

65th Field Artillery and 145th Field Artillery in Theater

145th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Deploy

85th CST Monitors Kilauea Volcano Eruption



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Major General Jefferson Burton The Adjutant General

Soldiers, Airmen and Families, I was reflecting just the other day on the many outstanding people that serve within our ranks. Over the course of a career, we are blessed with the opportunity to rub shoulders with

greatness. The profession of arms is quite literally a forge that helps to shape character and develop those who serve into more capable, elevated souls.

The commander of the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment of Gettysburg fame, Col. Joshua Chamberlain, said: "War makes bad men worse, and good men better."

As members of the Utah National Guard, we strive to improve our character as a result of our service. Wearing the uniform gives us opportunities to suffer both physically and mentally, and through that suffering we grow in strength and capacity. Love for family, home and country are the motivations for our service, and the Utah National Guard has been building leaders since its official inception in 1894. Through every major conflict that our nation has faced, the Guard has been there. And behind every Soldier or Airmen is a dedicated family member that bears a heavy burden as they support their service members.

Today we face more complex challenges as we rise to meet a myriad of committed enemies bent on the destruction of our way of life. From air, land and sea domains, we can now add cyber and space to the areas that are contested. As history has taught us, consistent periods of peace come only through strength. Those who wear the uniform must be physically fit, and mentally strong as we develop individual and collective readiness to meet the growing challenges we find in an ever-growing, interdependent and interactive world. I have full confidence in each one of you as we rise to meet those challenges. We will not falter, and we will not fail!



Command Sergeant Major Eric Anderson Senior Enlisted Leader

Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard are examples to the American people of duty and sacrifice. Utah continues to mobilize service members in support of our state and nation in high numbers. While our employers and families bear

that burden, we are fortunate to live in a state that supports our Soldiers and Airmen. Army and Air alike continue to focus on state and national priorities with great results. We need to be ready for the fight tonight. Utah focuses on readiness by attacking tangible priorities.

The five priorities are:

1. Recruiting. The Utah Guard has a great mission and as we tell our story, people want to be part of the organization. We need to continue to bring referrals to recruiters. With great incentives, now is the time to join and stay in the Guard.

 2. MOS and AFSC qualification. In order to maintain force structure, resourcing, and current progress we need to continue to get our service members qualified.
3. Professional military education (PME). The Utah Guard places high emphasis on completed PME at the appropriate grade. When we put qualified leaders in front of formations we ensure successful completion of the mission.

 Medical Readiness. Physical fitness and aggressively working through medical problems increases readiness exponentially. It is our duty as Soldiers and Airmen to be physically and emotionally ready for the fight.
Retention. We maintain retention through amazing scenario-based training, great communication, and administratively caring for our Soldiers.

The NCO Corps leads the way building readiness in the state of Utah. Continue to focus on the end state of fighting and winning. Don't fall victim to your ignorance. If you aren't a subject-matter expert in building readiness, refocus and put the time in to become professional trainers and NCOs. Thanks for all you do, and keep up the great work! *The Adjutant General* Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton

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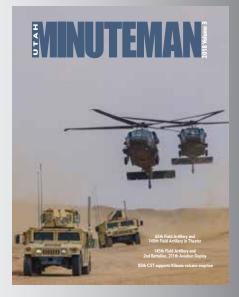
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Cover Photo:

Members of 3rd Platoon, Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery take off from an landing zone at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait aboard Rhode Island National Guard Black Hawks during Operation Diamond Strike. Photo courtesy of Maj. David Johnson









Shielding Our Liberties

SALT LAKE CITY — More than 100 Soldiers from the Echo Battery, 145th Field Artillery (FA) prepared to deploy to the Middle East on June 4, in support of Operation Spartan Shield. The deploying Soldiers will be replacing Delta Battery, 145th FA that deployed last August.

"Today the Soldiers of Echo build upon the legacy of the 145th as these Soldiers prepare to replace Delta Battery so they may return home to their families," said Maj. Adam Ashworth, executive officer for the 145th. "Echo Battery will finish the work Delta started and work with our higher headquarters, the 65th Field Artillery Brigade which deployed in March."

Operation Spartan Shield builds partner capacity in the Middle East to promote regional self-reliance and increased security. Nearly 350 Utah National Guard service members have deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield over the last year. Above: The 145th Field Artillery's 1st Sgt. Sheeley Peck, with his child at the unit's deployment ceremony June 4.



Top down: Soldiers with the 145th FA embrace family at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base before the unit boarded a flight to begin its year-long deployment to the Middle East. Capt. Jared Sorensen, commander, 145th FA with his daughter after the deployment ceremony.

"Over the past seven months we have been training for Operation Spartan Shield. Our mission is to protect key assets that create strategic dilemmas for our advisories in the area," said Capt. Jared Sorensen, commander of 145th Echo Battery. "Our focus will be on peace keeping and partnership building as we support our higher headquarters in their offensive operations."

The families of the deploying Soldiers gave them overwhelming support, resulting in the hangar being filled to standing room only.

"It's kind of surreal leaving; I don't think it's hit me yet that I'll be leaving for a year," said Spc. Jacob Hill. "It's nice to have my family here, but I don't think it'll really hit me until we get to Texas."

"Thank you, family members, for being here and supporting your love ones," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Utah National Guard adjutant general. "This is our Super Bowl, this is what we do. We train day-in and day-out to prepare to deploy and do these difficult jobs. I have no doubt in my mind that this unit is ready. They are trained and ready; no one does artillery better than the Utah National Guard."

Echo Battery is mainly made of junior enlisted Soldiers who are leaving behind young families to deploy for the first time.

"I'm a little stressed, not about where I'm going but who I'm leaving behind," said Pfc. Robert Riddle, who, just two weeks prior, welcomed his first child. "It's going to be tough leaving but it's something I know I can do because I know that my wife and baby are in good hands with my family here at home."

"I'm nervous; it's something that we've been preparing for but that doesn't take away the nerves," added Riddle's wife Kelsey. "I'm just grateful it's not as dangerous as we all expect it to be, so that puts my heart at ease."

Although some might have anxiety of what the next year will bring, all would find comfort in knowing that they are serving with some of the best leadership the Utah National Guard has to offer.

"You are resilient; there are going to be some hard days. There will be days that challenge you, but you are flexible and adaptable and you have the leadership—you will accomplish this mission," said Brig, Gen. Dallin Atack, Utah National Guard assistant adjutant general. "For anyone who is questioning this current generation, stop. They have earned the right to stand up with every generation that has gone before them."

With heavy hearts the departing Soldiers gave their loved ones one last kiss or hug as they waited to board their plane. Tears flowed freely as families watched their Soldiers climb the steps to the 747 on the runway.

Story and photos by Sgt. James Dansie View additional photos at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ utahnationalguard/albums/72157692103961650



Members of the 145th Field Artillery Battalion gather with their families before deploying to the Middle East June 4.

UTANG commander speaks at Department of Veterans Affairs event on challenges, opportunities as a woman in the profession of arms

SALT LAKE CITY — Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, Utah Air National Guard assistant adjutant general — Air, served as keynote speaker for the Department of Veterans Affairs Celebrate Women Veterans event on March 8, 2018.

The annual event is held in conjunction with Women's History Month. This year, the program took place on International Women's Day, further amplifying its mission: to support women veterans and celebrate their unique place in military history.

Gary Harter, Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs executive director, said Burckle was the ideal presenter given her historic role as the first woman to hold the position of onestar general in the Utah Army or Air National Guard and the first to command the Utah Air National Guard.

"Women make up a vital portion of those currently serving in the Armed Forces, and approximately 13,500 women veterans call Utah home," he said. "We are proud of all who wear the uniform of our nation, and General Burckle is an inspiration to so many."

More than 180 guests registered for the event, where Burckle spoke about her

professional successes and challenges. She credited her mother with instilling in her the importance of education at an early age and cultivating the belief that with hard work and determination, anything was possible.

According to Burckle, that conviction would later help carry her through some of the unexpected career obstacles she faced as a woman in the military.

An Air Force navigator by trade, Burckle expected to have her top pick of airframes as the number-one graduate from formal navigator training school, only to be told to "pick again" when she asked to fly in the B-52 Stratofortress, a job then closed to women in that career field.

Though frustrated, she selected the KC-135 Stratotanker as an alternate option and forged ahead with enthusiasm, refusing to let antiquated rules govern her pride or professionalism, she said. In another example, she spoke about an incident that occurred while she was a young captain participating in an overseas exercise.

"Our mission was to refuel a flight of Egyptian F-4s and everything was normal until there seemed to be a radio transmission issue—I had them on my radar, inbound, and was giving them vectors to our aircraft, but for some reason they wouldn't respond," she recalled.

Fairly quickly, we realized that the Egyptians would engage with our boom operator, our pilot and copilot, but not me—the only woman flying in the entire exercise," she added. "This so infuriated my crew that the pilot told the Egyptian flight lead that our boom would remain stowed until they responded to the navigator's directions...and guess what...suddenly, they started responding to my calls."

The story resonated with audience member and Army veteran Tiffany Ridgeway. "I went to Army Airborne jump school and had a commander say to me, 'Let me tell you exactly what I think about women in the military;' it's reassuring to see women like General Burckle succeeding and earning respect," she said.

In her closing remarks, Burckle acknowledged that while she may be considered a pioneer, there are countless talented, female colleagues rising alongside her.

"I know that being the first carries a responsibility to make sure I'm not the last," she said. "And I'm confident that I won't be—we have so many amazing women serving today that my first will become 'same old, same old' soon enough!"

Story and photos by Maj. Jen Eaton



Bri Bri U assis visits For for t Bri keyr Depa "Ce e

Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, Utah Air National Guard assistant adjutant general—Air, visits with Wendy Griffin, an Air Force veteran who now works for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Salt Lake City. Brig. Gen. Burckle served as keynote speaker for the annual Department of Veterans Affairs "Celebrate Women Veterans" event on March 8, 2018.

Hundreds from Utah National Guard's Aviation deploy

WEST JORDAN, Utah — Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion gathered at the West Jordan Armory to say goodbye to loved ones at a departure ceremony held on June 15, 2018. More than 230 Utah Guard Soldiers deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

"Our mission is to provide heavy-lift support, medevac support, and VIP and Solider movement throughout the battlefield," said battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Chad Koon. "I'm super proud of my troops. They've gone through a lot of painful training events to get to this point and they've excelled at it. They're absolutely professional. And it's exciting to see the maturity that's developed in preparation for this deployment."

Following the ceremony, some of the unit members flew to Fort Hood, Texas, for more training before deploying while the rest of the unit members departed the following day.

Among the Soldiers deploying is 1st Lt. Tianna Jackson, the executive officer of Echo Company whose husband is also deployed to the same region.

"We met in ROTC which is a cheesy story. Going into it, we kind of knew this might happen because we're in different units. So mentally, we were already pretty prepared for it," said Jackson. "Of course it's hard but you focus on the mission and what's important and you kind of take things day by day."

Another Soldier taking things day by day is Pfc. Victor Matiz, a supply specialist who recently received his citizenship. "It feels great. I came from Colombia and now being an American citizen is one of my dreams that came true."

Matiz isn't the only one familiar with service though. His wife received her citizenship from the Army while his mother serves in law enforcement.

"It means a lot for us. We came to this country and we have big goals in our lives so we take this opportunity really seriously—we want to pay back to this country," said Matiz. "We always hear about the American dream and being an American citizen is the American dream."

Of course, none of this would be possible without the families.

"The families are the most important piece of this pie. They're the reason we can do what we do," said Koon."

Story by Sgt. Scott Vargas Photos by Ileen Kennedy, Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn and Sgt. Scott Vargas





Members of 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation stand in formation prior to deploying to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield. Families and friends of the 2-211th Aviation Soldiers attend the deployment ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan June 15.

View additional photos at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ utahnationalguard/albums/72157694972667142



Members of 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation say goodbye to family and friends at the Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan June 15 and 16. Approximately 40 Soldiers with eight Black Hawks flew out on June 15 and the following evening the remaining almost 200 Soldiers were transported by bus from West Jordan to the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base to fly to Fort Hood, Texas for additional training prior to deploying to the Middle East.

Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery at Kuwait

CAMP BEUHRING, Kuwait — Utah's oldest military unit, 1st Battalion 145th Field Artillery, deployed the Delta Battery "Diamondbacks" to Central Command's (CENTCOM) area of responsibility in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS) and Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) last fall.

The unit is a composite battery comprised of 99 Soldiers from each of the battalion's batteries and forward-support company. The battery formed in June of 2017 and began its pre-mobilization training in September. After almost a month of training at Camp Williams, the battery departed on October 1st for Fort Bliss, Texas, where it completed a Mobilization Readiness Exercise (MRX) and validated its high state of combat readiness.

"[The MRX] helped everyone in the battery feel ready for whatever could come their way," said Staff Sgt. Spencer Hirshfeld, squad leader, Second Platoon.

On Nov. 1, 2017, the battery departed Fort Bliss for the Middle East and began its mission to safeguard strategic theater assets in the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Jordan.

The battery arrived in theater with a fresh perspective, a high level of motivation and even higher expectations for themselves. After completing its relief in place and assuming authority for its responsibilities, the unit quickly noticed a surplus of available manpower that could be utilized for additional responsibilities that had not been performed by previous units assigned to the same mission. Looking outward and up, the battery identified several key lines of effort being executed by its battalion and brigade headquarters in theater and developed ways that Soldier skillsets could be leveraged to maximize the success of not only the battery but of the brigade's mission as well.

With the enthusiastic approval of the brigade commander, the battery quickly moved from only one line of effort to four lines of effort. Those included the original mission of safeguarding strategic assets and added managing the mayor-cell operations, opening a new theater security cooperation (TSC) relationship with a host-nation partner, and establishing a readiness training rotation to Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, enabling the unit to maintain readiness in not only its provisional infantry role of security but in its primary MOS of field artillery.

Matching the high expectations they set for themselves, the battery marched forward with enthusiastic zeal and set a new standard for its Soldiers while conducting readiness training at Camp Beuhring.

The Diamondbacks planned, coordinated and executed an eight week, joint-training operation named "Diamond Strike" that incorporated units from 4th Battalion, 27th

Field Artillery; the Rhode Island National Guard; and Marines from 7th Infantry Regiment.

The training was a resounding success and led not only to a significant enhancement in infantry tactics and operations but also led to the battery's certification of three cannon crews through table VI.

"[This is] something typically unheard of for artillery units deploying in a non-standard mission and something that will pay dividends for the battalion and brigade for a long time going forward," said Staff Sgt. Mark Pickett, squad leader, 3rd Platoon.

The efforts and performance of the battery resulted in theater-wide recognition as its work was highlighted by a video spot on AFN and a news article published by the Defense News Agency.

Photo: Spc. Brigham Wabel, a Soldier in 3rd Platoon, provides LZ security during Operation Diamond Strike at Camp Beuhring, Kuwait. With setting the tone for training for the entire area of responsibility under its belt, the unit looked to make an impact in its other lines of effort. Relying on technical and tactical proficiency combined with a strong sense of character, the unit established a reputation for the professional manner in which they executed installation security operations in both the United Arab Emirates and in the Kingdom of Jordan and had more than 30 Soldiers receive coins from senior leaders showing their appreciation for a job well done.

Always willing to support its adjacent units, the Diamondbacks supported the 28th Infantry Division in Jordan during a significant mass-casualty (MASCAL) exercise and would later be recognized by the division's commanding general for its efforts. Leveraging a unique talent set in the battery, they established a theater-security cooperation relationship with the United Arab Emirates and conducted four field-artillery, cannon-training exchanges and established a footing for future units to build upon.

As the Mayor Cell, the battery completed millions of dollars' worth of projects, streamlined camp processes, upgraded the camp's electrical power system, advanced projects that had been stalled for months and established the foundation for a base-camp master plan.

"[The plan] would ultimately make a positive impact on thousands of Soldiers for years to come," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Griesmyer, deputy mayor, Headquarters Platoon.

The Diamondbacks' hard work while deployed led to many successes, and the receipt of accolades, but things weren't perfect all the time. Like all deployed units, the battery had its share of bumps and blemishes. Soldiers struggled at times and didn't always make the best decisions, families had problems back home and leaders at all levels in the battery encountered challenges they simply weren't expecting. That didn't stop the Soldiers from Utah's oldest military unit from excelling in their endeavors.

"Relying on our strong character and positive mental attitudes we were able to persevere through the challenges we faced," said Sgt. Natasia White, team leader, 3rd Platoon.

The battery's Soldiers did just that, they persevered, avoided complacency and sprinted to the finish of their deployment. The Diamondbacks can hold their heads high when they return to Utah having expanded their positive influence throughout the division and successfully conducting simultaneous operations for four lines of effort spanning three countries. The Diamondbacks are scheduled to redeploy to Utah and rejoin families and friends sometime in late July or early August.

Story and photos by Maj. David Johnson



Members of 3rd Platoon, Delta Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery board a Rhode Island National Guard Black Hawk during Operation Diamond Strike.



Sgt. Russell Shinkle (left) and Spc. Brian Truitt (back right) treat a casualty while 1st Lt. Aaron Glazier (right) provides security during the 28th Division's mass-casualty training exercise.



1st Lt. Quinton Petersen (left), platoon leader of 4th Platoon and Maj. David Johnson (center), battery commander, meet with Col. Juma, commander of the 74th UAE Artillery Regiment to discuss conducting relationship-building training between the two units.

Utah Medical Command takes lead roll in humanitarian and civic assistance event of African Lion 2018

BOUNAAMANE, Morocco — | he Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) Medical Command (MEDCOM), commanded by Col. Charlene Dalto, took part in African Lion 18 from Apr. 15-28, 2018. African Lion 18 is sponsored by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, scheduled by U.S. African Command (AFRICOM) and led by the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa. It is a joint and combined exercise conducted in the Kingdom of Morocco with a contingent in Tunisia.

Approximately 900 U.S. service members deployed to join nearly 400 members of the Royal Moroccan armed forces, approximately 250 Tunisian armed forces, and members of the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, France, Italy, Spain, Great Britain and Greek armed forces. The annual exercise involves various types of training and maneuvers throughout Morocco. MEDCOM was responsible for the Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) event, representing one of several types of training opportunities.

African Lion is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures. The UTARNG conducted HCA in the form of



Maj. Amy Prince, pediatrician, Colorado Air National Guard, exams a young Moroccan girl.



Utah National Guard and Moroccan dental teams pose outside the dental tent during African Lion.



Maj. Che Eissinger, deputy commander of Medical Command, entertains children while they wait for dental services.



Staff Sgt. Kurt Peters, Medical Command dental technician, takes the blood pressure of an elderly Moroccan woman.

View additional photos at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/utahnationalguard/albums/72157668817797558

a medical information and training exchange. This is a joint mission to foster cooperation and share knowledge of medical and dental techniques to further the relationships between the U.S. and Morocco.

Service members from MEDCOM fell in with the Royal Moroccan Army Medical Battalion's established mobile hospital, set up in Bounaamane, a remote, small community of Tiznit. In support of mission requirements for the HCA, some medical positions were outsourced to Colorado, Georgia, and Utah's Air National Guard. The services provided were: optometry with issuance of eye glasses and cataract surgery; ear, nose and throat; internal medicine; general medicine; pediatrics; gynecology with ultrasound capability; dermatology; dental services providing root canals; fillings; cleanings and extractions; psychiatry; surgical capability of mostly cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal); hernia repairs and lipomectomy (fatty benign tumor removal) with a 14-bed recovery area; x-ray; and lab tests.

Some UTARNG members were experiencing African Lion for the first time, while others had participated in the HCA in previous years. As always, with missions such as these, some heartwarming and interesting stories are born. Additionally, exposure to uncommon maladies that are usually not seen in the U.S. are observed, providing an excellent learning, crosstraining and teaching environment for medical professionals and medics. Moreover, U.S. and Moroccan medical teams worked seamlessly with host-nation medical professionals to maximize the positive impact on the local populace, overcoming language barriers to ensure proper dosing to patients related to French-written medications.

"The Moroccans have been really great about being able to respond to critical needs with medications from a nearby hospital when the mobile hospital pharmacy lacks that specific medication," said Maj. Nelson Sisson, a UTARNG member.

African Lion is designed to provide training for U.S. and Moroccan forces while simultaneously reinforcing lessons learned from past African Lion exercises, and providing a foundation and structure for future military cooperation and engagements.

Optometry and dental services proved to be the greatest needs. Most days these openings were maximized quickly, often before noon. Maj. Colton Douglas, a dentist at MEDCOM and a three-time participant in African Lion, reported their primary care was tooth extractions due to nonrestorable teeth.

"We performed some root canals, fillings and even some teeth cleanings," he said. He talked of one special moment for him when a young boy came in with a chipped front tooth and being able to cosmetically repair it so it looked normal. "He was smiling and happy the rest of the day. It makes you feel good when you can change the life of someone."

Spc. Jenkins, a patient administration specialist at MEDCOM, stated this was her first time participating in African Lion.



Lt. Col. Jennifer Carver, optometrist with the Georgia Air National Guard, conducts an eye exam in Bounaamane, Morocco.



Spc. Nathan Ro, medic with Medical Command, takes the blood pressure of a Moroccan woman.



Sgt. Ryan Newman, medic with Medical Command checks the blood pressure of a Moroccan women during African Lion.



Capt. Barbara Blanke, Headquarters commander, MEDCOM, receives a thank you kiss after comforting a young girl during her exam.

"I've enjoyed being here, seeing all the specialties they have here and getting cross training in dermatology and dental." Her extensive experience as an operation room (OR) technician in her civilian career logically landed her assisting the surgeons. "In the OR we really came together as a team to improve things and put things together to get done what needs to get done. Communication is so important and what runs the show. In the OR that part has been good because the Moroccans understand us pretty well. This experience has been the opportunity of a lifetime just seeing how grateful the people are."

In the labs tent Capt. Barbara Blanke and Col. Matthew Luke, both members of MEDCOM, used their skill set in coordination with their Moroccan counterparts to analyze blood panels after blood draws. A girl of about age 13 was afraid to have her blood drawn and Blanke provided comfort by holding her hand and keeping the girls attention on her during the procedure. Immediately afterward, the girl removed a ring from her finger, kissed Blanke's cheek and gave her the ring.

"It felt really special and I felt I made a connection with her," stated Blanke, "and I continue to feel that connection because I am wearing her ring, so unselfishly given. And I'll continue to hold on to that. I feel it represents the mission because it's really about the people."

Over the course of the nine-day HCA event more than 6,000 people were treated and more than a thousand tooth extractions performed.

The multitude of lives impacted by the presence of Moroccan and U.S. military, as well as the friendships developed amongst individuals from different countries and different backgrounds is immeasurable. As the buses rolled out on the final day, the spirit of the people was indelibly scribed on the hearts of the U.S. service men and women who left their boot prints behind in Morocco.

Story and photos by Maj. Samantha L. Madsen



85th WMD-CST Trains in Southern Utah

ST. GEORGE, Utah—Service members from the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (CST) joined first responders from across Washington and Iron counties to train on hazmat skills essential for dealing with emerging threats, March 20-22.

The training centered around real-world scenarios that incorporated the increase in synthetic-opioid production and the distribution of fentanyl seen across the state. In the scenarios, local law enforcement Special Weapon Assault Teams secured the sites and identified unknown hazardous material, prompting the activation of the county-hazmat teams.

The exposure to the unknown hazardous material required fire personnel to decontaminate the officers and their equipment. Next, teams of fire personnel donned their hazmat suits and entered the sites to gather intelligence on the unknown hazardous material.

During this portion of the training, members of the 85th CST served as evaluators and provided valuable feedback and critiques to the incident commander and fire personnel at the end of the training.

Capt. Brad Esplin, hazmat-incident commander and member of the St. George Fire Department, valued the training and experience of the 85th CST service members stating, "They have a lot more experience, training and are very skilled in what they do."

In the day and age of raising costs and shrinking budgets, Esplin added, it only "takes a phone call and doesn't cost the city or the residents" anything to request help from the 85th.

The costs typically associated with rising threats often prevent first responders from obtaining the needed training and equipment.

"First responders just don't have the training dollars to keep up with the emerging threats," said Capt. Vince Prince, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) survey section leader, 85th CST.

Prince also emphasized the 85th has a "full spectrum of equipment that makes the detection and identification possible."



Top down: Members of the 85th and 11th (Maine) Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (CST) work together to lower Sgt. Zach Martin, 85th CST, on the Arizona Vortez during a ropes-refresher exercise at the Green Valley Gap in St. George, Utah on Mar. 21. The Arizona Vortex is used by CSTs to lower a rescuer and a stokes basket into a confined space. Members of the 85th CST help decontaminate first responders during a training exercise at the old airport in St. George. First responders from across Washington County work together to put on hazmat suits during a training exercise on Mar. 20.

Fire fighters participating in the exercises in Iron and Washington counties recognized the importance of training on hazmat incidents.

"Hazmat incidents are so broad and fentanyl is just another area of hazmat that we need to be trained in," said Dave Munson, a firefighter/paramedic with Hurricane Valley Fire District.

Drawing upon the recent incident where a student attempted to detonate a weapon of mass destruction he had brought into the Pine View High School, Esplin pointed out this training provided a "good opportunity to get everybody together and get some real-world training," since "incidents like this require a lot of work and manpower to make it happen."

In addition to training with local first responders, service members from the 85th also took this opportunity to train with the 11th WMD-CST out of Maine on hazard assessment and rope-refresher training.

As part of its missions, the WMD-CSTs are required to conduct confined-space operations during CBRNE and all hazard emergencies.

The deputy commander for the 85th CST, Dan Frost, highlighted the importance of training on confined-space operations throughout the year to maintain the skills and proficiency necessary to sustain ropes training and patientrecovery operations.

"Confined space is part of the CST mission and requires team members to constantly train on the equipment and techniques since they are perishable skills," said Frost.

The ropes-refresher training also provided the opportunity for the two CSTs to work closely together and exchange ideas and knowledge on the techniques.

Sgt. Zach Martin, 85th CST, CBRNE NCO said, "It's always good working with other teams--just seeing what they have, the people they have on the team and how they do things is always beneficial so we can know how to do things better."

By the end of the exercises, both the first responders and the CSTs walked away a little more prepared for the next hazmat incident.

"We don't get to do this very often so we try to take advantage of the really good training and are very appreciative to the CST for the time and money spent putting this training together," said Esplin.

Munson added, the CST brings a lot to the table, and we as first responders rely upon them a lot.

The goal of the exercises in Iron and Washington counties centered around sustaining the interagency relationships and increasing the operational knowledge of risks dealing with fentanyl and other unknown hazards.

The 85th CST is on call 24 hours/7 days a week and provides support and assistance to civil authorities and incident commanders. The mission of the WMD-CST is to identify, assess, advise and assist during CBRNE incidents.

Story and photos by Maj. Choli Ence

Utah Guard Soldiers support Hawaii after Kilauea volcano eruption

HONOLULU — As fast-moving lava flowed after the Kilauea volcano eruption, members of Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction--Civil Support Team (CST) were called into action to support Hawaii June 1.

The purpose for the National Guard's support was to quickly deploy HazMat technicians in order to assess, assist, advise and identify unknown substances. Hawaii's 93rd CST was ordered to deploy in the vicinity of Leilani Estates on the Big Island of Hawaii in order to provide air-quality monitoring and be prepared to produce and validate hazardous plume models produced at the scene and those sent from Defense Threat Reduction Agency. The 85th CST sent Master Sgt. Ryan Stock, communications team chief, HazMat technician and Sgt. 1st Class Shaine Richards, operations noncommissioned officer, HazMat technician.

"Once we landed in Hilo Hawaii, we arranged a meeting with the 93rd Hawaii Civil Support Team to get an updated intelligence and situational briefing," said Richards. "From the Pahoa Fire Station you could see a large eerie glow and a couple of large smoke plumes raising in the distance over the backside of the fire station."

The update briefings were conducted at the Pahoa Fire Station. For the past month, the Hawaii CST had been working two 12-hour shifts.

"Immediately, Master Sgt. Stock and I started working the night shift," said Richards. "Together we ran three missions in and around the hazardous areas. The only communication we had back to the Incident Command Post and the Hawaii CST was through satellite phones that Master Sgt. Stock brought from the Utah Unified Command Suite."

The cellular towers and emergency frequency radio towers in this remote part of the island had been consumed by the lava flow from fissure number 8. The area Utah ran its first mission from was along Highway 132 near the newly abandoned geothermal power plant, Highway 137 and 130.

"We were advised that the roadways would be impassable since the lava flow went over the roadway a couple days prior," said Richards. "As we started down the extremely dark Highway 132 towards the geothermal power plant a bright, orange-red glow lite our way."

Half way down the road, the lead vehicle, driven by the Hawaii CST came to sudden stop in the middle of the street. The road had vanished and was replaced with a massive amount of hot black rock that looked like it was trying to cross the road but dried before in made it all the way across.

"We continued with two other missions just like this and each one ended with the substantial devastation to the roadway, jungles, houses and public utilities," said Richards. "Our second and third shifts were daytime operations. We had the same mission with much more general public visibility."

The U.S. Geological Survey scientists wanted to verify that SO2 and H2S were not present in the massive cracks/openings slowly tearing apart Highway 130. Richards and Stock were also asked to run the same highways from the night before to verify atmospheric monitoring, if there was a presence of acid rain and to verify the forward limit and advance of the lava flow.



A Civil Support Team member monitors the air at the base of a lava flow from the Kilauea volcano.



Above: A 25-foot wall of semi-cooled lava that consumed everything in its path. Below: A street view of the Pahoa fire station FEMA staging area. The dark cloud in the background is the gas plume from the volcanic activity.



Another mission Utah preformed was traveling to the Red Cross Camps to monitor the atmosphere inside for the Department of Health. The people that were displaced and living in the Red Cross Camps looked hopeless and devastated. Seeing uniformed Soldiers in a displaced civilian campsite with atmospheric monitoring equipment is never a pleasant experience.

"We spent some time chatting with the locals and displaced civilians," said Richards. "We talked about our capabilities and equipment. We explained that our monitoring equipment was showing the air quality in their camps was perfect and there was nothing to fear. The goal was to provide them with hope and a sense of security. We wanted them to see what we are doing to help and how we can provide an advanced warning to keep them protected from the environmental factors."

By the morning of June 6, the 93rd CST and 85th CST were released from the incident site with the caveat that the mission request would still be valid if things took a turn for the worse.

Story by Ileen Kennedy Photos courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Shane Richards



Utah National Guard Soldiers compete at Region VII Best Warrior Competition at the New Mexico National Guard Oñate Complex in Santa Fe, N.M. Spc. Eric Armijo, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, drags a loaded Sked-litter system as a warrior task, May 9. Sgt. 1st Class Ben Crane, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, climbs as part of the Warrior Challenge Obstacle Course on May 8.

Utah's Soldier takes top honors at Region VII Best Warrior Competition

SANTA FE, New Mexico — The Region VII Best Warrior Competition was held at the New Mexico National Guard Oñate Complex in Santa Fe, N.M. May 8-11.

During the four-day competition, these 15 warriors from eight states and territories were tested on their Army aptitude, board interviews, physical-fitness tests, written exams, warrior tasks and battle drills.

"Of the 10 or so competitions I have attended, this one was the most physically demanding," said Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson. "The competition focused on fundamentals of combat readiness where individuals were evaluated on their ability to shoot, move, communicate, and survive."

Held annually since 2002, Best Warrior deals out a mix of grueling tasks that challenge competitors both mentally and physically.

"The Utah Army National Guard produces some of the most competent and professional NCOs in the Army," said Anderson. "Spc. Eric Armijo from the 65th Field Artillery Brigade and Sgt. 1st Class Ben Crane, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, are no exception; they are truly two of the finest Soldiers in the Utah Army National Guard. Both Armijo and Crane completed this tough competition with a smile on their face and the desire to never quit; they were an inspiration to all who watched them."

"In the moment I felt like the shooting was the most challenging," said Spc. Eric Armijo, 65th Field Artillery Brigade. "Shooting; it's the most applicable. Every Soldier needs to be able to shoot, move, and communicate regardless of what your job or MOS is. I was stressing because I didn't know how I was doing. This was definitely more mentally challenging but it was also physically draining because of how fast they push you."

Soldiers complete tasks that will be relevant in today's battlefields so they can perform and test their Army aptitude by conquering urban-warfare simulations.

"The competition consisted of four, 20-hour days with numerous major events separated by individual warrior tasks," said Anderson. "Competitors completed survival-water training, an APFT, a Warrior Challenge--similar to a Spartan-type race, day- and night-land navigation, including the use of DAGRs, water tasks, medical, communications, weapons, reporting, various written tests, appearance/knowledge boards, robust shooting tasks, and a 12-mile-ruck march at 7,000 feet elevation. It was truly a grueling competition that was more than a normal competition, it was a readinessbuilding event that focused our Soldiers on their wartime mission."

Competitors are thrown into complex situations where they must figure them out on the spot during the competition.

"Just work the problem, you can't over think it," said Armijo. "Take a step back and use the tools you've been given through training and experience to make the right choice in the situation."

Specific details of events are not disclosed so the uncertainty forces Soldiers to think and react under pressure as if on the battlefield.

"It definitely makes it more realistic," said Armijo. "You have to accomplish an unknown task and it definitely causes more pressure. It's always better to know what is coming and have time to prepare but this is what we always have to be prepared to do as Soldiers."

Performing under stress helps to mold Soldiers and prepare them for combat situations. The competition tries to replicate situations that can be stressful, forcing Soldiers to figure them out while under pressure. "That's all that matters," said Armijo. "If you can't do your job under stress you're pretty much worthless. When people are crying and dying--that's when what we do really matters.

During the competition Soldiers were scored on 40 different events. One event continued until the last Soldier standing, or in this case, treading, during the water survival challenge. Competitors had to jump into a pool with their uniforms on and tread water for 10 minutes, then continue treading water with their right hand raised out of the water. After two additional minutes about 80 percent of competitors were done. The few remaining competitors had to raise both hands while treading water, narrowing the competition down to two--Utah and Colorado. Colorado succumbed to Utah winning the event.

Training for special operations school and playing water polo helped Armijo excel at this challenge.

"I swim in a uniform at least once a week in preparation for special operations school. I played water polo in high school so being in the water is like second nature to me. I felt very prepared," said Armijo.

"Spc. Eric Armijo won the Soldier of the Year for Region VII, beating Soldiers from Guam, Hawaii, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona," said Anderson. "While the competition was incredibly close, Spc. Armijo set himself apart on the first day when he won the water-survival event. He demonstrated a physical-fitness level that never waned. He focused on each task at hand and continued to build."

The goal is to have the best all-around Soldiers stand out from the others.

"Probably the best part of the competition was just being along other competitors and learning from one another, and although we were competing against each other the comradery and friendships made were awesome," said Armijo.

Armijo won the prestigious Best Warrior title of Soldier of the Year, finishing above the rest and will now continue on to represent all Region VII states at the Army's National Best Warrior Competition in Pennsylvania July 22-26.

Story by Ileen Kennedy Photos by Staff Sgt. Sunia Fonua and Spc. Iain Jaramillo

View additional photos at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ utahnationalguard/albums/72157698418634435

Soldiers competing in the Region VII Best Warrior Competition march away from the range after zeroing their weapons on May 9. Spc. Eric Armijo carries a full pack and rifle during the 12-mile-ruck march. Soldiers compete in a watersurvival challenge on May 7, 2018, at the Genoveva Chavez Community Center in Santa Fe, N.M. Sgt. 1st Class Ben Crane crawls under wire during the Warrior Challenge Obstacle Course on May 8.



Utah changes Best Warrior Competition to assist competitors in future events



Competitors for the 2018 Best Warrior Competition preform the Army Physical Fitness Test on April 6.

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah— n early April of 2018, the Utah Army and Air National Guard held its annual state-level Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, Utah. This event is designed to challenge and select the best junior enlisted, noncommissioned officer and commissioned officer in the Utah Army National Guard, to represent the state at regional and possibly national levels. Seeking to raise Utah's level of competitiveness, changes were made to the competition.

1st Sgt. Garrad Johnston, the noncommissioned officer in charge of this year's competition, insisted on a change to the format after reviewing the execution of the 2017 event.

"During the AAR (after-action review) of last year's event, we brainstormed how to make it better," Johnston said.

By integrating the 18-mile-road march and the 20 or more skill-testing lanes, Johnston introduced time-management stress to the competitors. Now the competitors not only had to perform well at the events, but the events were timed, forcing them to keep a clock ticking in the back of their minds.

"You can do absolutely fantastic in the lanes, but if you don't get back in time, you get a zero score," Johnston said.



1st Lt. Lacie Jonas takes a blow while pushing through to the clench during the Utah Best Warrior held on Camp Williams, April 7, 2018. The clench drill teaches Soldiers to get close to the enemy.



Sgt. Lacey Berdan, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, hikes between skill stations at Camp Williams on April 7, 2018. Soldiers rucked between skill stations for a total of more than 20 miles.

He was very clear that the changes were to assist the competitors later on. "In addition to the stress of the lanes, now time management enters into the equation," he said. "In many ways, I think this makes it more realistic."

This change to the road march had mixed reviews among some of the competitors.

1st Lt. Benjamin West, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, admits breaking up the road march made the skills lanes harder than he anticipated.

"I would prefer to do a single long ruck, like a capstone at the end of everything." he said, "Taking off the ruck at every event was a relief, but putting it back on is starting to be a hassle," West said.

Other contestants like Sgt. Shawn Anderson, who serves as a human-intelligence collector with B Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, welcomed combining the two events. This is the first time he has participated in this type of competition he said, "But breaking it up instead of a long ruck gives us a built-in break." "It's not even one [o'clock]," Anderson said, sitting in the bleachers to change out his socks after shooting the M249 squad automatic weapon. "It feels like I've been out here all day on this road, but the events break up the monotony."

Another change was the addition of a three-gun lane, that tested a contestant's ability to transition from firing a shotgun, to a rifle, then to a pistol while simultaneously maintaining close-quarter accuracy.

"That was fun," West said with a smile. "Shotgun, pistol, rifle. I've never shot anything like that event before."

"I enjoy this stuff," said Staff Sgt. Jacob Montague, a course instructor in 1st Battalion, 640th Regional Training Institute. "I've never done this before. I don't often get the chance to do the tactical stuff, but I enjoy it. It's different from the normal routine."

These additions and changes are all about making Utah competitors stronger in the regional and national-level competitions.

Story by Sgt. Scott Wolfe Photos by Sgt. Ariel Solomon, Sgt. James Dansie and Sgt. Scott Wolfe

View additional photos at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ utahnationalguard/albums/72157696740093471

Winners of the 2018 Utah Best Warrior Competition:

Utah Best Warrior:

1st Place: Spc. Eric Armijo, 65th Field Artillery Brigade *2nd Place:* Spc. Matthew Haines, 19th Special Forces Group *3rd Place:* Spc. Mitchell Larsen, 300th Military Intelligence

Spc. Armijo and Sgt. 1st Class Crane will represent the Utah Army National Guard at BWC regionals in May.

Utah NCO of the Year:

1st Place: Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Crane, Recruiting Retention Battalion *2nd Place:* Sgt. Shawn Anderson, 300th Military Intelligence *3rd Place:* Sgt. Daniel Murdock, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

Utah Senior NCO of the Year:

1st Place: 1st Sgt. Jason Mellor, 65th Field Artillery Brigade *2nd Place:* 1st Sgt. Lucas Tillett, Utah Training Center *3rd Place:* 1st Sgt. Thomas Lawrence, 19th Special Forces Group

Utah Junior Officer of the Year:

1st Place: 2nd Lt. Jerimiah Cowan, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade *2nd Place:* Capt. Gary Wellisch, 151st Medical Group

3rd Place: 1st Lt. Daniel Van Beuge, 65th Field Artillery Brigade

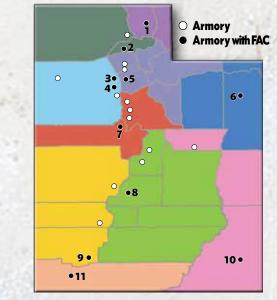
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7. Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
8. Richfield	435-896-6442
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Col. (P) Smith takes charge as the new Assistant Adjutant General-Army

DRAPER, Utah — After nearly six years of service as the assistant adjutant general-Army for the Utah National Guard, Brig. Gen. Dallen S. Atack handed off his responsibilities to Col. (P) Tyler B. Smith on July 2, at the headquarters facility auditorium in Draper.

"It has been a tremendous privilege to lead and serve our Utah Guard forces and witness firsthand their capacity to excel beyond what they thought possible," said Atack. "It has been an honor to stand with such ready and resilient citizen Soldiers."

Smith, a Saratoga Springs resident, has served as the Utah Army Guard's Construction Facilities Management Officer and Legislative Liaison since August 2016 and has served in the military for nearly 32 years. Smith deployed to Saudi Arabia/Kuwait in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008, and has received the Bronze Star medal for his overseas service.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be selected to this position where I will have greater capacity to serve the incredible Soldiers and employees of the Utah Army National Guard," said Smith.

Atack, a Draper resident, has served as the assistant adjutant general-Army since October 2012. The change of command culminates Atack's 32-year honorable military career.

Story by Maj. D.J. Gibb Photos by Ileen Kennedy, Sgt. James Dansie and Sgt. 1st Class Shana Hutchins



Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson passes the Joint Force Headquarter's guidon to the outgoing Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack.



The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, receives the guidon from Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack signifying his relinquishment of command as the assistant adjutant general-Army.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, passes the guidon to the new Assistant Adjutant General, Col. (P) Tyler Smith.



Col. (P) Tyler Smith, passes the guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson completing the change of command.

Brig. Gen. Atack retires after 32 years of service

DRAPER, Utah —

Culminating a 32-year career in the military as the assistant adjutant general-Army for the Utah National Guard, Brig. Gen Dallen S. Atack retired from the service at the headquarters facility auditorium in Draper on July 2, 2018.

Atack's post-retirement plans include accepting a position as the new director of the Utah High School Cycling League.

"The first two people I talked to [about retirement] were my mom and my dad," said Atack. "Neither one of them was supportive at first... because they knew how much I loved being in the military... I waited until the last moment... before I came to the resolution that it was time for other leaders to take over."

Burton had nothing but positive things to say about Atack, who replaced him as the assistant adjutant general-Army six years earlier.

"The effectiveness of the Utah National Guard today I credit to this man right here," said Burton. "He is a man of honor and integrity... he's the man I trust with absolutely anything... we are going to miss him."

The majority of time during the ceremony was taken by Atack's family and friends paying tribute to him. Leadership from every Utah National Guard major support command shared mementos with him, some even sharing stories of times long past.

The last to share were Atack's spouse, Kimber, their daughters, and granddaughter. Atack was quick to share his

love and appreciation to his wife. "I got engaged and enlisted in the same month!"

Atack shared his favorite things about the military, and even a regret. "I love being in my backyard hearing that rolling thunder of the artillery being fired at Camp Williams. I love to hear our [military] helicopters flying in formation overhead on their way to fight a fire somewhere in Utah," said Atack. "The only regret I have--I'm leaving a little too soon to make a trip to the UAE to see my brothers in the Artillery. So many of my friends are deployed right now."

Atack shared some emotions remembering Utah Guardsmen who are currently deployed.

"We still have Soldiers in harm's way," said Atack. "Please remember them."

Burton shared some insight of his own describing the legacy of Atack:

"He has instilled in the officers and NCOs of this organization the ability to carry on in excellent fashion," said Burton.

In addition to Kimber, his family, and friends, the last person recognized by Atack was his father.

"I've got a lot of mentors in this room... but the greatest influence in my life has been my father... for all the time he invested in me," said Atack.

In an emotional gesture to conclude the ceremony, Atack invited his father to the stage in one final salute to those with whom they had served over the years. Without hesitation, the full auditorium took to their feet and returned salute.

Story by Maj. D. J. Gibb Photos by Sgt. James Dansie and Sgt. 1st Class Shana Hutchins



Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack and his wife, Kimber, during his retirement ceremony on July 2. Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton applauds as Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack holds up his retirement certificate. Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack and his father render a final salute at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony.



Chief of the National Guard Bureau Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, State Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson at Camp Williams June 25.



Lengyel during The Adjutant General's Western Huddle Regional held for the first time at Camp Williams.



Lengyel presents his coin to Sgt. 1st Class Tina Semanoff, executive assistant to the state command sergeant major.

Gen Joseph Lengyel visits Utah for the first time

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — For the first time since taking command as Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, visited the Utah National Guard at Camp Williams on June 25-26, 2018.

"The responsibility of the National Guard Bureau is to support you, and those who work for you under your command. That's why we exist," said Lengyel.

Lengyel's visit came in conjunction with The Adjutant General's (TAG) Western Regional Huddle held annually in different states. This year was the first time Utah had the opportunity to host the event.

"The Huddle is a great opportunity to gather as TAGs to meet and discuss the issues we currently face in the National Guard," said The Adjutant General for Utah, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton.

Lengyel's visit began on Monday evening, June 25, with his arrival at the Officers' Club on Camp Williams where all the western state's leadership was assembled. Guest speaker that evening over dinner was Utah's Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox.

"Thank you, your Soldiers and Airmen for the service and sacrifices you make with your families and loved ones," said Cox. "What you do for each of our states makes all the difference."

On Tuesday, Lengyel met at the 640th RTI's building with leadership from various Utah National Guard directorates before taking a photo with each represented state's TAG and senior enlisted advisor. Immediately following the photo, Lengyel quickly assembled the leadership into a closed meeting where they could discuss official business.

"I exist to serve you, to make the National Guard better and stronger," said Lengyel. "We're 20 percent of approximately two million Armed Force members...when others hear this...they are always surprised. We have got to get our message out there."

At the end of the meeting, Lengyel opened the discussion up to everyone present. Questions and topics discussed included full-time manning, armories and facilities, additional-duty compensation to Soldiers and Airmen and the enlisted-management system currently in place.

"Readiness and lethality are the first and most important things we do and we're an operational force that is not backing off," said Lengyel.

"The regional focus sometimes helps me," said Lengyel, "and one thing's for sure--I have more access to the president and to the secretary of defense than any previous chief of the National Guard Bureau--that never used to happen," said Lengyel.

Prior to departure, Lengyel presented coins to Capt. Dennis Frey, aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Burton and Sgt. 1st Class Tina Semanoff, executive assistant to the state command sergeant major, for their efforts in planning and preparing for his visit to Utah.

"You have some incredible Soldiers and leaders here," said Lengyel. "It doesn't hurt to have these amazing views as well!"

Story and photos by D.J. Gibb

Maroc Mantlet in Morocco

SIDI YAHYA, Morocco — A sprawling, abandoned, industrial complex that was once a paper mill set the back drop for training during Maroc Mantlet 2018. From April 14-28, 2018, Soldiers of the 5th Engineer Battalion, Moroccan Royal Armed Forces (FAR), assisted by mentors from the Utah National Guard (UTNG) Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) used the complex to demonstrate the skills they have been learning over the last few years as part of the Disaster Preparedness and Planning Program (DPPP).

The Moroccans, working closely with elements of the UTNG, learned skills to not only save lives in a potential disaster that included a CBRN environment, but to provide mission command over such an event between civilian, military, and interagency partners. During Maroc Mantlet 2018, a command post (CP) at the Sidi Yahya was set up to manage the affected area while communicating with the FAR CP at the Engineer Headquarters in Kenitra. UTNG Soldiers of the 97th Troop Command and Homeland Response Force (HRF) assisted at both CPs receiving exercise data and exercising staff processes with their Moroccan counterparts.

"For the most part communication between the CPs was good," observed Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Ormond. "Like most exercises, it got off to a slow start, but once they got it all figured out, they operated well."

The communication piece between CPs was one of the exercise objectives for this year's event.

"One thing we identified for future exercises is a better use of LNOs," Ormond said when noting after-action review (ARR) comments intended to improve upon operations for the next event.

Soldiers in gas masks and level-C protective suits moving about the abandoned mill looked like a scene straight out of AMC's The Walking Dead; "all that are missing are the zombie's" observed Col. Paul Peters, UTNG G3, as he toured the training site as part of the distinguished visitor's day on April 24. Although the mill looked like a macabre set-piece, it proved a valuable training venue.

"The paper mill at Sidi Yahya is a great training area because it provides a realistic environment for the CBRN company to practice responding to an industrial facility accident," remarked Maj. Tom Heier, chief of Africa Command (AFRICOM) CBRN Preparedness for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) CBRN Preparedness Program (CP2).

Members of the UTNG and FAR leadership along with representatives of the U.S. Embassy were shown a demonstration of the skills the Moroccan 5th Engineer Battalion have been acquiring to include urban search-andrescue techniques such as high-angle-rope rescue, breaching and blocking.

"I gave them a scenario and they were able to set it all up and execute," said CERFP Search and Extraction noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. First Class Travis Pharmer, "so my focus out here was to be safety and double check their work."

When asked about their progress training for urban search and rescue missions, Pharmer had this to say, "There are still additional steps for them to take, but they can safely execute on their own. It's night and day from where we started."

The Moroccans also showed off their ability to conduct mass decontamination in a contaminated environment, a skill they have been developing under the tutelage of trainers from the DTRA in close cooperation with UTNG efforts.

"The CBRN Company has demonstrated mass-casualtydecontamination operations with the same equipment and tactics, techniques and procedures as U.S. Forces," said Heier.

Maroc Mantlet continues to evolve each year as the scope of the U.S.-Moroccan partnership continues to expand and complexity is added to the exercise. The Moroccan 5th Engineer Battalion hopes to someday become a regional center of excellence for military-disaster response in support of civil authorities and through DPPP the UTNG is incrementally helping them reach that goal.

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Bruce Roberts



Mid-exercise Col. Scott Burnhope (UTNG) and Col. Ahmed El-Ghanami (Forces Armed Royal) receive a situation update in the Tactical Operations Center located in Kenitra, Morocco.

Members of Utah Task Force 1 and Sgt. Ray Garcia of the Utah CBRN Task Force observe Moroccan soldiers as they train on urban search-and-extraction techniques in Kenitra, Morocco.

Gov. Herbert presents awards at Utah National Guard's Honorary Colonels Corps 57th annual Bronze Minuteman Awards dinner



Left to right: Mr. Anthony Mirable for Goldman Sachs Group Inc.; Ms. Alex Seagroves, Mr. Randy and Mrs. Laura Butler, Aaron Butler's fiancée and parents; Honorary Col. Tage Flint; Mrs. Jeanette Herbert; and Mayor Carmen R. Freeman.

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah National Guard hosted its 57th annual Bronze Minuteman Awards dinner, June 14, at Salt Lake's Little America Hotel.

At the event, Utah's Honorable Gov. Gary R. Herbert and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, presented Bronze Minuteman awards to Staff Sgt. Aaron R. Butler (posthumous), Honorary Col. Tage I. Flint, Mayor Carmen R. Freeman, Goldman Sachs received by Regional Head Anthony Mirable, Mrs. Jeanette Herbert, retired Chief Master Sgt. Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, and Mrs. Noelle Pikus Pace for their individual, devoted service to and leadership among the citizens of Utah.

The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah is sponsor of the event. The corps is an organization that promotes goodwill and positive relations between the National Guard and local Utah communities. Members provide annual support for Utah Army and Air National Guard activities such as the Freedom Academy and Veterans Day concert.

A short summary of each recipient's accomplishments follows (listed alphabetically):

Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, Engineer noncommissioned officer (NCO) for the Utah National Guard's 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), served his country with nobility and honor, and paid the ultimate sacrifice for us all when he was killed in combat, August 16, 2017, in Afghanistan. But the impact of Staff Sgt. Butler's life goes beyond his military service, being



a guiding light of positivity and inspiration for action.

Honorary Col. Tage Flint is an accomplished engineer who has protected Utah's vital water resources for more than 30 years. As co-chair of the governor's Water Advisory Strategy Group, he has significantly contributed to the longevity and success of Utah's water resources. Flint is also a tremendous supporter of the military, playing instrumental roles in the Utah Defense Alliance, Top of Utah Military Advisory Committee, and the Utah National Guard Honorary Colonels.

Mayor Carmen Freeman learned about hard work and responsibility being raised on a farm. Following his more than 30-year career in the private sector, Freeman shifted his focus to civic service being elected as Mayor of Herriman where he was instrumental in protecting vital military training at Camp Williams while improving the lives of Herriman citizens.

Goldman Sachs Group Incorporated is a well-known, investment banking, securities, and investment management giant. However, Goldman Sachs and its employees in Salt Lake City are also giants when it comes to military support. Their Veteran's Integration Program provides a pathway for veterans to prepare for a career in the financial industry and generous support to the Utah National Guard Charitable Trust has assisted Utah military families in need for more than a decade.

Mrs. Jeanette Herbert has worked diligently to improve the lives of all Utahns as Utah's First Lady. Her Uplift Families program, created when Gov. Gary Herbert took office, capitalizes on her more than 23 years of child-care experience to help Utah families with healthy parenting skills. Jeanette has also been active in the community serving on the Provo-Orem Chamber of Commerce, Utah Private Child Care Association, and Utah Bicentennial Committee.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall rose from humble beginnings in small-town Minnesota to the highest position ever held by an enlisted woman in the history of the United States Armed Forces. Her noble military career in the Air Force and Air National Guard is a testament of hard work, dedication, and service that is a positive example to all.

Mrs. Noelle Pikus Pace represented Utah and the United States with honor winning a Silver Medal in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games. Obviously an athletic dynamo, Noelle has overcome many challenges to achieve greatness. Her unwavering faith, dedication, and enthusiasm are an example that will inspire generations to come.

> Story by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn Photo by Sgt. James Dansie

View additional photos at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ utahnationalguard/albums/72157669207122507

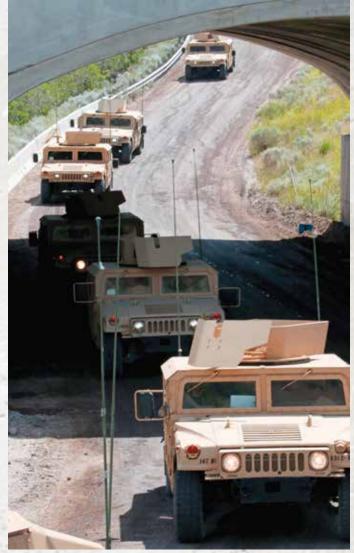
Panther Strike Scenario Reflects Ever-Changing World

PARK CITY, Utah — This years' iteration of Panther Strike at the Camp Williams Military Reservation in Utah shifts its focus from years past. At its core, it is still a training exercise that emphasizes the integration of multiple military intelligence disciplines and cooperation with U.S. intelligence partners. However, the guidance of instruction for 2018 is geared more towards conventional warfare.

"What we're trying to do is move more towards a hybrid threat, a more peer-to-peer environment," said Capt. Aaron Jardine, the 2018 Panther Strike Project Officer from Headquarters Company, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade. He said that per guidance from Gen. Mark A. Milley, Army Chief of Staff, Army training is transitioning from the counterinsurgency (COIN) emphasis of the latter years of Afghanistan and Iraq to a more peer-to-peer fighting scenario. To reflect this change, during the first half of Panther Strike—the classroom, discussion, and equipment refresher portions—included dealing with a hypothetical enemy with similar capabilities as U.S. and allied forces.

Staff Sgt. Brett Parke, D Company, 142nd MI Battalion, 300th MI Brigade, explained his job as a low-level, voice interceptor is different outside of a COIN environment and why training at Camp Williams is so useful.

"It gets more sophisticated," he said during a classroom break the first week. "Peer adversaries are going to be using a more complex communication system. They'll be able to detect and locate us. Panther Strike is a great exercise to sharpen our LLVI skills, to engage a reemerging threat." Even interrogation techniques are different outside of COIN.



A convoy rolls out from the Camp Williams cantonement area during the field portion of Panther Strike 2018.



U.S. and Canadian Soldiers conduct low-level, voice intercept operations during Panther Strike 2018 at Camp Williams, Utah.

"They will be trained in the same types of schools we have," said Juan Santana, the retired chief warrant officer teaching an interrogator class. "They will have the institutional knowledge we have and legacy of training we have."

His video lessons are interrupted by question and answer sessions about different topics covered. He punctuates many of the lessons with personal examples from his 24 years of experience in the field of intel.

"If I'm giving you an example," he tells the class, "it's because it happened."

To make scenario changes more believable to the participants, the role players had to change and elevate their level of involvement.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matilde Otts, the Panther Strike role player subject-matter expert from A Company, 142nd MI Battalion, 300th MI Brigade, detailed some of the changes for the role players between previous rotations and this one.



Soldiers question vehicle drivers and passengers and look for suspicious individuals during Panther Strike 2018.

"This is the first year of the Role Player Academy," she said. "The academy was instituted to provide more of an ownership in the roles. With the current scenario changing from COIN-based to more peer-on-peer, we had a need for role players to be more in depth. It's important to give the collectors a better and more realistic understanding of how to question people volunteering information as well as captured enemy combatants."

The academy had almost 100 people assigned, with every unit participating in Panther Strike allocating personnel, including members from the Canadian contingent.

"We are investing in the role players," continued Otts, "because their role, their input, is essential to the interrogator getting his cues off of what is not said as much as what is. They assist the collection team going through a (scenario) village market to understand what questions to follow up on. By giving the role players a better background, a better brief, they are better able to make a more realistic representation of that kind of person, a very realistic person, for when the collectors go out into a real-world situation. They will have the knowledge and training of that type of person and know how to react when they meet them for real."

"All the changes to Panther Strike 2018 reflect the everchanging battlefield American Soldiers and their allies must prepare for," said Lt. Col. Cody Strong, training exercise commander and commander of the 142nd MI Battalion.

"Panther Strike is the premier, military-intelligence, training exercise in the National Guard and one of the largest military intelligence exercises in the Army," said Strong. "This training exercise has to look like the environment we're going to face. Everything we have done at Panther Strike this year is centered around a decisive-action, training environment against a near-peer enemy. As the threat environment is changed, so too now must our training."

> Story by Sgt. Scott Wolfe Photos by Sgt. Scott Wolfe and Sgt. Jordan Hack

"America's Thunder" makes its mark on Operation Spartan Shield

AL MINHAD AIRBASE, United Arab Emirates -

he Soldiers of the 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FA), America's Thunder, are making an impact in their mission as they support U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) as a part of Task Force Spartan, three months after they departed Salt Lake City.

After leaving Utah, the 65th FA trained in Fort Bliss, Texas, then traveled to the Middle East taking over as the Force Field Artillery Headquarters (FFAHQ) for ARCENT, supporting Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), and providing supportive fires to ongoing missions in the Gulf region. A central piece of its mission is Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) strengthening military-to-military relationships with host nations, building partner capacity, and if necessary, executing OSS contingency plans. The 65th FA also directly supports Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS) in the ongoing fight against ISIS.

"We are meshing as a team," explained Maj. Chamberlin Neff, the 65th FA operations officer. "It's one thing to help plan and execute annual training at Camp Williams, Dugway, or some other location—it's another to plan and execute executive combat operations in support of OIR, OFS, and OSS," said Neff.

Prior to leaving the continental U. S., the 65th FA spent more than 30 days at Fort Bliss, participating in a Mission Readiness Exercise. There, they validated through First Army's Task



A High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System fires a rocket during a live-fire exercise in the United Arab Emirates May 7, 2018.

Force Kodiak on warfighting functions and utilized the military decision-making process to plan the mission ahead. An essential piece of the validation involved expert training on Arabic culture, language and participating in simulated engagements with key leaders to prepare for the TSC mission.

"We were fortunate to have a Security Cooperation Mobile Team come ... where we received instruction and conducted many practical exercises with role players," explained Maj. Jeremy Williams, the TSC, line-of-effort coordinator for the 65th FA.

Upon completion of its training at Fort Bliss, the 65th FA arrived in the Middle East where Soldiers worked side-by-side with their 75th FA counterparts learning the mission before taking the helm. For two weeks, the transition of the FFAHQ mission gradually shifted from the 75th FA to the 65th FA. On May 14, America's Thunder officially took over as the FFAHQ for ARCENT. The 28th ID commanding general, Maj. Gen. Andrew Schafer, attended the ceremony along with many other coalition partners. Since the handoff, the 65th continues to expand its influence in the Middle East.

"The operational tempo has remained high fighting ISIS in OIR, and against the enemy in Afghanistan. That momentum has not let up," commented Neff.

In addition to supporting fire missions in OIR and OFS, the 65th FA has also made an impact in OSS where a central focus is accomplishing the TSC mission through bilateral and multilateral exercises with host-nation partners.

"The 75th had a really aggressive RIP [relief in place] plan ... setting us up for future success," explained Williams. "We conducted the first bilateral U.S. - UAE NCO seminar that was well received by the Emirati NCO Corps."

The combined seminar was taught by both U.S. Soldiers and Emirati Land Forces' instructors on such topics as mission command, roles and responsibilities of an NCO, the history of the U.S. NCO Corps and career progression. Because the seminar was held during Ramadan, a possibility existed that it



(Left to right) Sgt 1st Class Clint Markland, Maj. Jeremy Williams, Sgt. Maj. Gray Hansen, Maj. Chamberlin Neff, 1st Lt. Andrew Arvig and Command Sgt. Maj. Ryan Josie, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, raise the brigade flag over Camp Redleg May 24.

would be postponed. However, both units pushed for the event to happen, demonstrating the level of ever-increasing trust these two countries are forging.

Exercises such as the NCO seminar are a success story that increase relationships the 65th FA has with its host-nation partners. These relationships are created by demonstrating its enduring commitment to regional partnerships through widening collective perspective and allowing them to integrate equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures.

The 65th FA will impact U.S. interests in the region as it accomplishes the brigade commander's end state, through building partnerships that deter and prevent regional aggression. They are prepared for decisive operations to defeat emerging threats.

"What we are doing is being looked at by every level, including the Secretary of Defense," concluded Neff.

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Jeffrey Belnap



65th Field Artillery Brigade Soldiers have a brigade photo taken at Camp McGregor, N. M., April 7, after completing final validation exercises before deploying to the Middle East.

Utah Guard gains 4ID patch, bolsters division staff

FORT CARSON, Colo. — The 4th Infantry Division (ID) Main Command Post Operational Detachment (MCPOD) Soldiers with the Utah National Guard (ARNG) were awarded the patch of the 4th ID's shoulder sleeve insignia to replace their 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) patch, April 2, 2018.

With approximately 90 Soldiers, the MCPOD's mission is to outfit the 4th ID headquarters with critical capabilities. The MCPOD includes individual and small-team elements in occupations such as flight operations, fires control, human intelligence, logistics, sustainment, engineering, human resources, public affairs, counter-intelligence and signal support.

Maj. Gen. Randy A. George, commanding general, 4th ID and Fort Carson, was fired up to have the Utah ARNG patch into his ranks during the division's "Warfighter" validation exercise, which certifies his division staff for deployment as a tactical headquarters.

"This patch means a lot to us," said George. "We just celebrated our 100th anniversary. [Soldiers] have [spilled] blood for our nation wearing this [patch] starting off in France in 1917... we're very proud of the heritage of this division."

During the patching ceremony, George imparted his expectations of all "Ivy Division" Soldiers to be READY (Respectful, Experts, Athletes, Disciplined, You).

"To be patched in, you've got to be part of the unit," said George. "You guys get to wear our patch and be...a closer part of our team."

Lt. Col. Talon E. Greeff, MCPOD commander, 4th ID, interfaces his detachment with the division in quarterly exercises to build faith and confidence between both units.

"We're not planning on un-patching," said Greeff. "We're planning on wearing this around Utah, until I hear differently. We're all one team. That's been the consistent theme throughout our whole experience with the 4th ID."

The 4th ID provides a unique opportunity at the division echelon for the Utah ARNG as it works hand-in-hand with its active-duty counterparts in honing Soldiers occupational skills, he added.

"When the division deploys, it's going to need personnel, and that's what we provide to the division," said Greeff.

As part of an Army initiative to resource divisional headquarters, the 4th ID MCPOD supplements the division's ranks with junior enlisted Soldiers to field grade officers.

Sgt. 1st Class Meaghan Knight, senior intelligence analyst, 4th ID, MCPOD, said that it's hard to tell the difference between the two units. Whether training at Fort Carson or in Utah with the 4th ID, she has always felt like part of the team.

"It's been an extremely positive experience," she said. "It makes me feel right at home being here."

Neither she nor any of her 35 subordinates feel like anything less than an Ivy Division Soldier. Patching in lassoes the Utah ARNG into the division's rich heritage, strategic outlook, impact and influence in global affairs.

Story and photos by Sgt. Anthony Bryant

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MAJOR Madison, Andrew L Nelson, Brandon Steven Dunn, Richard Sondrup

> CAPTAIN Paulsen, April A

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT Fritch, Daniel Paul

MASTER SERGEANT Lealaitafea, Leland Saua Mar, Travis J Call, Jesse Charles Huff, Jon Curtis Owens, Travis William Bryant, Rory Anthony Farley, Lauren C Lawson, Jeffrey David Mickelson, Jeffrey Van Stumm, Timothy A Venable, Jesse A

TECHNICAL SERGEANT Jacoby, John Russell Johnson, Tyrel M Rosalez, Bryant C Stettler, Alan Russell Lister, Clinton A Bornemeier, Erik D Brown, Camn W Clausen, Jade L Roundy, Forrest C Willis, Triton L Henningfeld, Paul J King, Ryan David

STAFF SERGEANT

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SENIOR AIRMAN

Hobson, Jonathan Wesley Bullard, Timothy S Hall, Joshua A Richardson, Amanda L Richardson, Dallin J Tingey, Zachary F Yates, Shawn K Christensen, Matthew Larsen, Amber M

> AIRMAN 1st CLASS Whitehead, Alison Willson, Colton J



Soldiers with 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post Operation Detachment were awarded the shoulder sleeve insignia patch of the 4th ID April 2.

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL Crosby Lee Roderick Ence Choli Camil Lowry Phillip Edward Jr

MAJOR

Adamson Cody David Clayson Timothy Clark East Peter Braxton Grimley Lex Kiyoshi Hicken Matthew Darrel Lecroy Adam James Marsh Spencer Kimball Porter Weslie Meletino

CAPTAIN

Doucette Rebecca Louise Guzman Andres Felipe Bacalski Christopher Daniel Chambers Preston Scott Coates Evan C Coleman Jacob Ezra Conde Jorge Luis Jensen David Peter Rusk Jason David Stenquist Melissa Anne Tidwell Megan Noelle Vest Brian John West Benjamin James Willis Nicole Rene Young Tristan L

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SECOND LIEUTENANT Barker Blase Leland Allen Tyler Dewayne Bennett McKenzie Ann Braun Anthony Johnston Chamberlain Isaac Austin Chastain Julian Grider Hatch Colin Dallas

CHIEF WARRANT 4 Kreitzer Eric Josef Middleton John Douglas Turgeon Thayne Robert

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

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COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR Barkey Charles Michael

MASTER SERGEANT

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SERGEANT

Armijo Eric Paul Atkinson Sean Kyle Barlow Neal Patrick Biehn Seth Carrolgunnell Bissell Andrew Ethan Champagne Bruce Alan II Coffer Brittney Ann Cooper Joshua Ron Dent Courtney Jo Hall Chelsi Adele Halweg Matthew Lee Hess Isaac Robert Hill Taylor Crosby Holmes Grant Michael James Devin Louis Jenkins Monica Marie Magneson Andrew Vance McDowell Ranch Levi Molawka Michael Robert Peterson McKenna Leigh Rhodes Amber Marie Rugebregt Benjamin Marco Russo Michael Taylor Sawyer Lance Sine Isaac Winfield Soranno Aloyious Patriot Wallace Hayden Shane West Brighton Lee

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