ON THE COVER

Chief Warrant Officer Chris Bradford co-pilots a Black Hawk over the Dollar Ridge Fire near Strawberry Reservoir in Duchesne County.
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.

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.

Utah National Guard

As I reflect on the year 2018, I am reminded of just how critical a well-prepared military is to the peace and prosperity of our citizens. We live in a time of unprecedented electronic connectivity, while at the same time, we are seeing more emotional disconnection as a society. Intelligent conversation about differences has evolved into open hostility against those who do not share our views on social issues. As Americans, this should concern us all. As American Warriors, we should take note of it and ensure that we fulfill our obligation to protect and defend those Constitutional rights of security, safety, and of free speech for all of our citizens, whether we agree with them or not. As an organization, we exist for one purpose: to deter, and if necessary, defeat the enemies of the United States. We exist to protect our citizens, and what hurts one, hurts all. With this in mind, we should plan diligently to be ready as individuals and as units should our nation need to call upon us to defend our borders and our way of life. In our communities, we should provide a stable example of what a Citizen Soldier or Airmen should be. Both in and out of uniform, we represent the United States and should act with professionalism and dignity.

This past year has seen some tremendous opportunities unfold. As one of 11 states that have shown great potential for future growth, the Utah National Guard will expand by 600 positions over the next few years. This is in direct relation to your superior performance over a sustained period of time. Our performance and our reputation for excellence continues to define us as an organization.

MESSAGE FROM THE TAG

As I reflect on the year 2018, I am reminded of just how critical a well-prepared military is to the peace and prosperity of our citizens. We live in a time of unprecedented electronic connectivity, while at the same time, we are seeing more emotional disconnection as a society. Intelligent conversation about differences has evolved into open hostility against those who do not share our views on social issues. As Americans, this should concern us all. As American Warriors, we should take note of it and ensure that we fulfill our obligation to protect and defend those Constitutional rights of security, safety, and of free speech for all of our citizens, whether we agree with them or not. As an organization, we exist for one purpose: to deter, and if necessary, defeat the enemies of the United States. We exist to protect our citizens, and what hurts one, hurts all. With this in mind, we should plan diligently to be ready as individuals and as units should our nation need to call upon us to defend our borders and our way of life. In our communities, we should provide a stable example of what a Citizen Soldier or Airmen should be. Both in and out of uniform, we represent the United States and should act with professionalism and dignity.

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COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ERIC ANDERSON

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*Annual Training (AT)
*Inactive Duty Training (IDT)
*Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS)
### Personnel and Employee Distribution - 2018 Fiscal Year

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<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 (M-DAY)</th>
<th>Active Guard Personnel (AGR)</th>
<th>Federal Technicians</th>
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The Utah National Guard is proud to be a member of the more than 29 counties throughout Utah in which its 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 the events they support.

In 2018 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, Stadium of Fire, Little Warriors Camp, Flag Day, Pioneer Day, college football games, Freedom Academy, and Warriors Over the Wasatch Airshow at Hill Air Force Base. 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.

Top to bottom: The 23rd Army Band performs during Stadium of Fire celebration at LaVell Edwards Stadium at BYU July 4. A 2018 Honor Flight Event, hosted by the 151st Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Group, Utah Air National Guard members and volunteers proudly escort WWII and Korean War Veterans as they depart for a memorial trip to Washington, D.C., to honor their service and sacrifice. Utah National Guard Soldiers participate in the flag ceremony during the Ute Stampede in Nephi, Utah July 14. Utah National Guard members assist the local community at the Spanish Fork Flag Retirement Ceremony July 17.
The Fort Douglas Military Museum preserves and shares the rich military history of Utah and Fort Douglas. The museum accomplishes this mission through exhibits, tours, programming and public events. Operations and programming are heavily supported through partnerships between the Utah National Guard and the Fort Douglas Military Museum Association (a nonprofit organization). The museum cares for the state’s military artifact collection alongside a vast archive of material and a specialized military and western history library catalogue.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, the museum took part in the Utah World War I Commission. The museum has supported numerous projects commemorating WWI including Memorial Day services at the Fort Douglas Post Cemetery; an extensive exhibit of uniforms, equipment and personal items; an in-depth exhibition of period posters; and served as a backdrop to several community programs.

The museum completed installation of a display showcasing a selection of Sen. Jake Garn’s Astronaut memorabilia including his space suit on display in the lobby of the Utah Guard’s E.J. Garn Armory, as part of its grand re-opening. For the 50-year release of The Devil’s Brigade, a film about the First Special Forces, the museum marked the occasion with a screening and presentation featuring insights from many of the Utah Guard’s 19th Special Forces who were extras during production at Camp Williams.

The museum played a pivotal role in the re-unveiling of the USS Utah bell at the University of Utah Naval ROTC on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day.

The museum hosts a wide range of tours for the general public from schools to scouts, civic to special interests, military to veterans. The museum serves as a meeting place for historical, military, and other community groups to come together in an exchange of ideas and ideals. Visitation continues to increase.

Long-time Museum and Historical Collections Curator Beau James Burgess was selected as the new museum director. Burgess has an extensive background in museums, public history and visual arts. Leadership also saw changes in oversight with the retirement of Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack and the promotion of Brig. Gen. Tyler B. Smith.

The museum is located at 32 Potter Street in Salt Lake City within the Fort Douglas National Historic Landmark and District. Visiting hours are noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free. For more information, visit fortgarn.org.

Top down: During the annual Legislative session, the museum took part in Museum Day on the Hill. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, museum staff and volunteers highlighted artifacts from the museum’s collections. Fort Douglas Military Museum completed installation of a display showcasing a selection of Sen. Jake Garn’s astronaut memorabilia, including his space suit, on display in the lobby of the Utah Guard’s E. J. (Jake) Garn Armory in West Jordan, Utah, as part of its grand re-opening. A thrilled Vere Gardner, 95 1/2 years young, Pearl Harbor survivor and USS Salt Lake City crew member, reunites with the flag he fought under at the Battle of Komandorski Island during World War II (1943). Gardner dropped into the museum one afternoon and shared his war stories with staff and visitors. The flag and a model of the USS Salt Lake City are on display at the Fort Douglas Military Museum.
Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen took part in the annual Governor’s Day festivities at Camp Williams, Sept. 15.

The ceremony kicked-off with a 19-volley cannon salute and a helicopter flyover in honor of Gov. Gary R. Herbert, commander in chief of the Utah National Guard. The event also allowed Herbert to speak directly to more than 7,000 Soldiers and Airmen under his command.

He reflected on suicide prevention during Governor’s Day and reminded the service members of the importance of not only physical health, but also mental health.

“There’s no shame in seeking medical help for your physical injuries so that you can return to full service in your unit,” said Herbert. “I worry however, that we are sometimes reluctant to think the same way about emotional stress and emotional injuries. For one thing, because we can’t see them as easily as we can a physical injury, sometimes we question the reality of emotional or mental illness. But they are very real.”

Herbert further pointed out that emotional challenges are more deadly to our Soldiers than physical injury, with an average of 22 veterans committing suicide each day.

“We lose far more of our Soldiers to suicide than to combat or accidents.”

He outlined several programs in place to help service members, like Ready and Resilient, the Army’s program for strengthening personal and unit readiness.

Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton, the adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, reiterated the concern and care each service member can contribute to.

“May we make a silent promise to keep the faith with our battle buddies and our wingmen,” said Burton. “May we be...
strong for one another, and unashamedly rush to the aid of those in need. May we remember those who have suffered grievous physical wounds in the defense of liberty, and may we never forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice within our formations so that we might live in freedom.”

After the pass in review, attendees participated in a variety of activities to include children’s games, food vendors and a car show.

Kristi Grooms, a family member who has been coming to Governor’s Day since she was a young girl watching her father on the parade field, now brings her children to enjoy the festivities.

“It’s just fun for the families to feel a little bit more a part of all the military stuff and be part of the pomp and circumstance,” said Grooms. “We always love the parade because we always like looking for our service members.”

Additionally, booths were set up to assist service members in finding programs to help them and their families in their specific needs.

“Our primary mission is to help civilians or anyone who has served in the military and their spouses, with obtaining professional licenses or professional certifications,” said Thomas Paul, Utah Department of Workforce Services Accelerated Credentialing to Employment representative. “We are very flexible with other things that we can assist them with regarding education. We have two goals, to support the troops that are here, and help them navigate through everything the ACE program does.”

Governor’s Day fulfilled many purposes by allowing the governor to personally review the Soldiers and Airmen under his state command, hold a family day for the Soldiers, Airmen and their families, and provide service members with information about services to aid them and their families.

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 57th 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 Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler (posthumous), Hon. Col. Tage Flint, Mayor Carmen Freeman, Goldman Sachs (corporate award), First Lady Jeanette Herbert, Chief Master Sgt. (retired) Denise Jelinski-Hall, and Mrs. Noelle Pikus Pace.

In the first week of August, the corps helped sponsor the 57th 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 COLONEL CORPS OF UTAH - Community Leaders Support Guard**

**Hon Col Jerry R. Acton**  
**Hon Col Scott L. Anderson**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Dallen S. Attack**  
**Hon Col Dwight L. Baldwin**  
**Hon Col Eugene W. Banks**  
**Hon Col Michael Barnes**  
**Hon Col Lane Beattie**  
**Hon Col George A. Becker**  
**Hon Col Mark Bunch**  
**Brig Gen Christine Burdick**  
**Hon Col Joseph C. Burgess**  
**Maj Gen Jefferson S. Burton**  
**Hon Col Kenneth Burton**  
**Hon Col John E. Cameron**  
**Hon Col Kent A. Cameron**  
**Hon Col James E. Charnholm**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Ronald E. Chytraus**  
**Hon Col Howard S. Clark**  
**Hon Col Sheryl Cox**  
**Hon Col Bart O. Davis**  
**Hon Col Gerald “Skip” Dayres**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Ralph L. Dewsnup**  
**Hon Col Michael S. Drury**  
**Hon Col Raymond J. Etcheverry**  
**Hon Col David P. Felt**  
**Hon Col Kelvin G. Findlay**  
**Brig Gen Thomas Fisher**  
**Hon Col Tage J. Flint**  
**Brig Gen David R. Fountain**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Bruce C. Frandsen**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Melvin V. Frandsen**  
**Hon Col William C. French**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Kenneth Gammon**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) E. J. “Jake” Garn**  
**Hon Col Mary Ann Garner**  
**Hon Col Brian Garrett**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Stanley J. Gordon**  
**Hon Col Ron Greenleaf**  
**Hon Col Myrna T. Griffone**  
**Hon Col David F. Gunn**  
**Maj Gen (Ret) John M. Hafen**  
**Hon Col John L. Hansen**  
**Hon Col Gary R. Harter**  
**Hon Col John K. Haws**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Jon C. Heaton**  
**Hon Col Ronald E. Henrikson**  
**Honorable Gary R. Herbert**  
**Hon Col Duane C. Hill**  
**Hon Col Paul W. Hitzelberger**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) David Hooper**  
**Honorable Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.**  
**Hon Col D. Arlo Johnson**  
**Hon Col Dennis F. Johnson**  
**Hon Col Fred P. Lampropoulos**  
**Hon Col Kurt L. Larsen**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) James B. Lee**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Michael R. Liechty**  
**Hon Col Richard K. Linton**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Larry Lunt**  
**Hon Col Dennis N. McFall**  
**Hon Col D. Kent Michie**  
**Maj Gen (Ret) James M. Miller**  
**Hon Col June M. Morris**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) David W. Noall**  
**Hon Col Michael J. Norton**  
**Hon Col Don L. Peterson**  
**Hon Col Raymond Peterson**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Val L. Peterson**  
**Hon Col Taft E. Price**  
**Hon Col Sterling S. Poulsen**  
**Hon Col L. Richard Raybold**  
**Hon Col J. Bruce Reading**  
**Hon Col Jason B. Reading**  
**Hon Col N. Scott Reading**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Lyle M. Rich**  
**Hon Col Lon R. Richardson, Jr.**  
**Hon Col Lynn V. Ritchie**  
**Hon Col Kim Robinson**  
**Hon Col Weston R. Saunders**  
**Hon Col Antonio L. Savoca**  
**Brig Gen Lawrence A. Schmidt**  
**Hon Col Patrick A. Shea**  
**Hon Col Robert Simmons**  
**Hon Col Dell K. Smith**  
**Hon Col Robert L. Stayner**  
**Hon Col Paul Swenson**  
**Maj Gen (Ret) Brian L. Tarbet**  
**Hon Col Reuterder Tillmann**  
**Hon Col Steven K. Tucker**  
**Hon Col Rethan A. Wade**  

**Hon Col Kip Wadsworth**  
**Hon Col M. Walker Wallace**  
**Hon Col Paul M. Warner**  
**Hon Col Steven R. Watt**  
**Hon Col R. Kim Watts**  
**Hon Col Dolores Wheeler**  
**Hon Col Paul Whitehead**  
**Hon Col Edward M. Wills**  
**Maj Gen (Ret) Patrick D. Wilson**  
**Hon Col David Winberg**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) Brent E. Winger**  
**Hon Col Andrew M. Wood**  
**Hon Col Richard Workman**  
**Hon Col Wallace A. Wright**  
**Hon Col Dale O. Zabriskie**  

**Eminent Members:**  
**Hon Col Lew’s Billings**  
**Hon Col Charles W. Dahquist, II**  
**Hon Col Robert H. Garfield**  
**Hon Col Jake W. Garn**  
**Hon Col Peter C. Knudsen**  
**Brig Gen (Ret) James G. Martin**  
**Hon Col Vickie L. McColl**  
**Hon Col Robert Piedmonte**  
**Hon Col Harris Simmons**  
**Brig Gen Robert S. Voyles**
The annual Veterans Day Concert is a long-standing event that honors veterans with music, singing and video spotlights.

The concert is free to the public and features the 23rd Army Band and a 690-voice Granite School District high school, combined choir. This year the concert moved from previous year’s location of the Huntsman Center at the University of Utah, to the Tabernacle at Temple Square. The new venue gave the concert new life with incredible acoustics. The Tabernacle's design is well-suited for musical performances and that design enhanced both the choir and band enhancing the quality of the concert.

This year's theme of "Valor" made for a poignant program, featuring spotlights focusing on members of Utah's 19th Special Forces Group. The first spotlight featured Maj. Tyler Jensen, who was awarded the Silver Star for acts of Valor while serving in Afghanistan.

“The work is not about the awards and it’s not about the recognition,” said Jensen as he introduced the concept of Valor. “It’s about people. You start serving those brothers-in-arms next to you and worrying about their safety.”

The next spotlight highlighted Sgt. 1st Class Caleb Brewer. Brewer suffered a catastrophic injury when he stepped on a pressure-plate, improvised-explosive device while serving in Afghanistan. He lost both legs as a result of the blast, but he never lost his perseverance and positive attitude.

“I believe people can be forged through adversity. I think that it depends on how your outlook on life is, and you can use adversity to become a stronger person,” said Brewer in the interview.

Brewer works as a CrossFit instructor specializing in helping people who have also lost limbs. He is a perfect example of how self-sacrifice and service can make you a better person.

The spotlights concluded with an emotional tribute to Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler, who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan. Butler’s parents gave a powerful testament to what kind of man he was.

“Aaron was an example of living a passionate life. He gave his all in everything he did and would encourage others to seek out what they wanted most in their lives and to go after it with everything they had.”

Butler’s spotlight ended with an emotional playing of Taps to pay respect to him and other service members who gave their lives for their country.

The concert was an overwhelming success and powerfully honored those who have taken time away from their families to serve their country. The spotlights can be viewed on YouTube. Plan on attending next year; it’s a powerful way to pay respect to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms we all enjoy.
Serving as the headquarters for the Utah Army and Air National Guard, Joint Forces Headquarters consists of senior National Guard state leadership and joint directorates that advise and support the Utah governor, as well as the U.S. president 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.

During February drill, JFHQ experienced a change in leadership, when Maj. Gloria Parks relinquished command to Maj. Nancy Pettit. Pettit brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience that will allow the unit to continue supporting its state and federal missions. Another significant leadership change occurred with the retirement of Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack from his position as assistant adjutant general, which he served honorably in for six years. Atack relinquished the AAG responsibilities to Col. (P) Tyler Smith, who on August 1, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. In his new role as AAG, Brig. Gen. Smith oversees six major subordinate commands in the Utah Army National Guard, and is second in command of the Utah National Guard. The men and women of JFHQ and the Utah National Guard wish Parks and Atack well in their future endeavors.

JFHQ participated in the joint exercise Yama Sakura during the month of December, which involved several components of the U.S. Armed Forces as well as countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The JFHQ officers and noncommissioned officers that participated in this major exercise received numerous accolades for their performance, and represented the Utah National Guard in a positive light. The Soldiers that comprise JFHQ continue to train for when called upon to respond to any federal and state mission.

Top down: Col. (P) Tyler Smith is promoted to the rank of brigadier general, as his son Bronson, grandson Clayson, wife Maurnie, and granddaughter Marley pin on his new rank.
Brig. Gen. Dallen Atack relinquishes command to Col. (P) Tyler Smith, the incoming assistant adjutant general.
Group photo with members of Joint Force Headquarters and their Yama Sakura counterparts.
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Evan Ahlborn (#37) and Sgt. Maj. Shawn Blanke from the Utah Guard Biathlon Team compete in the opening sprint event at the Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships in Soldier Hollow, Utah, Feb. 25, 2018.

The 65th Field Artillery Battalion deployed 130 Soldiers to the Middle East March 26, 2018.


Chief Warrant Officer Chris Bradford co-pilots a Black Hawk over the Dollar Ridge Fire near Strawberry Reservoir in Duchesne County, two Black Hawks flew for 18 days, dropping 800 buckets of water with approximately 369,600 gallons of water.

A Civil Support Team member monitors the air at the base of a lava flow from the Kilauea volcano, June 1.
Aviation crew rescues a 22-year-old injured hiker from a dark canyon in the Uintah mountains by hoisting him onto the Black Hawk about 11 p.m. Oct. 18, 2017. Additionally, a male climber dangled on the rock wall, more than 500 feet from the ground, and a female climber on top of a 600-foot cliff were hoisted to safety after midnight in Maple Canyon, Sanpete County Sept. 15, 2018.

Members of 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation say goodbye to family and friends at the Army Aviation Support Facility in West Jordan June 15, 2018.


The 1457th Engineer Battalion loses the 118th Sapper Company and the 624th Engineer Company was reflagged as the 116th Engineer Vertical Construction Company carrying on its lineage.

The 174th Cyber Protection Team unfurls its flag Nov. 4, 2017.
Over the past couple of decades, the National Guard has transitioned from a strategic reserve force to an operational reserve force with an ever increasing demand for trained, properly equipped, and ready forces. One doesn’t have to look beyond the Utah Army National Guard to be convinced of that claim. The Utah Army National Guard is engaged in many missions across the globe and in Utah that range from combat operations to search-and-rescue and wildfire response. This year we mobilized and deployed 531 Soldiers to participate in operations globally that support the war effort. Soldiers are operating in various countries throughout the Middle East and other areas maintaining the superior reputation of the Utah Army National Guard.

The depth of experience and expertise found in the Utah Army National Guard is second to none. In addition to wartime missions, 834 Soldiers participated in overseas exercises, training events, and international exchanges in 42 different countries. Deployments continue with no signs of slowing down. The current operational tempo and emerging threats underscores our duty to ensure readiness remains our number one priority.

The state mission load was extremely busy this year. The fire season kept Black Hawk crews busy, dropping 1,144 Bambi buckets on various fires throughout the state. Black Hawk search-and-rescue missions saved stranded climbers in Maple Canyon, rescued an injured hiker in the Uintahs and assisted in the recovery of a downed aircraft near Elko, Nev. The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Team responded to several incidents continuing to provide a vital capability to the governor and first responders of the state of Utah. The support given by the Utah Army National Guard epitomizes the value of the citizen Soldier where communities are benefited by the service of women and men in uniform.

The Utah Army National Guard is a community-based organization. With a membership of more than 5,500 Soldiers, it utilizes armories, airports and training sites in 24-strategic locations throughout the state. The organization 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 have been deployed in support of combat operations.

High marks are the standard for the Utah Army National Guard in every critical metric used by National Guard Bureau in assessing the 54 states and territories. Achieving these results demonstrates the professionalism and dedication of its members. This organization provides tremendous opportunity for young people to be a part of something larger than themselves where they can learn job skills, earn a college education, and gain valuable life experiences. Membership means living the Army Values and being affiliated with an organization that is committed to excellence, providing a climate where all enjoy mutual respect and dignity while serving this great nation and the communities in which we live and love.
The 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) actively participated in training events and deployed troops around the world during Fiscal Year 2018.

In order to meet these demanding requirements the 19th SFG (A) reorganized into an Army Special Operations Task Force 19. ARSOTF19 is a combination of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Group Special Troops Company. Support elements of the ARSOTF include a Signals Detachment, Military Intelligence Detachment, Chemical Detachment, Advanced Skills Detachment, and the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Detachment. In October of 2017, the group commander was requested by the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) commanding general to have ARSOTF19 participate in War Fighter exercise 18-4 as a validation event for future contingency operations. With an abnormally short window to prepare, the unit mobilized ARSOTF19 to Fort Bragg, NC in March 2018. The ability of ARSOTF19 to rapidly deploy and establish a Forward Operating Base demonstrated the capabilities of the 19th SFG(A).

The 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) conducted state and national missions worldwide this year in support of Special Operations Command, U.S. Ambassadors, state governments, and other governmental agencies receiving noteworthy accolades for their contributions to state and national security priorities. The 1-19th SFG(A) remained fully engaged throughout the year participating in numerous overseas missions including deployments to Afghanistan in support of Operation Resolute Support; Bahrain in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield; Germany to participate in a CTC-JMRC rotation, Thailand to conduct Exercise Baker Torch and Balance Torch; Republic of Korea in support of the Special Operations Command-Korea Rotational Company; Republic of Philippines to conduct Exercises Balance Piston and Baker Piston; and Morocco in support of “Atlas Hunters.”

The 19th SFG(A) also participated in many stateside exercises to include War Fighter at Fort Bragg, N.C., and exercise SOMTC while also conducting a Special Forces Basic Combat Course—Support.

Members of the 1-19th SFG(A) were honored in receiving four Silver Stars, five Bronze Star Medals with Valor Device, 23 Bronze Star Medals for service, five Army Commendation Medals with Valor Device, and 18 Purple Heart Medals from their actions in Afghanistan. Presented by the Honorable Governor Gary Herbert on March 18, these awards recognized the dedication, bravery, and sacrifice of the men of 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A) during their rotation to Afghanistan.

The Group Support Battalion, 19th SFG(A) actively supported special operations across the country and around the world. GSB’s excellent year of training included battalion, field-training exercises at Camp Williams, Utah. The Utah Test and Training Range and ultimately culminated with the deployment of the Battalion to the Sustainment Training Center in Camp Dodge, Iowa for Annual Training.

The 19th SFG (A), headquartered at Camp Williams, Utah is spread throughout the nation and comprised of nine states and elements in California, Colorado, Montana, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia. The Group Command Team remained the same this year with Col. Larry Henry, Command Chief Warrant Officer 5 York Kleinhandler, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Belford ensuring the Group is ready to engage our enemies and help win our nation’s wars.
The 65th Field Artillery Brigade conducted a successful training year, deploying and redeploying multiple units, as well as continuing to participate in several training exercises within the continental U.S.

The 65th FAB, “America’s Thunder,” conducted its transfer of authority at AL Minhad Air Base, United Arab Emirates, in May 2018 with the 75th FAB. The 65th FAB has members of its team spread out across Central Command area of responsibility. The 65th FAB Soldiers participated in Bright Star 2018, a multilateral exercise held at Mohamed Naguib military base, Egypt. They also participated in Tropic Thunder exercise in the UAE, and Air and Missile Defense Exercise, in Qatar.

The 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, “Triple Deuce,” focused on individual training and crew and section certifications. In March, each battery conducted individual-weapons training and qualification, as well as crew-served weapons familiarization at Camp Williams. The Triple Deuce conducted Fire Direction Center and Paladin section certifications, focusing on crew-level drills, preparing for its first live fire of the year in April at Dugway Proving Ground. Soldiers were excited to be back in and around the “guns” again as they ramped up for live-fire and annual training. The 222nd FA participated in Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint (FSTJ) 19-1, with the Navy’s 7th Fleet in San Diego, California. They also conducted artillery live-fire tables, convoy training, and unit operations during annual training in June, 2018, at Dugway Proving Ground. After a successful annual training the 222nd FA continued to be busy participating in exercise “Violet Storm,” a joint-live fire with fighter squadrons from Hill Air Force Base.

The 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery “Big Red” planned and executed premobilization training to prepare Echo Battery for its Certification Exercise. Echo Battery deployed in June to the Arabian Peninsula, replacing Delta Battery, 1-145 FA. The 1-145 FA deployed October, 2017.

In March 2018, the 1-145 FA participated in joint training, having participated in Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint with the Navy’s 7th Fleet in San Diego. Soon after the 1-145th FA Soldiers offered Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn their best wishes as he relinquished command of the battalion to Lt. Col. Erick Wiedmeier at the end of Annual Training in May at Camp Williams. In July, the 1-145 FA welcomed home nearly 100 Soldiers from Delta Battery, after their nine-month deployment. In August, the 1-145 FA’s Enhanced Response Force Package staff and decontamination team participated in a Homeland Response Force collective exercise. This exercise demonstrated the battalion’s ability to perform decontamination and command-and-control during homeland response needs.
The 97th Aviation Troop Command year has been highlighted by a surge in operations for all of the units within the command. One of the most notable events was a never-before opportunity to hold the Apache Aircraft Qualification Course in Utah, through the use of a Mobile Training Team. The course graduated nine students (three Utah Army National Guard, five National Guard, and one Active Duty) and flew more than 680 flight hours.

For the units under the command of the 97th AVTC, the 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion deployed to Iraq and has been assigned complex mission assignments indicating the versatility required of future deployments. They are split between five countries and are conducting short-expeditionary deployments to remote locations.

The 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion will deploy spring of 2020, and expects to conduct similar operations assigned as a Task Force Headquarters during that time period. The 1-211th ARB also participated in two National Training Center rotations this year and had high accolades for its outstanding performances. The readiness of these aviation battalions has never been higher.

Detachment 4, C Company, 641st Aviation Battalion (C-12 Aircraft) is deployed to the Horn of Africa and will return in October of 2018. Their deployment is non-conventional deployment where they were intentionally directed to wear civilian clothes for the duration of the rotation, frequently being placed in Temporary Duty Status. These types of changes to their operational-mission set have become the norm and bring an interesting dynamic to the future of aviation operations.

Rear Detachment, 2-211th GSAB has been exceptionally active during the battalion’s absence leading the domestic support operations in firefighting across Utah. Fires this year include Trout Creek Fire, Bald Mountain Fire, Rose Canyon Fire, Coal Hollow Fire, Middle Creek Canyon Fire, Dollar Ridge Fire 1, Dollar Ridge Fire 2, and finally during the last week of the fiscal year, the Camp Williams Fire in the impact area. Additionally, the 1-112th Aviation (Lakota aircraft) unit continues to support drug eradication and assist in emergency management operations throughout Utah.

The 97th AVTC continues to stand ready to deploy its units in both state and federal missions. Aviation in Utah is expected to continue to grow in both force structure and capabilities as it proves to be an asset to the state and nation.
The 97th Troop Command continues to train and stand sentry for our state and nation by leading a major command comprised of units with a wide range of capabilities and two distinct missions: The Homeland Response Force and the Disaster Preparedness Program.

The HRF trains to respond within six hours to natural or man-made disasters in order to save lives and mitigate suffering using the following skill set: urban search and rescue, mass decontamination, and emergency medical care. HRF response elements are supported by communication and security elements, all of which are provided by units throughout the Utah Army and Air National Guard. The HRF participated in training events in Alaska, Idaho, Missouri and Montana involving more than 110 Soldiers and Airmen. Additionally, there were four collective-training events involving more than 2,000 troops, which included a National Guard Bureau-evaluated Deployment Readiness Exercise.

The 23rd Army Band provides music throughout the full spectrum of military operations and instills in our Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens, and promote our national interests at home and abroad. In Fiscal Year 2018, the band continued it’s already stellar reputation by supporting 70 events, with a total of more than one-million listeners through broadcast and live performances.

The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Team continues to keep our communities safe through continuous training and education, building relationships with local and regional partners, and supporting local and regional events. The team is ready year-round to deploy anywhere, and at any time. The team provided 27 stand-by missions to various regional events, 14 unique training events, and seven real-world incidents.

The 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment continues a full schedule of events, supporting 17 training and real-world events throughout the region, while providing National Guard brand management, print and video journalism, and various other graphic design products to support operations.

The 144th Area Support Medical Company continuously hones Soldier skills and patient care in a variety of field settings. This year the unit trained extensively in field settings, while preparing for patient care and transport in a chemically contaminated environment and supported the annual Yama Sakura exercise in Japan.

The 174th Cyber Security Team conducts Defensive Cyberspace Operations on military networks to support mission requirements as identified by DoD or state leadership which may or may not be bounded by simple network enclave boundaries. The area of operations may include portions of many networks, but not the entirety of said networks.

The 653rd Trial Defense Team continues to defend those who defend America and serve as the leader of the western trial defense region, consisting of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. This year the TDT assisted 47 new clients and oversaw six Administrative Separation Boards.

The 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team remains ready to deploy at a moment’s notice to support procurement and contracting operations anywhere around the world, while assisting the Utah National Guard with required contracting actions.
In Fiscal Year 2018, the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade focused its training on its ability to deploy on very short notice. Led by brigade commander Col. Paul Rodgers and Command Sgt. Maj. Tracy Cartwright. Rodgers emphasized the need for every officer and Soldier in the brigade to be proficient in all Army Tasks and Battle Drills.

Training highlights this year included multiple field exercises, four brigade-wide communications exercises, and annual trainings at Camp Williams; Fort Leavenworth, Missouri; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Kenitra, Morocco.

The 204th MEB Headquarters and Headquarters Company focused training on command post operations and finding a balance between agility and survivability. The 204th trained with new equipment—expando-vans and box trucks which connected to each other to form a command post large enough to accommodate the full brigade staff while also retaining ability to move quickly. The culmination of the training was a Warfighter Exercise with the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters at Fort Carson.

The 115th Engineer Facility Detachment spent drill weekends doing premobilization training in deployment to CENTCOM for Area Support Group—Kuwait as a public works element for U.S. facilities in Kuwait. The 115th mobilized in September 2018 for a year-long deployment and reported to Fort Bliss, Texas, for validation before moving overseas.

The 217th Brigade Signal Company supported all units in the brigade with radio and satellite communications. The 217th BSC participated in all brigade-wide, field-training exercises and supported

Staff Sgt. Jasper Hall, a chaplain’s assistant with 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, performs guard duty during Warfighter 18-04 at Fort Carson, Colorado.

HHC, 204th MEB during Warfighter 18-4 with the 4th ID. The 217th BSC’s computer operators pioneered the set up and operation of Mission Partner Environment network that shared the Common Operating Picture with all WFX 18-4 participants.

The 489th Brigade Support Battalion provided logistical support to the 204th MEB and subordinate units, in addition to participating in individual and collective training, providing real-world support for multiple military and civilian events, and supporting the Region VIII Homeland Response Force. Annual training events included the Sustainment Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and the 204th MEB/4th ID combined warfighter exercise.

The 1457th Engineer Battalion provided engineer support and training to the 204th MEB and HRF. Soldiers assigned to the 116th Engineer Construction Company attended search and extraction training in order to participate in the HRF external evaluation. The 116th ECC also trained with Task Force 1 to build relationship with first responders. The 1457th Engineers also participated in WFX 18-4 as an engineer response cell.

The 4th ID Main Command Post Operational Detachment’s major focus was training with the 4th ID. The detachment supported multiple exercises throughout the year at Fort Carson. The MCP-OD Soldiers worked hand-in-hand for their annual training with the 4th ID to outfit the 4th ID headquarters with critical capabilities during the division’s warfighter validation exercise, which certifies division staff for deployment as a tactical headquarters. Utah National Guard Soldiers were awarded the patch of the 4th ID’s shoulder sleeve insignia in place of their 204th MEB patch, April 2, 2018.

The Soldiers of the 204th MEB worked tirelessly pursuing excellence during Fiscal Year 2018, and it continues to live up to the words of the brigade motto: “Solidarity in Purpose.”
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 MI 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 MI deploys in support of state contingencies.

In 2018, the brigade deployed five Utah units supporting real-world operations with 42 Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, 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 supporting Cyber Command (Task Force Echo), and is preparing to mobilize approximately 30 Soldiers in support of the Southwest Border Mission.

In September, the 300th was tasked to provide intelligence support to National Guard Bureau in response to Hurricanes Florence. Ten Soldiers deployed to Washington D.C. to provide much needed support in intelligence analysis and assessment for the Army National Guard Response Center and FEMA.

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 intelligence training support, greatly enhancing overall readiness.

During 2018, Soldiers in the 300th MI maintained proficiency in more than 50 foreign languages, with more than 150 Soldiers performing training in Djibouti, Thailand, Japan, Malta, Morocco, Korea, El Salvador, Mongolia, Ghana, Malaysia, and India to assist as interpreters, translators and intelligence professionals in a variety of Joint-Chiefs-of-Staff military exercises. This continues the 300th MI’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 29th annual Language Conference titled “Defining the Intel-Linguist.” The event was attended by 480 members of the intelligence community. The highlight of the conference was the introduction of the Polyglot Games, a competition where linguists tested their language skills in a variety of real-world scenarios.

In June, 300th MI, hosted the annual military intelligence exercise Panther Strike at Camp Williams, Utah. This year, 695 Soldiers participated from 14 different states as well as 39 soldiers from Canada, 16 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one Australian soldier. The exercise transitioned to a full conventional exercise with a peer-to-peer focus.
The 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute, commanded by Col. Ryan King and Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen, holds national-level recognition as an Institution of Excellence. The 640th RTI produces the highest quality instructors in the U.S. Army. Gen. Stephen Townsend, commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), recognized a 640th RTI instructor, Staff Sgt. Shane Searle from 4th Battalion, 640th RTI, as the TRADOC National Guard Instructor of the Year at an awards ceremony in Fort Eustis, Virginia, in August 2018. This recognition symbolizes Searle’s dedication and competence as an Army instructor and is just one reflection of the quality of leaders produced by the 640th RTI.

Fiscal Year 2018 marked the completion of another triennial TRADOC accreditation cycle. The 1st Battalion (Non-Commissioned Officer Academy), led by its Commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Gale, and 1st Sgt. Garrad Johnston successfully completed its assessment scoring more than 99 percent. The 2nd Battalion (Modular/Signal) commanded by Lt. Col. Reece Roberts and Master Sgt. Kenneth Jansen, received a score of 99.5 percent on its assessment. The 3rd Battalion (Field Artillery), commanded by Lt. Col. Jason Wilde and 1st Sgt. Shaun Harris scored a 95.8 percent assessment. The 4th Battalion (Military Intelligence) commanded by Lt. Col. David Cammack and Master Sgt. Keith Moon received an assessment score of 98.7 percent. These scores were among the best in the nation under newly refined accreditation standards.

The regiment managed more than 162 full-time certified instructors and staff, and taught more than 105 individual courses with multiple phases ranging in length from two to 12 weeks. The Regiment fully implemented both the Master Leader Course and the Joint Fires Observer Course during FY18, and maintained more than 95 percent of its courses during the One Army School System rebalancing efforts. During the 2018 fiscal year, 3,689 students graduated from Military Occupational Specialty and Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Courses. This number reflects 310 Active Army Soldiers, 573 Army Reserve Soldiers, and 2,806 National Guard Soldiers, 504 of which returned directly to Utah National Guard commands. These Soldiers returned to their formations ready and trained to promote and perform their military occupations in the signal, field artillery, and military intelligence fields.

This year marked another year in the Regimental history of excellence. The RTI is prepared to move forward its culture of professionalism, and its drive for individual and organizational progress. “FIRE AND SWORD!” 🇺🇸
Medical Command’s primary mission is to plan, program, provide and sustain force health protection, and medical/dental support to the more than 5,500 Soldiers assigned to Utah Army National Guard. MEDCOM is an organization of 85 medical professionals, staff and administrative support roles. The military occupational specialty 68W combat medic makes up the bulk of the Soldiers assigned to the unit.

MEDCOM received a new command team when Col. David Coates relinquishing command to Col. Charlene Dalto in February. Dalto is assisted by senior enlisted, noncommissioned officer, 1st Sgt. Joey Muramato.

A critical and highly visible mission for MEDCOM is the statewide inoculation of all UTARNG Soldiers with the influenza vaccine. MEDCOM works to have a 100 percent of Soldiers inoculated by end of the first quarter of each fiscal year. This is accomplished by sending mobile 68W teams to units in remote areas to provide immunizations to its Soldiers.

It is not uncommon for MEDCOM to participate in an Overseas Deployment Training Exercise. From April 15-28, service members from MEDCOM fell in with the Royal Moroccan Army Medical Battalion in support of a Humanitarian and Civic Assistance event, one part of a larger exercise for Africa Command’s Exercise African Lion in the nation of Morocco. African Lion is an annually scheduled, bilateral U.S. and Moroccan sponsored exercise designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation’s tactics, techniques and procedures. MEDCOM conducted humanitarian assistance in the form of medical information and training exchange, a joint mission to foster cooperation and share knowledge of medical and dental techniques to further the relationships between the U.S. and Morocco. The services provided to the local populace of Bounaamane and outer lying smaller communities were optometry with the issuance of eye glasses and cataract surgery, E.N.T., internal medicine, general medicine, psychiatry, pediatrics, dermatology and gynecology with ultrasound capability. Dental services provided root canals, fillings, cleanings and extractions. Surgical capability consisting mostly of gall balder removal, hernia repairs and fatty benign tumor removal, with a 14-bed recover area, x-ray, lab tests for blood panels and a pharmacy for medication distribution. Over the course of the HCA event more than 6,000 people were treated and over a thousand tooth extractions were performed.

MEDCOM continues to improve the way it engages with Soldiers and units of the UTARNG, reaching out to organizations and agencies to see how its specific skill sets can be used to serve interests of the state of Utah. MEDCOM is capable of medically responding to short-notice missions requiring rapid deployment of other Utah National Guard units needing medical processing during Soldier Readiness Processing. This has been demonstrated many of times over the course of MEDCOM’s history.

By recruiting high-quality citizens, managing attrition, and working closely with the personnel management sections at the Utah Army National Guard, the mission end-strength resulted in some units achieving more than 120 percent retention. This is the 19th consecutive year of achieving the mission milestone.

The RRB maintained its position as one of the top performing recruiting battalions across the 54 states and territories again this past year not only in recruiting and retention efforts but also in the Recruit Sustainment Program.

The RSP prepares enlistees to successfully complete initial entry training and to integrate into a unit after completing it. The UTARNG RSP was recognized as the top RSP in the nation based on factors like percentage of new recruits achieving honor graduate in training and lowest training loss/failure rate. This is a testament to the determination and dedication of the leadership, cadre and support personnel of the RSP.

With the focus of our demographic changing and becoming more social media savvy, the RRB Marketing Team saw an opportunity to adapt from traditional marketing efforts to one more in touch with today’s generation. The team conducted research and added new team members who were savvy in the social media marketing arena and who came into the organization with fresh ideas on how to tap into the very competitive market it is faced with. The RRB initiated Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages and partnered with influential organizations and leaders in the community to spread its message. Its targeted campaigns were focused on centers of influence through social media platforms such as parents, school leaders, former military members and others who could influence the next generation.

Finally, nothing can replace the effectiveness of the front-line recruiter. Even with a turnover of more than 25 percent of the recruiting force due to attrition, retirements and promotions, the recruiters of this battalion adapted to the challenges and performed exemplary as always. The team possesses a can-do attitude that inspires new and old to strive for the best. This attitude along with a responsive support staff guarantee the Utah Army National Guard will always be at the forefront for the state and the nation.
President Woodrow Wilson created Army Garrison Camp Williams through an executive order on April 24, 1914, and since then Camp Williams has become a prominent training center of choice for many units to prepare for deployments. Because the venues provided by the post facilitate a wide range of training, it has become important to the state of Utah as well as the nation as an important training installation. Over the course of 2018, more than 302,000 personnel received training on Camp Williams through utilization of the ranges, training areas, and facilities. Maintenance work hours performed by Utah Training Center personnel this year totaled 2,300 hours.

In addition to military training, Camp Williams and the Utah Training Center, hosts and supports many significant events on an annual basis. Cyber Shield, Panther Strike and Freedom Academy are held on Camp Williams every year. Civilian youth and young adult groups participate in numerous events through the spring, summer, and fall at Camp Williams. Annually, about 7,000 people from church groups, sports teams, and business groups use the barracks, Leadership Reaction Course, climbing wall, rappel tower, and the swimming pool.

Some other key events hosted this year include Wildland Refresher Fire Training attended by Utah, Nevada, California, and Wyoming fire districts; several events celebrating the Warrant Officers’ 100th Anniversary; the 2018 Chief, National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships which were held at Soldier Hollow and Camp Williams. The culminating event of the year, Governor’s Day, when Gov. Gary Herbert addressed the Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard and conducted a formal pass in review.
The Homeland Response Force continues to provide disaster response for FEMA Region VIII, consisting of Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. The HRF trains to respond within six hours to natural or man-made disasters. Utilizing urban search-and-rescue, mass decontamination, and medical-response elements, supported by communication and security elements, helps the HRF save lives.

This year, the HRF participated in training events in Alaska, Idaho, Missouri, and Montana involving more than 200 Soldiers and Airmen. Additionally, there were four collective-training events involving more than 2,000 troops, including a National Guard Bureau-evaluated Deployment Readiness Exercise that tested the HRF’s ability to rapidly deploy all 587 personnel to a disaster event.

In November, 20 personnel traveled to Idaho Falls, Idaho to participate in a Table Top Exercise. The purpose was to plan for a future disaster-exercise event at the Idaho National Laboratory involving a scenario in which a resulting earthquake would cause one of the reactors to melt-down and disperse large amounts of radiation.

In February, 20 Soldiers and Airmen augmented the Region X, HRF in Alaska. The collective-training event focused on a disaster response in an arctic setting. During the exercise however, a real-world oil spill occurred. HRF personnel were able apply the many years of training to respond and run the initial part of the response until local emergency management crews were on-site.

In March, the HRF sent 20 personnel to support the Montana Vigilant Guard exercise. VG exercises are meant to simulate real-world natural disasters to improve collaboration efforts. This helps with emergency preparation, coordinate response, recovery management, and share state and National Guard resources. For this event, Soldiers and Airmen focused on radiation and hazardous materials training and collapsed structure rescue.

In May, as a prerequisite to an external evaluation, the HRF conducted a Deployment Readiness Exercise and collective-training event. Also, more than 50 Soldiers were sent to Missouri to participate in a Special Focus Exercise. The exercise, New Madrid Seismic Zone, was a multi-agency exercise testing the ability of CBRNE enterprises and first responders to deploy to a simulated 7.7 magnitude earthquake, along the New Madrid Seismic Zone in eastern Missouri. HRF units worked with member of the Missouri National Guard, Task Force 1 (urban search-and-rescue team), and state and local emergency-management agencies.

As the HRF transitions into the upcoming training year, the units will look to increase their knowledge and capabilities by supporting regional and national-training events. Also, culminating of three years of training and preparation, the HRF will validate its craft to the National Guard Bureau, the adjutant general, and Utah’s governor, through an external evaluation. The external evaluation, administered every three years, will test and validate the HRFs ability to provide CBRNE mission command, search and extractions, decontamination and medical-response elements supported by communications and security elements.

Utah Air National Guard’s Fire Department responds to a major fire incident on I-15 with the Oshkosh Striker 3000 Jan. 18, 2018.

Lt. Col. Foster, Maj. Sean Demeter, and Senior Airman Cody Larsen pose while deployed to the Middle East flying combat missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2018. More than a dozen Utah Air National Guard aircrews performed operations at this location through the year.

Below: Moroccan personnel and American military members pose during the Humanitarian Civic Assistance component of Exercise African Lion 2018 in Bounaamane, Morocco.

Over the past year, the Utah Air National Guard continued its proud tradition of extending Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power for America. More than 1,400 Airmen used their expertise to bolster state and federal priorities.

Last fall, the National Abilities Center Board of Directors selected the UTANG as the recipient of the 2017 Military Stewardship Award. Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, UTANG commander, accepted the award on behalf of the entire organization during the annual Saluting Our Heroes luncheon. The award honors a key partner who demonstrates vigorous support for the National Ability Center’s military programs and mission. In December, Joint Force Headquarters leadership participated in the Snowball Express along with local chapters of the Air Force Association and other community partners. Military members greeted local Gold Star families at Salt Lake International Airport on their way to a holiday celebration designed to honor their sacrifice.

In January, members of the UTANG Fire Department, under the leadership of JFHQ’s Fire Chief Todd Allen, were instrumental in extinguishing a major fire in Midvale, after a double-tanker, semitrailer hauling 9,000 gallons of gasoline and 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel overturned on I-15 South. The UTANG Fire Department’s Striker 3000 was deployed in response to the accident. The vehicle can carry up to 3,000 gallons of water and 420 gallons of foam and is typically used to extinguish aircraft fires.

On March 8, Burckle served as keynote speaker for the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs annual Women Veterans event in Salt Lake City. She spoke on the topics of honor, empowerment, and perseverance as a woman in the military.

In April, Utah Army and Air National Guard members traveled to Washington D.C. to deliver the State of the State address to National Guard Bureau senior leaders. The group briefed attendees on important milestones, innovation, accomplishments and challenges.

In May, Burckle unveiled the UTANG Strategic Plan for 2018-2028. The plan included messages from senior leaders, and will serve as a guidepost for the organization for the next decade. The publication elaborates on the UTANG mission, values and goals, which include: cultivating a culture of readiness; sustaining and growing missions; modernizing and recapitalizing on infrastructure; and fostering strategic partnerships.

The UTANG held its annual Wingman Day during June. Wingman Day is a mandatory Air Force initiative that reinforces the four pillars of Comprehensive Airman Fitness -- physical, mental, social and spiritual wellness.

The Utah National Guard Freedom Academy took place in August. Students, nominated by their respective schools, had the opportunity to improve their leadership and teamwork skills by participating in activities, listening to guest speakers, and taking field trips to destinations throughout Salt Lake City.

This summer, Col. Gene Buckner was appointed as the 151st Air Refueling Wing vice wing commander. Lt. Col. Christina Lock was appointed as the new commander of the 151st Mission Support Group. Col. Kurt Davis, JFHQ director of staff was appointed as the 151st Air Refueling Wing commander, effective Oct. 1, 2018.

The UTANG assisted in hosting senior exchange officers from the Royal Moroccan Air Force. In addition to a number of engagements, the officers received a tour of the National Ability Center in Park City, to learn more about military adaptive recreation programs. Following the tour, the exchange officers had the opportunity to participate in an adaptive archery session.

During September drill, the UTANG participated in the annual Governor’s Day event at Camp Williams. Formations marched in the pass-in-review before the governor and military senior leaders, enjoyed music by the 23rd Army Band and various family friendly military displays and information booths.
The 151st Air Refueling Wing continued a high-operational tempo, employing the state mission supporting national emergencies such as Hurricane Irma, federal conventional mission, and the nuclear deterrence mission. The wing continues to foster the State Partnership Program cultivating relationships that build and foster a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with its Moroccan colleagues.

The 151st ARW refocused its attention from 2017 Domestic Operations to a “readiness focus” measuring its readiness through realistic, operational-warfighting exercises, while supporting a consistently high tempo, conventional-warfare mission. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Secretary of Defense directed the focus on Full Spectrum Readiness which includes the ability to deploy a force and demonstrate capabilities in situations in which chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear warfare including terrorism threats may be present. This includes refining the ability to survive and operate while deployed in a contested environment with the appropriate equipment while simultaneously maintaining in-garrison operations.

The 151st ARW focused on innovation and established a third-party phone app for the 151 ARW. The wing app enables the public to communicate between drills. It also put official social media under one umbrella. The app is a great place to gather new ideas. The 151st also acquired patrolling bicycles for Security Forces. This allowed Security Forces to quickly cover more ground.

The junior enlisted council has been dissolved, and from the ashes the Rising Six was created. The Rising Six’s mission is to positively impact the quality of its Airmen by enhancing mentorship and leadership abilities, and is aimed at providing a voice for Airmen, E-6 and below. This was achieved by providing Airmen and NCO’s with the opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, and abilities; creating successful leaders of the UTANG. The Rising Six actively advocates for positive organizational changes through offering services and programs that ensure the enhancement of professional development and morale of Utah’s Airmen.

As we adapt to new and diverse contingencies we are driven to fine-tune how we measure and maintain a full-spectrum readiness. The wing cannot be a lethal war-fighting machine without the Airmen in the wing, their families and the community that supports them.

Utah’s 151st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker provides presidential support during a refueling mission in June, 2018.

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The 109th Air Control Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Leon McGuire, had another historic year as it became fully integrated with the 151st Operations Group led by Col. Brandon Taylor. The integration of the 109th ACS as part of the Operations Group has been a multi-year effort initiated by Col. Ryan Ogan, while he was still the 151st OG commander. The combined efforts resulted in increased readiness as well as streamlined operations and intelligence functions.

As the 109th ACS “Warlocks” prepared for another nine-month mobilization and deployment in October of 2018, the squadron will make a historic leap forward in fulfilling the Air Forces goal of conducting Multi-Domain Command and Control Operations at the tactical level. The 109th ACS received its first new weapons system in more than 25 years with the delivery of the Air Combat Commands Battle Command and Control Center system. The new system expands the Warlocks operational capability from eight to 18 operator positions. This allows for significant future upgrades such as, radar and sensor feeds, fusing real-time intelligence and tactical data links. This will enable the 109th ACS to build real-time battlespace awareness for the Air Operations Center while conducting air superiority, integrated missile defense close-air support and air refueling missions.

Individual members of the 109th ACS continue to represent the Utah National Guard well. In January, Senior Airman Benjamin Jones became the first 109th ACS member to win the coveted Utah Air National Guard Airman of the Year award. Jones set the standard for junior weapons directors, becoming the youngest aircrew instructor and evaluator. Capt. Steven Gines also became the first squadron member to graduate the Air Forces prestigious Weapons Instructor Course at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Gines is now one of a select few Air Battle Manager Weapons instructor in the Air National Guard.

Airmen of the 109th ACS set the standard while attending Professional Military Education Schools, with Airmen Harrison Whipple and Brian Northrup winning distinguished Graduate Awards while Airman Andrew Sandoval won the Academic Excellence award.

The 109th ACS topped off its year by once again participating in its second annual Red Flag exercise with a focus on integrating with Canadian Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps battle mangers, in preparation for its coalition deployment to the CENTCOM area of operations. The 109th ACS is well prepared to represent Utah on its next deployment with well-trained and professional Airmen.
Under the command of Maj. Timothy Delamare, 130th Engineering Installation Squadron, assigned to the Air Force Space Command, continues 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.

This past year, Delamare assumed command as a drill status Guardsmen and assigned Capt. Amy Bocage as detachment commander to lead day-to-day operations. The unit’s knowledge and expertise is in demand all over the globe, and this year it is again ready to respond. The 130th EIS is responsible for planning and overseeing long-term sustainability and viability command, control, communications, computers and intelligence systems for nine Air National Guard bases in the Western United States. These teams completed 12 separate projects using 1,500 man-days and 1.2 million in communications equipment resources. Efforts include a GeoSpatial mapping of the communications infrastructure at the 152nd Airlift Wing in Reno, Nevada, which allows personnel to electronically access plant records in real time. Three projects to Gowen Field, Idaho, provided communications systems of support for the 224th Cyber Operations Squadron cross-domain-network solution. Relocated communications and alarm systems for the 124th Security Forces’ munitions support area. Accomplished several antenna preventive-maintenance inspections to identify and prevent potential equipment or structural failures.

In Portland, Oregon, at the 142nd Fighter Wing, the 130th EIS team completed a project that was three years in the making. The team designed and installed a concrete shelter and 30-foot tower, redistributed five antennas and relocated radios onto three towers to increase frequency visibility for pilots.

In Hawaii, a team installed six-thousand-feet of fiber optic and copper-network cabling to support the Autonomic Logistics Information System F-22 network. At the 673rd Air Base Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, the 130th EIS members assisted Active Duty in the configuration and installation of more than 50-network switches. Finally, at the Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, the 130th EIS improved the quality of ground-to-air voice communications in an Air Traffic Control operational environment replacing obsolete and failing equipment.

Capitalizing on recently returning deployed Soldiers knowledge, an aggressive super drill was performed. All squadron members engaged in training covering the five core competencies of the engineering installation community and Unit Task Code skill sets critical for success in deployed environments.

Concluding this year, the unit was fortunate to have Capt. Greg Durrant handpicked to be a part of the National Guard Bureau’s Total Force selection for the 2018 General Mark A. Welsh III One Air Force Award and will compete at the Air Force level later this year. The nomination memorandum stated “contributions to the USSTRATCOM Command and Control Facility military construction project have been nothing less than absolutely earth shattering.”

The 130th experienced an outstanding year that demonstrated its commitment to serving both state and nation. Once a Wizard Always a Wizard!
The 151st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group now has a complete year under its belt as a full-fledged Group. During this year, the ISRG solidified the roles and responsibilities with its three components—the 169th Intelligence Squadron, 151st Intelligence Support Squadron, and 151st ISRG Headquarters Flight.

In July, one of the primary drivers behind its conversion was realized when the 151st ISRG Commander, Troy A. Drennan, was promoted to colonel. Having an O-6 representing the 151st ISRG is an important step to ensuring the long-term health and success of ISR mission efforts in Utah.

Operationally, the 151st ISRG is part of the Air Force’s Distributed Common Ground System, or DCGS. Members of the ISRG man the Distributed Mission System, supporting ISRG missions flown by manned and unmanned aircraft around the globe. This past year, ISRG members participated in 194 missions, providing 821 hours of mission support and generating more than 70 reports.

In addition to its work on the DMS, linguists in the 169th Intelligence Squadron have spent the past year taking advantage of additional translation opportunities under the Federated Intelligence Production or FIP program. Through this program, 169th linguists have supported 19 national-level missions, contributing more than 8,100 hours of translation efforts which yielded 17 detailed reports, including several that ended up in the Presidential Daily Brief.

Members of the 151st Intelligence Support Squadron, the technical support element of the ISRG, capitalized on the Guard’s strengths of experience and continuity to drive changes at the enterprise level of the DCGS weapon system. This past year it spearheaded efforts to upgrade DCGS hardware, moving from 1990’s technology to a fully modern infrastructure.

In addition to the operational contributions of the IS and ISS, the 151st ISRG leadership made concerted efforts over the past year to implement agile management techniques. Benchmarking off of managerial concepts utilized by local businesses such as Select Health, the 151 ISRG has implemented numerous changes in the way it processes information, leading to a shared vision of success, faster problem resolution, and increased transparency.

The 151 ISRG members have participated in state-level programs and exercises to include the State Partnership Program with Morocco, Humanitarian Mine Removal, Panther Strike, and Cyber Shield. The ISR Group is also heavily involved in the leadership of professional development councils and wing-level functions on Roland R. Wright Air Base.