Soldiers, Airman and families of the Utah National Guard, after 37 years of service in uniform, I am moving on to the next chapter.

Stepping away from this calling is one of the hardest things I have ever done. Primarily because of my deep love and respect for each one of you. We have accomplished a great deal this past year. We have served with distinction yet again in the Middle East with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade providing the missile defense shield for the entire Persian Gulf, while the 109th Air Control Squadron provided intensely complex Air Battle Management, safely controlling the movements of every sortie in theater in a safe and professional manner. Our 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment deployed into eight locations across the Middle East and provided VIP transport through contested and often hostile terrain, also performing flawlessly. Our 19th Special Forces units have excelled in Afghanistan and in Sub-Saharan Africa under some of the most difficult conditions imaginable. And as always, our intelligence professionals have continued to add incredible insight to our commanders in the field and saved countless lives through their insightful analysis of key intelligence products.

The level of performance we have come to expect from Utah National Guard units is by no means common. It is exceptional and rooted in leadership. It starts with the vision and guidance provided by the Officer Corps, and culminates in highly effective noncommissioned officer execution. As I have said on numerous occasions, our success as a team can be directly linked to the fact that we have built a culture that develops the finest NCOs in the enterprise, both Air and Army. They are personally prepared, physically, emotionally, mentally and are hard-wired for mission accomplishment.

Our culture is powerful, but it is also fragile. As I step down, I encourage you to keep a close eye on the unit’s internal culture. We are only as powerful and healthy as the stories we tell. We develop those stories of success by positive performance, and that sustained performance continues to nourish our culture. If we neglect our culture, even for a short time, it will deteriorate and sicken. A healthy culture can take years to build, but just months to destroy.

To our families, words are not adequate to describe the pride I feel when I reflect on them. Our significant others and children are simply magnificent! They are the very finest the United States has to offer. The sacrifices made silently by our families is a humbling tribute to the cost that must be paid to maintain liberty and freedom. Please accept my humble and heartfelt gratitude. I will always hold you in the highest esteem.

Finally, what every leader hopes for as they pass the guidon is to instill a bit of themselves in those that follow. Most importantly, the will to carry on, the commitment to never accept failure, and the deep pride that comes from wearing the uniform of the United States of America. May God bless and keep you all!
Throughout 2019, the Noncommissioned Officer Corps of the Utah National Guard continued to grow and develop. This year denoted the introduction and execution of “focused readiness” for 40 percent of the Utah Army and Air National Guard. The focused readiness efforts front-loaded training for many of Utah’s units, increasing operation tempo in the effort of being prepared to face a near-peer competitor in combat.

Following guidance from the National Defense Authorization Act and subsequent strategies, NCOs focused on the realization that the United States does not possess a preordained right to victory on the battlefield; that we must train hard and be prepared for our nation’s worst day.

Utah’s relationship with its state partner Morocco was stronger than ever. NCOs from Morocco and Utah participated for the first time ever in the U.S. Africa Command Senior Enlisted Leader Workshop, where Morocco and Utah’s relationship highlighted the NCO Corps’ dedication and commitment to work together as we continue to develop our military education and professionalize the force. NCOs from Utah participated in more than 30 state partnership events with Morocco and more than 100 worldwide. Utah also bid for and was selected for an additional Indonesia and Pacific Command partnership with Nepal, who also maintains a partnership with Morocco. 2019 truly set the state for the future with NCO engagements with our foreign partners.

Utah continued to focus on readiness as its highest priority. The Army and Air National Guard is prepared to fight and win our nation’s wars while supporting our state and local governments in time of need. The Utah National Guard deployed more than 800 Soldiers and Airmen overseas, all while fighting fires and dealing with floods and assisting with search-and-rescue efforts on the home front. In 2019, Utah focused on not only the metrics involved in readiness but also the lethality required to accomplish our joint mission. Our senior enlisted workshop highlighted the need for a disciplined, well-trained force, with keynote speakers emphasizing the benefits of realistic training. 2019 was an excellent year that displayed the dedication and commitment of the force to the safety of our state and nation.
**On the Cover**


**PHOTO BY Sgt. James Dansie**

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This past year was an exceptional year for the Utah National Guard. I am extremely proud to be a member of this great organization and to serve with remarkable Soldiers and Airmen. As I attended meetings and conferences with senior leaders, they specifically recognized UTNG individuals and units for their extraordinary talents. This year, we conducted realistic, complex, and difficult training that took unit readiness to a superior level. While visiting training units, I was impressed with the technical and tactical expertise of our Soldiers and Airman and their motivation to do such good work. I was awestruck during my observation of the training at the Best Warrior Competition. UTNG non-commissioned officers are second to none. With their support, we develop some of the best technical and tactical professionals in the country. This was evident in the latest group of Warrant Officer Candidate School graduates.

Units deployed in support of contingency operations performed exceptionally well downrange. The 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation was spread over Central Command and did an amazing job moving troops where needed to be fighting the enemy. The 65th Field Artillery Brigade set the bar high for the units following it into theater. The Main Command Post-Operational Detachment demonstrated the value of the National Guard in support of 4th Infantry Division. The 300th Military Intelligence continued to support missions all over the world, while also lending its technical expertise in support of the border mission. The 19th Special Forces provided ongoing professional support for many non-standard mission sets and made it look easy. The Air National Guard continued to deploy all over the world at short notice conducting complex operations and impressing all the units it supported.

We also began implementing many new initiatives that will challenge us; new strategies like multi-domain operations, the implementation of artificial intelligence, and the Army Combat Fitness Test. As we continue to modernize and change, our ability to adapt will be critical. For many of us, we entered the military due to a deep sense of patriotism and desire to protect this country, our communities, and our families. Adapting to the changes that will keep our military competitive and strong will allow us our best opportunity to succeed. Continue to take care of each other and your families. Thank you for all you do.
The Utah National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters consists of senior National Guard leadership and joint directorates that advise the adjutant general in his support of the governor of Utah and the president of the United States. The JFHQ mission is to provide trained and ready forces to respond to both federal missions and domestic state emergencies.

Fiscal Year 2019 brought a number of personnel changes to JFHQ. Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, assistant adjutant general air, retired after 31 years of service, being replaced by Col. Daniel Boyack. The commander of JFHQ also transitioned, as Maj. Nancy Petit relinquished command to Maj. Tambra West, who has focused JFHQ efforts on field training in order to improve readiness. Near the end of 2019, Col. Milada Copeland finished her tenure as the Army chief of staff. After five years as chief, hers was one of the longest periods of service in that position. Col. Joseph Green replaced Copeland as the new chief of staff.

The main effort for JFHQ was its annual training exercise in Hokkaido, Japan in support of the 37th iteration of the annual Yama Sakura exercise run by the U.S. Army’s I Corps. JFHQ sent 38 personnel, led by the J2, Col. Shahram Takmili, to the bilateral exercise on Camp Higashi-Chitose to help run the administrative requirements as part of the mayor’s cell.


During 2019, the Utah National Guard began discussions with the country of Nepal in order to add them as a state partner in addition to Morocco, and JFHQ leadership engaged heavily in this effort. Col. Larry Henry traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit with Dr. Arjun Kumar Karki, the Ambassador of Nepal to the U.S. Henry briefed his Excellency Dr. Karki on the National Guard SPP and discussed domestic-emergency-response training that could be provided to the military personnel in Nepal.

Burton and Green attended a dinner at the Nepal Ambassador’s personal residence in honor of the National Day of Nepal. Smith and Henry visited the country of Nepal as part of military and diplomatic outreach to the country’s leadership. During their historic visit, they met with the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal, the Nepal army’s chief of army staff, and the defense secretary.
Military Community and Family Services: This year Family Programs launched a new name, it is now called Military Community and Family Services. The new name is unique showing that not only is the military community served, but also families and single service members as well. The hope is to be inclusive for all who need assistance, support, and guidance.

Utah Chaplain Corps: The Utah Chaplain Corps conducted 19 Strong Bonds events this year. Exceeding the Army’s Strong Bonds goal of reaching 10 percent of UTARNG end strength. Based on execution of events, utilize appropriated funds, administrative reporting, and participated trained, Utah led the 54 states/territories/district in the statistical measures with a number one ranking.

Yellow Ribbon, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve employment specialists continue to provide service members and their families support through deployment/redeployments, awards and job fairs. A job well done! Innovative ways to improve and increase capabilities for families and service members are continuously looked for. Again, the legislature has been very supportive of Military Family Life Consultants, allowing Utah to add another crucial counselor, taking the number of counselors throughout the state to five.

Several staff members left and new personnel were welcomed to the J1. Sgt. 1st Class James Montgomery, to the J1 team to assist with casualty Operations and Suicide Prevention; Hyrum Rob is the new Military One Source expert; and Sgt. Linda Johannsen to resiliency. The J1 wants to thank Sgt. 1st Class Randy Cox, Katie Hinds, and Sherri Workman for their tireless efforts and dedication to supporting Soldiers, Airmen, and families and wish them continued success.

G1: The G1 underwent significant changes and reorganized under four separate branches. First, the mobilization readiness branch manages all personnel actions relating to mobilization and readiness. Second, the personnel service branch completes all personnel actions throughout a Soldier’s career. Third, the medical branch manages Soldier health records, line of duties, and incapacitation programs. Fourth and final branch is the directorate leadership and automation team. The automation team is responsible for all personnel automation systems including the SIDPERS interface system (SIBx). The G1 office continued to be a major contributor nationally, consistently being recognized for creativity and innovations in Soldier personnel support.

Human Resource Office: The HRO implemented NDAA 18 guidance of converting all Title 32 non-dual status technicians, and 12.6 percent of Army and Air National Guard Dual Status Technicians, to Title 5 employees. HRO continued to improve several programs designed to enhance the overall well-being of Utah National Guard’s full-time force.

HRO continued to emphasize a philosophy of transparency and customer service in an effort to offer quality personnel services to more than 2,500 active Guard Reservist, federal technicians, Department of Defense civilian employees, active duty operational support, and state employees.

The 151st Force Support Squadron: The primary mission of the 151st FSS is to conduct domestic operations that encompass family readiness, Yellow Ribbon Program, Honor Guard, force management, base training and education, food, lodging, fitness, recreation and mortuary affairs. Many changes and challenges this year with 75 percent of the 151st FSS's full-time technician force conducted upgrade training. All 41 members continually demonstrated “service before self” and excellence in all we do to provide top-quality customer service to the Utah Air National Guard and their families.

West Valley City was awarded the 2019 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award and held a special reception for community members to view the award at the West Valley City offices, Sept. 17, 2019.

The goal of the Utah National Guard Joint Intelligence Directorate, J2, is to provide trained, equipped and ready intelligence Soldiers, Airmen and civilians. The J2’s expeditionary, dispersed and decentralized intelligence operations enable timely and informed decision making for commanders and the United States Intelligence community, in both domestic or wartime operational environments.

**J2 Directorate:**

Col. Shahram Takmili turned over J2/G2 director responsibilities to Col. David Becker on Aug. 15, 2019. The J2 Directorate is responsible for providing oversight of all state intelligence activities in order to ensure the proper handling of United States personnel information in accordance with U.S. laws and Department of Defense regulations; and to provide timely and relevant all-hazards intelligence and shared situational awareness to National Guard leadership, commands, and civil authorities responding to natural or man-made disasters or emergencies.

**G2 Directorate:**

Lt. Col. John Darrington assumed responsibly as the deputy director of the Utah Army National Guard, G2, Intelligence and Security Directorate from Lt. Col. Cody Strong on July 1, 2019. It was another busy year for the G2. The Draper foundry site continued to serve as the Center of Excellence for tactical SIGINT and trains low-level voice intercept teams and validation course, throughout the year. Draper foundry conducted human-intelligence training offering five specialized courses: Battlefield Interrogation, Tradecraft, Interpersonal Skills, and Report Writing. In Fiscal Year 2019, Draper foundry trained 1,258 students across 36 classes. The Draper foundry site received authorization to add four additional courses for FY20: Interrogation Practitioners Course, Interrogation Leadership Course, Interrogation Battalion Document and Media Exploitation Process and Analysis, and Interrogation Battalion Media and Cellular Exploitation.

During 2019, the five-Soldier G2 personnel security team processed approximately 586 personnel security investigations for military and civilian personnel. Approximately 10,776 requests for information were processed providing guidance and direction to security managers. The G2 directly supported five annual soldier readiness processing events. The G2 processed approximately 250 fingerprints for initial security clearances and common access card credentialing and approximately 290 central adjudication facility requests. The G2 was present at all sensitive compartmented information facility and collateral area planning meetings, and provided site inspections and manning during the construction process, as well as security background checks for all contractors requiring access to Utah National Guard facilities. The G2 provided training to all major subordinate command’s security managers in annual training, as well as focused individual and refresher training as needed. Additionally, the G2 helped train 750 military intelligence professional during the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade’s Panther Strike 2019 exercise.

**Personnel Departures:**

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kelvin Green retired after almost 40 years of military service.

During Fiscal Year 2019, the Utah National Guard continued to support wartime missions, overseas exercises, domestic operations and training. The UTNG deployed 168 Soldiers and 344 Airmen as part of named operations across the globe in every combatant command’s area of responsibility including Afghanistan, Africa, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, South Korea, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Members of the UTNG also provided overseas deployment training support to numerous worldwide training events and joint chief of staff exercises. Overall, 554 Soldiers and 131 Airmen were sent to 40 different countries to fulfill 89 different combatant command requirements. Some of the significant exercises supported include Yama Sakura in Japan, Beyond the Horizons in Guatemala, Pacific Pathway exercises throughout the Pacific, African Lion in Morocco, Austere Challenge in Germany, Maple Resolve in Canada, and multiple Joint Combined Exchange Training special forces engagements. Utah’s 151st Air Refueling Wing also excelled in the Global Thunder exercise as part of its nuclear operational readiness.

Additionally, numerous Soldiers participated in NATO’s Military Reserve Exchange Program in the United Kingdom and Estonia, language training immersion events, and Foundry Military Intelligence training engagements. These overseas training events provided UTNG Soldiers exciting and challenging opportunities to demonstrate and validate collective and individual proficiency while also providing culturally unique international experiences.

At home the Joint Directorate of Military Support coordinated more than 1,000 person-hours of support during responses by UTNG elements in support of local and state authorities. Local, state and federal agency initiated many requests for the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team to provide detection and analysis support to various incidents throughout Utah. Other responses included identification and destruction of unexploded ordnance by the explosive ordnance disposal element from the Air National Guard, search-and-rescue operations and wildland firefighting by the 97th Aviation Troop Command, and firefighting support to the Salt Lake International Airport and Salt Lake City Fire Department by the Air National Guard Fire Department. In addition to the many responses, Joint Directorate of Military Support planned, coordinated and participated in more than 20 exercises with city, county, and state agencies strengthening relationships, improving effectiveness of domestic response and increasing readiness of participating units.

The units of the UTNG had another exceptional individual training program year in 2019 executing more than $15.9 million in schools funding. Soldiers and Airmen attended more than 1,600 military occupational specialty qualification and officer/warrant officer/non-commissioned officer leadership courses. Utah additionally sent members to 95 commissioning program courses and 753 functional training courses to improve tactical-and-technical proficiencies. Due to the level of commitment demonstrated by our Guard members, the Utah Army National Guard achieved a duty-position qualified rate of 94.2 percent and a military education completion rate of 84.2 percent, both of which are amongst the highest in the nation. The Utah Army National Guard finished the year ranked #1 in the nation for Soldiers available for training, #3 in NCO Professional Development System completion, and #17 overall individual training composite ranking.

Utah’s Military Funeral Honors is on pace to conduct more than 1,000 missions by the end of the fiscal year, and has accomplished a few high-profile missions, such as Maj. Brent Taylor’s dignified transfer and graveside ceremony. The team received accolades for outstanding performance and excelled as the public face of the UTNG. Two Soldiers certified as MFH instructors, completing a rigorous 80-hour course, and certified five additional Soldiers to perform MFH services.

The UTNG welcomed two new units: the 118th Transportation Company activated September of 2018 and the 19th Special Forces Military Intelligence Company joined the ranks in January of this year. Both companies add useful capabilities to Utah’s already diverse force structure.

Several hundred Soldiers from around the country and world arrived at Camp Williams, Utah to participate in the annual military intelligence exercise Panther Strike, June 2, 2019.

A U.S. Army Special Forces Soldier during a nighttime reconnaissance mission as part of Allied Spirit VIII at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Jan. 27, 2019.
The J4’s mission is to provide sustainable logistical readiness to the Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard.

The J4 began 2019 coordinating logistics for the joint task force flood-relief effort for the residents of Utah County. This included the use of UTNG dozers, scrapers, sand bags, and sand-bagging machines. The J4 coordinated to ensure supporting UTNG Soldiers were fed, housed, and equipped with the individual issue items needed to secure success.

The J4 oversaw the annual senior logistics training, Food Service Menu Management Board, quarterly supply sergeants training, and the state Financial Liability Investigation of Property Loss program. The J4 conducted numerous unit assistance visits and the Sustainment Organizational Inspection and Command Supply Discipline Programs. The food service section attended the World Wide Food Service Conference and conducted the Food Service Management Board.

The J4 also oversaw the mobilization/demobilization of numerous UTNG elements, to include the 65th Field Artillery Battalion, Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion; E Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery; 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation; 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group; 115th Engineer Detachment; 4th Infantry Division, Main Command Post Operational Detachment; 97th Troop Command elements, and multiple 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist) teams. The J4 assisted 1-145th FA to recover mobilization support training Paladins and support vehicles from Fort Bliss, Texas. The J4 assisted multiple UTNG units without of state training and combat training center rotations.

Parachute rigger technicians maintained their 100 percent safety record in support of airborne operations. They hosted and co-trained a Jumpmaster Course for 63 new jumpmasters from the special forces community. They earned an “Excellence” during their Special Forces G4 Command Supply Discipline Program inspection and hosted visiting dignitaries from the Utah Legislature and Moroccan State Partnership Program.

Surface Maintenance Management maintained the equipment of the UTARNG through the Combined Support Maintenance Shop, Unit Training Equipment Site, and multiple field maintenance shops.

The SMM prepared UTNG unit equipment for deployment while repairing and “resetting” returning equipment. The 6th annual Mechanic of the Year competition was held, and was won by Sgt. Jacob Kaufman from FMS #1. The SMM hosted the first multi-state (Utah-California) Mechanic of the Year competition consisting of grueling written, computer-based, and hands-on exercises and exams and was won by Utah. UTES won the “Top Shop” award for the state. Command Sgt. Maj. Joe West and Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Clark were awarded the 2019 Samuel Sharpe Award for integrity, moral character, and professional competence. The SMM team proactively assisted UTARNG units prepare for the Command Logistics Review Team. The state’s maintenance organizations performed very well during the inspection.

The Defense Movement Coordinator and J3 co-sponsored two iterations of the Unit Movement Officer Course by two mobile training teams which trained more than 50 Soldiers as UMOs. The DMC coordinated the establishment of a soon-to-be operational rail-training facility at Camp Williams. The DMC welcomed Sgt. Victor Gonzales as assistant DMC.

The Sustainment Automation Support Management Office section continued IT support to the UTNG through the issue and/or re-imaging of hundreds of computers in 2019. The shop also supported the Signal Conference at Camp Williams. The SASMO said goodbye to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Cameron Nielson and his more than 30 years of experience. The SASMO welcomed Staff Sgt. Anthony Reeder.

Our sincere thanks to retiring Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Lopez for his tireless efforts in the J4. We welcome Master Sgt. Kyle Harrison and 1st Lt. Shaye Chadwick.
Key services provided by the G6 include network and infrastructure support, communication security, mail/postage services, Freedom of Information Act requests, Army Records Information Management System oversight and training, installation printing, photographic production, telephone services, Distance Learning capabilities, mobile device management, IT customer service, and radio services.

In September, the G6 hosted the annual Signal Workshop, where Army and Air Guard members received hands-on training on topics from cyber defense to the new domestic operations DIRECT package. This annual workshop has grown to more than 150 attendees, and received support from local and national vendors displaying their technology. The Utah Chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association presented Bronze Order of the Mercury regimental awards to the following recipients: Col. David Becker, Maj. Clayton Anderson, Maj. Benjamin Martin, Cpt. Brandon Morris, Cpt. Jeffery George, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brent Robertson, Master Sgt. David Fernelius, and Staff Sgt. Tyler Feldstein. The “Signaleer of the Year” Signal Sabre was awarded to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Gardner for his extensive contributions to the Utah Signal Community.

The Network Operation Center has been updating and expanding network infrastructure capabilities and software. The NOC oversaw the installation of more than 10,000 feet of 12-strand fiber optic cable, 430,000 feet of CAT6 cable, and 3,674 network connections in the new Aaron Butler Special Forces Readiness Center.

The Mission Command team had several significant changes and accomplishments this year. Spectrum Management actively met force requirements and often resourced additional frequencies. New permanent frequency assignments were received, to include additional repeater, radar and HF frequencies. The team has life-cycled several repeaters and reprogrammed radios to align with assigned and approved frequencies. Utah successfully hosted a nationwide National Guard Bureau Distance Learning Workshop in March.

Administrative Services’ long-awaited, secure mailroom facility, with a publishing and printing area, was built to better meet operational requirements. Records management department has started to take shape, thanks to an additional employee, to ensure the UTARNG is properly maintaining its records in accordance with federal law.

The customer service section has been busy updating the current Windows 10 operating system to a new more secure version, and implementing additional network security requirements. Recently, IT integrators were hired to work in each major command to provide both tactical and administrative communication support. In conjunction with the Information Assurance section, the latest industry standards will continue to be implemented and highly trained personnel provided to protect networks and support Department of Defense efforts in communications and technology security.

The Visual Information Office produced more than 1,500 books and pamphlets, and 1,250 presentation boards to support various unit requirements. The VI took more than 2,000 DA photos. All of this detailed work was accomplished by the interim manager while the official manager, Sgt. 1st Class Shana Hutchins, was deployed overseas.

The Air Guard experienced for the first time the Risk Management Framework process—a more robust network certification process. Efforts were rewarded with a continued authorization to operate on the Air Force Network and will ensure the data is secure. In March, Terminal-123 Joint Incident Site Communications Capability supported the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package and Terminal-134 supported the Homeland Response Force, and each received the highest rating of “Trained” at the External Evaluation.

Left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Marck Bonifacio updates server configurations in Draper’s state-of-the-art data center. The 190th Signal Company conducts satellite communications at Army Garrison Camp Williams, Utah. Signal Soldiers conduct training on tactical communication systems.
The State Aviation office has supported more than 90 missions for the 2019 Fiscal Year. These missions included congressional delegates from both federal and state offices, State Partnership Program—Morocco; joint operations support to Marines; U.S. Navy; Joint Special Operations Command units; ROTC programs; special forces; engineers; artillery; military intelligence; maneuver enhancement brigade; and the Air National Guard. These support missions included transportation of personnel in UH-60, LUH-72, and C-12. Joint forward air controllers also trained with the AH-64s. Several units were able to train on medevac with actual patient handling into the aircraft.

Occupational Health
The occupational health office assessed and initiated hazard-based exams for 93 new federal technicians and conducted annual medical surveillance for 163 federal technicians. Occupational health site assistance visits were conducted in 63 percent of facilities located throughout the state. The average score determined by health and safety assessments of different components throughout the facilities was 82 percent.

State Safety
The State Safety Office inspected all 13 field maintenance shops in the state, ensuring these facilities meet operational safety standards, as well as physical shop standards. State Safety also conducted the Organizational Inspection Program throughout the state. There were National Guard Bureau-level Radiation and Composite Army National Guard Safety Development and Assessment Program inspections accomplished during the year. Also 45 service members completed the motorcycle safety course during the year.
The Construction Facilities Management Office has seen a plethora of change over the last year ranging from personnel to the completion of brand new facilities. The mission and focus of the CFMO is to provide state-of-the-art, community-based installations and training sites.

New additions to the CFMO team include Lt. Col. Chris Filoso and Earick Chhoun. Filoso replaced Lt. Col. Branden Clark as the Resource Manager and is fresh off a deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait where he worked as Director of the Department of Public Works. Prior to this, he served nine years as the chief of DPW at Camp Williams. Chhoun is new to the program and will serve as one of four control technicians. He will work to help streamline energy efficiency throughout the Utah National Guard facility inventory.

Paul Raymond is the new master planner and replaced Darek Sagar. John Walker the new facility maintenance manager for CFMO UT. Walker replaced Dennis Borg who retired earlier this year after a combined 40 years of service (Soldier and state employee) to the UTNG. Both Raymond and Walker bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table in their respective positions. Other retirements this past year include Lynn Gardner (office assistant) and Doreen Eagan (QRP manager). We wish them well in their future endeavors.

A major achievement this year was the completion of the long-awaited 19th Special Forces Aaron R. Butler Readiness Center. Located on the lower south end of Camp Williams, the Aaron Butler Readiness Center is a $39 million, 140,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility and will be home to the 19th SF units stationed in Utah. It was named and dedicated on Sept. 9, 2019, in honor of Staff Sgt. Aaron R. Butler who was killed in action in

The newly built 19th Special Forces Aaron Butler Readiness Center, a $39 million, 140,000-square foot, state-of-the-art facility, home to the 19th Special Forces (Airborne) units stationed in Utah. Right: Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton (left), Aaron Butler’s parents, and Col. Jeff Bruce, commander, 19th SFG (A), participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new 19th Special Forces Aaron Butler Readiness Center, at Camp Williams.
The Human Resource Office saw many personnel changes over the past year. Sgt. 1st Class Dan Brown moved on to a different organization, and was back-filled with Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Morrison. Sgt. 1st Class Jason Faulkner returned to the 145th Field Artillery, but continues to support periodically with his vast knowledge of retirement, pay and benefits. Faulkner was replaced by Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Cahoon, who has taken the program and developed it quickly. Teshia Williams was here for a short time before transitioning to the adjutant general’s executive assistant. Travis Bringhurst was selected to work time-off awards, new hires, and many other duties, to include the temporary backfill as the State Equal Employment Manager. Farah Chesnut transitioned from the G3 to help with personnel files, and Valentino Rodriguez transitioned from the G1, to handle workers’ compensation, rideshare, and employee of the month awards. HRO wishes these employees continued success in their new assignments.

Col. David Osborne transitioned to a new role as the J1 until his retirement in July 2020. In light of his departure, Col. Susan Melton was welcomed as the new HRO. She brings great experience and leadership from the Air Guard and wish her the best of luck in her new assignment.

Fiscal Year 2019 was another busy and productive year despite the high turnover. Several programs designed to enhance the overall well-being of the Utah National Guard’s full-time force were improved, such as on-boarding for new hires, supervisor training, federal service awards, health benefits, along with a continual overhaul of NGB personnel instructions and regulations.

HRO continued to grow and improve the implementation of Title 5 employee resources. Along with this growth, HRO focused on providing a variety of services including: hiring, benefit services, position management and classification, and on-the-job injury services.

The HRO strives to serve the needs of ALL Utah National Guard employees, and looks forward to implementing other changes and programs that will benefit the full-time force. HRO will emphasize quality customer service in support of more than 2,700 Active Guard Reservist, federal employees, Active Duty Operational Support, and state employees of the Utah National Guard. HRO is committed to meet all the work-related needs of the Utah National Guard full-time force in order to maintain maximum efficiency and a high-level of readiness, dedication and morale.

The Mohmand Valley, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. This spectacular facility provides much needed consolidated space for the Special Forces to meet emerging mission requirements, and stands as a tribute to Butler and other Special Forces Soldiers who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Another significant improvement to the facility inventory is the remodel of the Unit Training Equipment Site at Camp Williams. This building received a complete overhaul starting with the consolidation of the UTES east and west shops. This change allowed for a more efficient use of the overall space significant upgrades including new administrative office space, larger locker rooms, break rooms, an electrical testing room, paved guest parking, and a new 12,390-sqft maintenance bay which contains eight new bays with a new 10-ton crane spanning the entire length of the shop. The updates to this facility provides adequate space to service all current vehicles with room for future maintenance needs.

Over the last 12 months, CFMO has managed 81 projects. The successful completion of these projects was made possible through valuable support from the State Military Department, the Division of Facility Construction Management, and the State Building Board. The CFMO greatly appreciates their assistance in meeting its mission.
The State Military Department is the finance and accounting office for the state of Utah funds and property of the Utah National Guard.

The SMD supports the adjutant general and the dual federal and state mission readiness of the units, Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard. The SMD provides timely, accurate, and efficient procurement, budgeting, and accountability of Utah National Guard state resources.

About 98 percent of Utah National Guard’s funding is federal to support the federal mission. Of the $350 million federal budget, about $68 million was reimbursed to the state through cooperative agreements. State funding supports Utah National Guard administration, operations and maintenance, and tuition assistance.

The administration program provides funding for the offices of the adjutant general, assistant adjutant general, public information officer, and military family life counselors.

The Utah National Guard Operations and Maintenance Account supports 535 buildings in 22 communities throughout Utah, to include Camp Williams and the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. Most Utah National Guard buildings are state owned.

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<th>2019 UTNG STATE APPROPRIATIONS</th>
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Fiscal Year 2019 Utah National Guard state appropriations for support and operations.

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<th>2019 STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE</th>
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Fiscal Year 2019 Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen applying for State Tuition Assistance.

The State Tuition Assistance program continues to support recruiting and retention for the Utah National Guard. SMD works with the adjutant general and assistant adjutant general on state legislative initiatives. In 2019, the legislature provided an additional $200,000 for tuition assistance and $1,000,000 to support the West Traverse Sentinel Landscape fund. This program directly supports readiness by preserving land around Camp Williams for use that is compatible with military training missions. The legislature passed a bill that strengthens injury protection during state active duty. The legislature appropriated $5.5 million for the state share to construct the Nephi Readiness Center.

When Gov. Gary R. Herbert ordered Utah National Guard Soldiers to respond to potential flooding in Utah County after a wildland fire destroyed the vegetation above several communities, Utah National Guard provided 350 days of personnel support in state active duty to this mission.

The Utah National Guard enjoys broad support from the citizens of Utah and its elected representatives. This reflects respect, appreciation and trust in the Soldiers, Airmen, and leaders of the Utah National Guard.
The mission of the United States Property and Fiscal Office for Utah is to support the mission of the adjutant general for Utah and the units, Soldiers, and Airmen of the Utah National Guard by ensuring accountability and proper use of federal resources.

Our vision is to maintain a highly professional USPFO team with superb customer focus, unquestioned integrity, proactive problem identification, resolution, and follow-up, world-class training, recognized subject-matter expertise, and partnership with National Guard Bureau.

In order to accomplish the mission of the adjutant general and to complete our vision, we have assembled an excellent staff to cover the many aspects of the USPFO.

Our staff is committed to ensuring all units of the Utah Army and Air National Guard have the proper resources and required equipment to perform their role in support of national-defense or contingency operations. The USPFO closely monitors authorizations for procuring equipment and ensures fiscal responsibility of appropriated funds.

USPFO is organized into various sections, including Internal Review, Purchasing and Contracting, Supply and Services, Resource Management, Data Processing, Grants Officer and 151 Comptroller Flight (Air National Guard).

Internal Review staff continually evaluate risk to the organization and provide professional audit services that prevent fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement by ensuring that strong internal management controls are in place and effective. They have also been key in our preparedness and response to the national audit readiness efforts.

Purchasing and Contracting staff have been critical in establishing control measures that have effectively reduced risk to the organization by implementing the procurement management board process. This process has recognized as a best-business-practice, and has been adopted by several other states. They also manage and direct the government purchase card program for the Utah Army National Guard.

In order to manage ammunition, transportation, property management, material management, warehouse and central issue facility, the supply and services staff have been expertly managing and accounting for several million-dollars-worth of equipment and supplies. This is key in identifying and ensuring authorizations exist for the procurement of equipment and supplies.

Resource Management is instrumental in the financial support and fiscal accountability of all funds allocated to the Utah National Guard, in addition to ensuring prompt payments to our Soldiers and vendors. They are an incredible support to all units and members of the Utah National Guard.

The Grants Officer Representative provides stewardship of federal funds provided to the Utah National Guard to support construction, maintenance and operations of National Guard resources used throughout the state of Utah.

In order to provide oversight, management, and accountability of the federal fiscal and personnel information systems, USPFO has put together an excellent team in DPI. The DPI staff have maintained all of the systems and integrity of the databases and data, and have been influential in helping several other states’ DPI offices.

The 151st Comptroller Flight works closely with the USPFO to manage the budget, travel, accounting, military pay, and quality assurance sections of the Utah Air National Guard.

The USPFO also works in close partnership with our State Military Department staff to support any mission directed by the governor, in support of domestic emergency response.

The USPFO is proud of the professionalism and proficiency of all our staff this past year, in supporting all of the Soldiers, Airmen and units of the Utah National Guard, and receiving excellent results through several inspections.
In April, the Utah Army National Guard Cultural Resource Management office hosted the annual Department of Defense American Indian Meeting as a joint effort with Hill Air Force Base, Dugway Proving Ground and Tooele Army Depot.

The meeting was held at the historic Officers Club at Camp Williams, Utah and included a leadership meeting, evening social, tour of the Camp Williams training area, and an interactive demonstration of military vehicles and equipment.

The purpose of this multi-day meeting is to build and maintain established government-to-government relationships with American Indian Tribes identified as having a history of land use in areas managed by Hill AFB, DPG, TEAD, and the UTARNG. During the meeting, the installations provided updates on current and upcoming projects and offered an open forum to discuss questions and concerns. The 2019 event was attended by 20 representatives from eight tribes and the Division of Indian Affairs, in addition to military leadership and personnel from the four Utah DoD installations.

Above: Jetta Wood, Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and Shirlee Silversmith, Division of Indian Affairs, learn about the Howitzer and how it is operated.


As outlined in the National Defense Strategy, strengthening and evolving our alliances and partnerships is a Secretary of Defense priority. The Utah National Guard’s State Partnership Program increased operation tempo this year accomplishing more diverse training with Morocco’s Royal Armed Forces.

Directing the State Partnership Program was Lt. Col. Dustin Carroll with Sgt. First Class Stacey Olson as operations noncommissioned officer. In Morocco, Maj. Will Biesinger finished his first year of assignment as the bilateral affairs officer in the U.S. Embassy Rabat’s Office of Security Cooperation. The SPP team welcomed Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Noorda as a program analyst and Capt. Kenny McWilliams as an SPP coordinator.

Hundreds of Utah Soldiers and Airmen participated in more than 40 SPP engagements. The year started with the 191st Air Refueling Squadron providing refueling qualifications to Moroccan F-16 pilots and they also participated in the Marrakech International Air Show. Also to the air show, the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment sent an AH-64 Apache contributing to the Moroccan FAR’s selection of that platform for purchase. The Utah Air National Guard attended the 2019 African Air Chiefs Symposium where Utah’s Maj. Jaymie Stepanek received accolades from the U.S. Air Forces Africa commander for her leadership, and was the master of ceremonies for the event for 24 African Air chiefs.

The 151st Medical Group conducted two emergency medical events and UTANG firefighters taught urban firefighting alongside 97th Troop Command’s Homeland Response Force leading up to live demonstrations in Morocco’s disaster-response exercise Maroc Mantlet. The 151st Medical Group performed medical humanitarian civic assistance during exercise African Lion treating more than 7,000 patients, while the 191st ARS facilitated all exercise aviation in refueling both U.S. and Moroccan fighters and a U.S. B-52 bomber.

UTNG hosted the Moroccan FAR three times this year during battalion-level annual training events of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery; 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne); Group Support Battalion, 19th SF; and the 1-211 ARB. The youth exchange program was hosted by the new Military Youth Ambassadors organization. UTNG’s general officers participated in seven senior leader engagements with Morocco.

In late 2019, Utah National Guard was selected by Department of Defense to add an additional partnership with Nepal, wherein the year ended with Brig. Gen. Tyler Smith and the SPP team traveling to Nepal to meet the U.S. Ambassador, Nepal’s Defense Secretary, and the Nepali 4-star General Army Chief. UTNG and the SPP have big things planned for 2020 and look forward to another great year of partnering and security cooperation.

This year, HRF participated in training events in Alaska, Montana and the Kingdom of Morocco, involving more than 900 Soldiers and Airmen. Additionally, there were four collective-training events involving more than 2,000 troops, which included a National Guard Bureau evaluated external evaluation.

Soldiers from HRF elements assisted in two Disaster Preparedness Program exercises. The first, in December, focused on fire basics, fire operations, dog handling, confined-space rescue, unit mobilization (load plans, alerting and convoy operations), building clearing and rope-rescue techniques.

In January, with its final engagement, HRF elements completed six years of valuable training with Moroccan partners. The final mission was a culminating event where Soldiers served as observer, controller and trainers for an exercise which validated the Moroccan Armed Forces ability to respond to a disaster scenario, while integrating civilian first responders and building Incident Management Teams.

In March, the HRF conducted its EXEVAL triennial certification requirement, consisting of all HRF elements running through a battery of simulated disaster events. During the event, the HRF, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, and the Casualty Assistance Support Element were tested on their response and capabilities with the assistance of live-role players and disaster incident management teams. The role players, similar to professional actors, acted as walking wounded, contaminated victims and other types of varying medical emergencies to test Soldiers’ skills and simulated the most realistic training conditions possible.

In July, the HRF decontamination element traveled to Montana to lend support for a regional collective-training event. The event proved to be a valuable training opportunity which tested the DECON’s ability to rapidly deploy to a remote, contaminated location and successfully operate mass-decontamination operations.

Also in July, the HRF medical element participated in Operational Readiness Capability Assessment in and around Anchorage, Alaska, with multiple states’ Civil Support Teams. ORCA, which is an all-hazards training event, allowed the medical element opportunities to practice its craft and focus on medical triage and other various medical interventions in a simulated, contaminated environment.

Finally, in September, Soldiers from the logistics section of the HRF traveled to Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado to train alongside the Colorado CERFP in air-load operations on an Air Force C-5 aircraft. The training, as part of basic unit movement operations to bring vehicles and equipment to a disaster area, allowed a rare opportunity for Soldiers and Airman to practice loading all the various types of unit vehicles onto a static C-5 aircraft.
Given the existing and emerging challenges the U.S. military faces, future generations will undoubtedly study and critique decisions made to our national defense policies. The pivot from the nearly two-decade-long asymmetrical fight to preparing for major power competition and conflict has brought about a need to adjust the way we recruit, train, and prepare for our wartime mission. Rivals and adversaries challenge us on many fronts and domains. Readiness continues to be our number one priority as the threats abroad mount and new capabilities emerge posing greater challenges to our national security.

The Utah Army National Guard is a community based organization. With more than 5,500 Soldiers, it utilizes armories, airports and training sites in 24 strategic locations throughout the state. The UTARNG consists of 10 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 Regiment-Regional Training Institute, Medical Command, Recruiting and Retention Battalion and Utah Training Center-Camp Williams. Each command consists of selfless leaders and highly trained Soldiers who faithfully serve and are ready to accomplish any mission assigned.

The UTARNG is engaged in missions across the globe and in Utah that range from combat operations to search-and-rescue and wildfire response. This year, it mobilized and deployed 803 Soldiers to participate in operations globally, supporting the war effort, performing magnificently and maintaining the superior reputation of the UTARNG.

In addition to wartime missions, there were 554 overseas exercises, training events, or international exchanges in 40 different countries. The current operational tempo and emerging threats underscores the critical duty that is ours to ensure readiness remains our number one priority.

The 97th Aviation Troop Command used both Black Hawks and Apaches in four search-and-rescue missions to assist civil first responders in finding missing individuals and returning them to their families. Additionally, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment supported five wildfires, quickly containing them and preventing damage to property and personnel.

The 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team responded to multiple incidents in response to requests by federal and local authorities. It was also privileged to support the 150th “Golden Spike” anniversary of the joining for the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Point.

The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade provided more than 40 Soldiers to Customs and Border Protection at various locations along the U.S. Southern border. Its intelligence skills and experience enhanced the capabilities needed to keep our nation safe. A large exercise called United Front involved Soldiers from the 300th MI and 151st Security Force Squadron of the Utah Air National Guard. Jointly, Soldiers and Airmen trained side-by-side with the Utah Highway Patrol on crowd and riot-control tactics, techniques and procedures.

Region VIII Homeland Response Force conducted a validation exercise involving more than 600 Utah Guard members responding to a simulated terrorist attack. Skills were demonstrated in search and rescue, mass decontamination and medical aid. The Utah National Guard also participated in the annual “Shake Out” exercise.

The UTARNG earned the highest marks in every critical metric used by National Guard Bureau in assessing the 54 states and territories. This organization continues to attract the very best of the citizens it serves. The talented young people entering our ranks want 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), headquartered at Camp Williams, Utah, has additional command elements in California, Washington, Rhode Island, Texas, Montana, Colorado, Ohio and West Virginia.


Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th SFG (A), shifted its focus back to Soldier readiness. In addition to supporting numerous deployments, HHC staff participated in Austere Challenge exercise in Germany. In doing so, HHC was able to train on its mission, providing regimental support to Special Operations Command-Europe while strengthening strategic partnerships across Europe.

Group Special Troops Company, 19th SFG (A) a specialized support company, consists of a Military Intelligence Detachment, Chemical Decontamination Detachment, Advanced Skills Detachment, Unmanned Aerial System Detachment, and a Signals Detachment. Individuals from GSTC were mobilized to support exercises and deployments to Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

This year, the Military Intelligence Company, 19th SFG (A) was officially formed as a stand-alone military intelligence element. As a Special Operations Unit, the MICO is the most comprehensive and capable MI company in the Utah National Guard. Not even a year old, Soldiers of the MICO have already supported three combat training center rotations, as well as deployments to multiple missions around the globe, including Resolute Support in Afghanistan.

The 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), actively participated in missions worldwide in support of Special Operations Command, U.S. ambassadors, state governments, and other governmental agencies. In preparation for deployments, 1st Battalion conducted Maple Resolve 19-1 exercise with Canadian Armed Forces, as well as rotations to the Joint Readiness Training Center and National Training Center. The 1st Battalion received numerous accolades for its contributions in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

In addition to its role as the sustainment arm of the 19th SFG (A), the Group Support Battalion, maintains a focus on developing skills for lethality, communication, field craft, and survivability. The intense weapons training the GSB conducted allowed the unit to move onto more advanced skills like convoy training and the utilization of pack animal to complete its mission.

The 19th SFG (A) will soon be moving into a state-of-the-art Special Forces Readiness Center on Camp Williams. The building is dedicated to Staff Sgt. Arron R. Butler, killed in action on Aug. 16, 2017, while engaging with the enemy in Afghanistan. The loss of Butler reminds us that the focus of the 19th SFG (A) is to provide quality training to each service member, in preparation to defend the U.S. and free the oppressed in far reaches of the world.
First Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), headquartered at Lehi, Utah, is spread across the nation and is comprised of elements from Texas, Utah, and Washington. This year, members of the battalion actively participated in missions worldwide in support of Special Operations Command, U.S. ambassadors, state governments, and other governmental agencies. Elements of the battalion received numerous accolades for their contributions to state and national security priorities. First Battalion conducted numerous overseas deployments while increasing readiness through stateside training and exercises.


The Battalion Support Company, led by Capt. Patrick Murray and 1st Sgt. James Jack, established and maintained a 24-hour tactical operations center in support of Maple Resolve 19-1 and conducted premobilization training for 55 Soldiers.

Forward Support Company, led by Capt. Geoffrey Wright and 1st Sgt. Kyle Harrison, supported many of the operational deployments within the battalion, in particular, conducting a 5,000 mile, cross-border line-haul of all equipment utilized for Maple Resolve 19-1.

Bravo Company, led by Maj. Samuel Campbell and Sgt. Maj. Rolando Mata, executed premobilization training to include a successful rotation through the Joint Readiness Training Center in preparation to deploy 76 personnel to Special Operations Command Forward North-West Africa, in support of counter-Islamic State Missions.

Special Forces Soldiers infiltrate by UH-60 Black Hawk on to the objective during the Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat Course.

Special Forces Soldiers prepare to assault through a village during the Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat Course preparing operators for deployment to urban environments in support of contingency operations.

Special Forces soldiers sweep through a village in a training event during the Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat Course.
The Group Support Battalion, 19th Special Forces focused on developing and sustaining skills for lethality, communication, field craft and survivability. The battalion conducted a live-fire exercise at the Utah Test and Training Range in February. In June, the battalion conducted a 700-mile convoy to Fort Harrison, Montana, the birthplace of Special Forces. Annual training was a highly successful event that included establishing the brigade support area, small-arms training, IED defeat, rappelling, airborne operations, and a ruck-march competition up Mt. Helena.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, led by 1st Lt. Robert Ferguson and 1st Sgt. Phillip Countryman, had a great year and the battalion tactical operations center improved significantly under their guidance. Training for the company revolved around staff planning and operations. With support from the Ft. Leavenworth Mission Command Training Team, annual training at Fort Harrison was an excellent opportunity for the staff to exercise Mission Command skills through live exercises and simulations.

Under the enthusiastic leadership of 1st Lt. Scott Kramer and 1st Sgt. Gordon Shute, Alpha Company, the battalion’s main effort for supply management and distribution, had a phenomenal year of training. A Co. parachute riggers were in high demand to support Special Forces teams on the RA-1 parachute transition. A Co. took the lead instructing the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Static Line Jumpmaster Course for the group, a challenging course that produced 53 new jumpmasters for the regiment. A Co. had the unique opportunity to practice non-standard logistics with pack mule training during AT. A Co. also provided critical-fuel support for ground and aviation movement during the week long, 88-mile evasion corridor that 19th Group conducted in the austere desert of the San Rafael Swell in Utah.

Bravo Company, led by Capt. William Sullivan and 1st Sgt. Dustin Boyack, provided maintenance support to 19th Group elements across the country. The engineer section utilized its unique skills to repair the National Guard barracks at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. The armorer section conducted weapons and optics re-set, repairs, and critical upgrades for the group. The ground maintenance section coordinated and planned a State Partnership Program mission to train a new Moroccan Special Operations Forces Logistics Company on new wreckers and forklifts. B Co. received high praise for its boat mechanics support for dive-sustainment operations.

Charlie Company, a small but talented medical company led by 1st Lt. Dallin Peterson and 1st Sgt. Thomas Lawrence, provided the group with support from physicians, dentists, physical therapists, a veterinarian, and medical, continuing education to GSB, 19th SFG’s 18D Green Berets. C Co. medical logisticians procured and shipped medical supplies around the world in support of Special Forces training and deployment missions. C Co. medics could always be found providing expert support to the challenging airborne and weapons training conducted by the group.
Under the leadership of Maj. Steven Flores and Command Sgt. Maj. Brien Hoo, Group Special Troops Company, 19th Special Forces had a very busy year. In August, the unit welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Gordon Rice Lindley as the company’s new senior enlisted leader while bidding farewell to Command Sgt. Maj. Brien Hoo who was selected as the senior enlisted leader at 1st Battalion.

The GSTC is a specialized support company that has the requisite Soldiers, military occupational specialties, and rank structure necessary to operate a Special Operations brigade-level headquarters. Consisting of the Military Intelligence Company, Chemical Decontamination Detachment, Advanced Skills Detachment, Unmanned Aerial System Detachment and a Signals Detachment.

The Military Intelligence Company’s intelligence professionals supported deployments to Africa, Afghanistan, and Special Operations Command Europe.

The Chemical Decontamination Detachment teamed up with the 190th Chemical Reconnaissance Detachment during several validation exercises in order to create chemical detachments to increase Special Operations Forces capabilities. The CDD also provided chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive advice to commanders at all levels.

The Advanced Skills Detachment trained more than 150 Special Forces Soldiers and enablers throughout the year. The primary focus remains survivability and advanced combat skills that individuals receive through ASD courses, such as Special Forces Advanced Urban Course, Special Forces Sniper Course, Special Forces Basic Combat Course-Support, and Advanced Sniper Course. The ASD has been involved in numerous other events, to include the VA Mental Health Clinicians Military Orientation, several pre-mobilization events and numerous training events around the country.

This year the Unmanned Aerial System platoon re-established flight operations from home station after a combat deployment. Additionally, the platoon supported intelligence training across the group and provided resources to the Hostile Forces Tagging Tracking and Locating course. This year the UAS platoon has flown for more than 150 live-flight hours and completed more than 500 hours of simulator training.

The Signals Detachment’s primary focus this year was supporting proficiency and currency training on communications systems for deploying units. This included individuals attending information technology industry standardization courses like the Computing Technology Industry Association is a plus certification, SOF Deployable Node Heavy, Frequency Division Multiple Access, new equipment training, and Tactical Awareness Kit Server Administrator training.

Special Operations support Soldiers conduct dismounted long-range movement in a cold-weather environment as part of their training to prepare for future deployments to austere locations.

A Soldier from the Group Special Troops Company performs advanced-shooting techniques during the Special Forces Basic Combat Course - Support

Soldiers from Group Special Troops Company exit from the ramp of a C-130 aircraft to maintain proficiency in static-line airborne infiltration techniques.
In January, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), under the leadership of Capt. Michael Lambert and 1st Sgt. Jonathan Love, welcomed 1st Sgt. Joshua Lowery as the company’s new senior enlisted leader while bidding farewell to Love who was selected as the senior enlisted leader at the newly established Military Intelligence Company. Serving under the command team of Col. Larry Henry, Command Chief Warrant Officer York Kleinhandler, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Belford, the HHC is responsible to provide trained and ready forces to deploy, fight and win our nation’s wars.

After a highly successful validation exercise with 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), the HHC shifted its focus back to Soldier readiness and support of the battalions. By concentrating on Army Warrior Tasks and maximizing individual training during drill weekends the unit was positioned to conduct several collective-training events to include the Special Forces Basic Combat Course support. Additionally, the command staff participated in the Austere Challenge exercise in Germany. In doing so, HHC excelled in providing regimental support to Special Operations Command-Europe and demonstrated the ability to deploy overseas and take command and control of multiple units.

As a result of its operational tempo, HHC was upgraded this year from a focus ready unit to an urgent unit by the director of the National Guard. This designation provides the unit with additional resources it needs to maintain operations around the world. In the coming year, the unit is excited to move into the group’s state of the art Special Forces Readiness Center on Camp Williams, Utah. The building is dedicated to Staff Sgt. Arron R. Butler who was killed in action on August 16, 2017 while engaging with the enemy in Afghanistan. The loss of Staff Sgt. Butler reminds us that the focus of the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is to provide quality training to each service member, in preparation to defend the United States and free the oppressed in far reaches of the world.

The Military Intelligence Company was officially formed in January 2019 and is a stand-alone military intelligence element. The unit consists of three detachments, each designed to provide comprehensive intelligence support to 1st, 2nd, and 5th Battalions within the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

The MICO held a unit activation ceremony in May 2019, with Col. Larry Henry welcoming Capt. Spencer Randle as its first commander. In June, the MICO welcomed 1st Sgt. Jonathan Love as its senior non-commissioned officer. For its first year of existence, MICO Soldiers focused on individual training and requirements to help establish a baseline and to help make the MICO the most comprehensive and capable MI company in the Utah National Guard.

MICO Soldiers also partnered with other 19th MI Soldiers from the Group Special Troops Company, and conducted first-aid training, as well as, day- and night-marksman training. MICO Soldiers have already supported three combat training center rotations, as well as deployments to multiple missions around the globe, including Resolute Support in Afghanistan.

Capt. Spencer Randle became the first commander of the newly established Military Intelligence Company as he receives the unit’s guidon from Col. Larry Henry at the change of command ceremony in May 2019.
The 65th Field Artillery Brigade participated in exercises with the 40th Infantry Division, Los Alamitos, California; 1st Armor Division, Fort Bliss, Texas; 388th Fighter Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah; and the Navy’s 7th Fleet, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan; as well as deployment to the United Arab Emirates. During the year, the brigade welcomed three separate units home from deployment: Delta Battery, 1-145 Field Artillery; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 65th FAB; and Echo Battery, 1-145 FA.

The 65th FAB supported Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and Operation Inherent Resolve by providing timely and accurate rocket and missile fires, target acquisition, and intelligence analysis to Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, Special Operations Command Task Force and U.S Forces-Afghanistan. The 65th FAB Target Acquisition Platoon’s employment of counter-battery radar systems directly enabled the CJTF to maintain coverage for coalition forces over a 250-square kilometer area while concurrently identifying threats to civilians in the main battle area. The Air Defense and Airspace Management Cell provided theater ballistic missile early-warning coverage, detecting more than 190 ballistic missile launches and processes in support of 134 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System fire missions.

The brigade built interoperability with partner nations through theater security cooperation engagements and exercises in UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Egypt. These engagements enhanced partner nations’ land force tactical and operational capabilities. The brigade focused on sustaining readiness through continuous individual and collective training conducted in conjunction with partner nations during TSC events. The brigade conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, mobilizing the Army Central Fires Response Element in Kuwait, and conducted a HIMARS Rapid Insertion dry-fire exercise in the UAE. Conducted within 72 hours of notification, this exercise simulated the process of deploying the FRE in support of contingency operations within the area of responsibility and demonstrated the capability of the brigade to competitively posture forces in order to deter aggression from U.S. adversaries.

Recognizing that Camp Redleg will continue to be an enduring presence in the region, the brigade conducted a campaign to operationalize and establish a camp that is sustainable for the long-term, taking pride in ownership and making improvements to Camp Redleg through service projects. One of the service projects entailed repairing and painting a fence that encloses the camp’s volleyball court, which Soldiers used in their recreational time. This was important to the overall vision for quality of life improvements on the camp. The brigade stands ready to destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket, and missile fire and to help integrate all fire-support assets into combined arms operations.
In 2019 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery Regiment, Utah’s first artillery unit, participated in exercises with 1st Armor Division, Fort Bliss, Texas; 388th Fighter Squadron, Hill Air Force Base, Utah; the Navy’s 7th Fleet, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, as well as deployed to the United Arab Emirates. During the year, the 145th welcomed two batteries home from deployment: Delta and Echo Battery.

The 145th FA started the training year conducting staff planning and crew-leader certifications. Service members, as part of the decontamination element, and staff members as a command and control team for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Task Force, prepared for their external evaluation, qualifying them to respond nationally to a catastrophic event.

Soldiers supported the Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint by providing battlefield-shaping fires in support for the Naval exercise based on Coronado Island, California. Delta Battery reintegrated Soldiers back to their homes after returning from an overseas deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve in 2018. Members of the battalion participated in Yama Sakura 75 as members of the Japanese/U.S. bilateral opposing forces staff. The staff participated in a 1AD command-post exercise and warfighter exercise replicating the brigade staff as the brigade Force Field Artillery Headquarters while Headquarters Battery, 65th FAB was deployed.

In the second quarter, the battalion’s CBRNE TF completed its external evaluation, utilizing Soldiers from both battalion staff and 214th Forward Support Company. The regiment sent 10 personnel to Morocco as part of the State Partnership Program serving as observer controllers for the Moroccan artillery live fire. The training prepared the battalion to conduct artillery live-fire operations for the first time in two years, due to back-to-back rotational deployments in 2018 and 2019.

In third quarter, the battalion welcomed home 99 personnel deployed as Echo Battery, 1-145th FA. The battery supported Operation Spartan Shield in the UAE for nine months. While on deployment, the battery trained on artillery tasks, provided area security, and trained with local artillery units as part of the Theater Security Cooperative. The entire battalion completed its gunnery tables for battery-level certifications to include its direct-fire task. The 145th FA invited mayors from the battalion’s local communities, as well as employers of its Guard members to visit the training at Camp Williams. The battalion also hosted the visiting commander and staff from the Moroccan Artillery Brigade spending several days discussing artillery tactics and techniques fostering the state partnership. The battalion again participated in FST-J training in San Diego, California emulating a brigade staff.

The 145th FA conducted Echo Battery’s Yellow Ribbon event and reintegrated its members back into their pre-deployment formations. The regiment closed out the year conducting administrative and medical-readiness tasks and participating in a combined live-fire exercise with the U.S. Air Force and the Marine Corps. The regiment’s Soldiers stand ready for the future needs of the state and nation.
During 2019, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment participated in exercises with 1st Armor Division, Fort Bliss, Texas, and the Navy’s 7th Fleet, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

The 222nd FA prepared for the upcoming live-fire season conducting staff planning, leader certifications and its annual safety tests. Members of the command team visited South Korea to take part in ceremonies commemorating the Battle of Kapyong, the battle having taken place in the Gyeonggi Province, of South Korea during the Korean War in 1951. The 222nd FA ties its artillery lineage back to the 213th FA Battalion where members of its unit participated in the battle. Members of the battalion participated in Yama Sakura 75 as members of the Japanese/U.S. bilateral opposing forces staff. The staff participated in a 1AD command post exercise and warfighter exercise replicating the brigade staff emulating the brigade Force Field Artillery Headquarters while the 65th Field Artillery Battalion was deployed. Soldiers supported the Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint by providing artillery support for the naval exercise based on Coronado Island, California. Training as the brigade, the Triple Deuce learned higher-level skills essential to the counter-fire fight and a Force Field Artillery Headquarters.

In second quarter, the 222nd FA, Southern Utah’s artillery unit, finished it’s spring live-fire exercise at Camp Williams where it completed its artillery gunnery tables I-VI which certified the crews on their artillery tasks. The battalion hosted a family day, inviting all family members who could attend to visit Camp Williams and see their service members in action. In all, more than 450 family members observed the Triple Deuce artillerymen shoot, move and communicate at the event. Families enjoyed the rare opportunity to watch the M109A6 Paladin deliver fires, observers call for fire, the Fire Direction Center process fire missions to send them to the howitzers, and listen to gun crews process and shoot the missions.

Third quarter saw the battalion exercise its staff moving the batteries through rough terrain as part of its annual field-training event conducted this year at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. The battalion completed its gunnery tables XI-XV, certifying its crews/platoons/batteries. Dugway provided a rugged tough desert environment that afforded the battalion to exercise its artillery pieces over long distances. The Triple Deuce also fielded the Precision Guidance Kit technology. PGK contains global positioning system technology with fuse and receiver functions to correct errors associated with ballistic firing. The increase in efficiency that PGKs provide allows operational commanders to engage assigned targets and rapidly achieve desired effects while minimizing collateral damage. The battalion again participated in FST-J training as a brigade staff, developing its officers and senior non-commissioned officers as the future brigade leaders.

The battalion closed out the year conducting annual Soldier readiness events and planned its next large event to be held at Fort Carson, Colorado, in conjunction with the 1457th Engineer Battalion. The 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery continues to stand ready!
In 2019, 97th Aviation Troop Command supported the ongoing operations of its units worldwide. The staff spent most of the month of May in Fort Hood, Texas bringing home the 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion from its mobilization to Southwest Asia. The Soldiers of the 97th AVTC have also been integral in helping 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion during its planning and train-up for its upcoming mobilization to Afghanistan.

Detachment 50, Operations Support Airlift returned from its deployment to Africa in November of 2018, and has spent the year getting ready for an Aviation Resource Management Survey inspection.

Detachment 2, 112th Aviation successfully flew across the country to support a joint border patrol operation in Key West, Florida.

In addition to supporting these units, the Soldiers of the 97th AVTC are also currently supporting Army Aviation at Fort Rucker, Alabama with instructors, helping to train new aviators.

In Utah, the 97th AVTC also supports ongoing civil operations such as wildland fire fighting and search and rescue. Even with the high Operational Tempo, the Soldiers of the 97th AVTC had three senior non-commissioned officer's graduate in the same class at the Sergeant Major Academy, and sent an exceptional Soldier to the regional Best Warrior Competition, in which he took 1st place.

During 2019, the units of 97th AVTC flew 5,949 combined (all airframes) flight hours.
A time honored tradition for the “Air Pirates” of the 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion is the adoption of a new motto with each new battalion commander. Fitting of the unit’s attack aviation mission, Maj. Jon Richardson selected “Stay On Target” as his mantra for the battalion, encouraging a relentless focus on the battalion’s upcoming deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. Enthusiastically echoed by the Soldiers and Officers of the 1-211th ARB, this phrase has proven an accurate representation of the “Air Pirates” mission focus throughout 2019. From individual and collective unit training, to building relevance with our partner nations, the battalion has maintained an unparalleled focus on readiness and preparations for future combat operations.

The Air Pirates hosted and trained with numerous inter-service and special operations forces. Drawn by the realistic training environments of the Utah Test and Training Range and Dugway Proving Ground, organizations from across the Department of Defense requested to conduct joint training with the 1-211th ARB in complex-high-intensity training events. Highlights from these events include full-spectrum training with elements from Naval Special Warfare and visiting Army Special Forces Groups.

The capstone training event for the battalion was its annual training and aerial gunnery operations conducted in July and August. Increasing the realism of the event, the battalion performed split based operations with the battalion headquarters located at the historic Wendover Utah Airfield. Detached companies completed live-fire areal gunnery operations at the Dugway Proving Ground as aircrews fired more than 19,000 rounds of 30mm and 1,963 areal rockets. Bravo Company also deployed a detachment to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center near Bridgeport, California. Its aircrews supported both Marine CH-53 helicopters and ground forces from both the 3rd Marine Division and Army’s 3rd Special Forces Group. Combined, the battalion flew a near record setting 500 hours of flight time, qualified 53 aircrew in aerial-gunnery tables and conducted an unprecedented amount of aircraft maintenance.

During its annual training event, the 1-211th was privileged to host a delegation from the Royal Moroccan Air Force, demonstrating the capabilities of the AH-64D Apache and providing assistance and mentorship to the leadership of Morocco’s future apache units.

Throughout 2019 the Air Pirates have stayed on target preparing for challenging combat operations and remaining a hallmark of excellence for attack aviation in the Army National Guard.
Calendar year 2019 met the 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion on the battlefields of Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Kuwait, supporting Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. The 2-211th GSAB, forward deployed as Task Force Warhorse, comprised of more than 560 Soldiers tasked to direct aviation operations across the Middle East, proved ready and capable of executing a variety of missions involving distinguished visitor, medevac, and medium- and heavy-lift cargo operations, air and ground maintenance, and air-traffic services. Soldiers were also tasked to support host nation and coalition partnership building throughout the region as they worked alongside Spanish, Canadian, British, German, Australian, New Zealand, Iraqi and Syrian military members to train for and prosecute the fight against ISIS.

The complexity of the mission challenged each commander, staff section, non-commissioned officer, and Soldier down to the lowest levels. Units were forced to stretch their equipment and systems to the breaking point to support combat operations across 13 locations. Many Soldiers were required to operate as experts outside their military occupational specialties without compromising safety or mission execution—such as cooks manning main command post battle-tracking systems and radios. Despite these obstacles, countless officers, NCOs and Soldiers proved adaptable and ready to respond to any situation at any time.

Back home in Utah, the 2-211th GSAB Rear and Golf Company Detachments had big shoes to fill. Despite the majority of leaders and aircrew being deployed, operational requirements were not lightened. The aircrew of Golf Company executed more than 90 support missions, including wildland firefighting at Camp Williams where they dropped more than 30 water buckets or 11,000 gallons of water. In February, the detachments supported the validation exercise of 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) with real-world medevac coverage and training. Their efforts led to an honorable mention from the 3rd SFG (A) commanding general.

Since returning in May, 2-211th GSAB has reintegrated, refreshed and reorganizing with the intent to capitalize on the skills, abilities, and character of leaders developed during combat operations. The 2-211th GSAB would like to thank the family, friends, and employer support that made the successes of 2019 possible and look forward to a demanding and challenging training year 2020.
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: Homeland Response Force and the Disaster Preparedness Program.

The HRF trains to respond within four hours to natural or man-made disasters and save lives with search and extractions, decontamination, and medical-response elements supported by communication and security elements. More details about the HRF can be found on page 20.

The 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team deploys 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.

The 653rd Trial Defense Team defends 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 33 new clients and oversaw four administrative separation boards.

The 85th Civil Support Team keeps 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 23rd Army Band provides music throughout the full spectrum of military operations 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. In Fiscal Year 2019, the band supported local military installation activities and the adjutant general’s ongoing public relations program throughout Utah by supporting 66 events, with a total audience of more than 200,000 through international broadcasts and live performances.

The 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment supported 15 training and real-world events locally and internationally, while providing National Guard brand management, print and video journalism, and various other graphic design products to support operations and tell the Army’s story.

The 144th Area Support Medical Company hones Soldier skills and patient care in a variety of field settings. This year the unit trained extensively in field settings, while focusing on Advanced Life Support interventions and patient care and transport in chemically contaminated environments. The ASMC provided medical support for the 75th iteration of the joint and combined Yama Sakura exercise with forces of the U.S. and Japan working together to improve interoperability and coordination between the two countries enduring security pact.

The 174th Cyber Security Team conducts defensive cyberspace operations on military networks to support mission requirements as identified by Department of Defense or state leadership which may or may not be bound by simple network enclave boundaries. In FY19 members of the 174th CST were deployed to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in support of Task Force Echo, which directly supports the National Defense Strategy of protecting the nation’s cyber domains.
The federal mission of the Army band is to provide music throughout the full spectrum of military operations, instill in Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens and promote our national interests at home and abroad. Utah’s 23rd Army Band, commanded by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Denny Saunders and 1st Sgt. Lisa Blodgett, provided strong leadership and responded to requests to support local military activities and the adjutant general’s ongoing public relations program throughout the state of Utah.

The main performing component of the band is the concert band. This group trains to perform community concerts and provides music to inspire, educate and entertain. Additionally, the 23rd Army Band, along with Army bands around the world, are fielding smaller music performance teams, to better support military and civilian ceremonies and events with music, by being more mobile. Music performance teams are training to independently provide all of the necessary musical protocol functions needed to support military events and perform at ceremonies.

During the 2019 training year, the 23rd Army Band provided support for more than 66 events with a cumulative audience of approximately 200,000 people. The concert band provided 12 concerts at events on Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day at the Gallivan Center with the Choral Arts Society of Utah, and Freedom Festival at Utah Valley University’s UCCU Center, as well as the Pioneer Days events and other community concert series.

The ceremonial band performed at Dugway Proving Ground, and in parades at West Jordan, Ogden and Brigham City.

Some of the band’s other performances included holiday concerts in West Jordan, St. George, Midvale, Tooele, Price, Moab, North Ogden and Salt Lake City.

The stage band (G.I. Jazz), rock band (Article 15), the newer brass band (Red Rock Brass Band), and the lesser-known woodwind quintet, all along with the unit’s brass quintet (5-Star Brass) supported more than 50 events.

The unit’s brass quintet, ‘5-Star Brass’, is among the busiest of the unit’s MPTs, supporting multiple military and civilian events, including changes of command/responsibility, high-profile retirement ceremonies, Honor flight events and others. The band also supported community events with Jazz combos, buglers and vocal performers.

This year marks the first time in the unit’s history the top enlisted position has been filled by a female. 1st Sgt. Lisa S. Blodgett, a 26-year veteran and lead trombonist in the unit, formally assumed her new position in a change-of-responsibility ceremony held in May.

Finally, members on the marksmanship teams traveled to Arkansas to participate in National Guard shooting competitions. Proudly, the unit also had top-performing Soldier, Spc. Stephen K. Mills, compete in the annual Best Warrior Competition.
The 85th Civil Support Team spent another year engaged in community, state and nation, by providing world-class chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive response capabilities to partner agencies, state governments and regional partners. The team is ready year-round to deploy anywhere, and at any time to support hazardous material or explosive related incidents.

Under the leadership of Lt. Col’s Christopher Caldwell and Robert Dent, the 85th responded to 15 calls from local fire and police agencies for assistance including responses for a chemical suicide, screening of suspicious packages, analyzing unknown hazardous materials contamination for both local and federal partners, support to Layton City during a suspected petro-chemical contamination of private residences, communications support for a train derailment and assistance to federal law enforcement partners in suspected fentanyl distribution locations.

The 85th also participated in 10 multi-agency exercises in locations ranging from Green River, Utah to Wasilla, Alaska. These exercises allowed the 85th to hone valuable technical skills and maintain relationships with the first responder community. The unit also provided public safety support behind-the-scenes on 33 occasions for such events as the Sundance Film Festival, Stadium of Fire, St. George Iron Man, Days of 47 Parade, Country Jam Music Festival and the United Nations Civil Society Conference.

Additionally, the 85th CST served as the primary observer controller team for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Civil Support Teams and conducted six exercises in Hawaii and Guam to further the readiness of our regional response partners. The year concluded with Soldiers and Airmen of the 85th focusing on the latest decontamination techniques, emergency vehicle operations, radiological response, high-angle rescue, confined-space entry operations and active-shooter responses.

The 28th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment continues to have among the highest operational tempo, covering unit training, community relations events, and supporting the state public affairs mission. Under the leadership of the unit commander team, Capt. Cory Condie and 1st Sgt. Brock Jones, the MPAD supported the annual Veterans Day Concert, military ball, Governor’s Day, Best Warrior Competition, Panther Strike, Freedom Academy, Homeland Response Force drills, Disaster Preparedness Program, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade Language Conference, 65th Fires Brigade live-fire exercises, the Adjutant General Symposium, exercise Orca in Alaska and five overseas duty tours.

In March, Staff Sgt. Laksberg traveled to Morocco to support Africa Lion 2019. The exercise centered on joint and combined training including a combined joint task force command post exercise, linked with Intelligence Capacity Building Workshop and Basic Intelligence Course.

In March, 12 MPAD Soldiers participated in exercises in Salaknib and Balakatan in the Philippines. The two exercises were back-to-back events, which focused on civil affairs and humanitarian assistance engagements, disaster-relief programs, tactical interoperability training and a variety of other missions.

In April, four Soldiers from the MPAD participated in a first-of-its-kind exercise in the Pacific Island Nation of Palau. The Palau exercise, as part of Pacific Pathways, included several security cooperation training events, as well as community and veterinary health outreach services at several sites including Koror, Peleliu, and Angaur.

In July, six Soldiers from the MPAD attended the biennial Talisman Saber exercise in Queensland, Australia. The exercise involved several partner nations and joint-services, focusing on cooperation, combined interoperability and reaffirmed the longstanding mutual defense treaty between the United States and its Pacific partners, Australia and New Zealand.

In August, the MPAD conducted another first-of-its-kind mission by the name of Exercise Cartwheel alongside the 25th Infantry Division and 351st Civil Affairs Command. The exercise, conducted in Fiji, focused on bilateral military-to-military engagements and civil affairs and humanitarian assistance programs to provide a platform to deepen understanding and preparedness for potential emergency situations and strengthen the U.S. Army and the Fijian military capabilities for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Members of the 144th Area Support Medical Command conduct a medical-casualty transportation and evacuation exercise during annual training in July, 2019.

The 144th Area Support Medical Company worked tirelessly to hone Soldier skills and patient care in a variety of field settings. This year, under the leadership of Maj. Daniel Wheatley and 1st Sgt. Perkins, the unit trained to support its state and federal missions, while receiving sustainment training on trauma assessment and treatment, triage and patient evacuation.

In December, Soldiers traveled to Japan to participate and provide medical support for the annual Yama Sakura exercise. Yama Sakura is a joint and combined event with many elements of U.S. forces and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. Yama Sakura is centered on joint planning, coordination and interoperability of ground-based elements of the U.S. and Japan security alliance involving more than 5,000 total forces.

In January, the ASMC conducted an advanced cardiac life support and pediatric advanced life support training workshop.

In March, the unit conducted CBRNE training, which focused on patient care in a chemically contaminated setting. Also, Soldiers conducted individual weapons qualification and provided standby medical support for the annual Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

In August, the 144th conducted its annual training at Dugway Proving Ground and Utah Training and Testing Center. During this period of training, the 144th supported the 204th Movement Enhancement Brigade, with the focus on treating both real and notional casualties in support of the MEB’s mission and the unit’s mission essential tasks.

Members of the 144th Area Support Medical Command received shooting technique instructions on Camp Williams, Utah in April, 2019.
Eighteen Soldiers from the 174th Cyber Protection Team stand on the stage of the Utah National Guard’s Draper headquarters during their departure ceremony Jan. 2, 2019.

Detachment 3, 174th Cyber Protection Team, commanded by Capt. Brandon Morris, consists of specially trained Soldiers, whose task is to sustain cyber security superiority against nation, state and asymmetric threats within friendly cyberspace, while conducting defensive cyberspace operations on military networks. The CPT supported mission requirements as identified by Department of Defense 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.

This year, the CPT deployed several Soldiers to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland in support of Task Force Echo. The task force is aligned under the Army’s 780th Military Intelligence Brigade, responsible for supporting the U.S. Cyber Command’s mission to evaluate, fight and defend against threats in cyberspace. Soldiers worked to engineer, install, operate and maintain critical network infrastructure for United States Cyber Command.

In June, 174th CPT Rear Detachment conducted its annual training at Fort Meade. Soldiers were able to work with their deployed counterparts to hone cyber skills, acquire the latest cyber industry standard skills, network with other cyber counterparts and complete the various required courses to maintain certification standards. Of particular significance during annual training, a 174th CPT Soldier competing in the SANS Net Wars competition, earned second place out of a pool of more than 1,000 cyber Soldiers. Training competitions such as the SANS Net Wars are essential to the new cyber Soldier and is an innovative way to develop hands-on skills by using interactive learning scenarios that enable information security professionals to develop and master the real-world, in-depth skills they need to excel in their field.

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The 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team, commanded by Maj. Earl Simmons and Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Warby, provided contracting and procurement expertise in goods and services from the commercial sector, stateside and overseas areas of operation. Additionally, the CCT supports the Homeland Response Force and the Utah National Guard’s United States Property and Fiscal Office office in its contracting mission.

This year, the unit experienced an almost unprecedented workload in its preparation for an upcoming overseas mobilization. Primarily, the unit’s efforts have been focused on earning the required acquisitions certifications and pre-deployment training, as well as individual and collective contracting requirements. Additionally, CCT Soldiers attended the Reserve Acquisition Summit and worked with CCT teams from all across the nation to discuss the latest trends in defense acquisition and the future of the career field.

As always, Soldiers continue to complete the various Defense Acquisition University training courses, with the goal of expanding individual skillsets and obtaining the next level of certification. By furthering the team’s education and skills, the CCT is improving the unit’s overall readiness, as well as the capabilities of the Utah National Guard.

Capt. Greg Tomlinson and Capt. Chuck Thompson earned their Level 1 Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certifications, which is extremely valuable to the Utah National Guard’s overall acquisition readiness. Finally, the unit welcomed two new Soldiers to the team: Sgt. Tim Papa and Staff Sgt. Darrin Hill. Their experience and work ethic have been a great addition to an already stellar team.
The 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade began training year 2019 by participating in a two-week warfighter exercise with the 4th Infantry Division headquarters in November 2018 at Fort Carson, Colorado. In August, the 204th MEB concentrated on a brigade-centric annual training where all of its battalions and companies simultaneously performed operations in three geographically separated training locations across Utah. The training was led by the commander team, Col. Paul Rodgers and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Hird. Annual training focused on implementing concepts of mission command, conducting tactical operations and performing warrior tasks. Rodgers emphasized every officer and Soldier in the organization needs to be proficient in all of the Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills.

Highlights from this year’s training events included multiple field-training exercises, four brigade-wide communications exercises, and the culminating event of annual training conducted at Camp Williams, Dugway Proving Ground and the Utah Test and Training Range.

The 204th MEB Headquarters and Headquarters Company concentrated on its command post operations; training hard to strike the balance between agility and survivability. In order to meet these objectives, the 204th personnel trained with new equipment—expanded-vans and box trucks. The new equipment improves mobility and is large enough to accommodate the entire brigade staff. HHC Soldiers conducted several iterations in the field environment continually practicing and honing their skills to perfect their ability to “jump” the tactical operations center quickly, efficiently and safely from one location to another.

The 115th Engineer Facility Detachment completed its year-long deployment with U.S. Central Command in support of Area Support Group–Kuwait. The 115th EFD was utilized as a public works element for U.S. facilities in Kuwait. It mobilized in September 2018 and successfully managed and supervised the completion of numerous construction projects throughout ASG-KU’s area of responsibility.

The 217th Brigade Signal Company supported brigade units with radio and satellite communications and participated in the brigade-wide field training exercises. It provided communication capability vital to the support of HHC, 204th MEB during its two-week AT in August. The 217th’s support was instrumental to the success of the MEB’s external evaluation performed by 1st Army evaluation team and was critical to the higher command role play that performed operations based out of Camp Williams. The 217th BSC made major upgrades to all satellite communications equipment prior to the 204th’s AT.

During TY 2019, 204th MEB Soldiers worked relentlessly in the pursuit of excellence and live up to the brigade motto: “Solidarity in Purpose.”
Top down: The 489th BSB initial circular-defense perimeter and the initial camouflaging of equipment during annual training 2019, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Soldiers with HHC, 489th BSB conduct fuel operations during annual training. A Soldier from Alpha Company, 489th BSB is ground guiding a pallet of munitions for open storage within the Ammo Transfer Holding Point to ensure safe distance from Soldiers, equipment and other critical infrastructure. Alpha Company distributed more than 250,000 various individual munition types over eight days from Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. A four-Soldier detail from Alpha Company, supports a color guard in Sanpete County as part of the battalions community support mission.

The 489th Brigade Support Battalion successfully completed a productive and challenging 2019 training year. The 489th BSB, led by Lt. Col. Woody Miner and Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph West, increased morale while progressing through rigorous field exercises, individual occupational-skills training, Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, family support events, and community support by way of color guards for municipal events from Springville to Blanding. This year 489th BSB integrated the 118th Transportation Company as a subordinate unit to provide medium-cargo-transport support with military semi-trucks and trailers to support customer-haul requirements.

Throughout 2019, Headquarters and Headquarters Company provided mission command and field-food service support while Alpha Company provided distribution of water, fuel, ammunition and haul support to the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and other supported units. The battalion completed training at assigned armories in Springville, Spanish Fork, Mount Pleasant, Blanding and three field-training exercises at Camp Williams.

The 489th BSB implemented standard operating procedures to increase mobile-mission command, digital- and analog-tactical communication and short-term defense for survivability. The battalion and company training efforts throughout the year culminated during annual training on Aug. 3-17, 2019 with the 489th BSB providing full-scale logistics support at wide-spread locations where units of the 204th MEB were arrayed at Camp Williams, Dugway Proving Ground, and Utah Test and Training Range. During this 15-day annual training, the battalion and companies successfully provided more than 9,600 meals, 21,600 gallons of water and 250,000 various individual-ammunition types by safely driving more than 6,600 miles to meet customer requirements. As the training year came to a close, the 489th BSB began transformation into the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, 625th Military Police Battalion which will involve personnel transfers, new training objectives and equipment fielding over the next year.
Throughout Fiscal Year 2019 the 1457th Engineer Battalion continued to improve readiness, assist citizens of Utah County affected by landslides and completed multiple-field-training exercises that lead up to a multi-day capstone event during annual training. Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 1457th Engineer Battalion completed a change of command from Capt. Nathan Griffin and Capt. Gina Martin in June 2019. HHC focused on base defense operations and supporting the battalion staff. As part of the base defense training, HHC trained extensively on crew-served weapons during annual training. HHC’s assigned crews shot more than 150,000 rounds of ammunition during annual training.

Forward Support Company, 1457th Engineer Battalion increased its readiness for its assigned federal and state missions by completing FTXs and participating in quarterly Homeland Response Force drills. During these drills, the FSC trained on convoy operations, sustainment operations and Soldier readiness. The FSC also trained extensively on crew-served weapons during annual training, shooting more than 140,000 rounds on its weapon systems. The training incorporated shooting from a vehicle turret mount and dismounted. The FSC completed a change of command between Capt. Eric Steele and Capt. Jessica Delph in August 2019. A change of responsibility between 1st Sgt. Jay Jackson and 1st Sgt. Ross Francis was also completed in August 2019.

The 116th Horizontal Construction Company was the main effort of the Utah National Guard’s assistance to Utah County in October of 2018. Heavy engineer equipment operated by Soldiers from the 116th HCC created diversion ditches to control rain water and landslides, filled and moved sandbags, emplaced jersey barriers and landslide-control measures. The 116th HCC filled 25,000 sandbags, placed 2,000 linear feet of Jersey Barriers and moved 4,000 cubic yards of earth during this operation.

In April 2019, Capt. Corey Lewis relinquished command to Capt. Mark Hruza. In addition to the change of command, the 116th HCC supported the 145th Field Artillery Battalion’s gunnery training at Camp Williams by digging defilade-firing positions. This is a key engineer task that provided different conditions for the crews of the 145th Field Artillery Battalion. This training also prepared the heavy-equipment operators to support domestic operations if needed. In August 2019, the 116th HCC completed a change of responsibility between 1st Sgt. Glen Gardner and 1st Sgt. Chris Chipman.

In the image, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Tomlinson of HHC, 1457th Engineer Battalion gives a convoy brief during annual training in Wendover, Utah. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Patrick Roberts and 1457th Battalion brief the concept of operations for annual training.
This year, the 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post–Operational Detachment deployed for the first time as part of the division headquarters, commanded by Maj. Gen. Randy A. George, in support of Resolute Support and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan. Following a pre-deployment train-up at Fort Carson, Colorado, the MCP-OD integrated into staff sections throughout the division, and were dispersed to a variety of locations across the globe, with the majority deploying to Afghanistan. The mission entailed the 4th Infantry Division deploy as the joint operations branch within the Resolute Support headquarters, with the division commander serving as the deputy chief of staff for operations under the Resolute Support Commander, Gen. Austin S. Miller.

A number of the MCP-OD Soldiers in Afghanistan were assigned to conduct train, advise and assist missions with the Afghan National Army in the regions between Kabul and Pakistan. They provided Afghan Army Corps, brigade commanders and their staff officers with critical training and advising in operations, sustainment and public affairs ahead of the 2019 fighting season.

MCP-OD planners and logisticians were key in the conduct of operational planning and orders production for NATO forces, and worked side-by-side with NATO and Afghan partners. MCP-OD staff officers took lead roles in campaign and contingency planning, and coordinated theater-wide logistical efforts. Military intelligence Soldiers formed a significant portion of the division’s joint intelligence cell while filling key intelligence positions within the highest levels of the Resolute Support headquarters.

Soldiers of the MCP-OD served within command staff, intelligence, sustainment and liaison roles throughout Afghanistan, Qatar, Kuwait, MacDill Air Force Base and Fort Carson. The complexity of operations within Afghanistan, against the backdrop of Afghan presidential elections and ongoing peace negotiations, meant MCP-OD Soldiers were operating within a very fluid environment. Throughout the deployment, 4th ID MCP-OD forged a positive and meaningful relationship with the division, and provided the unit with unique practical experience and perspective.
The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade had an eventful year beginning with a call from the Department of Homeland Security to help secure the southwest border. In October 2018, the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion sent 35 Soldiers to Texas to work with Customs and Border Patrol in this effort. These Soldiers will be replaced by those from the 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion in October 2019. The 141st and 142nd MI Battalions also rotated six Soldiers supporting Cyber Command Operations at Fort Meade, Maryland under Task Force Echo.

The Utah National Guard counterdrug mission was also officially assigned to the 300th MI by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense. This move promotes strategic alignment for the brigade with the Department of Defense. The UTCDM leverages military capabilities of National Guard Soldiers and bridges the gap between DoD and non-DoD institutions in the fight against illicit drug and transnational threats. Within this program more than 200 Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians analyzed financial, statistical, and evidence-based data, which resulted in the largest fentanyl seizure seen in the western United States.

Soldiers of the 300th MI traveled abroad in support of various language and intelligence operations. In November 2018, 10 Soldiers returned from Afghanistan after supporting Operation Freedom Sentinel. In March and April 2019, 16 Soldiers returned from Kuwait where they provided intelligence operations in support of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi National Guard. Overseas deployment training events took 300th Soldiers to Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, and France.

The brigade’s command language program scheduled more than 60 courses in 22 languages in the past year. In March, more than 720 people participated in the 300th MI’s annual Language Conference held in Draper. This year marked the 30th conference held and included the Polyglot Games where linguists from the 169th Intelligence Squadron, Army Reserve, Navy, and Air Force joined with 300th MI Soldiers in competitions that included not only language proficiency but also intelligence and soldiering requirements.

In June, the 300th MI hosted the annual two-week Panther Strike Exercise at Camp Williams. The focus unit was the 223rd MI Battalion from the California National Guard. They were joined by 31 different units from the National Guard, Active Duty, and Reserves. The total reached 771 participants, which included 110 partner soldiers from Canada and the United Kingdom.

In August, the brigade said farewell to Col. Joseph Green after three years of command, and welcomed Col. Shahram Takmili to the position of brigade commander.
The 141st Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) consists of a headquarters detachment and five military intelligence companies stationed in Draper, Orem and St. George, Utah. The battalion provides support to the Army, with linguists capable of communicating in 46 different languages, while maintaining tradecraft skills in human intelligence, signals intelligence, and counterintelligence. Additionally, the headquarters detachment has 24 trained mechanics.

The 141st MI supported the global war on Terrorism by mobilizing six Soldiers to Fort Meade, Maryland to work a counter intelligence cyber mission. In March, the 141st MI returned 16 Soldiers in support of Operation Spartan Shield from Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Additionally, the battalion sent 41 Soldiers on overseas deployment training missions to Japan, Morocco, South Korea, Dominican Republic, Hungary, Ghana, France, Haiti and Kazakhstan. Eleven Soldiers participated in the Language Enhancement Abroad Program to France, Germany, Taiwan, Israel, Portugal, Korea, Costa Rica and Brazil. These opportunities assist our Soldiers in honing their tradecraft and language capability while continuing to make it an elite organization.

Building upon its regional alignment with the 501st MI Brigade in South Korea, the 141st sent two Soldiers for 90 days to conduct live-environment training, and in August sent 18 Soldiers to Ulchi Freedom Guardian, continuing to strengthen the relationship with the 501st.

The 141st MI was tasked with supporting the Southwest Border mission in Texas. The battalion deployed 36 Soldiers to four separate sites along the southern Texas border and a reach-back site in Draper, Utah. Supporting Soldiers published more than 241 intelligence information reports, the highest percentage ever completed for the Customs and Border Patrol. They analyzed more than 23,000 sources of information leading to 130 named areas of interest. The 141st MI Soldiers established predictive analysis that resulted in significant arrests and seizures of the drug trafficking and alien-smuggling organizations operating along the Southwest Border.

In support of the Region VIII Homeland Response Force, the 141st MI successfully trained 220 Soldiers in operational hazmat response. The 141st MI completed its arduous evaluation in March conducted by observers from the National Guard’s Joint Interagency Training and Education Center. The battalion received high praise for its professionalism and overall capability to perform its mission.
The 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Scott Chalmers and Command Sgt. Maj. Edmundo Garcia, plays a significant role in providing language and intelligence support to the Army. Soldier linguists of the battalion are capable of communicating in 31 different languages, while maintaining their tradecraft skills in Human Intelligence, Signals Intelligence, and Counterintelligence. The battalion is comprised of a headquarters detachment and five military intelligence companies stationed in North Salt Lake, Draper, and Logan, Utah.

During 2019, the 142nd MI sent 55 Soldiers on Overseas Deployment Trainings. These missions extended to locations such as Japan, Morocco, South Korea, Argentina, El Salvador, Ghana, France, Spain, Germany, Taiwan, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine. The support provided by the 142nd MI Soldiers was recognized in the Army Times when Staff Sgt. Hudson and his Russian linguists provided role-player support to the Steppe Eagle Exercise located in Kazakhstan.

The battalion created and executed a new annual training exercise called Electric Blue, which was developed by the battalion S3 shop, Delta Company, and Echo Company of the 142nd MI. The purpose of the exercise was to challenge SIGINT training in a signals restrictive (jungle) environment due to the terrain and abundant foliage. The battalion also provided strategic Chinese language support to NSA Hawaii during the exercise. 75 Soldiers participated in the exercise with travel support being provided by the Utah Air National Guard.

The battalion continues to provide ready service to Utah as an element of the National Guard Response Force. This mission includes every Soldier in the battalion and requires them to maintain a readiness posture to respond to domestic civil disturbances. The 151st Security Forces Squadron, Utah Highway Patrol and Salt Lake Police Department (riot squad) provided the training to the 142nd MI. Training included riot control, staff, liaison officer, emergency-operations center and tactical-operations center operations that integrated state, domestic-response systems and standard operating procedures. More than 300 Soldiers of the battalion developed increased capability to respond to a variety of domestic events including advanced riot control and civil disturbance response procedures.

The battalion continues to maintain a high state of readiness for this domestic mission.

The 142nd MI continues to work closely with the 513th MI Brigade from Fort Gordon, Georgia, who sent 16 Soldiers to participate in this year’s Panther Strike exercise conducted in June at Camp Williams, Utah and hosted by the 300th MI Brigade.

Top down: Soldiers with the 142nd MI receive instruction from Salt Lake Police Department Riot Squad during the NGRF EXEVAL in North Salt Lake.

Soldiers from Echo Company, 142nd MI conduct group PT during Electric Blue in Hawaii by running up Diamondhead trail.

Five Soldiers from the 142nd MI take a photo during Steppe Eagle in Kazakhstan where they provided Russian language capability to the exercise.
The 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute, commanded by Col. Ryan King and Command Sgt. Maj. Kody Nelson, maintains continued recognition at national levels as an Institution of Excellence. The 640th RTI produces the highest quality and most professional instructors in the U.S. Army. In Fiscal Year 2019, the Regiment added an additional 17 badge certified instructors to its professional cadre. This number includes seven Basic Badge, nine Senior Badge, and one Master Badged Instructors. The intense badging requirements include quantifiable teaching hours, course and lesson plan review and development, and a broad array of additional and challenging requirements. This is a great accomplishment for our instructors and reflects highly on them individually and on the 640th Regiment as a whole.

The regiment welcomed new leadership at the end of last year and has moved forward seamlessly completing its training mission and preparing for significant future growth. The 1st Battalion, under the leadership of Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Butler, supported growth and development of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at home and throughout the world. 1st Battalion sent instructors to Kuwait, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout the United States to support overall Army professional development. Lt. Col. Tammy Manwaring commanded 2nd Battalion and prepared the battalion to accept additional mission in support of Fort Gordon, Georgia, and student backlogs across the signal proponent. Lt. Col. Shane Day commanded 3rd Battalion, and in addition to teaching more than 800 students, set the stage for future growth including the doubling of the battalion’s live-fire training requirements. Lt. Col. Gloria Parks commanded 4th Battalion and was instrumental in positioning the battalion to be the go-to training institution for multiple out-of-cycle, stand-up courses to support the National Guard’s mobilization requirements.

During Fiscal Year 2019, the 640th RTI had 3,283 students graduated from military occupational specialty and non-commissioned officer professional development courses. This number reflects 259 Active Army Soldiers, 490 Army Reserve Soldiers, and 2,474 National Guard Soldiers, 428 of which returned directly to the Utah National Guard. These Soldiers returned to their formations more ready and trained to lead Soldiers and perform their military occupations in the Signal, Field Artillery, and Military Intelligence fields.

This year marked another year in the long history of excellence enjoyed by the regiment. The regiment continues to grow and lead the way in Army education, and is prepared to move forward thriving on its culture of professionalism, and its drive for individual and organizational progress. “FIRE AND SWORD!”
The 1st Battalion, led by its commandant, Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Gale and 1st Sgt. Gerrad Johnston began the year with energy after completing a highly successful accreditation. In the second quarter, the battalion began transition as leadership passed responsibility seamlessly to Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Butler and 1st Sgt. Jed Lundell who continued to train and mentor the Army’s future noncommissioned officer corps.

The battalion contributed nationally to the successful transition of all structured self-development courses to the Army’s Distributed Leader Course. This change added academic rigor to the preparatory education of all noncommissioned officers, and provided a more sequential and progressive professional development curriculum.

In addition to its high tempo training mission, 1st Battalion extended its professional influence by supporting the State, Regional, and National Best Warrior Competitions, and many other senior leadership training events throughout the state. The battalion was also selected to assist in the validation of course revisions on behalf of the U.S. Army’s Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The 1st Battalion employed more than 58 certified Army instructors during Fiscal Year 2019. One instructor received the Army’s Master Instructor Badge, one received the Senior Instructor Badge, and an additional two new instructors received their Army Basic Instructor Badge. Many of 1st Battalion’s instructors are certified to teach multiple courses across the regiment. 1st Battalion continued to extend the RTI’s influence by deploying instructors to support Basic Leader Courses taught in Afghanistan and Kuwait, as well as several locations throughout the United States.

The battalion teaches three NCO professional development courses. During FY19, nearly 2,300 students completed all the graduation requirements including academic and field-training objectives for these three courses combined. A total of 286 students graduated from the Master Leader Course, 358 students graduated from the Battle Staff NCO Course, and 1,655 graduated from the Basic Leader Course.

The battalion looks forward to training the Army’s up-and-coming generations of non-commissioned officers, and truly prides itself in being stewards of the Army profession, living the Army Values, and maintaining its culture of excellence. “SOLDIERS ABOVE SELF”
The 2nd Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Tammy Manwaring and Master Sgt. Kenneth Jansen, continued the momentum that characterized an extremely successful accreditation year and worked diligently to ensure it is positioned to contribute across national fields of influence. The United States Army Signal Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Georgia, recognized the battalion’s professionalism and reached out for assistance to cover emerging requirements in the cyber and signal fields. The battalion dropped in numbers this year as a result of the One Army School Systems rebalancing efforts, but is positioned for growth next year and anticipates supporting additional non-programmed requirements.

Postured to support stand-up non-programmed courses, 2nd Battalion has a habit of picking up courses when other institutions cannot conduct a scheduled training class. The battalion led efforts to identify and solve catastrophic problems when the instructor-to-student ratio for signal courses was inadvertently changed without the input of the National Guard. This change would have drastically reduced all schools ability to teach signal courses and created a backlog for Soldiers across the Army. Due to the diligence and foresight of 2nd Battalion cadre this issue was averted throughout the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command.

During Fiscal Year 2019, the battalion maintained its full-time instructors and advanced their personal experience and certifications while teaching its mission. The battalion’s cadre grew in its capacity to train multiple courses, and trained 143 students in two different information technology courses. In addition, 2nd Battalion prepared Officer Candidates for commissioning, taught the state’s bus driver courses, and oversaw the Regiment’s Instructor Development Program training more than 50 new instructors.

2nd Battalion spent much of this year rebuilding important infrastructure to include the campus area network which allows students to complete required training, and rebuilding data servers required to store and manage training materials. 2nd Battalion had a challenging year and is excited to see the future growth that is on the way in the years to come. “CONQUER FROM ANYWHERE” 🇺🇸

2nd Battalion signal students practice networking skills in both classroom and field environments.
The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Shane Day and Master Sgt. Chris Branch, continued its tradition of excellence and fully integrated new courses and weapons systems fielded last year into its 2019 mission set. The 3rd Battalion set standards for projecting resource requirements in all field artillery schoolhouses nationwide. It also contributed to the refinement of course materials, and continued to lead the way as a true field artillery institution of excellence teaching students from all components of the Army and from across the country.

During Fiscal Year 2019, 3rd Battalion employed the services of more than 20 certified instructors. The battalion teaches three military occupational specialty transition courses: field artillery cannoneer, forward observer and fire direction specialist, and six professional military education courses. The 3rd Battalion also fully incorporated the Joint Fires Observer Course which produces an additional skills identifier and teaches students to coordinate air-to-ground fires. During FY19, the battalion taught more than 800 students with an increased emphasis on degraded operational environments, and on the progress and modernization of the force. The 3rd Battalion’s cadre, along with the rest of the 640th RTI, are dedicated to ensuring students receive the most relevant training and information to prepare them to be successful Army leaders and mentors, and all students return to their units more ready and lethal.

The 3rd Battalion shot 1,030 rounds during four successful and safe live-fire exercises that culminated student training in a combined event where fire support specialist students were able to plan and execute calls for fire, while field artillery automated tactical data system specialist students processed fire-mission solutions, and cannon crewmember, students executed safe, field-artillery fires under the direction of student-gun chiefs and the supervision of the highly qualified cadre. The 3rd Battalion’s ability to coordinate courses to allow this experience for students is unique in the field artillery training environment and it is indicative of the pride the 640th RTI places on training Soldiers.

The battalion is positioned for substantial growth in FY20, and is ready to teach more courses and provide an unparalleled student experience. “BOOM, ARTILLERY”
The 4th Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Gloria Parks and Master Sgt. Keith Moon, continued teaching military intelligence professionals and did not slow down after last year’s accreditation inspection.

The 4th Battalion cadre were instrumental in creating valuable partnerships with the local university which allowed students and instructors to tap into professional development opportunities unrivaled in the typical Army training environment. The university now offers students who have completed intelligence courses at the RTI credit toward a degree in National Intelligence Studies. This program has been used by more than 50 students to date.

The 4th Battalion prides itself in setting and achieving high standards. The 4th Battalion employed more than 40 certified instructors during fiscal year 2019. Eight instructors received the Army’s Senior Instructor Badge, and an additional five new instructors received their Army Basic Instructor Badge. The 4th Battalion provided instructors to the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion to serve as external evaluators and trainers during its annual training. The battalion also went out of its way to visit Utah National Guard units like the 1-211th Aviation Battalion to gain insight and exposure to the newest sensors being used by the operational force to better its understanding of systems and course materials. In addition, the battalion’s dedicated cadre averaged a score of 267 on the Army Physical Fitness Test. These accomplishments challenged the entire regiment to emphasize physical fitness, mental agility, and lethality. The example set by the instructors in 4th Battalion challenged all the regiments instructors to seek opportunities for growth personally and professionally, and take that development back into the classroom to share with the Army’s future generations.

The 4th Battalion teaches three military occupational specialty transition courses and four professional military education courses. In fact, in addition to its 2019 mission set, 4th Battalion stood up two additional courses to meet emerging requirements for deploying units from Georgia, Washington and Maryland. As one of the largest military intelligence training institutions in the Army, 4th Battalion boasts an impressive 94 percent graduation rate among all its courses, and is eager to face the challenges of another year. “ALWAYS OUT FRONT”
MEDical Command’s primary mission is to plan, program, provide and sustain force health protection and medical/dental support to the more than 5,600 Soldiers assigned to Utah Army National Guard.

MEDCOM is an organization of 85 medical professionals, staff and administrative support roles led by the Commander, Col. Charlene Dalto and Senior Enlisted Leader, 1st. Sgt. Joey Muramoto. MEDCOM is the premiere medical organization to increase individual Soldier medical readiness by performing critical physical examinations, health assessments, and other medical support tasks.

To better prepare the unit’s medical professionals to survive and perform medical support functions on the modern battlefield, MEDCOM conducted several realistic, field training and range events. The training emphasized increasing lethality through weapons marksmanship training, physical training and Army warrior tasks and battle drills. The culminating training highlight of the year was a medical basic combat course conducted during annual training in May 2019. Annual training tested combat medics on performing medical and life-saving skills in a dynamic and austere operational environment. Soldiers started this course by training and testing on more than 40 hours of required medical sustainment tasks while also learning leadership and tactical basics. Annual training culminated with a 72-hour, field-training exercise which combined all medical, leadership and tactical skills into realistic medical support missions. The last mission was a mass-casualty event where the unit was required to triage and evacuate numerous injured patients to the appropriate medical facilities. The unit exceeded expectations by working as a team to preserve life.

MEDCOM coordinates and operates closely with the Office of the State Surgeon. During this past year, the State Surgeon, Col. Peter Taillac, retired and transferred responsibilities to Col. Douglas Allen. In April 2019, all medical providers attended a state medical conference to standardize medical processes and career management to ensure they receive a breadth of experience to better serve the Soldiers of the Utah National Guard.

The medical professionals of MEDCOM directly contributed to the state’s top national ranking in medical readiness by conducting more than 5,000 periodic annual health assessments, hundreds of physical examinations and supporting numerous unit deployments. MEDCOM continuously provides the highest quality of patient care to all Soldiers of the Utah National Guard exuding the Army Medical Department Regiment’s motto “To Conserve the Fighting Strength.”
Recruiting and Retention Battalion had another successful year in 2019 for recruiting in the Utah Army National Guard. While the challenges of previous years continue, along with growth, the recruiting force has adapted well and demonstrated flexibility, initiative and ingenuity in accomplishing the mission. Lt. Col. Michael Kjar and Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Johnson continued to lead a relatively new recruiting force to embrace the challenge and overcome all obstacles resulting in another successful year and overall strength mission accomplishment.

Recruiting incentives expanded this year giving recruiters additional tools to accomplish their mission. Additionally, the Utah State Legislature authorized an increase in tuition assistance funding for National Guard members which is an extremely valuable incentive. This year, we added a sixth recruiting team to accommodate the rapid growth of our force.

The Utah Army National Guard recruiting force continued to excel receiving awards for best medium-sized, state-recruiting battalion, top retention, and best Recruit Sustainment Program in the nation. New recruiter hiring over the past 18 months has led to the Utah Army National Guard Recruiting Battalion staff to consist of nearly equal numbers of new hires and seasoned, experienced recruiters. Even with a turnover of more than 25 percent, the entire recruiting 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 that the Utah Army National Guard will always be at the forefront for the nation.

One of the new initiatives started was social media marketing. The Recruiting and Retention Battalion Marketing Team conducted research and added new team members who were savvy in the social media marketing arena and came in to the organization with fresh ideas on how to tap into the very competitive market utilizing Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages and influential organizations and leaders in the community to spread our message.

Unit retention levels continued to surpass expectations throughout and the Utah Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program was selected as the top RSP overall in the nation once again. This could not be accomplished without the support of highly skilled support contractors and military cadre. Additionally, one of the senior cadre members, Drill Sgt. Ben Crane was selected as the top NCO for the Utah Army National Guard in the annual Best Warrior Competition and he went on to represent the Utah Army National Guard honorably in the regional Best Warrior Competition.

Top down: Drill Sgt. Christopher Sehy provides drill and instruction commands to high school students at Freedom Academy Aug. 2019. Recruit Sustainment Program Super Squad Competition winners with RSP leaders, June 2019 during the RSP field-training exercise in Richfield, Utah. Members of Recruiting and Retention Battalion leadership take part in a field-training exercise at Camp Williams, Utah.
Camp Williams is a leading training facility that allows for a wide range of training, not only for Utah Soldiers and Airmen, but also for military personnel from across the nation. The state-of-the-art facilities at Camp Williams include live-fire ranges, artillery firing points, demolition, grenade and maneuver areas, improvised-explosive-device training, and aviation training. Further critical training ranges include urban training environments such as the military operations in urban terrain, military assault combat, a shoot-house and an urban village. This year, the convoy live-fire lane, machine-gun range and infantry-squad-battle course lane were utilized by more than 340 Soldiers for pre-mobilization training.

Camp Williams and the Soldiers of the Utah Training Center are continuously striving to improve the quality of training for the personnel that utilize the facilities. An aviation laser-firing range has been established to allow for the use of lasers during training to engage targets in the machine-gun range area. Additionally, work is almost complete on the West Canyon landing zone which will allow sling-load operations and touch-and-go training. At the Known Distance Range, KD lifters have been converted from a cantilever to a straight-vertical-lifting system to enhance training. In an effort to improve training, construction and renovation started on the Urban Assault Course buildings. They will be converted into fully functional houses and rooms that can be breached and assaulted.

Members of the UTC work hard to coordinate, facilitate and prepare for the annual Governor’s Day event, in which the governor of Utah, the commander-in-chief of the Utah National Guard, has the opportunity to review his troops. This year marked the 65th annual Governor’s Day event, held at Camp Williams, and was one of the most exciting in recent memory. Events included a KC-135R Stratotanker flyover and capabilities demonstrations with AH-64D Apache Longbow and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, coordinated with 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 65th Field Artillery Brigade. Following the ceremony, Soldiers, Airmen, and their families had the opportunity to enjoy equipment displays, food booths, and a classic car show.

UTANG organizational chart

- Command Leadership
- Wing Level
- Group Level
- Squadron/Flight Level

Col. Kurt Davis was appointed as the 151st Air Refueling Wing commander, Oct. 13, 2018, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Salt Lake City, continuing his more than 30 years of military service.


Tech. Sgt. Johnson Xaysana was awarded the national top Air National Guard Production Recruiter and Retainer for 2018 on Mar. 29, 2019.

Maj. Gen. Stacey Hawkins, commander, Ogden Air Logistics Complex and Col. Jon Eberlan, commander, 75th Air Base Wing, Hill Air Force Base, were presented Patriot Awards at an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ceremony, April 7, 2019. The ceremony held at the Wright ANGB, in recognition of extraordinary support of Master Sgt. Fredric Dix, who is a Hill Air Force Base employee.

The Utah Air National Guard hosted its annual Wingman Day at the Wright ANGB, June 8, 2019, promoting “Guard is Family” theme. This event serves as an opportunity to bring together the Airmen of the Utah Air National Guard, both past and present, and to recognize families and community leaders for their continued support.

U.S. Representatives John Curtis and Rob Bishop were presented Patriot Awards at an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ceremony, Aug. 27, 2019 at Wright ANGB. In recognition of extraordinary support of Tech. Sgt. Josh Emfield, deputy director for Representative Curtis and a member of the Utah Air National Guard, and Sgt. Devon Murphy, military legislative assistant for Representative Bishop and a member of the Utah Army National Guard were also recognized. Following the ceremony, Sens. Mitt Romney and Mike Lee, and Reps. Ben McAdams and Rob Bishop attended a capabilities brief and refueling-flight observation.

Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle received the Legion of Merit, Aug. 29, 2019, one of the highest peacetime U.S. military decorations, at her retirement ceremony held at the Wright ANGB. As commander of the Utah Air National Guard, she was responsible for the command, control and operations affecting more than 1,400 Utah Air National Guard personnel. Col. Daniel D. Boyack has been appointed as assistant adjutant general for Air.
The 151st Air Refueling Wing is engaged as ever with three major areas of responsibility during fiscal year 2019: domestic operations, conventional operations and nuclear operations. As an air-refueling wing, aircraft and personnel are constantly on the move. The wing participated in several major operations both stateside and abroad.

The 151st Air Refueling Wing is commanded by Col. Kurt Davis and assisted by Vice Wing Commander, Col. Gene Buckner and Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Matthew Hooper.

Throughout 2019, Airmen of the 151st ARW supported several air-training exercises including Exercise Sentry Aloha in Hawaii and Neptune Falcon in the mid-western U.S. These exercises helped develop and improve the 151st ARW’s capabilities and interoperability. Members of the wing also supported operations in Guam, Germany, Qatar and Afghanistan in support of Central, European and Pacific Command missions flying a total of 831 sorties over more than 3,725 flying hours.

Once again, the wing participated in Global Thunder. Global Thunder is an annual U.S. Strategic Command USSTRATCOM command-and-control exercise that gives the 151st ARW the opportunity to fine-tune its ability to ensure a safe, ready and reliable strategic deterrent force.

The 151st ARW also hosted several distinguished visitors to Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base to include Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence; Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice and his wife Nancy Rice; along with Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson.

In addition, Airman 1st Class Caleb Drake of the 151st Security Forces Squadron, was recognized for winning the Utah National Guard’s “Best Warrior” competition, rising above the field of more than 50 Soldiers and Airmen.

Top photo: A KC-135R assigned to the Utah Air National Guard’s 151st Air Refueling Wing sits under a rainbow on the flightline, June 6, 2019 at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Salt Lake City, Utah. Photos top down: Capt. Mike Starley, a pilot assigned to the 191st Air Refueling Squadron, is greeted by his family as he returns home to Wright Air National Guard Base. Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice addresses members of the Utah Air National Guard, Jan. 13, 2019 at Wright Air National Guard Base. The 151st ARW refuels an E-3 Airborne Early Warning and Control System, better known simply as the AWACS over the Midwestern United States. Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson, toured the base and met with Airmen assigned to the 151st ARW during his visit to Utah. A member of the 151st Security Forces Squadron conducts M4 rifle and M9 pistol training at Camp Williams, Utah on April 24, 2019.
The 151st Operations Group under the leadership of Col. Brandon Taylor, continued its proud tradition of extending Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power in support of national security.

This year, the 151st OG maintained a high-operations tempo while simultaneously supporting multiple deployments within Central Command and Indo-Pacific Command. Due to increased shop turnover time, the 151st OG has been challenged to train and mission qualify several new members within each shop. However, the increased operations tempo and training has not reduced the 151st OG commitment to bolstering relations in the local community.

The 151st OG is highly dedicated to community service. Members of the 151st OG donated more than 500 hours of service to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and St. Vincent De Paul Homeless Resource Center. Outside of humanitarian efforts, the 151st OG is honored to support Utah’s youth through Freedom Academy each year. This year, the 151st OG volunteered to fill several Freedom Academy roles to include; three counselors, two staff positions, and eight Airmen. These members assisted in the static display of the KC-135R and the Aircrew Flight Equipment shop. These events increased local populace relations with the members at Roland Wright Air National Guard Base.

The 151st OG completed the year by participating in Exercises Sentry Aloha and Neptune Falcon. These exercises provided air-refueling training for all ANG assets, in preparation for coalition deployment to CENTCOM and INDOPACOM. The 151st OG continually seeks out opportunities to develop professional Airmen and support ANG assets. Members will be highly qualified and ready to represent Utah on deployments in CENTCOM and INDOPACOM.

Individual members of the 151st OG continue to represent the Utah Air National Guard well, winning numerous awards. Airman 1st Class Cody Larsen became the first 151st OG junior enlisted member to win the coveted Utah Air National Guard Airmen of the Year award. Capt. Jeff Munden, Capt. Greg Clark, and Master Sgt. Kurt Armstrong provided emergency-air refueling for an F-18 fighter aircraft over the Pacific Ocean; saving aircraft and crew. Members were awarded the Utah Air National Guard Team of the Year honors.

The 151st OG Squadron Medical Element team; Lt. Col. Scott Moss, Technical Sgt. Vlanca Hawkins, Staff Sgt. Phillip Fenn and Staff Sgt. Randy Gordon overhauled the Physical Health Assessment process. The 151st Operations Group Squadron Medical Element team was awarded the Utah Air National Guard Team Innovation Award honors. Members of the Medical Element team are the first recipients of the Utah Air National Guard Team Innovation Award.

Members of the 151st Operations Group salute as Joint Force Headquarters Assistant Director of Operations, Col. Ryan Ogan, taxis in from his “fini-flight” aboard a KC-135R at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Utah, Jan. 17, 2019. The fini-flight is a time-honored military tradition marking the last flight of an aircrew member’s time with a unit or retirement.

Lon Point, Maj. Dan Lininger and Staff Sgt. Kyle Hansen while deployed to the Middle East flying combat missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. They are one of more than a dozen Utah aircrews performing operations at this location in 2019.

The 191st Air Refueling Squadron accomplish air-refueling missions around the world, day and night, 365 days a year. An A-10 assigned to the 23rd Fighter Group, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia approaches the pre-contact position in preparation for air refueling.
Under the command of Lt. Col. Leon McGuire and Chief Master Sergeants Laine Davis and Sheen Driggs, the 109th Air Control Squadron “Warlocks” primary mission is deployable air battle management and tactical command and control.

This past year, 108 members of the 109th ACS mobilized for nine months to multiple locations throughout the Central Command area of operations, providing command and control of coalition forces in support of Operations Inherent Resolve, Freedom Sentinel, Spartan Shield, as well as the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

While deployed, the 109th provided the core of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, “Kingpin,” Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, integrating seamlessly with members of the U.S. Army, Marines, Great Britain Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Danish Air Force and Belgian Air Component coalition members.

The 727th EACS is the Department of Defense’s largest battle control center, responsible for 24/7 tactical command and control of more than one million square miles of CENTCOM Airspace. Operators and maintainers across 28 AFSC’s, deployed to 10 different operating locations, providing the Combined Force Air Component commander the ability to perform air defense, missile defense, aerial refueling, close-air support, offensive-counter air and sensitive intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Under the experienced leadership of Director of Operations, Lt. Col. Chris Bilderback, air-battle managers, enlisted weapons directors and surveillance specialists, performed a combined total of more than 42,000 positional hours covering three areas of responsibility. The 109th members identified, tracked and controlled 40,000 aircraft, managed air-to-air refueling of 94 million pounds of fuel to 15,000 receivers. In addition, 109th Battle Managers team supported 6,000 strikes of enemy targets. Operations members also provided critical 24/7 air and missile defense in support of our Gulf Coalition Partners, protecting against Iranian aggression.

Under the dynamic leadership of Capt. David Arnold and Capt. Joe Boog, maintenance and cyber technicians of the 109th provided communications and computer infrastructure ensuring uninterrupted radar detection, secure air-to-ground communications, power generation, satellite communications and ever-critical Data-Link connectivity across one-million-square miles of air space. The 109th cyber teams also broke new ground standing up the Air Force’s first deployed Mission Defense Team, conducting network defense of the critical $193 million battlefield command and control system.

To prepare 25 squadron members for deployment to several austere undisclosed locations, Senior Master Sgt. Scott Castleton lead his team through combat-skills training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, a first for the 109th. Once deployed, Castleton’s teams provided critical radar and communications coverage in Iraq and Syria allowing coalition forces Air Domain Awareness across the entire area of operations.

Also a first for the 109th, Lt. Col. McGuire and 1st Sgt. Tony Perretta hosted Utah Air National Guard senior leaders at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates. Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle; State Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Brian Garrett; Wing Commander, Col. Kurt Davis; and Operations Group Commander, Col. Brandon Taylor; were able to see first-hand the incredible contribution members of the 109th Air Control Squadron made in support of Air operations across the entire CENCOM AOR.

The 2019 deployment was a culmination of four years of hard work and training for members of the 109th ACS. Their efforts and professionalism will not be forgotten by their commander, who deploying for the last time, had the privilege of leading the finest team of command-and-control professionals the Air Force has ever seen. 
Under the command of Col. Susan L. Melton, the 151st Maintenance Group provides safe, reliable and mission-capable KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft in support of state, federal and nuclear missions. The 151st MXG trains and equips more than 254 Airmen with knowledge and skills to be deployment-ready and to keep the 60+ year-old tankers airworthy. The 151st MXG has Airmen constantly deployed in support of global operations. Airmen deployed to Andersen AFB, Guam, in support of Air Mobility Command Operations; Geilenkirchen, Germany, to perform joint-training operations with NATO; and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, as well as Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Central Command missions. Thanks to dedicated maintenance professionals, 831 sorties were conducted and more than 3,725 flying hours were flown.

As an operational reserve, the 151st MXG maintains a high-operations tempo and continues to convert a portion of its maintenance technicians to AGR status to face this tempo. The unit also maintained one additional aircraft due to New Hampshire’s KC-46 conversion. In August, the MXG had an on-site visit inspection and received a “ready” qualified rating on the unit’s ability to survive and operate in a chemical-warfare environment.

The wing continued with a long-time tradition of applying nose art to military aircraft this year. The 151st MXG was especially honored for the opportunity to display the Utah Jazz logo on an aircraft, and had members of the Larry H. Miller family present to unveil the new nose art during Wingman Day.

The 151st MXG community involvement program organized events, and members provided service to worthwhile causes such as the Ronald McDonald House and VA Fisher House. The unit also provided Christmas cheer for 75 children through the Angel Tree program. Additionally, the MXG assisted one of its own Airman battling cancer with a home improvement project.

The outstanding achievements of the 151st MXG were made possible by the dedication, hard work and expertise of our remarkable Airmen. As the next fiscal year approaches, we bid farewell to Col. Melton and welcome Col. Brandon Taylor from the Operations Group as the new MXG commander. We thank Col. Melton for her exceptional leadership and look forward to working with her as the new Human Resources Office Director. The 151st MXG remains committed to continually find innovative ways to achieve greater heights, execute the mission, and enhance the safety and security of the United States and the state of Utah.
The team is dedicated to supporting the domestic, conventional mission and has participated in peacetime and wartime missions such as Operations Freedom Sentinel and Inherent Resolve, in addition to multiple domestic and international missions.

Civil Engineers with the 151st CES, continue a precipitous pace with deployment training and meeting the demands of its full-time mission of preserving and reconstructing Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. The CES team made significant strides in training approximately 1,100 Utah Air National Guardsmen with the fundamental basics of the air base’s ability to survive and operate post-attack recovery in response to current international threats. The CES also held its annual home-station training to address Prime Base Force 2 during Vice President Mike Pence’s visit.

The 151st CF administered the Risk Management Framework process which encompasses a more robust network certification process. The process implements a series of controls ensuring our base systems are compliant and maintains cyber security. The CF efforts resulted in a continued authorization to operate on the air force network.

The 151st SFS supported the conventional mission by maintaining members’ readiness records in preparation for deployments. It also redeployed several hundred Airmen, administered 47 fitness assessment tests, and processed more than 350 formal-training-school requests. The 151st FSS also provided 6,500 meals to Airmen and realized an annual savings of $30,000 by housing Airmen at Camp Williams and off-base contract quarters.

The 130th EIS is number one in the nation for securing ground-to-air communication by supporting the nuclear realm while maintaining an aggressive schedule completing nine separate projects. The EIS projects encompassed the engineering and installation of various communication infrastructure at several different locations. The completed projects support its primary mission of designing, engineering, installing, upgrading and deploying communication infrastructure and equipment in support of domestic and warfighter, cyberspace operations.

The 151st MSG’s contracting office executed multiple actions in 2019 contributing to the successful accomplishment of innovation programs, base infrastructure improvements, and the State Partnership Program. Funds provided under the National Guard Bureau’s Innovation Program led to the office’s award of projects supporting the 151st LRS, 151st SFS, 151st MXG, and 151st ISRG. Improvements and modernization to facilities at the installation included completion of updated fire-suppression systems in both aircraft hangars, an updated HVAC system and transformer for the operations group’s headquarters, new roofs for multiple buildings, and repair to the aircraft apron. The office also awarded a contract for medical supplies which directly led to the 151st MDG’s ability to support the African Lion exercise in Morocco, a humanitarian-aid effort which continues to foster a positive relationship with the Utah National Guard’s state partner.
The 151st Civil Engineer Squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Sasha M. Perronne, furthered its readiness in support of the Prime Base Expeditionary Engineering Force mission to provide civil-engineer support for the bed-down of personnel and aircraft.

The 151st CES personnel deployed to Hatzor Air Base, Israel for training from April 19, 2019 to June 21, 2019. During this time, CES personnel provided officer and senior enlisted leadership to the joint-operations organization leading up to 75-combined Air Force Red Horse, Prime BEEF, and Navy Construction Battalion personnel. The deployed 151st CES leadership expertly identified crucial requirements and mitigated the challenges to critical-path project milestones while interfacing with USAFE contracting support to complete various project taskings. The project covered two $2.1 million-dollar dorm facilities in support of exercises Juniper Cobra and Juniper Falcon which enhance U.S. and Israeli joint operations.

In August of 2019, Emergency Management office carried out preparations for the OSV exercise. Following a directive from the National Guard Bureau in response to the current international threat, the EM office began the high-tempo training of approximately 1,100 Utah Air National Guardsman with the fundamental basics of the air base’s ability to survive and operate post-attack recovery. EM office offered collaborative insights to the Inspector General team to ensure an accurate, real-to-life-exercise environment was created. In addition to collaborative insights to the SPINS (Special Instructions) of the OSV Exercise, the EM office also collaborated with IG team to ensure that new checklists for all levels of emergency response (Crisis Action Team, Emergency Operations Center, Unit Control Centers, Facility Managers, and Post Attack Reconnaissance teams) that were in accordance with the current Air Force regulations.

After the OSV exercise, 151st CES personnel held home station training week from September 9-13, 2019. This annual training is designed to address Prime BEEF training requirements increasing operational proficiency in multiple areas such as marksmanship, defensive-fighting positions, and integrated-base defense to name a few. In addition to these squadron-level requirements, this time also afforded AFSC specific training for the various disciplines which contribute to base bed-down operations such as siting and erecting a small-shelter system providing HVAC, electrical, and power production to the system.

The 151st Communications Flight mission is to provide secure, reliable, deployable communication systems and services through teamwork, technology and training. The unit’s goal is to provide this service to the customer, instilling confidence that their information will be available, confidential and effective in accomplishing their mission.

This year, was the Communications Flight’s first time going through the risk management framework process; a more robust network certification process. This process uses a series of controls to ensure that systems are compliant and maintain cyber security. The unit’s efforts were rewarded with a continued authorization to operate on the Air Force network and will ensure that data is secure.

Managing the base records is a core service the CF provides. The unit finished the installation of a new data server and began testing the backup procedures when several of the old servers started failing. The plan was to get all the old data cleaned up before copying it to the new system but preservation was our first priority. The new drives were mapped and the data was transferred. There is still a significant amount of work to re-organize the official files and get the data moved but the new structure will allow each of the program managers better control of their records.

Our Joint Incident Site Communications Capability team received the highest rating of “Trained” for its support of the CBRNE Response Force Package (CERF-P) at the external evaluation in March.

This year, CF has had a lot of personnel changes. Staff Sgt. Landon Tholen was hand selected to become an officer on the A-Staff with state headquarters and Master Sgt. Bryan Scharman will be commissioning with the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron. Our Knowledge Operations Manager, Tech. Sgt. Shaylynn Guthrie, was accepted to an Air Force Enlisted-to-Doctor program and was replaced by Tech. Sgt. Shaundra Smith. Both Network Control Center Technicians, Master Sgt. Anthony Valdez and Tech. Sgt. Adam Tubbs, accepted full time positions at Hill Air Force Base. Master Sgt. Casey Ferguson was hired in the radio shop and Master Sgt. Sam Blunck came over from aircraft maintenance. Staff Sgt. Mathew Lewis joined us as a traditional from active duty about a year ago and came on full time to work in the communications focal point.

As always, CF is ready to face new challenges while maintaining confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the data for our customers.
Under the command of Lt. Col. Travis Perry, the 151st Force Support Squadron is comprised of 42 personnel, more than one-half of which are drill-status Guard members. Its mission is to support five groups and two tenant units comprised of more than 1,400 Airmen and their families, as well as Army Guard members, Active Duty, Reservist, retirees, and government contractors that all reside in the vicinity of the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.

The 151st FSS includes conventional, domestic, and a state missions, with its primary responsibility being domestic operations that encompass family readiness, Yellow Ribbon, Honor Guard, force management, base training and education, food, lodging, fitness, recreation, and mortuary affairs.

Highlights of this past year included the UTANG Annual Halloween 5K Fun Run and Trunk-or-Treat, Freedom Academy, and Silver Flag Training at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. Additionally, the food-service section provided approximately 6,500 meals to Air National Guard members. The lodging section realized an annual savings of approximately $30,000 to the ANG through its efficient utilization of the on-base lodging at Camp Williams and off-base contract quarters.

The training and mobility section continued its rigorous deployment schedule throughout the summer, to include the re-deployment of several hundred Airmen, 47 Fitness assessment tests were given to more than 1,200 individuals, more than 350 Airman processed to formal trainings schools and 100 members to initial-active-duty training. The Base Training Office is on track to execute $5.2 million on Utah ANG training this fiscal year. Additionally, the base training office has overseen the Community College of the Air Force program where 53 member have graduated during 2019 with their associates degree. More than 2,000 military, dependent and civilian identification cards were processed and 88 passport applications processed and forwarded to the Pentagon and the Base Honor Guard conducted 50 flag details.

Currently, the 151st FSS Readiness section managed the deployment of 298 members, from all five Utah ANG groups, with more than 60 deploying during the remainder of Fiscal Year 2019.

The 151st FSS 42 members continually demonstrate service before self and excellence it all they do, as they provide top-quality customer service due to its outstanding personnel. Ensuring members of the Utah Air National Guard and their family’s benefits, and personnel needs are met.

This year also brought many challenges, as 75 percent of the FSS full-time technician force was in upgrade training.
Maj. Daniel Frost commands the 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron. The 151st LRS is a 107-member organization that provides full-spectrum logistics support to the 151st Air Refueling Wing and associate units. This includes providing supplies, equipment, fuel, transportation, vehicle operations and maintenance, aircraft cargo and passenger manifesting and deployment support. The 151st LRS specializes in logistics services—anything, anytime, anywhere—for each customer through a safe, efficient and continually improving professional process, while promoting the growth of individual team members.

The Material Management Flight processed more than 15,000 transactions monthly and maintained an inventory of aircraft parts and equipment with a combined value of more than $60 million.

The Fuels Flight received, quality tested and issued 6.3 million gallons of jet fuel, gasoline and diesel.

The Vehicle Maintenance Flight maintained and managed $9 million vehicle assets consisting of 125 registered vehicles, consistently maintaining a vehicle operational rate of 95 percent for the year.

The Plans and Integration team coordinated and executed mobilizations, deployments, and exercises consisting of 217 personnel and 70,189 pounds of cargo. One of its primary focus areas was to ensure that combatant commander requirements were fulfilled on-time through deploying personnel and cargo assigned to the 151st Air Refueling Wing and associate units.

The Small Air Terminal supported 78 air missions, moved 697 passengers, and processed 15,267 pounds of cargo to various locations in support of joint missions.

Ground Transportation provided support to veterans during four Honor Flight events, transported Boy Scouts on eight incentive flights, and moved more than 15,000 pounds of food for the Boy Scout Food drive. They also supported more than 100 new Airmen on their travel to basic military training and technical training schools.

Logistics Readiness Squadron personnel are dedicated to the needs of the state and nation. During 2019, LRS members deployed in support of operations in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, as well as supported a variety of domestic missions. Members stayed involved with community volunteering for events such as ANG Honor Guard, NCO Graduates Association, Enlisted and Officer Association, EANGUS and NAGUS, Freedom Academy, Scouting for Food, Sub-for-Santa, blood drives and Combined Federal Campaign. The 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron will continue to be defender of freedom for our community, state and nation.
Under the command of Lt. Col. Bruce Lewis, the 151st Security Forces Squadron focused on readiness. During the past year, the squadron initiated the Security Forces Reconstitute Defender Initiative, when it accomplished two, five-day, comprehensive-training sessions, which included full-time and drill-status forces. Expanded leadership opportunities by hiring a part-time flight commander, and coordinated joint force and inter-agency integration of domestic operations.

The Reconstitute Defender Initiative is a multi-year approach to enhance mission effectiveness across the security forces career field. The plan’s objective is to restore readiness, revitalize security forces organizations to build a more lethal force. In spring of 2019, the training- and combat-arms sections accomplished the commander’s goal of having every defender, full and part-time, immerse in a comprehensive five-day training course at Camp Williams. This year’s focus centered on firearms proficiency and military operations in urban terrain. Defenders gained proficient skills that are critical in the defense of Air Force personnel and resources assigned to the Utah Air National Guard. Additionally, as part of the collaboration between security forces and local police agencies, Staff Sgt. Skyler Gossling, Staff Sgt. Alan Robins and Airman 1st Class Caleb Drake completed a rigorous training course with the Salt Lake City and Bountiful SWAT teams. Utilizing the RDI objective, security forces defenders are better trained, more agile and a lethal squadron.

The squadron received a part-time operations officer, a first ever for the squadron. Tech. Sgt. Gordon Worsencroft was selected to attend the Basic Officer Course for his commission and the Security Forces Officer Course. This will enable him to assist the squadron’s commander in operations. Airman 1st Class Caleb Drake competed in and won the overall Utah National Guard’s 2019 Best Warrior Competition. Part of the preparation for Drake to be successful was the RDI.

Throughout 2019, the squadron preserved its critical mission at home by strict enforcement of the wing commander’s Integrated Defense Plan. Thousands of anti-terrorism measures and random vehicle inspections were conducted, restricting unauthorized access. Several defenders assisted in security during the visit of National Guard Bureau Chief of Staff, Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel and four defenders integrated security operations with the U.S. Secret Service and Presidential Raven Team to ensure the 24-hour security of Air Force 2 during Vice President Mike Pence’s visit to Utah. The squadron continuously ensures the security and defense of all personnel who work at or visit the base.
Under the command of Lt. Col. Timothy A. Delamare, the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron 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, all engineering installation units changed major commands to the Air Combat Command. Engineering installation units are primarily Air National Guard assigned and are in high demand. This squadron is responsible for nine Air National Guard bases in the Western United States, but also supports Total Air Force initiatives.

Focusing on our domestic-operation mission, the Joint Incident Site Communications Capabilities team completed the exercise evaluation at Camp Williams, Utah which provided support to the Homeland Response Force. Setup was prompt, delivering necessary services for the force to succeed in its tasks. The unit was given a “T” score, which is the highest possible rating and received complements from the evaluators on organizational skills, as well as the working relationship with Utah Army National Guard Soldiers.

Additionally, the unit completed five engineering and four installation projects using 1,100 man-days and $1.5 million in communications resources. The year began with a cable installation for the 173rd Fighter Wing’s Hush House located in Klamath Falls, Oregon which provided vital communications connectivity to support engine run-up testing.

The remaining installation projects kicked off simultaneously. Installation began for 673rd Air Base Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska where teams upgraded the radio infrastructure at the Air Traffic Control facility and Ground-Air-Transmitter-Receiver site, including replacing antennas, cabling, lightning protection, and related equipment. Concurrently, a separate team completed Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems radio replacement by upgrading outdated technology with new general dynamics radios at both sites, increasing frequency capability by 40 percent.

The final project for the fiscal year was for the 169th Air Defense Squadron, where teams were on-site at Wheeler Army Airfield and Mt. Ka’alā Air Force Station, Hawaii. This project removed the microwave shot, radios and parabolic microwave dishes replacing them with advanced technology. This solution provided nearly a 300 percent increase in speed and bandwidth and the ability to expand additional circuits.

Concluding this year, the unit set off for a six-month rotation supporting three concurrent separate partial mobilizations throughout Southwest Asia and Africa.


Members of the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron replacing the antennas, cabling, lightning protection, and related equipment at the Ground-Air-Transmitter-Receiver site on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, August 2019.
The 151st Medical Group is comprised of 56 medical, dental and administrative professionals encompassing eight medical fields. It provides physical, dental and eye examinations, immunizations, bioenvironmental engineering, and occupational health management to ensure a healthy and ready force for the 151st Air Refueling Wing. Under the command of Col. Matthew Bird, these citizen-Airmen enhance the wing commander’s ability to respond to contingencies within our borders and beyond.

In addition to ensuring every member on the base is medically ready to answer our nations call, the 151st MG also provides real-world medical support for multiple wing and Guard functions. The dedicated medical team stood ready at Wingman Day, the Joint Best Warrior Competition, Freedom Academy and multiple live-fire exercises with security forces. The 151st MG is engaged in a robust federal mission as our Critical Care Air Transport team is being activated to support our nation’s efforts abroad. This three-person team manages a portable-intensive-care unit designed to move critically wounded patients in wartime conditions. They have spent the last year completing extensive additional training and certification to answer our nations call.

The 151st MG strengthens strategic partnerships by active involvement in humanitarian efforts. In March 2019, 56 group members traveled to Tata, Morocco to perform the humanitarian civic assistance portion of African Lion 2019. Working closely with the US Embassy, AFRICOM, the Kingdom of Morocco, our dentists, doctors, ophthalmologist, pharmacists and public health members performed more than 11,000 procedures over a nine day period. Preventative Health Care classes were taught to 1,280 civilians covering basic health and dental care, exercise and nutrition. The dedicated efforts improved the lives and health of 7,207 Moroccan civilians.

The 151st MG was also invited to participate in African Public Outbreak Response Alliance which was designed for military and civilian leader to collaborate and establish a sustainable plan to prevent and respond to disease outbreaks. Our public health officer has met multiple times with US military and African delegates to bolster relationships and strengthen pandemic programs.

The 151st MG continues to explore innovative ways to secure readiness. Working to establish an in-house training classroom, it is looking to expand its mission skillsets providing added value to the Air National Guard. Whether it is home station or abroad, the 151st Medical Group continues to enhance the safety and security of our nation.
The 151st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group is a 211-member organization made up of the 169th Intelligence Squadron, 151st Intelligence Support Squadron, and a Headquarters element. The Group provides intelligence products to Air Force and national-level customers.

The primary mission of the ISRG is as a Distributed Mission Site, part of the Distributed Common Ground System. As a DMS, the ISRG provides language translation and analytical support to ISR missions flown around the world. This past year, 151st ISRG members supported 267 DCGS missions, providing over 5,700 hours of intelligence production.

The 151st ISRG members also participate in Federated Intelligence Production efforts with numerous national mission partners. The Group is currently contributing to 12 different mission sets supporting a wide variety of Air Force and national intelligence priorities. Over the past year, group members dedicated 9,420 hours to working on those federated missions, generating more than 138,000 different intelligence products. Those products ranged from simple reports to complex analytical papers which influenced national and Air Force policy decisions.

Both full-time and traditional Guard members have the opportunity to participate in federated intelligence missions. When a real-world event happened over a drill weekend, the combatant command over that region reached out to the 169th IS for help. The unit was able to dedicate 23 linguists to the effort, most of them traditional Guard members. This surge support increased the combatant command’s language analysis throughput by 900 percent.

One of the lessons learned by the National Guard Bureau in the wake of the hurricane seasons of 2016 and 2017 was that the analytical skills of its ISR Airmen provided valuable contributions to domestic relief operations. The 151st ISRG has taken advantage of this by volunteering to operate an Unclassified Processing and Dissemination system. The UPAD will be the first domestic operations mission for the ISRG.

This past June, the 169th IS welcomed its new commander, Maj. Daniel Bartley, who came to the unit from an active duty sister unit in Hawaii. Maj. Bartley brings a wealth of knowledge related to the Group’s ISR mission and is already influencing the direction of both the 151st ISRG and the wider Air National Guard DCGS enterprise.

Chief Master Sgt. Brian Garrett, state command chief, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general; and Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, are briefed by members of the 169 ISRG Asia Flight on current mission accomplishments.

Members of the 169 ISRG Americas Flight prepare for their annual training event.


Members of the 169 ISRG Asia Flight get ready to travel to Hawaii for their annual training. They were ferried to Hawaii on-board a 151st Air Refueling Wing KC-135.
Maj. Brent Russell Taylor was killed from an insider attack in Afghanistan, on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018.

At a press conference the following day, the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, shared some thoughts on the tragic event.

“Today we mourn the loss of a remarkable American,” Burton said. “Maj. Brent R. Taylor was a patriot whose personal life resonated with excellence. From his commitment to education, to his passion for politics, Brent was dedicated to making a difference. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jennie, his equal in every way, as she and their children cope with this tragic loss.”

Taylor was serving with the Special Operations Joint Task Force in Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel. The apparent insider attack was carried out by a member of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces using small-arms fire. The attacker was immediately killed by other Afghan Forces and the investigation of the incident remains ongoing.

In addition to his duties as the mayor of North Ogden, Taylor had served in the Utah National Guard for more than 15 years. He entered military service on June 17, 2003, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Corps on July 5, 2006 as a graduate of the Brigham Young University Reserve Officer Training Corp. This was Taylor’s fourth deployment. He deployed twice to Iraq in 2006 and again in 2007, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star Medal for his exceptionally meritorious service. In 2012, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He again deployed to Afghanistan in 2018 as the combat advisor to the Afghan border police.

Taylor’s remains arrived in the early morning hours at Dover Airfield Base in Delaware on Nov. 6, 2018.

Jennie Taylor, Maj. Taylor’s wife made a live statement to the national media on behalf of her husband. “It seems only fitting that Brent... has come home to U.S. soil in a flag draped casket on our election day... his service will be the great honor for me and each of his seven children for the rest of their lives... The price of freedom feels incredibly high to all those of us who know and love our individual Soldiers.”

“Our hope is that people everywhere will not only be inspired by his life, but will find ways in their sphere of influence to advance the cause of freedom everywhere through love and service,” said Taylor’s parents, Stephen and Tamara Taylor.

On Nov. 14, Taylor’s remains arrived home to Utah with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and approximately 500 Soldiers, Airmen, firemen, and police present to honor his return. Taylor’s viewing and funeral took place at Weber State’s Dee Event Center, in Ogden, and his remains were transported to their final resting place at Ben Lomond Cemetery in North Ogden, where full, military honors were given by the Utah National Guard Funeral Honors Team. Ten folded flags, requiring two Soldiers to hold, were presented by Burton to Taylor’s immediate family members; the last one being laid on the infant carrier of their 11-month-old daughter.

A lone Bagpipe played, echoing its proud song across the cemetery and into the adjacent canyon where an enormous American Flag waved in the breeze. It was a silent moment that will always be remembered. We will never forget.