

UTAH MINUTEMAN

2024 Volume 1



UTANG innovative readiness

What does the NG do?

When your Soldier deploys



Utah Gov. Spencer Cox kicks a soccer ball with a Moroccan boy near Tiznit, Morocco, while visiting with members of the Utah National Guard, June 15, 2023, during Exercise African Lion. Gov. Cox and First Lady Abby Cox, participate in a youth activity and dance with members of Utah National Guard and partners from the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces at the African Lion 23 Humanitarian Civic Assistance Exercise in Tiznit, Morocco, June 15, 2023. Gov. Cox and First Lady Abbey Cox attend a concert where the Utah National Guard's 23rd Army Band and the Royal Moroccan Air Force Band perform together for a multinational audience, June 14, 2023, in Agadir, Morocco.

The governor, as commander in chief of the Utah National Guard attended the commemorations, demonstrations and humanitarian civic assistance program events marking the 20th anniversary of the Utah National Guard and Kingdom of Morocco's partnership in the State Partnership Program. Eighteen nations and approximately 8,000 personnel participated in Exercise African Lion 2023 from May 13-June 18, 2023. African Lion 23 is one of many annual exercises and exchanges that were supported through the SPP in 2023.

— UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy





Lt. Col. Chris Kroeber
Public Affairs Officer

This is an amazing time in the history of the Utah National Guard. It is the best time, primarily because it is when you and I can make a difference. It is our organization; it is your organization. The Utah National Guard is nothing without you, our Soldiers and Airmen.

As I think about this publication, I sometimes wonder about the value of it in this age of rapid news cycles and ever evolving media. Is it worth the time and effort to print? I keep coming back to the thought that what you do and who you are matter. More people need to hear about the amazing Soldiers and Airmen that join the

Guard, and more people need to hear about why they stay in the Guard. This magazine is just one way of sharing those stories.

As we refine the look and content of the Utah Minuteman Magazine, I invite you to share your thoughts and opinions about the messages we include. We have placed QR codes throughout the magazine where you can share your thoughts. What do you like and what don't you like? Are there stories we are missing? We welcome your feedback and your contributions. If you know of someone in the Guard with an amazing story, please let us know about it, or write it up and submit it to us so we can share it here. If you know of some unique or interesting training that your unit is doing, or if there is something your family is interested in learning more about, we can include that too.

As a new addition to the magazine my team has included a word cypher game that we are excited about, we hope you enjoy it and that you let us know how we can improve. Thanks for reading.

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I immediately thought of many answers to that pertinent question.

When asked, "what does the National Guard do?" I thought it might be interesting to explore some aspects of why the Utah National Guard is such a unique organization.

COVER PHOTO

A Soldiers with the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) trains for a water landing as he parachutes into Deer Creek Reservoir near Heber City, Utah, Aug. 6, 2023. The 19th SFG (A) Soldiers jumped from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, both units are a part of the Utah Army National Guard.

— PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Cpt. Jeff Brenchley

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Digital Publication / Website: ut.ng.mil

Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/utahnationalguard/albums

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When Your Minuteman Deploys

Being the spouse of a National Guardsman is a unique experience. We live in civilian communities, our spouses work civilian jobs, and their M-day unit is far-flung. We've likely never met the people our spouse serves with, let alone their families, and our civilian friends have no idea what we're talking about when the alphabet soup of acronyms comes out. Yet, we're not quite "real" military either, at least according to active-duty families. We can't understand what it's like to PCS (permanent change of station), the woes of the commissary, or the politics of the unit Family Readiness Group. We straddle both worlds, trying to fit into either, yet managing to feel like the stepchild of both.

Suddenly, your spouse calls you from drill with the news that the unit is deploying. A million questions immediately fill your mind – What will happen to their civilian job that pays much more than that E-5 pay? How will you work the childcare? What even is TRICARE? Will the kids be okay? Will your spouse be okay? Will you be okay?

Your spouse assures you that there will be a Yellow Ribbon event (a what?!), but if you're anything like me, you immediately sit at the computer and open up Google, only to discover that many military-provided deployment resources won't help because you are 100 miles from the nearest post or base and a large portion of the available community support doesn't include National Guard families, leaving you feeling even more isolated than before.



Sgt. Cambrin Bassett with his wife, Tina and their three children at his deployment ceremony with the 126th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Fort Custer, Augusta, Michigan, Jan. 28, 2020.

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO COURTESY OF
Sgt. 1st Class Cambrin Bassett



Become A Secret Squirrel, Crack the Hidden Cipher!

Find the secret word or phrase hidden in **red single letters** throughout the magazine. Once you crack the cipher, scan the QR code to be entered to win.
(Hint: 15 scrambled letters form two words)



Our family is currently preparing for my husband's third deployment in four years. During his first two deployments, I researched for hours, seeking a place to belong and resources to help my family, especially my children. The programs and organizations below were some that I found to be particularly helpful.

Our Military Kids (ourmilitarykids.org) offers grants of up to \$300 to children of deployed National Guard or Reserve service members for extracurricular activities. Our family used it to pay for ballet, but they will pay for a wide variety of things such as music lessons, sports, summer camp, or tutoring. We loved that they provided a card that our children could write to thank those who donated.

United Through Reading App (unitedthroughreading.org) has an app where service members can record themselves reading a book to their child. You can choose from a collection of eBooks available in the app or read any other book (like that favorite one that needs to be read every night). They will even send your child a free copy of the book you read so they can follow along.

Operation Kid Comfort (camppendleton.asymca.org/services/operation-kid-comfort) provides a free personalized quilt (\$15 shipping fee required) with pictures of your military child with their service member. It's such a comfort for your child to be wrapped up in a long-distance hug from their deployed loved one!

National Parks Passes (store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass) are free for dependents of deployed National Guard and Reserve service members. Bring your dependent military ID to a participating location to get the pass for free or pay \$10 to order online.

Blue Star Museums (bluestarfam.org/family-life/blue-star-museums) offers free admissions to a large list of participating museums, which is published each spring. Show your dependent military ID for admission from Armed Forces Day to Labor Day June 14-Sept. 4.

BuildASign (buildasign.com/troops) offers a free personalized homecoming banner to welcome home your service member. You'll just have to pay shipping costs.

I am certain that there are more programs and opportunities than the ones listed here, so keep looking and trust that you'll find what your family needs during deployments. Ultimately, the best resource your family has is actually YOU. Don't wait for someone to reach out to you. Take the initiative and get your spouse to give you the Family Readiness Group information for your unit. Get connected with some military Facebook pages and find a community. Introduce yourself and connect on social media with the families you meet at the Yellow Ribbon event. Don't be afraid to ask your neighborhood or church community for exactly the help you need when you need it. Finally, take a deep breath and hold your head up high – you got this!

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARTICLE BY
Tina Bassett, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Cambrin Bassett

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 is 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 | 435-678-2008 |
| 2. Bluffdale North | 801-878-5037 |
| 3. Bluffdale South | 801-878-5353 |
| 5. Draper | 801-432-4522 |
| 6. Logan / Ogden | 801-476-3811 |
| 7. Richfield /Cedar City | 435-867-6513 |
| 8. SLC (Air Base) | 801-245-2524 |
| 9. Spanish Fork | 801-794-6011 |
| 10. St. George | 435-986-6705 |
| 11. Vernal | 435-789-3691 |
| 12. 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 Benefits

Scan here to learn about your benefits. Page numbers refer to the online brochure.



Assistance Services

A one-stop shop for various assistance programs to support UTNG members and their families.

Page 3



Tricare

Up-to-date information and resources for Tricare benefits.

Page 20



Mental Health Services

A no-cost, private and confidential service for UTNG members and their immediate family.

Page 4



Community Partners

A list of various organizations that support the UTNG members and their family.

Page 4



Resiliency Programs

Intended to improve the overall physical, family, emotional, social, and spiritual fitness.

Page 5



Financial Readiness

Personal Financial Counselors that help manage finances to reach financial goals of UTNG members.

Page 10



Special Services

Various programs available to assist for more situational care.

Page 6



Legal

Legal assistance available to assist with personal legal affairs in a timely and professional manner.

Page 11



Exceptional Family Members

This program assists family members who have been identified as having special medical or educational needs.

Page 7



Child & Youth

Programs that provide quality and relevant life skills such as critical thinking, resilience and leadership.

Page 12



Employment

Resources to help UTNG members build resumes, learn interview skills, and various other class to help gain employment.

Page 8



Military Life

Various services provided to families to reduce stress and build stronger bonds.

Page 13



Education

Programs to assist UTNG member with their educational goals.

Page 9



Health & Fitness

Holistic Health and Fitness is designed to empower Soldiers and prevent injury from the ground up.

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Utah Air National Guard's Bold Approach to Innovative Readiness



A KC-135R Stratotanker starts its engines for a rapid response exercise at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023. The 151st Wing recently wrapped up a pioneering readiness exercise alongside a nuclear operational readiness exercise.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock

A high-pressure exercise that unfolded at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base in early Nov. 2023, was a potent reminder of the Air National Guard's remarkable ability to tackle complex, real-world challenges in the ever-evolving global security landscape.

AirMen from the 151st Wing at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base recently concluded an exceptional readiness exercise while seamlessly merging it with a Nuclear Operational Readiness Exercise that spanned from Nov. 2 to Nov. 5. This pioneering collaboration underscores the significance of unified efforts between the Air Force, Air Mobility Command and the Utah Air National Guard.

Readiness exercises, such as the Readiness Exercise and the NORE, are indispensable in assessing and validating unit preparedness across a spectrum of operational scenarios. The RE serves as a practical evaluation mechanism, meticulously observing a unit's readiness by evaluating the execution of mission essential tasks (METs) outlined in specific plans and reported within the Defense Readiness Reporting System. To construct RE scenarios, planners intricately consider command guidance, scope, scale, rigor, relevance, recurrence, and reporting (S2R4). This strategic approach ensures precise assessments against potential threats and adversaries, forming the bedrock of operational readiness within the Air Force.

Additionally, the NORE is paramount in evaluating units entrusted with nuclear support missions, as directed by Headquarters Air Mobility Command. NORIs/ NOREs independently evaluate assigned and gained units, scrutinizing their capacity to execute nuclear missions within stringent timeframes. In a recent joint exercise featuring units like the 171st from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the 185th Air Refueling Wing from Sioux City, Iowa, the presence of an AMC on-site visit team underscored the assessment of the wing inspection team's proficiency. This evaluation specifically focused on the wing inspection team's capability to assess the wing's readiness concerning the critical execution of the Air Force's nuclear mission. The amalgamation of diverse units and the Air Mobility Command OSV team's evaluation highlighted the comprehensive validation of nuclear execution capabilities within a demanding and time-critical environment.

This exercise highlighted the critical imperative for the UTANG to transcend boundaries and collaborate effectively with others, and is a vital reminder that in today's global security landscape forging partnerships and coordinating with other states and entities is indispensable for successful mission accomplishment. The wing's unwavering dedication to such collaborative ventures reinforces that the UTANG is a robust force ready to confront ever-evolving security challenges.



Above and below: Members of the 151st Base Defense Squadron secure the flightline during a readiness exercise, alongside a nuclear operational readiness exercise, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock



An Airman from the 151st Wing fuels shop prepares to refuel a KC-135R Stratotanker at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023 as part of a readiness exercise, alongside a nuclear operational readiness exercise.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO
BY Airman 1st Class Kyle Blackham

Col. Robert B. Taylor, 151st Air Wing commander, emphasized the exercise's unique nature: "In response to the evolving landscape of potential near-peer threats, we've taken a significant stride by unifying our readiness exercises. This integration of readiness and nuclear preparedness represents a leap forward in enhancing our capabilities to address the evolving complexities of contemporary warfare. Our dedication to readiness in the present secures our preparedness for the future."

The decision by the wing to merge a NORE with an RE underscores their steadfast commitment to enhancing readiness and adaptability, especially in response to the evolving challenges posed by potential near-peer adversaries.

One of the most notable takeaways from this unique exercise was the exceptional adaptability and resilience displayed by the wing. The scenarios they encountered, ranging from physical threats to cyber attacks, pushed their limits, showcasing readiness to confront unpredictable and dynamic situations.

Col. Taylor remarked, "Combining the RE with our NORE marks a groundbreaking approach within the Air National Guard, streamlining the process by eliminating the necessity for two distinct exercises. Our dedication to excellence and innovation for the entire Nuclear Enterprise shone through during this exercise, underscoring our commitment to agile combat employment,

multi-capable Airmen, and a culture of adaptability. We're at the forefront, pioneering this innovative approach."

This exercise demonstrates UTANG's commitment to upgrading readiness, encouraging initiative inclusion, and supporting a culture of flexibility and joint effort. It keeps its immovable obligation to reinforce military readiness and upgrade initiative commitment, setting an illustration of how current security challenges require constant status improvement and a multi-layered approach.

The convergence of the RE and NORE exercises consolidates a holistic evaluation framework for assessing the Air Force's operational readiness. By incorporating both exercises, units like the Utah Air National Guard bring together a comprehensive assessment mechanism that not only scrutinizes general readiness but also specializes in evaluating the handling of critical assets like nuclear weaponry. This combined approach ensures that units are adept in their general operational preparedness and handling of specialized scenarios, providing a robust foundation for responding effectively to various threats and challenges.

As the spotlight turns toward the future's security landscapes, the insights from this exercise will undoubtedly influence the protocols and methodologies of readiness assessments within the UTANG and the broader military sphere.

This joint effort emphasizes clearly defining essential tasks and exercise objectives. It empowers subject matter experts in the Wing inspection team to improve the readiness assessment process, establishing novel benchmarks for adapting to changing operational needs and shaping the progression of readiness assessments across the broader UTANG.

The exercise has served as a rich terrain for assessing groundbreaking concepts and approaches, highlighting the inseparable link between readiness and nuclear preparedness. Multi-capable airmen (MCA) and agile combat employment (ACE) skills solidify their pivotal role in the broader landscape of contemporary security challenges, emphasizing their importance throughout the entire Wing.

Captain Ryan Simons, the director of Inspections for the 151st Wing, emphasized, "We aim to demonstrate the interplay between readiness and nuclear preparedness, particularly in the context of multi-capable airmen and agile combat employment. This unique exercise serves as a testing ground for numerous novel concepts and approaches."



Airmen from the 151st Wing fuels shop prepare to refuel a KC-135 R Stratotanker at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023 as part of a readiness exercise, alongside a nuclear operational readiness exercise.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Airman 1st Class Kyle Blackham

Critical to the success of the exercise were the Medical Clinic and medical detachment units, ensuring the physical well-being of airmen and aligning health readiness with overall operational readiness. Their dedication to maintaining peak health preparedness reflects the holistic approach embraced by the 151st Wing.

Other key participants in the exercise included the logistics readiness squadron, civil engineering squadron, and vehicle and aircraft maintenance units, providing indispensable logistical and maintenance support. This support was vital in maintaining operational readiness and preparedness for various scenarios, from the conventional to the emergent.

The base defense squadron also played an integral role in upholding the security and integrity of the exercise, safeguarding both assets and personnel. Their unwavering vigilance ensured that the exercise proceeded without disruptions or compromises in security.

The communications squadron assumed a crucial role in guaranteeing cybersecurity and the continuous operation of the communication network, a vital element in sustaining the readiness of the wing. Their commitment to upholding secure and uninterrupted communication channels is paramount to accomplishing the wing's mission.

Effective collaboration among diverse units, including Wing staff, command post, air operations, and intel units, proved indispensable in coordinating seamless operations, ensuring precise execution, and maintaining constant vigilance amid evolving scenarios.



KC-135R from the Iowa National Guard participated in a readiness exercise alongside a nuclear operational readiness exercise at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY
Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock



ABOVE: Members of the 151st Medical group sign up members to get dental exams during an innovative exercise at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023. BELOW: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Perez, 151st Wing public affairs superintendent, has an X-rays done during a dental exam on Nov. 2 to 5, 2023.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS BY
Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock



Public Affairs played a crucial role in the exercise by efficiently disseminating information within the base and simulating public outreach. Their outstanding work emphasizes the wing's dedication to transparent communication within the military unit and with the civilian community. It reinforces their commitment to building strong bonds with the pUblc, ensuring they are well informed about the wing's capabilities and preparedness and, more importantly, information on what is unfolding.

Lastly, the emergency management team significantly refined preparedness and response measures, exemplifying steadfast commitment to readiness across various contingencies.

In this groundbreaking display of leadership and innovation, this RE/NORE exercise holds far-reaching implications for readiness assessments across the broader Air National Guard and AMC. It establishes a trailblazing precedent for redefining readiness assessments, emphasizing the meticulous definition of mission-essential tasks and exercise objectives.

Integrating a RE with a NORE demonstrated the 151st Wing's capability to maintain mission readiness while addressing various scenarios, including potential near-peer threats. Setting a formidable standard for readiness assessments and collaboration within the broader Air National Guard and the entire U.S. military, their remarkable adaptability and unwavering commitment to excellence are evident. This exercise is a testament to the wing's resilience and serves as a beacon for advancing the future of military readiness. 🇺🇸

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD ARTICLE BY
Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Perez

A Testament to Preparation and Practice: The 2004 and 2023 Moroccan Earthquakes

In the fall of 2003, the Utah National Guard and Kingdom of Morocco became partners in the Department of Defense's State Partnership Program. Founded in 1993 to bolster the Baltic nations after the fall of the Soviet Union, the program's key mission objectives are to develop enduring relationships and carry out activities that build up and reinforce each of the partner nations' capabilities. The new partnership kicked off that December with a senior leader visit to Morocco. That first interaction focused on introductions and gave the delegates a chance to establish the new relationship. Less than six months later when tragedy struck Morocco, the budding partnership shared its first victory and launched a now two-decade long story of success.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2004, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake rocked Northeastern Morocco. The earthquake killed more than 560 people and destroyed numerous small villages. Many of the casualties were from the rural areas of Al Hoceima, where much of the population primarily resided in mud huts. Lacking modern building techniques and materials, many of the huts collapsed when the earthquake struck, killing the occupants. The earthquake affected everyone in the surrounding areas, regardless of their status and level of society.

News of the earthquake spread quickly and the UTNG reached out to the Embassy in Morocco to express condolences and offer help. Once the Moroccan government sent the request for outside aid, the UTNG sprang into action. Led by the State Partnership Coordinator, Lt. Col. Brad Buckner, the humanitarian effort moved swiftly. Armed with a list of desperately

needed items supplied by the American Red Cross, Buckner went to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for help. The UTNG and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints put together 3,430 hygiene kits, consisting of two combs, four toothbrushes, one toothpaste, two bars of soap and two hand towels. In addition, they donated more than 3,000 pounds of first aid supplies, 7,200 pounds of wool blankets and 850 pounds of tarps. The donated items value totaled well over \$100,000. After a few days to finalize the planning, the Utah Air National Guard launched a KC-135 fully loaded with humanitarian relief bound for Nador, Morocco. Once on the ground, the plane was met by the American Red Cross, Red



Crescent, Moroccan military, and members of the U.S. Embassy. With everyone working together, the supplies were quickly unloaded and transported by trucks to the Al Hoceima area where they were distributed to those in critical need.

The 2004 Al Hoceima earthquake proved to be monumentally influential to the Utah-Morocco State Partnership Program. It showed Utah's commitment and how the program could mutually benefit both participants through shared experience, expertise, and training. In the years following, annual exercises such as Maroc Mantlet, Maghreb Mantelet, and the Gharb-Utah Rapid Response focused on developing technical and procedural interoperability for disaster response while developing and honing the skills of first responders. Working closely with the Moroccan Relief and Rescue Unit (USS), the partnership established and advanced the USS search and rescue procedures and techniques, helping to ensure preparedness for future events.

It was the Maroc Mantlet exercise that had members of the Utah National Guard in Morocco when another powerful earthquake hit. On September 8, 2023, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck near Marrakesh, Morocco, killing more than 2,900 people and injuring thousands more. Approximately 20 soldiers, mainly from the 97th Troop Command were near Tangier, Morocco during the earthquake and 40 more soldiers flew into Morocco the following day. All Utah National Guard members in Morocco during the earthquake were uninjured.

The Maroc Mantlet exercise in 2023, scheduled to begin just a few days after the earthquake, was never executed. However, as a testament to the State Partnership Programs bilateral training, the Moroccan USS displayed exemplary aptitude in the skills and techniques tirelessly developed and practiced through the many years of the Utah-Morocco SPP. Colonel Mehdli Ouahdi, commander of the USS said, "This experience was trying, but it strengthened our pride as members of the USS. The elements of our Unit displayed exemplary courage in adversity, and our history will remain ever a testament to the resilience and determination of Morocco in times of crisis."

While the Utah Guardsmen were unable to conduct this year's Mantlet exercise, they remained ready to offer any assistance they could if called upon and took pride in the actions and preparedness of their partner counterparts. 🇲🇦

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD ARTICLE BY Joel Bragg

Sources: La Revue Des Forces Armees Royales, September 2023, Page 24.



Photos above and on opposite page: Members of the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing transports humanitarian supplies to Morocco after a 6.5-magnitude earthquake hits Northeastern Morocco killing more than 560 people and destroying numerous small villages.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTOS COURTESY OF
151st Air Refueling Wing



CAP. 4000 LBS

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS:
SAFETY FIRST!
THE-BOULDER
WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY.



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD'S NEW ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL FOR AIR

The Utah Air National Guard conducts an assumption of command and promotion ceremony for Brig. Gen. Gene C. Buckner. Buckner is appointed Assistant Adjutant General for Air and assumes command of the Utah Air National Guard on Oct. 14, 2023 at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Utah. The tradition of the assumption of command ceremony in the military is for subordinates to witness the transition of command of the unit from one commander to another.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock

SPECIAL FORCE SOLDIERS PARACHUTE INTO DEER CREEK RESERVOIR

HEBER CITY, Utah — Soldiers with the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), prepare to parachute from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, into Deer Creek Reservoir near Heber City, Utah, Aug. 6, 2023. Both units are a part of the Utah Army National Guard. Soldiers assigned to airborne units periodically train for potential water landings by intentionally jumping into an ocean, lake, or river.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Cpt. Jeff Brenchley





Have your say!
Take our quick survey.



What does the National Guard do?

Recently I was asked a question that caused a lot of thought. When asked “what does the National Guard do?” I immediately thought of many answers to that pertinent question. I thought it might be interesting to explore some aspects of why the Utah National Guard is such a unique organization.

The Utah National Guard at its core responds when called, whether it is for overseas deployment or for missions right here in Utah. It is a professional organization that focuses on building a culture that people are proud to be a part of, while simultaneously training to build necessary individual and collective skills that make our Soldiers and Airmen ready to take on the challenges of overseas or domestic deployments. It is the people of the Utah National Guard that bring the unique value to the organization through their ingenuity and thirst for innovation.

The activity of the Utah National Guard is astounding, and when civilians ask what the National Guard does it makes me wonder why they don't know. In 2018, the Utah National Guard mobilized and Deployed 527 Soldiers to missions supporting warfighting efforts across the globe. That same year 338 individual Soldiers and Airmen were activated to assist state authority's as they responded to more than 15 domestic missions.

Throughout the next five years the Utah Guard saw more than 960 of its service members deployed as units and individuals to support warfighting efforts or other federal missions. During this same time frame nearly 1,900 Soldiers and Airmen responded to more than 50 individual missions right here in the state ranging from combating the effects of wildfire to providing safety and security during times of civil unrest at home and throughout the country. Domestic



Utah National Guard Soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) load onto a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, in preparation for a water jump at Deer Creek Reservoir near Heber City, Utah, Aug. 6, 2023. Soldiers assigned to airborne units periodically train for potential water landings by intentionally jumping into an ocean, lake, or river.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Cpt. Jeff Brenchley



The Utah National Guard's 300th Military Intelligence Brigade held its 34th annual Military Intelligence Language Conference, Feb. 11, 2023. More than 140 competitors from 25 different organizations participate in the Polyglot Games. The competition is conducted in seven different languages and follow every step of the intelligence cycle, from the operations order to a final commander's brief as they translate battlefield recordings and news reports, exploit documents to identify and destroy enemy equipment, and assess possible enemy courses of action.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO
BY Staff Sgt. 1st Class Rich Stowell



Spc. Justin Webber, a food service specialist assigned to the 19th Special Forces Group Support Battalion, prepares a soup during the "Final Four" of the Philip A. Connelly Competition at Camp Williams, Utah, February 25, 2023. Webber was one of several 19th Soldiers who supported the 1457th Forward Support Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion, Utah National Guard.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY
Staff Sgt. 1st Class Rich Stowell



Utah Air National Guard Senior Airman Kevin Buckner, fire protection, 151st Civil Engineering Squadron, Utah National Guard, writes an essay as part of the Region VII Best Warrior Competition on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, May 7-11, 2023. The BWC is an annual Army-sponsored event designed to measure the Soldier's physical fitness, mental acuity, and demonstrated skill in warrior tasks and battle drills. Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers compete at the state and region level and the winners for each region advance to the All Guard National Best Warrior Competition.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO
BY Staff Sgt. Jordan Hack

missions also included assisting local law enforcement with explosive ordnance disposal, chemical monitoring, and drug reduction efforts like the national drug take back days. These numbers do not include the monumental response by the Utah National Guard to the COVID-19 pandemic across the state.

My intent is simply to show just how active the National Guard is. It is an amazing feat when you consider that more than 80 percent of the National Guard are traditional service members that report for duty in a part-time status, and when they report for deployments and mobilizations, they leave behind civilian employer, family, and community responsibilities to serve. This is the National Guard, a resilient organization that is comprised of citizen Soldiers and Airmen who respond when called. What the mission is doesn't matter to the Soldier or Airmen as much as that they can serve. They respond and are proud to serve in whatever capacity they can.

With all the work, and all the possibilities for serving at home or abroad, why do people join the Utah National Guard, and why do they stay?

When asked about why she joined Spc. Sydney Freeze said that she initially joined to assist her to better gain experience for future goals. She is not currently working in her initial field as an all-source analyst but has found great value in learning the basics of the Army while working full-time in the Utah National Guard.

"I didn't think I would be starting my career in this way, but by learning the duties of a 42A I feel I am better able to understand the basics of the Army, and that is extremely beneficial," said Freeze. "I am getting ready to move to another unit that will give me opportunities to actually do my job, which is also exciting."

When asked if she considered re-enlisting she said without delay "definitely, I found a purpose, I enjoy the people, and I am happy which is really nice."

The benefits of joining the Guard are many. From college tuition payment, and other education benefits, to health insurance and enlistment bonuses. Certainly, incentives like these are a driver for enlistment and re-enlistment, but Maj. Corey Lewis, the executive officer for Utah's Recruiting and Retention Battalion has observed many who join for the



A Utah National Guard M109A6 Howitzer from the 1st Battalion 145th Field Artillery Regiment shoots a direct fire mission at targets near TanTan, Morocco, during exercise African Lion 2023. African Lion is the United States African Commands largest annual exercise hosted by Morocco with more than eighteen nations and approximately 8,000 personnel participating in Exercise African Lion 2023 from May 13-June 18, 2023.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Cpt. Jeffery Brenchley



Spc. Ian Tracy, Utah National Guard, takes a photo while flying in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter of 2nd Lt. Marilyn Alba while she sits in the doorway of a Lakota helicopter taking a picture of Tracy. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment (UH-60 Black Hawk and LH72 Lakota) and 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, (AH-64 Apache) flew helicopters over the University of Utah football stadium during a three-ship flyover for military appreciation week, Nov. 4, 2023.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Spc. Ian Tracy

“intangibles.” “That’s service to country, that’s patriotism, job skills, wanting to be a part of something or having a sense of **bE**longing,” said Lewis.

Competition for talent from the growing civilian field is a challenge. Benefits that once were unique to the military are no longer. Many civilian companies compete for the same talent pool and in some cases the Guard loses service members to that competition, but it is the intangibles, as Lewis calls them, that keep people serving.

It is the comradery, the belonging, as described by Freeze, that keeps Soldiers wanting more. And, as a bonus, the exciting adrenaline rush of flying a plane or helicopter, parachuting to the ground, or shooting a 155mm cannon doesn’t hurt. If the hard charging adrenaline is not your thing, there are also many who find fulfillment in fixing military equipment, decoding cyphers, blocking cyber-attacks, or translating messages and documents that provide

units with strategic advantage over enemy actors both in real-time and in training environments.

The opportunities abound. Even after more than a quarter century of military service I still find out that there are Soldiers and Airmen doing things I didn’t know about. If you are a Soldier or Airmen that finds your career, or your desire to work in a certain field, stagnating I would encourage you to look throughout the organization and find one of the many things you can do that will bring you excitement and fulfillment.

Talking to Spc. Ian Tracy, a current member of the Utah National Guard’s 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, it is obvious that he loves what he does. He is passionate about telling the stories of Soldiers through photography, videography, and written word, but he was not always so excited about what he did. Joining the National Guard as a mechanic brought him into the service, but his passion was in

a different field. Working with his command enabled him to pursue a career field that fit his personality and skill in a way that built passion rather than diffusing his drive. This is just one of many stories of Soldiers who changed their unit or changed duties to better align with their passions and skills, perhaps you can too.

Ultimately, the Utah National Guard is a place unlike any other. It is a place that draws from people the best they have to give. It is an organization that evolves and develops to make itself better. It is a resilient organization that thrives on advancing a professional culture of belonging that values the individual contributions of all its members. As the organization works to better itself, it needs you and it needs what you have to bring.

“There is value in any idea,” said Maj. Gen. Dan Boyack, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard. “The best ideas will usually come from those in the field doing the work.”

Since you are reading this article, you are either a member of the Utah National Guard or affiliated in some way. The question of what the Utah National Guard does is not as important as the question of why people do what they do. My hope is that you will share your experience in the Guard and help it be the best it can be. If you are a leader in the Utah National Guard, I want to be one to say thank you for your selfless service and the countless hours you spend ensuring that your Soldiers and Airmen are trained and have the resources they need to succeed in their missions and in their lives. If you are a Soldier or Airmen who has not yet had the opportunity to lead, I implore you to become the best you can be, master your craft, share your vision and ideas, look to be the leader you wish to have and help those who lead you be successful by dedicating your talent to bring this organization to a higher place. You matter to me, and you matter to the Utah National Guard. 🇺🇸

ARTICLE BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Lt. Col. Chris Kroeber



Utah National Guard members repel with the help of their civilian counterparts during a Utah National Guard FEMA Region VIII Homeland Response Force training exercise on Camp Williams, Utah, Nov. 5, 2022. The event featured multiagency interoperability training for the Utah National Guard and civilian partner agencies to provide initial and follow-on care to stranded and injured citizens in the event of a natural or human-caused emergency. UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Sgt. Alejandro Lucero

A Return to Service

The National Guard is grateful to those who enlist in the world's greatest military, but enlisting twice with the same organization speaks volumes about the people and work environment. Senior Master Sgt. Erin Nielsen, 151st Inspector General superintendent, was determined to be a part of the Utah Air National Guard, twice in her military career.

However, Nielsen had no desire to join the military at first, as it negatively impacted her childhood. Her mom was a Spanish Linguist with the 169th Intelligence Squadron for the Utah Air National Guard; she would deploy often. In turn, her mother was absent from some key events growing up. She associated being in the service with being gone a lot, which did not sit well with her. Yet, college was expensive, and she saw her only practical route was to join the military. On Sept. 11, 2002, at the age of 18, Nielsen enlisted in the Utah Air National Guard accompanied by a small group. The governor, Gov. Mike Leavitt, led the swearing in ceremony.

After completing basic military training and technical school, Nielsen transitioned back into the Utah Air National Guard as a part of combat crew communications. As a new Airman, a big inspiration for Nielsen was her former chief, Chief Master Sgt. (retired) David Powell, who she considered a Guard dad because he showed her the ropes for performing her duties, covered deployments that she could not go on, and supported rank promotions.

Another important figure for Nielsen as she progressed through the years was her mother.

"I did not realize how much of an inspiration my mom was when I was younger," said Nielsen. "As I got older and had children, I realized what goes into raising kids, being a working mom, and the hustle of adulthood. You get this profound appreciation for seeing it from a different angle."

After ten years of experience with combat crew communications, Nielsen wanted to pursue a different career path as the frequency and duration of deployments steadily increased. Not to mention, she had two children at the time and worked full-time with the U.S. Postal Service. Eventually, she was able to cross-train as a paralegal.



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Erin Nielsen, 151st inspector general superintendent, (center) gets her new rank pinned on by Chief Master Sgt. (retired) David Powell (left) and Chief Master Sgt. (retired) Denise Rager (right) during her promotion ceremony on Oct. 9, 2023.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY
Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Perez



U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Erin Nielsen, 151st inspector general superintendent, meets with the National Guard Bureau's Inspector General team in Washington, D.C. for a general conference with Dr. Laurie Hummel on Aug 8, 2023.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO COURTESY OF
Senior Master Sgt. Erin Nielsen

Meet Sean: Dad, Skateboarder, Soldier

Unfortunately, as the years passed, Nielsen believed her time in the Utah Air National Guard was over, as she and her husband were working opposite schedules, which made it too difficult to balance family and Guard responsibilities. She transitioned into the Inactive Ready Reserves in 2014 and had no interest in returning to the military.

Following a few years of leave, Nielsen was surprised to receive a call from a former coworker in the paralegal department telling her that a vacancy had opened in her previous role. The idea of returning was enticing, as she was no longer working at the post office, and she only had eight years left before she could receive retirement benefits. Nielsen would re-enlist in the Utah Air National Guard in 2018 as an **Active Guard Reserve**.

Nielsen has been the Inspector General superintendent since 2021. Her roles and responsibilities consist of being the self-assessment program manager for the whole base, processing all waivers, mandating and regulating inspections, collaborating exercises with specific career fields, and multiple other obligations.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her profession is collaborating with everyone on base. She is happy to assist anyone as it fits her personality.

"The people that I work with day in, and day out feel more like a family to me because that is how I operate," said Nielsen. "I tend to build that for myself wherever I go. Each specific area I have worked in, that pocket of people, or that organization ends up feeling like a family to me."

Besides working for the Utah Air National Guard, Nielsen is a doting mother of three and has been happily married for 16 years. She is a part of the operations team for Freedom Academy, planning events and bringing guest speakers. The organization is centered around high school seniors, teaching them the importance of patriotism and how America's freedoms work.

For the future, Nielsen aspires to continue her work to the best of her abilities, strengthen and create new bonds with others on base, and inspire new Airmen to be attentive, hungry, learn, and do as much as possible.

"Do not sit down all the time; go in and ask all the questions possible, get to know the job," said Nielsen. "Do not make people come and say, hey, do you have anything to do?" The way that I have continuously operated in my career is being proactive and showing up to learn the best that I can, to the best of my ability."



ARTICLE BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD
Airmen 1st Class Kyle Blackham

Met Staff Sergeant Sean Scheller, standing in formation he appears to be the stereotypical image of a Soldier. He wears the uniform, carries a weapon, excels in physical training. However, this Utah National Guard member is more than meets the eye. Sean is a Soldier with a common-sense approach, an unyielding work ethic, and a dry sense of humor that can catch you off guard, evoking laughter at the most inopportune times.

Born in Utah, Sean's early years were marked by constant movement until his family finally settled when he was 15. But before military ranks and uniformity, Sean found his passion at the age of 14 – skateboarding.

"Everyone in my neighborhood was doing it, and it looked really cool," he recalls with a smile.

What started as a neighborhood trend turned into a serious pursuit for Sean and his friends, Jonny and Brad. Practicing on local streets, stairs, and sidewalks, they honed their skills, getting kicked out of one spot only to conquer the next. With dedication, they earned sponsorships, won competitions, and created shop videos, traversing the western states, skateboarding and exploring new cities. However, in 2011, seeking a new adventure and frankly some discipline, Sean joined the Army National Guard.

Sean embarked on his military odyssey at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, enduring the demanding crucible of Basic Training. As he progressed, he honed his expertise as a Cannon Crewmember 13B at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, undergoing Advanced Individual Training.

Sean recalls, "I have a memory of my gunny yelling at the class and smoking us because we need to get our life priorities in order and care and love the Field Artillery like he does."



Sean Scheller and his wife Elle at the 2022 Field Artillery Red-Leg Social after receiving the Saint Barbara Award, an award given to those who dedicate themselves to the advancing of the field artillery community.

Beyond mastering his primary role, Sean earned well-deserved recognition as a Joint Fire Support Specialist 13F, underscoring the breadth of the skills he has acquired.

In his role as the Training NCO (noncommissioned officer) for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Sean works full-time for the Utah Army National Guard responsible for the meticulous planning, coordination, and oversight of training programs. He diligently manages military school logistics, ensuring timely and accurate compensation for Soldiers



Sean Scheller teaches his daughter Olive skateboarding at a local skate park.

under his purview. Sean adeptly constructs unit training schedules and effectively coordinates the allocation of resources required for seamless training execution.

His commitment extends to being a gun chief, leading his Paladin crew to victory and securing the prestigious 145th Field Artillery Battalion Top Gun Award. It wasn't just about hard work; it was a testament to the time and dedication he invested in preparing his crew for an event that evaluates knowledge and skill proficiency through various challenging tasks.

Beyond military ranks, Sean is a loving husband to Elle, whom he met on a dating app. Their love story began with a compliment about her dog in a photo, leading to a 2017 wedding dance down the aisle to Michael Jackson's "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough." The couple now has a four-year-old daughter named Olive and anticipates the arrival of another, Poppy, in early 2024.

While facing career challenges and deployments, Sean values openness, compassion, flexibility, and independence in his family life. Managing home operations during times away, he strives to create a supportive environment for his loved ones. Today, Sean's skateboarding adventures look different, involving taking his daughter to the park and passing on the thrill of skating to the next generation while enjoying quality family time outdoors.

In the end, Staff Sergeant Sean Scheller is not just a Soldier; he is a leader, a mentor, and a friend. He's the kind of person who can both inspire and entertain you, someone you'd want to know, learn from, and undoubtedly, someone you'd be proud to call a member of the Utah National Guard. 🇺🇸

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD ARTICLE BY Keith Garner
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
Staff Sgt. Sean Scheller



Sean Scheller and his platoon the "Misfits" pose for a photo in Kuwait during training while on deployment in 2018. The photo captures the spirit of camaraderie and friendship that accompanies military service.

Expert Physical Fitness Assessment

In order to maintain and assess a Soldier's physical fitness for specialized training, the Army conducts the Expert Physical Fitness Assessment. This fitness test is used to determine and challenge the physical readiness of Soldiers to prove they have risen above the standard and prepared for a more challenging physical assessment than the already challenging Army Combat Fitness Test. Testing, piloting and validation of the EPFA began in the Fall of 2022 and is used as part of the Expert Infantryman, Expert Field Medic and Expert Soldier Badges.

"Implementing the new EPFA allows units to reduce testing resources and personnel and provides a validated common standard for all Soldiers striving to attain their respective expert badge. The EPFA is a combat-focused physical assessment conducted in the Army Combat Uniform, boots, "slick" body armor with plates and helmet," said Sgt. Maj. Jason Stadel, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command directorate.

The EPFA is a series of seven complex fitness events. These seven events, in order, are: one-mile run, 30 dead stop push ups, 100-meter sprint, lift 16 sandbags onto a 66-inch-tall platform, 50-meter farmers carry with two 40-pound water cans, 25-meter-high crawl and 25-meter 3-5 second rush. These two events were altered to be a 25-meter bear crawl moving straight into a 25-meter low crawl. To fully qualify, individuals striving to obtain their expert badge need to complete the entire event in less than 27 minutes 30 seconds.

For the 2023 Utah National Guard's Best Warrior Competition, all competitors participated in the EPFA in the afternoon on Day 1 of the three-day competition. The only difference between the UTNG's EPFA and the standard EPFA was the change of the 25-meter-high crawl, 25-meter 3-5 second rush was changed to a 25-meter bear crawl straight into a 25-meter low crawl. This tweak in the EPFA was intended to make it burn and make the Soldiers a little stronger.

The low crawl brings out the high point of anyone's inner motivation to pass the EPFA, and since it's the event everyone seems to struggle with the most, it makes the last mile seem much more doable. Completing more challenging tasks becomes easier with time and dedication to fitness. We encourage all Soldiers to run the extra mile, ruck a little heavier, and study a little longer.

Master Sergeant Aaron Slaughter of Joint Force Headquarters was one of the individuals who took part in this event during his time competing in BWC. During the first explanation of events he expressed his intrigue. Slaughter felt ready for this task as he consistently trains to do CrossFit style



Staff Sgt. Mussleman prepares to carry the 40-pound water containers for the physical fitness test during the State Best Warrior Competition, Oct. 23, 2023, at Camp Williams, Utah.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY
2nd Lt. Marilyn Alba

workouts that are geared toward high-intensity movements and various exercises.

"I have never heard of the EPFA and I didn't know what it stood for," said Slaughter "I just thought what evil person would end this with a one-mile run?"

Because of his normal workout routine he was mentally prepared to handle this. Pacing was a huge part of his success in finishing this rigorous event. The last mile was the most challenging, especially the last lap knowing that the 30-minute time gap was closing faster as your body began to slow down because of the exertion. After finishing this event the BWC competitors had some time to ponder how this event fits into the Army's bigger picture.

Knowing this event is specific for the Combat Arms helps to understand the high standard of it.

"I would say it's a better assessment of readiness than the actual Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT)," said Slaughter. "We're supposed to train like we fight, on deployments, you're wearing body armor all the time."

The EPFA is a great assessment to help identify and close the gaps between deployment requirements and the requirements of the traditional duties of Guard members. 🇺🇸

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARTICLE BY
2nd Lt. Marilyn Alba



Master Sgt. Aaron Slaughter runs to complete his last mile of the fitness test for the competitors during the State Best Warrior Competition, Oct. 23, 2023 at Camp Williams. The BWC is an annual event that challenges the knowledge and endurance of military members of the Utah National Guard. The winners of this event look forward to competing in the Region VII Best Warrior Competition in the spring.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Spc. Ian Tracy



Utah Air National Guard and CST Joint Exercise Bolsters Emergency Management / ROLAND R. WRIGHT AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Utah — In a remarkable display of preparedness and cooperation, Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base in Utah became the focal point of a dynamic joint exercise on Sept. 20, 2023. 📰

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Perez



Utah National Guard Soldiers from the Main Command Post Operational Detachment return from deployment supporting US Army European Command / SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — A Soldier with the Utah Army National Guard’s Main Command Post – Operational Detachment is greeted by Lt. Col. Jaime Thomas, 1457th Engineer Battalion commander, after returning from his deployment in support of U.S. European Command operations overseas. Approximately 45 Soldiers from the MCP-OD returned Sept. 22, 2023. 📰

— ARTICLE BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Ileen Kennedy

PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. 1st Class Cambrin Bassett



UTNG's 128th MPAD deploys to Germany / DRAPER, Utah — Members of the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment prepare to deploy on a nine-month mission to Germany supporting the U.S. Special Operations Command Europe. The eleven deploying Soldiers attend a deployment ceremony at the Utah National Guard headquarters in Draper, Utah, Oct. 18, 2023. 📰

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Ian Tracy



Utah National Guard's state-level Best Warrior Competition / CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — The Utah National Guard’s state-level Best Warrior Competition was held at Camp Williams, Oct. 23-25, 2023. Specialist Jay Fuhr, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) won Soldier of the Year, Staff Sgt. Caden Biddinger, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) won Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Master Sgt. Aaron Slaughter, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade won Senior NCO of the Year. 📰

— ARTICLE BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 2nd Lt. Marilyn Alba

PHOTO BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD Spc. Ian Tracy



The UTNG's Veterans Day Concert salutes Vietnam Veterans / SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Joint choirs from the Granite School District came together with the 23rd Army Band to perform in the Utah National Guard’s 68th annual Veteran’s Day Concert with the theme Vietnam Veterans, We Salute You, at the Tabernacle on Temple Square, Salt Lake City. 📰

— ARTICLE BY UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD Sgt. Christine Hoskins

PHOTO BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD Airman 1st Class Kyle Blackham



Saratoga Springs and Herriman City repurpose property through ACUB program / CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Utah Army National Guard members were joined by Saratoga Springs and Herriman City mayors and city officials to recognize the tremendous efforts of the Army Compatible Use Buffer partners which enabled the arrangement of the site for the future Saratoga Springs City cemetery. Left to right: Paul Raymond, ACUB coordinator; Saratoga Springs Mayor Jim Miller; Brig. Gen. Joseph Green, assistant adjutant general—Army; and Saratoga Springs City Councilman. 📰

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH NATIONAL GUARD 2nd Lt. Marilyn Alba



Brigadier General G. Chris Buckner Assumes Command of the Utah Air National Guard in Prestigious Ceremony / SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — In a significant assumption of command and promotion ceremony held on Oct. 14, 2023, Col. G. Chris Buckner was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and assumed command of the Utah Air National Guard. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD Master Sgt. Colton Elliott



Elevating Dining Experiences at the 151st FSS Sustainment Flight / SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The sustainment services food service section is responsible for all the perfectly prepared and well thought out, albeit months in advance, menu that they provide to their fellow members of the UTANG at the dining facility. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD Tech. Sgt. Danny Whitlock



Utah Air National Guard participates in Arbinger training / SALT LAKE CITY, Utah

— Service members, with varying levels of rank and professional experience, learn about developing an “outward mindset,” a concept coined by the Arbinger Institute that helps leaders create the high-performance culture that drives exceptional organizational results. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD Tech. Sgt. Nicholas Perez



Pioneering Change: Utah National Guard's First-Ever Junior Enlisted Conference

/ SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Both Airmen and Soldiers attended the first junior conference for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Utah on Sept. 28, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard base. The event was organized to spread awareness and interest in the organization among newly enlisted personnel. 🇺🇸

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD
Airman 1st Class Kyle Blackham

For these complete stories and more like them go to our website at: UT.NG.MIL

AIR PROMOTIONS

MAJOR GENERAL

Boyack Daniel David

BRIGADIER GENERAL

Buckner Gene Chris

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Bermensolo Michael Chad
Dixon Erik Lee

MAJOR

Gerdes Heather Nicole

CAPTAIN

Leeman Joseph James
Tholen Landon Norman

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Wood Warren Steven

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Fleury Phillip William
Phelps Darren Keith

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Beh Abraham Grant
Cornell Jeffrey Thomas
Nielsen Erin Bryson
Sagers Stephen Vern
Stroh John David
Stumm Timothy Alma

MASTER SERGEANT

Bugger Tanner Georg
Christensen Timothy Bruce
Commerford Wesley Scott
Compton Hilary Renee
Figgins Donald Charles
Foreman Bobby Eugene II
Garecht Seth Tyler

Hone Benjamin J
Mowry Ryan Gabriel
Rice Daniel Ethan Ii
Scherzinger Rudy Wilkes
Sermon Taylor Nichols
Smith Jason Tyler

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Baird Adam Parker
Bentley Kristin
Chapman Logan James
Cooper Kyle Jourdan
Goff Isaac Benjamin
Harris Ethan Anthony
Kannegiesser Daniel Max
Killpack Chase John
Leue Timothy Scott
Manthei Mark Fredrick
Markin Joseph Lee
Schroeder Christian Jason
Scoresby Dante Michael

Weber Cody Aaron
Whitsel Douglas John

STAFF SERGEANT

Alba Marcus Ruben
Allen Tanner James
Ehiede Julius Emi
Hall Jarom David
Henderson Daniel Joe
Hirschi Isabella Manuela
Jensen Jarod Matthew
Lewis Jason Ross
Randall Ryon Douglas
Rayos Danny Agustin
Smith Easton Michael
Speed Trinity Margaret P
Wallace Austin Jayce
Ward Michael Carl

SENIOR AIRMAN

Fieeiki Siliva Relton
Geerdes Skyler Renae

Gerritsen Gerrit James Reid
Hallman Hyrum Starkey
Hicks Alexander Antone
Nguyen David
Peay Gabriel Seth
Phelps Aaron Robert
Pinkston Zachariah Kade
Riebe Gavyn Porter
Syhavong Amanda
Taylor Noah Robert

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS

Brush Justin Millan
Forsyth Cole Austin
Hogan Peter Jan
Hunter Dylan Duane
Richters Michael John

AIRMAN

Aller Elijah Blue
Hunt Mathew Walter
Lee Myah Rebecca

ARMY PROMOTIONS

COLONEL

Blackburn Marcus Kim
Brown Patricia Anne
Edmunds Eli Garth

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Bledsoe James Aaron
Giles Stephen Chadwick
Nitchman Lee Alan
Peers Matthew Lester
Waldron David Thomas
Wood David Samuel

MAJOR

Anderson Brian James
Bacalski Christopher Daniel
Boyer Anndrea Margaret
Daimaru Blaine Keaton
Gerry Sean Michael
Johnson Richard Matthew
Margulies Sandra Rose
Miller Trenton Dee
Sestak Keith Alan
Sorensen Samuel Alan
Stenquist Melissa Anne
Stephenson Jacob James
Sullivan William Warren

CAPTAIN

Ahlman Hyrum Richard
Brown Caleb Aaron
Butler Mindy
Mecham David Justin
Moomey Mark Thomas
Schultz Heidi Marie
Strait Jarred Boyd
Taylor Brady Snow
Tew David Wayne

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Andrew Jessica Alene
Spencer Russell Jay
Taylor Spencer B

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Hollowell Bronco Robert
Kalenga Mutotshi Marcel
Medina Marco Antonio
Tomlinson Justin Kent
Yeagley Jackson Alan

CHIEF WARRANT 5

Storer David James

CHIEF WARRANT 4

Gilbert Myles Thomas
Liddle David Stevens
Taylor Martin Buck
Webb Clint Paul

CHIEF WARRANT 3

Alvey Jacob Royal
Hilton Steven Albert
Lopez Angel
Nelson Kyle Franklin

WARRANT OFFICER 1

Barnes Jake Mecham
Francis Ross Amos
Gubler Charles Harmon
Small Tyson Keith
Stewart Steven Wade
Trujillo Ricardo Alberto
Walker Jeffrey Paul
Warner Paul Mark
Westwood Samuel Jerard

SERGEANT MAJOR

Smith Jeremy Clarence

MASTER SERGEANT

Boren Jason Frederick
Johnson Garth Larry
Malichanh Chandler Douglas
Naramore James Watson
Pinonmolina Ricardo
Sivas David Emmanuel

FIRST SERGEANT

Ricks Marc Douglas

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

Bassett Cambrin James
Beardshall David Scott
Ellison Ashley Renee
Graymountain Sam Jackson
Halowell Taryn Shay
Hyde Zachary Ryan
Johnsson Ryan J
Kuhlman Donald Wayne
Lake Dustin J
Law Jared Fred
Massey Kim Ly
Meryhew Cody Jacob
Mills Cory Daniel
Pearce William Garrett
Ralphs Joseph Edward
Salloman Danilo Sarol
Thomas John Preston
Tucker Micheal Anthony
Vazquez Joshua Aaron
Vest Peter Steven
Virostko Benjamin Ryan

STAFF SERGEANT

Armstrong Bradley Lynn
Avella Andres Felipe
Barrie Jamie Robert
Beauchamp Joseph Rogers

Bennett Shawn Dale
Bodtcher Travis Randy
Bunn James Joseph
Call Lucas Will
Dean Esteban August
Deihl Michael David
Delambert Ty Manning
Duplissie Mason Brian
Faherty Spencer Riley
Gonzales Lino Anthony
Hornsby Mason Thomas
Hurtt Ivan Taylor
Johnstun Brandon Scott
Jordan Brian Alan
Maia Tiago Sa
Marchant Brandon Michael
Mendezbaiza Andrea Vanessa
Mendezcorona Noe
Mouton Christopher Scott
Nelson Tyson P
Palomino Guissela
Pantaleon Medel Geronimo
Parkin Daniel Alan
Parry Hyrum Nathan
Pollard David Michael
Read Gabriel Duane
Salvin Atif
Sombath Alex
Stitcher Colton Ja
Tanner Weston Duane
Tarma Mijail Benjamin
Torres Sarah Felice
Vandyke Kayden Delmar
Velazquez Bernardo Lopez
Vernon Cole Edward
Webb Jessica Valerie
Wells Thomas Bruce

SERGEANT

Anderson Arthur Bracken
Anderson Cole Thomas
Bailey Emmett Nikolas
Baker Raiden Dicaro
Barlow Derek Ronald
Barlow Westin James
Barron Grant Gregory
Burt Haley Marie
Burton Joshua Dallen
Byrd Nicolas Daniel
Callis Sean Christopher
Christensen Joseph Henry
Christopherson Kyran T
Cowell Lily Rachel
Cueto Juan Isidro
Decker Isaac Asher
Dejong Leonard Dakota
Dickson Aaron Bruce
Drake Alexander Joseph
Eckersley Joseph Kl

Engle Jonathan Chapman
Goodman Amanda Page
Grigg Taylor Golden
Hansen Michael Brooks
Howard Isaac Lawrence
Hunter Riley Kyle
Huntsman Bruce Robert
Jacobsen Dakota Chavez
Jacobson Karsten Andrew
Jennings Dylan Thomas
Johnson Derek Evan
Jones Taylor Robert
Judd Tanner Brock
Kammerman Jared Calton
Kerrigan Brian Andrew
Lambert Alyson Ashley
Lee Caitlyn Anne
Linschoten Lexie Nicole
Linville Rebecca Vignette
Maddox Chase Anthon
Maggio Zach Kaden
McKenna Morgan David
Medsker Justin Michael
Mendenhall Russel Landon
Moctezumarecendiz Stacy O
Northrup Talon Phoenix
Palmer Trask Ryan
Perez Caden Lee
Peters Benjamin Scott
Peterson Emilee Madisen
Peterson Matthew Riley
Pflueger Jared Robert
Pledger Mark Daniel
Poe Tanner Mavrik
Rogers Douglas Jensen
Romney Jeremiah Logan
Saltern Spencer Jonathan
Sano Dallin Joseph
Savage Connor Nathan
Saxton Scead Ray
Sevillavaras Liliana Pilar
Shafor Lauren Elizabeth
Shaw Daniel Alton
Shumway Marshall Burdett
Smith Samuel Rey
Sorensen Nathan Kendall
Sproul Nathan Robert
Taylor Brandon Lewis
Thompson Michael Kurt
Tomco Benjamin David
Vidad Reyn Michael Keiji
Wagner Eldon Kade
Walker Briston Gary
Webber Wesley James
Wellman Julie Angela
Workman Derek Paul
Young Wesley Neil

SPECIALIST

Adamson Ian Sean
Andersen Easton Andrew
Anderson Holden Vance
Anthony David Michael
Baker Carson George
Baker Finn Christian Sigurd
Barlow Benjamin Hyrum
Birch Carson Andrew
Blahe Dylan Robert
Bolanosgomez Logan A
Bracken Robinson James
Bradshaw Kenyan James
Cardon Jason Louis
Carlson Hunter Layne
Carrico Samuel Dean
Clements Esther Elizabeth
Copetillo Nohemy
Costa Ayliaanna Sue
Darrington Parker Jordon
Diaz Arturo Alejandro
Edwards Connor Ralph
Eisenberg Tyler Kelly
Ethington Dakota Elden
Fetterman Taylor Jack
Ficquet Wilhem Adam
Fidler Jason Richard
Fraser Jayson Hopkins
Garate Spencer Eugene
Gardner Chase Matthew
Gentry Justin Michael
Gonzalez Jason Alexander
Gorringer Keon Parker
Goss Dustin Lee
Graham Megan Avalon
Greenburg Kade Austin
Hall Dawn Lejeune
Hanks Andrew Knowlton
Harman Tanner Bryant
Harris Nathan Peterson
Haslam Joshua Russell
Hasson Ammon Douglas
Hendry Sage
Hoggan Caleb Allen
Horton Branson Lee
Howell Broderick Robert
Hyland Eric Lee
Ibarrasanchez Francisco A
Johansen Valencia Ann Marie
Johnson Preston Taku
Johnson Quinsi Tatem
Kaczmarek Andrew James
Kafley Ram Kanta
Kerksiek Shane Walter
Kevern Gunnar Dane
Kite Ryan Joseph
Kite Ryan Joseph
Kramer Samuel Owen
Lathim Jason Derick

Latimer Corbin Ford
 Lemperle Kyle David
 Levet Mayzee Ann
 Logan Hunter James
 Lowery Noah McLaren
 Mack Aydney Elizabeth
 Malepeai Phoenix Kaiva
 Martinezbaeza Paola
 Mathews Samuel Benjamin
 Medina Anthony Joseph
 Melzer Jacob Stephen
 Miller Brandon Jonathan
 Moreno Catano Anderson
 Mulberry William Reece
 Murray Tye Bailey
 Nabrotzky Austin Michael
 Nicholls David Ray
 Oleson Dallen Jay
 Oursler Soren Michael
 Palomaressalazar Alexandro
 Patino Adan
 Pearson Mahala Erin
 Peterson Joshua Abraham
 Poulton Ethan Jeffrey
 Putnam Tyger Elliot
 Reed Taitlee Sacorrias
 Reno Alissa Marie
 Ringgold Ariiyana Kaiera
 Roberts Micah Dimas
 Rodriguez Allison Marie
 Roman Moses George
 Sadler London Gigi Marie
 Schena Tyler Angelo
 Seupuleteutupe Wally Sopi
 Shields Robert James
 Shimanovich Daniel Zhan
 Shuman Sam Kenji
 Silva Isaac Nathan
 Smith Corey Michael
 Smith Nathan Daniel
 Smith Ronald Cameron
 Steiner Waylon Jason
 Swaney Mace Kenyon
 Sylvester Okley William
 Terry Abigail
 Udall Chesley Rhett
 Valenzuela Eduardo
 Vickers Cooper John
 Walker Jason Scott
 Walker Jr Hagan Ryan
 Walker Samuel Sterling
 Wellman Zachary Aaron
 Wickel Abbielynn Patricia
 Wilkinson Spencer Kelly
 Wirthlin Quin E
 Wright Spencer Christian
 Yazzie Nikolas Tony
 Young Kyle Aaron

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
 Ahumadavelazquez Jonathan L
 Amaviscoartiz Jesus A
 Armenta Jr Ivan
 Astorga Wendie Yesenia
 Auger Clayton Lamar
 Ball Elijah Nelson
 Baron Zachary Ryan
 Bates Samuel Emerson
 Bosh Kelby Jack
 Bowler Stetson Monroe
 Bradford Javain Dwayne
 Caldwell Canyon Tj
 Campos Angelica Alexandra
 Canto Absidee Diane
 Carney Ryan Lee
 Christianson Sebastian Ethan
 Contrerasgarcia Jesus E
 Cotro Manes Alexander Nicholas
 Crosby Doris Marianne
 Davis Logan Ben
 Demille Elijah Raymond
 Done Brayden Lee
 Downs Boston Thomas
 Eames Ryan Anakin
 Ellsworth Bryant Paulsen
 Franklin Trevin Chase
 Gradney Dayne Michael
 Hall Luke Olsen
 Hansen Lucia Noel Hoang
 Thuy Nga
 Hanson Justin Daniel
 Henderson Brandon Louis
 Hernandez Fernando Huerta
 Herrera Holguin Alicia
 Jacobsen Sean Glen
 James Jesse Clayton
 Jorgensen Sawyer Wayne
 Kneeland Jacob Randy
 Konold Mackenzie Sara
 Landis Cale Denim
 Lavelle Jessica Ann
 Leigh Ryder McKaye
 Long Dakota Clayton
 Lovell Stone Edward
 Madsen Eric Richard
 Mangham Jonette Danielle
 Marshall Aaron Lance
 Martin Jared Thomas
 Mateo Miyasaki Tiara Marie
 Maughan Aidan William
 McFarlane Zachary Scott
 McSweeney Sarah Nicole
 Miller Jarom Ellsworth
 Mooney Daunte Reign
 Morrill Spencer Brandon
 Myers Nathan Lee
 Nicholls Daniel Ryan
 Nielsen Hagen Mark

Nieto Manuel Elias
 Nunez Matthew Lee
 Oneal Christopher Hugh
 Ortega Luis
 Patterson Autumn Love
 Pederson Justin Earling
 Perez Maritza Solorio
 Peterson Abraham Jay
 Phan Travis
 Pratt Rhyam James
 Rasmussen Logan
 Rehema Furaha Fundialam
 Reinarz Coleman Luke
 Rember Michaela Nicole
 Rodriguezarata Erika
 Samayoa Recinos Brandon
 Sanchez Nicole April
 Shradley Gabrielle Kyra Foster
 Smith Asher William
 Smith Dustin Bradford
 Tamayobarzaga Lazaro
 Thacker Nikolas Lynn
 Tindell Jacob Alan
 Volcy Jimmy Hattlazarre
 Wahlquist Dane Michael
 Wellman Joshua David
 Wilcox Alisha Trinity
 Wilson Braxton Michael

PRIVATE (PV2)
 Barlow Samson Russell
 Black Monty Skylar
 Brady Genesis Eve
 Brown Jaxon Scott
 Christiansen Robyn
 Clark Lakota Wesley
 Cortesavila David
 Demille Carl Hunter
 Elieff Coby Austin
 Ericksen Tristen Ted
 Fernandez Emilio Salomon
 Fernandez Martinez Rafael Ernesto
 Francis Makenna
 Fuluvaka James Sisi Alifaleti
 Gardner Ashlyn Irie
 Gardner Jack Arthur
 Graves Bryce Linn

Hales J Stephen
 Hammond Chloe Elizabeth
 Hatch Raesen Lee
 Hildebrandt Darius Rushton
 Ivie Paige Hannah
 Jones Jacey Jade
 Joslyn Dru Ryker
 Julander Gage Steven
 Landin Wendy Julieta
 Lewis Damian Elijah
 Longman Ian Tyler
 Manning Jaden Wyatt
 Maxwell Jonas Ford
 Meyers Brock Alden
 Miller Cooper Brinagh
 Montilla Blanco Johnathan D
 Moosman Tyson Jacobi
 Nelson Connor Jayde
 Noriega Sorroza Michelle
 Ong Eliseo Matthew Beltran
 Ortegaperez Martina
 Orton Bridger Ryan
 Parkinson Wyatt H
 Penberthy Gavin James
 Rangel Lara John Kevin
 Rowell Ethan Jackson
 Rubio Omar Alexander
 Sawtell Jonathan Craig
 Saxey Olivia Grace
 Sedanquispe Harold Bitner
 Shakespeare Spencer Joseph
 Shortman Tyneeshia Amber
 Stam Apolonio Christian
 Taggart Trevor Charlie
 Taylor Jacob Alexander William
 Thomas Casen Charles
 Whitesides John Preston
 Wilson Garrett Wade
 Woodward Kaiden Gregory
 Yazzie Jacqueis Wanballe

PRIVATE (PV1)
 Barrientos Antonio Gavin
 Beddoes Emersea Melecia
 Bolanoz Gomez Adam
 Canaan Kevin Alessandro
 Cannon Mallorie Arlene

Carrillo Silva Moroni
 Carter Mitchell Scott
 Chenoweth Jonah Gordon
 Christensen Jacob Lee
 Cortez Santiago Abel
 Dalley Kenden Clark
 Davis Derek Randall
 Davis Isaiah Maurice
 Desnoyers Zackariah Thomas
 Ewell Jesse Thomas
 Garcia Jovani
 Getz Austyn Scott
 Glazier Samantha Elizabeth
 Hansen Thomas Matthew
 Harris Jordyn Camilla
 Harvey August Webb
 Hatcher Hyrum Stuart
 Herbert Voss Emily Anne
 Herring Kelbe Noah
 Hill Kayden Timothy
 Jolley Buddy Ray
 Knotts Robert Joseph
 Kolman Nathan Michael
 Kreci Kayden Cesar
 Latu Vera Zviagolskaia
 Lyon Jr Jonathan William
 Miller Hutchinson Buster
 Nelson Conner Zachary
 Nelson Max Landon
 Perkins Kartchner Chase
 Pyne Hunter Tod
 Sanchez Gerardo
 Sargent Korbin Tyler
 Schwendinger Benjamin Daniel
 Sharp Christian Chase
 Shaw Coy Robert
 Silver Michael
 Smith Braxton Dayne
 Thorpe Colton Kirk
 Toa Timothy Panapa Maatu
 Turville Joseph Andrew
 Visser William Foster
 Waldron Elijah Thomas
 Whitney Trent Dane
 Yann Simon Dara
 Zenger Arthur Osborne
 Zierow Kyle Lewis



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FLASHBACK PHOTO



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Flying the Bell OH-13E in the 60's

Members of the 211th Aviation Group conduct annual training near Dugway Proving Ground in the Bell OH-13E, in 1967.

Using a decommissioned Bell OH-13E helicopter, members of the 211th Aviation Group conduct annual training near Camp Williams, Utah, in 1967. Part of that training consists of "autorotation", which is to practice emergency procedures in the event the helicopters engine fails. During autorotation, airflow turns the rotor as the helicopter loses altitude, giving the pilots an opportunity to land safely.

