responsibility to both state and nation for National Guard members. The Utah National Guard (UTNG) is the militia and State Military Department of the State of Utah. This unique organization allows the National Guard to respond to the governor of Utah and to the president of the United States.

The governor, as commander in chief, requests a budget for the UTNG. The State Legislature appropriates funding through legislation for UTNG administration, operations and maintenance, and tuition assistance. Most of the money appropriated by the State Legislature is for the State share of facility operations and maintenance costs.

The State Legislature meets for 45 days in a general session each year. This year, the session was January 25 through March 10. During this session, the Legislature passed several bills of interest to the UTNG. Gov. Gary Herbert signed his appreciation for the UTNG during Military Appreciation Month by signing each of these bills in front of more than 30 Utah Soldiers and Airmen May 4, in the Gold Room at the State Capitol. These bills, which are now law, are meant to benefit UTNG Guard members and Veterans.



Top down, left to right: Utah Senator Gene Davis; Representative Paul Ray; Representative Lynn Hemingway; Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general; and Mr. Gary Harter, executive director Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, watch as Governor Gary R. Herbert signs Legislative bills at the State Capitol May 4. Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general, addresses the audience before the bill signing in the Gold Room at the State Capitol May 4. Left to right: Brig. Gen. David Fountain, assistant adjutant general for Air; Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general; Gov. Gary Herbert; and Tech. Sgt. Johnson Xaysana at the Utah Capitol Rotunda during the Utah Defense Alliance Legislative Meet the Military Luncheon Feb. 5. The event provides an opportunity for Utah Legislators to meet and interact with senior leaders from Hill AFB, Tooele, Dugway, Fort Douglas and the Utah National Guard.

- National Guard Death Benefit Amendments (House Bill 98, Substitute 1) provides a \$100,000 death benefit to the next of kin of a UTNG member who dies performing state-active duty. This is a similar benefit to that provided to law enforcement officers in the line of duty. Thankfully, the UTNG has not had any deaths while on state-active duty. However, the legislature recognizes the risks and sacrifice involved and has provided this benefit to help protect UTNG families in the event of this tragedy.

- State Armory Board Amendments (House Bill 59) expands the authority of the State Armory Board to acquire real property in addition to construct new armories. Most Utah Army National Guard facilities, including armories, maintenance shops, and most Camp Williams buildings are owned by the state of Utah and are controlled by the State Amory Board, consisting of the governor, the adjutant general, and the director of the Division of Facilities and Construction Management.

- Tax Credit for Military Survivor Benefits (House Bill 233, Substitute 1) exempts military survivor benefits from State income tax.

- New Fiscal Year Supplemental Appropriations Act (House Bill 2) appropriates \$300,000 for National Guard Death Benefits (see HB 98, S1) and \$352,500 for National Guard suicide awareness and prevention. These appropriations are in addition to the UTNG base-budget appropriation.

- Concurrent Resolution on Utah's Vision for Enduring Contribution to the Common Defense (Senate Concurrent Resolution 16) recognizes Utah's critical role in supporting the common defense. The governor and Legislature commit to further advance Utah's enduring contribution by solving challenges through innovative solutions in synergies through the total force, cost savings and modernization, and leveraging our world-class workforce.

The UTNG enjoys broad support from the citizens of Utah and its elected representatives. This support is a reflection of its respect and appreciation for Guard members' service and sacrifice. It is a reflection of trust in the leadership and the Soldiers and Airmen of the UTNG. With that trust comes a great responsibility to continually stand ready for state and federal missions. 🇺🇸

Story by Mike Norton



CAN YOU RECOGNIZE GREATNESS?

HELP STRENGTHEN THE UTAH NATIONAL GUARD AND EARN THE UTAH NATIONAL GUARD RECRUITING RIBBON

A Recruiting Ribbon may be presented to any member of the Utah National Guard who personally causes the enlistment of individuals to earn 10 points based on the following value formula:

Non-prior Service Enlistment	4 points
Prior Enlistment Service	2 points





Continuing a 30-Year Tradition: Guard and Scouts Help Fill Utah Food Banks During Scouting for Food

SALT LAKE CITY — For the 30th consecutive year, the Utah National Guard provided personnel and equipment support to the annual Scouting for Food effort Saturday, March 19, in various locations throughout Utah.

“We couldn’t do it without the National Guard’s participation. They are integral to the success of this food drive and the ability to provide food to hungry Utahans through the spring and summer months,” said Julie Adams-Chatterly, Utah Food Bank, Food Drive & Data Specialist. “This year they provided support in nine counties throughout the state.”

Utah Food Bank, in Salt Lake City, was founded in 1904 as the Salt Lake Charity Association. Over the past 100 years, the Utah Food Bank has stayed true to its mission of serving those in need

throughout the state with support of the Utah National Guard.

“The commitment and partnership between the Utah National Guard, Boy Scouts of America and Utah Food Bank is exceptional, and I am incredibly proud to work with them each year,” said Adams-Chatterly.

Statewide, including all three Boy Scouts of America councils, 1,262,303 pounds of food was collected and an additional \$9,018.41 was donated through Smith’s Food and Drug check stands. The Scouting for Food drive will assist the Utah Food Bank in providing 1,087,166 meals to hungry Utahans.

“I didn’t know what to expect, but within the first 30 minutes trucks were lined up,” said Grace Thomas, communications director for Community Action Services and Food Bank in Utah County. “It’s really great seeing everyone, our people, the Scouts and the Guard all working together.”

Donations are received from hundreds of food and fund drives throughout the year. Scouting for food is one of four major food drives that help keep the shelves stocked. Every year, the Utah National Guard sends volunteers to help the Boy Scouts of America gather food during its annual Scouting for Food drive.

“I think it’s positive to have the Soldiers here. It shows the Scouts they’re not the only people out there helping,” said Brian Walker, a native of Payson and scoutmaster for Troop 452. “Sometimes you need to take it one step further, so our troop came here Wednesday night and helped sort the food they already had.”

“I know it stresses the food bank to only get food during the high points of the year,” continued Walker. “It’s really good that we do this at this time of year.”

Military volunteers made short work of the truckloads of food collected by local Boy Scouts and hauled in by the Air and Army National Guard to collection points in both Utah and Salt Lake counties. The drive helps replenish food stocks of the Utah Food Bank which helps roughly 1,500 people per month.

“This year we did a lot of advertising through social media,” said Grace. “With social media we can keep people up to date, and continue to promote this, and we can reach a much larger audience. Within the first week we had 40,000 views.”

“Our whole focus is getting people out of poverty,” added Grace. “We have a two-step approach to poverty. We need to stabilize them and then to rebuild. Food is one of the first things



we use to give stability. We provide their basic needs, then once they're able, we work on educating. We have a financial learning center where we teach people to bank, to save money and debt management.

The combined efforts of the Boy Scouts and Utah National Guard will hopefully continue to grow as awareness continues to spread across the state. 🇺🇸

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg and Sgt. Ariel Solomon
Photos by Sgt. Ariel Solomon and Staff Sgt. Lindsay Prax*

Soldiers and Airmen with the Utah National Guard support the Boy Scouts of America and Utah food banks for the 30th consecutive year of Scouting for Food March 19.



Family Assistance Centers

Utah Family Assistance Centers (FAC) assist Service members and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. FACs are open to all branches of the military: Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components. Contact your local FAC for any questions or issues you may have.

Regardless of location, services provided by FACs include:

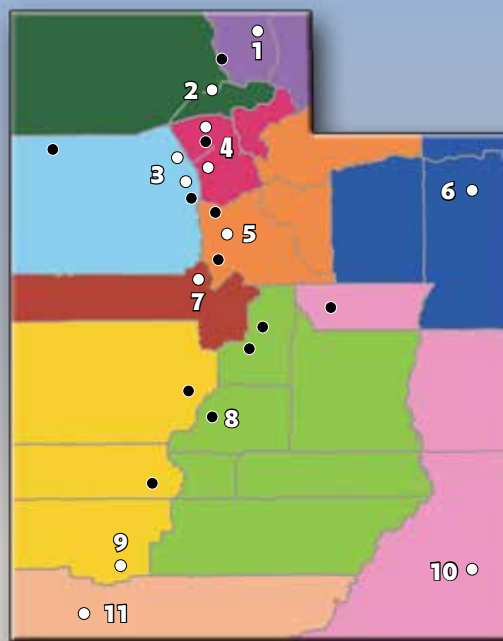
- TRICARE/TRICARE dental assistance
 - Financial assistance/counseling
 - Legal and pay issues • ID card referral
 - Emergency-assistance coordination
- Counseling support/referral • Community support • Family/household emergencies
 - Family Care Plan information • Family communication • Family Readiness Group programs
 - Casualty assistance information, referral, follow-up and outreach
 - DEERS information (Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System).

We are here to serve you! 🇺🇸

○ Armory and FAC ● Armory

1 Logan	801-476-3811
2 Ogden	801-476-3811
3 Bluffdale	801-878-5037
3 West Jordan	801-816-3577
4 Draper	801-432-4522
4 SLC	801-715-3708
5 Orem	801-722-6913
6 Vernal	435-789-3691
7 Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
8 Richfield	435-896-6442
9 Cedar City	435-867-6513
10 Blanding	435-678-2008
11 St. George	435-986-5417

Find a FAC



Utah Regional FAC and Armory Locations

Visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family



Soldiers listen to Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton's opening remarks at the 300th Military Intelligence Linguist Conference held at the Utah National Guard Headquarters, Draper, Utah.

Speak the Culture: 300th MI Linguist Conference

Draper, Utah — “Speak the Culture” is the slogan and theme for the 27th annual 300th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade’s Language Conference, held at the Utah National Guard’s headquarters March 5.

This year’s conference focused on the importance of understanding culture while gathering and interpreting intelligence.

1st Lt. Charles J. Beckmann, command-language-program manager for the 300th MI, said the concept of “Speak the Culture” focuses on taking language capabilities beyond just translating words, but also applying the meaning behind the words.

“Ultimately it’s our Soldiers going to countries to provide the clearest picture of what is going on to the commanders, and the intelligence brigades are responsible for those countries,” Beckmann said. “For our Soldiers to have culture as a key part of their language studies, it will only make them stronger and more operationally effective.”

A key speaker at the conference was Dr. Amos N. Guiora, Professor of Law, University of Utah and former member of the Israeli Defense Force. He shared his experience and insight on how valuable cultural understanding is to the military intelligence mission and national security as a whole.

“If the other side sees you as culturally ignorant or disdainful of their side, that ultimately is going to be harmful to how we are perceived,” said Guiora. “If we don’t speak the same language, not just linguistically but also culturally, there is absolutely no way we can talk about national security.”

Guiora shared an anecdote of a time when he was tasked to establish the need of a cultural-awareness understanding between Israel and Palestine. It was supposed to be a two-week assignment which included fine-

tuning a portion of a treaty known as the Safe Passage Agreement.

With a chuckle he explained it took five years to resolve a difference between how the Palestinians and Israelis saw the agreement. The arduous challenge was in the difference between one letter in Hebrew and Arabic and the intuitive understanding behind that difference.

“It never occurred to us something as basic as Safe Passage to us was Open Passage to them,” said Guiora. “We never took the time to ask

ourselves, not how do we view it, but how did they view it. That was a classic story of how not to be culturally sensitive.”

With that story as the basis of his discourse, Guiora illustrated several points of how and why it’s crucial for linguists to understand the culture of their studied language.

“If you’re meeting with a cleric or an imam, the only way you can really converse with him is to come to him being knowledgeable about Islam,” Guiora said. “If you’re not confident and comfortable conversing about Islam, then there really isn’t a way you can have a conversation with a cleric. That imposes on you to learn something about Islam. I think that is an interesting point because: one, it tells him you took the time to learn something; two, you’re conversing in their language; and three, you have a respect for their way of life.”

“The hope is they will dive into the culture first and then pick up the language along the way,” said Beckmann on this new, cultural emphasis. “I think it’s a fun and rewarding way to learn the language that actually leads toward a more operationally proficient linguist.” 📖

Story and photos by Sgt. Ariel Solomon



Dr. Amos N. Guiora, Professor of Law, University of Utah, speaking to linguists at the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade Linguist Conference March 5. Guiora stressed the importance of how cultural awareness plays in a linguist’s effectiveness.



TAG SYMPOSIUM Sheds Light on Family

Volunteers recognized at the 2016 TAG Symposium. Below: Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, speaks during the TAG Symposium Feb 6. TAG Symposium attendees work together during a team-building activity.

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Family Readiness Group (FRG) volunteers and Utah National Guard leaders attended the Adjutant General’s Symposium at Camp Williams, Feb. 6.

The annual event is designed to boost family readiness through an exhibition of information and resources available to military families.

Of the many topics highlighted, resilience was at the forefront. Christian Moore, a clinical social worker and founder of the WhyTry organization, an organization created to give youth educational resilience, touched on how Soldiers and their families can use struggles to stay motivated and remain strong during hard times.

“What we really focused on was how we can take our positive and our negative self-talk, and learn how to channel those emotions in a successful way,” Moore said. “There are many ways to use your positive emotions to be productive, we want to show Soldiers how to use their negative emotions in a positive way.”

Moore said Soldiers, by the nature and necessity of their job, are already resilient. He esteemed them as great people for the sacrifices they had already made, and stressed the role that human connections play as Soldiers traverse current and future adversities.

Moore explained it was paramount for military families to build and foster a unit community and support network. The FRG is central to achieving this, as the major group to assist in a Soldier’s family care when duty calls.

“I’ve helped with many family problems,” said Sandra Jacobson, who serves as the FRG leader for the 213th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard. “I’ve helped with issues of suicide; I remember once one of our Soldiers was in a bad car accident, and the Soldier had small children. The FRG was able to assist the family during that

healing process. It’s programs are very far-reaching when needed.”

Many of the speakers gave advice to unit leaders and FRG volunteers on how to help build ties and help Soldier’s families plan meaningful unit family activities. Also covered, were legal pitfalls in fundraising and the need for command involvement with their FRG volunteers.

The symposium also allowed Guard leaders to express gratitude for the performance of FRG members.

“We’re taking time to recognize our volunteers for the things you do while we’re deployed,” said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, “We also want to communicate that this is a command program. Commanders, first sergeants and command sergeants major have to be the drivers to make this work, and the volunteers get it done. So our whole message is that we love our volunteers and need them.”

Story and photos by Sgt. Ariel J. Solomon



No Food, No Fight



TOOELE, Utah — Soldiers with the 214th Forward Support Company, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, competed in the Phillip A. Connelly Food Service Competition on Feb. 20, for the national title at the Tooele Army Depot.

“The Phillip A. Connelly Food Service Competition is important because it recognizes the hard work of all the food service personnel,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gabriel Zettel, a food advisor for 97th Troop Command. “Food Services is one of the most demanding and thankless military occupations, and this is a huge opportunity for Soldiers to showcase their skills and abilities, and prove how good they are at what they do.”

The competition is a four-hour-timed event where the Soldiers are graded in 10 different categories totaling a possible 1,000 points, and this is all done in a field environment. Three evaluators grade the teams on each area: from the request, receipt and storage of supplies, and food preparation and quality. The three evaluators for the 214th’s event were Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Langille representing the National Guard, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Pamela Null from the Reserve component, and Joan Wagner from the National Restaurant Association.

The goal for a food services unit is to proficiently and economically provide Soldiers with the best meal possible so they can perform their military function to the best of their ability.

“Without food, there’s no fight,” explained Zettel. “I don’t know anyone who’s gone to a field-training exercise or a deployment and didn’t look forward to eating a hot meal at six in the morning. A lot of times people don’t recognize all the efforts the cooks put in to pushing out a meal.”

Competing in the event helps instill in the Soldiers the proper way to plan, prepare, and create a meal in accordance with standard operating procedures from beginning to end.

“Participating in this event was very educational, and I’ve learned more from this than any other event I’ve done,” said Sgt. Jon Thompson, culinary specialist with the 214th FSC. “The most enjoyable part was working with our team; everything else is strenuous and hard, but our team is very good.”



Joan Wagner, a competition judge from the National Restaurant Association, discusses food preparation with Sgt. Jon Thompson during the Philip A. Connelly Award Competition.



Competition judge Joan Wagner observes the prep work being done by Sgt. Shaunee Batchelor and Specialist Shiann Lindsey Feb 20 outside of Tooele Army Depot, Utah.



The 214th FSC placed in the top four in the nation during the regional competition in May of 2015. They are now competing for the national title, with the awards ceremony being held in Chicago later this year. They have been preparing for this event for the past four months. Each Soldier continues to rehearse their individual roles and responsibilities, and continuing to work as a cohesive team.

“There’s a lot that goes into this that people don’t see,” said Capt. Shane Sorensen, commander for the 214th FSC, referring to the purpose and responsibilities of a food services unit. “It’s a budget concern, and we don’t want to waste anything. It’s all in the preparation; if it looks good, they’ll eat it. The 214th is amazing at what they do, so waste hasn’t been an issue for us because what they make tastes great.”

“My favorite part is serving,” explained Sgt. Kohnor Loosle, 214th FSC, culinary specialist. “I do food service because I like to give Soldiers a hot meal no matter what the environment. You can feel like you’re back home eating with your family, even though you’re out in the field. We want troops to know we care about them. That’s why we do what we do, waking up early, staying up late, all to get them a hot meal when it’s needed.”

“The food services really are the backbone of the military, and they help make other Soldiers successful,” said 1st Sgt. Eric Shepherd, first sergeant for the 214th FSC.

The last time the Utah National Guard competed on the national level was in the early 1990’s. 🇺🇸

*Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Kristin Calderwood*



Specialist Shiann Lindsey and Sgt. Shaunee Batchelor prepare lettuce Feb 20 during the Philip A. Connelly Award Competition outside of Tooele Army Depot, Utah. Sgt. Jon Thompson serves meals to Soldiers of 214th Forward Support Company Feb 20 as a part of their graded exercise during the Philip A. Connelly Award Competition. Sgt. Kohnor Loosle pours soy sauce in preparation to marinate chicken Feb 20 during the Philip A. Connelly Award Competition.

FINAL FLIGHT for Only Army Aviator to Reach 10,000 Hours in an Apache

WEST JORDAN, Utah — **T**he final AH-64 Apache helicopter flight for a Utah National Guard Army aviator, who is recognized as the senior Apache aviator in the world to achieve more than 10,000 flying hours in the Apache, was held Jan. 29.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken Jones, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation, most recently served as an Apache standardization instructor pilot, and has since retired from the National Guard after serving for more than 35 years in the military.

“You stick a pilot with Ken and you expect him to be trained quicker and to a higher level,” said Lt. Col. Ricky Smith, commander for 1-211th Aviation.

Smith calls Jones a tenacious teacher, and says he often sees flyers lined up waiting for a turn in the helicopter with Jones.

“This guy doesn’t get tired,” said Smith. “Not one time have I ever seen Ken turn down an opportunity to fly. He has a passion for it like no other.”

“I love training pilots to do combat arms,” said Jones. “I never wanted to give it up. I’m giving it up because I’m hitting 60, and it’s time to move on.”

The expertise and professionalism of Jones is contagious and multi-generational; his son, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones also serves in the Utah National Guard as an Army aviator, and joined his father as a co-pilot during the one-hour, final flight.

“The Apache has been a fundamental part of my life since my first memory,” said Jared Jones.

Jared Jones says his career highlight is, and may forever remain, flying missions with his father during their deployment to Afghanistan in 2005.

“Not many fathers get to do a battle airborne hand-off with their son,” said Ken Jones, describing a different mission when the two went back-to-back to aid troops on the ground, with the senior Jones replacing his son on a mission near Kunduz.



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Ken Jones, right, accompanied by his son Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones just prior to his final flight in an AH-64 Apache helicopter.

Chief Ken Jones has served in four combat tours in the Middle East with 2,270 combat-flight hours. One of these missions involved a night landing in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan, evacuating numerous Special Operations personnel to safety.

“I didn’t think about 10,000 until I hit 9,000 in Afghanistan,” said Jones. “Deployments add a lot of flight time to your record.”

Jones has served with the Utah National Guard since 1992, following 12 years of service with the active component.

“The continuity that the National Guard has provided me for the last 23 years has allowed me to develop an outstanding AH-64 Apache, combat-flying program, which has also allowed me to fly more than 10,000 flight hours in the AH-64,” said Jones. “I have enjoyed every minute being in the Apache and the Utah Army National Guard. It has been a truly great opportunity and honor for me to serve my country in this capacity.”

The vast experience and knowledge of Jones was also utilized as he briefed the National Committee on the Future of the Army during its evaluation of the Army Aviation Restructuring Initiative which, if unchanged, will reallocate all Apache helicopters to the active component of the Army. His final flight occurred within a day of the release of the findings of the commission’s report.

“Chief Jones is a valued member of our organization who has demonstrated his patriotism and dedication every day during his more than 35 years of service,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. “Men and women like this are the invaluable assets to our nation’s defense that will be squandered should the Army Restructuring Initiative take the Apaches from the Guard’s formations.”

Smith said Jones’ retirement will be a loss to the unit, “but his legacy will live here a long time.”



Story and photo by Ileen Kennedy

Air Promotions

MAJOR

May Joshua J

CAPTAIN

Jonkman Christina N
Lozano Leonardo
Messer Brett W

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Bagshaw Ben R
Boog Joseph R
Thornton Nathaniel M

SECOND LIEUTENANT

McArthur Vallaree J

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Farr Michael P
Griego William Joseph
Loveland Lance E
Ormond Wayne S

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Castleton Martha E
Fransen Steven G
Jensen Brian K

MASTER SERGEANT

Avila Santiago A
Bortz Amy A
Christensen Lydia V
Fallows David C
Moses Brandon R
Phelps Darren K
Riebe Brian A
Stanley Alisa Fawn

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Brunt Rosalina M
Call Jesse Charles
Dao Hoang Huy
Davis Joseph A
Lawson Jeffrey David
Lewis James William
Price Sean Gifford
Ramage Thomas R
Rea Geiber E
Roldan Alberto Dizon Jr
Saldivar Daniel A
Sombbrero Alex E
Sublett Taylor Lola
Whiting Brandon Jay
Wiesner Anthony M

Air Promotions continued

Zepeda Jeramie A

STAFF SERGEANT

Bornemeier Erik D
Clausen Jade L
Hughes Latrisha S
Johnson Tyrel M
Lister Clinton A
Matlock Chase Sheldon
Morin Jacob Kenneth
Rosalez Bryant C
Selfe Jeffrey H
Stromberg Carter L
Terpening Adalinda C

SENIOR AIRMAN

Alofipo Celestial M

Brady Jason D
Cressall Rail K
Duncan Christopher M
Forbes James A
Futch Marvin L
Garcia Victor A
Jewkes Tyler M
Lunt Collier J
Preston John B Iv
Rydman Jerral R
Stroud Cosslett J
Trounce Deren M
West John T

AIRMAN 1st CLASS

Turner Mary M

Gonzalez Andres Emilio
Gwinn Scott Douglas
Hansen Samantha Jean
Hart Adam Jacob
Hart Ari Addison
Herreraortuno Manuel Omar
Holliday Matthew Ryan
Howell Jolene Allison
Hutchings Derek Quey
Irons Michael Paul
Johnson Adam Craig
Lacy Roy Guy
Macbride Lucin Allen
McElroy Ryan Allen
Mellor Caleb J
Meryhew Cody Jacob
Miller Austin Richard
Miller Thomas Joseph
Munoz Jose Guadalupe
Newman Taylor Brent
Nguessan Ahoua Niamke
Olmstead Reid Douglas
Perkins David Allen
Ramirez Juan Manuel
Rasmussen April Lyn
Rivera Jason Nuriah
Robertson Sonny Earl
Rodabough Ammon Kale
Sams Travis Jay
Scherf Alexander
Sias Joseph Loyd
Simmons Trevor Jay
Small Tyson Keith
Smuin Jeremy Hyrum
Stanger Richard David
Stebbins Michael Carl
Sullivan Sean Douglas
Thornley Nicholas B
Walburger Michael Craig
Watts Charles Zachariah
Wendel Gregory Lorin
Wenzl Christopher Michael

SERGEANT

Adamson Bo Robert
Allred Ron Austin
Ames Stephen Douglas
Anderson Nathan Durrant
Archibald Jordan Keith
Atwan Shelby Joseph
Barker Blase Leland
Barrett Michael Ford
Bensch David Joseph
Berry Scott McKay
Berry Spencer Earl
Bishop Trevor Don
Bittner Frederick Robert
Blackburn Jimmy Lee
Brimley Trevor Kyle
Brown Cody Lee
Brown Jeremy Don
Brown Vincent Walker
Butler Aaron Rhett
Callahan Brandon Michael
Chatland Spencer Allen
Chavez Dante Enrico
Clark Mikhail Thomas
Clement Jacob Cole
Cloward Ryan Tanner
Combe Chase Kim
Cook Zachary William
Costley Robb Ryan
Crooks Zachery Todd
Cutler Christian Todd
Daniels Thomas Anthony

Davis Jennifer Ann
Davis Kimberlie Sue
Delambert Ty Manning
Dennis Prestin Morgan
Dixon Roscoe Davis
Dougherty Michael Reid
Duea Aubree Gayle
East Broc William
Egan Sydney Thomas
Egbert Brittani Anne
Ellsworth Matthew Johnpedro
England Russell James
Ensign Ryan Marc
Errett Richard Scott
Fackrell Brooks Jay
Ford Dallen Thompson
Frazee Christian Taylor
Frohm Spencer Clinton
Funk Dwight Alan
Gage Trevor Allen
Gallegos Brandon Sean
Garcia Ray Jr
Goodmansen Joshua Twain
Gramu Ernest
Guzman Santiago Jr
Hansen Cory Jens
Hansen David Micah
Hansen Taylor Gregg
Harris Brady M
Harris Nathan Wesley
Hasmorh Leah Rose
Heaton Paul Marion
Helquist Blake Leland
Holmquist Michael Tyler
Hope Kasey Charles
Hudak Alex Edward
Hunter Zachary James
Hurst Jason Joseph
Jackman Saxon Dane
James Thomas Allen
Jensen Bryan Curtiss
Jensen James Ammon
Jensen Joseph Michael
Jensen Justin Koby
Johnson Thayne Elam
Jones David Michael Humphri
Kalm Chase Ryan
Karpowitz Kristopher James
Kast Ian Shawn
Latham Justin Thomas
Lee Brandon Bryan
Leue Timothy Scott
Lewis Christopher James
Limburg Briton James
Lowe Joshua Jordan
Lozano Trexton Joel
Luevano Sergio
Lytle Anna Rose
Mangum Shawn Russell
Mazyck Mario Martinez
McRae Andrew Joseph
Meacham Justin Jonathon
Mecham Cade Graham
Miller Samantha Nicole
Mills Cory Daniel
Moravecflores Elizabeth K
Mull Addison Fynn
Mullen James David
Murdock Daniel Duane
Naylor Daniel James
Newman Ryan Gary
Nielsen Benjamin Judd
Nigbur Brett Putnam
Nope Charles Christopher
Oneal Jerred Eugene

Ornstead Michael Jared
Oviatt McKenzie Ann
Oyler Christopher James
Parke Brett K
Parker Kacey Dee
Paulson Tyler Floyd
Perry Crystal Lynn
Perry Joseph Scott
Peterson Tyler James
Pope Ryan Wilson
Radle Steven Gregory
Randall Brandon Alma
Richwine Chance Michael
Rosenlund Todd Kevin
Samuelsen Bradley Jay
Sargent Alec David
Savage Brandon Dean
Schermerhorn Scott Allen
Selee Dillon Brent
Shelley Matthew Braden
Shepherd Andrew James
Shuldberg Jace Patrick
Siqueiros Veronica
Smith David Nicholas
Smith Jeremy Tsselbah
Soerensen K Spencer James
Sperry Jereme Austin
Stewart Dylan Rex
Stout Brian Jamesparker
Taylor Brady Lee
Taylor Malachi Orion
Taylor Robbie Jay
Teets Dustin Aubrey
Terhaar Dennison Lee
Teto Timothy Matthew
Thompson Jesse Thomas
Thompson Jon Theron
Thorpe Tyson Spencer
Tinkorang David K
Topham Jerney Sheldon
Tull Brandon Joe
Turner Gregory Seth
Vanbeuge Chandler Christian
Vandemerwe Joshua Willem
Vest Peter Steven
Villaverde Delray Ahkui Ain
Walker Craig Michael
Wall Nevin Hal
Waters Gayle Eldon II
Watson Trevor John
Welker Jeremy Daniel
Whiteley Kyle Clayton
Wilson Matthew Thomas
Wilson Spencer Harris
Wygant Vanessa Lauren
Yardley Jacob Sheb
Young Joshua Lee
Zdunich Zachary Kevin
Zeeman Jace T
Zimmerman Jonathan Raymond
Zupan Colton Davis

SPECIALIST / CORPORAL

Adams Kyler John
Ahumadavelazquez Cesar A
Akbar Zubair
Alvarez Jose Luis III
Anderson Delbert Ron
Anderson Halleyann Bliss
Anderson Nicholas Jon
Anderson Shana Frances
Anderson Tyler James
Andrew Joshua Thomas
Bailey Charles Luke
Barton Kate Alexandra

Army Promotions

COLONEL

Barton George Leonard
Verboncoeur Kenneth Gary

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Stewart Peter Nicholas

MAJOR

Holt Glen Overton
Plowman Clifford Dean
Sisson Nelson Mahonrimorian

CAPTAIN

Floyd Jerrid Anthony
Greer Jeffery Glen
Lakey Benjamin Thomas
Larsen Brian Therald
Olson Andrew Nicholas
Pierce Brittany Beatty
Shaw Dominique Jaman
Thompson Charles Lewis
Whetton Bryan David

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Glick Garrett Cutler
Hyde Robert Garrett
Jensen Michael Curtis
McPhee Matthew Wade
McWilliams Kenneth John
Moore Jeremy Andrew
Stroughter Diallo Tille
Vogan David Wesly

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5

Waite Seth Cleve

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Hansen John Lawrence
Hoepfner Elizabeth Anne

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Aylstock Christopher M

WARRANT OFFICER

Beekman Daniel Taylor
Carter Darren James
Marler David Jay
Murdock Joshua Raymond

SERGEANT MAJOR

Crockett Wade Allen
Harvey Damon Patrick

FIRST SERGEANT

Anderson Rawlin Daniel
Freeman Brett Leroy
Johnston Skip Jordan
Romero Marcelino Ruben

MASTER SERGEANT

Crawley Michael Owen Jr
Day Chevonne Aimee
Irons Eric Paul
Lopez Lawrence Fermin
Miller Clayton Liberty
Nielsen Jim Orr
Ogden Rock James
Sherratt Michael John
Valdengo Justin Paul

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Allen Michael Leer
Bird Dwight Vernon
Broadhead Michael Levi
Bybee Jace K
Caldwell Christopher Daniel
Clark Lawrence Jay
Cluff Joshua Thomas
Dolce Jason Andrew
Gardner Brent Lee
Gilmer John Lewis
Hash John Marion
Hernandez Gabriel Jr
Jacobsen Layne Oscar
Jacobson Benjamin Hans
Jones Joseph William
Judkins Jeffrey Scott
Knight Meaghan Rae
Lance John Michael
Lydon Cristopher Lawrence
Lyman Eddie James
Mellor Guy Melvin
Mullan Kenneth Paul
Riddle Andrew Blair
Tischner Alan Wade
Wilkinson William Shane

STAFF SERGEANT

Anderson Aaron William
Benavides Jonathan Rueban
Berteaux Patrick Lindle
Bond Andrew Lawrence
Brasfield Trevor C
Brauer Michael David
Buck Clayton Greg
Bunjjes David Michael
Butler Travis Jon
Calderwood Kristin
Colver Evan Dean
Dearden Ryan Stewart
Deis Brett Thomas
Duarte Luis Carlos
Foisy Jeremy Allen
Geary Timothy Paul

Army Promotions continued

Baumgartner Emerson Tarris	Moxon Douglas Lee	Greene Jackson Nathaniel	Tuck Justin Dale	Canedo Ivan
Beard Robert Alan	Murri Zachary J	Haines Matthew William	Warner Garrett Jeffrey	Cannon Morgan Cheyenne
Bennett Dalan Gary	Nelson Tyson P	Hall Joshua Smith	Wilkin William Gray II	Cheney Cristian Jacob
Berger Braydon Thomas	Nkiere Wawa Serge	Hall Justin Rodney	PRIVATE (PV1)	Christensen Connor Brett
Bess Zachary Grant	Park Trenten Kendall	Hammond Zackary Oberon	Anderson Megan Lynn	Conkling Alexander James
Best Arick Wayne	Petranovich Sabastian P	Hicks Payton Lee	Bacon Christopher Dax	Cooper Tayler
Bjorn Mack James	Phippen Levi Matthew	Hill Jacob Thomas	Baird Andrew Peter	Cruzcastaneda Oswald
Bloxham Natalie Stoddard	Potter Rebecca Mackenzie	Jeffs Matthew Wall	Biddinger Caden Jay Lloyd	Davis Haylee Brianne
Bodtcher Travis Randy	Powell James Timothy	Johnson Caleb Andrew	Boyce Trevor	Demille Brian Elijah
Brewer Brandon Michael	Prisbrey Tristan Chad	Johnson Ryan England	Buist Anthony Adriel	Dransfield Sean Albert
Broadway Jacob Scott	Reedy Cora Ann	Jonas Aaron Parker	Castillo Sebastian Jose	Eastin George Ryan
Bruhjell Daryn Thomas	Roberts Brant Lee	Joseph Brooklyn Jade	Cheney Caleb Matthew	Eccles Jarred Brandon
Brush Baylee Diane	Russo Michael Taylor	Komm Travis Jared	Cisneros Matthew Quinn	Eggleston Taylor James
Calderon Adrian Pastor	Saunders Timothy James	Kunzman Richard Michael	Curtis Bretton Neil	Esparza Ramon Sanchez Jr
Cardenas Hernan David	Sevy Austin Vaughn	Lank Michael Christian	Davis Cierra Bettie	Faleseu Pelesala Juveon
Carter Landon Ross	Shelton Jason Blake	Larson Chad Alan	Dockstader Kyra Gray	Farr Brandon James
Chaffee Zachary Payat	Shelton Spencer Legrand	Larson Israel Mosiah	Douglas Derek Anthony	Florian Madeline Kate
Christensen Cody Merrill	Small Michael Shawn	Larson Russell Hyrum	Duncan Braden Michael	Foster Bethany Anne
Christensen Joy Marie	Staheli Jacob Rex	Latu Isaac Rastermon	Dunyon Jason Scott	Galetka Tyler Wayne
Clark Alan Michael	Starr Curtis Abraham	Lewis Erika Sage	Elliott Joel Howard	Gallagher Michael Derek
Clarke Kaleb Troy	Steed Levi	Lindsey Samantha Morgan	Farmer Ryan Mark	Grierson Sumner Alexander
Crowther Mark Spencer	Sullivan Michael Robert	Linville Justin Almer	Harder Jonathan Robert	Hadfield Justice Michael
Curtis Brian Jay	Swann Christopher David	Maae Miracle JI	Hatfield Riley Thomas	Hammer Jacob William
Davis Mason Jay Don	Swasey Adam Royal	Macdonald Nathan Michael	Hawley Samuel James	Hansen Sadie
Devries Eric John	Taylor Caiden Phillip	Maguire Lauren Taylor	Heath Logan Glenn	Hardman Quinten Mathew
Duong Nghia Tuan	Teeples Michael Josiah	Martin Christopher Shawn	Iuzada Benjamin Julius Kua	Heath Carson McAllister
Durfey Keaton Dirk	Thomas Anton Stephen	Matkin Jordan Chase	Iman Alex Ray	Hebbon Truman Rhett
Edens Adriana Lyn	Thomas Logan Gerald	May Matthew Scott	Jimenez Cesar	Horspool Robert Michael
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Evangelista Deidra Marierey	Tingey Chandler Brett	McGill Bryan Thomas	Kasimir Adrienne Hope	Htoo Ser Ehdoh
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