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Cover Photo: Members of the Utah National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) work to recover mock casualties from a simulated rubble pile in Magna, Utah on Nov. 4, 2014 during Vigilant Guard. The training exercise simulated a building collapse and chemically contaminated area as part of an earthquake-disaster scenario.
MISSION - The Utah National Guard has a unique dual mission that encompasses support to our nation and to the State of Utah as follows:

FEDERAL MISSION - Maintain properly trained and equipped units available for prompt mobilization for war, national emergency or as otherwise needed.

STATE MISSION - Provide trained and disciplined forces for domestic emergencies or as otherwise required by state law.

VISION - The Guard is America’s Army. We are community based but with capabilities that stretch worldwide. The 378-year tradition that we enjoy as Guardmembers is, in every sense, as relevant today as during colonial times.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - It is the goal of the Utah National Guard to have the finest National Guard units in the nation. Each Utah Guard member strives to be the best officer, noncommissioned officer, Soldier or Airman possible. We will continue to build on the tradition that when units of the Utah National Guard arrive, the “First Team” is taking the field.
Another year is in the record books, and as I reflect on what we have accomplished, I am humbled by your sacrifice and gratified at your level of performance. Utah finished number one in the nation for Recruiting and Retention which is no small feat. In addition, the 1457th Engineer Battalion won the Kerwin Award for the finest Engineer Battalion in the entire Army, the 116th Engineer Company won the Itchner Award for the best Engineer Company in the Army, and the 151st Air Refueling Wing’s Maintenance Group was selected as the finest maintenance activity in the United States Air Force. The Utah National Guard possesses a broad variety of units and capabilities. Administered by the Joint Force Headquarters, Artillery, Air and Army Aviation, Maneuver Enhancement, Military Intelligence and Special Forces units carry out their local missions and prepare for overseas service.

This past summer we received visits from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Director of the United States Army National Guard, and the Sergeant Major of the Army. We anticipate visits from the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force and the Commander of Air Combat Command. These visits are not random, and are directly tied to the level of excellence that our Soldiers and Airmen display on a regular basis.

As an organization we continue to be extremely busy, with deployments across the globe in support of national objectives. Our 151st Air Refueling Wing is deploying at unprecedented levels, and we recently bid farewell to the 116th Engineer Company as they are deploying to CENTCOM. I am confident that when Utah Guard formations arrive in theater they are well trained, well led and motivated to perform any mission that is required of them. I am equally confident that while loved ones are deployed, their families will be cared for by an amazing group of Family Program employees and volunteers. These great Americans have experienced the pain and the growth that deployments can bring to individuals and to families, and they are equipped to provide the care that is needed to those left behind. Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen continue to stand out as they perform with excellence in remote locations across the globe. We are especially proud of our diverse mix of forces and the critical role that we play in the defense of our state and our nation. During my travels, I am continually reminded that our Soldiers and Airmen are committed to excellence, and that Utah National Guard forces truly are “The A-Team.” We are skilled in the performance of our dual mission to fight and win our nation’s wars, and to defend the homeland and respond to natural or man-made disasters. Speaking of the home front, it is important to remind ourselves of the significant responsibilities we have as Guardsmen to the defense and protection of the homeland. We will continue to integrate ourselves into exercises which test the response of local cities, counties and our state in response to disasters man-made or otherwise. Our citizens depend on the continued professionalism and rapid response of the Utah National Guard, and we will not fail them.

We have positioned ourselves for future success with outstanding Recruiting and Retention Programs, and training programs that place Utah in the top tier of all states nationwide. The future is sure to bring us rapid change and budget uncertainties, but as Utah Guardsmen have done since our state’s inception, we will remain positive and focused on the future opportunities that will surely come. We are truly an essential part of the total force. I have no doubt that the Utah National Guard will remain ready, willing and able to respond to the needs of our state and nation.
1. American Fork  
   Forward Support Co., 1457th Engineer Bn  
   HHC, 1457th Engineer Battalion

2. Beaver  
   C Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion

3. Blanding  
   Detachment 1, 118th Sapper Company

4. Bluffdale  
   115th Engineer Facilities Detachment  
   HHC, 204th Maneuver Enhancement  
   217th Signal Company  
   HHB, 65th Field Artillery Brigade  
   HHC, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion  
   HHC, 19th Special Forces Group (Abn)  
   REC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)  
   B Co, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)  
   C Co, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
   D Co, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
   GSC, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)  
   Utah Training Center - Camp Williams  
   640th Regiment-Regional Training Institute  
   Medical Command  
   144th Area Support Medical Company  
   190th Signal Company

5. Brigham City  
   Det. 1, A Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Bn

6. Cedar City  
   HHB, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion

7. Draper  
   Joint Force Headquarters - Utah  
   Recruiting and Retention Command  
   97th Troop Command  
   128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
   115th Maintenance Company  
   1993rd Contingency Contracting Team  
   HHC, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade  
   ACo, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
   ACo, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion  
   CCo, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion  
   653rd Trial Defense Team  
   DET 2, HHB, 101st Airborne Division

8. Fillmore  
   Det 1, C Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Bn

9. Fort Douglas  
   Fort Douglas Military Museum

10. Lehi  
    HHC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)  
    BSC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)

11. Logan  
    A Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion  
    D Co., 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion

12. Manti  
    B Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion

13. Mount Pleasant  
    Det 1, 116th Engineer Co (Horizontal)

14. Ogden  
    B Co, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion  
    HHD, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
    A Co, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
    B Co, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)

15. Orem  
    HHC, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
    C Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
    B Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion

16. Price  
    624th Engineer Company (Vertical)  
    Det 1, 624th Engineer Company (Vertical)

17. Richfield  
    A Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion

18. Salt Lake City Air Base  
    Detachment 50, Operations Support Airlift  
    Headquarters, Utah Air National Guard  
    109th Air Control Squadron  
    130th Engineer Installation Squadron  
    169th Intelligence Squadron  
    Headquarters, 151st Air Refueling Wing  
    151st Operations Group  
    151st Operations Support Flight  
    191st Air Refueling Squadron  
    151st Maintenance Group  
    151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
    151st Maintenance Operations Flight  
    151st Mission Support Group  
    151st Logistics Readiness Squadron  
    151st Civil Engineering Squadron  
    151st Security Forces Squadron  
    151st Communications Squadron  
    151st Force Support Squadron  
    151st Medical Group  
    151st Medical Squadron

19. Salt Lake Readiness Center  
    85th Civil Support Team (WMD)  
    118th Sapper Company  
    HHC, 142nd Military Intelligence Bn

20. Spanish Fork  
    116th Engineer Company (Horizontal)  
    A Co, 489th Distribution Company  
    C Btry, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion

21. Springville  
    HHD, 489th Brigade Support Battalion

22. St. George  
    D Co, 141st Military Intelligence Bn  
    B Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion  
    213th Forward Support Company

23. Tooele  
    214th Forward Support Company

24. Vernal  
    Det 2, 624th Engineer Co (Vertical)

25. West Jordan  
    23rd Army Band  
    97th Aviation Troop Command  
    HHC, 1-211th Aviation Battalion  
    A Co, 1-211th Aviation Battalion  
    B Co, 1-211th Aviation Battalion  
    C Co, 1-211th Aviation Battalion  
    D Co, 1-211th Aviation Battalion  
    E Co, 1-211th Aviation Battalion  
    HHC, 2-211th Aviation Battalion  
    A Co, 2-211th Aviation Battalion  
    D Co, 2-211th Aviation Battalion  
    E Co, 2-211th Aviation Battalion  
    Det 5, HHC, 1-171st Aviation Battalion  
    Det 2, C Co, 1-171st Aviation Battalion  
    Det 5, D Co, 1-171st Aviation Battalion  
    Det 5, E Co, 1-171st Aviation Battalion  
    Det B, B Co., 1-112th Aviation Battalion  
    Det 2, C Co., 5-159th Aviation Battalion  
    Det 4, D Co., 5-159th Aviation Battalion  
    Det 4, E Co., 5-159th Aviation Battalion

Utah National Guard
1. American Fork Armory
2. Beaver Armory
3. Blanding Armory
4. Utah Training Center--Camp Williams
5. Brigham City Armory
6. Cedar City Armory
7. Utah National Guard Headquarters
8. Fillmore Armory
9. Fort Douglas Museum
10. Lehi Armory
11. Logan Armory
12. Manti Armory
13. Mount Pleasant Armory
14. Browning Armory
15. Orem Armory
16. Price Armory
17. Richfield Armory
18. Salt Lake City Readiness Center
19. Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base
20. Spanish Fork Armory
21. Springville Armory
22. St. George Armory
23. Tooele Armory
24. Vernal Armory
25. Jake Garn Armory

Utah Air and Army Guard Locations
Federal Construction  Federal Operations and Maintenance  Traditional Pay and Allowances *AT, IDT, ADOS  Active Guard Reserve  Federal Payroll

*Annual Training (AT)  *Inactive Duty Training (IDT)  *Active Duty Other Support (ADOS)
Economic-Impact Statement
Three-Year Comparison

2013 2014 2015
### Federal

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<th>Federal Construction and Remodel</th>
<th>Traditional Pay and Allowance *(AT, IDT, ADOS)</th>
<th>Active Guard Reserve (AGR)</th>
<th>Federal Payroll</th>
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*Annual Training (AT), Inactive Duty Training (IDT), Active Duty Other Support (ADOS)

### State

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### Economic-Impact Statement

Personnel and Employee Distribution

October 1, 2014 to September 1, 2015
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2015 Annual Report 11
In 2015 the Utah National Guard responded to hundreds of community support requests. Those requests included Utah National Guard participation in various parades, color-guard events, concerts, speaking assignments, cannon and rifle salutes, vehicle displays and logistical support.

The Utah National Guard receives great support from our local communities, and looks forward to opportunities to show our appreciation by providing military support at key events at the state, city, and local level.

Our Soldiers and Airmen are proud of the overseas deployments in which they have mobilized during the past decade, but they are just as proud of the small towns and big cities that they come from. Having the National Guard participate in community events assists in their readiness mission. Community support increases Guard visibility in the community, fosters positive relationships and develops avenues for potential recruitment. Each of these areas is vital as they continue to conduct operations supporting our federal mission overseas. Our participation in these events also gives credence to the importance of the supported event.

Some of the large events this fiscal year included Honor Flight, Scouting for Food, Governor’s Day, Veterans Day Concert, Tour of Utah bike race, Freedom Academy, Memorial Day activities, Independence Day celebrations, Flag Day, and Pioneer Day events. Whether the support is an elementary school flag raising or full military displays at the Stadium of Fire, each event is close to the heart of the Soldier and Airman that supports it.
The mission of the Fort Douglas Military Museum is to collect, preserve and interpret Utah military heritage. The focus is on the history of Fort Douglas, the Utah National Guard (UTNG), and Utah veterans.

In addition to support from the UTNG, the Fort Douglas Military Museum Association (a non-profit organization) also provides support. The Association provides financial and legislative support to the museum.

Our public history programs included a commemoration for the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, or VE Day. The program included a tour of Karl Smith’s Tooele military vehicle collection, presentation of special VE Day medals to WWII veterans by Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack, living-history demonstrations by Chip Guarente, a historical lecture on the final months in Europe by retired Col. Stephen Hall, and live-fire demonstrations with a 57mm AT gun.

Our traditional Fort Douglas Day included a Civil War encampment, living-history from the American Revolutionary War through the Korean War, with a special appearance by the Roman XIV Legion, a military vehicle display, and WWII re-enactors demonstrating WWII weapons and equipment in addition to many other displays.

One additional field trip was conducted this year. As part of our partnership with state history, the museum organized a trip to historic Wendover Army Air Base. Restored facilities, including the Officers Club, the “Enola Gay” hangar, the Norden Bomb Sight storage building, and the atomic bomb, practice-loading pit were toured.

This year we completed many projects using Utah National Guard funding and Utah Correctional Industries labor, and as well as many much-needed maintenance and repair projects. A series of new exhibits will be installed in the museum’s new main gallery. The first three exhibits depicting the early conflicts between the original Native American inhabitants, the Mormon militia and the U.S. Army are nearly complete.

The museum held a 9/11 remembrance ceremony in September and a Gold-Star Family Remembrance Day in June. We are also proud participants in the Blue-Star Museum program, which honors Blue-Star families.

With visitation up from last year, the museum is seeing an increase in public awareness of its military history programs. Plans for FY 2016 include the 70th anniversary commemoration for Victory Over Japan (VJ Day) and hosting a traveling National Park Service exhibit about the American PO Experience through April 2016. The museum is located at 32 Potter Street on historic Fort Douglas. Visiting hours are 12-5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.
Utah National Guard members, families, friends, and guests gathered at Camp Williams Sept. 19, 2015, on as beautiful a day as one could ask for. Due to numerous construction projects on camp, the annual Governor’s Day event in 2013 was held at Westlake High School, and in 2014 the event was canceled due to budget constraints. The Governor’s Day committee collaborated for months to ensure a safe, patriotic, and fun day for all who attended this year. Thanks to creative thinking, extensive planning, teamwork, and increased infrastructure, entry and parking was trouble free.

The ceremony epitomizes the long-standing traditions of military discipline and honor. It provides the governor a stage where he can witness the tremendous strength of the Utah National Guard. Flyovers by AH-64 Apaches, and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters were visual manifestations of the incredible assets the Utah National Guard brings to bear in our nation’s defense. Family members beamed with pride as Soldiers and Airmen marched by during the traditional pass-and-review with their fellow Guardsmen. Military and guests listened to addresses from Utah’s Governor, Gary R. Herbert, and the Utah National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton.

Later, Gov. Herbert personally shook hands with the recognized Soldiers, Airmen and Noncommissioned Officers of the Year. In their addresses to the crowd, both leaders praised the troops and their families and commended the many sacrifices Guard families and their employers make for the Utah National Guard. After the ceremony guests were invited to the newly refurbished athletic field, where numerous food and activity booths were provided by units and Family Readiness Groups of the Utah National Guard.
The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah is a major contributor to the success of the Utah National Guard. It is an organization of community leaders that provides significant support for a number of National Guard activities. The corps is comprised of current and former National Guard general officers, current and past governors, legislators, judges, business owners and leaders from every walk of life. The Utah Guard is known for its support to the community, and the Honorary Colonels provide significant support to the Guard.

During June, the corps sponsored its 54th annual Bronze Minuteman Awards banquet. The banquet honored local citizens who have distinguished themselves through community service in civil, religious, business or military capacities. This year’s recipients included retired Command Sgt. Maj. Max R. Ronson; retired Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett, Jr.; Mrs. Sharlene W. Hawkes; L-3 Communication Systems-West, Mr. Andrew Ivers; Mrs. Catherine M. Stokes; and retired Brig. Gen. Brent E. Winget.

In July, the corps helped sponsor the 54th annual Freedom Academy. This is a week-long event that hosts high school student leaders from throughout Utah in an unforgettable, freedom-education experience. Held at Camp Williams, the academy acquaints students with the prison system, military, civic and religious leaders, and encourages each student to be an ambassador of freedom at their own school.

Members of the corps are involved in most significant events in the Utah National Guard. Involvement includes financial assistance for special projects such as the annual Veterans Day Concert. At other times, they may be a liaison between the Guard and less-involved community members. Whatever their participation, the Honorary Colonels Corps is a valuable and supportive part of the Guard community in Utah. Retired Brig. Gen. E. J. “Jake” Garn is commander of the corps. Below is a current roster of the Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah. Each member adds to and strengthens the Utah National Guard.
Generations of Service was the theme of the 2014 annual Veterans Day Concert, which took place at the University of Utah Huntsman Center. The concert showcased music from the more than 40-member, Utah National Guard 23rd Army Band and approximately 700 students from the Granite School District combined choir. The 23rd Army Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer Denny Saunders, and the student choir, led by conductors throughout Granite School District, favored concert attendees with songs as Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy, Home on the Range, American Flourish, The Armed Forces Medley, and many more.

Select military families with multiple generations of family members having served or currently serving in the Armed Forces, some dating back to WWI, were recognized. Three families were spotlighted—the Cox, Greeff and Ocaña families. Special recognition went to Mrs. Elisabeth Greeff who lost her husband, Remi Greeff, in Vietnam in 1969, and Pvt. Ray Ocaña who was a POW for seven months during WWII.

The concert attracted a crowd of more than 3,500 attendees consisting of Servicemembers, veterans, dignitaries, and Utah citizens. Families, veterans, and Servicemembers stood to recognize their branch of service during the Armed Forces Medley, played by the 23rd Army Band.

Brig. Gen. David Fountain, assistant adjutant general of the Utah Air National Guard, was the guest speaker. He recognized the sacrifice of those serving our nation, those that have served our nation in years past, and the families that support those Servicemembers and veterans.

The Utah Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) and the Honorary Colonels Corps recognized three students, Emma Buhman—high school; Emily Erickson—junior high; and Nico Torina—elementary, for their essays on supporting and recognizing veterans; these three students received cash scholarship awards donated by the Honorary Colonels Corps. The Utah PTA encourages children of military families that are members of the Utah PTA to submit essays stating why they are proud of their veteran.

Zions Bank recognized Dennis McFall for his dedicated service to the veterans and his work in establishing the Utah Veteran Retirement Centers in Salt Lake, Ivins, Payson, and Ogden. Former Gov. Leavitt recruited Dennis McFall to oversee the construction of the Salt Lake Veterans Home. McFall took on the additional challenge of designing, procuring the funds and property, and completing the last three retirement centers. His dedication to building these beautiful retirement centers have afforded veterans some of the nicest accommodations in the declining years of a veteran’s life. The Veterans Day Concert would not be possible without the donated funds from businesses throughout Utah communities, Utah Guard Charitable Trust, and Honorary Colonels Corps.
Under the command of Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton in his third year as adjutant general, the Utah National Guard continued to thrive serving missions for our state and nation at home and abroad.

The 19th Special Forces (Airborne) had members return from deployment to Afghanistan in March and May, only to have another element deploy in September.

Utah National Guard Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation and 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returned from deployments to Kosovo and Afghanistan respectively.

Deployments continued at a vigorous pace for our Utah Air National Guard throughout the year, with more than 300 Airmen forecasted to be deployed by the end of 2015.

On the homefront, the Utah Guard and its garrisons became nationally known entities. Utah hosted the U.S. Northern Command disasters-response exercise Vigilant Guard 2015 where thousands participated from U.S. Northern Command, Utah National Guard, and Utah emergency-response agencies to improve readiness for an earthquake disaster. Utah Guard also served as host for the National Guard Best Warrior Competition and other significant national-level conferences which provided Guard leaders insight on the tremendous growth and capabilities of Camp Williams.

Utah visitors of note in 2015 were President Barrack Obama, president of the United States; Gen. Frank Grass, chief of National Guard Bureau; Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard; and Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey, sergeant major of the Army—Utah enjoyed high visibility from our senior leaders which aids in showcasing our great members and facilities.

Lastly, Governor’s Day celebrations returned once again to Camp Williams in September since 2012 with thousands in attendance.
Utah Airmen with the 109th Air Control Squadron arrive by commercial air at the Wright Air National Guard Base after serving a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

Utah National Guard members perform hoist operations with Davis County Search and Rescue in a steep, mountainous region in Farmington Canyon, and train on how to locate and extract lost and injured hikers.

Utah National Guard Soldiers with Joint Force Headquarters prepare for the commander’s update brief during Yama Sakura 67 at Camp Asaka, Japan.

Utah National Guard Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation arrive at the Salt Lake International Airport after serving 11 months on deployment to Kosovo Oct. 13.

Utah National Guard Soldier, Sgt. Chloe Barnes, is embraced by her husband, Bryan, after the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment’s nine-month deployment to Afghanistan Dec. 17.
Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) serves as the joint-force headquarters for the Air and Army National Guard within the state of Utah. The JFHQ also supports civil authorities with capabilities and forces for homeland security and/or domestic emergencies.

The JFHQ consists of state-level leadership of the Army and Air National Guard to include: the Adjutant General, Assistant Adjutants General for Army and Air, Land Component Commander, Director of the Joint Staff, and primary/special/personal staff with various duties and responsibilities. Each staff section is responsible to provide expertise and recommendations to the command structure on important issues facing the Utah National Guard, as well as provide expertise in their arena for maintenance of policies and procedures within the Utah National Guard.

Significant leadership changes occurred in JFHQ during 2015. Maj. Bruce Roberts relinquished command of JFHQ to Maj. Gloria Parks. Additionally, Col. Milada Copeland assumed the mantle of responsibility as the chief of staff as we bid farewell to Col. Richard Miller. We anticipate great things from our new leadership and thank those departing for their leadership and dedication.

The JFHQ played a significant role in the U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) sponsored 2014 Vigilant Guard exercise held in November. The disaster-response exercise required the creation of a joint task force (JTF), a separate command authority containing a dual-status commander capable of commanding and controlling both National Guard (Title-32) and active component (Title-10) members. The disaster, an earthquake scenario along the Wasatch front, would be so devastating that it would require support elements from surrounding states and national assets. State leadership elected to fulfill the manning of the JTF with JFHQ staff.

Thus, Army and Air, with each directorate, provided force structure to build the Vigilant Guard JTF team. Brig. Gen. Kenneth Gammon, director of Utah’s joint staff, served in the pivotal, dual-status-commander role while Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, the adjutant general of Utah, remained in command of the overall Utah National Guard forces. The JFHQ command tier coordinated with NORTHCOM and surrounding states acting to provide forces needed to the JTF, while the JTF focused on mission completion during the disaster response efforts. The JFHQ holds a unique position as the key coordinating unit for all Department of Defense (DOD) assets into the state in response to natural and man-made disasters. The JFHQ manages force structure, organizes units for overseas deployments, plans emergency missions, and serves as a critical link between DOD, local governments, and non-governmental agencies.

All directorates were stretched thin, but all performed well in the hybrid organizational structure. Vigilant Guard presented a tremendous command-and-control training opportunity to the JFHQ, and the state is certainly better prepared to provide effective, multi-tiered command should disaster strike.

This year JFHQ participated in Yama Sakura, a joint-operations exercise with the country of Japan; supported the State Partnership Program with the Kingdom of Morocco; and responded to wildfires, flash floods and other various states of emergency for Utah. This aids the forces in maintaining their proficiency in planning, training, and execution of homeland defense, defense support to civil authorities, and state emergency response operations.

The JFHQ maintains a high-operational tempo, assuring the President of the United States and the Governor of Utah that the Utah National Guard forces are ready and relevant to fight and win our nation’s wars and respond to domestic emergencies in our state and homeland. 🇺🇸
Sgt. Stefanie Ty’Lene Puro, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, Utah Army National Guard, waits to continue a mystery event as part of the Region VII Best Warrior Competition (BWC) May 5, 2015, at the Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hawaii. Special Forces Basic Combat Course Support students suppress enemy fire as they prepare to raid a shoot house in search for their high-value target during the culminating exercise at Fort Harrison, Mont. Aug 27.

Soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) had a banner year for 2015. Our Soldiers excelled in every mission and assignment given to them. As an organization, the UTARNG rated in the top 10 in almost every metric used by National Guard Bureau (NGB) to rank each of the 54 states and territories. Achieving these honors took hard work and dedication from our Soldiers at every level of command. With a membership of more than 5,500 and strategically placed in more than 25 locations across the state, the UTARNG supports the nation, state and community every day.

The UTARNG consists of nine major commands: 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 65th Field Artillery Brigade, 97th Aviation Troop Command, 97th Troop Command, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, 640th Regional Training Institute Regiment, Utah Training Center-Camp Williams and Medical Command. Each command consists of highly trained Soldiers, many of whom are proven in a combat zone.

Our training year began with a simulated 7.0 earthquake along the Wasatch Front. This large-scale exercise, called Vigilant Guard, focused on developing our homeland response capabilities. Vigilant Guard is a disaster-response exercise sponsored by U.S. Northern Command and conducted in conjunction with NGB. This exercise provided the Utah National Guard (UTNG) an outstanding opportunity to improve cooperation and strengthen relationships with our federal, state and civilian partners. Each major command of the UTNG participated by establishing mission command in locations across the Salt Lake Valley to facilitate communication and coordination with nearly 30 non-military entities all focused on aiding and assisting Utah’s population during a catastrophic earthquake.

As we have for the past 14 years, UTARNG Soldiers continued to distinguish themselves while conducting the War on Terrorism. We continued to prove our combat readiness and relevance as we supported the President and Congress with multiple mobilizations and deployments worldwide. Each command was affected as our Soldiers conducted our federal mission in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain and other contentious locations across our globe.

As we move into the next year there will be no slowing down. With additional deployments on the horizon, our Soldiers will continue to train in order to prove themselves as the finest in the field. 🇺🇸
The 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), headquartered at Camp Williams, Utah, is spread throughout the nation and comprised of nine states with elements in California, Washington, Rhode Island, Texas, Montana, Colorado, Ohio, West Virginia and Utah.

The vision statement for FY15 was for the 19th SFG(A) to continue to remain relevant with the theater Special Operations commands and focus efforts in the existing relationship within the State Partnership Program (SPP), focusing on languages in support of those SPPs. Unconventional warfare and unmanned aerial system (UAS) capabilities remained the forefront of the 19th SFG(A) efforts.

The 19th SFG(A) provides mission-ready Soldiers and units to conduct Special Operations in support of United States Special Operations and federal mobilizations. For its state mission, Soldiers from the 19th SFG(A) assist Utah by supporting state and local agencies in search and rescue missions, civil support and assist in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

The 19th SFG(A) command team is comprised of Col. Mark Drown, Command Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Seiden and Command Sgt. Maj. John Belford.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is the hub for the 19th SFG(A). The primary role for HHC is to provide mission command and support to the subordinate battalions and maintain capability to operate as a Joint Special Operations Task Force. The command team is 1st Lt. Brittany Pierce and 1st Sgt. Jason Legler.

Deployments remained steady in the 19th SFG(A). During fiscal year 2015, approximately 20 Soldiers from the 19th SFG(A) deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for seven months in Afghanistan. The 19th Group took the lead on a six-month rotation with approximately 60 Soldiers in support of Central Command’s Special Operations Task Force Gulf Cooperation Council. Their mission was to orchestrate the collaborative efforts of Special Operations Command Central and six other partner-nation states in the Gulf Coast area of responsibility. The group also filled a short suspense enabler package of approximately 30 Soldiers to deploy to Afghanistan at the end of the fiscal year.

Along with worldwide deployments, the 19th SFG(A) conducted training to enhance combat readiness such as Jump Master Course, SF Basic Combat Course Support, SF Sniper Course, SF Advance Urban Combat Course, Joint Combined Exchange Training and language sustainment training. Members of the 19th SFG(A) were involved in training events such as Vigilant Guard, an exercise focusing on interagency coordination and cooperation in preparation for emergencies and catastrophic events in Utah, and the Raven Initial Operators Training at Camp Williams. This training was in an effort to increase the intel surveillance and recognizance capabilities within the 19th SFG and adjacent units.

The 19th SFG (A) UAS platoon conducted training on the RQ-7B Shadow system at Wendover Airfield, Wendover, Utah, and approximately 10 operators from the platoon took part in Exercise Maple Resolve at CFB Wainwright, Canada.

After approximately two years of transition, the Group Support Company (GSC) became the Group Special Troops Company (GSTC) in November and the Group Support Battalion (GSB) came on-line as of December with their ceremony. The GSB handles the sustainment and logistics function for the 19th SFG(A).
The 65th Field Artillery Brigade headquarters along with both of its Paladin battalions, 145th and 222nd FAs, conducted a brigade live-fire exercise for annual training which hasn’t been done in a number of years. The exercise held in May 2015 was a big success and enabled the brigade to train on its mission-essential task of controlling field artillery fires. There were more than 2,200 projectiles fired without a single firing incident during the Dugway portion of annual training. The event enabled the brigade to set conditions for next year’s annual training where it will add a rocket battalion, a support battalion, a signal company, and a radar platoon to the event. There were also two separate employer-appreciation days held during annual training at Dugway. Employers commented on how informative the events were and how much they appreciated seeing their employees in action. After the first week at Dugway, the units went to Camp Williams where they completed individual and crew-served weapons qualification along with other small-unit training. The units from the 2-222nd also participated in defense support to civil authorities training consisting of wide-area search and extraction, firefighting, mass decontamination, and interagency liaison coordination for senior leaders.

Maj. Brett Anderson was recognized as one of the nation’s top company grade leaders in 2015 when he was awarded the General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award at the Pentagon on May 29. The former Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno made the presentations. Anderson was accompanied by his wife at the ceremony which made the event even more special. Congratulations again Maj. Anderson!

Col. Thursby and Command Sgt. Maj. Ludlow visited the 5-113 FA Regiment in July at Fort Bragg. They were able to observe a live-fire-rocket exercise and visit Soldiers.

The brigade also continues to actively participate in joint exercises and warfighter exercises to maintain and increase its warfighting skills. During training year 2015, the brigade headquarters participated in Yama Sakura (Dec. ’14), Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint (April and June ’15), 40th Infantry Division Command Post Exercise (June ’15), and Ulchi Focus Guardian (Aug. ’15).
The 97th Aviation Troop Command (AVTC) had another active and successful year! In 2015 we had multiple missions where Aviation personnel and equipment were on the frontlines to help our state and nation. Aviation supported southwest border interdiction, special operations, firefighting missions to include support to Idaho, domestic operations exercises like Vigilant Guard, and finally Yama Sakura 67 with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force’s Eastern Army. We have also expanded our use of the Family Readiness Support Assistant and Family Readiness Group programs becoming fully staffed in Family Support volunteers as an organization.

The southwest border operational support mission for homeland security, Operation Phalanx, in the Laredo sector of the Texas border, was executed by our newest airframe, the LUH72 Lakota. The aircraft and crew flew approximately 600 hours in support of this mission. They also supported counterdrug and special-operations missions on a regular basis. In May 2015, this unit was realigned to become part of 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment where they now receive administrative, training and logistical support.

The 97th AVTC has also been proud to be part of the discussion that the Army Restructuring Initiative (ARI) has necessitated with National Guard Aviation assets, and have provided personnel to the National Commission on the Future of the Army. The Utah Army National Guard, with such a rich and prolific aviation history, is fitting to have a voice in the proposed restructuring. Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton and other leaders in the major commands have emerged as some of the most vocal in deciding the usefulness and structure of aviation in the National Guard as a whole.

Utah Army Aviation continues to lead the way with safety, efficiency, and quality being a top concern. We finished the year meeting or exceeding almost every metric there is in measuring our effectiveness. The 2-211th flew a perfect 100 percent of their flying-hour program logging 2,067 hours. The AH64D Apache ARB completed an impressive 102 percent of their flying-hour program with 3,701 hours flown. Busy Soldiers are happy Soldiers, and the 97th AV Troop Command has many content Soldiers and families.
In September 2015, 97th Troop Command (TC), changed commanders from Col. Bradley Fuller to Col. Scott Burnhope. The 97th TC has continued its Military Engagement Team mission through the growth and enhancement of the Disaster Preparedness Program exchanges with our partner country of Morocco. The 97th TC led five different exchanges overseas that involved both military and civilian emergency response agencies from Utah and Morocco. These events were focused on the Integrated Command System, Homeland Security Exercise design and planning, public affairs in emergencies, and search and rescue techniques and procedures.

The Homeland Response Force (HRF) led the way for 97th TC during its external evaluation conducted November 2014. The HRF conducted and participated in multiple training exercises throughout the year including Vigilant Guard 2014 as well as its first deployment-readiness exercise, validating its ability to readily deploy in case of emergency.

The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction – Civil Support Team continues to be at the forefront of the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) enterprise for the state of Utah. The 85th provided 25 stand-by missions that included multiple athletic events as well as high-profile, community events. The 85th responded to two incidents within the state, conducted 36 assist missions, 25 training events and 12 collective exercises. The 85th will continue to advise, assist, identify and provide recommendations to local incident commanders and responders whenever requested.

The 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment returned from its mobilization in Afghanistan where the unit was responsible for the implementation of a social media web page that was recognized as one of the top five public-affairs pages in the National Guard. Upon return home, the 128th continued to experience high optempo demands supporting high-visibility missions throughout the state including the state and national Best Warrior Competitions, Vigilant Guard, Panther Strike, and Freedom Academy.

The 144th Area Support Medical Company (ASMC) was engaged during the Vigilant Guard Exercise whereby medical personnel responded to a mass-casualty-training scenario at Juan Diego High School and burn-treatment-training scenarios at Primary Children’s Medical Center. During the 144th’s annual training, it supported the 1457th Engineer Battalion and provided care to roughly 700 Soldiers. The unit also received an evaluation by First Army for medical training operations where the 144th worked with air-ambulance companies to receive, treat, package, and medevac patients to higher levels of care. The 144th was recognized as one of the most tactically and technically proficient medical units in the U.S. Army. In September, the 144th said goodbye to its commander Maj. Marcus Wisner and welcomed Maj. Patricia Brown.

The 23rd Army Band continues to be one of the biggest supporters of our communities, providing support to more than 60 events totaling more than 60,000 spectators. Events were supported with the concert band, stage and rock bands, brass quintet, fife and drum, jazz combo, and woodwind quintet.

The 115th Maintenance Company once again proved that it is one of the best maintenance companies in the nation by tying for first place on the National Unit Analysis Tool order of merit list. The 115th supports units all over the state and provided direct support to the 142nd Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion during its annual training at Dugway where the unit closed 50 work orders on vehicles recording more than 470 hours of direct labor improving the readiness of its major commands as well as the 142nd MI. The 115th excelled in multiple command inspections and changed commanders from Capt. Ryan Robison to 1st Lt. Charles Thompson.

The 653rd Trial Defense Team has worked to improve Soldier’s awareness of its services this last year, serving Soldiers in Utah, Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. The 653rd provided services to more than 25 Soldiers working hard to ensure the Soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard receive proper justice, due process, and adjudication by providing high quality, defense services to Soldiers as the need arises.

It has been a year of training and transition for the 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team. The majority of its efforts in 2015 have been to continue individual and collective contracting training. Transition occurred as Maj. Shan Grimmius moved to a new position, and Maj. Corey Davis became the new team leader. The 1993rd continuously supported the Office of Purchasing and Contracting in the USPFO for Utah, 97th TC, and the Homeland Response Force mission in various training exercises throughout the year.
A maneuver enhancement brigade (MEB) is a self-contained, modular, and multifunctional support brigade customized to meet whatever mission it receives. The 204th MEB of the Utah Army National Guard meets all of these criteria and during fiscal year (FY) 2015 demonstrated its versatility and functionality executing many such missions. Led by command team Col. Thomas Fisher and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Thalman, the Soldiers of the 204th were constructively engaged making 2015 a busy and productive year for the 204th MEB.

Members of the brigade staff participated in the Unified Challenge 15.4 Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) at Fort Leonard Wood in June 2015. The SIMEX supports the TRADOC commander’s FY15 Army Experimentation Plan along with the Mission Command Battle Laboratory and Army Capabilities Integration Center, and focuses on the required capabilities from the Army Operating Concept. This is the forth rotation for the 204th at this exercise and has allowed the brigade to showcase the capabilities of the MEB to the rest of the Army as well as hone the staff on MEB operations.

The 204th will be the lead organization and mission command for the Department of Defense (DOD) Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA) program African Command is developing in Morocco, Utah’s sister nation in the State Partnership Program. The DOD HMA program assists nations plagued by land mines, explosive remnants of war and aging/obsolete ammunition stockpiles by executing the trainer programs of instruction designed to develop indigenous capabilities for a wide range of HMA activities. This new mission saw the 204th traveling to Germany and Morocco this past year to develop the program and prepare for the training events in FY16 through FY20. This is an exciting mission for the brigade, and will showcase its versatility as a headquarters and will allow unit members to work in a joint environment with the Utah Air National Guard Explosive Ordinance Disposal team.

The MEB conducted home station annual training (AT) at Army Garrison Camp Williams, Utah. The home station AT targeted individual Soldier skills and allowed the members of the 204th to hone many traditional Soldier tasks. Some members of the staff worked out of the tactical operations center using the Command Post of the Future simulating defensive operations, while many of the other Soldiers participated in convoy training, communications training, tactical road marches, hand-grenade ranges, and attended the combat-lifesaver course. They also brushed up on chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) training on CBRN equipment, reviewing decontamination techniques for individuals and equipment.

A last-minute mission for 28 members of the 204th came in August when asked to support the 2nd Infantry Division during the Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercise in the Republic of South Korea. This opportunity was educational for the active-duty Soldiers of 2nd ID to better understand the role of a MEB as it manages the division-support area.

MEB Deputy Commanding Officer Maj. Woodrow Miner said, “The staff that went to Korea provided valuable insight to 2nd ID on MEB capability.”

The MEB staff was able to take lessons learned from the SIMEX and apply them to UFG making for a successful and educational experience for all involved.

The 204th MEB continues to be a vital asset to the Utah Army National Guard. With its ability to conduct military support of civil operations and manage area operations with service support units, having the MEB is integral to the UTNG’s ability to perform its primary mission of domestic response.
The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (MI) (Linguist) and subordinate Utah battalions, the 141st MI Battalion and 142nd MI Battalion continued the legacy of excellence in language and Military Intelligence during 2015. The 300th MI is an integrated partner within the Army Intelligence Enterprise and aligned with the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command to provide regional language and cultural expertise as well as intelligence support to critical, mission requirements around the world.

Units of the 300th MI continue to be sourced for mobilizations, real-world missions, and overseas deployment training (ODT) to provide translation/transcription, intelligence collection and production as well as maintaining readiness in support of critical, linguist requirements and deployments in support of National Security.

The brigade has 44 Soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan, Djibouti, Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey, and other Middle East countries in support of counterintelligence and linguist operations. The brigade also welcomed home 34 deployed Soldiers after they successfully completed their MI operations in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kosovo, and Kuwait.

More than 165 brigade Soldiers-linguists supported ODT missions to every major combatant command in 21 countries. Additionally, more than 30 Soldiers provided local language support to the World Health Organization and Reach Language Support Program throughout the year.

In November, 200 MI Soldiers participated in Vigilant Guard 2014 where they exercised the brigade’s ability to support Joint Force Headquarters and Joint Task Force. They also augmented Utah’s 151st Air Refueling Wing in support of reception, staging, onward movement and integration for units coming from outside of Utah.

During 2015, the brigade conducted 37 intensive, local, language-training courses with a total of 172 brigade Soldiers completing the courses. These opportunities immerse Soldiers in authentic, native-language experiences and greatly improve language ability as well as cultural awareness, critical for their jobs. The brigade maintains a high level of language proficiency across 26 languages.

In June, the 141st MI hosted Panther Strike at Camp Williams, Utah. This year, more than 550 MI Soldiers and Airmen, including active duty, Guard and Reserve, from 26 units and 17 states, participated in the exercise, along with U.S. military personnel, coalition partners from Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and New Zealand. For the first time, at this level, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Vincent Stuart attended a day of the training and was impressed with the level of integration of a multinational interrogation.

The 300th MI had 53 members participate in a patching ceremony conducted by the commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). This multi-component unit (MCU) is a new and innovative concept to test the ability of the Reserve Component to augment and support active Army divisions to replace critical enablers cut from the active duty structure due to budget constraints. The 300th MI was selected by the division to support this initiative to capitalize on its significant linguist and intelligence expertise.

The 300th sent a team of intelligence professionals to participate in the second annual event Joint Interagency Intergovernmental Multinational Daring Fox 2015 held at Camp Zama and Sagami Depot, Japan. The five-day event hosted by U.S. Army Japan, DF-15 consisted of 30 three-person teams, all competing for the honor of being crowned as the premier MI team. Team 8, who represented the 300th MI and Utah’s Joint Force Headquarters, earned the honor and their overall victory for the entire competition.

The 141st, 142nd, 223rd, 260th and 341st MI Battalions of the 300th MI Brigade implemented a force-design change on Sept. 1, 2015. This new structure resulted in the reflagging of eight of the 10 existing companies and the addition of two new Intelligence Coordination Detachments for the 141st and 142nd. This force design change provides additional signals intelligence and human intelligence collection capacity to each battalion while maximizing the counterintelligence capacity.

In June, Lt. Col. Shahram Takmili relinquished command of the 142nd MI to Lt. Col. Brent Baxter. Retiring in 2015 were Col. Derek Tolman and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephan Vogl, former commander and command sergeant major of the 300th MI, respectively.
The 640th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) is commanded by Col. William French and Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen. The organization is composed of four training battalions and a headquarters detachment with 146 personnel assigned. More than 125 full-time employees perform duties at the 640th RTI as instructors, support staff, or contracted employees to ensure the unit meets its day-to-day state and federal mission requirements.

The 640th RTI continues to provide the most rigors and relevant training possible. Despite fiscal constraints, Total Army School System (TASS) rebalanced, and reduced attendance, more than 3,000 student Soldiers have graduated from 640th RTI courses.

The 640th RTI was awarded the title of Institute of Excellence. Administrative and logistic support processes are intensely evaluated and classroom observation, student and instructor focus groups are conducted.

The TASS Phase 2 administration and barracks project was officially opened in June 2015 with a total cost of $22 million. The administration building is a 53,000-square-foot, two-floor structure, providing high-tech classrooms, modern offices, two conference room areas, break room and modern dining facility (DFAC). The DFAC is a state-of-the-art kitchen, cafeteria, and modern-era eating area allowing up to 300 student Soldiers to dine on the main floor and the capacity to sit another 100 on its mezzanine level. The DFAC provided in excess of 238,000 meals in 2015. The barracks is a three-story facility with more than 17,500-square-feet per floor, 78 individual rooms, nine bays that accommodate eight Soldiers per bay, and a total capability to quarter 150 Soldiers comfortably.

The 1st Battalion, 640th Regiment (NCOA) is commanded by Commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. William Ewert. The 1st BN earned 100 percent during its accreditation in February 2015. This year marks the battalion’s 10th anniversary of its activation. The 1st BN graduated 107 students out of 108 that attended FA related courses during FY 2015.

The 4th Battalion, 640th Regiment (Military Intelligence) is commanded by Lt. Col. Kier Scoubes. The 4th BN earned 100 percent during its accreditation in February 2015. This year marks the battalion’s 10th anniversary of its activation. It provides instruction of MI courses of 35M Human Intelligence Collector, 35F Intelligence Analysts, and 35P Cryptologic Linguist Advanced Leaders Course, and MI Senior Leader Course. The 4th BN graduated 208 students in MI-related courses.

Headquarters, 640th RTI continues to be the MI subject-matter expert cell for National Guard Bureau (NGB), providing liaison support to Fort Huachuca, Defense Language Institute and NGB. It oversees National Guard institutional training for MI, training allocations for course managers, and reviews course management plans and programs of instruction. The 640th RTI is the designated representative for all NGB MI training.
Camp Williams has had a busy year and received a much-needed face lift. Several construction projects were completed and are now serving guests of Camp Williams. The completed projects include the new Bachelor’s Enlisted Quarters (BEQ), Sergeants Major’s quarters, the Total Army School System (TASS) phase II and barracks, and a new chapel, Sunrise Hall. The new facilities have already improved the look and feel of Camp Williams and have brought more Soldiers here to train.

Camp Williams hosted the National Guard Best Warrior Competition in June.

Utah National Guard members, families, friends, and guests gathered at Camp Williams Sept. 19, for Governor’s Day. Thanks to creative thinking, extensive planning, teamwork, and increased infrastructure, Governor’s Day was a safe, patriotic, and fun day for all who attended.

This year was also a benchmark year for Camp Williams and the surrounding area. After years of effort, Camp Williams was finally approved by the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management to participate in the Army Compatibility Use Buffer (ACUB) program. Camp Williams now has a seat at the table to compete for federal funding to assist the ACUB partners in managing encroachment along the borders in order to preserve the ability to train and ensure the safety of surrounding communities. The Camp Williams ACUB was awarded $2 million of Fiscal Year 2015 funds to begin the buffering process. Herriman City, an ACUB partner, will use the funds to purchase land/easements from willing landowners along the north border of Camp Williams. Other ACUB partners include the Conservation Fund, Eagle Mountain City, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Camp Williams is an extremely active installation and provides ranges, terrain, and facilities not only for the Soldiers of the Utah Army National Guard but to all branches of the military. Due to the unique similarities to many foreign areas in which our nation is currently engaged, Camp Williams has become the training center of choice for many deploying units to conduct pre-deployment training. Because of the growing development along the borders, commanders frequently are required to choose between being sensitive to the quality of life of the communities surrounding Camp Williams and meeting training and testing requirements. This is referred to as encroachment.

In December 2002, Congress provided legislative authority that allows military departments to partner with government or private organizations to establish buffer areas around active training and testing areas. This authority entitled agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military testing, training and operations. The Army created the ACUB Program to implement these authorities.

The ACUB program allows installations to work with partners to encumber off-post land to protect habitat and buffer training without acquiring any new land for Army ownership. Through ACUB, the Utah National Guard reaches out to partners to identify mutual objectives of land conservation and to manage development of critical open areas. The U.S. Army can contribute funds to the partner’s purchase of easements or properties from willing landowners. Establishing buffer areas around Army installations limits the effects of encroachment and maximizes land inside the installation that can be used to support the installation’s mission and improves the quality of life of the surrounding communities.

Overall Camp Williams and the Soldiers of UTC are doing a great job of pushing ahead and improving the quality of life for everyone that utilizes Camp Williams.
The Medical Detachment’s primary function is to facilitate the medical readiness of the Utah Army National Guard. Readiness as defined by the Oxford Dictionary is “the state of being fully prepared for something.” That “something” as it pertains to Utah’s warriors, is a force void of any medical limitations that would prevent it from promptly mobilizing for war, national and/or domestic emergencies or as otherwise required by law. As of the latest data, the Utah Army National Guard continues to lead all states and territories in medical readiness with an astonishing ready rate of 92 percent!

With such impressive results, you would think that it is time to put this process on cruise control and maintain the success that we have but such thinking didn’t achieve these results! Success and progress share more than just the last three letters, they are inseparable. One cannot exist without the other. Progress dictates that the Medical Detachment must seek constant improvement and find more innovative ways to meet the mission. With that in mind, during Fiscal Year 15 we have increased our ability to perform hearing exams by 90 percent and increased our ability to perform dental exams by 80 percent. This significant step forward is the result of our vision to meet the most demanding medical readiness needs of the Soldiers and units that comprise the Utah Army National Guard.

Success and progress exist in both personnel and equipment. Medical Detachment recruits and retains the finest medical professionals in Utah. To make sure that these exceptional people have the tools to do their job, we have added a mobile, dental-exam trailer as well as a mobile, hearing-exam trailer during this past year. The ability to perform mobile medical exams gives us the flexibility to better serve the needs of National Guard units wherever they train.

As we reflect further on the year in our rear view mirror, we are proud to have contributed 14 medical professionals for another humanitarian and civic-assistance mission in our State Partnership Program in the Kingdom of Morocco. Other notable events that challenged and motivated our Soldiers were the opportunity to provide medical support to such events as Vigilant Guard, National Best Warrior Competition and Panther Strike exercise.
FY 2015 was an eventful year for the Utah’s Recruiting and Retention Battalion. Lt. Col. Kenneth Verboncoeur conducted a change of command with Lt. Col. Jason Dougherty. The battalion’s lines of effort focused on five key areas: officer and warrant officer strength, enlisted recruiting, Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), marketing, and professional development. The battalion worked cohesively to integrate operations, automation, personnel, supply, and marketing with officer and enlisted recruitment to meet and exceed our end strength. For the first time in many years, we also exceeded our assigned accessions mission. The battalion RSP both earned the national rankings of #1 Medium State and #2 Overall.

The Officer Strength Management (OSM) teams’ mission was broken into three areas of focus: basic branch, specialty branch and warrant officers. This year, officer recruiting was led by Maj. Michael Rhinehart. With the help of on-campus recruiters (OCR) and the accelerated Officer Candidate Course (OCS), the OSM exceeded its mission, reaching 181 percent of its assigned goal. Specialty Branch recruitment, directed by Cpt. Andrew Jewkes, exceeded its goal by 12 percent. Warrant officer recruiting continues to be the main focus for our battalion, and a key focus for the state and National Guard Bureau (NGB). Twenty-five new warrant officer candidates were accessed into the Utah Army National Guard, but only 12 of 17 were able to attend Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) School this year, missing mission by two.

The battalion’s enlisted recruiters once again achieved its goal to meet the end-strength-ceiling mission. This accomplishment now totals 17 years running, even after accepting a mission of 100 additional accessions from NGB, 50 officially and 50 unofficially, for FY15. All five teams focused efforts on major commands and high school integration. For the first time in many years, multiple teams had all members of the team make and or exceed mission; congratulations to teams 2 and 4. Team 2 member Sgt. Cody Wilcox received Rookie of the Year for accomplishing 102 percent of his assigned mission. This year Master Sgt. Anderson leading team 4 outperformed its own aspirations, receiving accolades as Top Production Team. Team 4 member Staff Sgt. Zachary Hyde earned the Top Recruiter of the Year and earned the FY15 Director’s 54 Award for being the Gold Level Top Recruiting and Retention NCO in the great state of Utah. The RRNCOs working at the company level influenced the reenlistment rate to achieve 118.6 percent of the state’s goal, and made the NGB goal of less than 18 percent attrition, finishing at 12.2 percent for the year.

The battalion’s three RSP companies aided the adjutant general in his goal to have the finest National Guard units in the nation by preparing the finest new recruits for training. They focused their efforts on initial entry training (IET) ship rate, RSP at risk for drill attendance, RSP negative end strength, shipper quality control rate, and enlisted training pipeline success rate. After a rough start, starting out the first quarter of the FY being ranked 7th in the nation, the RSP companies collectively averaged #2 in the nation for the year and No. 1 Medium State overall.

We met and in most cases exceeded our goals this year. Enlisted accessions were 575/512, officers 99/57, retention 118 percent, first-term attrition 9.7 percent of a goal of <=12 percent, and end strength 5526/5476. The Recruiting and Retention Battalion looks back at the FY15 with great pride, while looking forward to the future with the resolve and motivation to do even better.
The 97th Troop Command continues in mission command for the FEMA Region VIII Homeland Response Force (HRF) mission. Units from across Utah are assigned to provide Soldiers and Airmen to fill the different roles of the HRF while maintaining a ready posture for other state and federal missions.

The HRF was validated during its second external evaluation conducted November 2014. The HRF received many accolades for its best practices and dedicated leadership and support to the domestic readiness and preparedness missions. Throughout the year, the HRF conducted and participated in multiple training exercises throughout the year including Vigilant Guard 2014 and a deployment readiness exercise, validating its ability to readily deploy in case of emergency.

In March, the HRF participated in two different, county exercises. The first exercise in March was the annual Red Rocks CBRN disaster-training exercise in St. George supporting Washington County. This year’s Red Rocks exercise focused on Washington County’s Emergency Operations Center. Utah County’s Guardian Rescue 15 was the second March exercise which had included participation from Utah County, UVU, and the Red Cross to name a few. The Utah Guard also had aviation supporting Utah County’s Search and Rescue team train for a lost-hiker scenario.

In April, as part of Troop Command’s State Partnership Program (SPP) with the Moroccan military, HRF personnel, members of Utah Task Force 1, the state departments of Health and Emergency Management, and Salt Lake County Department of Emergency Management participated in Operation Maghreb Mantlet with the Moroccan military. Operation Maghreb Mantlet better prepares the Moroccan military to respond to a disaster within its country.

The deployment-readiness exercise took the HRF to Wasatch High School located in Heber, Utah in August. A thanks goes out to Heber City, Wasatch County and the school district for allowing the occupation of their field. The HRF successfully moved all its personnel and equipment during the drill weekend.

The CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) participated with Dugway Proving Ground in Operation Jack Rabbit. This operation allowed the CERFP to setup emergency-decontamination stations in support of the live-agent release Dugway Proving Ground was studying. Throughout FY15, the HRF conducted table-top exercises (TTX) with civilian planners and responders from Salt Lake County, Utah County and local area hospitals. The HRF provided observer, controller/trainer (OC/T) support and subject-matter expertise to the CBRN response enterprise as it conduct its EXEVALs.

As FY15 came to an end, Soldiers trained for the CERFP mission responded to the Hildale flood in Washington County to support Utah’s Task Force 1 in its recovery efforts.
For almost 70 years, the Utah Air National Guard (UTANG) has fostered a proud heritage of extending global vigilance, global reach, and global power for America. Current missions include training and operational aerial refueling, airlift and aeromedical evacuation, intelligence, air traffic control, cyber infrastructure and information operations. More than 1,400 Airmen lend technical expertise and professionalism through military operations and daily activities designed to bolster state and federal projects and priorities.

The 151st Air Refueling Wing, UTANG’s largest component, boasts highly trained, aircrew teams, as well as specialized maintenance and support personnel. Col. Darwin Craig commands the wing, which includes KC-135R Stratotanker aerial refueling assets. The UTANG also includes four tenant units: the 101st Information Operations Flight, 109th Air Control Squadron, 130th Engineering Installation Squadron, and 169th Intelligence Squadron.

One of the most significant events of the year was a formal ceremony whereby the UTANG installation was renamed Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. The name change honors Brigadier General Wright, a combat pilot with a distinguished military career spanning more than three decades. Wright flew more than 200 combat hours in the P-51 Mustang during WWII and holds the distinction of serving as the first Chief of Staff for Air (Utah) from 1969 to 1976. More than 350 community guests and military members attended the dedication.

The UTANG personnel also contributed to the success of Vigilant Guard, an exercise involving Army, state, and federal civilian agency counterparts. Held across several Utah locations, the exercise was designed to strengthen cooperation and preparation efforts in advance of a potential domestic response to a natural disaster.

International relations were fostered when Army and Air Force personnel deployed to Morocco to provide humanitarian support measures through African Lion, an annually scheduled, bilateral exercise. In conjunction with Moroccan Military Medical Services personnel, the Utah team provided dental, cardiovascular and optometry care for more than 3,600 medical patients. Work in remote villages included a senior leader morale visit by Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Utah National Guard adjutant general; Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller; and Col. Christine Burckle, Air National Guard director of staff.

In July, the wing was evaluated under the new Air Force Inspection System (AFIS) by more than 70 visiting inspectors from Air Mobility Command and different major commands. The purpose of the inspection was to determine unit mission effectiveness and compliance. During the course of the Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI), which was deemed an overall success, more than a dozen team and individual exceptional performers were recognized by the inspectors for various accomplishments.

In August, key representatives from Joint Force Headquarters and the wing met with senior National Guard Bureau leaders during the State-of-the-State address at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews. The annual presentation is an opportunity to discuss issues and initiatives affecting the state.

Throughout the year, UTANG members also hosted and visited with a number of high-visibility, distinguished guests including Deborah Lee James, secretary of the Air Force; General Frank J. Grass, National Guard Bureau chief; and Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, Air National Guard command chief.

The UTANG is one of the most versatile, best-equipped teams in the nation. Uniquely postured through unparalleled capabilities, it will continue to excel as a valuable state and federal resource well into the future.
The 151st Air Refueling Wing continued to have a high operational tempo in Fiscal Year 2015 with multiple deployments, exercises and training events, empowering its citizen-Airmen to be leaders both in aerospace warfighting and in our valued Utah communities.

In January, three aircrews and 19 maintenance personnel from the Wing spent two weeks at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany, providing crucial, air-refueling support during training flights for NATO E-3A pilots. The Air National Guard deploys air-refueling units for annual, two-week rotations to practice aerial refueling and maintain the pilots’ currency in this skill. The 151st Maintenance Group personnel ensured the KC-135R aircraft were refueled, inspected and ready for flight.

More than 30 Airmen from the 151st Security Forces Squadron participated in a two-week annual training in March held throughout the state. The training was designed to improve combat readiness and refine skills used in their day-to-day jobs at home as well as in deployed locations. In addition to improving individual skills, this event allowed the unit to learn to work more effectively together as a team.

In April, several members of the 151st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight gave presentations of Air Guard EOD capabilities to Moroccan military delegates. The Airmen worked alongside Utah Army National Guard members to demonstrate landmine removal procedures during a training exercise observed by the delegates. The UTANG medical and dental assets also provided much needed humanitarian aid to the Moroccan people during the African Lion exercise in May.

The 151st Medical Group’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, participated in a multi-agency medical evacuation training exercise in August near the Beaver Ponds in Utah’s Farmington Canyon. During the exercise the various agencies were challenged to effectively utilize incident command protocols and to work together to extract simulated, critically injured patients using the hoisting system of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter so they could be transported to a higher level of care.

In September, the 151st Maintenance Group was awarded the Air Force Association 2015 Air National Guard Outstanding Unit Award at a ceremony in National Harbor, Md. The award, which covered achievements from Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2014, recognized the unit for exceptionally meritorious service, and cited its dedication, work ethic, and sound, maintenance practices. During this time the group attained an 81 percent mission capable rate, exceeding that of 26 Air National Guard, Air Reserve, and Active-Duty Air Refueling Wings, which have a fleet average of 73.57 percent. The group also deployed more than 120 individuals and several aircraft in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and agile combat for Air Force operations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations.

The hard work and efforts of the highly skilled Airmen in the 151st ARW continues to foster strong, vibrant community partnerships and connections to strengthen citizen support of national defense, employer support, and care for our families.
In November of 2014, the 109th Air Control Squadron (ACS) returned from a 180+ day deployment in support of Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Inherent Resolve (OIR).

The 109th ACS accomplished several milestones during its time deployed. First, the unit rapidly moved operations from the Battlespace Command and Control Center-Expeditionary (BC3-E) to the $82 million Battlespace Command and Control Center-Theater (BC3-T) system, in order to better manage the expanding battlespace and tactical command and control environment. Due to the ever-changing nature of the mission, the Warlocks were at the forefront and provided tactical Battle Management Command and Control during the beginning stages of the air war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. Next, several of the Warlock maintenance personnel displayed their prowess by assisting the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing on multiple occasions with necessary site improvements, generator maintenance and upgrades.

After returning to work from a well-deserved, post-deployment break, the 109th ACS jumped immediately back into combat-training mode. To start the year off right, a group of the operations Airmen volunteered to take part in Exercise Sentry Savannah at the Georgia Combat Readiness Training Center as well as exercise Virtual Flag at the Distributed Mission Operations Center in New Mexico. Meanwhile, back at home, facility improvement was underway with the erection of a permanent radio tower which will extend the unit’s radio frequency range and capabilities. Some good news was delivered to the unit in February, when they found out that Senior Mast Sgt. Jon Castleton was awarded the coveted National Guard Bureau Outstanding Support Professional SNCO of the Year Award. In addition, the 90+ members that were deployed earned the Meritorious Unit Award as part of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron!

Since returning in November, the Warlocks worked diligently to prepare for the Unit Effectiveness Inspection that kicked off in July. The 109th ACS’s operations, maintenance and support staff worked tirelessly together to bring the squadron to a 94 percent compliance rating after only being back to work for six months post deployment!

Concurrently, select Warlock operations and maintenance Airmen were sent to Michigan in support of exercise Northern Strike, conducted by Ohio’s 123rd ACS, at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. Working closely with the 123rd ACS gave the Airmen an opportunity to train in the very exercise the 109th ACS will lead and execute in 2016.

In August, the 109th ACS maintenance team spent its annual training in Wendover, Utah, where unit members utilized the vast desert landscape to perform a squadron-communications exercise. During this time frame the unit also sent operations and maintenance Airmen to Iowa in support of the Modular Control Equipment v800 software upgrade.

This past year, the 109th ACS Warlocks have been actively improving the squadron by preparing for inspections, training its Airmen and supporting other units. The 109th Air Control Squadron looks to celebrating its 40th anniversary in April of 2016, followed by sending its operations, maintenance and support personnel to Michigan for Northern Strike in August. Warlocks…ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!!!
The 130th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS) excelled in its primary mission to design, engineer, install, upgrade and deploy communication infrastructure and equipment enabling voice, data, radio and satellite services in support of domestic and warfighter cyberspace operations. 130th personnel are highly trained and sought after for their engineering and technical prowess. As citizen-Airmen, a vast number of their members come from comparable civilian work fields bringing outside knowledge and skill-sets enhancing their first-class service.

During the 2015 fiscal year, the 130th completed 16 offsite, workload projects, participated in three Homeland Response Force (HRF) exercises with its Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) suite, provided support to two other EIS projects in Alaska and California, and deployed an AEF engineering team. In addition to leading the way for workload in the EIS community, the 130th performed well above par during its Unit Effectiveness Inspection capstone event. For these remarkable achievements, the 130th was recognized as the Outstanding Squadron of the Year for the 251st Cyberspace Engineering Installation Group and the winner of the 2015 Charles R. Stahl Award.

Expending more than 2,000 man-days with an 85 percent part-time force, the 130th EIS contributed personnel working projects reaching from Hawaii to Cape Cod. The 130th installed a copper infrastructure at Moffett Field, Calif., giving the 129th Rescue Wing Communications Flight the ability to operate independently to provide communications for Coast Guard rescues. At Cape Cod, unit members upgraded an Integrated Warning System, enabling the base to deliver flexible communications for safety, security, and operations. Locally, Airmen installed an antenna tower for the 109th ACS to give it more reliable, sustainable communication infrastructure for training on its tactical equipment. In addition, the 130th created a custom-analysis tool to identify and capture test data for antenna, preventative-maintenance inspections in Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon and Utah.

The 130th continues to work closely with the Army National Guard and the HRF to provide critical communications capabilities to civil and military authorities during state and national emergencies. Their JISCC team supported exercises Vigilant Guard, Guardian Rescue, and a joint Army and Air National Guard convoy exercise.

The year 2015 was a year of change; the unit commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Tobias, deployed and Maj. Dustin Carroll assumed command of the 98-member squadron in mid-April. At the end of the year, the squadron moved out of its 43-year old building and into temporary offices for a $3-million remodel.

The coming year looks to be filled with just as many opportunities to work and play hard, as the 130th Wizards strive toward excellence in all they do.
The 169th Intelligence Squadron, under the command of Lt. Col. Troy Drennan, marked an important milestone this year by officially emerging from conversion status. The Darkhorse squadron eagerly embraced the new mission while continuing its vital contributions to the nation’s defense. The 169th continues to grow and evolve to remain a key component in the command and control community.

The 169th commenced its new ground mission on Oct. 1, 2015. Having already contributed to more than 853 missions around the world, the squadron remains poised to set new standards in the enterprise. The 169th just received authority for another language set and new billets to ensure the squadron will continue to be a heavy player in upcoming years.

Several enterprising members worked hard to implement a new crew position. This new position expanded mission capabilities exponentially and the dedication of the elite cadre ensured the 169th became a leader for training across the enterprise within months as well as being a vital component in all current missions.

Additionally, the 169th diligently worked with other services to support U.S. Northern Command objectives as well as contributing to the Utah Regional Operational Center efforts to increase training opportunities for hundreds of Army and Air Force linguists both state and nationwide.

The 169th hosted the highly successful Weapons System Council in February of 2015. More than 30 representatives for Air Force and national security met to discuss existing and emerging issues central to current and future missions which provide critical support to the warfighters across the DOD.

The 169th enjoyed visits from the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, Gen. Mark Welsh; the Chief of National Guard Bureau, Gen. Frank Grass; Special Assistant to the Director Air National Guard and Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance, Maj. Gen. Robert Shannon; and Air National Guard Readiness Center Commander, Gen Michael Taheri. These visitors coined multiple members of the squadron, recognizing the dedication to improve and support the mission.

One of our members won the Company Grade Officer of the Year and the unit received its sixth Meritorious Unit Award. Currently, the unit has received approval to start a multimillion-dollar, reconstruction project to bring all its entities into one compound.

It has been an exciting year with the dedicated men and women of the Darkhorse squadron as they continue to exceed expectations and set new standards. While Congress continues to ask the military to do more with less, the 169th Intelligence Squadron continues to impress.