

# UTAH MINUTEMAN

2021 Volume 2



Presidential Inauguration

Gubernatorial Inauguration

Diversity: It Starts With Me



## STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Above: Maj. Gen. Michael Turley, the adjutant general; Mr. Anthony J. Tata, performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; and Ms. Heidi Grant, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency; attend a meeting with Mr. Abdellatif Loudiyi, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government, in charge of National Defense Administration at the ADN headquarters in Rabat. Below from left to right: Maj. Gen. Turley, Ms. Grant, Mr. Tata, Lieutenant General Abdelfatah Louarak, Inspector General, Chief of Defense, Moroccan Royal Armed Forces meet in General Louarak's office prior to the general session of the DCC. Also attending but not shown is Brig. Gen. Mark J. Hovatter, U.S. Africa Command Deputy Director, Plans and Strategic Integration (DJ5) to the 11th U.S.-Morocco Defense Consultative Committee in Rabat, Morocco on Jan. 12, 2021. — PHOTO COURTESY OF Moroccan Royal Armed Forces



Major General Michael J. Turley

## The Adjutant General



I recently read a book that made a profound impact on me. “*The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions And Bad Ideas Are Setting Up A Generation For Failure*” written by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt. The authors lay out an argument that endemic fallacies impair our thinking which impedes our

ability to work through problems. They frame their argument around three great “untruths”:

1. “What doesn’t kill you, makes you weaker.”
2. “Always trust your feelings, never question them.”
3. “Life is a battle between good people and evil people, if someone disagrees with you-they must be evil.”

Each of these fallacies is clear, but I also know we see them every day.

“What doesn’t kill you, makes you weaker.” Of course as military professionals, we know this isn’t true. We know that pain makes us stronger. We build our bodies through physical fitness regimens that are uncomfortable. We train repeatedly to gain proficiency. We challenge plans through debate and test through war gaming. We overcome seemingly impossible problems through tenacity and are stronger for it. This is similar to my long-held idea of intellectual accessibility. We must be accessible to outside thoughts-even ones we find uncomfortable. Our egos should not drive our decision-making nor should we be “triggered” by opposing ideas or seek intellectual “safe places” to ignore others’ ideas.

“Always trust your feelings, never question them.” This is similar to point one, the fallacy here is that human development is NOT based on testing your feelings to ensure they are rational, logical, or defensible. We know this from childhood. We “felt” that a monster lived in our closet, we tested that by asking our parents to check and they turned on the light to validate it. Feelings are only windows to reality. Feelings must be tested as we do in the scientific process: theorize, experiment, validate, and then adjust our theory. As we check our feelings against reality we find errors and correct them. As your parents may have told you: “You are welcome to your own opinions, but not your own facts.”

“Life is a battle between good people and evil people.” Currently in civil society, purity tests are applied all-over, if you argue for a social program: “you must be a communist” or if you make a point on immigration: “you must be a subversive racist.” This verbal “arson” destroys the goodwill that allows for compromise. There are many paths to nirvana, and there are many paths to a solution. We must respect other opinions and belief systems and we should test our own. I don’t argue for moral relativism as there are “truths which we find to be self-evident,” but we must respect, and for respect to work, it must be mutual. If you want it, you must give it.

Ideas and arguments are valuable. Each idea thoroughly argued and dissected, produces a better idea. Ideas create change. Change leads to progress. We in the military “tribe” know this. We know ideas that challenge us make us stronger. We test our thoughts and “feelings” to ensure there aren’t “monsters in our closets.” We don’t demonize those who differ with us because “scorched earth” tactics disallow compromise.

I encourage everyone to read “*The Coddling of the American Mind...*” Examine yourself and your arguments and encourage others to do so. I believe this will make our organization and our nation better. 🇺🇸

Command Sergeant Major Spencer Nielsen

## Senior Enlisted Leader



In my last contribution to the Minuteman, I highlighted the fact that a couple of vaccines had been developed to combat COVID-19, and that both demonstrated promising efficacy. Fast forward a few months, and we have around 2,000 members of the Utah National Guard family

who have received at least their first dose of the vaccine, and several others who have completed the series. This is an exciting period of time that perhaps marks the beginning of the end of COVID-19 pandemic. While we remain optimistic

that the end of the pandemic conditions is near, we must remain vigilant by continuing to adhere to the public safety measures directed by our leaders, elected officials, and other public health organizations.

The Utah National Guard has performed admirably over the past several months while performing a number of nonstandard missions in support of our nation, state and communities. While these missions have been atypical, our ability to answer the proverbial call to arms was not. We did what our organization has done on countless occasions. We demonstrated our flexibility, adaptability, and creativity in accomplishing complex mission sets in a professional and expert manner. Additionally, we shifted our focus to the pandemic priorities of preserving the force, anticipating the impact and future missions, and posturing for rapid deployment to support the needs of our fellow citizens. This effort and the resulting outcomes have been truly remarkable.

*continued*

Although it is premature to completely shift our focus from the pandemic priorities, it is prudent to re-emphasize the adjutant general's steady state priorities of readiness and lethality, partnerships and efficiencies as we envision the future. These priorities are broad, and are universally applicable to all elements of the Utah National Guard. While relevant to all units, to yield the most productive results, leaders at all levels must ask themselves how to best apply these priorities to prepare their elements for the future. We have a very diverse force structure within the Utah National Guard, and that question will likely result in equally diverse answers. Improving readiness and lethality in the 19th Special Forces Group will very likely result in different actions and initiatives from those taken by the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Essential partners for the 151st

Air Refueling Wing will likely have no overlap at all with the partners essential to the 65th Field Artillery Brigade. Leaders must translate these broad organizational priorities into specific actions and initiatives within their respective formations.

I remain exceptionally proud of the Utah National Guard. I am equally proud of our great Soldiers and Airmen and the extraordinary things they do on a consistent basis. While maintaining a sharp focus on our current missions, let's simultaneously set our sights to the future and prepare our people and formations for the anticipated needs of our state and nation. Thanks for all that each of you do to make our organization great. I look forward to seeing what we accomplish over the next quarter. 🇺🇸

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## FEATURE

### 16 A Peaceful Transition

At least 25,000 National Guard members were authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and district authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

## COVER PHOTO

Gov. Spencer Cox officially became Utah's 18th governor as he took the oath of office against a backdrop of red rock cliffs at the Tuacahn Center for the Arts Amphitheater in Ivins Jan. 4, 2021. Members of the Utah National Guard supported the inauguration with the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael J. Turley, as the master of ceremony; the Honor Guard presentation of colors; 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery members fire a 19-gun cannon salute; a four aircraft flyover by 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion; members of the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Team and other support personnel.

— PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy

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# MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RETIRED PAY FOR M-DAY SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN

## Army Guard Retirement

In the National Guard, as a qualified M-Day Soldier, you will receive retirement pay when you turn 60 years of age (or less in certain circumstances) - which could be up to 20 years later in life for some non-regular retirees. While it is more flexible than active duty, you do not want to procrastinate. The time to start your retirement process is not six months from retirement, but closer to 24. The more you prepare, the smoother the process will be. Retirement is a journey, not a destination.

Preparation is key, and as an Army National Guard member, you need to take into account a lot of different factors when preparing for retirement. You must have 20 qualifying years before you can submit a request for retirement (a minimum of 50 points per year based on your AYE – or your anniversary year ending date). You should review your Retirement Points Accounting Statement (RPAS) annually to ensure you are completing the minimum annual requirements. Once you reach 20 years, your service will formally notify you with a letter of eligibility (20 year NOE). This will be accompanied by your DD Form 2656-5, Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) election form, which must be filled out and returned within 90 days of receipt. You also need to ensure you know the point rules: one point for each day of Active Duty, up to 365 a year, but only 130 allowable for inactive points. You should understand the computation of retired pay, which can be done using specific formulas, or estimated using online calculators. Knowing the difference between separation/discharge, rather than transferring into the Retired Reserve, could save you thousands of dollars a year during your retirement. Your cost of living adjustment (COLA) remains intact as you enter the Retired Reserve. Are you under the Lump Sum, High-3, or Blended Retirement System plan? The list goes on, but your retirement is one of the single most important aspects of your military service and you should take care of it the same way you take care of your own Soldiers.

Once you complete your service and retire, you will be placed into the Retired Reserve, where you will stay until you reach the age of 60 (or less based on qualifying periods and the reduced age retirement program). This will allow your eventual retirement pay to continually be adjusted for COLA and longevity for rank. Separating completely will negate both of those benefits, locking you into your current rate, however, you will never run the risk of being recalled. The vast majority of personnel request retirement into the Retired Reserve.

Here are steps and a timeline that can help you:

- Once you reach 20 years of service, ensure you receive your NGB23D, which is your 20 year NOE. You will receive your DD Form 2656-5, at this time and should fill it out, and return it, within 90 days of receipt.
- 12-18 months before you decide to request retirement, ensure all your educational obligations are fulfilled or know the date they will be (GI Bill transfer, tuition assistance, etc.). If you have questions, contact the G1 Education office.
- **12-18 months before retirement:**
  - o Attend a monthly retirement brief (3rd Wednesday of every month).
  - o Work with your MACOM personnel office (S-1) and complete a retirement request using a DA Form 4187 Personnel Action template from the G1-enlisted site. You will enter your preferred retirement date on this request. Remember that your retirement date is subject to command discretion.
  - o Review your Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) record for accuracy. If incorrect, contact your MACOM RPAM NCO for corrections and to go over your record.
- **6 months before retirement:**
  - o Obtain a digital copy of your IPERMS and medical records.
- **4 months before retirement:**
  - o Ensure your DEERS account is updated, to include your dependent information.
  - o Create a DS LOGON, you'll use this once you lose access to any sites that require a CAC, as well as DFAS myPay, the VA and multiple sites outside of the usual DOD infrastructure.
  - o Confirm any outstanding debt/pay issues are resolved.
  - o Call Tricare for information on retired reserve medical coverage.
  - o Ensure your final evaluation (OER/NCOER) is completed and in IPERMS.
- **3 months before retirement:**
  - o Verify all supply items are turned in and get a signed copy of your property clearance memo showing completion.
- **1 month before retirement:**
  - o Verify your retirement paperwork is complete and in IPERMS. Finalize your NGB 23B, Retirement Points History Statement, and contact your MACOM Retirement Services Officer (RSO) for any last minute retirement questions.

- Once retired, you are considered to be in a "Gray Area," the time between your retired reserve time and the day you are eligible to apply for your pay and benefits at age 59 (or less if you qualify for the reduced age retirement).
- At age 59, you will apply for your benefits through U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC). You can do this autonomously, or with help from your RSO. If you would like to apply without help, it would be beneficial to go to the Gray

Area Retirements Branch at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/Gray%20Area%20Retirements%20Branch> and follow the online instructions. Ultimately, the onus is on you, the service member.

- At any time, contact the RSO for any questions/concerns you have about your retirement, or its processes. You can find your RSO's contact information by going to the following page: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Retirement/rso>.

Retirement is a journey, not a destination! 📧  
— ARTICLE BY Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Cahoon and Mr. Frank Labare

## Air Guard Retirement

**H**eadquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (HQ ARPC), based out of Buckley AFB in Aurora, Colorado processes all Air National Guard retirements. The myPers website (<https://mypers.af.mil>) is the number one resource Air National Guard members have in order to plan, prepare, and apply for retirement. In order to retire, an ANG member must meet eligibility requirements and must then apply for retirement through the vPC Dashboard on the MyPers website. Members will need to apply for retirement at least 6 months in advance and no earlier than one year from projected retirement date. A waiver letter with justification signed by the Unit Commander will be required if applying with less than 6 months of notice.

### Reserve Retirement Eligibility for Traditional (DSG) Retirements:

To attain eligibility for retired pay, normally at age 60, traditional airman must complete at least 20 years of satisfactory service. A satisfactory service year is defined by earning at least 50 retirement points, including membership points, for each full retention/retirement year.

The Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay letter (NERP), commonly referred to as the 20 year letter, is issued by HQ ARPC approximately 120 days after the close-out of the 20th retention/retirement (R/R) year. If you are able to access your NERP, you are eligible to retire. This document will be also be used as proof of eligibility for space-available travel on military aircraft. To retrieve a copy of the 20-year letter, service members can log into the vPC Dashboard through myPers. Once in the Dashboard, click on the 'Action Requests' tab, and then click on the 'Request a 20 Year Letter (Reissue)' link.

### Preparing for Retirement:

Determine your highest grade held. You will need to provide proof of highest grade held and an explanation of any demotions by attaching your promotion and/or demotion orders in your retirement application.

Review and take steps to correct all information on the vMPF including: awards and decorations, duty history, TDY history, vRED, points, and all personal data.

Make sure you print or download a copy of your military personnel records prior to your effective date, thereafter you

will no longer have access to ARMS or PRDA. It is important to print copies of all your documents including: DD 214s, NGB 22s, promotion orders, special awards and decorations.

Make sure all previous DD 214s have been created. A DD214 can only be created for initial Active Duty Training (IADT), orders for a named contingency or any active duty orders over 90 continuous days. In order to have them created, submit a DD 214 request sheet to the 151 FSS Military Personnel Section on the second floor of bldg. 210. Please do not wait until the last minute to turn in DD 214 requests. They take time to be completed.

Your medical records are currently stored with the 151 MDG, bldg. 303. Get a copy of your medical records from 151 MDG before you retire. After retirement your medical and dental records will be sent to Department of Veterans Affairs in St. Louis ([archives.gov](http://archives.gov)) and accessing them will be difficult.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) attendance highly encouraged for DSGs. TAP is a program designed to assist military members retiring. TAP is a week-long course. The closest TAP classes are held at Hill AFB. You can schedule an appointment by calling 801-777-4681. This program will go over VA benefits, financial preparation, job search, Tricare, and more.

During TAP, you will meet with a VA representative from Hill AFB. They can help you get records together for disability claims.

Consider your options for continued life insurance. Your current SGLI will continue for 120 days after your retirement date for free. This gives you time to convert to a civilian insurance. Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is an option with prices that are based on age and coverage. No medical questionnaire is required for VGLI. Be sure to research all insurance options to get the best coverage for you.

Before retired pay can start, you will need to submit a completed DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel, to ARPC. Reserve retirees (DSGs) should submit their DD 2656 to ARPC four months prior to their 60th birthday (or reduced retirement pay age, if applicable).

Visit the myPers website for more in-depth information about retirements as well as other useful articles, resources and tools to assist in managing your career.

— ARTICLE BY Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Fleury

# Holistic Health and Fitness

The United States Army has been at war for more than two decades. The effects of this high operational tempo are seen in the overall health and welfare of its Soldiers. As of “April 2020, 58,400 Soldiers were non-deployable, with 16,500 on temporary profile and 15,000 on permanent profile” (H2F Operating Concept, 2020). In order to combat these staggering numbers, the Army has developed the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) System. It bridges the gaps left by traditionally separate realms of fitness and medicine, in order to create a more flexible and lethal force. The system approaches health and fitness by empowering Soldiers to take care of themselves from the ground up. This idea is meant to change the culture of

reaction, into a culture of prevention. By enabling Soldiers to take command of their own health along with guidance from certified health professionals, the U.S. Army will see Soldiers lasting for careers rather than enlistments. H2F consists of five domains: physical, mental, spiritual, sleep and nutrition. This article will cover each one briefly and how it will effect leaders and Soldiers of the Utah National Guard.

Physical fitness has been the backbone of militaries throughout history. This is why the “overarching physical training goal is movement lethality—the ability to physically engage with and destroy the enemy” (FM7-22, 2020). Leaders and Soldiers need to start looking at themselves as “tactical



## Soldier Lethality

Physical Readiness			Mental Toughness	
Governance	Program	Equipment and Facilities	Personnel	Leader Education
Command and control Regulations, policies and doctrine Strategic program assessment Quality assurance Accountability Resourcing	Individualized, METL-driven, periodized training and testing Physical and non-physical performance readiness Prevention, rehabilitation, and far-forward treatment	Soldier Performance Readiness Center Army Combat Fitness Test equipment and field Deployable performance equipment Treatment sets	Physical therapist Occupational therapist Registered dietitian Strength and endurance coach Athletic trainer Holistic health and fitness coach	Initial military training Army Physical Fitness School Professional military education Civilian certification Undergraduate and graduate education

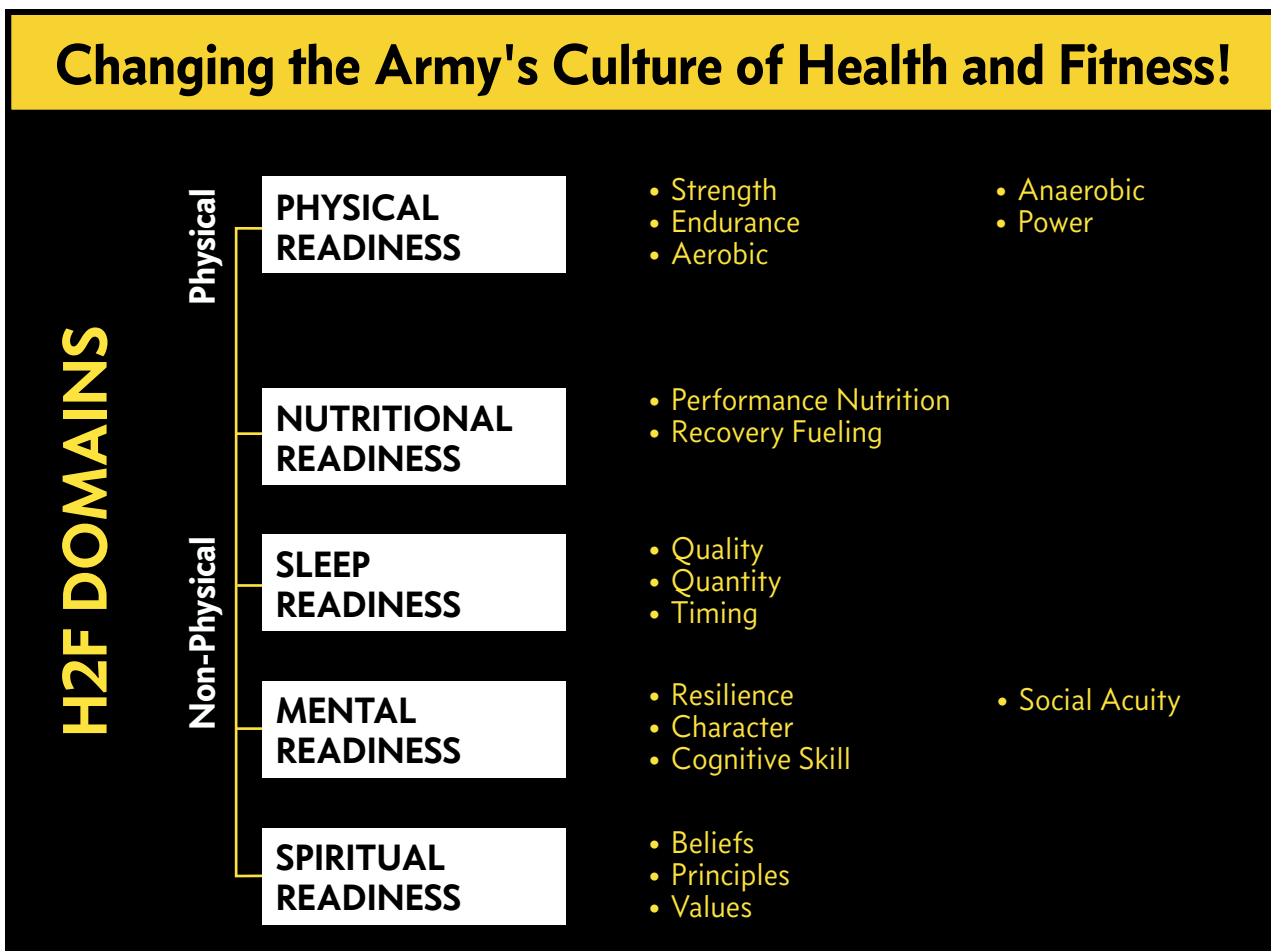
athletes." This shift in mindset ensures that Soldiers will no longer prepare for a three-event health assessment, but an overall readiness to deploy at short notice. Tactical athletes require a broad set of physical skills from power, speed, strength, muscular endurance, aerobic endurance and agility. This allows tactical athletes the capability to be not only mission ready for all environments, but also to be resilient to both acute and chronic injury. The ability to tolerate physical stress correlates directly with mental toughness and the ability to push onward. The Army Combat Fitness Test is a small part of H2F where Soldiers are now expected to train as athletes, preparing to negotiate complex battlefields. In order to facilitate smarter, military occupational specialty specific programming to the forces, the Army will deploy strength and conditioning coaches in tandem with unit-level Master Fitness Trainers.

Mental resiliency has long been touted as necessary by our initiatives and training. In the past, it has been viewed as a tool in the tool belt to help solve the intricate health issues associated with stress, through programs like Master Resiliency Training. The mental domain now takes mental resiliency a step further by providing cognitive training to ensure Soldiers are capable of making fast complex decisions, under duress. Cognitive enhancement specialists and sport psychologists will be deployed in tandem with strength and conditioning coaches to create mental training in order to build faster cognitive thought processes. These skills will be used in all aspects from live-fire events, to stress-management practices at home.

Spirituality allows Soldiers and their families to develop principles and personal beliefs. "Spiritual readiness includes an individual's or group's

ability to maintain beliefs, principles, and values needed to provide support in times of stress. These personal qualities may come from religious, philosophical or human values, and often form the basis for character, disposition, decision making, and integrity" (FM7-22). Chaplains will continue to be utilized at the unit-level and will play a greater role in helping Soldiers find support both in garrison and on deployment.

Sleep is the critical requirement for brain health and function. "Sleep readiness is the ability to recognize and implement the requisite sleep principles and behaviors to support optimal brain function" (FM7-22, 2020). Sleep readiness also enhances the Soldier's ability to meet the goals of both combat and non-combat positions. Sleep is a vital role in order for Soldiers to recover not only mentally but physically. Sleep functions as one of the primary mechanisms in order to create a better athlete; providing as vital of a role as nutrition and training. Health problems from lack of sleep can be traced to greater post-traumatic stress disorder, risk, anxiety, depression and





traumatic-brain injuries. The body is also unable to recover and repair the damage done to muscles and bones if proper sleep is not provided. Paired with civilian sectors, such as universities and medical facilities, H2F in the UTNG could have the ability to analyze and correct poor sleep habits, thus leading to greater performance on and off the battlefield.

In order for Soldiers to perform optimally as well as recover, they need proper nutrition. The National Guard as a whole faces this problem as many Soldiers do not have the proper nutrition training. In a 2018 report titled *Unhealthy and Unprepared*, it was estimated that 31 percent of the current U.S. population ages 17-24 are disqualified from enlistment due to obesity. The U.S. is estimated to surpass 42.5 percent obesity rates by 2030. This will severely limit the recruiting pool of the National Guard and Active components. Utilizing registered dietitians, strength and conditioning coaches and unit-level MFTs, Soldiers will be enabled to avoid becoming a statistic. Tertiary effects will also ensure that a cultural shift is made impacting Soldiers, families and communities. In order to preform like a tactical athlete, the Utah National Guard will need to focus on getting Soldiers to start to eat like athletes.

How H2F will look for the National Guard is still under construction and will look different for each state. But H2F will be the system that overseas all aspects of Utah National Guard human performance. By looking at the five domains as a system, rather than a series of singular compartments, Soldiers will have access to better training and less injury. As the modern battlefield changes and near-peer threats increase,

National Guard Soldiers will not have time to train up during a pre-mobilization in order to be combat effective. In the end the H2F system will be a process. Over the course of the next year, H2F coordinators across the country will begin focusing on hot-spot problems specific to their units and states. Combining the five domains of Holistic Health and Fitness with certified professionals, Soldiers will ensure they are prepared for the challenges ahead. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY Staff Sgt. Mark White  
Utah State H2F coordinator



**Hot Italian Lettuce Wrap** (Prep time: 10-15 minutes Cook time: 15-20 minutes)

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 pound hot Italian vegetarian sausage, turkey burger, or other ground meat
- 1-15 oz. can of pineapple tidbits
- 1/4 c teriyaki sauce or glaze
- 1/4 c soy sauce (less sodium)
- 1 T seasoned rice vinegar
- 1-2 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1-2 tsp of ginger (grated)
- 1 bundle green onions (chopped)
- cashews or peanuts (chopped)
- cilantro (chopped)
- 1 jalapeno (chopped)
- 1 carrot (shredded)
- pepper (to taste)

**DIRECTIONS:** Heat large skillet on medium-high heat. Drizzle olive or avocado oil on hot skillet and cook meat for 8-10 minutes, or until brown. While the meat is cooking, prepare the sauce and toppings. Drain pineapple tidbits and reserve 3 T of juice. For the sauce, mix together teriyaki sauce, pineapple juice, rice vinegar, pepper, grated ginger, and minced garlic. Prepare garnish and toppings: carrots, cilantro, cashews, jalapeno, green onion. Once the meat is cooked, add sauce to sausage and cook until thickened; add as many pineapple tidbits as wanted. Wash and pat dry buttered lettuce for lettuce wraps. Once the sauce and meat mixture has thickened, remove from heat. Add filling to lettuce leaves and add your toppings. Eat and enjoy.

# Economic Stress and the Life-Cycle Hypothesis

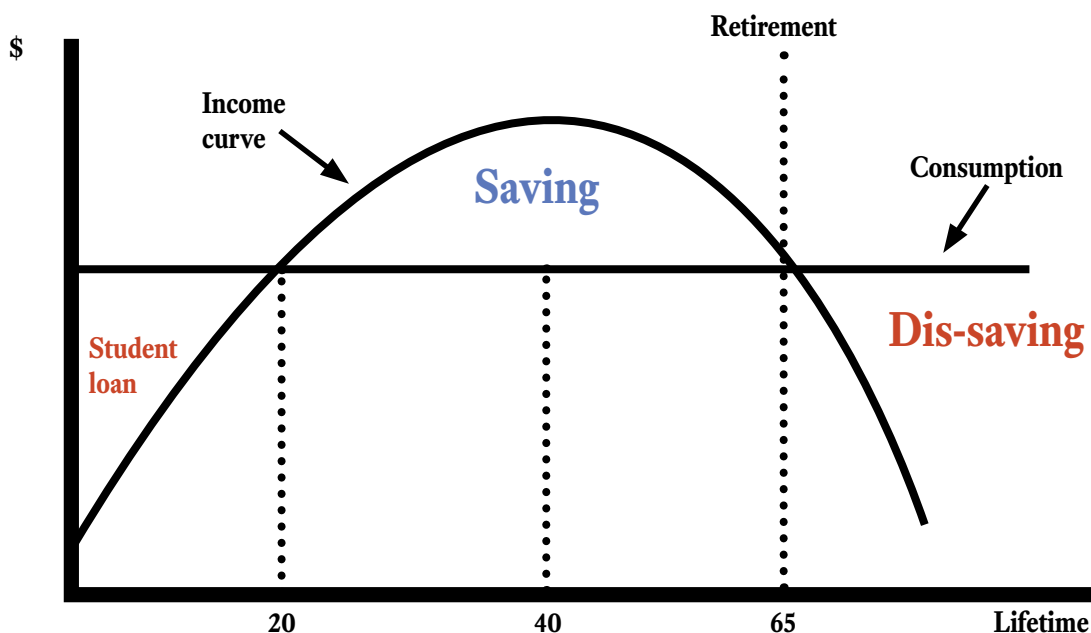
**Economic Stress and the Life-Cycle Hypothesis: How the family economic life cycle can better assist military families to cope with economic stress.**

## The Life-Cycle Hypothesis and Early Family Formation: Creating the Barbell Family Economy.

The Life-Cycle Hypothesis as explained by the proprietors Franco Modigliani and Richard Brumberg, is a theory of spending based on the idea that people make intelligent choices about how much they want to spend at each phase of life (early, middle and older/retired life), limited only by the resources available over their lives. Individual behavior is defined as an attempt to “smooth out” consumption (see straight line on graph) over one’s lifetime somewhat independent of current levels of income. The young stage along with the old stage show a greater tendency to consume as they “borrow” against future income (in the case of young families) and utilize savings in the retired family. Middle-age people have a greater tendency to save and a lower tendency to consume enhanced by higher incomes.

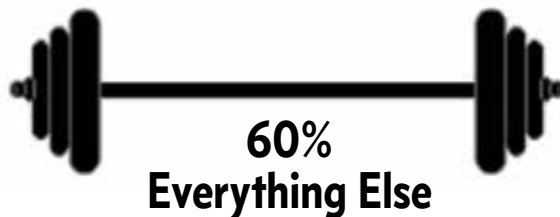
Young families and individuals commonly manifest consumption patterns that exceed their incomes. These types of household consumption expenditures take the form of student loan debt to support career formation, taking out a mortgage loan to buy a new home, and starting a family which might involve some consumer debt. This can often lead to a household having a negative net worth. Is this bad? Not to sound too much like an attorney but it depends. A young family getting into a modest home is generally a wise purchase provided they plan to stay there over a longer period. Likewise, the return on investment in one’s higher education attainments can and should lead to increased job stability and higher incomes through the life cycle. Both serve to increase debt in the short term, but also lay the foundation for higher income and greater job stability in the future.

Still, there exists financial risks that even the most diligent and hardworking young families might experience while borrowing from the future to meet present expenditures. Such risks, for example, over-leverage in the face of economic shocks, could weaken a family’s financial resilience and increase related stress. Whether it is a job loss, healthcare crisis, divorce or other unforeseen events, young military families are not immune to suffering the effects of financial hardship.



www.economicshelp.org

**20%**  
**Debt-to-Income**



**20%**  
**Regular Savings**

### How can financial planning assist these families as a coping resource?

First: Establish a sound debt management plan that when implemented diligently would provide the young family a simple yet effective personal finance structure with which to follow. Setting credit goals and establishing debt limits are a key part of this plan. The debt-to-income ratio could be used to restrict debt to 20 percent of the young family's income. This may appear to be too restrictive for a young family to obtain especially given the high costs of housing etc. However, the 20 percent of gross debt limit provides an intelligent guardrail against which the young couple could not only avoid potentially harmful problems, but also from which they could build a more prosperous financial future.

Second: Begin saving from current income to prepare for financial emergencies and then pivot to longer-term goals. Consider establishing a serial savings amount and increasing that accordingly as income increases to reach a stated goal. This could begin with a percentage of gross income, for instance three percent of income increased annually (or sooner) to pace

increases with higher future income. Saving provides a sense of economic control and serves as a safeguard or a coping resource in the even of economic stress such as unemployment or health crisis. Families who employ systematic money management strategies such as 20 percent debt levels and 20 percent savings levels, especially during times of economic crises, more successfully reduce or eliminate financially-related stress for years to come. When habits of record-keeping, goal setting and saving are established and practiced through out such time periods, families face fewer finance related arguments and greater financial resilience. 📖

— ARTICLE BY David Gallman

### References:

- Bush, K. R., & Price, C. A. (2021). *Families & CHANGE: Coping with stressful events and transitions*. (pp. 552-559). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Ando, A. & Modigliani, F. (1963). *The life cycle hypothesis of saving: Aggregate implications and tests*. *The American Economic Review*, 53(1), 55-84.

## Service Member and Family Assistance

The Service member and Family Assistance Team is your point of contact for all things regarding Family Assistance and Family Readiness.

The Soldier and Family Readiness Group will be maintained by the commanders of each individual unit, company, team or battery. The SFA team provides training and record maintenance, as well as guidance to command teams.

### FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

1. Blanding	801-678-2008
2. Bluffdale	801-878-5959
3. Bluffdale	801-878-5037
4. Cedar City	435-867-6513
5. Draper	801-432-4522
6. Draper	801-432-6513
7. Logan / Ogden	801-476-3811
8. Richfield/Cedar City	435-896-6442
9. SLC (Wright Air Base)	801-245-2524
10. Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
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## U.S. Capitol night before the 59th Presidential Inauguration

The U.S. Capitol Building sits quietly lit up the night before the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women have been authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and district authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Sgt. Jordan Hack









**59<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION MISSION -** Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, First Lady Abby Cox, Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson and Maj. Gen. Michael Turley gather with Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah National Guard Response Force and 151st Security Force Squadron in the Utah State Capitol Rotunda Jan. 17, 2021. The Guard members were assigned to support civil authorities at the State Capitol to protect lives, property and the right of fellow citizens to peacefully assemble and protest, leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

PHOTO BY Sgt. Ariel Solomon

# A Peaceful Transition





Concertina wire lines the top of a steel barricade around the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19, 2021, prior to the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

— PHOTO BY Sgt. Jordan Hack

On Tuesday morning, Jan. 12, 2021, news networks across the nation started reporting that around 25,000 National Guard service members from all 50 states, and some territories, would be activated. Those Soldiers were being sent to Washington D.C. for a historic mission to support the upcoming 59th Presidential Inauguration. While news stations were reporting the activations, Utah National Guard service members' phones started ringing across the state. Their leaders were relaying the warning order: Pack your bags and report to the armory. We are going.

For some, the call was anticipated, but most Soldiers expected to be supporting security operations locally in Utah. However, for the Soldiers of Utah's 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery (also called the Triple Deuce), their mission came as a bit of a surprise. The national command authority requested each state to send service members to support the National Capital Region. Their mission...to protect lives and



U.S. Soldiers with the Utah National Guard enter the grounds at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C., Jan. 18, 2021.

— PHOTO BY Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Houston

property, and help civil authorities ensure the success of one of the bedrock institutions of American democracy: A peaceful transition of presidential authority. Task Force Utah consisted of the Triple Deuce; the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade; 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery; and support from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Within 72 hours, all of them would all be in the nation's capital.

"I need your all. I need your discipline. This is your time, right now, for the legacy of the 222nd," said battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sherratt, 2-222nd FA, as he spoke to his Soldiers moments before they boarded the bus to the airport. Sherratt had spent a whirlwind 72 hours getting his Soldiers and their equipment ready for this historic mission. "Getting here was a big undertaking. I was at the Armory about 8 a.m. when I got the [official] call. 24 hours later, were took accountability and left for Camp Williams."

Spc. Andrew Bass, a fire direction control specialist with Bravo Battery, 2-222nd FA, was also organizing his affairs as fast as possible to be able to depart on such short notice. Bass is a self-employed marketing consultant in Southern Utah with clients all over the nation.

"I got a call just 24 hours before going to the armory. Then I got a text from my section chief on WhatsApp. I had a date planned that night with my wife," Bass quipped. This would be his first deployment.

"Our leadership did an extremely good job of putting information out for us. We had everything we needed for a packing list," Bass added. Upon arriving at the armory, Sherratt, Bass and the remainder of the Triple Deuce conducted inspections on their equipment and loaded a bus for a four-hour ride from Cedar City to Camp Williams, Bluffdale, Utah.

At Camp Williams, Bass and other Soldiers quickly shuffled through supply, signing for additional gear and identifying any missing equipment. They conducted health screenings, updated emergency contact information, received a rapid COVID-19 test and screening, and were given the opportunity to receive the new COVID-19 vaccine.

"Our active-guard-reserve (AGR) members in our brigade did an amazing job to organize and plan everything and get the wheels rolling to get us here in such a short amount of time," Sherratt commented.

Task Force Utah landed at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland in the middle of a rainy night. After loading and unloading equipment multiple times between buses, Sherratt, Bass and the rest of Utah's Soldiers were shuffled through in-processing briefings provided by the D.C. National Guard. Soldiers were sworn in as special police, given credentialing, taught the mission's rules of force—should there be any conflict—and provided a meal. Most of the Soldiers didn't arrive at their hotel rooms till 4 a.m. the next morning.



U.S. Soldiers with the Utah National Guard move out after their shift change in Washington D.C., Jan. 17, 2021. At least 25,000 National Guard men and women were authorized to conduct security, communication and logistical missions in support of federal and district authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration. — PHOTO BY Spc. Christopher Hall

“We know how to manage ourselves, we just did it, and no one complained,” Bass remarked, commenting on the professionalism of a Utah National Guard Soldier.

Task Force Utah was assigned to the James Madison Memorial Building. As a part of the Library of Congress complex, the Madison Building sits just southeast of the U.S. Capitol Building and directly south of the Thomas Jefferson Building, the more famous building within the Library of Congress complex. The Soldiers of Task Force Utah quickly linked up with their civilian counterparts, the Capitol Police, to see how they could be of assistance. The whole inaugural zone was surrounded by steel fences with Concertina wire attached to the top. With the capitol in view, and standing guard with their Capitol Police counterparts, Bass, Sherratt, and Task Force Utah set up operations, began rotational shifts, and prepared for the January 20th inauguration.

“We knew we were in the public eye, we adapted to the situation and everyone was respectful and professional to the

utmost of their ability,” Bass said, while the words of Sherratt were on his mind. Bass had joined the military because he had heard the legacy of the Triple Deuce and its integral role in Ramadi, Iraq, and during the Korean War. He wanted to be a part of that legacy.

The Capitol Police “were happy we were there. One officer I spoke with, who lived in D.C. for 30 years, did not expect anything like [the Capitol attack] could happen. He was one [of the officers on duty] who went to pull out some of the Congressmen from the Capitol,” Bass recalled. For many Soldiers like Bass, hearing the account of the Capitol Police gave new depth to what they had seen on the news a few weeks prior. With the supplementation of Task Force Utah and the National Guard to provide security, the Capitol Police expressed gratitude for responding so quickly to the request for help.

“Our mission was to protect people, property, and prevent disturbance. If there was anything unusual, we reported it up to

the Capitol Police so they could handle the situation,” Bass said.

The quick response of 25,000 Guardsmen generated concerns around the nation about the National Guard’s ability to house and feed its service members. News networks had previously shown images of Soldiers sleeping on marble floors of the capitol building. Bass was quick to answer from his experiences. Soldiers of Task Force Utah operated on 24-hour shifts, after which they could they could return to hotels and get showers, quality sleep, and prepare for their next rotation.

“We were taken care of,” Bass said. “We had everything we needed. We always had good communication on where we would be staying, where we would be eating. I had no concerns. Our leadership was fantastic.”

Although state and national-level leaders ensured that Soldiers had Meals Ready-to-Eat and boxed meals, local businesses pooled together and generously provided to the local Soldiers.

“One business donated 20 pounds of wings to us,” Sherratt said. Utah’s Congressman Chris Stewart and his staff provided 120 pizzas for Guardsmen, with other local businesses donating pizzas as well. The outpouring of support from the local community had shown the gratitude of people, and helped boost the morale of the Soldiers.

The days leading up to inaugural day were full of specialized training by the Capitol Police on how to respond to situations, and Soldiers standing at their guarding stations. The Soldiers of Task Force Utah were well prepared for worst-case scenario, yet hoped for best-case scenario. Throughout rotations, riot shields, helmets and shin guards could be seen propped against the wall next to a marble statue of James Madison, in the James Madison Building. A site surreal to see.

To the reassurance of Bass and the rest of Task Force Utah, the streets surrounding the capitol remained calm. Despite the interruption of fences and police temporarily shutting down

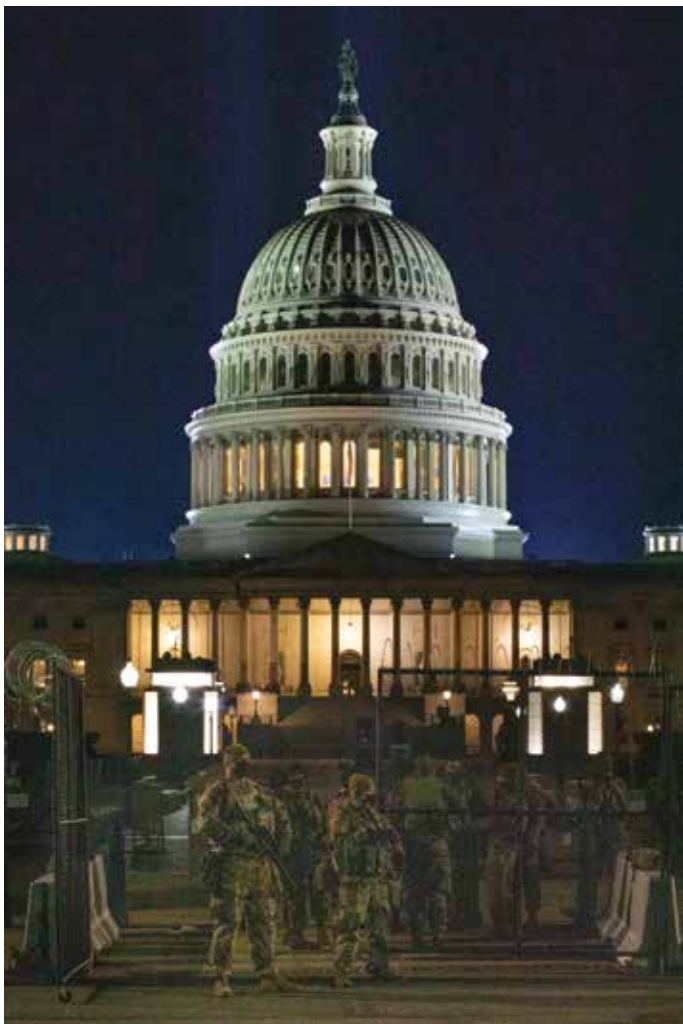


U.S. Soldiers with the Utah National Guard stand watch in Washington D.C., Jan. 18, 2021, in support of federal and district authorities leading up and through the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

— PHOTO BY Spc. Christopher Hall

roads and bridges leading into the capital, especially the closer to inauguration day, local residents seemed to carry on as usual. Soldiers could see citizens walking their dogs, jogging and riding bikes, and enjoying their afternoons in downtown. Occasionally, citizens who had likely experienced previous inaugurations would stop to take pictures and document the unique nature of this historic event. Bass reports that one elderly lady said to him through the fence, “I am sorry you are here, but we are thankful you can be here.” To everyone’s sigh of relief, as inaugural day took place, there were no disturbances. Soldiers could see the ceremonies as the Army Band marched by, the 3rd Infantry Regiment proudly marched through in ceremonial uniforms, and even saw Marine One fly overhead to pick up the outgoing president. A peaceful transition of power took place. Their mission, however, still continued the next few days to ensure no disturbances would follow. As before, all was calm.

Members of Task Force Utah, in the days following the inauguration, were visited by senators and representatives from their home state. Sens. Mike Lee, and Mitt Romney and Reps. Chris Steward and Burgess Owens visited with the Soldiers of Task Force Utah over the course of two days. Each of the members of Congress took time to walk the security lines, visit with Soldiers, and share personal experiences. Romney, after giving fist bumps to Soldiers who were standing duty, discussed with one Soldier his favorite place to eat in Logan, Utah, to get the best pancakes. One Soldier had the privilege of being promoted by Lee during a promotion ceremony. Owens, a former NFL Super Bowl recipient with the Oakland Raiders, had his photo taken with Soldiers wearing his Super Bowl ring. Stewart, whose father was an Air Force pilot, presented two flags of the United States that had flown over the capitol to Soldiers within Task Force Utah. Each member of Congress also



U.S. Soldiers with the Iowa National Guard, provide security near the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., Jan. 19, 2021.

A U.S. Soldier with the National Guard examines a perimeter fence outside the U.S. Capitol, Jan. 19, 2021.



— PHOTOS BY Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Houston and Spc. Christopher Hall

shared what Jan. 6 was like for them during the attack on the capitol building.

“It makes me happy to know that while in my home away from home, I am being guarded from people in my home state,” Lee said while addressing Soldiers during his visit. Lee’s wife, Sharon, also addressed the troops expressing gratitude for Task Force Utah, that because of them her husband gets to come home.

“Your being here and showing the strength that you have, has...given us a peaceful transition of power...and that is key for the preservation of democracy,” commented Romney.

When asked to describe his understanding of his enlistment oath to defend the U.S. Constitution, Bass reflected on the Vietnam War Memorial and Korean War Memorial he had seen while in D.C.

“These men....took the same oath and went out and defended it. We were happy to do what we needed to do,” said Bass.

For Bass, however, the feeling of carrying live ammunition in his vest while watching American citizens walk around was surreal. Thankfully, there was no need for any of the 25,000 troops to load their weapons. Bass hopes to return to Washington D.C. with his family and share with his children where he was during the 59th Presidential Inauguration. For Bass, he said his leadership was professional and positive throughout the entire mission which greatly helped them contribute to the success of this historic constitutional event.

Sherratt concludes the mission saying, “The Deuce was stellar. They were professional. They looked the part, they acted the part, they lived up to their legacy.” Sherratt specifically wanted to mentioned the true heroes of this mission were the families and employers of the Soldiers who also had to step up with a 72- hour notice to support the mission from back home. “We talk about how fast we got going, but they picked up the slack. Without them in this operation, we could not do what we do.” 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY Capt. Jeffrey Dallin Belnap



A U.S. Soldier with the Utah National Guard speaks with Capital Police while working together supporting the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C., Jan. 18, 2021.

— PHOTO BY Spc. Christopher Hall

## Little Rays of Hope and Light

“There were always choices to make. Every day, every hour, offered the opportunity to make a decision, a decision which determined whether you would or would not submit to those powers which threatened to rob you of your very self, your inner freedom; which determined whether or not you become the plaything to circumstance, renouncing freedom and dignity.”  
— Viktor E. Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

It is spring. The birds are chirping. The tulips are poking their arms through the cold soil. The days are getting a little bit longer. There is the soft familiar feeling of hope that comes with spring. A year ago, many of us may have missed the signs and wonders of spring, of hope. Spring 2021 has re-ignited hope and excitement.

Some are hoping that what was will be again.

Breaking news...What was will never be again.

That is what many are holding onto as their “hope”; a return to what was.

Over the last year, I have witnessed great and positive transformations in service members, spouses, and families of the Utah National Guard. Figuring out what values they hold. Choosing to prioritize those values. Spending more time with those who are most important. Weeding out the “energy vampires.” Focusing on blessings. Being a blessing. While many have struggled during the pandemic many chose to flourish instead of flounder, rise above the angst rather than feel defeated.

Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl understood that we have a choice in how we respond to every opportunity or circumstance that comes our way.

I have a front row seat to watch the amazing accomplishments of the members of the UTNG not only in taking care of missions, but also stepping up in your families, with your children, and with your spouses.

If you're thinking, “That does not include me. I failed,” I

would ask that you find the bright spots over the last year. No doubt you learned things about yourself, you prioritized, and you identified your values and made choices in light of those values. Now close your eyes and find a little ray of hope in each one of those areas. That's right. There it is. 2020 was strange, very strange. But it was not bad. It was not a dumpster fire that some are saying it was.

And if we focus on the light of the past and look forward with the light of hope as our guide, you will find that all those lessons that you learned are still available.

Don't give up.

Hope is out there.

Hope is in you.

Hope is in all the pieces and people in your life.

Be like the tulip poking their heads, shoulders, knees and toes out of the soil ready to bloom and be the first brave soul to break the tyranny of the cold soil.

This is Life Encouraged. 📧

— Andrea Phillips, LCSW Program Manager

**Spring of 2021 has re-ignited hope and excitement.**

**Don't give up.  
Hope is out there.  
Hope is in you.  
Hope is in all the pieces and people in your life.**

Utah Military Family Life Consultants provides no-cost counseling services to Utah National Guard service members and their families. Contact a MFLC for more information:

Andrea Phillips, Program Manager: 801-432-4622 Draper  
Bruce Jenkins: 801-878-5480 Camp Williams

Jake Vickrey: 801-716-9228 Draper and Camp Williams  
CJ Gibbs: 435-867-6518 Cedar City and St. George

# It Starts With Me

Just prior to Pioneer Day weekend of 2020, the Utah National Guard introduced the “It Starts with Me” initiative. This initiative is a realization that the sustained excellence of our organization is the responsibility of each and every one of us. When I was a young training NCO, I had a poster hanging in my office that read, “Don’t sit around and wait for somebody to do something someday to improve your organization. Someday is now and that somebody is you.” That is the essence of It Starts with Me—that we all have a vested interest in the future success of our organization, and that each of us has the power to make our organization better. As temporary custodians of the culture, readiness, and excellence of our formations, it is incumbent on each of us to ensure continued success of our organization. Organizational improvement and sustained excellence doesn’t happen by chance or coincidence. It must be worked for, and defended by every member of our team on a consistent basis. We are the stewards of the military profession. A profession esteemed and respected by the American People. Like any profession, it is preserved through trust—the bedrock of any profession. We don’t have the luxury of an enduring relationship of trust with the society or the members of our ranks. It must be earned. Key aspects of the It Starts with Me initiative that I want to highlight in this article include professionalism and trust, the dangers within, ownership, and empowerment.

## Professionalism, Trust, and the Military Profession

In order to understand our obligation to stewards of our profession, it is important to understand the essential characteristics that virtually all professions share. Chapter 1 of *Army Doctrine Publication 6-22, Army Leadership and the Profession*, does a good job of highlighting the essential characteristics of traditional professions (all quotes in this section are taken from that chapter). First, professions “provide a vital service to society, requiring expertise and skill developed through years of training, education, and experience... [and they] establish standards of practice and certify that their members are qualified to serve the needs of society.” Essentially, a profession provides a service to society that they cannot easily perform themselves and members of any profession go through a certification process set forth by the profession.



Spc. Dockstader with 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation providing ammunition support to Apaches stationed in Herat, Afghanistan.

— PHOTO COURTESY OF  
1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation



Utah National Guard’s Soldiers and Airmen attached to Joint Task Force 97 COVID-19 test for COVID-19 at a mobile testing site at the Department of Health Cannon Building.

— PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy



The second characteristic is quite straightforward in that a profession is comprised of professionals. Professionals “accept the responsibility to be stewards of the people and resources entrusted to them by society...” For the military profession, this is a tremendous responsibility. Society trusts us with its most precious resource—the sons and daughters of America. This responsibility requires our utmost care and dedication. Professionals also “cooperate as members with a common purpose higher than individual gratification.” The idea that the organizational mission is more important than any individual is a key aspect of any profession, and is vitally important to ours. This facet of a professional is ingrained in our service values of service before self in the Air Force, and selfless service in the Army.

The next characteristic of a profession is that its members “self-police and must live by an ethic with both legal and moral foundations. A professional ethic provides the set of moral principles that guide decisions and actions in professional practice.” This component is also rooted in our service values. The Air Force values of integrity first and excellence in all we do highlight the commitment of Airmen and Air Force civilians to the organization and its mission. Within the Army, the values of duty, honor, integrity, and personal courage provide the basis of our legal and moral foundation to preserve the profession. Professions cannot effectively accomplish their purpose if members act contrary to their organizational values and ethic. Finally, the requisite basis of any profession is a foundation of trust. “[S]ociety trusts professions and grants them autonomy and discretion with prudent, balanced oversight or external controls.” As previously mentioned, trust is earned, and takes years to establish. Once that trust is violated, it is extremely difficult to reestablish. As stated in the ADRP, “If a profession

violates its ethic and loses the trust of society, it becomes subject to increased societal regulation and governance.” Trust is truly the foundation of the military profession, and we cannot successfully operate or accomplish our missions without trust established between our members, leaders, elected officials, and society.

### The Dangers Within

The mission of the United States military is essentially to deter aggression, and when necessary, fight and win our nation’s wars. We are currently faced with a number of external threats, many of which are extremely complex and constantly evolving. We must be prepared to face these threats, and if necessary, defeat them in multi-domain and large-scale combat operations. While these threats are very real and very dangerous, we must simultaneously address the dangers within that are equally real, and equally dangerous.

Two destructive forces are converging that are threatening to erode trust and consume readiness within our formations. These dangers within present an acute internal threat to our profession and we must address them if we are to more effectively face our external threats. These destructive behaviors are sexual misconduct and extremism. Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and prohibited relationships of a sexual nature. Extremism is a board term that includes racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance, and also includes a member’s participation in activities advocating or teaching the overthrow of the U.S. Government by force or violence, or seeking to alter the form of government by unconstitutional means. Until properly addressed, these two issues will continue to wear away at the trust that is the foundation of our military profession. It is the responsibility of



Parachute riggers from the 19th Special Forces Group create fabric masks to protect Utah National Guard Soldiers during the COVID-19 pandemic April 15, 2020 on Camp Williams. Masks are based on instructions from University of Florida Health, using two layers of tightly woven cotton fabric.

— PHOTO BY Sgt. Ariel Solomon



Members of the Utah National Guard sort medical supplies at a staging warehouse, May 14, 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah. More than 120 Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah National Guard are assisting in the COVID-19 response, including supply and warehouse management, logistics and testing.

— PHOTO BY Tech Sgt. John Winn

each of us to address these issues, rid them from our formations, and hold others accountable who threaten the legal and moral foundations of our profession.

### Ownership and Empowerment

Ownership is comprised of two equally important components. The first is responsibility, and the second is accountability. As I state in my leadership philosophy, “each of us is accountable for that which we are responsible. Take ownership of your responsibilities, perform your duties and obligations, be accountable, and get results.” Obtaining positive results is the crux of ownership. We must take pride in being members of the Utah National Guard. We must also have the profound realization that as temporary stewards of the organization, we are not only responsible for maintaining its legacy, but we are also accountable to those who have come before for us, those with which we currently serve, and perhaps more importantly, those that will become heir to the organization after we leave. While we have ownership, let’s fill the space of our duty positions, get results, and make the Utah National Guard the very best organization we possibly can.

Merriam-Webster define empowerment as “the granting of the power, right, or authority to perform various acts or duties.” Empowering all of our members is essential to organizational improvement and the preservation of organizational excellence. Remember, members of a profession “self-police and must live by an ethic with both legal and moral foundations...”

We have all been entrusted as stewards of our organization and profession, and each of us is empowered and obligated to hold one another accountable for both what we do, and what we fail to do. Responsibility and accountability are equally meaningless unless our members are empowered to act. If you are a leader, empower your subordinates to the greatest extent possible. Remove obstacles and barriers that stifle creativity and innovation. More importantly, inspire and encourage your subordinates to act. As members of the Utah National Guard, we all have the duty and obligation to strive each and every day to improve our organization, rid our formations of the dangers within, and maintain our organizational legacy of excellence. We are the Utah National Guard. We are stewards of our organization and the military profession, and it starts with me. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen



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### NSA 2020 Learning Excellence Award for Learning Organization of the Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Utah National Guard was the recipient of the National Security Agency 2020 Learning in Excellence Award at an awards ceremony held Nov. 5, 2020. Key members who received the award on behalf of the organization are from left to right, Tech. Sgt. Keith Mecham, 151st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group noncommissioned officer in charge of training; Mr. Terry Wilson, Utah training coordinator; and Mr. Nathaniel Hancock, language coordinator; photo taken Oct. 20, 2020.

The Utah National Guard is home to two units who are renowned for their "excellence in language." The service members of the 151st

Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group and the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist) routinely surpass the standard by achieving exceptional marks on the Defense Language Proficiency Test. The talents and language skills of Utah National Guard Airmen and Soldiers are regularly sought out and leveraged against a broad range of efforts to include the translation of public health information regarding COVID-19 for the state of Utah, as well as national-level foreign language requirements. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY Lt. Col. David Matt Price / PHOTO BY Francis Mammano



### 50th WPW and 30th AFSAM Sniper Championships ~ Colorado, California National Guard Win Sniper Championships

BARLING, Arkansas — Twenty-three two-person sniper teams from across the National Guard and 12 inter-service teams competed in the 50th Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championship and the 30th Annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting hosted by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center Dec. 4-10, 2020, at Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center in Barling, Arkansas.

Staff Sgt. Nick D. Hardin and Master Sgt. Richard T. Weems, Utah Army National Guard, earned 3rd place overall for the 50th Winston P. Wilson Sniper Championships and the Winston P. Wilson Precision

Engagement Team Champions award Dec. 10, 2020. The championships were hosted by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, with the help of the U.S. National Guard Sniper School, and were held at the Fort Chaffee Joint Maneuver Training Center Dec. 4-10, 2020. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY Maj. Theresa Austin / PHOTO BY Sgt. Israel Sanchez



### On Counterdrug Program 30th Anniversary, Utah National Guard recognized for support

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The director of the National Security Agency recognized the support provided by the National Guard and helped mark the Counterdrug Program's 30th Anniversary while visiting Utah in September 2020. This Counterdrug Program began in 1990 when about a dozen Utah National Guardsmen began translating a backlog of material in support of NSA requirements. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY Lt. Col. David Matt Price



## The Utah National Guard's Monoclonal Infusion Strike Team works hard combating COVID-19

DRAPER, Utah — The Utah National Guard, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Health, has expanded its support of the COVID-19 mission providing vaccinations and monoclonal antibody infusions to patients living in long-term care facilities throughout Utah.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to one of the longest activations of the Utah National Guard in the state. The Utah National Guard has provided the state with support in COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and medical supplies warehousing and shipping. An additional and new part of the COVID-19 mission is in response to an executive order signed by Gov. Spencer Cox allowing the monoclonal antibody infusion to occur within the state by way of the FDA's emergency use authorization. The authorization was granted as the infusions resulted in a reduction in emergency room visits and hospitalizations for patients.

The Utah Army and Air National Guard have supported the Utah Department of Health in this effort since mid-January 2021. 📷

— ARTICLE BY Ileen Kennedy / PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Eric Bornemeier



## Utah National Guard's Mobile Testing Team works tirelessly to protect local communities

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Utah National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen attached to Joint Task Force 97 COVID-19 conduct test on civilians for COVID-19 at a mobile testing site at the Department of Health Cannon Building. In response to the new "State of Emergency" declaration, the Utah National Guard is coordinating with the state to increase support in contact tracing and COVID-19 testing, Nov. 10, 2020.

Since March 2020, the Utah National Guard has provided support to the state of Utah and local health departments to stem the spread of COVID-19. Today, the Utah National Guard has approximately 275 service members who continue to enhance the state's capabilities in the areas of COVID-19 mapping support to contact tracing, mobile testing, facility assessment and training and warehouse operations. 📷

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy



## Guard members work in a warehouse as they support the states COVID-19 mission

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Utah National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen attached to Joint Task Force 97 COVID-19 work assembling personal protective equipment kits to be distributed throughout the state to help combat the spread of COVID-19 Nov. 10, 2020.

Since March 2020, the Utah National Guard has provided support to the state of Utah and local health departments to stem the spread of COVID-19. 📷

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy

—FOR MORE IN-DEPTH STORIES, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: [UT.NG.MIL](http://UT.NG.MIL)—



## Utah Guard supports Gov. Spencer J. Cox Inauguration Ceremony held in St. George, Utah

ST. GEORGE, Utah — Gov. Spencer J. Cox, against a backdrop of red rock cliffs, salutes as members of Utah National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery fire a 19-gun cannon salute at his inauguration ceremony at the Tuacahn Center for the Arts Amphitheater in Ivins, Utah Jan. 4, 2021.

Members of the Utah National Guard supported the inauguration with the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Michael J. Turley as the master of ceremony; the Utah National Guard Honor Guard presentation of colors; members of the 2nd Battalion; 222nd Field Artillery fire a 19-gun cannon salute; a four aircraft flyover by

members of 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion; members of the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction— Civil Support Team and other support personnel. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy



## Apache battalion among last guns in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A pair of Apaches with 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation take off from Herat, Afghanistan while an Ariana Airliner waits on the runway.

Roughly 100 members of 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment—mostly AH64- Apache attack helicopter pilots and maintainers—are among the 2, 500 U.S. troops who will remain in Afghanistan to start 2021.

The Utah Army National Guard unit deployed to Afghanistan in June as the U.S. military was reducing its presence in the country from nearly 9,000 to 4,500 personnel as part of the fragile U.S.-Taliban peace agreement. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY National Guard Association of the U.S. Staff Report AND PHOTO BY Chief Warrant Officer 2 Fred Bittner



## Utah Guard stands as a barrier of protection at the state capitol building during the 59th Presidential Inauguration

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Airmen with the Utah Air National Guard answer questions from a Utah resident at the front steps of the Utah State Capitol Building, Jan. 19, 2021.

Utah National Guardsmen have been activated on multiple occasions in the past year to keep the peace in both Salt Lake City and Washington D.C. Chief among those units is the 151st Security Forces Squadron of the Utah Air National Guard. The 151st Airmen have seen activation orders five times in Salt Lake City since May, with the most recent deployment to provide security to the Utah State Capitol Building during the week of the 59th Presidential Inauguration. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Staff Sgt. Timothy Beery

## AIR PROMOTIONS

### 1st LIEUTENANT

Christensen, Lydia V

### SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Fuller, Eric Wayne  
Furniss, Justin Paul  
Garcia, Mark Stephen  
Grimley, Nathan T  
Harding, Michael B  
Howey, Chad S  
Kerby, Jonathan L  
Phelps, Darren K

### MASTER SERGEANT

Duncan, Brandon Craig  
Griffin, Kayla Ashley  
Hooverclement, Marjorie A  
Johnson, Tyrel M  
Klunker, David W  
Mann, Christopher L  
Mccombs, Jason M  
Roldan, Alberto Dizon Jr  
Ruiz, Kiele Lynn  
Stettler, Alan Russell

### TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Arteaga, Aaron Alexander  
Gudmundson, Samuel T

Kelley, Michael Kenneth  
Leetzow, Abby L  
Sackett, David C  
Smith, Jason T  
Whitlock, Danny J

### STAFF SERGEANT

Brunt, Michael G  
Caldwell, Zachary B  
Chapman, Logan J  
Chenworth, Logan A  
Cooper, Kyle J  
Eddy, Luke J  
Hamer, Caiden T

Hobson, Jonathan Wesley  
Larsen, Cody K  
Ligeza, Nicole K  
Love, Christian C  
Mecham, Tate C  
Moss, Cody M  
Oetken, Katelyn M  
Ormsbee, Zackary G  
Snyder, Elizabeth Susanna  
Stovall, Bowen M  
Tannahill, Nicholas A  
Warner, Jayme S

### SENIOR AIRMAN

Atkinson, Zachry T  
Blake, Dylan J  
Clark, Loren J  
Hathaway, Hailee K  
Lawrence, Mary G  
Nielsen, Martin A  
Ojeda, Jasmin  
Purdy, Zachary J

### AIRMAN 1st CLASS

Andrus, Wendee K

### AIRMAN

Alofipo, Maelyne T

## ARMY PROMOTIONS

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Harvison, Byron Earl  
Thomas, Jaime Rae

### MAJOR

Major, Michael Scott

### CAPTAIN

Chadwick, Shayne Mickel  
Jackson, Tianna  
Muramoto, Kami Kristine  
Ogbuehi, Chikezie Canice  
Schultz, Scott Jeffrey  
Sonderegger, Jeffery Clayton  
South, Jennifer Lynn

### FIRST LIEUTENANT

Green, Michael Kelvin

### SECOND LIEUTENANT

Churchill, Trevor Mackenzie  
Hudson, Jesse Neal  
Peterson, Nathan Phillip  
Slade, Austin Thomas  
Stanford, Justin Alan

### CHIEF WARRANT 4

Hoagland, Jeremy Dean  
Leggett, Breton James

### CHIEF WARRANT 3

Fraughton, Jason Max

### WARRANT OFFICER

Bybee, James Lee  
Johnson, Olaf Craig  
Roberts, Mark Anthony

### COMMAND SERGEANT

#### MAJOR

Thornsbury, Robert

### SERGEANT MAJOR

Jacobsen, Adam Wayman  
Johnston, Garrad Jay  
Lowery, Joshua David  
Moon, Keith Richard

### MASTER SERGEANT

Annis, Gregory Lee  
Baker, Michael Emmett  
Blazzard, Richard James  
Jackson, Bret Walter  
Konery, Aron Vincent  
Logan, James Hyrum  
Nelson, Justin Scott  
Prince, Randy Jay Jr

### SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Barth, Jason Michael  
Barton, Jesse Ray  
Bishop, Preston Kenneth  
Bradford, Lisa  
Chesnut, Mark Allan  
Chhe, Satya  
Cluff, Joshua Thomas  
Davidson, Morgan Enoch  
Dexter, Kevin Andrew  
Dimond, Christopher Spencer  
Evans, Andrew Lance  
Hatcher, Jeffrey Steven  
Hendrickson, Eric Franklin  
Jarrett, Bryce Collier  
Jiles, Tyler J  
Malone, Aaron Scott  
Millar, Tony Ellis  
Moeller, Scott Michael  
Peterson, Cameron Michael II  
Preece, Terrill Roy  
Sager, Nicholas John  
Small, Tyson Keith  
Stapley, George Michael  
Thomas, Jacob Len  
Tolley, Kraig Dylan

Vargas, Abel Franciso

### STAFF SERGEANT

Anderson, Nathan Durrant  
Bizardi, Byron Leo  
Blake, Robert Joseph Jr  
Chischillie, Tyson Kail  
Christensen, Brett Bulloch  
Cox, Andrea Graff  
Cox, Kevin Marshall  
Day, Jeffrey Adam  
Dejesus, Steve Christian  
Dent, Courtney Jo  
Elkins, Christopher Scott  
Elliott, Paris Anderson  
Even, Elizabeth Lora  
Gale, Kevin Donald  
Hoff, Emily Shannon  
Hutchinson, Reuben Thomas  
Jensen, Joseph Michael  
Julander, Tyler Lee  
Kirby, Patrick Gonsalves  
Mackelprang, Lance Deven  
Medina, Tyson Ross  
Mora, Jesus  
Morin, Zachary Young  
Moyes, Scott Michael  
Packard, Craig Owen  
Peterson, Paul Gregory  
Rebman, Samuel Hirschi  
Riding, Kenneth Barton  
Samuelsen, Bradley Jay  
Vargas, Scott Daniel  
Walker, Jeffrey Tyler  
Ward, Callie Ann  
West, Brighton Lee  
Worsham, Cameron Alan

### SERGEANT

Aranarajo, Ervin Francisco  
Argyle, Kimberlyn  
Avella, Andres Felipe

Benson, Thomas James  
Bettridge, Megyn Rae  
Brown, Pamela Jane  
Calderonmartinez, Susana J  
Callahan, Jacob Paul  
Chapman, Daniel Scott  
Christensen, Mandee  
Darbro, Cole Robert  
Dastrup, Kolby Daniel  
Davis, Christian Carter  
Despain, Peter Benjamin  
Diaz, Arturo  
Estrada, Christopher Lee  
Evangelista, Deidra Marierey  
Fairbanks, Tyler Grant  
Frost, Sam Pietermalietoa  
Golsan, Rodney Scott  
Harding, Trevor Justin  
Harris, Reece Jerry  
Hicks, Payton Lee  
Hinton, Molly Kathleen  
Holmgren, David Kurt  
Kaa, Jack  
Kamadjeu, Michel  
Lake, Kyndra Leanne  
Latu, Isaac Rastermon  
Leavens, Thaddius Joshua  
Ledward, Kyle Jason  
Lopezmorales, Mauricio  
Low, Gregory Richard  
Martineau, Chandler  
Houston  
McFaden, Kevin Lawrence  
McFee, Connor Richard  
McKean, Isaac Goodwin  
McKinlay, Bracken Del  
Mendezbaiza, Andrea Vanessa  
Moore, Quentel Milano  
Munguia, Analilia  
Musselman, Russell William  
Napier, Alexander Emerson  
Navazapien, David

Orr, Brandon Michael  
Pectol, Isaac William  
Riddle, Robert Lloyd  
Robinson, Austin Greg  
Robinson, Jeremiah Lynn  
Robles Zabdriel, Eliasib  
Rowley, Nicholas Paul  
Salvin, Atif  
Selee, Holly Irene  
Sliwa, Tarra Ann  
Smith, Zachery John  
Stewart, Steven Wade  
Sutherland, Ethan Alden  
Thompson, Alexander Lee  
Toney, Jason Paul  
Turgeon, Kaden Robert  
Vanorden, Colby Jackson  
Weinfurter, Joshua Bryan  
Wolf, Brandon Ray  
Wright, Christopher Edward  
Wygant, Nicholas Lee  
Xaygnaphong, Christian  
Yeagley, Jackson Alan

### SPECIALIST

Alba, Chaz  
Allen, Jeremy Taylor  
Allred, Joshua Lyman  
Alvarenga, Zachary Tyler  
Andersen, Liesel Josie  
Angell, Joey  
Atherley, Landon Tony  
Bailey, Emmett Nikolas  
Barlow, Charles Allen  
Barranon, Alberto Axel  
Benitez, Erik Jakob  
Berry, Joseph K  
Booth Hayden, Douglas  
Bradshaw, Landen James  
Braidon, Haylee Shae  
Branin, Jaeden Michael  
Brown, Mariaann Nombres

Burlison, Kasey Craig  
Burt, Kade Matt  
Castellon, Brigham Elias  
Cherry, Taylor Caitlyn  
Christensen, Joseph Henry  
Cly, Christian Jimmy  
Cooper, Cenedra Lee  
Cordova, Marcelino Maurice  
Cox, Anthony Ryan  
Cox, Shae Lea  
Davey, Gavin Zachary  
Davis, Tanner Jay  
Dejong, Leonard Dakota  
Doman, Collin Matthew  
Duran, Luis Antonio  
Egan, Terran Christopher  
Ekker, Jaden Riter  
Fordham, Braycen Lowell  
Frampton, Taylor Rodney  
Furniss, Holbrook Alan  
Galbraith, Ted Jerry  
Garcia, Diego Israel  
Gonzalezmonroy, Christopher  
Gorringe, Braxton Keith  
Halliday, Reed James  
Hansen, Gage Edward  
Hattaway, Tj Allen  
Haymond, Jason Paul Jr  
Heath Ian, Clifford  
Hess, Amber Latey  
Higdon, Ryan Christopher  
Hopkins, Kareem Abdule Jr  
Howard, Isaac Lawrence  
Jacobsen, Dakota Chavez  
Jeffery, Sierra Nicole  
Jensen, Mathew Scott  
Jessop, Marvin  
Jones, Taylor Robert  
Julian, Taylor Creed  
Karren, Gage Michael  
Kime, Catherine Rose  
Kizerian, Keith Michael  
Lacy, Kaitlyn Xenia  
Leavitt, Ethan Punter  
Lewis, Sheldon Kurt  
Lower, Elizabeth Michelle  
Lunceford, Bryton Keith  
Magleby, Mikeal Russell  
Marsing, Boyd L  
Martinez, Jeffery Raymond  
McDonald, McKay Deejo  
McGiven, Austin Grant  
Miller, Nathan Elijah  
Mismash, Mason Bracken  
Moeai, Nofoaigaapua S  
Morano, Michael Louis  
Nielsen, Grayden Glenn  
Ogden, Riley Jean  
Oldham, Alexis Nicole  
Oltehua, Francisco Jeremy

Ordonez, Eric Serafin  
Orr, Cameron  
Ownsbey, Samantha Lynn  
Pai, Mailelalui Kanehe  
Pantojavarela, Anthony  
Penrod, Jaden Richard  
Peterson, Cameron Elwood  
Peterson, Noah Bryce  
Pia, Justin Todd  
Pierce, Preston Dahle  
Rice, Joshua Eagan  
Roberts, Tanner Christian  
Rodriguez, Carson Steven  
Rousseau, Mason Carter  
Salisbury, Spencer Gary  
Shumway, Marshall Burdett  
Sidlow, Alexis Keilani  
Smith, George Samuel  
Smith, Sidnee Malynn  
Sorensen, Michael Alexander  
Sperry, Michael Thomas  
Steineckert, Curtis Quinn  
Stockdale, Camden Dee  
Taylor, Keith Scott  
Terry, Toren Christopher  
Thomas, Christopher Glenn Jr  
Tippets, Dalton Scott  
Toeasoiosia, Robin Mailo  
Tran, Michael  
Valdiviezobalderrama, Jesus  
Visser, Anthony Mathew  
Ward, Staton Bradley  
Wilcox, Joseph Coombs  
Willson, Tyler Curtis  
Winder, Jacob Harris  
Wolfe, Darby Lyle

#### PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Acker, Teryn Ann  
Alfaro, Josue  
Allen, Connor Lee  
Allen, Zachary Taylor  
Baird, Bryce James  
Baker, Brian David  
Baker, Finn Christian Sigurd  
Barnes, Christian James  
Bizier, Brandon Jerry  
Bowers, Carson Scott  
Bowman, Jacob Morgan  
Brklacich, Cody Jex  
Buhler, Spencer Gene  
Byrd, Nicolas Daniel  
Call, McKenzie Zinash  
Callahan, Ira Robert  
Chhe, Luke Thaisan  
Christen, Eyan Joseph  
Christensen, Charles Jon  
Crouch, Zachary Gilbert  
Dahlia, Matthew Anthony  
Dalley, Nicholas Samuel

Davis, Joshua Brian  
Deleondeleon, Escarlet A  
Doman, Coleton Michael  
Doty, Aaron James  
Eddy, Samuel Jacob  
Falco, Jaeger Daxton  
Figueroaornelas, Manuel L  
Fike, William James  
Friel, James Grant  
Gayler, Tucker Scott  
Graff, Caleb Alexander  
Grant, Parker Wells  
Gribble, Jesse Artemus  
Gutches, Wyatt Kelly  
Haight, Connor James  
Hailstone, Jasmine Rebekah  
Hales, Kobe Thomas  
Hampel, Trevor Alan  
Hansen, Jonathan Parker  
Hansen, Koby Jonn  
Hanshaw, Hunter Colby  
Hatch, Harrison Aaron  
Hayes, Finnegan Cyril  
Hebdon, Hadley Lynn  
Hicken, Kai Cyril  
Howarth, Gavin Michael  
Hughes, Thomas John  
Jenkins, Cedric Hardy  
Johnson, James Hadlandh  
Johnson, Logan Eric  
Judd, Kohl Thomas  
Kang, Rylan Seth  
Karwowski, Gregory Kawika  
Kendrick, Cameron Jake  
Krager, Tristan Michael  
Kramer, Ewan Thomas  
Le, Brian Nguyen  
Loch, James Owen  
Mangum, Dawson Brett  
Marshall, Robert Everond  
Marshall, Tyler Wayne  
Masaniai, Frank Tee Jr  
McDaniel, Trevor Neal  
McKean, Stewart Daniel  
Meyer, Isaac Steven  
Miller, Hayden Michael  
Morgan, Seth Demetrius  
Morrison, Jesse Lee  
Murray, Austin Joseph  
Neilson, Jesse  
Nohr, Rand Sebastian  
Oleson, Campbell Scott  
Overbey Donald Louis  
Padillagonzalez Oscar, Joshu  
Paluso, Sean Teague  
Perkins, Benjamin Joseph  
Phillipps, Kjerstin Elizabet  
Phillips, Logan Jay  
Pickering, Ashlynn Nicole  
Rawlinson, Liam Lewis

Rich, Seth David  
Riddle, Casey Nolan  
Rodriguezruiz, Erica Ibet  
Roundy, Darrin Paul  
Rowley, Samuel Luke  
Sellers, Evan Blake  
Sloan, Megan  
Smart, Zachary Brian  
Smith, Talmage Fielding  
Smith, Travis Chace  
Smith, Tyler Bryant  
Sotelovasquez, Wendy  
Sproul, Nathan Robert  
Stephens, Kade Samuel  
Stephens, Kaden Todd  
Taylor, Cade Lee  
Thompson, Michael Kurt  
Tsai, Alexander Jacinto  
Turner, Joshua Michael  
Van Der Beek, James Hendrikj  
Vandesluis, Ryan Scott  
Warth, Chandler Scott  
Weeks, Kayden Dean  
Wei, Zibin  
Weidmer, Sean Archer  
Wolfgang, Jordan Tanner  
Zuniga, Chaim Isaac

#### PRIVATE (PVI)

Acero, Ivan Felipe  
Anderson, Kory Carter  
Angle, Gabriel Eldon  
Arteaga, Levi Sebastian  
Benham, Brant Harrison  
Birch, Casey Drake  
Blackard, Alyssa Ann  
Bond, Logan Michael  
Cobbly, Kanesha Kaylyn  
Dedios, Brandon Jose  
Dusa, Eddy Lionel  
Edwards, Ricky Lane  
Flores, Evelyn Jeanette  
Fluckiger, Jarom Jensen  
Hillin, Riley James  
Jones, David King  
Kerns, Jaiden J  
Koeneman, Lucas Adam Edgar  
Kroon, Gary Jacob  
Kuza, Evelyn  
Lee, Connor Kevin  
Lefler, McKinley  
Lemke, Tyler Michael  
Leonard, Austin Timothy  
Lowe, Creighton John  
Maynard, Damon Lee  
McIlrath, Nicholas Ryan  
McNeill, Ashton Dayne  
Nino, Adame Joshua  
Ogden, Racyn Jason  
Oreilly, Justin Curtis

Osborne, Ashton James  
Ostermiller, Caden Dennis  
Paul, Scott Jacob  
Portocarrero, Martinez Cesar  
Rix, Dillon Lee  
Saner, Carter Scott  
Sharp, Shaun Alexander  
Smith, Kyle Dale  
Soto, Emily Crystal  
Strickland, James Steven  
Wagstaff, Blaine Michael  
Wellman, Julie Angela  
Worthington, Adam Dallas  
Wyatt, Travis Edward

#### PRIVATE (PV2)

Bicknell, Jessica Christine  
Brewer, Bonham Scott  
Christen, Ash Joseph  
Clark, Ashton Xavier  
Cole, Erin McKena  
Cottam, Jace Clayton  
Crandall, Rhett Delos  
Eccles, Kazian Kim  
Garrison, Rylee Kay  
Hardy, Jesse James  
Harris, Hunter Riley  
Hernandez, Nicacio David  
Hill, Henry Arlis  
Jessop, Brenton Seth  
Johnson, Ethan Dennis  
Jones, Rachael  
Judy, Danielle  
Kwallek, Matthew Chase  
Ley, Christopher Glynn  
Lindsay, Tyler Lane  
Lowry, Landon Hazzard  
Luna, Fabian Sebastian  
Lyells, Hunter Jared  
Minard, Cole Riley  
Peterson, Matthew Riley  
Ramsey, Noah Michael  
Roberts, Brooke Noel  
Robison, Samuel Jake  
Stiehl, Camden Ray  
Thomas, Travis Winston  
Wilcox, Izaac Zonta  
Williams, Ethen Craig  
Wiseman, Dylan Benjamin

Utah National Guard  
12953 S. Minuteman Drive  
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FLASHBACK PHOTO



### President William Howard Taft reviews Utah Troops

Through the years, presidents of the United States, as commander-in-chief have visited Utah and interacted with our troops. The president to visit Utah was Pres. Ulysses S. Grant who stated that Fort Douglas was "one of the finest forts in the United States." Even more notable was the visit from Pres. William Howard Taft. He arrived in Salt Lake City on Sept. 24, 1909 for a three-day stay. Among the events scheduled for the president were: a living flag assembled by school children, a speech in Liberty Park, where he shook hands with guests, and a concert in the Mormon Tabernacle. As he arrived in the city, he was met by Soldiers from Fort Douglas and the Utah National Guard, who served as security for Taft. His car then drove through the streets of Salt Lake City to crowds of cheering people, who followed him along his route through the city to Fort Douglas. Pictured below: Taft is seen leading the troops during his review of the 15th Infantry, stationed at Fort Douglas.

(Photo courtesy of Fort Douglas Military Museum Collection)

