

# UTAH MINUTEMAN 2022 Volume 4



**Western Strike 22**

**UTNG Youth Programs**

**Warrior Crossroads/Retention**



U.S. Army Spc. Rebecca Sipe and Maj. Boyd Bandy clean the teeth of a Moroccan man at the Humanitarian Civic Assistance center in Taliouine, Morocco, as part of African Lion 22, June 22, 2022. Africa Command's largest, premier, joint, combined annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, and Tunisia, June 6 - 30.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
PHOTO BY Staff Sgt. Nathan Baker



Major General  
Michael J. Turley  
The Adjutant General

Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard, we are seeing a transition in the national and local economy. This may have some effects on you, your employers, or the cost of housing. All of these are important to us as we take care of our most valuable asset — people. In addition, as the primary combat reserve for the Army and Air Force, our Soldiers and Airmen are our country’s “911 force,” just a phone call away. I know from my experiences as a “traditional” Soldier that it can be tough keeping all the “plates spinning!” All these changes and stresses can have an impact on your stress levels and your

mental health. Know that we have professional counselors available to assist you with both the mundane and the extraordinary. Each of us faces these challenges at different times in our lives and you shouldn’t have to struggle alone.

The economy has certainly gone through some interesting and unique motions as we went through COVID-19, high housing prices (especially in Utah!), and low unemployment. This has created a unique environment for our employers and if you are self-employed, even larger challenges. Most economists are predicting some level of slow down and we have seen (at present) two quarters of negative economic growth which is a traditional measure of a recession. How that will impact Utah and our industries, is yet to be seen but it will certainly influence you, your families, and your employers. This is a concern for me as we curtail some of our orders and other requirements for overseas. Keep your leadership informed so that we can assist you as required. Also, please check-in with our subordinates

so you understand their situation, then you can be prepared to assist them as well.

We continue to see changes in our war-fighting doctrines as we pivot from “counter-terrorism” to “near-peer competition.” These changes could open some exciting opportunities for our Air as well as Army components. New technologies, precision long-range weapons systems, cyber, and information operations all represent areas that Utah has significant advantages. As we watch for these opportunities, we can do things to increase our odds of participation in these new and exciting areas—recruit and retain our Soldiers and Airmen! By recruiting and retaining more people into our units we increase the likelihood that we will be given these new units and opportunities. These new types of units should be additive to the units we presently have so it stands to reason we need to show that the state of Utah can support the personnel requirements for those new units.

Finally, change is inevitable but can also cause stress and unforeseen outcomes within a family. The state of Utah has been generous in funding our Military Family Life Counselors so please reach-out to them or to your unit leadership so we can provide help at those moments we all face in our lives. Don’t suffer in silence or alone!

I know that Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen and I are always thinking of you and your families. We are in awe of how much you do and how well you do it! Know that this great country is only great because of people like you and your families. God bless you, the state of Utah, and the United States of America. 🇺🇸



Command Sergeant Major  
Spencer Nielsen  
Senior Enlisted Leader

Greetings to the entire Utah National Guard Team. To our Airmen, Soldiers, civilian workforce, and our military families, thanks for all you contribute to the defense of and service to our great state and nation. It has been a busy quarter in the Utah National Guard, with most units conducting annual training periods and collective training events. It has been awesome to get around and visit many of these events and witness firsthand the great things our units and members are doing. As always, I remain especially proud of each of you and my association with our exceptional organization.

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to attend several events with the senior enlisted leaders across the nation. The focus of many of these events has been developing ideas to better our organizations—National Guard, Army, and Air Force. One of the events was the Nominative Sergeants Major Solutions Summit hosted by Sergeant Major of the Army Michael A. Ginston. Nearly all the proposals generated at this event were focused on developing engaged leaders at all levels who develop, mentor, and empower subordinates to exercise disciplined initiative to accomplish the mission and improve the organization. The foundation for summit was the This is My Squad program, where leaders at all levels are charged to build cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit.


Although This is My Squad is an Army program, the tenets of the initiative are relevant across the

*continued on page 4*

Armed services. Whether you serve in a squad, flight, brigade, group, or anything in between, each of you are a member of a team. The strength of that team is often determined by the trust, respect, and admiration the members of that team have in one another. Leaders at each level need to take special care in developing the unity and solidity of their team and really get to know one another. Cohesive teams care for individual team members, protect the team from the destructive forces of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and extremism, and foster a culture of professionalism throughout the team. An engaged, principled, servant leader is the cornerstone of any cohesive team.

A team that is highly trained is one that has the knowledge, skill, and experience required to accomplish the anticipated tasks and missions assigned to the team. As we have a diverse mix of units and missions, there is not a uniform recipe for a highly trained team. Leaders need to define what highly trained means for their specific teams. A team that is disciplined simply does what's right—always. A disciplined team lives the Army/Air Force core values, is

respectful of what our service means to our state and nation, and one where all members of the team are true stewards of the profession of arms. A fit team is prepared for the physical and mental demands of service. Members of the team take special care of their individual fitness, and leaders of the team ensure all members meet the standards of readiness.

When I think of the totality of the Utah National Guard, we are simply the conglomeration of hundreds of small teams that collectively comprise one the best organizations in the Department of Defense. Know that each of you are members of an organization of excellence. Be proud of our history and all that we have accomplished. More importantly, be proud of your team and take special care in its development and culture. As we look to the future, continue to build cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined, and fit. If each of us does this, there is nothing we can't face together. You are part of the less than the one percent of the American people who has the honor privilege of wearing the cloth of our nation. Your service matters and you are making a difference, and each of you has earned my sincere gratitude for continuing to choose to be a member of this team. 

## INSIDE

- 2 State Partnership Program
- 3 From the Top
- 5 Life Encouraged: Beyond the Good Stuff
- 6 Family Focus: Kids strengthen resilience with UTNG Youth Programs
- 8 Rucksack: Utah's Triple Deuce tests state-of-the-art ammunition tracking
- 12 Benefits: Warrior Crossroads Assembly
- 14 Photos from the Field
- 24 Health and Fitness: Utah Air National Guardsmen performed lifesaving actions on man who collapsed at grocery store
- 26 In the News
- 30 Promotions

## FEATURE

### 18 The Iron is Hot

Members of 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment; 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment; and 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, participate in Western Strike 22 at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, June 11, 2022. Western Strike is an eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise led by the 65th FAB, that provides National Guard Soldiers immersed training similar to a combat training center and aims to increase participating unit's readiness and lethality.

## COVER PHOTO

U.S. Army Sgt. Spencer Fayles, a combat medic with the 144th Area Support Medical Company, representing the Utah National Guard in the All Guard National Best Warrior Competition, fireman carries an instructor through a simulated war zone during a grueling valor run in Tullahoma, Tennessee, July 26, 2022.

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

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# Beyond the Good Stuff

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Ken Francis, Licensed Clinical Social Worker G1 Medical, Behavior Health Officer HSC 204th MEB, Master Resilience Trainer.

If someone asked you today, “are you thriving, or surviving?” what would you answer? It seems like more of us are answering “surviving,” given the increased stress around us. With everything from gas and grocery prices to dead lawns and dumb weather, it’s difficult to recognize the good things in life.

With it being Halloween season and the holidays around the corner, I was thinking of memories that stand out from childhood. I remember trick-or-treating with friends around the neighborhood. We collected the typical loot – tootsie rolls, smarties, and other small candies. We also knew if we wanted the “really good stuff” we needed to walk a distance to a private road where there was a large house, and the family was known for giving out full cans of soda and full-size candy bars. For several years, we’d make the effort to go to that house, and sure enough we’d always walk away with a can of soda and full-size candy bar. The lesson was that we needed to go beyond the neighborhood “small stuff” to find the “really good stuff.”

If you’re still reading this article, you might be thinking of the resiliency phrase “hunt the good stuff” and maybe shaking your head assuming this is another lame lesson on finding the good things in life. Well, this lesson is more about pushing past the small treats and striving for the full-size soda or candy bar. In other words, how do we thrive and not just survive. Here are four common tools that may help.

**Perspective** – how do you perceive the world around you. This element ties into the “hunt the good stuff” tactic. By looking for positive things around you, you become aware of the good. Unfortunately, I believe our brains default to the negative – that we tend to see the glass half empty or pay more attention to the troubles around us. Recognizing positive things can be a challenge, but very beneficial. This perspective needs to go beyond noticing the autumn leaves or snow in the mountains and seeing positive meaning in life.

**Attitude** – this trait correlates with perspective, but also drives our motivation and actions. When life is difficult, unfair, or unmanageable, we feel at odds with those whose lives are going well. If we default to a negative attitude, that carries over to our interactions with others and outward behaviors. If you find yourself getting into frequent conflicts or arguments, do an attitude check. Changing your attitude is easier said than done. Adjusting your attitude to your situation is a process that takes time, practice, and re-training your brain.

**Support** – having positive support makes a significant difference going beyond the good stuff. In the last Utah Minuteman magazine, my colleague, Caroline Searcy, emphasized the importance of interpersonal connections. Connecting and benefiting with others is crucial to thriving in life. People succeed most when they are surrounded by healthy and supportive peers. Whether engaging with close friends, family, or meeting with a clinical provider, having interpersonal support will help you thrive during all times of the year.

**Energy** – focus your energy on what will be most beneficial. I often notice that people tend to either waste energy on things that don’t make them happy or don’t have enough energy to do things that do make them happy. Finding balance and using energy to thrive is a learned skill. For example, do you spend time and energy putting together an elaborate Thanksgiving dinner for a

large group of friends or family? Or do you choose to focus your energy on a small and intimate group for the holiday? Where is your energy better used? Do you spend precious emotional energy feeling stressed or conflicted? Or do you channel your energy towards peacefully solving problems?

Hopefully this article has reinforced what you already know. To thrive means going beyond just the good stuff and embracing what makes you truly happy. It means going out of your way to get the can of soda and full-size candy bar. Having positive perspective, attitude, support and energy can help you achieve this. 🍻

## Are You Thriving or Surviving?

To thrive means going beyond just the good stuff and embracing what makes you truly happy.

# Kids strengthen resilience with UTNG Youth Programs

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

The importance of resilience cannot be overstated when it comes to members of the Utah National Guard and their families. While it is a common topic in service member briefings and discussions, it can be easy to underestimate or ignore the need for family members to be resilient as well. This is one reason why it's important that the Utah National Guard adopt, cultivate, and promote events and activities in an ongoing effort to bring family members together. This will help families establish and strengthen relationships within the organization, especially in preparation for times of absence. The UTNG-Kids summer camp is one such event hosted by Utah National Guard Youth Programs that has seen great success.

Ashley Warren, Soldier and Family Assistance Center specialist, parent, and volunteer said this was her kids' first time attending the camp. She was one of the parents sitting on the fence prior to this year, always concerned about whether her kids would enjoy it or shy away from activities. After witnessing her kids' flourish, she quickly changed her tune.

"Don't underestimate your kids," she said. "They can push through a lot more than you might think they can. If you're not sure what they would like, start with a smaller activity, and go from there. Just get involved."

Warren also mentioned that this year is exceptionally special because it's the first in-person camp since before the pandemic. The additional hardships that came during the last couple of years with COVID-19, civil unrest, and natural disasters—and the extra deployments that occurred as a result—paired with the fact that Youth Programs had to temporarily shut down in-person activities made it extra difficult to keep the kids engaged with each other.

"When you come [to camp], you realize just how diverse the Utah National Guard is, and the families are very different. There are kids who have single parents, blended families, multiple kids who have lost a parent, kids with same-sex parents. But



Kids from Utah National Guard families display art they created depicting their family, something they enjoy, their biggest fear, and their hero during the annual UTNG-Kids summer camp at Camp Williams, Utah, June 28, 2022. Utah National Guard Youth Programs hosts this summer camp each year, inviting kids within specific age groups to come experience team building, crafts, and learning in a safe and fun environment. (This photo has been altered for security purposes by blurring out last names.)



when the kids talked about their fears, they were all very much the same—losing a parent, being alone, and being forgotten were the most common answers.”

One of the activities the kids participated in was called “The Circle,” where they were invited to share specifics about themselves and their lives at home. At the start, they sit down with a blank piece of paper and colored pens to answer a few simple questions without using words. These were the questions:

How would you describe your family?

What do you like to do for fun?

As a military kid, what scares you or makes you sad?

Think about superheroes in your life—what is a quality you admire?

Warren said she got emotional when hearing some of the kids talk about their answers.

“Most kids depicted their superhero as their service member parent,” she said. “Many of the kids talked about how hard their parent works, and how proud they are that they serve our country, then come home and are still such a great parent,” Warren continued:

“These kids come from different commands across the state, and they haven’t met. They’re all experiencing the same deployment cycles and the hardship that is military life, but they’re doing it alone—they don’t live on a military base, they’re living in these communities where the kids going to school aren’t experiencing the same hardships.”

Dee Davies LaMay, an 18-year gratuitous volunteer from Rhode Island, creator, and facilitator of “Dee Time” during camp, explained that when given the opportunity to go to summer camp, kids identify with each other and realize they’re not alone in their circumstances.

“If somebody’s mom or dad is deployed, they find out that there are other people in that same situation, and I love that it gives them that opportunity [to connect],” she said. “They can be kids...military kids and be proud and understanding of each other.”

Speaking to the importance of UTNG Youth Programs, Dee also shared her passion for giving kids every tool available.

“Bring them,” she said. “There’s nothing better than connections because at school you get labeled right off the bat. Maybe you can create a-whole-other existence. Kids can be whoever they want when they come here, they have a second chance.”

Focusing on leadership, resiliency, education, and fun, UTNG Youth Programs puts on a myriad of functions throughout the year for military kids, including various camps, classes, and workshops. Due to limited staffing and high demand, the summer camps can often have long waiting lists, especially leading up to and during deployments, so it’s important to start getting your kids involved early.

For more information regarding UTNG Youth Programs, contact the Program Director, Connie Parker at 801-716-9239 or email [conniegene.packer.nfg@army.mil](mailto:conniegene.packer.nfg@army.mil). 📧



Kids from Utah National Guard families experience “Dee Time” with Dee Davies LaMay, an 18-year gratuitous volunteer from Rhode Island, kicking off the annual UTNG-Kids summer camp, June 27, 2022.

# Utah's Triple Deuce tests state-of-the-art ammunition tracking

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. Rebecca Call and  
Cadet Joshua Matthews



Spc. Michael Briggs a cannon crew member from 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard, sets a fuse for a 155mm artillery round to be fired from a M109 Paladin self-propelled howitzer during Western Strike 22, a multi-state National Guard training exercise, June 5, 2022, at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. Western Strike 22 is an eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise led by the Utah National Guard's 65th Field Artillery Brigade, that provides National Guard Soldiers immersed training similar to a combat training center and aims to increase participating unit's readiness and lethality.

— U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY Sgt. James Bunn



As the U.S. Army commits to upgrading long-range precision fires capabilities, a new technological advancement that could play a key role in ammo sorting and counting is undergoing field testing by 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment, Utah National Guard, at Orchard Combat Training Center near Boise, Idaho.

Known as the Vision Based Inventory Management system, this new high-tech equipment allows Soldiers responsible for the tracking and handling of munitions to quickly and accurately count, sort, and organize large amounts of their munitions efficiently and accurately with the click of a button.

Prior to the development of this system, Soldiers had to account for their munitions by hand using spreadsheets and tallies. As fire missions dictated, sometimes this could result in round counts moving into the thousands, which was both cumbersome and burdening. With its counting technology and ease of use, this new system has been a welcome change for the troops.

“Some of our munition tracking methods haven’t been changed since the 90s,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rick Strum, an ammunition noncommissioned officer with the 2-222nd FA. “When using the old spreadsheet method, individuals could sometimes make errors that would give us an inaccurate count.”

When working with highly expensive and potentially dangerous munitions, there is zero-tolerance for inaccuracy or misplacement. The new VBIM system aims to provide solutions by accurately documenting ammunition supplies, and then maintaining accountability of ammunition through an advanced modern tracking system that gives commanders knowledge of their inventory in real-time.

“We felt that the Army could be helped by such technologies,” said Michael Carnes, the principal software engineer who helped to develop the system. “By creating a system with real-time automation flow, we’ve given organizations a tool that can maintain accountability of their supplies even during the movement process.”



Sgt. Braxton Bird, a motor transport operator with the 213th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard, loads a 155mm artillery round onto a truck to transport it to a gun line during Western Strike 22.

The technology is currently being wielded through state-of-the-art handheld devices that mimic smartphone technologies used by shipping companies to track packages in real-time. The simple yet advanced design of the VBIM system has proved itself unrivaled in maintaining the accountability of artillery. Initial tests of the software have Army leaders optimistic that it can be used much more versatily, allowing for updated tracking abilities of non-munition supplies such as food, water, and equipment.

“We see the potential growth and application of this technology beyond just artillery,” said Army Capt. Mark Toups, head officer of the Army’s long-range precision fires cross-functional team out of Fort Sill, Oklahoma. “The sky’s the limit.” 🇺🇸



Top: Spc. Eric Carrell, a motor transport operator with the 214th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard, operates a crane to unload artillery shells at an ammo supply point during Western Strike 22.

Middle: Sgt. Joseph Thompson, a motor transport operator with the 214th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard, unstraps artillery shells after delivering it to an ammunition supply point at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho.

Bottom: Sgt. Joseph Thompson, a motor transport operator with the 214th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard, drives a forklift to unload artillery shells at an ammunition supply point during Western Strike 22, June 7, 2022.





Above: Three illumination rounds fired from M109 Paladin self-propelled howitzers from 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard, light the night during Western Strike 22.

Below: Supporting Western Strike 22, Sgt. Braxton Bird, a motor transport operator with the 213th Forward Support Company, Utah National Guard, loads a 155mm artillery round onto a truck to transport it to an artillery gun line.



# Warrior Crossroads Assembly



U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers attend a Warrior Crossroads Assembly briefing.  
—U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO COURTESY OF  
Recruiting and Retention Battalion

ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. 1st Class Raegan Phelps

**S**oldiers — you are the difference! Subordinate, peer, or leader; your role and contributions are vital. You are the Utah Army National Guard's greatest asset, a trained and integral part of our organization. Retention is the process of retaining Soldiers who reach their expiration term of service, which is a primary aim of the UTARNG!

To assist with retaining valued members of our team, the Recruiting and Retention Battalion hosts a semiannual event called the Warrior Crossroads Assembly. The WCA is comprised of many representatives, including every major support command; the state education office; finance (bonus/incentives); and information on accelerated credentialing to employment. The WCA offers briefings to Soldiers on service-related benefits as well as other training and military occupation specialty reclass opportunities within our organization. The WCA briefs Soldiers on the process of increasing their individual Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score, to expand their reclassification choices. In addition, the WCA also provides briefings for Soldiers to explore warrant officer and commissioned officer opportunities via the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.

"The WCA was full of information I was not privy to as a regular drilling Soldier," said Sgt. 1st Class Glen Vaughan. "Had I not gone, I would have not had the opportunity to seek out what the National Guard had available for potential transitioning Soldiers like me. Although my mind was set to re-enlist in order to finish out my 20 years in the Guard, the WCA was a good experience as a senior NCO to go to, not only for myself, but as a new tool to pass on to my junior Soldiers who are on the fence or planning on transitioning out of the Guard or are looking for something new in their career. I appreciated the time and effort the recruiting team, as well as the units that were involved ensured the Soldiers

who attended received the most accurate information of what their options are."

During the WCA, Soldiers are provided with the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of senior military leaders. Additionally, Soldiers may speak directly with other major support commands on career progression opportunities. If a Soldier wishes to re-class and or change units, every effort to accommodate is made during the Warrior Crossroads Assembly to retain individual Soldiers within our organization. Current military extension bonus options and information is reviewed to ensure each member qualifies for continued service. Reclassification of a Soldier's military occupational specialty and changing units has become more popular with Soldiers and senior leaders of the Utah Army National Guard in recent months.

Soldiers are encouraged to bring their families. The UTARNG recognizes that family support is essential to a Soldier's continued service. Many family members are unaware of the benefits available to spouses and children. Medical coverage that include TRI-CARE; education benefits; morale welfare and recreation opportunities; child youth programs to include youth council, youth symposiums, youth outreach; and developing programs for Army National Guard dependents; full-time employment opportunities, including active-guard, support orders, and federal technician positions; and various discounts that are offered to currently serving National Guard members locally, nationally, and abroad. Soldiers and their families get the opportunity to discuss options with senior military leaders as a group or as individual families to explore options based on the Soldier's expectations to remain in the organization. Remaining in the National Guard allows each service member to branch out to other membership organizations to network and receive additional benefits that relate to employment and educational opportunities.



U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers listen to a military occupation specialty re-class and other career broadening opportunities during a Warrior Crossroads Assembly.

—U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO COURTESY OF Recruiting and Retention Battalion

The goal of the WCA is to provide information and support to enable Soldiers and family members to make an informed decision about how to continue their military service or options to remain or leave serving the nation and community. Soldiers no longer are required to remain in the National Guard for 20 years to receive compensation for service upon retirement. The Blended Retirement System replaced the legacy military retirement system in 2018 and allows Soldiers who have departed serving to still own their individual contributions made to the Thrift Savings Program. Soldiers can also transfer individual contributions to another fund outside the TSP or leave them to continue making money. The WCA brings leadership, services, transitional assistance, and educational briefs together in a unique venue for Soldiers and families. 🇺🇸

Questions on benefits or reenlisting? Please see additional resources and links below.

The UTNG retention team email:

[ng.ut.utarng.list.rrb-retention-tm@army.mil](mailto:ng.ut.utarng.list.rrb-retention-tm@army.mil)

Education Office email: [ng.ut.utarng.list.education-office@army.mil](mailto:ng.ut.utarng.list.education-office@army.mil)

Education website: <https://ut.ng.mil/Resources/Education-Services/>

Tricare: [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

Transition Assistance: <https://ut.ng.mil/Family/Transition-Assistance/>

Transition Assistance call 801-432-4937

Blended Retirement System:

<https://militarypay.defense.gov/blendedretirement>

Thrift Savings Plan: <https://www.tsp.gov/>

VA Benefits summary for the National Guard, Reserve members and Veterans

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/benefits>

Partnership for Youth Success (PAYS):

<https://www.nationalguard.com/pays-program>

## Service Member and Family Assistance

The Service member and Family Assistance Team formed Jan. 1, 2020 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 (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
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#### 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 ships AH-64D Apaches to Morocco for African Lion 22**  
The 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, Utah National Guard, and the Utah Air National Guard load four AH-64D Apache helicopters on board a C-5 Galaxy, to be transported to Morocco in support of African Lion 22, a U.S. Africa Command annual exercise on June 18, 2022.

— U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Staff Sgt. Nicholas Perez





MOBILITY COMMAND

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD

1-211







## **Illumination rounds light up the night sky at Western Strike 22**

**Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard, shoot illumination rounds just after midnight at Orchard Combat Training Center during Western Strike 22, June 11, 2022.**

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

# The Iron is Hot



## Western Strike 22 forges America's Thunder

ARTICLE BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Timothy Beery



Gun crews from 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, begin preparing their equipment for a day of fire missions as part of Western Strike 22 at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, June 11, 2022. Western Strike is an eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise led by the 65th FAB, that provides National Guard Soldiers immersed training similar to a combat training center and aims to increase participating unit's readiness and lethality.

— U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Sgt. Alejandro Lucero

**T**o 'strike while the iron is hot' is an idiom meaning to act decisively and take advantage when an opportunity arises. The image is from a blacksmith shop, the smith can shape iron only by striking it with a hammer while it is red hot. Quick decisions follow careful forethought and with the proper technique, resources and material becomes precision instrumentation. This past summer, the training grounds at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, became the kiln for one of America's most lethal assets, as the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard, known colloquially as

"America's Thunder." The 65th FAB coordinated and commanded Western Strike 22, a large-scale, multi-state, field-artillery training exercise that included multiple battalions, military disciplines, some of the most advanced weaponry in the U.S. Army, and incorporated nearly 2,000 Soldiers from across the United States.

"The 65th FAB has spent 15 months planning and preparing for Western Strike 22, which will focus on mastery of the fundamentals at the platoon and squad level in preparation for large-scale combat operations," said Col. Shawn Fuellenbach, commander of the 65th

FAB. “My training objective for America’s Thunder is to build lethal, cohesive teams that are highly trained and disciplined, ready to fight and win.”

While training for Western Strike 22 was multifaceted and complex, simply getting there was one of the biggest challenges. The issue of amassing nearly 2,000 Soldiers from multiple coasts to greater Boise, along with millions of dollars worth of equipment, armament, and vehicles was a massive undertaking. Everything needed to be accounted for and/or transported, down to the essentials such as food and fuel.

Hundreds of military vehicles were transported to Ada County, Idaho, by aircraft, truck, and train. Massive tracked vehicles were moved via rail, while aviation units flew assets to the training center and countless tactical vehicles lined up the interstates leading to OCTC in the latter part of May and early June. Long standing plans for movement were put into place in the year leading up to the event, however changes had to be made on the fly and in real time to place all the pieces where they needed to be.

“No plan survives first contact,” said Cpt. Joshua Moody, planning and exercise officer for the 65th FAB.

“We had a majestic plan of how to get everyone to OCTC. We also had big plans on how we were going to house everyone. But once we arrived on the ground, we had to shift and make adjustments.” he said.

One adjustment was finding bed space for nearly 2,000 Soldiers. There were around 950 bunks in place and during the first and last nights, units had to improvise with large tents, cots, and even using vehicles as temporary housing.

“Col. Fuellenbach, one of his tenants, is to allow troops to solve problems at the lowest level,” said Moody.

“Our units made adjustments and performed

flawlessly and created a theater type scenario. It worked out fantastic.”

Transportation and movement are key indicators of the fitness of a unit. Commanders are evaluated on the ability of a unit to move camp, and successful accomplishment of this step is paramount in the measures they use to evaluate their troops.

“We had certain items for readiness that we needed to achieve,” said Lt. Col. Adam Ashworth, executive officer, 65th FAB. “Leveraging transportation, such as rail, is a mission-essential task that we can meet and evaluate ourselves on.”

Following a day in makeshift lodging, line units began to traverse their way across the training area. Clouds of dust followed large convoys as tracked vehicles seemingly floated over the soft dirt which gave the appearance of flowing water cascading off the massive treads.

While daytime highs remained mostly temperate in the Idaho desert, action on the ground and in air began to heat up eventually reaching inferno levels as artillery and missile crews obliterated and pummeled the sagebrush filled landscape over nine awe-inspiring days. Heavy artillery from M109 Paladins pounded the earth, creating clouds on the horizon as high-mobility artillery rocket system missiles screeched through the air leaving “rooster tails” in their wake.

The exercise was more than just booms and bombs. There was a practical element involved. Observer-controllers from 189th Infantry Brigade, First Army, surrounded Guard Soldiers during the exercise working as both an oppositional force, but also as an evaluating partner.

“We love our National Guard guys. They’re also civilians. They have their own jobs and they come out



Left: Fire-direction control Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery receive fire missions from forward observers and push instructions through to the artillery batteries during Western Strike 22. Right: Light spills out from a M992 Field Artillery Ammunition Support Vehicle, also known as a CAT, ready to supply the M109 Paladin crew with ammunition during a night-time live fire held on Orchard Combat Training Center, June 10, 2022.



— U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY Staff Sgt. Ariel Solomon



Soldiers of Bravo Battery, 145th Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, prepare to fire an artillery round during Western Strike 22 at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, June 10, 2022. — U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Sgt. Rebecca Call

and do an additional job for the state,” said 1st Lt. Denise Blackmon, an infantry officer and Army Ranger with First Army. “Their service is unique in a special way. We want to make sure that their training is as good as they need it to be for this short period of time that we have them,” she said.

Throughout the exercise, OCs placed pieces on the chessboard and created situations that provided training partnerships and efficiencies for both the Guard Soldiers and the active-duty troops on the ground.

“We’re basically the ‘bad guys,’” said Blackmon. “We go out and set up with our OCs. They take us out, do recon, and now we know the situation. We know where they (65th elements) are going to set up, we know how we’re going to attack them.”

The situation provides training efficiency because it is accomplishing a dual role. Guard Soldiers receive real-world training experience fighting against a worthy adversary and First Army Soldiers get the opportunity to sharpen their skills in an environment that mirrors combat.

“They’re (189th Infantry, First Army) our quick reaction force for the Army,” Blackmon continued. “They’re supposed to deploy within 90 days. So, we’re

training up to do that.”

In a blacksmith’s shop, there are specific tools designated to achieve the desired outcome. Iron sharpens iron, and during Western Strike 22, military units of all disciplines worked together extensively to build each other up. Logistical and human resource companies, maintenance platoons, aviation units, combat engineers, and even special forces Soldiers trained on their respective craft learning how to work together across trades and disciplines during the event.

“It’s kind of understanding other elements’ language,” said Col. Christine Brooks, commander of the 734th Regional Support Group, Iowa National Guard. “So we can more easily integrate and be effective on the battlefield.”

“Being able to exercise in an environment such as this—on a larger scale—keeps them fresh,” Brooks continued. “Fresh with understanding what their task is and what they need to do. It refines things for them so they can be that combat multiplier.”

Creating familiarity between elements is a benefit to a large operation such as Western Strike 22. Allowing units that don’t often see each other, to be in the fight together, builds cohesion in the event of an actual deployment.



A gun crew, from the 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, fires their first round at Orchard Combat Training Center during Western Strike 22. The first round in any live-fire event is shot with the crews outside of the gun and fired with a 50-foot lanyard to ensure the gun is safe to shoot. — U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Staff Sgt. Ariel Solomon

“Being able to come out and work with the Active Duty Army and other National Guards allows us to build networks,” said Cpt. Eric How, an engineering officer with the Iowa National Guard. “We find out what assets we have we can help them out with, and vice versa, we find out how they can support us,” he said.

“It allows us to see how they operate,” added Blackmon. “And it allows them to see how we operate.” Working together is the key to the puzzle.

“It’s important just so that the units can operate together,” said 2nd Lt. Steven Church, an artillery officer with 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Regiment (HIMARS), North Carolina National Guard. “That’s what it really boils down to, everybody is cohesive. We can provide fires for units that require it, that need it. From the operational standpoint, that is what needs to be done.”

On the battlefield, building partnerships between components lends itself to creating efficiencies between pieces. Knowing your partner’s capabilities and intentions leads to greater lethality at all levels.

“Every unit has their own standard operating procedures, and their own way of doing things,” explained Rhodes. “It’s good to get out here and see how other units

work. They learn stuff from us, we learn stuff from them, that is one of the most beneficial pieces to this is that we get out here and we can interact with other units.” he said.

When a blacksmith reaches his or her end state, it means raw elements have come together to be shaped and sculpted to a desired goal. Throughout Western Strike 22, commanders forged and sharpened their respective units to reach the required lethality to be able to fight and win our nation’s wars.

“We did accomplish what I wanted to do,” said Fuellenbach. “My goal was to focus our training at the platoon level and below. We wanted multiple sets and reps to build our cohesive teams at the platoon level, but at the same time, we wanted to exercise our battalion and brigade staff and engage them as well.”

Fuellenbach said he wanted to provide multi-echelon training scenarios and have Soldiers respond appropriately to tasks at each level to increase proficiency from the lowest levels and bridge gaps that occur naturally due to distance and geographical boundaries in a brigade that spans both coasts.

“Being able to pull in our organic units from North Carolina and California is something we can’t always do,”

he explained. “Doing that this year really increased the strength of our partnerships with those units.”

Fuellenbach also praised First Army and the National Guards from Idaho, Iowa, and Utah, noting that without those partners, Western Strike 22 could not happen.

“We had elements from every major command in Utah there either participating or part of the support staff,” he said. “That was huge.”

Sharpening the lethality of America’s Thunder was Fuellenbach’s desired end state, doing so while maintaining a level of efficiency and practicality was the requirement.

“We needed to do this safely,” he explained. “Bringing that many people together with the various steps, rail, line haul, flights, and everyone converging on the OCTC over about 48 hours — executing all of that safely was a big priority. Once we got on the ground and situated in our respective positions safely, our focus was on building highly trained lethal platoons.”

Lethal platoons require equal parts planning and

execution. The Soldier needs marching orders to move. Planning, movement, and conducting operations by the battle staff parlayed directly into the success and lethality of the units on the ground.

“We go to warfighter exercises where people and equipment are part of the simulation and it’s easy to move a simulated unit,” said Ashworth. “This is the first time, in a long time, that we have had people and equipment on the ground that we had to control, and it was a test.”

The practicality and tangible factor of using real people and real equipment played an important role in the training value and experience in planning, execution, and tracking, said Ashworth.

“It really taught us some good lessons on good planning and good execution, because the human element is not just an icon on a screen. We’re dealing with real people and real equipment, that was one of the biggest takeaways,” he said.

Working together and moving real people not only



Top left: An M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System moves to a launching position at Orchard Combat Training Center, June 14, 2022. Top right: Sgt. William Bachman, a motor transport operator with 340th Brigade Support Battalion, California National Guard, unloads a flat of 155mm howitzer rounds during Western Strike 22. Bottom left: Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, prepare for movement to situational training exercise lanes. Bottom right: Spc. Rubio Richards and Sgt. Joseph Thompson, both motor transport operators, 214th Forward Support Company, UTNG, unstrap artillery shells after delivering it to an ammunition supply point.

— U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY Sgt. Rebecca Call, Staff Sgt. Jordan Hack and Sgt. James Bunn



Soldiers with Bravo Battery, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard, pose with their red sock after winning Top Gun at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, June 14, 2022. The Top Gun competition recognizes the best paladin crew on their knowledge and mastery of their skills based on a series of scored events that are evaluated by field artillery senior noncommissioned officers. — U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Sgt. Rebecca Call

paid dividends to the brigade staff, but also painted a clearer picture to those on the ground controlling fire teams.

“It’s great for (brigade staff) to be able to utilize different units in varying capacities, mission dictating,” said Staff Sgt. Daven Amiden, a gun chief with 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment, Utah National Guard. “But it also expands our horizon and our capabilities on what we can train on.”

“Even our guys down on the gun line, they get a chance to see all these units and see how it all comes together,” added 1st Sgt. Jason Mellor, 2-222nd FA. “It’s been very beneficial to see the big picture of how our military operations are carried out.”

Seeing the big picture and living in the moment provides crucial training that simply can’t be simulated.

“Every time we get out here, we get to exercise these



Soldiers transport a tactical toilet system during Western Strike 22.

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

guns in a new place and new conditions and places we haven’t been to before,” said Cpt. Joe Rhodes, an artillery officer with 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, Utah National Guard. “That always builds resilience in a Soldier and that will always make you more lethal on the battlefield.”

The human element provided command staff the opportunity to conduct training as close to an actual deployment as possible.

“The key task for us as a brigade was to be able to perform expeditionary deployment operations,” said Fuellenbach. “And to be able to synchronize our fire support assets at the battalion and brigade level.” Fuellenbach said that there is a very real and direct connection and benefit to the enhanced mission readiness provided by Western Strike 22, as two radar platoons from the 65th FAB are preparing for deployments in the near future.

“We focused some training on them to make sure they got the training they needed to be ready to deploy later this year,” he said.

A skilled blacksmith hones his or her craft through repetition and practice. Time and again, raw materials face the elements to come out stronger on the other side. Iron ore, when shaped and formed, creates functional tools, precision instruments, and lethal weaponry. The iron of America’s Thunder is hot, and Western Strike 22 forged the brigade, along with many partner organizations into a ready and lethal fighting force, that when summoned, stand ready to answer the nation’s call. 🇺🇸

# Utah Air National Guardsmen performed lifesaving actions on man who collapsed at grocery store

ARTICLE BY U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD Maj. Ryan Sutherland



On July 7, Staff Sgt. Colton Sirstins, right, and Cameron Cole performed lifesaving actions on a man who collapsed at a local grocery store.

COURTESY PHOTO PROVIDED BY Staff Sgt. Colton Sirstins

Colton Sirstins and his wife, Erika, just finished work on their farm in Riverton, Utah. It was Tuesday, July 5, 2022, another scorching hot summer day in Utah. For Sirstins, a staff sergeant with the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron, the day started like every other day.

After retreating to their house, they turned on their TV and sank into their couch—both exhausted from a long, hot day of work. They had planned on going to the store later in the evening when it cooled off outside, but they both had this feeling that they needed to go to the store now. Sirstins is one to trust his gut instinct, so they left.

Within five minutes at the store, they heard a call for help. They ran around the corner aisle and saw a man lying face down on the ground.

"I saw his legs moving initially, so I was thinking okay, maybe it's a seizure," Sirstins recalled of the scene. "When I got closer, I saw that his face was blue—he's not getting any circulation."

A fellow bystander, Cameron Cole, knelt next to the individual and called 911. Cole handed the phone to Sirstins; they turned the individual over and started chest compressions. Cole, in his mid-forties, hadn't done any sort of CPR training since he was a teenager.

The 911 operator stayed on the line, reassuring them that help was on the way and guiding them in their first-aid efforts.

"The 911 operator made us verbally count the chest compressions and conduct the compressions at the right rhythm and pace," said Sirstins. "Having that communication made it so much easier. It was a team effort!"

After about two minutes, an exhausted Cole asked for Sirstins to take over. He performed chest compressions, a technique he was required to learn to coach football and soccer, as well as training he received throughout his military career—as recently as six weeks earlier—but had never administered in a real-world situation.

In all, they performed CPR for approximately five minutes before emergency medical workers arrived.

While the experience was both scary and exhausting, the most





On July 18, 2022, Staff Sgt. Colton Sirstins, left, Scott Claire, center, Cameron Cole, and their families met in person for a barbecue. On July 7, Sirstins and Cole performed CPR on Claire, who had collapsed in a local grocery store.

COURTESY PHOTO PROVIDED BY Staff Sgt. Colton Sirstins

difficult part for Sirstens was not knowing if the individual was ok after medical personal took him to the hospital.

“That was tough,” he recalled. “I was looking at obituaries the next day. I called the fire department, the police department, the city, nobody could give me an answer due to privacy issues. I was left in the dark. Talk about an anxious couple of days.”

On Thursday, July 7, Sirstins saw a Facebook post that the family was looking for the individuals who provided aid to their family member, Scott Claire. Sirstins was able to connect with Claire’s sister, the two exchanged phone numbers and spoke for about 45 minutes that night.

“It was powerful,” Sirstins recalled of their conversation. “Many happy tears were shed on both sides.”

Sirstins learned that Claire suffered ventricular tachycardia, a heart rhythm problem, and that his heart had stopped. The doctors told Claire’s family that the people who performed CPR new what they were doing, that they broke Scott’s ribs in the process, and that Claire likely would not have survived the encounter without their lifesaving efforts.

“It’s an incredible feeling,” Sirstins said. “Being able to serve my fellow man is huge.”

Sirstins, Cole, and Claire have since connected, and on Monday, July 18, they met in person with their families for a barbecue.

“We talked football, life, and God,” Sirstins shared of their conversations. “We all connect on a spiritual level, we have so much in common—we will be lifelong friends!”

When reflecting on the events of the day and what led him to act, he said that it was humbling experience that has left him confident in his ability to act in challenging situations.

“You don’t think, you just act when it comes to a situation like that,” he said. “My life wasn’t in danger, but I was confident in my ability to help. I already knew I’m capable of doing something that could help my fellow man. This experience solidified that feeling. I have all the confidence that if I were to run into a similar situation, I would handle it with grace.”

Staying current on your first aid and CPR training could be the difference is saving a life

It can happen during a deployment, in the field, in the workplace or at home. Knowing how to recognize and respond to sudden cardiac arrest could be the difference in saving a life.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 356,000 cardiac arrests occur outside a hospital in the U.S. each year. In cardiac arrest, death can result quickly if proper steps aren’t taken immediately. Cardiac arrest may be reversed if CPR is performed, and a defibrillator shocks the heart and restores a normal heart rhythm within a few minutes.

Proper CPR training is not only a medical force multiplier for the military, but also empowers service members to save lives at home or the communities that they live in.

Basic medical skills can easily erode without practice which is why all service members should maintain their training. Thanks to Sirstins’ CPR knowledge, he knew what to do when needed. 🇺🇸



### “Iron sharpens iron” – Utah Guardsman fosters competitive spirit at National Best Warrior Competition

TULLAHOMA, Tennessee — U.S. Army Sgt. Spencer Fayles, a combat medic with the 144th Area Support Medical Company, representing the Utah National Guard in the All-Guard National Best Warrior Competition, struggles through various obstacles during an air-assault obstacle course in Tullahoma, Tennessee, July 26, 2022. Fourteen of the nation’s best National Guard junior enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers participate in an intensive, six-day competition throughout Tennessee to determine who will be named the Army National Guard’s best-of-the-best. 🇺🇸

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



### Making a Move: Logistics and the Success of an Exercise

ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Idaho — Soldiers of the 213th Forward Support Company, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard unload crates of ammunition during Western Strike 22 at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, June 10, 2022. Western Strike 22 is an eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise led by the 65th FAB, that provides National Guard Soldiers immersed training similar to a combat training center and aims to increase participating unit’s readiness and lethality. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. James Bunn  
PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. Rebecca Call



### Utah and Moroccan Paratroopers Exchange Jump Wings

TALIOUINE, Morocco — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Michael Turley, the adjutant general, Utah National Guard; Brig. Gen. Charlene Dalto, commander of the Land Component Command, Utah National Guard; and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Searcy, command chief warrant officer, Utah National Guard, stand with other leaders from the Utah National Guard after participating in a wing exchange with Moroccan and Tunisian paratroopers, as part of African Lion 22, June 27, 2022. African Lion 22 is Africa Command’s largest, premier, joint, combined annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, and Tunisia, with more than 7,500 participants from 28 nations and NATO train together with a focus on enhancing readiness for U.S. and partner-nation forces. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Maj. Brent Mangum  
PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Mackenzie Willden



## Utah's Apache Helicopters Arrive in Morocco

AGADIR, Morocco — An AH-64 Apache helicopter from the 1-211th Aviation Regiment, Utah Army National Guard, waits to be taxied on June 20, 2022, at Agadir Al-Massira International Airport, Morocco. African Lion 22 is Africa Command's largest, premier, joint, combined annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, and Tunisia, with more than 7,500 participants from 28 nations and NATO train together with a focus on enhancing readiness for U.S. and partner-nation forces. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Maj. Brent Mangum  
PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Christopher Hall

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## Utah Army and Air National Guard provide medical aid to Moroccan civilians

TALIOUINE, Morocco — U.S. Air Force Physician Maj. Rozlyn Poray and a Moroccan physician assess the medical condition of a Moroccan man at the Humanitarian Civic Assistance center in Taliouine, Morocco, June 21, 2022, during African Lion 22. African Lion 22 is Africa Command's largest, premier, joint, combined annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, and Tunisia, with more than 7,500 participants from 28 nations and NATO train together with a focus on enhancing readiness for U.S. and partner-nation forces. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
Sgt. Nathan Baker

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## Utah National Guard Members Arrive in Morocco for African Lion 22

TULLAHOMA, Tennessee — U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Utah Army National Guard, U.S. Navy Sailor, and Soldiers from the Royal Moroccan Army train together in a Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force operations center as part of exercise African Lion 2022. African Lion 22 is Africa Command's largest, premier, joint, combined annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, and Tunisia, with more than 7,500 participants from 28 nations and NATO train together with a focus on enhancing readiness for U.S. and partner-nation forces. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Maj. Brent Mangum  
PHOTO BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Christopher Hall



## Utah, Moroccan, and Tunisian Paratroopers Jump Together at African Lion 22

**GRIER LABOUIHI, Morocco** — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Rohling, commander of Southern European Task Force, Africa, accompanied by Soldiers assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Utah Army National Guard, and Royal Moroccan Army soldiers stand at the back of a Moroccan C-130 for a group photo during the friendship airborne operation in Grier Labouihi, Morocco, as part of African Lion 22, June 19, 2022. African Lion 22 is Africa Command's largest, premier, joint, combined annual exercise hosted by Morocco, Ghana, Senegal, and Tunisia, with more than 7,500 participants from 28 nations and NATO train together with a focus on enhancing readiness for U.S. and partner-nation forces. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Mackenzie Willden  
 PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Maj. Brent Mangum



## Utah National Guard supports the 24th annual Spanish Fork Flag Retirement Ceremony

**SPANISH FORK, Utah** — Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, headquartered at the Utah National Guard's Spanish Fork Armory has continuously supported the Spanish Fork Flag Retirement Ceremony for the past 24 years. Members of the Utah National Guard, Boy and Girl Scouts, civil air patrol, naval sea cadets and other youth groups volunteer to be a part of this dignified U.S. flag retirement of the symbol of our country. Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen, senior enlisted leader for the Utah National Guard, was the keynote speaker and has participated in all 24 years of the ceremony. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Ileen Kennedy



## Utah National Guard opens new Special Operations Live-Fire Shoot House

**CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah** — The Utah National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Special Operations Forces Live-Fire Shoot House at Camp Williams, Utah, July 11, 2022. Soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) perform a demonstration of advanced urban combat during the opening of the SOF LFSH. The SOF LFSH will primarily support U.S. Army Special Operations Forces in initial and advanced training related to close-quarter battle and urban combat scenarios. It will also support Utah Army National Guard Soldiers, as well as law enforcement agencies, in training on advanced urban combat skills to include advanced marksmanship techniques, close-quarter battle, and urban movement techniques. This live-fire shoot house facility will give Soldiers a premier facility to improve and hone combat techniques which will allow them to fight and win in any environment they are deployed. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Ileen Kennedy



## Utah Guard hosts 60th annual Freedom Academy

**ROLAND WRIGHT AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Utah** — Delegates visit the Roland Wright Air National Guard Base, July 13, 2022, during Freedom Academy. Since 1961, the Utah National Guard and Honorary Colonels Corps have sponsored Freedom Academy and provided a challenging and engaging environment designed to teach young leaders the importance of freedom and that leadership is essential to its survival. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Timothy Beery  
PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Ariel Solomon

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## Utah Air National Guard EOD flight responds to an emergency

**TOOELE ARMY DEPOT, Utah** — U.S. Air Force National Guard Master Sgt. Derin Creek and Staff Sgt. Cody Bialcak, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, safely remove more than 500 depleted uranium rounds on June 23, 2022, at Tooele Army Depot. The Utah Air National Guard Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron was tasked to execute an emergency detonation of several depleted uranium rounds that had been compromised. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY U.S. AIR NATIONAL GUARD Staff Sgt. Nicholas Perez

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## Lightning Strikes: Summoning America's Thunder

**ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Idaho** — Spc. Connor Crabil and Pfc. Corbin Wolfe, combat engineers with the 883rd Engineer Company, Iowa National Guard, pull security for their platoon during Western Strike 22, at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, June 14, 2022. Western Strike 22 is an eXportable Combat Training Capabilities exercise led by the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah National Guard, that provides National Guard Soldiers immersed training similar to a combat training center and aims to increase participating unit's readiness and lethality. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. Alejandro Lucero

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## Utah National Guard Engineers Train at Dinosaur National Monument

**VERNAL, Utah** — Horizontal construction engineers with the 116th Engineer Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, Utah National Guard work on installing a new cattle guard at Dinosaur National Monument, June 13, 2022. The cattle guard replacement was one of several projects the company did at the monument as part of their annual training. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. 1st Class Rich Stowell

## AIR PROMOTIONS

### COLONEL

Glenn William Jason

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Jedick Rocky Peter Jose

### MAJOR

Stuko Andrew Theodore

### CAPTAIN

Austin Jessica Simone

### SECOND LIEUTENANT

Ligeza Nicole Katarzyna

### CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Heath Adam Lynn

### SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Brewster David Bingaman  
Edwards Timothy Ray  
Labare Afton Rose  
White Landen R

### MASTER SERGEANT

Arnell Matthew Jared  
Ashinhurst Adrian Jack III

Bissett Jacob Russell  
Bornemeier Erik Don  
Brown Camn Welch  
Dandurand Jason Michael  
Despain Deric Walter  
Erdmann Amanda Jean  
Flagg Michele Leigh  
Hard Cody Allan  
Hollyfield Matthew Kyle

Jensen Leo Bart  
Johnson Christopher Michael  
Miller Ryan Lee  
Moore Leslie Yasuke  
Morillo Anfred Jesus  
Owen David John  
Parker Kyle Robert  
Stromberg Carter Lynn  
Vasquez Francisco Ancelmo  
Visser Jesse Nichole  
Vouvalis Wayne Emmanuel  
Williams Vinson Thomas

### TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Cayias Samuel Paden  
Charleson Brandon Robert  
Christensen Samuel Robert  
Clemence Candice Jean  
Day Jeffrey Nelson

Deleon Michael Ray  
Ellis Corey David  
Gallacher Mark Adam  
Juengel Burton Patrick  
Kelly Andrea Leigh  
McDonald Kyle Steven  
Miller Daniel James  
Miller John Anthony  
Rodriguez Jayme Jon  
Sadler Drake James  
Santiago Berrios Daniel Migue  
Taylor Preston John  
Thompson, Alfer  
West, John Tanner  
Youd, Derek Blake

### STAFF SERGEANT

Bennion Michael Brent  
Bingham Emigail  
Bodily Kevin Christian  
Brower Colton Jesse  
Clark Joshua Aaron  
Clark Loren Jay  
Coates Crystal Jean  
Comly Jayce Alan  
Diamond Michael Cornell  
Hathaway Hailee Kaitlyn  
Killpack Colin Patrick

Mesta Thomas Myong  
Morris Taylor Marie  
Petitto Alexander James  
Piper John Junior  
Simmons, Tanner Carl  
Steenek, Brayden William  
Stockwell, Brody Keith  
Willson, Colton J  
Wilson, Saba Clara

### SENIOR AIRMAN

Alba Marcus Ruben  
Alexander Michael David  
Allred Jonathan Floyd  
Bingham Weston Duane  
Cochenour Marcus Robert  
Hammonds Devin James  
Hanson Jared Robert  
Howard Phillip Ross  
Juengel Kaylee Elaine  
Lewis Jason Ross  
Mackay Jackson Isaak  
Mendenhall Breann  
Nielson, Travis Fe  
Radmall, Hayden Colby  
Shupe, Brevan Douglas  
Smith, Easton Michael  
Stroh, Jonathan Dalin

Ward, Sterling Tate

### AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

Baggett Christian Alberto  
Blackham Kyle Ray  
Bucklin Jadon Socrates  
Campbell Aubrey Kathleen  
Cantarero Ahren David  
Carrera Colbyn Mikel  
Ellis Dawson Whitaker  
Evans Cadan Rex  
Gaskill Jared Kendal  
Grant Kyle Randall  
Lopes Danilo Fernandes  
Martinez Micailey Lynn  
Peay Gabriel Seth  
Sherman Bodacious Hercules  
Tucker Riley George  
Wilcox Johnathan Allen

### AIRMAN

Brock Jace Michael  
Callister Logan J  
Dandurand Kenley Dakota  
Dominguez Darrin Edward  
Padilla Dylan Estevan  
Twiemeyer Jered Robert  
White Cory Collin

## ARMY PROMOTIONS

### COLONEL

Day Shane Draper

### LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Sutliff Aaron Michael

### MAJOR

Hills Daniel Lyman

### CAPTAIN

Gonzalezlouis Andrew A  
Johnson Mathew Thomas  
Thomas Daleanne Elizabeth  
White Mason Robert

### SECOND LIEUTENANT

Burdick Joshua Rex  
Dringman Brandon Christian  
Duong Nghia Tuan  
Garner Sydney  
Hall Travis Christopher  
King Tyler Dean

Lake Kyndra Leanne  
Redford Zachary Michael  
Rex Ryker Rees  
Scoubes Trevor Daniel

### CHIEF WARRANT 5

Clark Kayce Shea  
Goldsberry Robert Kent

### CHIEF WARRANT 3

Sibio Zachary Bennett

### CHIEF WARRANT 1

Cope Jeremy Richard  
Gootee Nathan Scott  
Hemsley Kenton Ashley  
Mackay Trapper John  
Schmutz David Duane

### MASTER SERGEANT

Austin Trevor Edwin  
Burgess Christopher Michael

### SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Beckstrand Chandler Martin  
Breen Zachary William  
Butler Travis Jon  
Cavender Joseph Lee  
Hale Jonathan Leland  
Johnson Michael Lawrence  
Kallhoff Andy Joe  
Labrum Jullienne Crystal  
Pinegar Cole Walker  
Sillitoe Derek Phillip  
Thompson Ryan Keith  
Whitney Derek Michael  
Williams Jerry Rick  
Williams Thomas Kent

### STAFF SERGEANT

Agre Brandon L  
Allen Jimmy Larvin  
Berg Katrina Ashley  
Delong Trista Erin  
Getz Joshua Arnold  
Ginter Lena Elise

Gwilliam Kevin Allen  
Halweg Matthew Lee  
Harris Matthew Lynn  
Haws Gary Nathan  
Helsel Jacob Christopher  
Herrick Trace Lowell  
Jackson Justin Lee  
Kingston Jonathon Ortell  
Latu Christian Saulala  
Lunt Payton Kyler  
McGee Kaitlin Elizabeth  
Mommott Jacob Remington  
Menlove Parker Thomas  
Millette Cameron Lyn  
Musselman Brandon Shane  
Newkirk Tyson George  
Parham Matthew Eric  
Patterson Walter Joshua  
Pehl Christian Frank  
Powell Spencer Dean  
Ringler Mathew Rodney  
Slack Justin Robert  
Sorensen Jacob Lawrence

Stransky Jonathan Joseph  
Tinkorang David K  
Tull Brandon Joe  
Tuttle Thomas Zachary  
Valeriano Shazer Franciscov  
Waite Jeremy J  
Walker Craig Michael  
Wellman Zachary Sox  
West Stetson D  
Wight Dominic James  
Willingham Robert Steven  
Wilson Bradin Grant  
Wirkus Branden Dave

### SERGEANT

Alexander Charles Ulverd  
Baker Zenith Erick  
Carson Trevor Lynn  
Catalina Christopher Camero  
Copling Taylor Nathan  
Dejesus Ricardo  
Delatorre Nancy Bridgette  
Dotta Jr Daniel Leon

Fagan Benjamin Michael  
Farrer Chase Ray  
Ford Kierstin Breanne  
Freemantle Colton John  
Hanson Jefferey Michael  
Hattaway Tj Allen  
Hernandez Ismael Jr  
Hollowell Bronco Robert  
Holman Emily Michelle  
Johnson Starla Shawnon  
Josephson Cody Michael  
Keate Jared Jeffs  
Laney Sheldon Scott  
Lloyd Hayden John  
London Zakary Lane  
Miller Makenna Noel  
Mills Stephen Kent  
Morgan Jared Nephi  
Nance Tanner Brown  
Nelson Spencer Leon  
Newburn Jonathan Lee  
Perry Zachary Joseph  
Powell Jordan Mackenzie  
Quesada Cristopher Ray  
Roberts Terron Kevin  
Romero Dustin Joseph  
Rotering Christopher Joseph  
Schimbeck Joshua James  
Smith Adam Burgi  
Smith Nathan Wesley  
Smith Tyler Jason  
So Christina  
Sousa Vania Zuleyma  
Stringham Brittney Marrion  
Suaste Chavez Fernanda  
Vanderlinden Kierra Jayden  
Weatherwalk Curtis Joseph  
Wilson Preston Mark  
Wright Ashton Tyrell  
Young Dylan Rley

### **SPECIALIST**

Barker Brady Harrison  
Baxter Joshua Andrew Lane  
Birch Casey Drake  
Bowcutt Braxton Joseph  
Bowen Miles Chandler  
Bradford Porter Zebulon  
Breinholt Jaxton William  
Brewer Bonham Scott  
Brian Parker Larsen  
Briscoe Simeon Valentine  
Brooks Bret Willard  
Brown Alema William  
Brown Paedon Rex  
Byrd Nicolas Daniel  
Callahan Ira Robert  
Cottam Jace Clayton  
Coward Laura Marie  
Crowley Jared Robert  
Davis Jeffrey Paul

Dedios Brandon Jose  
Delarosa Francisco  
Edwards Ricky Lane  
Ewald Grant Frederick  
Falco Jaeger Daxton  
Flores Evelyn Jeanette  
Fort Darius Marcel  
Friel James Grant  
Gonzalezescarcega Noel E  
Graff Caleb Alexander  
Gray Russell Joseph  
Gutches Wyatt Kelly  
Hampel Trevor Alan  
Hansen Jonathan Parker  
Hardy Dale Vernon  
Harris Hunter Riley  
Hebdon Hadley Lynn  
Hicks Levi Mitchell  
Holt Benjamin John  
Hughes Thomas John  
Imig Keith J  
Jackson Jay Tony  
Jensen Tyler Scott  
Jones David King  
Kendrick Cameron Jake  
Kimura Jonathan Edwardm  
Lee Connor Kevin  
Leonard Austin Timothy  
Lewis Camden Orion  
Lowry Landon Hazzard  
Lowry Treven Jess  
Luna Fabian Sebastian  
Mangum Timothy Allen  
Marshall Robert Everond  
Maw Gregory Scott  
Maynard Damon Lee  
McIlrath Nicholas Ryan  
McNeill Ashton Dayne  
Mendoza Adriana  
Metz Gifford Russell  
Midget Patrick Elijah  
Milligan Kentrail Dewayne  
Moctezumarecendiz Stacy O  
Newman Jordan Eileen  
Olson Matthew Scott  
Paulson Grant Andrew  
Perry Byrun Paul  
Peterson Matthew Riley  
Phillipps Kjerstin E  
Pia Brooke Kara  
Pope Michael McKinley  
Powers Colton Demitri  
Ratliff Robert Jeffrey  
Rix Dillon Lee  
Robison Samuel Jake  
Roundy Mathew Wallace  
Saner Carter Scott  
Smart Zachary Brian  
Sotelovasquez Wendy  
Soto Emily Crystal  
Stewart Mason Blake

Taylor Cade Lee  
Thompson Michael Kurt  
Torrescota Luis Jacob  
Wade Chase Arnell  
Wahlen Zakariah Keaton  
Wei Zibin  
Wellman Julie Angela  
White Tyler James  
Wilkinson Christopher Lehi  
Zuehls Tyler Davidl

### **PRIVATE FIRST CLASS**

Alvernaz Iv Richard Louis  
Anderson Jacob Kent  
Arguello Katie Ashley  
Barney Saria May  
Barton Justin R  
Baxter Brenner Bryan  
Brown Colton Matthew  
Bruninga David Lee  
Calderaortiz Hugo Aaron  
Carlson Hunter Layne  
Clark Haleigh Elizabeth  
Clawson Jaden Dean  
Clements Grace Emily  
Coraci Gianni Alexander  
Creswell Adam Grant  
David Jamesashley Perez  
Dejong Logan Eric  
Dofelmire Ashton Edward  
Draper Dustin Benjamin  
Flores Chiu Frank Esau  
Gardner Damion Lee  
Hancock Connor Wade  
Harman Tanner Bryant  
Harris Demitri Keagan  
Hayden Patrick McCallum  
Hayter Dallin Michael  
Hekking Zachary Maillard  
Irelandgravett Deon W  
Jardine Matthew William  
Jensen Mikaela Richelle  
Johnson Garrett Tolman  
Jones Bryson Sage  
Kent Scotty Abel  
Llaguno Calund Rodolfo  
Long Evan Michael  
Lott Samuel Vard  
Martinez Bryan Christian  
Martinezarcadio Julia  
Martinezgomez Steven  
Matheson Elliott Renato  
Mauchley Brayden Paul  
Mele Aaron Keith  
Mendenhall Zane Calder  
Morford Taran Quentin  
Murphy Ethan Wayne  
Nonu Joshua Gordon  
Noon Seth Orville  
Pan Ran  
Perezibarra Isaac

Peterson Joshua Abraham  
Phillips Nicholas Michael  
Plyer Alexis Carolyn  
Putnam Leif Eric  
Redd Ian Joseph  
Rincon Nicholas Robert  
Robison Ryan Keith  
Ruiztapia Marycruz  
Schulthies Bethany Aileen  
Semadeni Isaac Russell  
Sheranian Hannah  
Smith Kelton Cole  
Thompson Tanner Kenneth  
Thurman Caleb Andrew  
Tuia Apiolefaga M  
Valenzuela Eduardo  
Velazquezalonzo Jr Alfredo  
Wagstaff Blaine Michael  
Walker Jr Hagan Ryan  
Wellman Joshua David  
Wellman Zachary Aaron  
Westoby Brandon Quinn  
Wilkins Jacob Wayne  
Williams Emma Suzanne  
Wright Ashton Leroi

### **PRIVATE (PVI)**

Adams Hunter Michael  
Butler Sawyer Ray  
Cousineau Quinn Xander  
Garcibravo Chris Anthony  
Hansen Deegan Jay  
Judson Braxton Dakota  
Kelsch Joshua B  
Knight Caleb Paul  
Leonard Caden Terrydurand  
Lopezgonzalez Orlando  
Maka Semisi Lutuiiefefa  
Maxwell Brennon Daniel  
Park Matthew Milton  
Perschon Jaxson Ryan  
Quevedo Ariana  
Radu Alexander John  
Ransom Michael Timothy  
Rasmussen Vincent Allen  
Schild Nathan Freeman  
Schultz Jakob Dean  
Silvaramirez Brian Armando  
Taylor Ambree Ella  
Wilkerson Brexton J  
Williams Jordan Robert

### **PRIVATE (PV2)**

Alvey Adam Albert  
Anderson Holden Vance  
Beamish Kieth Riley  
Bedingfield Aspyn Larue  
Blair Keaton Joshua  
Carlson Kaylee Ann  
Chapple Andrew Moroni  
Christensen Daylen R

Clements Esther Elizabeth  
Despain Melissa Jean  
Dunn Parker Curtis  
Fidler Jason Richard  
Gardner Chase Matthew  
Griffin James Reuben  
Haskan Ednarose Carrasco  
Hathaway Jr Anthony G  
Hodges Blake James  
Howser Shakespeare A  
Hughes Jr Jimmie David  
Hyland Eric Lee  
Jeppson Zakary William  
Johnson Aaron Moroni  
Johnson Quinsi Tatem  
Kevern Gunnar Dane  
Lavender Anthony Michael  
Quigley Emma Nicole  
Scott Rebekah Ann  
Shumway Colton Lee  
Smith Corey Michael  
Spackman Benjamin Call  
Stewart Nicklas Alexander  
Sylvester Okley William  
Torres Rylie Isaiah  
Walker Samuel Sterling  
Warner Lindsey Kae

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

FLASHBACK PHOTO



**Wish You Were Here! Join Us in Celebrating 160 Years at Fort Douglas ~ 1862-2023**

With the beginning of the Civil War and the abandonment of Camp Floyd, the California-Nevada volunteers were ordered to the Utah Territory for the purpose of guarding the Overland Mail Route. Upon arrival, they selected a campsite on the bench overlooking the Salt Lake Valley. Four days later, Col. Patrick E. Connor issued Order No. 14 on October 26, 1862, officially founding Camp Douglas. As the post grew, it became an important location for the military in the West and was later renamed Fort Douglas.

The Fort Douglas Military Museum continues to share Utah's military history, long in tradition and rich in story. During the next year, the Museum will host a series of events that will highlight several chapters of our state's story. For details, follow the Museum at [facebook.com/FortDouglasMilitaryMuseum](https://facebook.com/FortDouglasMilitaryMuseum).

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

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