

UTAH

MINUTEMAN

2022 Volume 1



New Director of Joint Staff

Work Hard and Be Nice

New training site for the HRF



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

May 2022 marked a historic milestone for the Utah National Guard and its State Partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco. The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces engaged with Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Utah Army National Guard as part of an NCO subject-matter-expert exchange. This is the first NCO-only engagement with the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces since its partnership began with the Utah National Guard in 2003.

Caption:

Command Sergeants Major Spencer Nielsen, Scott Evans, Jennifer Butler and Kevin Mayes pose with senior non-commissioned officers of the Royal Armor Center in Meknes, Morocco, on May 9, 2022.



Major General Michael J. Turley The Adjutant General

Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard, we have been talking about and addressing large-scale combat operations, LSCO, in our training for a couple of years now, but nothing makes a stronger case for an emphasis on this training than what is occurring in Ukraine at the present. In addition to the realities of this type

of combat, it also shows us that the State Partnership Program can be a powerful force multiplier for our national interests. We also see the power of a determined territorial force (think National Guard) when properly trained and equipped in the defense. To paraphrase Clausewitz: “the defense is the strongest form of warfare” and the “people in arms” are two of the strongest pillars of a country’s defense. We can learn a great deal by watching the Ukraine defense and take pride in a reserve component performing superbly. LSCO shows us that tempo and logistics are critical. As the Russians rushed head-long into Ukraine they had contested lines of communications as well as tenuous air coverage. I am sure they didn’t feel they required that against “little-old” Ukraine-I am also sure, they were wrong. In addition, their inability to move services and support to their forces has proven fatal to the encirclement and capture of Kyiv. To paraphrase another great war-writer Sun Tzu: “it is the zenith of wisdom to learn from another’s mistakes.”

The long history of State Partnership Programs has shown its value in Ukraine. Certainly, the sterling and courageous defense of Ukraine could not have been executed without U.S. and UK-made anti-armor weapons. It is also certain that they could not have used those systems so expertly without the training provided through the

SPP program from the California National Guard (and other states). In terms of leveraging partners and allies to accomplish our strategic aims, SPP has set a gold-standard.

Finally, our National Guard has been invaluable in the Global War on Terrorism, and you have proven that value every time you have deployed over the past 20 years. The Ukraine defense has shown the value of having a trained and capable “people’s Army” in defending a country from an outside force. The National Guard provides so many services in terms of state support, and support to our active-duty components, but it may make its strongest case for its existence in that it is the United States’ “people’s Army”. Its deterrence value cannot be overstated. Furthermore, I think the Ukraine Territorial Defense Force has shown its value!

I think the lessons we can learn from the Russian invasion of Ukraine are immense. We learn both what to do as well as what not to do. We see the values of our combat multipliers and logisticians, as well as the principles of war such as tempo, flexibility, and defense. We also learn the value of the State Partnership Program and how it helps us in our national interests. In addition, we learn from Ukraine that “people’s armies” and citizen-warriors are an under-appreciated strategic deterrence.

I have learned from our Ukraine brothers and sisters how much our National Guard brings deterrence and stability in the world. Thank you for being who you are. Thank you to your families for supporting you. Thank you to your employers who continue to support the Utah National Guard! 🇺🇸



Command Sergeant Major Spencer Nielsen Senior Enlisted Leader

Greetings and a heartfelt thank you to the Utah National Guard Team...Soldiers, Airmen, civilian employees, and our great family members and support networks who provide such exceptional care for our service members. We have had another exciting quarter in the Utah

National Guard, culminating in multiple collective-training events during annual training periods throughout the force. As always, I remain particularly proud of the Utah National Guard, and incredibly humbled by the opportunity to serve this organization in this capacity. Each of you is truly incredible, and I am honored to serve beside you.

Over the past few years, the U.S. Department of Defense has been shifting the focus from the war on terrorism and counterinsurgency operations to large-scale combat operations and Multi-domain Operations against near-peer competitors such as China and Russia. This is certainly not the first time we have shifted our focus, and over my career, I have found the Utah National Guard to be amongst the most adaptive and resilient organization in the inventory. I have no doubt that we will rise to this challenge once again.

This shift comes with some changes in training and preparation, but the basics of how to train and prepare remain the same. As with any shift in strategy,

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it's often beneficial to focus on our organizational priorities – readiness, partnerships, and effectiveness. While collective readiness is certainly our pinnacle goal, it cannot be achieved without first building readiness at the individual and small-unit level (crews, teams, squads, sections, and flights). Leaders at all levels need to empower and resource subordinate leaders appropriately to build individual readiness (training, administrative, medical, and family). Individuals and small units are the center of gravity for military operations, and when readiness is achieved at this level, higher-echelon training and readiness are much easier to achieve.

While building and maintaining readiness is essential, partnerships and effectiveness will remain vitally important as we prepare for large-scale combat operations and Multi-domain Operations against near-peer competitors. Leaders need to be cognizant of regionally-aligned and mission-based partners, and build productive relationships based on trust and a reputation that when our units show up, we accomplish the mission and produce. In terms of effectiveness, our leaders

and service members are intelligent, innovative, adaptive, and engaged. As we enter a potential period of restrained resources, we must make efficient use of every resource provided and none can be wasted. Ensure we continue to make effective use of every resource provided, to include our service members' time.

In closing, I would like to highlight what is most paramount to our future...our people. Whether you are a service member, civilian employee, or family member, you are a son or daughter of America, the present and future of this organization, and undoubtedly our most precious resource. You are a part of our organizational legacy of excellence and will write the next chapter in that legacy. Take special care in that responsibility, as our state and nation are counting on us to get this right. I have no doubt that because of who we are and what we stand for, we will get it right. Thank you for all you have done, currently do, and will do in the future. You are a part of the greatest team assembled anywhere in the world, and I am proud of you each and every day. 🇺🇸

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FEATURE

18 Utah National Guard's new Director of Joint Staff — Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis

When it's all said and done, my hope is that those I've had the privilege of serving with will say that I lived and exemplified the Air Force Core Values of: "integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do."

COVER PHOTO

Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis, Director of Joint Staff.
— PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Ariel Solomon

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Who Do You Think You Are:

Are you overly critical in your judgment of yourself? Ever? Are the words you say to yourself in your head, about yourself, down-right mean sometimes? If not, you are a rare person indeed. Unfortunately, it is much more likely you, or someone you care about can be more cruel-to-self than a middle-school bully. We don't spend 24:7 with a childhood bully but cannot escape our own thoughts. Negative self-beliefs and self-talk can easily lead to depression, anxiety, isolation from others, and an overall low quality of life. So, if escaping our own minds isn't a reasonable option to finding peace, what is the solution?

The internet provides a plethora of information regarding self-esteem. The difficulty can be finding reliable explanations you identify with. I would like to suggest the following to understand self-esteem and how developing it can help us find that inner peace and external quality of life we all deserve.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines 'Esteem' as "[noun] The regard in which one is held; [verb] regard highly and prize accordingly". By this interpretation, self-esteem then is a state in which one believes they are of high worth and acts accordingly. To be clear, self-esteem is not pride, narcissism, self-confidence, or self-image. Those terms are all used to describe feelings and beliefs based on what we do or our qualities.

Pride- satisfaction derived from achievements

Self-Confidence- trust in one's abilities, qualities, or judgment

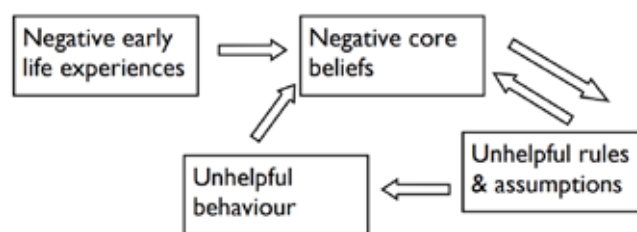
Narcissism- excessive interest or admiration of oneself

Self-Image- one's perception of their abilities, personality, and appearance

A person can have self-esteem, but not self-confidence [or vice versa]. They can experience pride when they have done something well, but still not hold themselves in much esteem.

Self-esteem is not dependent on your achievements or abilities. It is not influenced by your physical appearance or how many likes you have on social media. Those factors are all unpredictable and, at best, not within our complete control to hold onto. They can be lost, often without any fault of our own. Poor mental health and low quality of life are likely outcomes when we believe the lies that tell us we are our achievements, our physical strength, our role as spouse, parent, soldier, or whatever our job position is. Having self-esteem is holding the completely reasonable belief that you are an inherently good person, that you have worth. Easy, right? Nope.

Most human beings experience moments in which they do not esteem themselves very well. The reasons for this have been well researched. Self-esteem's antithesis is negative internal self-talk. That bully in our heads. Here is a very simplified summary of how negative self-perceptions can form.



No one is born into this world with a negative perception of themselves. We are taught harmful self-perceptions through negative early life experiences. As children, we do not have the cognitive capacity to understand that other people's opinions of us or what we do/ say are just that—opinions. Young children cannot understand that abusive behavior directed toward them is in no way a reflection of whether they are good or bad. Even well into early adulthood, we are still likely to internalize any negative feedback or behavior from others to mean something must be inherently wrong with us. We develop negative core beliefs about ourselves in relation to our world [and others]. We struggle to differentiate who we are from what others say about us or the hurtful way they might treat us. The reason this is such a struggle into adulthood, and for some, a lifetime, is because the negative core beliefs we accepted as truth in response to those negative early life experiences become reinforced over and long after the negative event/s have passed. Our negative core self-beliefs lead to our adoption of unhelpful rules and assumptions to protect ourselves from further painful emotions. An example of this would be a person holding the negative core belief that they are “unlikeable” or off-putting to others developing a rule such as “I must avoid engaging with others” and the assumption “I can only hope to blend in, not ever be seen and accepted.” Clearly, this rule and assumption will guide the person's behavior on a day-to-day basis that is unhelpful for their self-esteem. They are not likely to have meaningful social connections due to their avoidance behaviors and their negative beliefs making it difficult for them to recognize and validate positive social feedback when they do receive it.

So, back to the question—What is the solution? How do we break the cycle that keeps us from esteeming ourselves?

BALANCE. Having healthy self-esteem does not mean you will never again think of yourself in a negative light. Expecting to completely quiet all internal negative self-talk is akin to adopting a “rule” stating “I must be perfect in my self-talk or I am a failure”. Having healthy self-esteem is obtained by thinking of ourselves and our worth in a balanced way, with respect and compassion for our imperfect humanity. When we have self-esteem, we can see the good in ourselves and acknowledge our mistakes and limitations. We understand our mistakes and failures don't diminish our worth as a person. We can separate who we are [our worth as one-of-a-kind individual human beings] from what we do. 📌

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Caroline Searcy
Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Psychological Health Program

Work Hard and Be Nice: Focus on Family

DRAPER, Utah - It's well known in the military that developing into a successful service member requires a functional support system. The strength of this system impacts performance and plays a critical role in the service member's unique developmental needs and progression. For Col. Shawn Fuellenbach, commander of the 65th Field Artillery Brigade and chief of staff, Utah Army National Guard, that support system starts with his personal relationships at home. Fuellenbach has worked continuously with his family through the years to establish and maintain a dynamic network of support.

Fuellenbach attributes many opportunities in life to his military service.

"I've traveled the world, immersed myself in cultures, and had exposure to events I wouldn't have had otherwise. There have been many educational opportunities. If someone told me 33 years ago I would attend Harvard Kennedy School, I would have thought they were near-insane," said Fuellenbach.

Just as many others have experienced before him, not all is fun, games, and leisurely travel in the military, especially for those supporting a growing family.

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Jordan Hack

Fuellenbach's wife, Yvonne, had minimal expectations at the beginning of her relationship with Shawn.

"When Shawn and I met, he was already well established in his military career path. I was intrigued by the travel and deeply interested in his career," she said. "It made me wish I had joined the military! The difficult part was juggling our careers and family obligations."

In Yvonne's experience, one aspect stood out as the toughest to navigate:

"The most difficult, without question, were long deployments," she said.

Mentioning strenuous circumstances at home, she further described some of the struggles.

"I had to maintain our obligation to take care of [Shawn's ill mother], continue to maintain a full-time job, and also take care of our son. I remember early mornings getting my son to daycare at 6:30 a.m., rushing to work, then rushing home for homework or a soccer game. Weekends were spent catching up on unfinished work, taking care of Shawn's mom, and planning the week ahead."



Col. Shawn Fuellenbach's family and extended family at his change of responsibility where he took command of the 65th Field Artillery Brigade at Tabet Field, Camp Williams, Utah, on Aug. 2, 2021. —PHOTOS COURTESY OF Col. Shawn Fuellenbach

When a service member gets deployed, part of the process is ensuring that their personal house is in order as much as possible before they leave. This was no exception for the Fuellenbachs, and it has become a continuous concentration for their family.

“Communication is key,” Fuellenbach said.

“Yvonne and I discuss our schedules often and prioritize major events – family, military, and work. We coordinate our calendars carefully and share parenting responsibilities. Our family motto is ‘work hard and be nice.’”

They have this motto hung at both their house and family cabin to serve as a consistent reminder. Fuellenbach also said that he makes an effort to keep his work phone out of reach while at home.

“It’s another way I disconnect (not always successfully),” he said.

In the military, compromise and flexibility are important to establish and maintain a healthy work-life balance. That balance looks different for each service member and family. Yvonne advised that military families need to “stay committed and be okay with sorting through the daily grind on your own.” She continued:

“Being uncomfortable translates to growth. During deployment, I intentionally kept my world small so I wouldn’t get caught up in unnecessary commitments. I kept myself and my son busy.”

Military life can and does get stressful and overwhelming, especially when service members get deployed or go on assignment. In an effort to provide assistance, the Utah National Guard has developed various programs and resources to support service members and their families during these times. It also helps when military families get to know and are involved with other military families.

“I would say get involved and get connected,” Yvonne said. “It’s an awesome community.”

The Fuellenbachs have immersed themselves in the Utah National Guard, and part of that has been reaching out and getting involved in the tight-knit community that has formed over the years. This community works together to build up fellow members of the Utah National Guard and their families and plug any holes that may appear in support systems across the organization. 🇺🇸



Photos top down: The day the first group of Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery departed Cedar City, Utah to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in preparation for deployment to Ramadi, Iraq, on Jan. 6, 2005. Left to right: Penny Walbeck (mother), Col. Fuellenbach, Yvonne (wife), Heidi Fuellenbach (sister), and Mark Fuellenbach (father). Promotion from major to lieutenant colonel at Camp

Williams, Utah, Nov. 4, 2016. Left to right: Rock Fuellenbach (son) giving Fuellenbach a “sharpie” promotion. Col. Adam Robinson and Yvonne are looking on, Kallie and Cannon Fuellenbach (daughter and son), are assisting. Picture after Fuellenbach took battalion command of 2-222 FA on June 5, 2016, in Cedar City. Left to right: Jeanne Nielson (sister-in-law), Lisa Fuellenbach (sister), Penny Walbeck, Rock Fuellenbach (son), Col. Fuellenbach, Yvonne, Cannon, Kallie, and Heidi Fuellenbach.

Camp Williams adds a premiere search and extraction training site to benefit the Homeland Response Force, state, region and nation

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Lt. Col. Robert Warden



The Utah National Guard FEMA Region VIII Homeland Response Force held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Collapsed Structure Venue Site which included a demonstration and static display of capabilities May 10, 2022, at Camp Williams, Utah. The CSVS is one of only three military-owned Urban Search and Rescue training venues west of the Rocky Mountains. This CSVS will allow both military search and extract and civilian search and rescue teams the opportunity to train together and build those necessary partnerships needed in an “all-hazards” response.

— U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY 1st Sgt. John Etheridge

The Utah National Guard has a new training site for the Region VIII Homeland Response Force's Search and Extraction team, as well as partner civilian urban search-and-rescue teams. Lt. Col. Erick R. Wiedmeier, commander of the 97th Troop Command and Region VIII Homeland Response Force mission, conducted a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Collapsed Structure Venue Site on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Army Garrison Camp Williams, Utah.

The ceremony consisted of a CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) Response Enterprise (CRE) capabilities demonstration, a structure walk-through, and an award presentation. Guests from across the CRE were present. Distinguished visitors from National Guard Bureau, Army Interagency Training and Education Center, the Region VIII, IX, and X HRFs, and Utah state delegates and civilians attended the grand opening.

Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis, director of joint staff, Utah National Guard, provided remarks about the significance of the new training venue.

"This is going to be a great asset for training our Guard members, but beyond that, we see this as a great training venue for our local, state and regional urban search and rescue partners as well," said Davis. "In addition, it will give us the opportunity to train jointly with our civilian partners which will only enhance our training, capability and better prepare us to answer the call when that real catastrophe hits."

Wiedmeier added, "A large-scale earthquake along the Wasatch front will cause significant damage to our urban infrastructure requiring Utah's civilian and military search and rescue teams to be trained in life-saving techniques. Around 85 percent of the Utah population lives in a fault zone. The Collapsed Structure Venue Site at Camp Williams will allow the partnerships between the Utah National Guard and our civilian counterparts to expand their readiness. Training together in a controlled environment before an actual catastrophic event will help keep urban search and rescue teams safe while saving Utah lives."

Urban search and rescue is a vital and perishable skill set of the Utah National Guard's domestic operations. As one of only three military-owned USAR training venues west of the Rocky Mountains, this site will not only allow the Utah National Guard's search and extraction team the opportunity to train, but all National Guard search and extraction teams and civilian urban search and rescue teams. This \$377,000 venue will also allow military and civilian agencies to train together, and build those necessary partnerships needed in an "all-hazards" response.

"As seen with the condominium collapse in Surfside, Florida, June 24, 2021, and the candle factory leveled by a tornado in Mayfield, Kentucky, Dec. 10, 2021, the speed at which urban search and rescue teams can respond and work together can be a matter of life or death," said Maj. Kory Lund, the deputy commander of the CBRN TF. "With the size of this venue, multiple National Guard search and extraction teams

can train together or train with civilian urban search and rescue teams. This ability to train together will allow teams to share techniques and build the necessary skills and partnerships needed to work together and save lives when the time comes."

The design of the training facility provides a realistic collapse condition with the greatest level of safety protection. The CSVS has several training lanes for teams to practice critical life-saving skills when responding to an emergency disaster.

"The CSVS will enable the Region VIII HRF to be trained, relevant, and ready to respond to natural or man-made disasters in our state, region, and the West, saving lives and mitigating human suffering by providing trained and ready personnel. The training opportunities the CSVS will facilitate in developing and maintaining the effectiveness and efficiencies of the Region VIII HRF," said Col. Tammy Manwaring, previous 97th TC and Region VIII HRF commander.

The project to fund, design and construct the CSVS took approximately four years.

"I am overwhelmed with joy that we were able to complete this project. The CSVS has been the most rewarding and challenging project I have ever worked on. It encompasses three years of hard work, dedication, and relentless pursuit to finish the build," said Master Sgt. Jeffry Yon, HRF logistics non-commissioned officer.

This training site is one of many where the HRF will be able to accomplish its mission and support the Federal Management Agency.

The National Guard sourced 10 HRFs, one HRF for each of the FEMA Regions in 2010. The HRFs became fully operational in 2012. Utah is the host state of FEMA Region VIII's HRF. The HRF is a joint mission comprised of approximately 570 Army and Air National Guard personnel. Of the 570 personnel, approximately 45 are full-time. The 97th TC; Group Support Battalion, 19th Special Forces; 65th Fires Artillery Brigade; 151st Mission Support Group; 151st Medical Detachment; and 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade all contribute personnel to complete the roster. Also included is a fatality search and recovery team from the New Mexico Air National Guard. The core of each HRF is chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive response capability, but they are also ready and capable of responding to all hazards.

HRFs manage a catastrophic event by providing command and control to multiple Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams and CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages. There are 57 WMD-CSTs and 17 CERFPs throughout the country. HRFs also bridge coordination between federal-controlled elements of the CBRNE Response Enterprise, including Defense CBRN Response Force Command and Control Elements and follow-on forces.

The HRF mission requires the organization to respond within six to 12 hours when directed by proper authority or consent of the governor to conduct command and control, casualty assistance, search and extraction, decontamination, medical triage and stabilization, and fatality search and recovery



to save lives and mitigate human suffering. Additionally, the HRF must be able to transition operations to civil authorities and redeploy. The adjutant general may employ the HRF to support a state CBRNE or all-hazards response under the governor's direction or support another state's response under a supported governor.

Search and extraction is the most difficult skill set for the HRF and CBRN TF. All members of the search and extraction must be certified in Level I Rope Rescuer, Level I Confined Space Rescuer, and Level I Structural Collapse Rescuer certified per National Fire Protection Association 1670. Before the CSVS, the search and extraction teams coordinated with Unified Fire Authority and Task Force 1 in Magna to use their facilities for the past 10 years to conduct meaningful training.

"It has cost the Guard both time and money to utilize those facilities. With our Collapsed Structure Venue Site at Camp Williams, we can conduct S&E training whenever we want and still be in close proximity to the rest of the CBRN TF and HRF tactical operations center locations," said Lt. Col. Jeremy Stevenson, Region VIII HRF deputy commander. "The primary function of the S&E Element is to locate and remove casualties from assigned areas of responsibility (all within the hot zone (contaminated area)). Casualties are transported to the casualty collection points to receive basic life support. The medical personnel attached to the S&E element are responsible for conducting the initial triage of casualties rescued by the element."

The CSVS will provide a unique training site that will increase the readiness for military and civilian search and extraction/rescue teams.

"Our CSVS may become the premier CBRN TF training location in the Western United States where CBRN TFs, CERFPs, DCRFs, and civilian task forces throughout the West can come and train," said Stevenson. 🇺🇸



The Utah National Guard FEMA Region VIII Homeland Response Force held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Collapsed Structure Venue Site which included a demonstration and static display of capabilities, May 10, 2022, at Camp Williams, Utah. The CSVS is one of only three military-owned Urban Search and Rescue training venues west of the Rocky Mountains. This CSVS will allow both military search and extract and civilian search- and- rescue teams the opportunity to train together and build those necessary partnerships needed in an "all-hazards" response.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge and Ileen Kennedy

Building partnerships between American employers and citizen service members



Soldiers from the 222nd Field Artillery Battalion participated in a Boss Lift with their civilian employers April 23, 2022, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. The Boss Lift was coordinated by the Utah Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and is designed to give civilian employers and supervisors an opportunity to experience what their reserve-component employees do while performing their military service obligations.



Soldiers from the 222nd Field Artillery Battalion, give an operational brief to a group of civilian employers at a Boss Lift, April 23, 2022, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

—U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 1st Sgt. John Etheridge

In order to defend the nation and its interests from existing and emerging threats around the world, the United States military emphasizes strengthening relationships with existing partners while building new partnerships. With nearly 50 percent of its force being reserve service members who work a civilian occupation most of the year, it is hard to disagree that one of its most important partnerships is with American employers. For more than 50 years, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has been the main entity charged with forging a strong relationship between reserve-component service members and their civilian employers.

Established in 1972, ESGR is a Department of Defense organization staffed by mostly volunteers that fosters cooperation between reserve service members and their employers—providing both with education about the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. They also recognize companies that provide exceptional support to their military employees. Additionally, ESGR provides conflict resolution between employers and their military-reserve employees that arise due to the employee’s military service obligation.

Retired Col. Kim Watts, the current chairman of the ESGR Utah Committee who served in the Utah Army National Guard, said that during his early military days in the 1970s, he doesn’t recall many problems with employers and service members. Reserve members in those days typically only served their weekend drills and two-week annual training. However, by the beginning of the 2000s, as the Reserve Component switched from a strategic to an operational reserve, that changed.

“9/11 changed all of that and instituted the awareness that we had global challenges,” said Watts.

He added that by 2004 many Utah National Guard units were mobilized for extended deployments of up to 18 months. Many employers of these activated service members didn’t know their legal responsibilities and would not always allow their deployed employees to return to work when they returned.

“It’s not that the employers didn’t support the Guard members, they just didn’t know what to do with them when they returned,” said Watts. “We found out that we had a large task and opportunity to get in front of employers and explain to them the Uniformed Services Employment Reemployment Rights Act.”

Over the next several years Watts and his team of volunteers worked relentlessly to educate Utah employers on the rights of their uniformed employees. Their goal was to foster a culture in which employers saw themselves not only as a boss, but a support network for their employees and their families when they were called up to military duty.

“The program that has been most effective is the Patriot Award program,” said Watts.

Guard and reserve members, and their spouses, can nominate their employers for a Patriot Award to show appreciation to their employers and supervisors for support that they received while carrying out their military duty.

The Patriot Award recognizes efforts made by employers to support their employee service members through measures including flexible schedules, time off, and caring for service members’ families while performing their military service.

Recognizing employers for their support is one of the most successful ways ESGR uses to strengthen the employer-military partnership.

“We have found that when a boss has a Patriot Award hanging on his wall, he is not likely to give a service member a hard time about an upcoming deployment, professional development course, or an extended annual training,” said Watts.

Another program that is effective at strengthening the employer partnership is the Boss Lift. During a Boss Lift, employers and supervisors are transported to join their employees while they conduct military training. This program allows the employer to see first-hand what their employee does while they are performing their military duties.

“The Boss-Lift program gives the employer an opportunity to sit down face-to-face with their service member when they are doing their military job,” said Watts. “It is probably the

most effective way to get employers to understand the sacrifice service members make.”

Watts recounted a recent Boss lift with 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery where employers were transported to Dugway Proving Ground to see their employees in action. He said that the employers were able to fire Paladins, a self-propelled artillery vehicle, shoot a 50-caliber machine gun, and eat a Meal, Ready-to-Eat with their employee-Soldiers during the event.

“What we found out through the years was that employers had no idea the sacrifice that their service-member employees made, or the skills and training that they received while being a member of the Reserve or National Guard,” he said.

Over the years Watts has seen many employers transform into formidable advocates of their citizen-service members after attending a Boss Lift.

“It is an amazing thing to see the transformation of a boss from being just an employer into becoming a part of the service member’s family,” said Watts. “In many circumstances we found that companies are actually supplying support to the family members left behind and making up the difference if there is a loss in pay for the service member while activated.”

Although the regular and numerous deployments that defined the war on terrorism era have come to an end, the Army Reserve and National Guard are still used as an operational reserve and will continue to be used in the foreseeable future. The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will continue its tradition of strengthening the partnership between the country’s part-time service members and their employers resulting in a strong and ready military force.

To nominate your employer for a Patriot Award visit the ESGR website at esgr.mil. 🇺🇸



Soldiers from the 222nd Field Artillery Battalion demonstrate the 50-caliber M2 machine gun to a group of civilian employers at a Boss Lift, April 23, 2022, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.



Soldiers from the 222nd Field Artillery Battalion demonstrate the capabilities of their M109A6 Paladin, a self-propelled artillery vehicle, to a group of civilian employers at a Boss Lift, April 23, 2022, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.



UTANG KC-135R Stratotankers participate in readiness exercise

U.S. Air Force Major Alex Berry, training officer for the 151st Operations Support Squadron and Lt. Col. Cliff Woodman, a pilot assigned to the 191st Air Refueling Squadron, return from a readiness exercise on March 5, 2022, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. The Air National Guard provides the capability to deploy U.S. Air Force assets anywhere in the world within hours and help sustain them in a conflict.

U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock





Utah National Guard aids Utah County authorities in search and rescue efforts

Soldiers from the 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, Utah National Guard, were dispatched in support of the Utah County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue efforts to find a missing 65-year-old motorcyclist in and around Mapleton Canyon, May 9, 2022. A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and crew members transported search and rescue volunteers up Mapleton Canyon where they were dropped off to begin their search efforts and later returned back to the incident command center. The Black Hawk crew also conducted search efforts from the air. Local search and rescue support demonstrates Utah National Guard readiness and strengthens partnerships with local civilian agencies.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Staff Sgt. Jordan Hack



The Utah National Guard's new Director of Joint Staff—Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis



Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis, director joint staff, Utah National Guard.

ARTICLE BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Ileen Kennedy

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.” — Douglas MacArthur

When growing up many little boys dream of being a Soldier or flying an airplane. Those dreams and goals aren't always realized and some take an unexpected turn and are fulfilled a little bit different than originally imagined.

While growing up in Salem, Utah, Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis had some incredible examples of military service. His father was a veteran of WWII and served in the U.S. Navy as a radar operator on the USS General W.C. Langfitt.

“I loved to sit around the table and listen to my dad tell stories of serving in the Navy and his shipmates,” said Davis.

Davis' parents were very active and involved in serving in their community, serving in the American Legion and other civic organizations, youth programs, and church service. His father also served as mayor of Salem and volunteer fireman/fire chief for a number of years.

“One of my best friend's father was in the Utah Army National Guard, Col. (retired) Don Cole, who I looked up to professionally and personally; I even got to attend a couple of Governor's Day with their family,” said Davis. “But one of the biggest influences in my youth that steered me towards a desire to serve in the military was the years that I spent as the bugler for the American Legion Post 68 in Spanish Fork. My dad was an active legionnaire, and my mom was involved in the American Legion Auxiliary. As the bugler for them I had the awesome opportunity to

spend hours listening to and interacting with mostly WWII veterans while providing military honors for veterans. Being among other veterans provided them a safe space to talk about and share military experiences that I would have never otherwise had the opportunity to hear, including those of my Dad. They were great examples of integrity, selfless service, camaraderie, dedication and had an unwavering love for our country.”

Also at a young age, Davis developed a desire to fly and dreamed of piloting an aircraft. Pairing his examples of military service and his desire to fly led him to pursue a career in the Air Force. During his first semester at Brigham Young University, he joined the BYU Air Force ROTC. After joining ROTC he found out that his eye sight was not 20/20 uncorrected, and due to the Air Force having too many pilots at that time, the chances of getting a pilot slot with corrected 20/20 vision was unlikely. Not wanting to be assigned in some other career field Davis decided not to pursue a career in the Air Force and looked for opportunities to learn to fly elsewhere.

After serving a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, then returning to college, Davis joined the flying club at Provo Airport and started taking lessons from his cousin so he could obtain his private pilot's license. Davis received his private pilot's license and loved flying, but soon realized that there was no way he would be able to afford to continue on towards the

other certifications and ratings he would need. About this same time he had a new neighbor move in who happened to be a pilot for Delta Airlines and also a prior Air Force pilot. His neighbor recommended he join the Air National Guard. As an Air Force instructor pilot, he said he had seen several Guard members with waivers allowing them to fly, to which Davis replied he didn't really want to join the Army. Davis had never heard of the Air National Guard.

Davis contacted and met with James Andrews, "Mr. Don't Waste Utah", one of the recruiters, and told him about his desire to be a pilot.

Andrews replied, "so does everyone that comes through those doors."

Andrews explained that most of the pilots were hired from within the Guard and recommended Davis pursued becoming a crew chief because he had seen several of them get picked up into flying positions. Davis didn't really know what a crew chief was or did, but wanted to sign me up so he could pursue his desire to fly.

Davis enlisted into the Utah Air National Guard in January 1989, and was off to basic training and technical school that summer after completing spring term at Utah Valley Community College. He was happy to have the GI Bill and Uncle Sam helping to pay for college.

Davis was 23 when he enlisted in the Guard and had taken a couple of years



Basic Training photo of Kurt Davis in 1989. Second Lt. Kurt Davis at Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training, Mather Air Force Base, California, with a T-37 training jet in 1992.

— PHOTOS COURTESY U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis

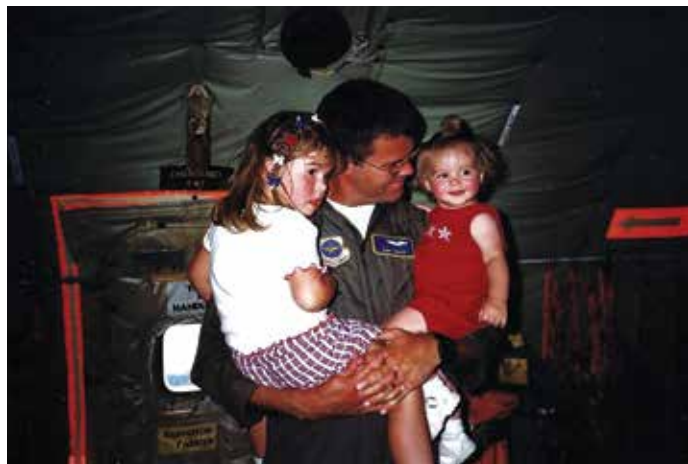
away from college to serve a two-year mission. It also took almost a year to attend basic training and technical training, plus he worked while going to college.

Fast forward a couple of years, Davis was fast approaching the maximum age of 27-and-a-half to be accepted into pilot training and still had not completed his four-year degree.

He had been given the opportunity during crew chief training and also when he returned to his unit to go on a couple of flights on the KC-135E Stratotanker. He really didn't know what a navigator was, but Davis noticed they were always busy on the flights and seemed to be the only people in the Air Force who could tell the pilots where to go and how to get there and get away with it. Davis said they were always super friendly and willing to demonstrate what they were doing, whether that was taking



Wife Vickie, pinning second lieutenant rank on Kurt Davis after getting commissioned at the Air National Guard Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tennessee in 1991.



Cpt. Kurt Davis and his daughters, Kylee and McKenna, at a homecoming after returning from a deployment in 1999.



Working at the navigator table in a KC-135R Stratotanker during a flight.



Laying a wreath at the Veteran's Day program in Castle Dale, Utah in 2016.



Left to right: Doug Cline, Kurt Davis, Sam Ramsay, and Lt. Col. Kelvin Findlay, aircrew on a flight out of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.



Air Force Basic Military Training Graduation with son Kempton Davis at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

a celestial navigation shot through the sextant, a radar fix off a return on the ground or just dead reckoning and plotting their course on the chart. They determined the flight speed, route, and directed the rendezvous with the receiver aircraft. It was super interesting to Davis. However, navigators had the same age requirement to be in training as pilots, but there were a few waivers for navigators. As long as he had completed two years of college and signed an agreement to complete his remaining two years of college within four years of completing navigation school he could request a schooling waiver to get his commission and go to navigation school.

At this time the unit announced that it would be hiring one navigator to go to Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training in fiscal year 1991. Davis was just finishing up his junior year of college and had graduated with his associate's degree so he met the education requirements to

get commissioned and go to SUNT with the waiver. Plus, navigators with 20/20 correctable vision didn't require a vision waiver. He applied for the navigator slot and was selected. At that time the Air National Guard had its own commissioning program, the Academy of Military Science at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tennessee. He attended the Academy of Military Science in the summer of 1991 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

During the commissioning ceremony as each Airman went across the stage their name and home state was announced as they received their gold bars. Davis was standing in the line and was the next Airman to be announced when the program was paused. At first, Davis said he had thoughts that someone was going to tell him for some reason he didn't make it and was not getting commissioned. However, after a brief pause, it



Second Lt. Kurt Davis parasailing behind a pick-up truck at navigator training to practice parachute landing falls, Mather Air Force Base, California, 1991. Col. Kurt Davis and Col. Chris Buckner in mission-oriented protective posture during a CBRNE exercise at the Utah Air National Guard Base in 2019. Lock and Davis at the 151st Security Forces Squadron M9 simulator.

was announced that he was the 7000th Airman to be commissioned through the Academy of Military Science and he was presented with a commemorative second lieutenant gold bar with the number 7000 engraved on the backside of it.

Being part of the aircrew Davis had many opportunities to deploy and go on temporary duty during his 15-plus years flying. From 1994-2012, he had 17 deployments in support of operations that were from a few weeks to a few months long. He deployed in support of Operations Uphold Democracy, Decisive Endeavor, Deliberate Guard, Deliberate Forge, Allied Force, Joint Guardian, Northern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Joint Forge, and Iraqi Freedom. While deployed he had the opportunity to fly out of Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico; Pisa, Italy; Istres, France; Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Royal Air Force Akrotiri, Cyprus; and Anderson AFB, Guam.

Deployments have been some of the highlights of his military career. That's where all of the training paid off when he was out doing the mission that the Air Force had trained him to do. In the spring of 1999, was his first involuntary mobilization. The flying squadron was being mobilized to support the air campaign over Yugoslavia. At the time, Davis was working as the nuclear planner in the wing plans shop and the unit had its annual big nuclear revision coming out where he was responsible to plan and build all of their combat mission folders for the assigned missions. Davis said he was disappointed that he was the only navigator being left behind. There was a lot of uncertainty about the deployment, the length, location, and mission. About 36 hours before the unit was to leave, one

of the other navigators had a health issue that was going to prohibit them from deploying. Davis received a call and was told he would be going instead. At the time, he had a young family with four kids ranging in age from one to seven.

When he got off work that evening he met his wife, Vickie, and their two boys and two girls, at Classic Skating in Sandy for a birthday party. Davis broke the news to his family at the party that he would be deploying in just over 24 hours from then.

"Vickie, took the news like a trooper and at the time all I could tell her was our orders were cut for nine months and I couldn't tell her the location we were going to," said Davis.

Little did he know, he was one of the few that didn't disclose their location to their spouse before leaving. She got that news at her first family support meeting when all of the other spouses knew where the unit was flying out of.

"Vickie and our kids' support has just been unwavering throughout my military career! That's just one example of a short notice departure and deployment that the family took in stride," said Davis.

As his career progressed in the Air Guard, his career field changed. Navigators are no longer used in the Air Force, GPS has replaced the need for a traditional navigator. Davis was the last flying navigator in the Utah Air National Guard and his last flight as a navigator was on Sept 25, 2007. The KC-135R no longer has a navigator as part of the aircrew, it now consists of two pilots and one boom operator as a basic crew. The career field has changed and the navigator Air Force Specialty Code is now referred to as a Combat Systems Operator. CSO training merged the three previous USAF Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training tracks formerly known as the Navigator track, the

Weapon System Officer track and the Electronic Warfare Officer track.

“I’m still holding out hope that they will bring the navigator back!” said Davis.

After the career of navigation dissolved, Davis was appointed as the State Partnership Program coordinator in 2006. At that time it was a one-man shop in Utah with one person as the bilateral affairs officer in Morocco. The program had a budget of \$0 to work with. Outside of African Lion, the largest military exercise in the region, which SPP did receive some funding for, all of the other exchanges were unit funded by the participating Army or Air unit. However, even with those limitations, there was a very robust program that averaged 10-12 exchanges per year.

Utah’s SPP had a great relationship with the Moroccan military which was evidenced by an annual planning conference where the former BAO, now retired Lt. Col. Neil Glad; the operations officer, Chief Warrant Officer Brian Searcy; and Davis attended in Morocco. The conference was led by an active-duty contingency out of EUCOM.

“With every proposal the Active Duty would make, the Moroccan delegation would look to Lt. Col. Glad, Chief Searcy and I for our concurrence,” said Davis. “It was pretty funny and frustrating to our active-duty counterparts, but was a great example of the partnership we had built with them, which really got off to a great start when we sent a plane full of humanitarian aid after they experienced a large earthquake early in our partnership.”

Davis’ previous assignment prior to being promoted to the rank of brigadier general was to serve as the wing commander for the 151st Air Refueling Wing. For the almost three-and-a-half years he was the wing commander, it was one of the busiest and most challenging times in the Utah Air National Guard’s 75-year history. “

“I’m most pleased with what the wing was able to accomplish and the professionalism and dedication our Airmen exhibited over those challenging three-and-a-half years,” said



Left to right: Command Master Sgt. Brian Garrett, Col. Kurt Davis, and Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton greet Gov. Gary Herbert at the Utah Air National Guard Base in 2019.

Davis. “The wing literally knocked it out of the park! I couldn’t be prouder of the effort and professionalism that they demonstrated under these crazy times. Hopefully, we continue to build a culture of inclusiveness and foster an environment where every Airman feels valued and can achieve their full potential.”

Davis describes his career in the Guard as nothing short of incredible. He tells people all of the time that the Air National Guard is the best-kept secret in the military.

“I look back on all of the great people I’ve been honored to serve with, the experiences I’ve had, cool things that I’ve got to do and places I’ve been and it still shocks me that an average kid from Salem, Utah has got to experience this,” said Davis. “I loved my time as a navigator and being on an aircrew. It was the ultimate team experience.”

Even with all of the memorable things that Davis has got to do and places he had the privilege to visit he explains that his time in the Guard has really been about the people he has met and served with.

“I truly believe, as our license plate states, the Utah National Guard is Americans at their Best,” said Davis. “In addition to those I’ve been blessed to serve with on the military side, I’ve been blessed to meet and work with partner country military members, political leaders, civic/community leaders, business leaders, Guard family members, shop owners, employees, worker bees, laborers and orphans, all have had an impact on me and my life. I think when it’s all said and done it will be the people and relationships that I will cherish the most.”

Like most, Davis has had his challenges and says being in the military brings unique challenges to our families.

“Looking back, I think the amount of time I spent away from home while a crew member and being gone a fair amount either deployed or TDY while my family was young probably had a bigger impact on my wife and kids than I originally thought,” said Davis. “But in the end, I think we have all come out realizing that we can do and overcome hard things in life and are stronger and better having gone through those challenges.”

As for rank, Davis said he has never been one to aspire to a specific rank or position. He felt pretty confident that he could promote to the rank of lieutenant colonel as a navigator and anything beyond that would be icing on the cake. When Airman 1st Class Davis signed the dotted line some 33 years ago, he had no idea or could even fathom the experiences and opportunities the Guard would give him. It has exceeded any expectations that he had.

On April 9, 2022, Davis was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed as the director of joint staff.

“My goal in this position is really pretty simple, since I’m a simple man, and that is to do all we can to support TAG’s priorities of lethality and readiness, partnerships and efficiencies, and to ensure that our Guard members have all of the training, equipment and resources to continue to answer our state and nations call in any type of emergency, man-made or mother nature. And to ensure that our joint staff does everything that we can to support our 7,300-plus citizen Soldiers and Airmen,” said Davis.

Davis plans to bring the same leadership philosophy that he had as the wing commander to his new position.

“Years ago when I worked for a financial services company where they often talked about “people under leadership... assets under management” I came to realize I am a people first, mission always guy. The mission doesn’t get accomplished without people, so my focus is really on the people, who in-turn will accomplish the mission,” said Davis. “Like at the wing, I want to continue to build a culture of inclusiveness and foster an environment where every Soldier and Airman feels valued and can achieve their full potential.”

A quote from George S. Patton said, “Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

“When it’s all said and done, my hope is that those I’ve had the privilege of serving with will say that I lived and exemplified the Air Force Core Values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do,” said Davis. “And that I treated everyone with dignity and respect and valued them as individuals and what they brought to the team and that we accomplished the mission with dedication, professionalism and distinction every time.” 🇺🇸



Family photo at Brig. Gen. Kurt Davis' promotion with his children and some of their spouses and grandson in 2022. Left to right: Spencer, son; Grayson, grandson; Sabrina, daughter-in-law; Karlee, daughter-in-law; Kempton, son; Kurt; Vickie, wife; Kiera, daughter; McKenna, daughter; Kylee daughter; and Brock, son-in-law. Missing from the photo are sons-in-law Rylan and Justin.

My journey to becoming one of the top female tactical athletes in the nation



Maj. Gen. Anthony R. Hale, commanding general of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, congratulates Maj. Robin Cox on winning 2nd place in the women's elite division at the Tactical Games held in Barnwell, South Carolina, Oct. 7, 2021.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Cpt. Danita Darby, U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence

In 2019, while deployed to Afghanistan with the 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post—Operational Detachment, I discovered a competition called The Tactical Games while scrolling through Instagram on my downtime. Pictures of fit people in tactical gear, shooting guns and doing fitness things—it looked fun and exciting! I decided that I was going to make it my goal to compete in the Tactical Games when I got back to the U.S.

I have been active my whole life but I have not always been very fit or athletic. In 2011, a friend and classmate of mine at Military Intelligence Basic Officer Leader Course introduced me to CrossFit, and I was hooked. I later joined a CrossFit box in Salt Lake City, Utah, and that helped me get fit, stay healthy, and regain my fitness after having two kids. I was drawn in by the intensity and competitive nature of CrossFit, and I participated in several local CrossFit competitions or “throwdowns” over the years. I was strong and athletic and enjoyed the competitions, but I was never good enough at the “sport of CrossFit” to excel beyond occasionally getting on the podium in a local “throwdown”.

When I found out about the Tactical Games—a sport that combines fitness with marksmanship—I saw it as an opportunity to potentially excel in a niche sport. The events were relatively small, and there were fewer female participants than males. Even though I knew I had a lot of work to do to get ready, once I got the idea in my head that I was going to do it and set it as a goal, it immediately motivated me to train more purposefully.

Training for the physical challenge was the easy part. I was already pretty fit and no stranger to fitness competitions. Training the marksmanship skills was more difficult. It required guns, equipment, ammo, and range access. When I returned to Utah after deployment, I knew I had to find a way to overcome those obstacles. A colleague recommended that I talk to 1st Sgt. Kirk Holmer (now retired), who was the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Small Arms Readiness Training Section. With the help of Kirk and the rest of the SARTS team, I was able to participate in training beyond what I would normally get during regular unit marksmanship instruction.

I convinced Holmer to try the Tactical Games with me, and he pitched the idea to the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center. NGMTC is headquartered in Arkansas and manages the All Guard

Photos top down: Maj. Robin Cox training at Burnet, Texas, Nov. 19-21, 2021, in preparation to compete at the 2021 National Championships.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Ro Asgari



marksmanship teams as well as hosting marksmanship training and competitions to support all 54 states' and territories' National Guard units. NGMTC agreed to sponsor us as members of the newly created All Guard Tactical Athlete Competitions Team. Holmer, Capt. Garrett Miller from NGMTC, and I were the first members of the TAC Team to compete in the Tactical Games in July of 2020, where I took third place in the women's division. My placement qualified me for the Tactical Games National Championship that November, where I finished fifth in the women's division. In 2021, the Tactical Games added a women's elite division to keep up with the increasing numbers and capability of female competitors. I have now competed in a total of six Tactical Games, with a podium finish in five of those, and I am considered one of the top female tactical athletes in the nation.

Tactical Games competitions are two-day events (the National Championship is three days), and competitors participate in four stages each day for a total of eight stages. The stages combine physical challenges such as carrying heavy objects, navigating obstacles, running, and rucking—all done in full kit, which includes body armor, pistol belt, and ammo—with rifle and pistol marksmanship. Competitors must be able to sustain physical activity at the threshold of their capacity and immediately be able to transition into accurately putting rounds on target while their heart rate is high and they are breathing heavily, and then go right back to work on physical tasks as soon as they have completed a course of fire. It tests an athlete's fitness and athleticism as well as marksmanship under stress. The best competitors are typically the ones who are able to balance a high level of fitness with solid marksmanship skills. You really cannot make up for bad shooting with good fitness or vice versa—you need to be good at both.

Most of my training in the gym is like CrossFit, but with a focus on the skills needed for the Tactical Games. For example, I need to have a lot of grip strength to be able to do farmer's carries that often exceed 100 pounds per hand. I need to have a strong core and posterior chain to be able to lift the 150-pound sandbag. Arm and shoulder strength is critical to being able to present and hold a gun on target under fatigue and be able to manage recoil. And in addition to strength, I need to have speed and endurance as well. I follow a training plan programmed by the Tactical Games' director of training, and even though it is created specifically with



Photos top down: Maj. Robin Cox training at Ben Avery Shooting Facility, Phoenix, Arizona, Oct. 24, 2021. Maj. Robin Cox training at Florence, Texas, April 3, 2021.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Ro Asgari



Tactical Games athletes in mind, it works great as a general functional fitness program as well.

To maintain my marksmanship skills, I try to go to the range once a week. I also dry-fire practice weapons manipulation and drills between range sessions to save on ammo.

Training for the Tactical Games also helped me to excel on the Army Combat Fitness Test. During the testing phase, when the standards were the same for males and females of all ages, I scored a 523 on the ACFT.

More importantly, training for the Tactical Games has provided me with motivation in difficult times. When I came home from Afghanistan in 2019, I came home to multiple major life changes. Only a few months later, COVID-19 changed everyone's lives and routines. Because I had set a goal to compete in the Tactical Games before I even left Afghanistan, I was determined to train hard and not give up. That motivation and the continued desire to better myself and compete and win has stayed with me.

This competition season, I'm fitter and stronger than I have ever been before. I'm a better shooter than I was before. And I'm determined to win! 🏆

Maj. Robin Cox training at Liberty Hill, Texas, April 1, 2022.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Ro Asgari

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
11. St. George/Cedar City	435-986-6705
12. Vernal	435-789-3691
Veterans and Retirees	866-456-4507

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- TRICARE/TRICARE dental assistance
 - Financial assistance/counseling
- Legal and pay issues • ID-card referral
 - Emergency-assistance coordination
 - Counseling support/referral
- Community support • Family/household emergencies • Family Care Plan information
 - Family communication • Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System information.

We are here to serve you!

Utah Family Assistance Centers assist service members and their families and are open to all military branches: Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components.



Utah National Guard promotes and welcomes new assistant adjutant general-Army at change-of-command ceremony

DRAPER, Utah — Brig. Gen. Joseph W. Green has his general's stars pinned to his uniform by his family at his promotion ceremony March 13, 2022, at Draper, Utah. Following his promotion, a change-of-command ceremony took place where Green assumed the role of assistant adjutant general-Army, Utah National Guard, from Brig. Gen. Tyler Smith. 📷

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 1st Sgt. John Etheridge



A Family's Faith: "Chosin" Reservoir Soldier Comes Home

OGDEN, Utah — Corporal David B. Milano, MIA, was lost in action during the Korean War on December 2, 1950. After 71 years, he was repatriated back to the United States and reunited with his family. An Honor Guard made up of members of the Utah National Guard conduct an Honorable Carry at the Salt Lake City International Airport, April 26, 2022. Milano was born in Chicago, Illinois on Dec. 23, 1932, to Albert and Lida Milano. His family relocated to Utah, where Milano was laid to rest next to his mother, sister and brother-in-law at Evergreen Memorial Park, 100 Monroe Blvd., Ogden, Utah. 📷

— ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Jordan Hack
PHOTO BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Ileen Kennedy



Utah National Guard Assists Boy Scouts to Feed Utah Families

DRAPER, Utah — Sgt. First Class Robert Conder, a Soldier with the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion, Utah National Guard, and members of Boy Scout troop take a break from collecting and loading donations for the Scouting for Food drive in Draper, Utah, Feb. 12, 2022. The Utah National Guard is committed to the Scouting for Food drive as it unites Utahns from multiple counties in the fight against hunger. 📷

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Alejandro Lucero



Investigation completed for the two Utah Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks involved in training accident

DRAPER, Utah — DRAPER, Utah - Combined crews from the Utah and Nevada Army National Guard prepare a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for air transport March 2, 2022, near Snowbird Ski Resort in Utah. Two Black Hawk helicopters that were involved in an accident the previous week were sling-loaded by a Nevada Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook and transported to Heber Valley Airport, Heber City, Utah. 📷

— ARTICLE U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Lt. Col. Jaime Thomas
PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 1st Sgt. John Etheridge



Brig. Gen. Tyler B. Smith, former assistant adjutant general-Army, retires after 35-years of service

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Brig. Gen. Tyler Smith receives his certificate of retirement from Maj. Gen. Michael Turley, adjutant general, Utah National Guard, at his retirement ceremony, March 14, 2022, at Camp Williams, Utah. Smith, whose most recent assignment was assistant adjutant general-Army, Utah National Guard, was joined by family, friends and community members to celebrate his 36-year career in the military. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Ariel Solomon



The Utah National Guard Celebrates Women’s History Month in March 2022

DRAPER, Utah — During the month of March, the Utah National Guard celebrates Women’s History and honors and acknowledges the struggles and achievements of American women throughout the history of the United States. Women have played a vital role in our military in every war since the Revolutionary War. Today, women serve in every career field in the military and are critical members of the Utah National Guard. Photo is of Capt. Melissa Stenquist with her family. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Utah National Guard Public Affairs
PHOTO COURTESY OF Capt. Melissa Stenquist



Camp Williams adds a Premiere Search and Extraction Training Site to Benefit the Homeland Response Force, State, Region, and Nation

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — The Utah National Guard FEMA Region VIII Homeland Response Force held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Collapsed Structure Venue Site May 10, 2022. The CSVS is one of only three military owned Urban Search and Rescue training venues west of the Rocky Mountains. This CSVS will allow both military search and extract and civilian search and rescue teams the opportunity to train together and build those necessary partnerships needed in an “all hazards” response. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Lt. Col. Robert Ramage Warden
PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Ileen Kennedy

Hansen Gavan William
Hansen Thomas Talin
Heath Ian Clifford
Helm Koltan Russ
Hernandez Miguel Gaspar
Herrin Zachary Eugene
Hollinger Joseph Ty
Hopkins Hailey Kristine
Hoskins Christine Mae
Huntington Ethan Richard
John Marcus
Johnson Elizabeth Erin
Johnson Jace Parker
Jordan Brian Alan
Kenworthy Joshua William
Kezior Jared Paul
Kirk Adam Anthony
Koch Landon William
Kunz Christian Scott
Larsen Collin Archie
Leo Garrett Robert
Loomis Benjamin Sawyer
Lugo Hector David
Lundberg Colton John
Mackay Trapper John
Mahaffey Sean Patrick
Manns II Maurice Mondrae
Martinezacuna Fabrizioo
McArthur Rosten Lynn
Mockbee Richard McKay
Monago John Albert
Moslander Jay Paul
Murie William Gaige
Nettleton Samuel James
Oneal Kyle Ward
Orr Cameron
Pareja Kevin
Parry Robert Allen
Pearman Garrett James
Peppmuller Trevor Lee
Petersen Ethan Eric
Peterson Cameron Elwood
Petty Brandon Ted
Phillips Thomas Wayne
Pincock Theodore
Pitts Harper Brent
Ransom Paul Douglas
Reed Kip Waldon
Roberts Tyler Luke
Rodino Jr Joseph Rocco
Roth Christian Earl
Salasalcala Daniel
Saunders West Christopher
Saylor Ammon Robert
Scurti Christopher Rondo
Shelton Spencer Legrand
Sheriff Cody John
Sierra Johngregory
Smith James Thomas
Smith Michael Mason
Smith Sean Pearson
Smith William Trae
Snow Sarah
Snyder Bryce James
Steedman Tre Anthony

Stewart Kyle Wayne
Stone Brandon Connor
Stott Payton Cache
Syrett Wesley Douglas
Teynor Thomas Christian
Thatcher Spencer Douglas
Tinnes Ian Michael
Tolman Brennan James
Torres Angel Roxann
Tuttle Daniel Russell
Vernon Cole Edward
Vigliaturocraft Isabella D.
Viverossanchez Hector
Walker Ethan Jacob
Watts Gregory Jacob
Webb Gavin Thomas
Wells Thomas Bruce
Wilcock Micah James
Wilcox Jace Russell
Williamson Jay Michael
Wood Makenzie H
Wright Shawn Bryan
Yardley Ty Trevor
Zamora Samuel

SPECIALIST

Acord Cayden Dustin
Aglia Brayden Timothy
Andersen Garrett Willis
Ashworth Carter Arron
Austin Nicholas James
Bailey Kyle Brent
Barton Caleb Jayrichard
Baugh Trenton Parker
Baumgartner Skyler James
Belnap Talon Joseph
Bennett Devan Jade
Blackburn Jaden Eugene
Boasten Altagracia M
Bowers Carson Scott
Brown Iv Wayne Frederick
Carter Brody Brant
Chappell Arora Kay
Checketts Payden Wayne
Christopherson Kyran T.
Clay Aaron Michael
Clements Jessica
Cluff Thomas Leroy
Collings Kaden Joseph
Darden Caitlyn Anne
Deharaespinoza Diego Alonso
Dorantes Stacy Salazar
Duong Anh Hongphuong
Eddy Samuel Jacob
Erickson Zackory Allan
Floor Steven Phillip
Golsan Cody Cristov
Golsan Palmer Scott
Goncalves Alec James
Goodwin Nathan Gerald
Grant Evan Ryan
Hambleton Noah Matthew
Hampton Mercedes Louise
Hancock Emily Sonja
Harris Joseph Oliver

Hickenlooper Dirk Jay Jr
Hodgson Ryan Joseph
Hollan II Michael Keith
Hunt Brittany Taylor
Jarecki Gregory Anthony
Judy Danielle
Kane Madilyn Noelle
Kennington Donald Kasey
Kim John Jeonho
Kitchen Owen Tanner
Klinge Madison Allen
Larger Lehi Joseph
Lee Benjamin Hopkins
McArthur Kolby Daniel
McCuen Jr Joseph Alan
McDougal Quincy Sinclair
Mendenhall Russel Landon
Mitchell Chance Jerry
Mohler Trevor Scott
Neighbor Jason Michael
Nelson Hope Meili
Olds Jaden Travis
Ott Jordan Spencer
Owen Matthew Daniel
Oyer Jr Manuel Eduardo
Peterson Cameron Lamar
Ramsay Dylan Michael
Riggs Cyndy Christene
Rodriguez Samuel Joseph
Sasser Jd Lee
Saunders Bryan Lynn
Savage Connor Nathan
Smit Zachary Craig
Soape Robert Bruce
Stennetperales Jr Joe I
Stiehl Camden Ray
Thomas Gavin Max
Thompson Anthony Josiah
Torok Jessica Hope
Uhl John Connorannon
Vannoy Justin Davis
Vespa Michael Valore
Waldron Aaron Michael
Weber Devon Ammon
Weidmer Sean Archer
Westover Stephen Fowles
Wilcox Izaac Zonta
Wirthlin Quin E
Wiseman Dylan Benjamin
Wood Anthony Case
Woodard Brendon Guy
Woolley Jackson Chad
Workman Derek Paul

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Aiton Annette Kay
Arellanescarranza Emanuel
Ballou Aidan Gregory
Brown Conner Preston
Bustosmurcias Nestor Imanol
Christensen Maverick Malan
Dwire James Allen
Filice Iii Anthony Ernest
Freeze Sydney Lauren
Garcia Benjamin Isaac

Garcia Iii Thomas Anthony
Garr Gage Vann
Gonzales Joshua Ryan
Gonzalez Emmanuel D
Grow Clayton Darnell
Hamilton Spencer Kenneth
Haslam Joshua Russell
Heredia Andrew Erik
Htoo Shar Hel
Jensen Jeffery Austin
Jenson Jacob Alan
Johnson Cameron Shayne
Kaulia Jonah Kuwalu
Kesavadhana Akekaphop
Kimura Jonathan Edwardm
Kligmann Kaiden Noah
Koeneman Aiden Adamabraham
Kramer Samuel Owen
Kutchback Jacob Samuel
Levet Mayzee Ann
Liechty Seth Nicholas
Lohrey Alexander Scott
Lovejoy Andrew Jordan
Martinezbaeza Paola
Maughan Zayne Howard
McDonald Cheyann Brooke
McInnes Garrett William
Moore Nathan Joseph
Mulberry William Reece
Nabrotzky Austin Michael
Nelson Jacob Samuel
Nybo Savannah Mae
Oreilly Ryan August
Padilla Arturo
Penrod Bridger Byron
Perez Daniel Ramon
Peterson Ryan Richard
Porter Ryan Jacob
Richins Alexander James
Rogers Timothy Burleigh
Rosas Tuesta Hugo Andres
Sanchezsalazar Leonardo R
Service Nathan Patrick
Shepherd Tayson McClaine
Smith Ronald Cameron
Sobel Mekhi Alan
Sorensen Jonah Pacu
Stokes Rylee James
Summerill Jordan Michael
Vukovic Savo
Watson Hunter Mark
Webber Christoff Jared
Wheeler Kenji James
Wozab Chandler Damien

PRIVATE (PVI)

Adams Tomlin Voy
Allen Gabriel Christopher
Benson Morgan Jace
Cardon Jason Louis
Carrilloayala Dayana E
Daley Cody Elwaine
Deacon Isabella Margaret
Diaz Arturo Alejandro
Dutson Cory Matthew

Edwards Connor Ralph
Gray Pierce Darian
Gull Porter Alan
Harman Tanner Bryant
Harris Iziah Richard
Hatch Johnathan Robert
Houghton Maxwell Roger
Hyland Eric Lee
Jeppson Zakary William
Johnson Aaron Mathew
Kelly Jonathan Michael
Koszkovszky Melissa Hope
Logan Hunter James
Marichal Elijah Malachi
Medina Anthony Joseph
Miller Ian Austin
Mitchell Edlena Merie
Navarretenoriega Angel Omar
Palomaressalazar Alexandro
Patterson Autumn Love
Pierce Andrew Jacob
Roberts Konner McKay
Rodriguez Carlos Alfonso
Ruiz Hando
Shire Austin Mikah
Tebetbaez Jorge Adrian
Wadley Aaron James
Walker Jr Hagan Ryan
Wellman Zachary Aaron
Williams Reace Glenn
Wright Ashton Leroi
Zepeda Emily

PRIVATE (PV2)

Ashworth Hyrum Michael
Auten Ethan James
Baker Carson George
Carlson Samuel Richard
Copetillo Nohemy
Guevara Esperanza Camellia
Guymon Addison Erika
Hanks Andrew Knowlton
Hargrave Jonathan Michael
Hayter Dallin Michael
Kalosi Austin Niukapu
Lathim Jason Derick
Lowery Noah McLaren
Mason Reagan Jay
Moreno Catano Anderson
Perry Joshua Stephen
Rasmussen Vincent Allen
Rodriguez Allison Marie
Silva Isaac Nathan
Terry Haley Ann
Udall Chesley Rhett
Wagstaff Blaine Michael
Watts Charles Rylan
Williams Tyson Palmer
Wilson Malachi Jershon
Young Kyler Gordon

Utah National Guard
12953 S. Minuteman Drive
Draper, Utah 84020

FLASHBACK PHOTO



As we go marching along. . . .

The early 1900s was a time of renewed vigor for America's military—war was remote and excitement was generated more by pugilistic exploits and gridiron contests. The Army created “field days” filled with track and field events, ball games and physical fitness tests. Ruck marches were routine. Fort Douglas' 15th Infantry routinely marched throughout the Wasatch Range. Annually they marched to Cheyenne, Wyoming, for a Camp of Instruction and participated in field maneuvers with the Utah National Guard near Utah Lake. In 1911 the 15th was mobilized along the Mexican border and upon their return marched through downtown Salt Lake City to exuberant crowds.

IMAGE: The 15th Infantry on a routine march in Silver Creek Canyon, Utah 1909.

Fort Douglas Military Museum | 32 Potter Street, SLC, UT 84113 | 801-581-1251 | 12 to 5 pm, Tues.-Sat.

— PHOTO COURTESY OF FORT DOUGLAS MILITARY MUSEUM COLLECTION

