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## Major General Jefferson Burton The Adjutant General

he United States of America still stands as a beacon of individual and collective liberty to our world. It has been said that the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans have been known by less than one percent of the

human family. What was established here more than 267 years ago is worth protecting.

As we approach spring, many of us think of renewal and of new possibilities. For members of the United States military, spring means more opportunities to train in the field and to hone our skills. In the recently released National Defense Strategy, the Secretary of Defense, James Mattis stated, "America's Military has no preordained right to victory on the battlefield." The Army's Chief of Staff, General Mark Milley, in a recent speech to Soldiers said, "Our opponents do not care about the flag that you wear on your shoulder. If you are not prepared, they will slaughter you without mercy." Both statements are a strong call to action, and both make it clear that we had better step up our game, if we expect to be victorious in future conflicts. Peace, is and always has been achieved as we demonstrate unparalleled strength.

As the commander of the Air and Army National Guard in Utah, my thoughts focus on how important it is to prepare our formations for future conflict by making our training challenging and realistic. As we enter the fair-weather months of the year, we must focus on our individual readiness, and on perfecting our collective-field craft. Future conflicts could begin with little warning; the things that we do today in our training will undoubtedly save lives.

When I talk to our service members about why they serve, I invariably hear answers like, "I do it to preserve our nation and our way of life," or "I do it for my family." Whatever your reason, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each one of you. The Utah National Guard Team is second to none! You have proven that year after year, and deployment after deployment. Your reputation is grounded in the notion that "luck favors the prepared," and as your adjutant general I am completely committed to ensuring that you have the resources and training time to develop the skills to fight and win our nation's wars. Be positive and constructive in everything that you do. Focus on safety while you train, and remember why you serve. This is one outstanding team, and I am excited about our future as we continue to demonstrate that the GUARD IS ALWAYS READY--ALWAYS THERE!



## Command Sergeant Major Eric Anderson Senior Enlisted Leader

We live in amazing times! During the last several months I have observed some excellent training by incredible Soldiers and Airmen. There is a lot of worry in some of the "veteran" crowd about our new recruits being strong and/or resilient

enough to contribute to the needs of today's military. I have found the opposite to be true. When these new troops are given purpose, direction, and motivation, they are up for any task. We as NCOs and officers owe these new Soldiers and Airmen the right type of servant leadership that demonstrates the attributes and competencies that the Army and Air Force are built on. As you progress in the military, keep in mind some of these key elements to successful leadership:

- 1. Mindset: Who you are as a leader is dictated by the work you are willing to put in to become better. Understanding that our trials and how we respond to them and the example we set determines who we are as professional leaders.
- 2. Self-Awareness: Constant personal analysis is required to advance in life and leadership. Understanding our personal baseline of strengths and weaknesses enables us to focus on self-development.
- 3. Acceptance of feedback: Being able to receive the "hard talk" from a leader or subordinate about areas and ways we can improve always make us better.
- 4. Moving past failure: The path to success as a leader is riddled with failure points, obstacles, and even mediocrity. The success comes in advancing through, over and above these issues and always pushing forward.

I love serving in this great organization and am excited to serve with you in the future. Always out front!

The Adjutant General

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#### **Cover Photo:**

Spc. Randy Van, Signal Support System Specialist for the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, leads the deploying Soldiers onto the aircraft while proudly holding the unit colors, culminating the departure ceremony conducted at Wright Air Base March 26.

Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel Free





Detachment 4, 2nd Battalion, 641st Aviation members meet with Utah National Guard senior leaders, their families and friends during their deployment ceremony Jan. 2.

## Det 4, 2nd Battalion, 641st **Aviation Deploys**

SALT LAKE CITY — Five Utah Guard Soldiers said goodbyes to their families as they prepared to deploy to the Horn of Africa Jan. 2, 2018. The deploying Soldiers will support air transportation operations throughout the area of responsibility.

"We will be flying missions in Djibouti and surrounding countries," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Willard Gummersall of Charlie Company, Detachment 4. "Our missions will mainly include transportation of VIPs and some cargo. We are taking five Soldiers from Utah and joining up with four Soldiers from Puerto Rico."

Gummersall will serve as the company commander during the nine-month deployment. This deployment is a little different than other units because of how small Charlie Company, Detachment 4 is. Five Soldiers will leave as a group and an additional Soldier will meet up with them in a few months.

"One of the main challenges is unity of the unit, people being able







to get along," he said. "When you go on these flights they're four-plus hours and you need to be able to communicate effectively and get along with the unit members. If there's a personality that doesn't mix, it makes it very difficult to complete the mission," said Gummersall.

Luckily all of Soldiers in the unit work well with each other and view each other more as a family than as a unit.

"I think it'll be a good time," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Myles Gilbert. "We're all pretty close and we get to know each other a lot better than being in a big group of people. We're going to be relying on each other a lot since there are only five of us going, so it'll be like a small little family I'm sure."

It doesn't matter if you've been on one or four deployments; each one has its own set of challenges.

"Each deployment has its own unique aspects as far as things that we deal with as a family," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joshua Payne.

Payne is a seasoned Soldier with three deployments under his belt. This deployment will be a little different for him because his wife is pregnant and because of the short length of the deployment. Because of the length of the deployment, there won't be mid-deployment leave, so he will likely miss the birth of their fourth child.

"It doesn't get easier no matter how many times you do it," said Payne. "Leaving the family is always hard to do, but it's something that we've signed up for and my wife has

been with me for all four of my deployments, and we just know that this is part of the job."











Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general, speaks to the deploying Soldiers, their families and friends Jan. 2.

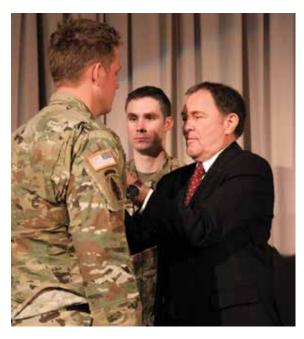
The Utah National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, spoke at the ceremony and gave the deploying Soldiers a challenge.

"Even though your numbers are few, the mission is important. Once you leave here you have to get your gamefaces on and play ball and play hard for the nine months you're gone," said Burton.

All five of the Soldiers of Charlie Company, Detachment 4 plan on working hard to represent Utah as one of the best National Guard units in the country, with some of the best servicemen and women.

> Story by Sgt. James Dansie Photos by Sgt. James Dansie and Ileen Kennedy

## Governor Herbert Awards Utah Guard Members for Acts of Valor in Combat



Above: Governor Gary Herbert presents members of the 19th Special Forces Group awards for acts of valor performed during their 2017 deployment. Right: Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton salutes each award recipient March 18. Lt. Col. Henry embraces an awards recipient during the valor awards ceremony at the Utah National Guard headquarters. DRAPER, Utah — Nineteen Special Forces Soldiers with the Utah Army National Guard were awarded on Sunday, March 18, for their acts of valor during their 2017 deployments to Afghanistan.

Several of these Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group teams, returned home wounded, and one—Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler—was killed in combat.

Four of the Soldiers from Bravo Company received Silver Stars, the nation's third highest award for valor in combat. Three were awarded the Purple Heart, an award given to those wounded or killed in action. Five received the Bronze Star with "V" device and seven were awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, for other acts of heroism.

During the ceremony one by one these Soldiers were called to the stage at the Utah National Guard Headquarters, as Gov. Gary Herbert pinned the awards to each Soldier's chest.

Capt. Nelson, Sgt. 1st Class Madsen, Staff Sgt. Walrath and Staff Sgt. Caldwell were awarded the Silver Star for their actions in May and August 2017.

On May 21, 2017 Nelson was commanding a clearance operation in Afghanistan to drive enemy fighters out of village homes they were occupying, according to Nelson's Silver Star narrative. The goal was to secure a new position to disrupt enemy operations in the area. Nelson had led his troops through ISIS-Khorasan, an offshoot of the Islamic State group stronghold of Maktaab Bazaar when they were hit with machine gun and sniper fire, the narrative said.

The trail vehicle's gunner was shot in the head by a sniper, and Nelson ran to the wounded Soldier amid the continued enemy fire. He pulled the gunner from the vehicle, called for a medic and requested a medevac and directed close-air support and artillery fire missions. The captain exposed himself to fire to encourage the Afghan forces traveling with his team to suppress the enemy and shield the Soldiers' movement.

"His actions inspired many to fight back in the face of overwhelming and unrelenting enemy fire ensuring the safe evacuation of a critically wounded U.S. casualty," said Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn, Utah National Guard Public Affairs Officer.

On Aug 16, 2017 Soldiers with the Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan conducted a dismounted mission alongside the Afghan National Army's 8th Special Operations Kandak Commandos. The goal was to clear the area in the highly contested Mohammed Valley in Southern Nangarhar, Afghanistan, to dislodge entrenched ISIS-K fighters. The element had taken heavy fire for eight hours, and as darkness fell, an explosive weapon detonated inside the building the team had been preparing to occupy, according to the Silver Star narratives. The enemy fighters launched a coordinated attack, using the explosion that injured more than 30 troops, to their advantage.

After the explosion, three Special Forces Soldiers stood out for their actions.

Despite his wounds, Sgt 1st Class Madsen crawled into an armored vehicle and pulled his way to the turret while directing the U.S. Soldiers around him to return fire on the enemy. Madsen took control of the vehicle's MK19 automatic grenade launcher and began delivering "punishing suppressive fire upon the emboldened ISIS-K fighters," his Silver Star narrative said.

"Sergeant First Class Madsen's courageous and determined example inspired the limited number of troops who

were not already wounded or rendering aid, to violently strike back at their attackers, ultimately suppressing the threat long enough for the medical evacuation helicopters to load the most critical patients," according to his Silver Star narrative.

Staff Sgt. Walrath was serving as a medical sergeant and was one of the Soldiers injured from the explosion, with hundreds of fragments of shrapnel and concrete lodged in his body. But that didn't stop him, ignoring his own injuries and turning his attention to his teammates.

"Though Staff Sergeant Walrath was bleeding freely from his own wounds, he completely disregarded his own suffering to immerse himself in the care of his wounded comrade," his Silver Star narrative said.

Staff Sgt. Caldwell also began to collect and assess the wounded after the explosion went off. He began directing the organization and management of patients, stopping only to deliver critical, life-saving interventions.

"While inescapably exposed at the staging area, he displayed exemplary clinical judgment matched with devoted care as he prioritized patients for medevac and helped coordinate the load-out of the arriving aircraft himself," his Silver Star narrative said.

"When the chips were down, when the bullets were flying and people were dying all around them, they did the right thing," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, while attending the valor ceremony. "They exhibited tremendous bravery to protect their own and to take the initiative from the enemy, so I couldn't be more proud today."

Story by Maj. Kimberly Lawson Photos by Sgt. Joshua Cox and Sgt. 1st Class Shana Hutchins













## "America's Thunder" Deploys 130 Soldiers to the Middle East

SALT LAKE CITY — Large waves of people streamed into the hanger at the Roland R. Wright Air Base to send off the 130 Soldiers from the 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB), Americas Thunder, to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield, to partner with host nations, working together to strengthen relationships and security, March 26.

"We have spent the past year in preparation for this mission, and our Soldiers are ready to answer our country's call," said Col. Adam L. Robinson, brigade commander of the 65th FAB. "We look forward to working with our partner nations, thereby widening our perspectives which allows us to integrate equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures which will strengthen our defensive relationships."

The Soldiers will support Coalition Forces in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf as they strengthen the U.S. military defensive relationships and build partner capacity by working together and strengthening relationships with host nations throughout the region.

"I look forward to seeing our Soldiers excel in that arena and bring security to the countries we are working with," said Robinson. "As we help them and partner with them, they will be able to secure themselves better."

This unit has a wealth of knowledge and experience in these deploying Soldiers. Robinson and his Soldiers have been working hard to prepare for this deployment over the past year.

"We've been able to build one of the best teams I've ever been associated with," said Robinson. "From the time we started to where we are today seems huge--Soldiers have grown in leaps and bounds in knowledge and experience. I look forward to the great things we are going to do in country."



Above: Col. Adam Robinson, 65th Field Artillery Brigade commander, addresses Soldiers and their families during the unit's send off at Roland R. Wright Air Base March 26. Below and opposite page: Families embrace prior to the 65th FAB Soldiers boarding a chartered aircraft to begin their deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

This will be Robinson's third deployment, previously deploying in 2003 for Operation Noble Eagle and 2006 for Enduring Freedom. This will be his culminating event, for upon his return he will prepare to retire from the military after his 33-year military career.

"I feel like this is something I need to do. The Army has been really good to me so this is an opportunity for me to serve one last time," said Robinson. "It's going to be a great mission; and I look forward to serving one last time and maybe have some influence on some of these Soldiers that are going to take my place."

As Robinson's career nears completion other careers are just beginning. Pfc. Preston Smith, a resident of Lehi, Utah joined the National Guard in April of 2017 and has only been a

















member of the 65th FAB for about three months. Smith joined the Guard to help others.

"I like to work with people and help others. Joining the Utah National Guard was my way of giving back to my country and giving aid to those who are less fortunate than us," said Smith. "After this deployment I want to reclass as a combat medic and apply for Special Forces."

The Soldiers with the 65th FAB have a wide range of skills and ages among them. Many leave behind young families, the majority being fathers, only nine female Soldiers are deploying.

"A lot of people say it's tough on the Soldiers but in reality its really the families, the employers, the people back home that have the hardest time," said Capt. Taylor Knight a Spanish Fork resident pointing out his four young daughters. "It's easy for me, but its these little ones here that are going to miss out. I joined the military when I was 17 so these little girls can have a better life, and a safe and secure life, so keeping that in mind keeps me going."

"Last time I was a lot more nervous. This time I'm a little more prepared," said Emily Knight, wife of Capt. Taylor Knight. "Knowing what to expect, knowing that I will be able to talk to him helps. I know that I will be taken care of, I have great neighbors and family."

After serving for 28 years in the National Guard, Chaplain (Capt.) Tim Clayson is leaving on his third deployment and says it never gets easy leaving his wife and five children.

"We try to make this our whole family serving, they have a part to play in this as well, they are sacrificing having dad away," said Clayson. "It gives them a shared ownership in sacrificing for people they don't know.

"It gets harder each time. You know what's coming and you know how difficult it's going to be," said Clayson. "It is an honor to serve and we would do it again and again because we love our country."

With only nine females on this deployment they have been able to bond during training as they have prepared to deploy.

"This will be my first deployment," said Ty'Lene Puro "I'm ready to go and serve and do what I joined to do."

Puro competed in and won the State Best Warrior Competition and just recently place with the first place female











team at the Chief, National Guard Biathlon Competition.

"Best Warrior helps you strengthen and further develop your Soldier skills and biathlon is physically and mentally tough so it helps build your resilience," said Puro.

"I'm going to be a proud dad. We have five daughters and they all serve, two of them to Iraq, so this is our third rodeo," said Steve Puro, Ty'Lene's father. "The world is an uncertain place and not everybody loves the American flag."

The more experienced Soldiers have made it a priority over the past year of training to mentor others for this deployment. It is important to pass their knowledge and experience to help the younger Soldiers and those going on their first deployment to be both mentally and physically prepared.

"Our unit has been training for a year getting ready for this. As Soldiers this is what we do," said Ty'Lene Puro. "Our mentors said to keep occupied, keep physically and mentally tough and make sure to come back better then you left."

Once the Soldiers were all safely on board the chartered flight Robinson and Command Sgt. Maj. Troy Josie turned at the top of the stairs, raised their fists in the air and for America's Thunder shouted to the cheering crowd "Freedom!" 5

Story by Ileen Kennedy Photos by Ileen Kennedy and Sgt. Nathaniel Free











## Military Intelligence Soldiers Deploy to Support Spartan Shield







Top down: Members of Forward Detachment 6 stand to be recognized at the Utah National Guard headquarters auditorium. Sqt. Jordan Bowden, his father Paul Bowden and Col. Joseph Green reminisce about his father's deployment with Col. Green 10 years previous. Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton and senior leaders shake hands with the deploying Soldiers after their ceremony March 19.

DRAPER, Utah — The 141st Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion bid farewell to 16 of its Soldiers on March 19. The Soldiers will deploy to the Middle East as a part of Forward Detachment Six to provide intelligence support to an armored brigade from Mississippi as a part of Operation Spartan Shield.

Their missions will include processing and analyzing theater-wide information collected by friendly forces to gain a better understanding of the battlefield and fighting enemy insurgents. "What we are finding with our engagements worldwide is that intelligence is taking on a greater meaning and need; military commanders are blind without the skills provided by these MI professionals," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Utah National Guard adjutant general. "Lives are saved every day because of what they do."

One unique facet of this deployment is that one of the Soldiers who is deploying has a father who deployed under Col. Green 10 years ago. "I feel completely confident in the leaders of the MI; they are great leaders that I trust my life and the life of my son with," said Paul Bowden, father of Sgt. Jordan Bowden.

Sgt. Jordan Bowden decided to follow his father's footsteps and become a MI professional, even giving up a lucrative career with Goldman Sachs.

"The military has always been a part of our lives and following in my dad's footsteps was always something I wanted to do," said Bowden. "Goldman was awesome but being a Soldier is part of something that is bigger than yourself and that to me actually matters."

All of the Soldiers are eager to get in-country and represent the 300th MI Brigade, which is known for having some of the best intelligence Soldiers in the entire country.

"In our last deployment, the Soldiers that we were supporting told us they now have a new standard for intelligence gathering, the Utah standard, and if we do anything of excellence we call it the Utah standard," said Col. Joseph Green, commander of the 300th MI Brigade. "You Soldiers will be broadcasting that Utah standard while downrange."

Story and photos by Sgt. James Dansie



Shoot, Ski, Communicate
Resilience and Readiness Through Biathlon

SOLDIER HOLLOW, Utah — As the sun set on the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, the sun was just beginning to rise on yet another Olympic sport, half a world away in Soldier Hollow, Utah—the very same location of the Winter Olympics 16 years before.

The staccato of gunshots echoed across powder-covered mountains as National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from 23 states pour through a winding, cross-country course, armed with custom rifles and Nordic skis. They climb mountains at an elevation equal to that of the notorious Hindu Kush in northern Afghanistan, and then fly down unforgiving slopes into a live-fire range.

It's the 2018 Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, hosted for the first time ever in Utah, home of the state's trademarked "Greatest Snow on Earth." "Biathlon is a really strange sport," said Capt. Barbara Blanke, a member of the Utah National Guard Team, and first place winner of the Women's Master Class Sprint and Pursuit races. "It combines the rigors of cross-country skiing—a very demanding athletic event—with rifle-precision marksmanship."

Biathletes ski between 7.5 and 12 kilometers during any given event, while periodically stopping to shoot at targets ranging from the size of a quarter to the size of a grapefruit, at a distance of 50 meters.

Like many Olympic sports, the origins of biathlon are rooted in warfare. From the snowblanketed orchards of Lier, Norway, during the Napoleonic Wars, to our modern Army Mountain Warfare School in the Green Mountains of Jericho, Vt., skis and rifles have gone hand-in-hand.

"Every building block of resiliency is found in a biathlon race," said Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, assistant adjutant general of the Utah Army National Guard, during the opening ceremony of the competition. "No amount of PowerPoint presentations, no amount of guest speakers will teach our Soldiers resiliency like going out and doing hard things—and that's exactly what biathlon is."

In 2013, the Army introduced the "Ready and Resilient" campaign, focusing on helping Soldiers develop physical and mental toughness.

"Today's U.S. military is all about maintaining and building readiness," said Maj. Gen. Steven A. Cray, adjutant general of the Vermont National Guard. "The biathlon program fits just perfectly into that. Shoot, move and communicate is what these athletes work on every day."

The timeless infantry maxim of "shoot, move, and communicate" encompasses not just the essential skills for achieving battlefield supremacy, but also for competing in a biathlon race. Both Cray and Atack encouraged competitors to take these skills back to their home states and assist other Soldiers and Airmen in becoming ready and resilient.

"The small investment that we make to be able to put on events like this pays off across the force," Cray said.

"The first time you hit the target and hear that sound, you're addicted," said Army Staff Sgt. Ty'Lene Puro, from the Utah Guard team. She will rely on her biathlon training during her upcoming deployment with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade in the coming months. "It's helped my shooting and it's helped by PT scores. The whole sport is about resilience."











Puro has been competing in National Guard biathlon races since she returned home from her initial active-duty training. Like many others, the first time she put on Nordic skis was at her first competition.

"I've been at this a long time," said 1st Sgt. Dan Westover, from the Vermont Guard team. "But there's a big misconception among Guard units that biathlon is only for elite athletes or Olympians. We want every person we can get. The door isn't closed. We're willing to teach people how to do it."

Not only is the door open to current National Guard members to join a biathlon team, but it's also the reason why many decide to serve. Spc. Travis Cooper, a member of the All-Guard Team and first-place winner in the Men's open Class Sprint and Pursuit races, joined the Guard to be a biathlete.

"The biathlon has energized my career and motivated me to continue to work hard and learn new skills," said Sgt. 1st Class Adam Schwartz, from the Alaska Guard team. "From a recruiting perspective, Alaska has high school, cross-country ski teams. It's important to show our community the biathlon program."

"This sport embodies everything that we look for in our Soldiers," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, at the closing awards ceremony. "It's endurance, it's commitment, it's leadership, and it's marksmanship under pressure. Why would we not want to continue this program?"

The first Chief of the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships was held in 1975, with only seven states participating. This year there were 24 states in attendance. Burton said he hopes to see the day when all 54 states and territories are participating in this event.

Story by Sgt. Nathaniel Free Photos by Sgt. Nathaniel Free, Tech. Sgt. Amber Monio and Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn

National Guard Biathlon athletes from 23 states participate in the Chief, National Guard Bureau

Championships Feb. 24 to March 1. The annual competition was held in Utah for the first time where competitors were able to shoot and ski at the 2002 Winter Olympic Biathlon site of Soldier Hollow in Midway, Utah.







## Utah Guard Biathlon Team Inspires and Triumphs

SOLDIER HOLLOW, Utah — The Utah National Guard Biathlon team performed as expected at the Chief, National Guard Bureau Championships in Soldier Hollow—that is, they were exceptional, motivating, and triumphant.

The competition, an annual event, held in Utah this year for the first time, pushed Utah's 11-person team to its limits, but in the process, Soldiers also took the opportunity to meet personal training goals, win medals, and provide inspiration for each other and those around them.

Biathlon is a combination of cross-country skiing and rifle marksmanship that tests the physical, mental, and emotional abilities of competitors as they try to maximize speed while still maintaining the control needed for accurate target shooting. The sport developed from mountain security patrol teams in Scandinavian countries and presents a move-andshoot training opportunity that makes it a unique fit for military competitors.

Sgt. Maj. Shawn Blanke of the 19th Special Forces Group and a 15-year member of the Utah Guard Biathlon team, said, "to survive on today's battlefield, Soldiers need to shoot, move, communicate, and survive, and biathlon hits every single one of those."

Utah's Biathlon team trains all year round in what Blanke describes as a low impact but "total body workout." The team coach, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Teela of the 489th Brigade Support Battalion, and a three-time Olympian in the biathlon event, shares pointers on how to improve shooting.

"Teela is out there training us to shoot, and shoot fast," Blanke said. "He shows us the fine points of getting in and out of position quickly."

That training obviously pays off since Utah ended this week's competition with a total of six team and five individual medals, more than half of which were first-place gold. In addition, five of the team's members were invited to join the All-Guard Biathlon team, an honor only afforded to 20 of the more than 150 competitors from 24 states that participated in the annual event.

Blanke said when he originally joined the team it was very exclusive, "it was almost a club, a clique," but the team had worked hard to change the culture in the years since then.

"Anybody that wants to come and better themselves, and learn to shoot better, and be part



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Evan Ahlborn (#37) and Sgt. Maj. Shawn Blanke from the Utah Guard team compete in the opening sprint event at the Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships in Soldier Hollow, Utah, Feb. 25, 2018.

of this magnificent sport, we'll bring them in with open arms, and they can take it to the level they want to take it," said Sgt. Samantha Miller from Utah Medical Detachment. Miller is a perfect example of how that open-minded attitude can benefit an organization, because she had no skiing experience prior to joining the team.

"None," she said. "They taught me to ski on roller skis!" And yet, this year Miller received gold medals in the Open-racing category for both the Sprint and Pursuit events.

"I think it's super cool just to see the whole range of skill level," said Miller. "I get so excited to see somebody ski really well, and I get really excited to see somebody struggling and really pushing it to their own limit."

This is only Miller's second year of racing but she's already impressing the veterans on her team. When Capt. Barb Blanke, also of the Utah Medical Detachment and a gold medal winner in the Master's category now for the second year in a row, was skiing behind Miller on the second day of individual races, she later said she was glad Miller would be on her team for the next two races.

"Because she's really tough," said Capt. Blanke, "and I really just think, how wonderful it will be to ski together and not apart."

That camaraderie seems to be a hallmark of the way the National Guard runs this sport and this annual championship event. With racing categories separated by skill and age level—from Novice for beginners, to Open for those with more experience, and Masters for athletes over 35—the program allows for a competitive atmosphere without overwhelming the participants.

"We've all been novices; we all came from, like, zero. I used to go 10 feet and then fall down," said Capt. Blanke.

While each state's team certainly supported each other, its competitive spirit didn't stop team members from helping others as well. Evidence of that could be seen in some of the mixed-state teams that competed in the Relay and Patrol events. Only unified teams, those made up of teammates from a single state, would be eligible to medal in the events, but that didn't stop states from banding together to make extra teams so that more athletes received the race experience.

1st Lt. Rebecca Doucette, the silver medalist in the Master's category for both the Sprint and Pursuit races and a member of Headquarters, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, feels it's a good thing for the states to help each other out.

"Whether, you know, you ski a 10-minute lap or a 30-minute lap," Doucette said, "it's that unity of, 'we're doing it together, we're doing it to represent the Guard. And we walk away as friends.'"

This is the first year that Utah has hosted the Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships, which is typically held in either Vermont or Minnesota. Competitors stayed at Camp Williams in Riverton and traveled a short 45-minute drive each day up to the facilities at Soldier Hollow, which were designed and built for the cross-country and biathlon events of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Nichole Bonham

## Utah's HRF Supports Arctic Eagle 2018

VALDEZ, Alaska — National Guardsmen for multiple states, activeduty Army, Coast Guard and civilian-emergency agencies all collaborated to conduct Arctic Eagle 2018. Spread over multiple locations across the state, 250 participants engaged in both computer-based, practical exercises and field-training exercises (FTX).

The main FTX took place in Valdez, Alaska, where 13 members of the Utah National Guard (UTNG) Region VIII Homeland Response Force (HRF) combined with elements of the Washington National Guard Region X HRF to perform mission command of the FTX scenario—which detailed a downed satellite bearing radioactive material. The command team needed to integrate the tactical operations center and function as a team.

"I won't say it was seamless, but it certainly was smooth," said logistics officer 1st Lt. Bill Sullivan of the Utah HRF. "By the second day we were working as an efficient team, sharing best practices and conducting mission command of our assigned units. We had no trouble building cohesion between the staff."

The combined staff assumed control of the 95th Chemical Company from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), the 220th Military Police (MP) Company of the Colorado National Guard, elements of the Region X Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Task Force out of Washington, Civil Support Team members from Alaska and Connecticut and the U.S. Coast Guard Station Valdez.

Two main challenges were presented the participants of this scenario: Operating in arctic conditions and deploying to somewhat austere locations in Alaska. Getting to Alaska with equipment in the 96-hour, life-saving window was half the battle.

"Getting up here presented a lot of logistical challenges we never faced. The ferry was unique," said Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Painter of the 220 MPs. "MPs aren't well versed in CBRN so getting them involved in that aspect of the exercise opened their eyes and broadened their capabilities."

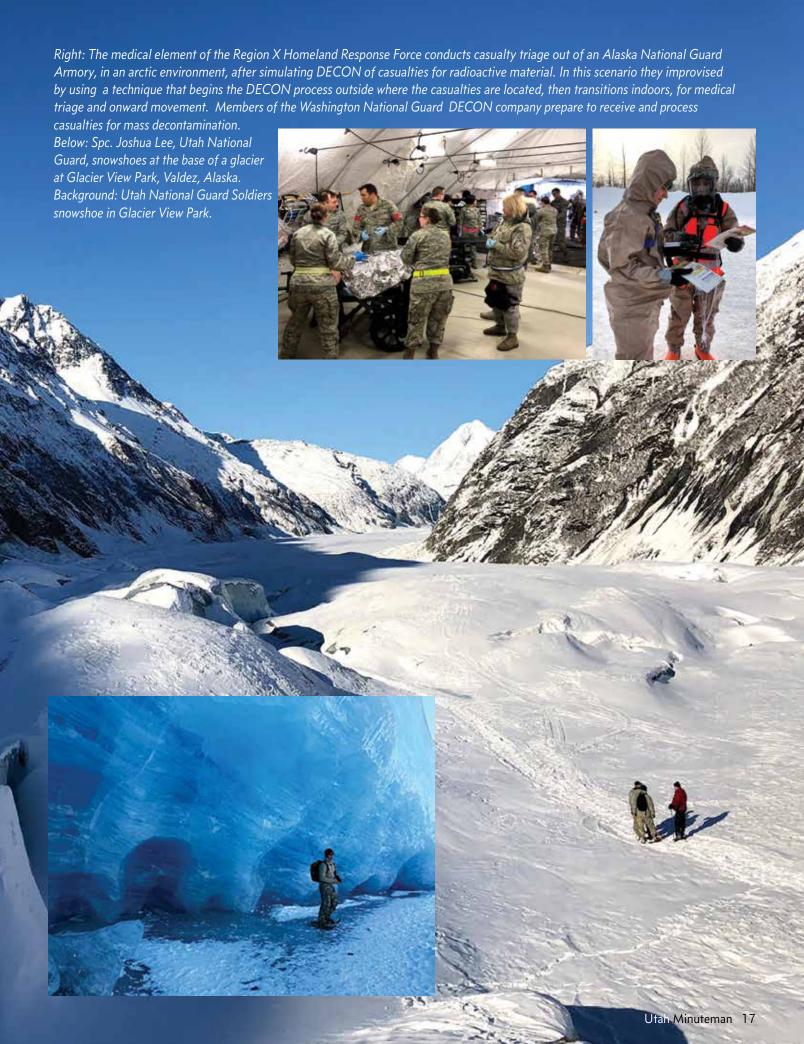
Many of the participants in Valdez had flown their equipment on military airlift into JBER, driven to Whittier, and then taken a six-hour ferry ride to the port of Valdez. The scenario called for detection of hazardous material and mass decontamination in cold weather and presented some unique challenges.

"We typically work with CBRN Response Enterprise units, so having such a wide variety of units assigned to our task force presented us with some problem sets we don't usually see, so we had to educate ourselves quickly" said Sullivan. "We also had to take the weather into account; the decon team from Washington did a great job adapting its operation to the environment."

The mayor of Valdez, Ruth Knight, was there to welcome the participants on day one and hosted a special Potlatch at the Valdez Civic Center at the conclusion of the exercise. The Potlatch consisted of a variety of local foods and vendors displaying local arts and crafts. The participants had the opportunity to cruise the venue sampling some traditional local fare, such as Yak meatballs, and buying unique, handmade gifts as souvenirs.

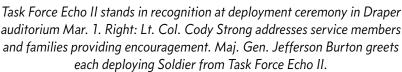
Painter summed up the experience, "Love to be involved again."

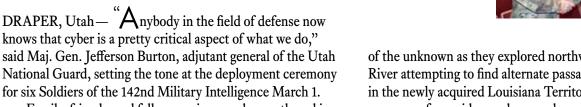
Story and photos by Lt. Col. Bruce Roberts



## Pioneering into Cyber-Soldiers of 142nd MI Deploy Into Uncharted Territory







Family, friends, and fellow service members gathered in the auditorium of the Draper headquarters to honor this small group of Soldiers as they prepared for a 12-month deployment on Utah Guard's first cyber-support mission.

"What you are doing matters to the United States of America—it's very important," emphasized Burton, describing the importance of their mission in support of the United States Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). "We have adversaries that are very divisive and very clever, and want to do harm to our nation. The fact that you are in uniform, the fact that you have prepared yourselves to do this mission, is very, very important to us as a country."

"It's a pioneering mission," framed Lt. Col. Cody Strong, commander of Utah Guard's 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, as he described the mission of Task Force Echo II, the name given to the deploying element. "This is a very unique thing that is going to happen here—because of that, it requires a special kind of Soldier."

Strong reflected on a completely different military mission that bears significance to their mission—the exploration of Capt. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1803. While strange to many, based on current-day thinking where smart phones and mapping utilities are readily available to all, the mission for Lewis and Clark presented significant challenges







of the unknown as they explored northward on the Missouri River attempting to find alternate passage to the Pacific Ocean in the newly acquired Louisiana Territory. There were hardly any maps, few guides, and no one knew the indigenous people that lived there.

"As they went up the Missouri River they had no idea what they were going to find around every bend in the river," said Strong. "But what made the difference on that mission were the Soldiers that were on it. And I think the same could be said of our Soldiers going on this mission."

While the cyber realm is a relatively unexplored front, most would agree that our way must be charted in this new terrain to effectively safeguard our nation. The intelligence support that Task Force Echo II will provide to INSCOM will begin to forge this path for others to follow.

"This mission will require your great talents, and will require you to be resourceful, and will require you to be masters of ingenuity and improvisation. Most of that is because, similar to them [Lewis and Clark], for a lot of the things that you are doing there is no doctrine, there are no TTPs (tactics, techniques, procedures)—you are figuring this out and making it up as you go," said Strong. "I know you will be successful in your mission. You are Soldiers of the 142nd. You are Soldiers of the 300th MI Brigade. You are some of the very best that the country has to offer, and that is why you will be successful."

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn

## **Guard Soldiers** Pull Children from **Burning Tractor**

BLUFFDALE, Utah — Seven Soldiers from the Utah National Guard were recognized March 10, at Camp Williams for their heroic actions to save the lives of two young children.

On June 2, 2012, Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, rescued Laura and Rebeckah Bishop from the burning wreckage after the tractor they were driving flipped over and burst into flames.

Without hesitation, Maj. Shane Day, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Fowles and Sgt. Maj. Eric Shepherd

quickly worked together to remove sisters, then 12-year-old Laura and five-year-old Rebeckah Bishop from underneath the burning tractor, while Avery, Branch and Christiansen began putting out the fire with fire extinguishers they had grabbed from the armory.

Once Laura and Rebeckah were removed from the tractor, 1st Lt. John Hunt quickly worked to treat and stabilize the girls before local emergency personnel arrived on scene.

Laura and Rebeckah fully recovered from their injuries and were present during the awards ceremony to personally thank each of the Soldiers again for their selfless service.

Addressing the family, friends and Soldiers, Laura emotionally recalled the unforgettable events from that day, thanking each of the Soldiers

"Heroes come in all shapes and sizes...one of the most important heroes I remember from my childhood was you guys."

Beaming with pride, Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn, commander 1-145th FA pointed out the dedication, patriotism and selflessness exhibited by his Soldiers, were traits not exclusive to just times of overseas deployment, but rather resided in all.

"For the citizen-Solder, readiness is not just learning their military duties; readiness for the citizen-Soldier is a lifestyle, it's part of our culture," Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, assistant adjutant general, Army, told the crowd.

Avery, Day, Fowles, and Shepherd were all presented with a Utah Cross by Atack. Atack also presented Branch, Christiansen, and Hunt with the Utah Commendation Medal for their actions.



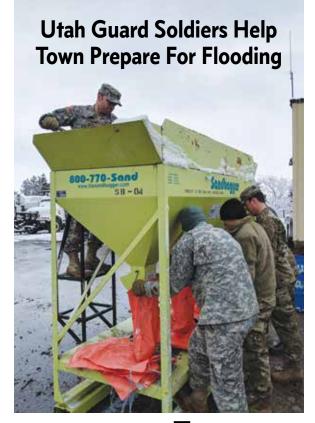
Above left to right: Master Sqt. Christopher Branch, Sqt. 1st Class Brice Avery, Maj. Shane Day, Rebeckah Bishop, Laura Bishop, Sqt. Maj. Eric Shepherd, 1st Lt. John Hunt, and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Fowles. Not pictured due to deployment Staff Sqt. John Christiansen.

Below: Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack pins the Utah Cross on Maj. Shane Day March 10.



In addition to the Utah awards, each Soldier was presented with a certificate of bravery from Utah Sen. Mike Lee.

Story and photos by Maj. Choli Ence



NORTH LOGAN, Utah — o help the city of North Logan prepare for seasonal floods, members of B Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, together with city employees, tested how long it would take to deploy a 16-man team in support of flood-relief operations, as well as the rate of sandbag production once on site.

Capt. Jerry Johnson, commander of B Company, made his intent for the exercise clear. "Our objective is to see how many bags we can fill in an hour."

The Soldiers selected for the mission arrived ready to put in work and see what record they could set in preparation for an emergency. Minor vehicle issues were rectified and a column of Humvees reached North Logan City within two hours of a simulated notification.

Once on site, inexperience with the sandbagging machine soon gave way to a healthy rhythm. At first, the city workers seemed to be always ready with a new load of dirt for the Guardsmen to load into bags. After loading the first couple of pallets with freshly made sandbags, the pace sped up and the tractors with fresh loads of dirt made more frequent trips to keep up with the increasing pace. Eventually, the Guardsmen were waiting for the heavy-equipment operators to bring them new piles of dirt; not because the city workers were slow, but because the Guardsmen had become proficient.

North Logan City sits at the mouth of Green Canyon. While the canyon is known as a beautiful area for hiking and mountain biking, it is also infamous for its infrequent but devastating floods. In 1983, flooding from the canyon created a second Logan river that traveled through the center of town. In the flurry of activity surrounding the 2017 spring flood season, the city's stockpile of 10,000 bags was emptied by residents using them to protect their homes.

North Logan City reached out to B Company in order to determine the capabilities of the National Guard to support future disaster relief efforts. The two entities determined that one of their largest knowledge gaps was knowing how quickly the National Guard could deploy Soldiers to support the city, and what their rate of production would be.

Johnson hopes this leads to greater cooperation with communities across Cache Valley. B Company is working with local cities to integrate its capabilities into local disaster-response plans. It plans on continuing to expand its repertoire of validated support activities in future exercises within the valley.

Looking over the laboring Soldiers and city workers, Mr. Luce, the North Logan City administrator, stated that "this is a golden opportunity to prepare for this spring."

The target set out before the beginning of the exercise was to fill a total of 500 sandbags for the city to store as an initial buffer against spring flooding. After an hour and a half, 775 bags had been filled and the unit was asked to cease production before the city ran out of sand, sandbags, and storage space.

Surveying the Guardsmen and city workers laboring together, Mr. Luce said, "Please convey how much we really do appreciate this. This is golden."

Story and photo by Sgt. Zachary Schmutz



## 29th Annual Language Conference: Defining the Intel-Linguist

DRAPER, Utah— he halls of the Utah National Guard headquarters were buzzing with energy. The crackle of dozens of languages could be heard from every direction as vendors and Soldiers spoke to one another during the 29th annual Language Conference March 3-4.

The conference provides an environment to discuss trends in language learning and cultural awareness. This year's theme was "Defining the Intel-Linguist." Col. Joseph Green, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (MI) (Linguist) commander, explained that to define the Intel-linguist is to understand the relationship between a Soldier's language proficiency and his or her Military Occupational Skill (MOS). It's about how they adapt to the operational environment so maneuver commanders have the information they need to make decisions at the speed of mission command.

However, the main purpose of the conference is to link the concepts Soldiers are taught during their annual training, which exercises MOS and individual tasks, and then focuses on language and cultural awareness by attending the conference, hearing from keynote speakers, and interacting with other linguists.

"Every year we have an event that's focused on language," Green explained. "This conference is an effort to get collective-training events and to stress the importance of language and the work that we do."

One of the ways these practices were emphasized was by adding a new element of competition to this year's conference--by introducing the 1st Polyglot Games. The competition is made up of a series of language events to challenge a linguist's language skills and capability.

Capt. Charles Beckmann, 300th MI language-program manager, helped created the dream team to make this competition possible by taking the advice of his language experts and trusting his support team to make it happen.

"We at the 300th MI Brigade are serious about language. Our doctrinal mission is to provide the Army with intelligence





Linguists practice and compete during the challenge events at the 29th Annual Language Conference March 3-4.

and language support," said Beckmann. "That's part of our mission here. We want to get closer and closer to that ability to validate those language skills so we know what we're providing the Army as a force multiplier."

Each team was comprised of Army and Air Force linguists, who represented seven different languages: Russian, Spanish, French, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Arabic. They were tested on operational skills, accent evaluation, on-thespot-report, red-phone scenario and the game-show-like event called," Culture Shock!" Competitors were evaluated on their language proficiency as well as cultural and regional awareness.

"It's a great assessment for where I am as a linguist. Because the types of things we went through during the games were what you would do in a real-world mission," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Peiffer, readiness NCO of the IC Det, 141st MI Battalion.

"Self-reflection" and "self-assessment" were two words that Peiffer used to describe what he took from the competition. Because this is the first year of the competition, it seemed to be intimidating to some, but Peiffer insists that it's well worth the hard work.

"I really hope that it happens next year and we continue with it because I think there are a lot of linguists out there that didn't know exactly what was going to take place," said Peiffer, "but now, having seen it, I think they'll be excited to try it out." 💆

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Nicolas A. Cloward





# UTANG Fire Department Responds to Major Fire after Semi-Trailer Overturns on I-15

SALT LAKE CITY— The Utah Air National Guard (UTANG) Fire Department was called to respond to a major fire incident in Midvale, Utah, at approximately 8:20 p.m. on Jan. 18, 2017, after a double tanker, semi-trailer hauling 9,000 gallons of gasoline and 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel overturned on 1-15 southbound near 7200 South, resulting in a boiling-liquid-expanding-vapor explosion, or BLEVY.



Utah Air National Guard Fire Department responds to a major fire incident on I-15 with the Oshkosh Striker 3000 Jan. 18, 2018.



The local fire department requested UTANG's assistance due to the unit's unique firefighting capabilities, specifically calling for the use of its Oshkosh Striker 3000, a specialized Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) vehicle that can carry up to 3,000 gallons of water and 420 gallons of foam and is typically used to extinguish large aircraft fires.

"While the Oshkosh Striker 3000 is a specialized asset that belongs to the 151st Air Refueling Wing, it's important for us to support our community first responders when crisis situations arise," said Chief Master Sgt. Todd Allen, the UTANG fire chief who was on call at the time of the incident. "Our unique training and resources make us well suited to help community first responders in a variety of situations, and the real-world application of our training and expertise is as valuable for us as it is for our partners."

"Maintaining readiness in a rapidly changing world requires the support of the community and families, dedication to our nation, technical expertise, and our remarkable Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Darwin Craig, Director of the Joint Staff for the Utah National Guard. "I'm extremely proud of the work our Airmen are doing to help keep our community members safe."

The 151st Air Refueling Wing's mission is to aggressively extend global reach through air refueling, aeromedical evacuation and airlift to U.S. and allied military forces; to enable critical intelligence systems, air traffic control, cyber infrastructure and information operations for the warfighter; and provide civil defense, disaster relief and domestic response to state and national emergencies as directed by the governor of Utah.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Amber Monio

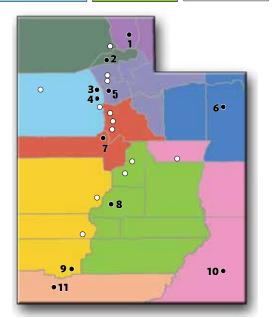
## **Family Assistance Centers**

Regardless of location, FACs services 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!

Utah Family Assistance Centers (FAC) assist service members and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. FACs are open to all military branches: Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components.

#### **Utah Regional FAC and Armory Locations**

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



Contact your local FAC for any questions you may have.

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

## The 85th CST Provides Security Support to Sundance Film Festival

PARK CITY, Utah — The Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction--Civil Support Team (CST) supplemented local Park City law enforcement in a combined effort during the Sundance Film Festival January 2018.

"We are here as members of the Utah National Guard supporting the local authorities at the Sundance Film Festival," said a member of the 85th CST at the event.

For those unfamiliar with the 85th CST, their mission is to augment local and regional terrorism response in support of the local incident commander. The team is made up of both Army and Air Force personnel who receive more than 800 hours of special training on cutting-edge techniques and equipment. Ultimately, one of their main goals is to help protect the public during large events.

"We employ quite an array of sophisticated electronic detection and monitoring equipment to enable us to hopefully prevent the type of events dealing with consequence management," said an 85th CST team member.

The Sundance Film Festival started in 1978 and has grown to become the largest independent film festival in the



The 85th CST members wear low-profile uniforms while assisting local law enforcement at the Sundance Film Festival.

United States attracting close to 50,000 visitors in 2016. The team has helped with many Utah events but this was their first experience with Sundance.

The team members providing security support to Sundance wore low-profile uniforms so that they wouldn't alarm the attendees of the festival.

Helping with events that receive national attention, like the Sundance Film Festival, demonstrates the value of the Utah National Guard and its ability to help protect Utah citizens.

Story by Sgt. James Dansie



An 85th CST member adjusts a air for chemical and biological threats.



A team member retrieves a handheld monitoring sensor, used to monitor the receiver from one of the kits. The receivers display what the sensors are picking up.



An 85th CST member talks to one of the local Park City Police officers on Main Street in Park City, Utah.



## Honoring Utah's Fallen

SALT LAKE CITY — "What we all have in common here today is that we know somebody who served. And that we lost somebody who served—that unites us," began Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, speaking to those in the crowded Gold Room Feb. 16, 2018. Utah's leadership honors Utah's fallen service members who pass away, regardless of the cause, while in the service of our state and nation. This year 16 families gathered at the State Capitol for the Fallen Service Member Memorial ceremony to be acknowledged for their patriotism and ultimate sacrifice.

> Gov. Gary Herbert speaks to family and friends of Utah's fallen service members at the State Capitol Feb. 16.

"Nobody signs up with the idea that they're not going to return home. It leaves a hole in all our hearts when that happens," said Gov. Gary Herbert, governor of Utah, addressing the families of the fallen. "So we're here to help hopefully make a patch over that hole in your hearts and to pay tribute and recognize their sacrifice and service."

Prior to being addressed by Utah's leadership, the families were honored in both chambers of the Utah Legislature. The mundane, procedural tempo of the chambers turned instantly somber and reverent as the families quietly flowed into the room, encircling the legislators sitting at their stations, with grieving families holding photographs of their lost loved ones tight.

The silence of the room was broken as the significance of their presence was announced by leaders within each chamber. Visible tears swelled in the families as the 16 names were read, announcing their rank and respective military service. Seven of the 16 were members of the Utah Guard, one of which was Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, member of the 19th Special Forces Group, who was killed in action in Afghanistan last August.

"Attending the Fallen Service Member Ceremony at the State Capitol was a moving event," said Col. Larry Henry, commander of Utah Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne). "The Butlers have taken the loss of their son with grace and elegance and are a tribute to the strength of our SOF (Special Operations Forces) brotherhood. I am honored to be able to serve with Soldiers of the caliber of Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler and all of his fellow Green Berets who sacrificed on that fateful day."

Another of Utah Guard's fallen was Capt. Nicholas Thomas from Utah's 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment. The "Air Pirates" Apache helicopter pilot died in a civilian airplane crash last July.

"It was an honor and privilege to be present as the names of the fallen were read in the House and Senate--emotions were on the surface of all those present," said Lt. Col. Matthew Badell, commander of the 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment. "It was especially impactful to see the respect given to the surviving families and friends by the governor, lieutenant governor, and adjutant general as we all paid homage to our heroes."

Burton reflected on a memory when he was a 13-year-old boy. He witnessed two men in Army uniforms who came to his neighborhood to tell a neighbor that



Randy and Laura Butler, parents of Staff Sqt. Aaron Butler, standing with Aaron's fiancé, Alex Seagroves, listen with other families of fallen service members as names of each fallen service member from 2017 were read to honor their service to our state and nation at the State Capitol in the legislative chambers.



Katherine, spouse of Capt. Nicholas Thomas, holds his picture tight as she stands beside his mother, Mary, and other families who lost a service member in 2017 during the Fallen Service Member Memorial at the Capitol.

their son wasn't coming home from Vietnam. He, and his entire neighborhood, were forever changed by that event.

"You are never going to stop missing that person you lost," said Burton. "But focus on the good. Focus on the happy feelings that united you as a family."

The names of the fallen were read a third time by Gov. Herbert in the Gold Room as the audience of civilians and uniformed military from all branches listened intently as the leadership of Utah attempted to provide solace.

"America is a wonderful country. I think that too many Americans today take our freedoms, liberties, and opportunities for granted. We sometimes forget the sacrifice of those who defend our constitution, our way of life, in far-away places," said Herbert as he culminated his comments to the families. "They, for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, who have represented Utah and this country so well, we pay them tribute. God bless you and your memory of your lost fallen Soldier.

"May God bless us all that we may never forget what we need to do to ensure we are a strong nation, with freedom and liberty abound, and individual responsibilities of courage. For those who have taken on that responsibility, let us never forget."

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn

## Utah ANG trains with Salt Lake Mosquito Abatement District

SALT LAKE CITY — Four Airmen from the Utah Air National Guard's public health and environmental sections, had the opportunity to train with the Salt Lake Mosquito Abatement District, a community partner organization, on Feb. 13 at its North Salt Lake facility.

The training focused on different methods used to study and control the mosquito population in the Salt Lake City area including the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.

In addition to being a nuisance to those working and exercising outdoors on base, mosquitoes can also carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans and pose a health risk.

"We presented information to [the Guardsmen] about how we conduct mosquito control in the Salt Lake area and what threats they may present to people, and what we've done in the past to help the National Guard with controlling the mosquitoes in their area as well," said Dr. Greg White, assistant director of the Salt Lake Mosquito Abatement District.

Following the classroom training about the different types of mosquitoes found in the area, as well as potential diseases they may spread, the Airmen toured the facilities and got a first-hand look at the agency's mosquito-control methods.

"As public health, we are looking out for the best interest of our members," said Airman 1st Class Nicole Ligeza, a publichealth technician with the 151st Medical Group.

Ligeza added that this training was very valuable to her because it will help her better serve the individuals of the Utah Air Guard.

"The more knowledge I can use to help other people is just a cool experience for me," said Ligeza. "We can take away a lot of information and a lot of processes that they use and apply them in the Air Force."

Because the Air National Guard Base occupies a large area within Salt Lake City, it is important for the Mosquito Abatement District to maintain a good working relationship and open lines of communication said White.

"[The Utah ANG] has a large area that could develop mosquitoes that could infect or bother people in Salt Lake City and our mosquitoes could also bother them," said White. "We want to know what each other is doing so we can be aware of any mosquito problems."

As temperatures increase, individuals from the Salt Lake Mosquito Abatement District will work with UTANG personnel to conduct mosquito control measures at the Air Guard base each month.

"We want to make sure that people are being well informed about any kind of diseases or any kind of preventative measures we can do to keep them safe and healthy, and that's our primary goal," said Ligeza.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Annie Edwards







Utah Air National Guard Public Health Airmen receive instruction about mosquitoes from Dr. Greg White, assistant director of the Salt Lake Mosquito Abatement District Feb. 13.



## TAG Symposium

Utah Guard and Family Readiness members recognize more than 90 volunteers at the TAG Symposium in the auditorium of the Utah National Guard's Draper headquarters March 10.

DRAPER, Utah — Commanders and leaders from across Utah gathered for The Adjutant General's Symposium on Family Programs March 10, 2018. This year's theme was "Domestic and International Operations-Building Strong Families."

During 2017 Utah Guard members faced new challenges with events such as Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the start of Focused Readiness Units. Soldiers and Airmen have to be able to deploy more quickly, leaving a huge strain on their families.

The focus of the symposium was to both recognize more than 90 Utah National Guard volunteers, whose service greatly benefited deployed service members' families, and to work with commanders to incorporate family readiness into their yearly training calendar.

"The TAG Symposium is to bring our unit commanders and leadership together with their officially appointed volunteers that execute their Family Readiness Program," said Sherri Workman, the senior Family Readiness support assistant.

Over the course 2017 the Family Readiness volunteers spent more than 6,500 hours equaling \$149,017 of service benefiting members of the Utah National Guard. Each volunteer is officially appointed by the company or squadron commander and it's their responsibility to be the bridge between the commanders and the service members' families.

Some of the services provided by the volunteers include maintaining communication with families, publishing and distributing quarterly newsletters, welcoming new families, coordinating unit family events, collecting baby items for service members and supporting Guard families through both the highest and lowest experiences throughout the year.

The military has come a long way to realize how important families are to those serving our country.

"When I joined the Army many years ago—36 years ago—I recall that the focus was not on family at all," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

As Burton pointed out, we've all heard the tonguein-cheek line, "if we wanted you to have a family, we would have issued you one."

Burton ended his remarks by saying, "That really was the attitude in the Army many years ago and the Air Force as well. I think we've changed. I think both departments in the Army and Air Force recognize that this is a family business and we cannot do it without the support of our volunteers and families."

While the Utah Guard has some of the best trained Soldiers and Airmen, who are ready to deploy at a moment's notice, their families aren't always ready for them to be gone. Having a deployed family member brings a unique set of challenges. Having a strong Family Readiness Program makes a huge difference.

"I can tell you from personal experience, being downrange, that the Soldiers that performed the best—the Soldiers that struggled the least—were the ones that had solid family arrangements and empowered family members," said Burton.

The TAG Symposium gathers commanders and leaders from across Utah to teach them what the available options are to help unit members and their families find support during hardships.

There are many people in different organizations that have made it their mission to support military families. The support programs help military members and those they love and care about which in turn helps the military member perform better and be the best they can be.

Story and photos by Pfc. Elizabeth Johnson

## **Utah Air Guard Announces** 2017 Airmen of the Year Winners



SALT LAKE CITY — M ore than 300 Airmen, community partners and guests celebrated the achievements of the Utah Air National Guard's outstanding members at the 2017 Airmen of the Year Banquet held at the West Valley Cultural Center on Jan. 19, 2017.

The event began with a medallion presentation to the nominees in each category. Following meal service, Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton addressed those in attendance. Burton thanked the Airmen for their efforts and praised them for their service and dedication to the Utah National Guard.

In addition to the Airmen of the Year award winners, the First Sergeants Council gave the Diamond Sharp award to Tech. Sgt. Brittany Edwards, 151st Mission Support Group, and the UTANG Chiefs presented the Chief's Excellence Award to Master Sgt. Sean Morton, 151st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Annie Edwards

#### **Category Winners:**

Airman of the Year Senior Airman Benjamin D. Jones, 109th Air Control

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Tech. Sgt. Austin J. Naylor, 151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Senior Master Sgt. Brady R. Herbert, 151st Intelligence Support Squadron

First Sergeant of the Year Master Sgt. Fredric B. Dix, 151st Mission Support Group

Company Grade Officer of the Year Capt. Amy C. Bocage, 151st Communications Flight

Field Grade Officer of the Year Lt. Col. Leon F. McGuire, 109th Air Control Squadron

Key Volunteer of the Year Ms. Melissa Wood, 130th Engineering Installation Squadron

Civilian of the Year Ms. Annika K. Hunt, 151st Air Refueling Wing Honor Guard Member of the Year Master Sgt. John D. Stroh, 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron

Team of the Year 151st MSG Joint Incident Site Communication Capabilities (JISCC) Team, 151st CF and 130th EIS

## Utah National Guard Aids Local Boy Scouts During Scouting for Food Drive



DRAPER, Utah — More than 165 service members from the Utah National Guard worked alongside local Boy Scout troops in nine counties throughout the state on March 17, to support the 32nd annual Scouting for Food drive benefiting the Utah Food Bank, regional food banks, and emergency pantries across Utah.

Just two days prior, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert officially kicked off the campaign at the State Capitol where he ceremoniously made the first donation to the drive and urged fellow Utahns to contribute.

"This issue of food shortage is something we take very seriously in Utah and we appreciate those who are engaged in this effort," said Herbert. "The Utah Food Bank, our National Guard, and 55,000 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will go out this Saturday and knock on doors, and hopefully get a lot of food donations to put to the food bank to help people who are struggling with a little bit of food shortage."

The governor reminded Utahns that now is a crucial time to donate food because supplies are dwindling and food banks and other relief agencies may experience shortages of food during warmer months.

"It's important because we get a lot of donations during the holiday season and we go through those, and find a little dip in our supply," said Scott Woodhead, chief operating officer at Utah Food Bank, who echoed Herbert's statement. "This really boosts our food supply and gets it to the pantries who really need it; some of them are desperate."

According to Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, assistant adjutant general-Army for the Utah National Guard, Soldiers and Airmen also provided 25 vehicles, including heavy-equipment trucks, trailers and forklifts for this year's Scouting for Food campaign, which has yielded the equivalent of more than 18 million meals statewide since 1997.

The Great Salt Lake Council, Trapper Trails Council and Utah National Parks Council have been working with local food banks for 32 years "to collect food on behalf of fellow Utahns who were facing hunger," said Patrick Neil, a First Class Boy Scout speaking on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America.

"It is our goal in 2018 to reach 20 million total meals collected," said Neil. "That means we need every Utahn's help to collect enough food to equal two million meals. Utah is a community of givers, citizens who care for their neighbors, and two million meals is a goal we can easily hit if everyone will consider giving something."

Army Maj. David Cerchio said this was his sixth or seventh year volunteering at the Utah Food Bank location.

"One of the things I heard was that one in six kids don't know where their next meal is coming from, so this is a great opportunity to provide that food for them in times of need," said Cerchio. "The Scouting for Food drive continues to grow, and I'm grateful to see the people of our great state be willing to help others."

"Young people, children that go to bed hungry--that's something that we ought to eliminate from our society," said Herbert. "Likewise, elderly people; you shouldn't have to choose between paying your bills, keeping your electricity on, and food."

While Scouting for Food is one of the largest food donation events the Utah Food Bank holds, there are other food drives and financial campaigns throughout the year to ensure they can continue to feed the needy all year round. To get involved, the food bank has several suggestions on their website at utahfoodbank.org.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Amber Monio

Soldiers and Airmen help Boy Scouts across the state to collect food during the 32nd annual Scouting for Food drive March 17.



## Jake Garn Armory Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



WEST JORDAN, Utah — The Jake Garn Readiness Center, in West Jordan, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 15, officially opening its doors after an 18-month remodeling project.

Lt. Col. Ricky Smith, 97th Aviation Troop Command commander; Sen. Jake Garn; and Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general, cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the newly remodeled Jake Garn Readiness Center Feb. 15.

At a cost of more than \$4 million, the extensive renovation of the 25-year-old facility includes solar panels, upgraded LED lighting, parking-lot extension, energy efficient HVAC system, atrium with gazebos, medical clinic with four exam rooms and a blood-draw room.

The updated readiness center is home to the 97th Aviation Troop Command, 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, and the 23rd Army Band. Upgrades to the center will make it easier for these units to achieve unit readiness for deployments and state-support missions.

"As 97th Aviation Troop commander, I'm responsible for the training of 845 aviation Soldiers to get them ready for war and for support missions here in the state of Utah," said Lt. Col. Ricky Smith. "Updating the armory is key to that piece and without that, it makes it very hard to train Soldiers."

The armory's namesake, Sen. Jake Garn, retired brigadier general, was present for the ceremony. Garn served in the 151st Air Refueling Group as a KC-135 pilot. He retired from the Utah Air National Guard and went on to serve as a Senator. In November 1984, Sen. Garn was invited by NASA to fly as a payload specialist on flight 51-D of the space shuttle Discovery. During the seven-day mission, he performed various medical tests. Discovery Flight 51-D landed at Cape Canaveral on April 19, 1985 after orbiting the earth 109 times. Garn has graciously loaned his astronaut flight suit, along with other memorabilia, that will be displayed in the entry of the readiness center.

"General Garn, we are honored to name this building after you, and more importantly recognize your contributions to the United States of America and Utah," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. "Thanks for all that you have done. Whenever we come into this building we will think of you and strive to never disappoint you and to perform at the level that you would expect."

Story and photo by Sgt. James Dansie

#### **AIR PROMOTIONS**

MAJOR Bateman Joshua S

CAPTAIN
Bagshaw Ben R
Boog Joseph R
Thornton Nathaniel M

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT
Bortz Amy A
Northrop Teddy L

MASTER SERGEANT Beh Abraham G Mayer Seth L

TECHNICAL SERGEANT Archuleta Ashton J Bissett Jacob Russell

Ulberg Christian S

Griffin Kayla Ashley Ingledew Matthew Cecil Marrott Jesse B Mellott Sheldon Edward Techmeyer James B Worsencroft Gordon O

STAFF SERGEANT
Arnell Matthew J
Gowen Nathan B
Leffler Amanda E
Lundgreen Robert C
Malone Winston Blake
Nguyen Jimmy D
Rollins Evan Robert
Scherbel Matthew W
Smith Jason T
Vickers Michael B
Winget Christian W

**SENIOR AIRMAN** Ettinger Solomon G Fisher Kevin T Gaffey Scott M Gallacher Mark A Hutchens Braxton J Jones Tanner R Kelly Andrea L Larsen Cody K Manthei Mark F Mecham Tate C Moczygemba Stephen C Olsen Kevin R Parker Brook K Reed Bradley A Sessions Kelley Whipple Max J

Williams Rachel L

### **ARMY PROMOTIONS**

COLONEL Peters Paul Stephen

MAJOR

Brummett David Edward Carpenter Nathan Scott Gold Jason Thomas Goodrich Mark A Tarbet Christopher Richard Wells Jeremy Ray

#### **CAPTAIN**

Borrell Kevin Galland
Boyle Kylie Thomas
Criddle Richard John
Erickson Justin Chad
Felder Joseph Samuel
Frenza Shaun David
Gerry Sean Michael
Green Jordan David
Kennedy Alan Brooker
Macgregor Laureen
Martin Gina Mae
McGraw Gavin Robert
Mostaghni Michael Hadi
Thomas Jeffrey Robert
Torres Andres Clemente

SECOND LIEUTENANT Ogbuehi Chikezie Canice

CHIEF WARRANT 5

Erickson William Michael Eyre Ryan Dean Petersen Craig Lynn

> CHIEF WARRANT 4 Storer David James

#### **CHIEF WARRANT 3**

Creager Jon Paul Lopez David John Ryan Christopher Michael Smith Cameron Dermody Vandrimmelen Joseph P K Wayment Brant Matthew

CHIEF WARRANT 2 Drysdale James Warenl

SERGEANT MAJOR

Anderson Scott Allen
Earl Shawn Dennis
Garcia Edmundo Israel
Gerhauser Charles Lester
Mata Rolando
Thornsbury Robert Boyd

#### FIRST SERGEANT

Chamberlain Kevin Craig Larsen David Charles Ohara Patrick Ryan Perkins Bryan Joseph Solie Eric Lee Wallis Robert WilliaM

MASTER SERGEANT Harris Daniel James Larsen Justin Dean Sim John Houston Sneddon Russell K Turner Gregory James

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Blankenship Lance Robert
Conder Robert Ian
Fleischman Ryan Lee
King Reade Everett
Radcliff Christopher Thomme

STAFF SERGEANT

Amidan R Daven Amos Kimberly Ann Arthur Alden James Ballard Michael Armand Barnes Jake Mecham Blackmon David Scott Booher James Edward Brown Katherine Michelle Bunn James Joseph Crofts Jonathan Lawrence Fager Aaron Klinesmith Fenn Darryl Regan Findley Samuel Paul Frandsen Justin Owen Hirshfeld Spencer Philip Jepsen Rick Nmi Kumah Obed Malmgren Joshua James Mantz Albert Paul IV Millward Mercedes Pascale Adam Douglas Perry Crystal Lynn Sais Andrew Will Saunders Eric John II Spencer Phillip Lynn Standing Cambridge Joseph Taulogo Toriano Tofamamao Wiedmeier Peter Randall Worthington Alma Andrew

#### SERGEANT

Ahumadavelazquez Cesar A Allen Tyler Dewayne Allred Brian James Anderson Riley Chase Awerkamp Benjamin Scott Bailey Charles Luke Batty Clayton Dean Beaman Deborah Dee Beard Robert Alan Bergquist Brock Gordon Bowden Jordan Paul Bowler Emilie Laura Bradford Ryan Paul Brinkerhoff Courtney Chanel Brumley Aaron Joseph Brush Baylee Diane Carter Cree Kiowa Clark Dylan Kay Collins Joshua Dayde Conger Braxton Jay Dansie James Allen Day Warren Tyler Dkhissi Rabab Drechsler Derek Anderson Elison Ammon Aaron

Ellis Clinton James

Evans Benjamin David Fallentine Nathan Michael Fischer Daniel Alvin Gootee Joshua Trevor Granados Elly Grant Tanner Martin Gregory Brody Mark Harrell Andrew Rolla Hickman Justin Floyd Hunt Jesse Brook Johnson James Riley Joseph Brooklyn Jade Klebingat Daniel Lacombe Mathew David Law Ryann Guy Lee Joshua Alexander Liau Ezra Joseph Cawit Lopez Gildardo Manuel Jr Lunt Brian Taylor Merryweather Taylor Smith Miles Gregory John Neil Anthony Scott Nelson Corey Dean Nelson Eric Dean Nelson Tyson P Newsome Antion Chavez Niechaj Ian Nicholas Nielson Jonathan Davis Packard Craig Owen Partridge J Ryan Pelletier Christopher M Pogue Rachael Ann Powell James Timothy Renaud Lot Augustine Rodriguez Estrella Fransica Rojas Jessica Cuevas Rumsey Jared Michael Russo Michael Taylor Salazar Noemi Margarita Schmutz Zachary Paul Schultz Arom Christopher Sedgwick Joseph Craig Slade Austin Thomas Terry Tyler Creg Thomas Nicholas Michael Thompson James Alexander Tom Elizabeth Enoh Turner Jason Keith Wagoner Calvin Michael Wayment Brittany Dianne White Jenkins William Wilkin William Grav II Williams Andrew Michael Wood Nathan Zachariah Wu Gary Jahuei Zitting Stephen Clayne

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Black Porter Shumway

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#### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Akagi Tayson Chadwick Alarcon Maria A Allison Jaden Chae Anderson McClain Hunter Atherley Landon Tony Barnum Jayce Russell Bell Casey Logan Benham Trent Richard Black Adam Conley Braden Benjamin Timothy Brophy Ty Christopher Brown Steven Patrick Byington Kyler Day Camacho Iokepa Keahonui Carson Trevor Lynn Carter Hailey Paige Caudill Alex Lott Cheney Caleb Matthew Choi Harrison Christensen Trent C Colunga Alejandro Martin Compton Casey Rose Cortes Thiago Garcez Cowley Joshua Holmes Curtis David Grandeson Dailey Patrick Dennis Darbro Cole Robert Davis Daniel Nicholas Delatorre Nancy Bridgette

Herrera Leyson Edgardo Hicken Erik William Huntsman James Matthew Isaia Latwer Kekoolani Johnson Colton Carl Kaililaau Kalani Keaki T Killpack Aaron Joseph Knight Cameron Phillip Linford Conley Preston McArthur Rosten Lynn Myers Neil Scott Nield Michael Trent Nolan Jacob William Novoa Amy Estela Osborn Tyler Stanley Perkins Jennie Peterson Jenifer Lynn Poulsen Braden Lamont Ramirez Braxton Amilcar Rasmussen Joshua Steele Rice Heidi Marie Richardson Joseph Gorden Rowley Benjamin Christian Russell Kaden Kelly Sandberg Luke Kimball Schwartz Ian Alexander Smith Daniel Paul Smith Samuel Rev Smith Tyler Louis Stalpes Joshua Bradley Straughan Phoebe Louise Thompson Devan Robert Thorn Jesse Dee Vanderlinden Kierra Jayden Vangrimbergen Abbie Rose Waite Michael Robert Wilkinson Alexandra Taylor Williams Christian Bradley Williamson Jay Michael Winn Andrew Zamoraflores Victor Hugo

Eftin Salah Abdullahi

Erickson Angel Capri

Evans Maigen Laurel

Forrester Daltin Si

Freeman Cory James

Glatz Zayne Alexander

Goble Ty Austin

Haley Tyler Lee

Harris Kendall Tess

Hellier Dylan Thomas

Henry Eric Scott

PRIVATE (PV1) Alvarez Erick Boswell Ai **Buck Zachery Thomas** Carlyle Evan Frederick Celaya Ashton Taylor Church Whitney Christian Glatz Sarah Golding Jake Lawrence Gonzales Karson F Hansen Stockton I Herbst Kenneth Duncan Hernandezalmazan Brandon R Holmes Spencer Lee Horman Kambree Rayel Jacobsen Sean Glen

Jensen Austin James Knight Nathaniel Alhajie Knotts Bay Riley Lawrence Jaysen Khan Lobatoyanez Angel Mafoa Filivalea Noyes Jared Wesley Orozco Del Valle Jesus E Rasmussen Vincent Allen Revguintero Andres Felipe Roden Jayden Hunter Sharum Payton William Sinon Kevin Scott Smith-Checketts Michael W Soria Javier David Stapley Trenton Judd Tengono Christopher Alexand Thomas Spencer William Torres Angel Roxann Vranish Joseph Mathew Wadsworth Simon Skipper White Ethan Jarett Wilson Preston Mark Younglabella Aspen Hunter

#### PRIVATE (PV2)

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