MISSION STATEMENT

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 379-year tradition we enjoy as Guard members 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.

ON THE COVER

Spc. Curtis Jeffs, UH-60 Black Hawk crewchief from A Co., 2-211th GSAB, operates the hoist to evacuate residents from Orange, Texas out of the rising flooding waters to a casualty-collection point Aug. 31. Over the course of two days, the 2-211th GSAB crews rescued nearly 40 people from flooding conditions caused by Hurricane Harvey in southeast Texas.

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The governor of Utah is the commander in chief of the Utah National Guard, and can use its full resources for domestic emergencies or as otherwise required by state law.

Gary R. Herbert  
Governor of Utah  
Commander in Chief  
Utah National Guard

The adjutant general, appointed by the governor, oversees the day-to-day operations of the Utah National Guard and serves as a key member of the governor’s cabinet and staff.

Major General Jefferson S. Burton  
The Adjutant General  
Utah National Guard

Back row: Col. Kurt Davis, Director of Staff for Air; Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson; Col. Milada Copeland, Chief of Staff for Army; Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Lucero.
Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard, we have had an amazing year filled with incredible achievements, and tremendous loss. Through the past year, we have increased our personal, family and unit capacity to respond to the ever-emerging challenges we face in a complex world.

Our 151st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) was named by the commander of the 18th Air Force as the top ARW in the entire reserve component. The effort expended by our Air team to complete its Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection (NORI) with outstanding results made a positive impact nationwide. Everyday members of the 151st are engaged in Air Mobility Missions, support to Air Combat Command, and increasing its influence around the globe. Tenant units to include the 130th Engineering and Installation Squadron and the 109th Air Control Squadron have deployed and are contributing in a big way as we prepare to face significant cyber and intelligence threats from peer competitors.

This past summer we lost one of our finest, Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler of 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), during combat operations in Afghanistan. Aaron and his teammates were on the front lines fighting dangerous, non-state actors to include the Taliban and members of Islamic State for Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Our Special Forces Soldiers have seen heavy combat this past year, and they have performed heroically in the face of a brutal and committed enemy. Additionally, our Military Intelligence professionals from the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade have been deployed to multiple sites around the world in support of combat and contingency operations. Next year’s deployments will be no less challenging, and will involve multiple major commands across the state.

Over the past several months, we have seen an unprecedented hurricane season that has devastated parts of Texas, Florida and the islands of the Caribbean. Elements of the Utah Air and Army Guard were some of the first called in response to these tragedies. From helicopter rescue and recovery, to satellite communications, to linguists, to intelligence analysts, to airlift, the Utah Guard was there. I am deeply grateful to the Joint Force staff, and to all of the great Soldiers and Airmen who answered the call at a time when many of our citizens were most vulnerable.

We continue to face some significant challenges as we look toward the future. We face increasingly emboldened, peer competitors seeking to increase their global influence; we face terrorist groups who use murder and fear to advance their agendas; and we face rogue nations bent on maintaining control of crumbling regimes. All of these threats make the world more volatile, uncertain, and complex. As a critical part of our nation’s defense, we must continually seek to improve readiness and to build personal, family and unit capacity as we prepare to meet these challenges.

I am deeply honored to serve with each one of you in this endeavor. You represent the very best that this nation has to offer, and together we will complete any mission that the citizens of our great state, and these United States may require. ONE TEAM!
SERVING IN THE U.S.A. AND AROUND THE WORLD
Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard

AREAS OF SERVICE

Afghanistan
Angola
Bahrain
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
Columbia
Crete
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Egypt
England
Ethiopia
Gabon

Georgia
Germany
Great Britain
Greece
Guam
Guatemala
Hungary
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kosovo
Kuwait
Latvia
Malawi
Mauritania
Morocco

Niger
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Senegal
Slovakia
South Korea
Spain
Taiwan
Tanzania
Thailand
Turkey
United Arab Emirates

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana

Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Mexico
New Jersey
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma

Pennsylvania
South Carolina
South Dakota
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming
Puerto Rico
U.S. Virgin Islands

Joint
Soldiers
Airmen
### AMERICAN FORK
Forward Support Co., 1457th Engineer Bn  
HHC, 1457th Engineer Battalion

### BEAVER
C Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion

### BLANDING
Detachment 1, 118th Sapper Company

### BLUFFDALE
115th Engineer Facilities Detachment  
HHC, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Bde  
217th Signal Company  
HHB, 65th Field Artillery Brigade  
HHC, 1457th Field Artillery Battalion  
HHC, 19th Special Forces Group (Abn)  
B Co, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)  
C Co, GSB, 19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
D Co, GSB, 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  
MCP-OD HHBN, 4th Infantry Division

### BRIGHAM CITY
Det. 1, A Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Bn

### CEDAR CITY
HHB, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion

### DRAPER
Joint Force Headquarters - Utah  
Recruiting and Retention Command  
97th Troop Command  
128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
115th Maintenance Company  
653rd Trial Defense Team  
1993rd Contingency Contracting Team  
HHC, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade  
E Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
A Co, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion  
E Co, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion  
Det 2, HHB, 101st Airborne Division  
Det 3, 174th Cyber Protection Team

### FILLMORE
Det 1, C Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Bn

### LEHI
HHC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)  
BSC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Airborne)

### LOGAN
A Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion  
B Co., 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion

### MANTI
B Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion

### MOUNT PLEASANT
Det 1, 116th Engineer Co (Horizontal)

### OGDEN
HHC, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
IC Det, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
B Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
D Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion

### OREM
HHC, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
IC Det, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
A Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
B Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion  
E Co, 141st Military Intelligence Battalion

### PRICE
624th Engineer Company (Vertical)  
Det 1, 624th Engineer Company (Vertical)

### RICHFIELD
A Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion

### SALT LAKE CITY (AIR BASE)
Detachment 50, Operations Support Airlift  
Det 4, C Co, 2-641st Aviation Battalion  
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 Maintenance Squadron  
151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
151st Maintenance Operations Flight  
151st Mission Support Group  
151st Logistics Readiness Squadron  
151st Civil Engineering Squadron

### SALT LAKE CITY
151st Security Forces Squadron  
151st Communications Squadron  
151st Force Support Squadron  
151st Medical Group  
151st Medical Squadron

### SPANISH FORK
116th Engineer Company (Horizontal)  
A Co, 489th Distribution Company  
C Btry, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion

### SPRINGVILLE
HHD, 489th Brigade Support Battalion

### ST. GEORGE
A Co, 141st Military Intelligence Bn  
B Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion  
213th Forward Support Company

### TOOELE
214th Forward Support Company

### VERNAL
Det 2, 624th Engineer Co (Vertical)

### 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 1, G Co, 2-211th Aviation Battalion  
Det 2, B Co., 1-112th Aviation Battalion

### WENDOVER
Det 3, Group Support Company,  
19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
# Economic-Impact Statement

## Three-Year Comparison

**Utah Federal Guard Branches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Federal Construction</th>
<th>Federal Payroll</th>
<th>Active Guard Reserve (AGR)</th>
<th>Traditional Pay and Allowance *AT, IDT, ADOS</th>
<th>Total Federal Expenditures</th>
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<td>$35,374,510</td>
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<td>$74,388,249</td>
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</table>

*Annual Training (AT), Inactive Duty Training (IDT), Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS)

## Federal Expenditures

- **2017**: $120,000,000
- **2016**: $110,000,000
- **2015**: $100,000,000

- **Federal Operations and Maintenance**
- **Federal Construction**
- **Federal Payroll**
- **Active Guard Reserve**
- **Traditional Pay and Allowances: AT, IDT, ADOS**
ECONOMIC-IMPACT STATEMENT
2017 Fiscal Year—Oct. 1, 2016 to Sept. 30, 2017
Three helicopters flyover Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen standing in formation during Governor’s Day at Camp Williams Sept. 16.
## PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEE DISTRIBUTION
2017 Fiscal Year from 10-1-2016 to 9-30-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Air Base, Armories, and Readiness Centers</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Utah Senate District</th>
<th>Utah House District</th>
<th>U.S. Congressional District</th>
<th>Traditional Guard Personnel</th>
<th>Active Guard Personnel (AGR)</th>
<th>Federal/Technicians</th>
<th>Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS)</th>
<th>State Full- and Part-Time Employees</th>
<th>Federally Reimbursed State Employees</th>
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<td>155</td>
<td>25</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                                                |         | 5,457                | 804                 | 1,087                       | 420                         | 57                | 249                      |                         |                                |
The Utah National Guard is proud to be a member of the more than 29 counties throughout Utah in which our Soldiers and Airmen serve. Through an active, community-relations program, the Utah National Guard demonstrates that it is a good neighbor and community partner. The Guard and its Soldiers and Airmen are extensively involved in local, community organizations and often participate in, or support, the events they sponsor.

In 2017 the Utah National Guard supported hundreds of community-support requests such as: Utah Honor Flight, Scouting for Food, Governor’s Day, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Little Warriors Camp, Flag Day, Pioneer Day, Freedom Academy, and college football games.

The hometown military presence has been a long tradition in community parades, color guards, helicopter flyovers, cannon and rifle salutes, military vehicles and logistical support. Troops in formation or vehicles pay tribute to the community’s investment in national defense. The 23rd Army Band provides music to instill in our Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens, and promote our national interests at home and abroad.

The Utah National Guard is delighted to provide public speakers for schools, service clubs and civic events. Some topics which we can address include: general patriotic themes, the history of the Utah National Guard, the National Guard today and educational benefits and career opportunities.

Photos top down: Gov. Gary Herbert speaks to high school students delegates during a tour of the State Capitol as part of Freedom Academy. Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, Boy Scouts and volunteers collect food donations during Scouting for Food. Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery conduct a flag-retirement ceremony during Fiesta Days in Spanish Fork, Utah on July 18.
The mission of the Fort Douglas Military Museum (FDM) 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 nonprofit organization), also provides support to the museum.

Its public history programs for 2017 included Fort Douglas Day. Several living-history groups from the American Revolution through the Korean Conflict set up encampments and taught visitors about the military experiences of that era. Military vehicles were also on display, courtesy of the Utah Military Vehicle Club.

The museum held its annual 9/11 Remembrance Day and the Gold-Star Mothers and Wives organization held its annual spring clean-up of the museum grounds and outdoor displays.

Our year was bitter sweet in that our director of 18 years, Bob Voyles, retired. Voyles brought the museum into the 21st century and was a steadfast leader and educator for the museum. Voyles was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service. Voyles’ textbook knowledge, humor and leadership will be missed. All employees at FDM wish him a happy and safe retirement.

With Voyles retirement, the new director, Tim Morris was welcomed to the FDM family. Tim comes to the museum from the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in Oregon (home of Howard Hughes’ Spruce Goose). He will continue the upgrades and expansion started my Bob and has many plans for the museum and museum education.

Visitation was up from the year before and we expect the number of visitors to continue to climb. The year 2018 promises to be a banner year at FDM. The museum programs for next year will include all of our programs from previous years and new education and Scout experiences. FDM will be involved in the WWI armistice celebrations and symposiums happening at various locations in Utah. It will also help host a series of films the winter of 2018/19 titled, Utah and the Western Landscape film series, sponsored by the The Buffalo Bill Center, the State Historical Society of the Fort Douglas.

The museum is located at 32 Potter St. on historic Fort Douglas. Visiting hours are 12:00 to 5:00pm Tuesday through Saturday.
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, former military leaders, 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 56th annual Bronze Minuteman Awards banquet. The banquet honored local citizens who have distinguished themselves through community service in civic, religious, business, humanitarian or military capacities. This year’s recipients included Dr. Stan L. Albrecht, Sister Linda K. Burton, Hon Col Bart O. Davis, Mr. Steven J. Henline, CSM Michael M. Miller, and Mr. Harris H. Simmons.

In the first week of August, the corps helped sponsor the 56th 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, Freedom 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 value to and strengthens the Utah National Guard.

### HONORARY COLONELS CORPS OF UTAH
Community Leaders Support Guard

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Emeritus Members:
- Hon Col Lewis Billings
- Hon Col Patrick Byrne
- Hon Col Victoria Davison
- Hon Col Rex Falkenhurst
- Hon Col Michael J. Frosdahl
- Hon Col Robert H. Garff
- Hon Col Jake W. Gann
- Hon Col Kay Hall
- Hon Col Clark D. Jones
- Hon Col Peter C. Knudson
- Hon Col Linda M. Kruse
- Hon Col Boyd A. Lindquist
- Hon Col John E. Lindquist
- Hon Col Allan M. Liptman, Jr.
- Hon Col Richard Nelson
- Hon Col William H. Nelson
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- Hon Col Harris Simmons
- Hon Col David Spafford
- Hon Col Michael G. Sullivan
- Hon Col Rex Thornton
- Hon Col Linda Wolcott
- Hon Col Michael T. Young
The Utah National Guard’s 23rd Army Band performed at the 61st annual Veterans Day Concert at the Huntsman Center on the University of Utah campus, Nov. 11. This year’s theme was “They Also Serve,” based on the popular song by John Conlee, which spotlighted the difficulties of military service and the sacrifices made by service members, veterans and their families.

Accompanying the 23rd Army Band was the combined Granite School District high school choirs with nearly 800 students present. Aside from the performance by the band and choir, other major highlights for the concert were the guest speakers and award presentations.

The guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, assistant adjutant general for Air, Utah National Guard. In keeping with the theme, Burckle spoke passionately about the sacrifices of service members and their families.

“It is, therefore, fitting that we pause as a nation to recognize their service and sacrifice, and tonight here in the Huntsman Center we’re also recognizing that our veterans do not serve alone,” explained Burckle. “We must not forget the families of those veterans as they, too, have served and sacrificed and deserve our thanks and admiration.”

Later during the concert, several awards were presented to some special guests. Most notably was Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Sterling Poulson, well known for being the meteorologist for KUTV news and also for his service to veterans, who received Zions Bank’s 7th annual Veterans Service Award. He was presented a statue of an eagle and the crowd gave him a standing ovation as thanks for his years of military service and continued dedication to veterans and their families. The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah and Granite PTA presented awards to its Military Essay Contest winners: Emily Langie, a 10th grade student from Hillcrest High School; Shadrach Jensen, a 9th grader from Mueller Park Junior High School; and Zachary Bertholet, a 5th grader from Sands Springs Elementary.

Lastly, Gov. Gary Herbert gave thanks to service members and veterans and spoke about how these concerts can help bring everyone together and help support military families. “I hope this will motivate all of us, in our own ways, to serve and to enhance the opportunity we have and look for ways to be proactive in helping families who have sacrificed so much when their loved ones are away in the service of their country,” said Herbert.

After giving his final thanks to all of the veterans and their families, Herbert took over as conductor for the Army Band and led the final song for the evening, Stars and Stripes Forever, giving an inspiring and patriotic ending to the concert.
Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard (UTNG) participated in the annual Governor’s Day parade Sept. 16 at Camp Williams to pay tribute to their commander and chief.

The festivities began with a helicopter flyover and 19-volley cannon salute to honor Gov. Gary R. Herbert. Music was provided by the UTNG 23rd Army Band before the pass-in-review of nearly 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen.

This year was also a somber reminder of the sacrifices made by Guardsmen and their families for our freedom and our American ideals. Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, who lost his life in Afghanistan in August, was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. Butler’s parents and finance were also honored and recognized for their sacrifices by both Herbert and Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general of the UTNG.

Herbert reminded those in attendance, “The service of Butler and other members of his... team is in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service that we see exemplified here today.”

As Soldiers and Airmen stood shoulder to shoulder on Tarbet field, Burton reminded those in attendance why he continues to serve in the military.

“I wear this uniform because I have never worked with a group of finer people. People who have adapted to the Army and Air Force values and who really live what they say they believe.”

The National Guard has a unique role in our nation’s defense with both a state and national mission, which is highlighted by the Guardsmen currently serving overseas, as well as deployed in support of Hurricane Harvey and in response to the fires in Weber county.

“...Very few organizations have the ability and versatility to react so quickly, which is characteristic and expected of our Utah Guardsmen,” said Herbert.

Each year, Governor’s Day also serves as a way for Guard leadership to recognize the outstanding Soldiers and Airmen within the ranks.

Following the parade, service members were released to enjoy the kid-friendly activities, car show and food booths with their families.

The pass-in-review is a long-standing, military tradition dating back to the American Revolution and serves as a way for commanders to formally inspect their formations.

Governor’s Day is an annual event held in September at Camp Williams that is free and open to the public.
Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler
In Memoriam

Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, an engineer sergeant with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), was killed in action in Afghanistan Aug. 16, 2017, when conducting building-clearing operations during his deployment. His unit’s mission was aimed at further reducing Islamic State of Iraq and Syrian-Khorasan presence in Afghanistan.

The news of his death hit the state hard, as it had been seven years since Utah Guard’s last combat loss of Sgt. 1st Class James Thode in 2010. Citizens and Soldiers alike were struck with the harsh reminder of what is asked of our military.

“Ultimately what we do is a very dangerous business,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton in the official statement issued after Aaron’s family had been notified. “Our hearts are broken when we lose one of our own.”

Aaron was part of a solid Utah family with deep-rooted values, with his father, mother, six brothers and one sister. But his impact obviously reached far beyond his family with so many, both in and out of uniform, attending the funeral proceedings August 26, in Monticello, Utah.

“I know him good enough to know what he would want me to say,” said Shannon Young, Aaron’s sister and close confidant. “I came, I lived, I killed bad guys, I died,” she said evoking teary chuckles. She shared memories of holding Aaron as a newborn child and recounting his zest for life like no other.

“By the time he was in first grade, he was telling everyone that he wanted to be a Soldier,” she said. “Aaron’s passion to protect not only his family, but his country, grew stronger with each passing minute of his life.”

Aaron was born Aug. 24, 1989, in Monticello, where he excelled in wrestling as a four-time state champion. His momentous wrestling achievement stands to this day unrivaled. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in April 2008, as a Combat Engineer with the 1457th Engineer Battalion, and then served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints from 2009-2011 in Ghana. In June 2015 he transferred to 1st Battalion, 19th SFG (A), in his lifelong pursuit for the Green Beret.

“In life as well as his death, he has taught us profoundly,” said his brother, Shane Butler. “He did so in the single most powerful way possible—with his actions.”

“He gave us all something. He gave us his life. He also gave us his example of courage,” said another brother Chad Butler. “A hope that we can all, in true Aaron style, be relentless in the pursuit of our goals.”

Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, engineer sergeant from 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), served valiantly with the Utah Guard from 2008 - 2017.

Left to right: Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, engineer sergeant from 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), during a training exercise. Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler during his deployment to Afghanistan in 2017.

In Memoriam
Serving as the headquarters for the Utah Army and Air National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) consists of senior National Guard state leadership and joint directorates that advise and support the Utah governor as well as the president of the United States with trained and ready forces from units throughout the state. Supporting both wartime missions and domestic operations, JFHQ provides trained professionals in areas of personnel, intelligence, training and operations, supply and maintenance, communications, and finance.


JFHQ participated this past year in the joint exercise Yama Sakura, which involved several components of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The officers and NCOs from JFHQ that participated in this major exercise performed admirably, and represented the Utah National Guard and the U.S. Army in a positive light. The Soldiers and officers that comprise JFHQ continue to train for when they are called upon to respond to any federal and state mission.
The high operational tempo of the Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG) continues to emphasize the need for a ready and relevant fighting force. As part of our federal mission, our Soldiers distinguished themselves as competent professionals while serving in a combat zone. This year we mobilized and deployed 326 Soldiers as part of operations to support the president’s mission of dismantling networks of violent extremists and building host-nation capacity for self-defense. Each command was affected as its Soldiers conducted missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain and other contentious locations across the globe. In addition to wartime missions, 417 Soldiers participated in overseas exercises, training events, and international exchanges in 37 different countries. As we move into the next year, our number of deployed Soldiers will soon triple as we continue to be called upon to fight and win our nation’s wars.

As part of the state mission, Utah Soldiers demonstrated the capability to rapidly deploy and adapt to domestic emergencies in support of the governor and local community leaders. This past year, Soldiers assisted in flood prevention in northern Utah, fire suppression throughout the state, and search and rescue operations. Most recently UTARNG Soldiers provided support to states and territories affected by this year’s devastating hurricanes. The UTARNG to strengthen its relationships with federal, state and civilian partners. When a natural or man-made disaster strikes, UTARNG Soldiers are ready to provide support.

Citizen-Soldiers are excellent examples of service as both a member of the military and a civilian in the community. We understand the importance of being closely tied with the communities of Utah. With a membership of more than 5,400 Soldiers, we utilize armories, airports and training sites in 24 strategic locations throughout the state. 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 selfless leaders and highly trained Soldiers, many of whom are battle-tested, having served in a combat zone.

As in past years, the UTARNG again received high marks in every critical metric used by National Guard Bureau in assessing each of the 54 states and territories. Achieving these honors proves the dedication and desire of its Soldiers to excel beyond the standard. This organization provides young men and women the tools to build confidence, learn job skills, earn a college education, and most important, to gain valuable, life experiences that will make them dedicated patriots serving in our communities.
Fiscal Year 17 was a high-energy, extreme-training, and eventful year for the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), SFG (A). FY17 training involved elements of air, sea, and land, and encompassed all battalions within the group, training together, jointly.

Air operations training conducted at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, was included in this year’s Military Free-Fall (MFF) recertification for parachutists and riggers. The Tiger Shark Drop Zone was the site for certifications using the RA-1 Ram-Air parachute system. Alpha Company from 1st Battalion, and elements of 20th SFG (A) trained with Group Support Battalion (A) in April to maintain MFF Jump Master currency in preparation for MFF Operations during BALANCE TORCH 17-2476, a Joint Combined Exchange Training mission. Working together with Hawaiian Army National Guard and U.S. Marine Corps, aircrew and aircraft platforms provided enhanced-training opportunities and prepared the Detachment for MFF Operations in the 19th SFG (A) Area of Operations.

Air-to-sea operations were conducted at Jacobs Drop Zone Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, combat divers from A-1-19th SFG (A), conducted water airborne operations with multiple Special Operations Combat Expendable Platforms (SOCEP) and elements of 20th SFG (A). These Soldiers conducted two SOCEP parachute operations as part of a two-week, maritime requalification, training event. The first SOCEP was one F470 Combat Rubber Raiding Craft on one platform: both were dropped from the ramp of a C-17 Cargo Aircraft. SOCEP water-airborne operations are rare training opportunities as they require a high performance aircraft, significant rigger support, drying facilities for cargo, personnel parachutes and drop-zone-boat support to recover jumpers. A great day of weather allowed for exceptional training and a rare opportunity to train with joint forces.

Land training was conducted in Wyoming and Idaho. Camp Guernsey, Wyoming, was the location for Fast Rope Master (FRM) certification in July. Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 19th SFG (A) and Advanced Skills Detachment (ASD) conducted an annual fast-rope-recertification training event with support of 2-135th Aviation Battalion. The training is intended to provide realistic and challenging training for U.S. Army National Guard Aviation battalions from Colorado during annual training. The 5th Battalion and 19th SFG (A) ASD Soldiers provided combat-focused training to develop battalion Air Assault standard operating procedures. The training consisted of FRM certification/recertification for both ground and air forces, Air Assault rehearsals, and full mission profiles. This training validated a tactical scenario which incorporated seven airships conducting Air Assault, Blocking Position Infiltration and Tactical Exfiltration against a simulated enemy.

Joint Terminal Attack Control (JTAC) operations this year were an opportunity to train with joint forces from the Navy and Air Force in Saylor Creek USAF Range and Orchard Combat Training Center, Boise, Idaho. The JTACs capitalized on a rare opportunity to Suppress Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) with LIVE-artillery assets! JTACs planned, briefed, and conducted SEAD missions daily. The assets consisted of live-fly, fixed-wing and live-fly, rotary-wing assets from the 222nd Field Artillery (155mm), HSC-85 Navy (HH-60), 34th Bombing Squadron (B1B) and 190th Fighter Squadron (A-10). JTAC missions increase proficiency while working in a joint environment with multiple Close Air Support assets and integrate surface-to-surface fires.

The 19th SFG (A), headquartered at Camp Williams, Utah is spread throughout the nation and comprised of nine states with elements in California, Colorado, Montana, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.

Top down: Joint Terminal Attack Controllers with the 19th SFG (A), participate in a joint-service training mission, Aug. 13-18, in Boise, Idaho. Sticks of Soldiers preparing to board a CH-47 Chinook for day, static-line-jump operations, Grant-Smith Drop Zone, Utah. Background: Soldiers conducting water, free-fall jump in Tiger Shark Drop Zone, Bellows, Hawaii.
The 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) continued its reputation as “America’s Thunder” in 2017 as it could be heard rolling through mission after mission to include the Fleet Synthetic Joint Training exercise, Yama Sakura-71 (YS-71), and Warfighter Exercise 17-05 (WFX 17-05). The 65th FAB also supported the annual training for 1-145th Field Artillery (FA) and 2-222nd FA.

At YS-71, the 2-222nd FA and 65th FAB participated with I Corps and 17th FAB to test the tactics and leadership of the participating units. The 2-222 FA, with augmentation from the 65th FAB, sent Soldiers to Joint Base Fort Lewis-McChord, Wash., to serve as the counter-fire headquarters for I Corps during the training event. The unit’s superior performance during YS-71 proved again how vital a role they play as part of the total force.

WFX 17-05 took place at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in June. During the three-week exercise, the 65th FAB’s mission was to perform the function of the force-field-artillery headquarters in support of the 40th Infantry Division. Along with four other National Guard units and the 82nd Airborne Division, the 65th FAB participated in the wargame scenario and learned best practices and gained experience for the unit in preparation for its upcoming mobilization.

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The 1-145th FA, participated in Operation Skull Valley in Dugway, Utah, in order to certify its live-fire capabilities. The 1-145th FA also participated in the Homeland Response Force during Operation Devil’s Breath where it simulated a tornado event that triggered requirements for decontamination, wide-area search, security, and command-and-control operations.

In June, Bravo Battery, 1-145th FA, was recognized as the best field artillery battery in the nation as it received the Hamilton Award, which recognizes the outstanding U.S. Army National Guard Field Artillery Battery of the Year for superb mission accomplishment and overall unit excellence. The Alexander Hamilton Award was created in 2001 and is named after American statesman and Continental Army Artilleryman Alexander Hamilton.

The 2-222nd FA conducted its annual training at Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho. The 2-222 FA conducted joint operations with a team of Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACS) from the 19th Special Forces Group, the 190th A-10 Squadron from Gowen Field, Idaho and Navy HH-60 assets from Coronado, Calif. The 2-222 FA conducted live-fire missions to suppress enemy air defense while the HH-60s where conducting insertion and extraction operations with the JTACS.
The 97th Aviation Troop Command (ATC) has experienced a rare year in the fact that none of its organic units have been deployed. This rare opportunity has not happened since 2004 and will not be repeated again in the foreseeable future. With all aviation units in Utah, the 97th ATC has been able to reach its highest level of local training and support to civilian authorities. The most notable of these achievements is, of course, the ability of its subordinate units to do real-world and training missions in support of both the state, in domestic operations, and the federal mission, in combat training.

The 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), flying the UH-60 Black Hawks, was utilized to fight fires throughout the state and provided lifesaving support to citizens of Texas as a result of Hurricane Harvey. Additionally, the 2-211th again provided lifesaving support to local authorities using the LUH-72 to participate in search-and-rescue missions as well as supporting local law enforcement in counterdrug operations. The 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) AH-64 Apache has been actively training with the Special Operations community in utilizing live-fire missions and honing its counter-insurgency skills. Most importantly, 1-211th ARB has been training hard to develop the skills needed to fight and win a high-intensity war with a near-peer advisory in a complex environment. The 1-211th ARB has participated in many training exercises this year that will culminate in its participation in the most challenging training environment the Army can deliver during its National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, Calif.

In what has been an extremely productive training year, there is little to deflect the loss felt by our aviation community with the passing of our brother in arms, Capt. Nicholas V. Thomas. Thomas was taken from us in an airplane accident in Butterfield Canyon while doing what he loved—flying. Thomas’s services were held at Camp Williams, Utah where he was honored with an AH-64 flyover. Thomas was an exceptionally skilled aviator and great friend to many and will be sorely missed.

The year ended with a change of command for the 97th ATC where Col. George Barton relinquished command to Lt. Col. Ricky Smith during the UTARNG annual Governor’s Day. Barton has lead a very distinguished aviation career as both an AH-64 and UH-60 pilot. He will be moving on to serve on the staff of Joint Force Headquarters in the Directorate of Aviation and Safety office. Smith comes back to aviation after a short tour in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion as the battalion commander. Smith is no stranger to aviation where he has served 20 years with 1-211th ARB which culminated as 1-211th ARB commander. He has already began his command with intensity and a strong-command vision. We look forward to executing his plan to grow and improve aviation in the years to come.
The 97th Troop Command (TC) is the most diverse command in the Utah National Guard, and actively conducts both foreign and domestic missions. The 97th TC not only provides command and control of its various units, it conducts the command and control and full-time support for the Homeland Response Force (HRF) mission while also executing the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP).

The DPP is a component of the State Partnership Program the Utah National Guard has with the country of Morocco. It included four events in Morocco, all of which involved military and civilian participants from Morocco, members of the Utah National Guard and several Utah emergency-and-response agencies. This partnership not only improves the Guard’s relations in Morocco, but has continued to improve its working relations with the many responders across Utah.

The 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment began the year with several Soldiers supporting Beyond the Horizon exercise in Belize; it also conducted several state missions covering events such as Veterans Day, and ended the year with a full-unit deployment in support of Hurricane Harvey relief in Texas. Hurricane Harvey gave the 128th the opportunity to share with the public the support the National Guard provided to devastated areas.

During the 2017 training year, the 23rd Army Band provided support for 55 events with a total attendance of nearly 119,000 people. The Concert Band provided 15 concerts at events on Veterans Day, the Governor’s inauguration, Armed Forces Day at the Gallivan Center with the Choral Arts Society of Utah, and Freedom Festival at the Marriott Center, as well as Pioneer Day events and other community-concert series.

The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) continues to be at the forefront of the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) enterprise for the state and nation. During fiscal year 2017, the 85th provided support to local and state agencies with 57 stand-by missions, responded to five incidents within the state, conducted five assist missions, 15 training events and 12 collective exercises.

The 1993rd Contingency Contract Team keeps the Utah National Guard operational, by completing contracting requirements for the entire state.

The 653rd Trial Defense Team continues to provide Defense Counsel and support to the Western Area by serving the Soldiers in Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.

The 144th Area Support Medical Company trained in support of both its federal and state missions. The 2017 training events included exercises with the 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation to conduct medical evacuations. It also conducted a 300-mile convoy to Orchard Combat Training Center in Idaho with the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery where they were able to provide real-world, medical support in support of Operation Stallion Fury.

On July 15, 2017, the Utah Army National Guard said goodbye to the 115th Maintenance Company. It was deactivated after 78 years. It was originally organized and federally recognized April 28, 1939 as the 115th Ordinance Company. Throughout its history, the unit mobilized with the 40th Infantry Division in 1941 in support of World War II, in support of the Berlin Crisis in 1961, and in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. Its experience and expertise will be missed.
The 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) continued to demonstrate its versatility and functionality in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) as it performed in its mission as a self-contained, multifunctional-support brigade led by Col. Paul Rodgers and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Thalman.

This year’s training focused on making the 204th MEB a more agile and flexible force. Major training events included several field exercises, and annual trainings at Camp Williams, in Germany and multiple locations around the country.

The 204th MEB, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), participated in three separate annual-training events at Camp Atterbury, Ind.; Fort Hunter-Liggett, Calif.; and Dugway, Utah.

In Dugway, HHC Soldiers honed their basic warrior’s skills and focused on the basic Soldier tasks. In Indiana, they participated in a warfighter exercise and ran a response cell that carried out the orders of the 40th ID headquarters. In California, they operated as a division-level headquarters and response cell for several brigade-sized elements participating in a combined, support exercise. Both exercises gave 204th Soldiers experience in handling the fast pace and challenges of a changing battlefield.

The brigade’s 217th Signal Company focused on individual communication skills and conducted several field-training exercises (FTX) with the 204th MEB. During annual training, the unit conducted a four-day FTX in Vernal, Logan, and St. George allowing Soldiers to train with high-frequency communications. The unit also conducted a CompTIA Security+ certification course which enhanced its ability to conduct cyber security.

The 115th Engineer Facility Detachment continued to work on projects for the U.S. Forest Service. In April 2017, the unit conducted an overseas deployment (ODT) to Hohenfels, Germany. During the ODT, the unit surveyed the future construction site of an unmanned aerial surveillance runway, redesigned several building projects, and designed the BOM Trench Project.

The 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post Operational Detachment’s (MCPOD) major focus was training with the 4th ID. Its annual training was in Fort Carson, Colo., where MCPOD Soldiers worked hand in hand with the 4th ID to support a Germany-based exercise called Austere Challenge 17. The MCPOD also supported multiple other exercises throughout the year in Germany, Colorado, Indiana and other locations.

The FY17 brought many changes to the 1457th Engineer Battalion in the form of a new force structure which resulted in the retirement of two companies and a reflagging of one company. Even so, the 1457th continued its usual high-operational tempo. The 116th and 624th Engineer Companies worked on multiple projects that improved roads and facilities on Camp Williams. The 118th Sapper Company participated in the Devil’s Breath exercise at Camp Grafton, N.D., as the FEMA Region VIII search-and-extraction element. The battalion conducted annual training at Camp Williams focusing on individual and unit missions as well as other base-operation skills.

The 489th Brigade Support Battalion completed a successful year providing logistics support to the 204th MEB and subordinate units, as well as the Region VIII Homeland Response Force (HRF). Major training events included multiple field-training exercises, support of the Utah Best Warrior Competition, and HRF exercise Devil’s Breath in Camp Grafton, N.D. The BSB conducted annual training at Dugway Proving Ground and Nephi in conjunction with the 145th Field Artillery Battalion and the 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation. Soldiers participated in challenging missions that focused on mission-essential tasks required of a logistics battalion.

The Soldiers of the 204th MEB worked tirelessly to be able to meet whatever mission it received in FY17 and looks forward to the challenges of the near future as they will continue to accomplish great things for the Utah National Guard.
Headquartered in Draper, Utah, the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist) consists of five military-intelligence battalions totaling more than 2,000 Soldiers in six different states—Utah, Washington, California, Florida, Illinois, and Massachusetts. The 300th provides language and intelligence support to the Army and the greater intelligence community. Its military intelligence specialties include Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Signals Intelligence (SIGINT), and Counterintelligence (CI). When called on by the governor, the 300th deploys in support of state contingencies.

In 2017, the brigade had six Utah unit deployments supporting real-world operations with 36 Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Kosovo, and several other locations to provide support in HUMINT, CI, and other military-intelligence disciplines. The brigade currently has Soldiers deployed to Iraq supporting HUMINT and CI, and to Fort Meade, Md., supporting Cyber Command (Task Force Echo), and is preparing to mobilize more Soldiers for Operation Inherent Resolve.

In September the 300th provided language and intelligence support in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Eight Soldiers deployed to Washington, D.C. to provide support in intelligence analysis and assessment for the Army National Guard Response Center and FEMA. Two Soldiers were sent to Puerto Rico to provide Spanish-language support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With more than 10 percent of the brigade’s 900-plus Utah Soldiers deployed to a theater of war, stateside Soldiers remain actively engaged through “Reach” operations and training. Reach operations allow the brigade Soldiers to apply their language and intelligence skills to the warfight while remaining at home station. This year approximately 30 percent of the brigade’s Utah Soldiers were engaged full time in Reach or in intelligence-training support greatly enhancing overall readiness.

During 2017, Soldiers in the 300th maintained proficiency in more than 35 foreign languages, with more than 100 Soldiers performing training in Ghana, Morocco, Angola, Benin, Japan, Cape Verde, Spain, The Ivory Coast, Congo, Djibouti, Cameroon, Gabon, Mauritius, Senegal, Sao Tome, Korea, Thailand, Togo, and Italy to assist as interpreters, translators and intelligence professionals in a variety of Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff military exercises. This continues the 300th’s proud and distinguished support to the Army’s combined and joint commands, most major commands, and many of the nation’s intelligence agencies operating throughout the world.

In March, the brigade hosted its 28th annual Language Conference titled “A Global Discussion.” This remains an excellent training event for our Soldiers. This year’s cultural focus was on understanding the geo-political issues related to Russia, China, North Korea and the U.S.

In June, the brigade hosted more than 700 active-duty, Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen from 19 states and Canada to participate in Panther Strike at Camp Williams. The exercise provides outstanding intelligence training, and also serves as an opportunity to test new technologies, and brings national-level resources and attention to Utah. The exercise has received national-level support and brought $90,000 in new automation and infrastructure to the state this year.
Operating under the accreditation of the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), the 640th Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI) provides noncommissioned officers (NCOs) with the required professional military education (PME) to equip the future leaders of the Army with knowledge and skills that will help them to succeed.

As stated in its mission and vision, the 640th RTI strives to become the premier, institutional-training organization in the U.S. Army, providing the most relevant, rigorous, and realistic, professional, military education possible to the operational force.

The 640th RTI is commanded by Col. Ryan King and Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen, who lead some of the finest instructors and cadre in the U. S. Army.

This year has been a year of growth and of future planning and preparation. With the introduction of the One Army School System, each of our four battalions have begun to see increases in the number of students from each of the components of the Army. These increases will continue into the coming years as well. Notable changes that have been planned for include the Master Leader Course, which will begin in October 2017, and the introduction of the Joint Fires Observer course, which will be new to the National Guard in Fiscal Year 18 (FY18).

The 640th RTI continues to excel in training its primary areas of emphasis in NCO PME, in battlefield communications, field artillery, and military intelligence. The 640th RTI also instructs state-directed courses including Officer Candidate School and other necessary training courses.

Over this past training year, the 640th RTI instructed more than 150 separate courses, hosting more than 4,000 Soldiers from across the United States, including Soldiers from the Active Component and Army Reserves. The 640th RTI has also been preparing for additional mission requirements in FY18, along with accreditation inspections from each of the respective proponents, and also from TRADOC.

The 35L analyst instructors.

35M10 students completing the ruck-march portion of their high-physical-demands tasks.

The 13J10 students inventory and set up an OE254 antenna.

The 13B10 students conduct a live-fire exercise with an M777 Howitzer at Camp Williams, Utah.
The primary mission of the Utah Medical Command (MEDCOM) is to plan, program, provide and sustain health, force protection, and medical/dental support to more than 5,000 Soldiers assigned to Utah Army National Guard (UTARNG). MEDCOM is comprised of more than 85 Soldiers who serve in military occupational specialties (MOS) related to medical, dental, and various administrative support roles. The MOS 68W combat medic makes up the bulk of the Soldiers assigned to the unit. MEDCOM is commanded by Col. David Coates assisted by a senior enlisted, noncommissioned officer, 1st Sgt. Michael Franklin.

MEDCOM continued to demonstrate its relevancy and adaptability by successfully ensuring the statewide inoculation of 100 percent of UTARNG Soldiers with the influenza vaccine prior to the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. Mobile teams of 68W medic units were sent out to units that are located in geographically remote areas in order to provide immunizations to its Soldiers.

A major highlight this year was MEDCOM’s participation in U.S. Army Southern Command “Beyond the Horizon 2017 – Belize.” This is a joint, interagency, and combined, field-training exercise in response to the government of Belize requests and requirements, designed to provide support by conducting medical and engineering assistance programs. The overall exercise ran from April 8, 2017 through June 20, 2017.

During the dates of April 8-22, MEDCOM provided an element of 30 Soldiers to perform a Medical Readiness Training event in support of the exercise. The element was composed of physicians, dentists, nurses, 68W medics, and other Soldiers who have a MOS related to healthcare. MEDCOM area of operations was in rural and outlying communities of the city of Ladyville, Belize where medical support was provided to civilians with little or no access to medical services. More than 3,500 patients received medical treatment ranging from dental fillings, tooth extractions, vision screenings, and field-emergency surgery. MEDCOM also provided five personnel organized under the Joint Task Force commander to serve as duration staff for the entire two-and-a-half-month exercise as Task Force-Medical.

The readiness of MEDCOM Soldier’s ability to respond and perform a short-notice mission was recently tested. Members of MEDCOM were recalled with very little notice to support the medical processing of 204th MEB and other UTARNG Soldiers being prepared for possible mobilization in support of hurricane relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey struck Texas causing untold devastation. More than 550 Soldiers were medically processed successfully.
It was an eventful year for the Utah Army National Guard (UTARN) Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB). Arguably, the most notable events were the changes of command(s). Lt. Col. Jason Dougherty, commander of the RRB, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Ricky Smith, who in turn was called back to the aviation and relinquished command to Lt. Col. Michael D. Kjar.

Kjar took command on Sept. 13, 2017 and focused on maintaining the end strength of the Utah Army National Guard while looking ahead at future force structure changes. His intent is to ensure that the RRB staff, RR noncommissioned officers (NCOs), Officer Strength Management Recruiters, Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) Cadre, and the ROTC staffs have the necessary training and tools to perform their missions, while preparing to meet the future accession needs of the UTARN.

The RRB reputation is exceptional; it has not missed an end-strength-ceiling mission in more than 18 years. It consistently meets and exceeds accession missions for newly enlisted recruits, warrant officers, and officers while maintaining some of the lowest attrition rates in the country. This fiscal year was no different.

The RRB’s recruiters once again achieved their goal in becoming one of the top-two battalions in the nation to meet end-strength-ceiling mission. All five street “teams” focused their efforts on unit and high-school partnerships. This year Team 4 outperformed its own ambitions receiving accolades as Top Production Team. Sgt. 1st Class Ben Dahl was recipient of The Directors 54, while Staff Sgt. Michael Cobb received Rookie of the Year.

The RRB’s three RSP companies aided the adjutant general in his goal to have the finest National Guard units in the nation. Efforts were focused on preparing new recruits for initial-entry training. Their efforts were rewarded with 39 percent of all recruits shipped to training be recognized as Honor Graduates or Distinguished Honor Graduates. Utah ranked third in the nation for Honor Graduate and Distinguished Honor Graduate recognition and first in the nation for lowest-training, pipeline-loss rate.

The marketing team has some of the best talent in the country. The team took on some big events this year, incorporating the entire enlisted recruiting force in statewide events bringing multimedia recognition to the UTARN.

This kind of consistency is directly attributable to the outstanding leadership and public outreach by the well-trained officers, warrant officers, and NCOs that provide new Soldiers for the UTARN formations that serve our great state. This year, our Soldiers participated in hundreds of local events in search of the future Soldiers and leaders of the UTARN.

It has, indeed, been a great year for the RRB. In light of its historic success and the consistent performance as one of the top-recruiting battalions in the country, the RRB looks forward to much success in 2018 and welcomes Lt. Col. Mike Kjar to the team.
Army Garrison Camp W.G. Williams and the Utah Training Center (UTC) provide second-to-none training venues for not only the state of Utah, but also the nation. It showcases a number of ranges, training areas, and facilities. 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 units to conduct pre-deployment training.

Camp Williams hosts several major events on an annual basis, to include Cyber Shield, Panther Strike, and Freedom Academy, culminating with Governor’s Day in September when the governor addresses Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard and conducts a formal pass and review. Additionally, UTC hosts approximately 7,000 civilian youth and young adults annually for various events during the spring, summer, and fall months. These groups include church groups, sports teams and business groups who use the barracks, Leadership Reaction Course, climbing wall, rappel tower and swimming pool.

Camp Williams makes a concerted effort to cultivate relationships with surrounding communities by participating in the Army Compatibility Use Buffer (ACUB) program. 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.

UTC’s Soldiers are second to none when it comes to successfully running a small city, and they were able to showcase those skills during this year’s annual training when they were assigned to run the Mayor’s Cell for Yama Sakura 71, which was held at Camp Kengun in Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan. The exercise comprised of about 1,600 U.S. personnel worldwide as well as about 4,600 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Soldiers. UTC Soldiers were responsible for daily functions for the troop camp site, to include personnel management, supply, billeting, communications, laundry management, and morale, welfare and recreation. UTC also had several Soldiers acting as VIP escorts for the exercise.
The 97th Troop Command continues to effectively perform its role as the Homeland Response Force (HRF) component to FEMA Region VIII with integral support from numerous Utah National Guard units. The HRF has excelled in its technical and demanding mission set under the command of Col. Scott Burnhope, who also serves as the commander of 97th Troop Command.

During the first quarter, approximately 120 HRF personnel took part in Exothermic Electorate, and responded to a radiological dispersion device (aka a dirty bomb).

In October, the HRF command element participated in an in-depth tabletop exercise (TTX) with Salt Lake County Emergency Management. Operating under the name “Red Cloud,” this TTX was the opening salvo of a three-part training event that would eventually involve multiple, Unified Fire Authority (UFA) stations and more than 150 HRF personnel. The scenario was based upon a complex, coordinated, terrorist attack, which required the response of all local first responders, in addition to the HRF and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) personnel.

The second portion of this scenario took place in January, with a functional exercise testing various operational tasks of integrating into the structure of civilian emergency response. In March, the culminating round was a combined-training event which saw HRF personnel fully incorporated into UFA operations across three different fire stations in the Herriman area. Critical HRF tasks such as mass/technical decontamination, search and extraction, and security operations were conducted at multiple venues across the Salt Lake valley.

In February, 12 HRF personnel were utilized to assist Box Elder County first responders in a real-world event as extreme flooding affected more than 90 percent of the county which prompted the county to declare a state of emergency. HRF Soldiers supported tactical operations center operations and teamed with local responders in flood-control efforts.

June saw HRF personnel take part in Devil’s Breath with the North Dakota National Guard. This combined-training event exercised the ability of disparate state units to operate under Joint Task Force command structure while conducting operations of wide-area search, technical-rope rescue, search and extraction and decontamination.

In August, the HRF received an external evaluation from National Guard Bureau Standardization Evaluation and Assistance Team. Strict adherence to well-developed standard operating procedures and a team effort resulted in an overall compliance result of 97 percent, exceeding the national average in multiple areas. The high mark of 99 percent compliance was achieved in the Operations and Training functional area.

HRF personnel were a key component to a Washington County-based exercise in its fourth annual installment, Operation Dixie Thunder has progressed through multiple, complex iterations.

In September, HRF personnel assimilating into the Washington County’s emergency-response infrastructure involving a tiered military response to a multi-jurisdictional, all-hazards event.

Just prior to the end of FY17, six personnel from the HRF Joint Incident Site Communications Capability deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands in response to Hurricane Irma. These individuals were able to provide critical, communication-network infrastructure in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irma; then with the approach of category-5 Hurricane Maria, these Soldiers sheltered in place and after the storm redeployed their communications infrastructure to continue to enable recovery efforts in this U.S. territory.

As the HRF prepares to enter FY18, the continual emphasis on training will maintain HRF personnel to respond to emergencies.
Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation hoist a Texas citizen to safety onto a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during rescue operations after Hurricane Harvey hits the Houston, Texas area.

Airmen with the 151st Communications Flight load equipment onto a C-17 Globemaster from the 164th Airlift Wing, as they prepare to depart Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Sept. 7, 2017, in support of Hurricane Irma relief efforts.

Soldiers with the Utah National Guard’s 97th Troop Command and Homeland Response Force activated to assist Box Elder County flood mitigation efforts with 12 personnel to assist in sand-bagging operations.

Ground-breaking ceremony for the new 140,000 square-foot Special Forces Readiness Center at Camp Williams, Oct. 17. The facility will serve as the administrative building, classroom building, main training and operations space for the 19th Special Forces Group Headquarters and 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).
AIR
UTANG Organizational Chart

The Adjutant General Commanding General

Assistant Adjutant General Air

151st Air Refueling Wing

151st Operations Group

151st Operations Support Squadron

151st Maintenance Group

151st Maintenance Squadron

151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

151st Mission Support Group

151st Civil Engineering Squadron

151st Logistics Readiness Squadron

151st Medical Group

151st Medical Group Detachment 1

151st Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Group

169th Intelligence Squadron

151st Intelligence Support Squadron

109th Air Control Squadron

151st Maintenance Operations Flight

151st Security Forces Squadron

151st Force Support Squadron

151st Communications Flight

130th Engineering Installation Squadron
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. 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.

A significant Joint Force Headquarters leadership event occurred when Col. Darwin Craig replaced Brig. Gen. Kenneth L. Gammon as Director of Joint Staff. Gammon retired after 32 years of service to the Utah Air National Guard.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the local chapter of the Air Force Association hosted a formal celebration honoring the 70th Anniversary of the Utah Air National Guard. More than 450 military and civilian guests attended the event, held in downtown Salt Lake City. Guest speakers included fitness expert Tony Horton and Air Force POW (Ret.) Lt. Col. Jay Hess.

Also in the spring, Gen. Stephen W. Wilson, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, visited with Utah Air National Guardsmen at the National Ability Center in Park City. Wilson and his wife, Nancy, joined Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, Utah National Guard adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, Utah Air National Guard commander, as well as a dozen Airmen for lunch and discussion of local and Air Force-wide issues and initiatives. Later that afternoon, the Wilsons spent time with members of the 151st Operations Group and their spouses on the adaptive archery course.

More than 20 Utah Air and Army National Guardsmen traveled to Washington, D.C., to deliver the State-of-the-State address to National Guard Bureau senior leaders. The group briefed the Air National Guard Readiness Center Commander, Brig. Gen. Steven Nordhaus, on important milestones, innovation, accomplishments and challenges.

Throughout the year, the Utah Air National Guard assisted with various aspects of the State Partnership Program, to include African Lion, an annually scheduled, bilateral, U.S.-and-Moroccan-sponsored exercise designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of African partner nation (APN) tactics, techniques and procedures. Joint Force Headquarters also assisted in hosting three senior Royal Moroccan Armed Forces officers on base and for a tour of the National Ability Center.

In September, Joint Force Headquarters hosted Congressman Chris Stewart for a base tour and mission capabilities brief. Brig. Gen. Burckle and Utah Governor Gary R. Herbert also met with Air Force Chief of Staff David L. Goldfein to discuss the unique capabilities Utah brings to the fight.

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.

Above: A Utah Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker prepares to take off during annual training in Alpena, Mich.
The 151st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) maintained a high-operational tempo throughout Fiscal Year 17, flying the KC-135 Stratotanker in support of operations throughout the world. By providing aeromedical evacuation, airlift, and refueling resources, the ARW’s tanker asset greatly enhances U.S. Strategic Command’s capability to conduct global combat and reconnaissance operations to detect and deter strategic threats against the U.S. and its allies. The Air Guard employs three missions: a state mission working for the governor; a federal mission operating all over the world; and a nuclear deterrence mission, which is intended to prevent an attack on the U.S. by threatening potential attackers with nuclear annihilation in retaliation.

The 151st ARW capabilities originate from four tasking requirements: flying the KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft, which provides the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force; conducting tactical command and control through the 109th Air Control Squadron, which includes carrying out remote air communication to coordinate ground-to-air strikes on the enemy; installing cyberinfrastructure through the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS), which supports the most vulnerable components of communication by laying hard-wired cable to guarantee security; and intelligence production through the 151st Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG), which uses linguists to gather information in a foreign language and translate it into real-time missions. The ARW’s response is generated from three major commands which serve all nine of the U.S. combatant commanders: Air Mobility Command for the KC-135 aircraft, Air Combat Command for the 151st ISRG and the 109th ACS, and Air Force Space Command for 130th EIS.

Through the State Partnership Program, the ARW continued to foster its cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with its partner country of Morocco, cultivating a relationship that enhances influence, promotes access, and helps train National Guard members for missions across the globe. In April, 48 personnel from the 151st Medical Group traveled to Morocco in support of the annual exercise African Lion, a humanitarian, civil-assistance mission sponsored by AFRICOM and the Marine Corps. During the weeklong event, Airmen conducted six clinics in several rural areas of the country, bringing much-needed medical and dental services to more than 5,500 people in villages around the city of Tata.

Diverting attention away from 2016’s Nuclear Operational Readiness Exercise, the 151st ARW set its focus on a new battle rhythm of domestic operations. With this in mind, the ARW was able to maintain a strong emphasis on readiness by building relationships with its Guard families and community partners, while supporting a consistently high-tempo, conventional-warfare mission. Wingman Day was a tremendous success with a solid-messaging campaign focused on our Guard families’ home readiness, the state mission, and domestic responsibilities.

The Air Force encouraged a cultural transformation this year with the intent to increase innovative actions and decrease directive regulations. This transformation empowered the lowest levels to make an institutional change by promoting best practices while concentrating on values, mission, and results. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force thus shifted the inspection-ready focus of the Air Force to one of self-assessment, acknowledgment of, and encouragement for deliberate non-compliance with outdated instructions and regulations. Consequently, the number of Utah Air National Guard members attending career-development courses tripled as the ARW stressed the importance of such programs. Maintaining readiness in a rapidly changing world requires the support of the community and families, dedication to our nation, technical expertise, and our remarkable Airmen.
Under the command of Lt. Col. Leon McGuire, the 109th Air Control Squadron “Warlocks” logged another busy year of firsts while preparing for two pivotal conventional events scheduled to take place in Fiscal Year 2018: converting to a new weapons system and mobilizing for a six-month deployment in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Freedom Sentinel.

The Warlocks participated in numerous exercises and training events as they prepared to support the Air Force’s conventional mission of tactical command and control battle management operations (C2BMO). The 109th ACS has six specific, core tasks they conduct on behalf of the supported theater commander: surveillance, combat identification, battle management, weapons control, air-space management, and data-link management.

In preparation for potential involvement in the Pacific Theater, the 109th ACS, for the first time, participated in exercises Sentry Aloha in Hawaii and Key Resolve in South Korea. Missions focused on fifth generation fighter integration of F-22s and F-35s, as well as command and control of integrated, air-missile defense. Both exercises provided senior leaders exposure to rapid-battle-management decision making on behalf of the air operations center.

Throughout the year, the 109th ACS provided experienced operators and cyber technicians to air-control squadrons in U.S. Central Command areas of operation in support of Inherent Resolve and Freedom Sentinel. 109th Airmen filled critical, short-notice, deployment shortfalls for both active duty and Air National Guard air-control squadrons. These members returned with valuable experiences that will help prepare the 109th for upcoming deployments.

In July of 2017, the 109th ACS participated in its first ever, Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Red Flag is the Air Force’s premier, live-fly exercise designed to maximize the combat readiness, capability and survivability of participating units by providing realistic training in a combined air, ground, and electronic-threat environment. Over the course of 24 days, the Warlocks provided command and control of joint and coalition forces for 132 aircraft flying 1,351 sorties. Capt. Brandon Nelson, Capt. Steven Gines, and Senior Airman Ben Jones were selected as superior performers by the Red Flag staff.

In August, many Warlocks experienced their first field-deployment exercise in a realistic environment as they conducted training on deployed-radar capability. More than 50 Airmen traveled to Wendover Airfield to accomplish surveillance and combat-identification capabilities using an AN/TPS-75, the U.S. Air Force’s primary transportable Aerospace Control and Warning radar. This opportunity also afforded Airmen a chance to train on survival and operations in field conditions.

Finishing off the year, the 109th ACS hosted more than 50 World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans and paid tribute to their service by sending them off to Washington, D.C., on the last Honor Flight event of the year.
Under the command of Lt. Col. G. Chris Buckner, the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS), assigned to the Air Force Space Command, continues 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.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the 130th EIS deployed 26 personnel for seven months as the lead EIS for Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation 15. While deployed, the 130th Airmen engineered 30 projects at three locations, serving Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and NATO allies. In addition, 130th EIS teams performed 12 installation projects throughout eight countries in the Middle East, providing Combatant Commands the ability to put bombs on target and providing critical cyber support to the U.S. Central Command mission.

As part of the nuclear mission, the 130th EIS worked jointly with 15 other EISs and committed 1,003 man-days to support the installation of cyber infrastructure for the new $1.2 billion Strategic Command (STRATCOM) command-and-control facility. This project, when completed, will enhance U.S. STRATCOM’s ability to meet its mission to employ tailored nuclear, cyber, space, global strike, joint-electronic warfare, missile defense, and intelligence capabilities to deter aggression, decisively respond if deterrence fails, assure allies, shape adversary behavior, defeat terror, and define the force of the future.

As part of the Utah Air National Guard’s domestic mission, the 130th EIS was tasked with providing communication support for national emergencies. To aid in this effort, the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) team participated in two joint, Homeland Response Force exercises.

In addition, the 130th EIS performed cyber infrastructure work throughout the country and the world, including replacing a tower and antenna for the Oregon Air National Guard in Portland, which enabled and provided critical, communication capability for F-15 aircraft while over water; installing communication infrastructure for the standup of the 224 Cyberspace Operations Squadron’s Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, enabling them to tackle the ever-changing cyber security threats; and replacing and upgrading the Air Traffic Control and Landing system at Aviano Air Force Base, Italy, to support safe-flying operations.

The 130th EIS was also home to some outstanding Airmen this year, including two Airman Leadership School John Levitow Award winners, Senior Airman Michael Perez and Senior Airman Brandon Olsen, who were the distinguished graduates from their respective classes at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, and Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

The unit’s active Key Volunteer program, led by Melissa Wood, also provided monthly activities for families, including a Halloween party, a Christmas party, a game night, and several craft nights. These events helped build comradery amongst members, families and leadership.

2017 was a year of transformation for the 130th EIS team as unit commander, Lt. Col. Dustin Carroll, deployed and moved to a position with the State Partnership Program, while Lt. Col. G. Chris Buckner returned to the 130th and assumed command of the 108-member squadron in October.
The organization formerly known as the 169th Intelligence Squadron transitioned to the 151st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group in 2017. Under the command of Lt. Col. Troy Drennan, the 151st ISRG consists of a headquarters element, the 169th Intelligence Squadron, and the new 151st Intelligence Support Squadron. Drennan, the former 169th IS commander, was appointed as the 151st ISRG commander, while Lt. Col. Darrin “Jake” Ray became the 169th IS commander, and Maj. Jason Moffat became the 151st ISS commander. This transition capped off more than a decade’s worth of attempts to grow the organization to the group level and has served to provide the ISR mission within the Utah Air National Guard increased visibility and advocacy within the larger ISR community.

Even though the 151st ISRG officially established in March, Drennan did not take command until July due to his attending the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., for most of the year. Drennan is the first UTANG officer to attend the Air War College in 21 years. While he was glad to return home, he brought with him a wealth of contacts, perspective, and knowledge gained at Maxwell AFB.

The 151st ISRG took a substantial step toward consolidating all group activities within the compound around building 302 when a major remodeling project was completed in January. This work converted what had been an open bay for the old SENIOR SCOUT shelter into a state-of-the-art Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) operations floor, with a second floor hosting a server room and training area.

Shortly after the remodel was finished, 151st ISS members conducted a “self-help” move of the group’s $40 million DCGS weapons system from its old home in a temporary facility to the new operations floor in building 302. Preparatory work for the move included installing a new cassette-based fiber distribution system and terminating more than 260 fiber lines. Due to the extensive planning and high-quality work completed by the ISS, after the weapons system was turned back on, the only fix that had to be made was re-terminating a single-fiber cable.

The 169th IS emerged as an innovative leader in the effort to utilize “Operations Incidental to Training” to fill the dual purposes of increasing the technical expertise of its operators while also developing new ways to provide intelligence products to its customers. The 169th IS members have received recognition from high-level officials within the Department of Defense and the wider national intelligence community as they explore new ways to provide much-needed, linguistic support to ongoing intelligence efforts. Over the last year, the men and women of the 169th IS supported 365 intelligence missions for a total of 6,400 hours and contributed to nearly 2,300 intelligence reports in support of the warfighter and national-decision makers.