

STATE OF THE FORCE

READINESS



INNOVATION/LETHALITY



CULTURE



COMMAND MESSAGES

MAJ GEN BOYACK

TAG - Looking back over the past two years, there have been a lot of highs and a few tough spots—but overall...



[Questions or Comments?](#)

CSM NIELSEN

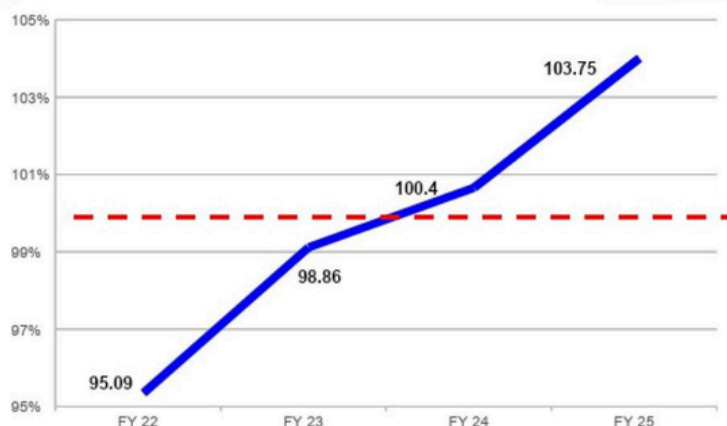
SEL - Greetings Utah National Guard Team!!! It's such an honor to serve alongside each of you as your Senior Enlisted Leader...

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD END STRENGTH

ARMY



AIR



READINESS

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE

STA is annual funding from the Utah Legislature that covers tuition costs and fees, up to \$7,000, for eligible Utah National Guard members at any accredited institution. It supports recruitment, retention, and education goals by helping service members pursue degrees while serving their state and nation.

guard.utah.gov/sta/



STUDENT SCHOOL LOAN REPAYMENT

Utah Legislature also funds the SSLR program, offering a limited number of \$7,000 loan reimbursements for service members to repay loans on their first completed accredited degree. Each fiscal year, applicants must select either SSLR or STA and submit all required documents. Fall 2025 slots are filled. However, watch the website in January for additional slots.

guard.utah.gov/sslr/

FORCE ON THE RISE

The Utah Army National Guard is undergoing one of the most significant [force structure increases](#) in its history, adding nearly 700 Soldiers. This includes a new Mobile Infantry Battalion and potential Combat

Engineer Company, enhancing readiness and ensuring Utah remains a key contributor to national defense and mission success.



MODERNIZATION UTANG

The Utah Air National Guard's 109th Air Control Squadron is transitioning to [cyber defense](#), splitting into the 106th and 109th Cyber Operations Squadrons. These units will protect military and critical infrastructure networks, reaching full capability by 2031, and support both national and state-level cybersecurity missions, including emergency response and infrastructure protection.



MODERNIZATION UTARNG

In FY25, Utah's 1st 211th Attack Battalion received [24 AH-64E Apache Guardians](#). With advanced targeting and real-time data sharing via Link 16, the helicopters boost joint precision strike capabilities—enhancing total force readiness and mission support across domains.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

[Click for Armory Updates](#)



INNOVATION / LETHALITY



JOINT TRAINING

The Utah National Guard's Exercises [Hydra](#), [Thanos](#), and [Perseus](#) enhanced joint-force readiness through datalink integration, Pacific Agile Combat Employment strike training, and cross-service collaboration. Hydra showcased innovation and cultural evolution—crucial for building combat power and strengthening homeland security through joint lethality and adaptable, multi-domain operations.

KC - 135 TEST DETACHMENT

The [KC-135's Test Detachment](#), led by the Utah ANG, adds Starlink and enhanced tactical datalink capabilities, creating a “Wi-Fi router” in the sky. Proven in Exercises Northern Edge and Exercise Resolute Force Pacific, this upgrade boosts Joint Force lethality by enabling real-time data sharing across networks, as valuable as the fuel it delivers.



DRONE WARFARE

The 19th Special Forces Group has launched a Special Operations R&D unit to enhance training and integrate small drones into missions.

Through advanced exercises and partnerships, they're developing new tactics and counter-drone strategies to maintain an edge in modern, contested warfare environments.



CULTURE

UTNG Community Events

Flag Retirement Ceremony
- Spanish Fork



Freedom Festival
- Provo



Freedom Academy
- Bluffdale



Wingman Day
- Salt Lake City

Retiree Breakfast: *Reconnect. Remember. Refresh.*

- The next confirmed Utah **Army** Guard retiree breakfast is July 2, 2026 in the 640th RTI Dining Facility. Check the events page for additional dates.
- Utah **Air** Guard hosts a **monthly** retiree breakfast
 - DFAC (Dining Facility), Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base
 - 4 Sep
 - 2 Oct
 - 6 Nov
 - 4 Dec



For the schedule and other events, check out our website.

Best of the Best

National Guard Best Warrior Competition

(NGBWC) - Sgt. Luke Cloward of the Utah National Guard was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year at the 2025 Army NGBWC. Over five days in Maryland, competitors faced grueling physical and mental challenges. Cloward credits discipline, preparation, and support-role experience for his success and personal growth.



Thomas Jefferson Military Writer of the Year - SFC

Timothy Beery was awarded 1st place for the Thomas Jefferson Military Writer of the Year Award for his powerful articles including, "Ghost in the Machine" and "Demoted." His compelling storytelling revealed the human side of service, sparking meaningful dialogue across the force and showcasing the true depth of military experience.

Governor's Award of Excellence (GAFE) - MWR

Manager Brandee Crockett has been honored with the 2025 GAFE—an elite recognition reserved for Utah's top-performing state employees. Her dedication, leadership, and impact on service members and their families exemplify the best of public service.