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ON THE COVER
Oak Springs Fire

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Utah National Guard has a unique dual mission that encompasses support to our nation and state as follows:

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

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

VISION: The Guard is America’s Army. We are community based but with capabilities that stretch worldwide. The 383-year tradition we enjoy as Guard members is, in every sense, as relevant today as during colonial times.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: It is the goal of the Utah National Guard to have the finest National Guard units in the nation. Each Utah Guard member strives to be the best officer, noncommissioned officer, Soldier or Airman possible. We continue to build on the tradition that when units of the Utah National Guard arrive, the “First Team” is taking the field.

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

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

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 that 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 Fires 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 Special Forces units have excelled in Afghanistan and in Sub-Saharan Africa under some 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 that we have come to expect from Utah National Guard units is by no means common. It is exceptional, and it is rooted in leadership. It starts with the vision and guidance provided by the Officer Corps, and culminates in highly effective Non Commissioned 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 become 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 our children are simply magnificent! They are the very finest that 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 that they have instilled 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!
### LOCATIONS OF SERVICE - Serving Around the World

#### Country
- Afghanistan
- Argentina
- Bahrain
- Belgium
- Cameroon
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- El Salvador
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Iraq
- Japan
- Jordan
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mexico
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Oman
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Romania
- Qatar
- Singapore
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

#### State
- Alaska
- Alabama
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Saipan
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming
- U.S. Virgin Islands
UNIT LOCATION ASSIGNMENTS - Air Base, Armory, and Readiness Centers

1. AMERICAN FORK  
Forward Support Co., 1457th Engineer Bn  
HHC, 1457th Engineer Bn

2. BEAVER  
C Battery, 2-222nd Field Artillery Bn

3. BLANDING  
Det 1, 118th Transportation Co

4. BLUFFDALE  
115th Engineer Facilities Detachment  
HHC, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Bde  
217th Signal Company  
HHB, 65th Field Artillery Brigade  
HHC, 19th Special Forces Group (Abn)  
B Co, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Abn)  
C Co, GSB, 19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
D Co, GSB, 19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
GSC, 19th Special Forces Group (Abn)  
Utah Training Center - Camp Williams  
640th Regiment-Regional Training Institute  
144th Area Support Medical Company  
190th Signal Company  
MCP-OD HHBN, 4th Infantry Division  
Military Intelligence Company, 19th SF

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

6. CEDAR CITY  
HHB, 2-222nd Field Artillery Bn

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

8. LEHI  
HHC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Abn)  
BSC, 1-19th Special Forces Bn (Abn)

9. LOGAN  
B Co., 142nd Military Intelligence Bn

10. MANTI  
B Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery Bn

11. MOUNT PLEASANT  
A Co, 489th Distribution Company

12. OGDEN  
D Co, 142nd Military Intelligence Bn  
HHD, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
A Co, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)  
B Co, GSB, 1-19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)

13. OREM  
HHC, 141st Military Intelligence Bn  
IC Det, 141st Military Intelligence Bn  
B Co, 141st Military Intelligence Bn  
D Co, 141st Military Intelligence Bn

14. PRICE  
116th Engineer Company (Vertical)

15. RICHFIELD  
A Btry, 2-222nd Field Artillery Bn

16. SALT LAKE CITY (AIR BASE)  
Det 50, Operations Support Airlift  
Det 4, C Co, 2-641st Aviation Bn  
Headquarters, Utah Air National Guard  
109th Air Control Squadron  
130th Engineer Installation Squadron  
169th Intelligence Squadron  
Headquarters, 151st Air Refueling Wing  
151st Operations Group  
151st Operations Support Flight  
191st Air Refueling Squadron  
151st Maintenance Group  
151st Maintenance Squadron  
151st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
151st Maintenance Operations Flight  
151st Mission Support Group  
151st Logistics Readiness Squadron  
151st Civil Engineering Squadron  
151st Security Forces Squadron  
151st Communications Squadron  
151st Force Support Squadron  
151st Medical Group  
151st Medical Squadron

17. SPANISH FORK  
HHB, 1-145th Field Artillery Battalion  
C Btry, 1-145th Field Artillery Bn  
HHC, 118th Transportation Company

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

19. SPRINGVILLE  
HHD, 489th Brigade Support Bn

20. TOOELE  
214th Forward Support Company

21. VERNAL  
Det 1, 116th Engineer Co (Vertical)

22. WEST JORDAN  
23rd Army Band  
97th Aviation Troop Command  
HHC, 1-211th Aviation Bn  
A Co, 1-211th Aviation Bn  
B Co, 1-211th Aviation Bn  
C Co, 1-211th Aviation Bn  
E Co, 1-211th Aviation Bn  
D Co, 1-211th Aviation Bn  
E Co, 2-211th Aviation Bn  
Det 1, G Co, 2-211th Aviation Bn  
Det 2, B Co., 1-12th Aviation Bn

23. WENDOVER  
Det 3, GSC, 19th Special Forces Grp (Abn)

ABBREVIATIONS

Abn Airbourne  
Bn Battalion  
Btry Battery  
Bde Brigade  
Co Company  
Det Detachment  
BSC Battalion Support Company  
GSB Group Support Battalion  
GSC Group Support Company  
HHC Headquarters, Headquarters Company  
HHB Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion  
HHD Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment  
IC Intelligence Coordination  
Grp Group  
MCP- Main Command Post  
OD Operational Detachment  
WMD Weapons of Mass Destruction
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Location of Air Base, Armories, and Readiness Centers</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Utah Senate District</th>
<th>Utah House District</th>
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<th>Active Guard Personnel (AGR)</th>
<th>Federal Technicians</th>
<th>Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS)</th>
<th>State Full- and Part-Time Employees</th>
<th>Federally Reimbursed State Employees</th>
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The Utah National Guard is proud to be a member of more than 29 counties throughout Utah in which Soldiers and Airmen serve. Through an active community relations program, the Utah National Guard demonstrates that it is a good neighbor and community partner. The Guard and its Soldiers and Airmen are extensively involved in local community organizations and often participate in the events they support.

In 2019 the Utah National Guard supported hundreds of community support requests for various events, such as: Utah Honor Flight, Scouting for Food, Utah County Fair, Stadium of Fire, and the 21st Annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. The Utah National Guard also supported many holiday celebration and memorials, such as: Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veteran’s Day.

The hometown military presence has been a long tradition in community parades, color guards, helicopter displays, cannon and rifle salutes, military vehicles and logistical support.

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

Top down: Members of the Utah National Guard support the Boys and Girl Scouts to retire American flags at the annual Spanish Fork Flag Retirement Ceremony. A Utah National Guard Soldier receives food during the annual Scouting for Food drive March 16, 2019. West Valley City was selected as one of 15 recipients of the 2019 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, at a display ceremony a Utah National Guard Color Guard posts the colors at West Valley City Hall, Sept. 17.
Fort Douglas Military Museum preserves and shares the rich military history of Utah and the Fort Douglas National Historic Landmark. The museum accomplishes its mission through exhibits, lectures, tours and public events. Two major military milestones -- the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI and the upcoming 75th anniversary of the end of WWII -- set the stage for much of the museum’s programming this year.

Using special exhibits and expert discussion, the museum showcased World War I with an extensive collection of uniforms, equipment and personal items; as well as a display of fine-art period posters at the Utah State Capitol entitled “Impressions of the Great War.” In addition, the museum hosted a traveling international display detailing the story of civilian internment throughout the British Empire during World War I. The museum complemented this with a companion exhibit, “Internment at Home,” which presented the story of the prison camp at Fort Douglas.

Focusing on the D-Day invasion, the museum actively sought out Utah’s WWII veterans “who were there” to share their personal war stories on the 75th anniversary, and at Fort Douglas Day. The museum also developed two special exhibits on WWII: “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” featuring historic sweetheart keepsakes; and “From the Home Front to the Battle Front and Back Again,” an exhibit on parachutes manufactured in Manti, used by paratroopers on D-Day, and returned home and made into wedding dresses for war brides.

The museum also introduced our first Utah State History Day at the Museum, featuring nationally-recognized youth exhibits, and partnered with several state agencies to introduce students and teachers to resources available for historic research. Additionally, the museum hosted a lecture series for Women’s History Month.

Museum operations and programming are heavily supported through partnerships with the Utah National Guard and the Fort Douglas Military Museum Association (a nonprofit organization). The museum cares for the state’s military artifact collection alongside a vast archive of material and a specialized military and western history library catalogue. Museum staff and board members recently completed year one of StEPs-UT, a two-year pilot program for museum best practices, achieving certification in all year one modules. The museum hosts a wide range of tours for the general public from schools to scouts, civic to special interests, military to veterans. We serve as a meeting place for historical, military, and other community groups to come together in an exchange of ideas and ideals. Our audience continues to increase and diversify.

The museum is located at 32 Potter Street in Salt Lake City within the Fort Douglas National Historic Landmark and District. Visiting hours are Noon to 5PM Tuesday through Saturday. Admission to the museum is free. For more information, visit fortdouglas.org.
Approximately 7,000 Air and Army National Guardsman stood in formation on Tarbet Field at Camp Williams, Utah, for one of Utah’s proudest traditions, the 65th annual Governor’s Day ceremony, Sept. 14, 2019.

Gov. Gary R. Herbert, commander in chief of the Utah National Guard, addressed the challenges of having the dual purpose of serving the state while accomplishing a federal missions as well.

"Today, regardless of the challenges that we face—and we certainly have them here in this state, through this country and throughout the world—I take courage in the knowledge that whatever task lies ahead, it’s not as great as the power that I see before me here today," said Herbert.

Herbert took a moment to remind service members and their families of the true purpose of Governor’s Day: Not just to review the troops, but to honor service members and their families for their sacrifice. He also acknowledged the families of Utah’s recently fallen Soldiers Maj. Brent Taylor, the mayor of North Ogden who was serving with the Special Operations Joint Task Force, and Capt. Corey Holmgren, a Chaplain with the 19th Special Forces Group.

"Thank you for preserving our freedoms, our liberties, and our way of life," Herbert said. "We are proud of your service and your great example. May God bless you and your service. May God continue to bless the great state of Utah, and may God bless the United States of America."

Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton, adjutant general, Utah National Guard, also honored the Soldiers that lost their lives this last year as he quoted from the Lays of Ancient Rome by Thomas Babington Macaulay:

Then out spake brave Horatius, The Captain of the gate:
“To every man upon this earth Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better Than facing fearful odds
For the ashes of his fathers And the temples of his gods…”

He also stressed the importance of staying ready, reliable, relevant, and responsive.

"Luck favors the prepared," Burton said. "That’s why we work so hard to ensure our formations are ready to go, should we be called upon."

Burton spoke about the pyramid Soldiers and Airman live with daily: their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. He also explained that a service member’s health is the responsibility of the individual and caring for oneself is most important. He asked them to maintain their physical fitness, emotional and mental health, and finally, find something spiritual to enrich their lives in the coming year.

After the pass in review, Guardsmen and their families were given the opportunity to enjoy food, activities, and most importantly time with their loved ones who serve and sacrifice alongside them.
The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah is a major contributor to the success of the Utah National Guard. It is an organization of community leaders that provides significant support for a number of National Guard activities. The corps is comprised of current and former National Guard general officers, former military leaders, current and past governors, legislators, judges, business owners and leaders from every walk of life. The Utah Guard is known for its support to the community, and the Honorary Colonels provide significant support to the Guard.

During June, the corps sponsored its 58th annual Bronze Minuteman Awards banquet. The banquet honored local citizens who have distinguished themselves through community service in civic, religious, business, humanitarian or military capacities. This year’s recipients included Dr. Mack Wilberg, Mr. Scott Anderson, Ms. Kristen Cox, Mr. Gary Harter, Pastor Rick Nerud, and Congressman Chris Stewart.

In the first week of August, the corps helped sponsor the 58th annual Freedom Academy. This is a week-long event that hosts high school student leaders from throughout Utah in an unforgettable, freedom-education experience. Held at Camp Williams, Freedom Academy acquaints students with the prison system, military, civic and religious leaders, and encourages each student to be an ambassador of freedom at their own school.

Members of the corps are involved in most significant events in the Utah National Guard. Involvement includes financial assistance for special projects such as the annual Veterans Day Concert. At other times, they may be a liaison between the Guard and less-involved community members. Whatever their participation, the Honorary Colonels Corps is a valuable and supportive part of the Guard community in Utah. Retired Brig. Gen. E. J. “Jake” Garn is commander of the corps. Below is a current roster of the Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah. Each member adds value to and strengthens the Utah National Guard.

2019 Bronze Minuteman Award Recipients

Left to right: Mr. Gary Harter, Mr. Scott Anderson, Ms. Kristen Cox, Dr. Mack Wilberg, Pastor Rick Nerud, and (not pictured) Congressman Chris Stewart.

Hon Col Jerry R. Acton
Hon Col Scott L. Anderson
Brig Gen (Ret) Dallen S. Attack
Hon Col Dwight L. Baldwin
Hon Col Eugene W. Banks
Hon Col Michael Barnes*
Hon Col Lane Beattie
Hon Col George A. Becker
Hon Col Mark Buchi
 Brig Gen Christine Burckle
Hon Col Joseph C. Burgess
Maj Gen (Ret) Bruce C. Frandsen
Brig Gen (Ret) David R. Fountain
Hon Col Tage I. Flint
Hon Col Ronald E. Henriksen
Brig Gen (Ret) Ralph L. Dewsnup
Hon Col Gerald “Skip” Daynes
Brig Gen (Ret) Ronald E. Chytraus
Hon Col Howard S. Clark
Hon Col Sheryl Cox
Hon Col David R. Fountain
Brig Gen (Ret) Bruce C. Frandsen
Hon Col D. Kent Michie
Maj Gen (Ret) James M. Miller
Brig Gen (Ret) William C. French
Hon Col June M. Morris
Brig Gen (Ret) Kenneth Gammon
Brig Gen (Ret) E. J. “Jake” Garn*
Hon Col Mary Ann Garner
Hon Col Brian Garrett
Brig Gen (Ret) Stanley J. Gordon
Hon Col Ron Greenleaf
Hon Col Myrna T. Griffone
Hon Col David F. Gunn*
Maj Gen (Ret) John M. Hafen
Hon Col John L. Hansen*
Hon Col Gary R. Harter
Hon Col John K. Haws
Brig Gen (Ret) Jon C. Heaton
Hon Col Ronald E. Henriksen
Hon Col Lon R. Richardson, Jr.
Hon Col Lynn V. Ritchie
Hon Col Dan E. Diestel
Brig Gen Larry A. Schmidt*
Hon Col Duane C. Hill
Brig Gen (Ret) Jon C. Heaton
Hon Col Robert Pembroke
Brig Gen (Ret) Edward M. Willis
Hon Col Kent A. Cameron
Hon Col Robert L. Stayner
Hon Col Michael J. Norton
Brig Gen (Ret) William T. Smith
Hon Col Don L. Peterson
Hon Col Raymond Peterson
Brig Gen (Ret) Val L. Peterson
Hon Col Taft E. Price
Hon Col William C. French
Hon Col Steven R. Watt
Brig Gen (Ret) Kenneth A. Wade
Hon Col R. Kim Watts
Hon Col Dolores Wheeler
Hon Col Paul Whitehead
Hon Col Edward M. Willis
Maj Gen (Ret) Brian L. Tarbet
Hon Col Patrick D. Wilson
Hon Col David Winberg
Hon Col Andrew M. Wood
Hon Col Richard Workman*
Hon Col_N. Scott Reading
Hon Col Ronald E. Henriksen
Hon Col Ruston A. Wright
Hon Col Wallace A. Wright
Hon Col Dale O. Zabriskie
*Board Member

Emeritus Members:
Hon Col Lewis Billings
Hon Col Charles W. Dahlquist, II
Hon Col Robert H. Garff
Hon Col Jake W. Garn
Hon Col Peter C. Knudson
Brig Gen (Ret) James G. Martin
Hon Col Vickie L. McCall
Hon Col Robert Pembroke
Hon Col Harris Simmons
Brig Gen Robert S. Voyles

HONORARY COLONEL CORPS OF UTAH - Community Leaders Support

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The band, choir, and audience raised the roof of the Tabernacle on Temple Square, singing The Star Spangled Banner, to kick off the 63rd annual Veterans Day Concert.

Eight high schools from the Granite School District joined the Utah National Guard’s 23rd Army Band, and performed harmoniously a resounding array of music. Of special note, a musical number written by Kerry Moore, the choir conductor for Cyprus High School, titled: “Born to be a Soldier,” had never been performed in public. The piece was enjoyed by all, as the choir radiantly breathed life to his work, which encouraged a gratuitous standing ovation.

During the concert, Brig. Gen. Thomas Fisher, land component commander for the Utah National Guard, gave a speech emphasizing the multitude of roles veterans live beyond their service to their nation. One such Soldier, whom the concert held a moment of silence for was, North Ogden Mayor, Maj. Brent Russell Taylor, who one-week prior to the day of the concert was killed in Afghanistan. Special recognition and a standing ovation went to Taylor, his wife, Jennie Taylor and family that were in attendance at the concert.

“It is an incredible honor for members around the world to have a day of recognition for them. I am honored to be here, to honor all of them,” praised Fisher about his opportunity as keynote speaker at the concert. “It is a privilege to give special recognition to Major Taylor who exemplified everything it meant to be a Soldier.”

Recipients of awards were presented for the winners of the Utah PTA Essay Contest. Shaheen Takmili of Riverton High School (12th Grade), Laynie Allred of Oak Canyon Junior High (8th grade), Riley Eaton of Parleys Park Elementary (4th grade), each composed a 500-word essay on, “Why I am proud of my veteran.” Zions Bank’s 9th annual Veterans Service Award recipient was given to Mr. Lane Beattie a (retired) president, CEO, of the Salt Lake Chamber.

Intermittently throughout the concert, special videos focused on World War I, and commemorating the end of the Great War. The videos added to the enlightened entertainment for all to remember why we celebrate Veterans Day.

Within the audience was Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp of Salt Lake County. When asked why Cadet Britain Fogle was in attendance she said, “to show respect to veterans and what they’ve done for us,” which is at the heart and soul of what veterans day is really about.

Battle Hymn of the Republic was the final musical number angelically performed by the choir and the band, but was unexpectedly followed by Stars and Stripes conducted by Gov. Gary Herbert.

“It was very moving and it was really great to be here on the anniversary [of the end] of World War I,” said Sgt. 1st Class Sam Beall of the Utah Army National Guard.

A special thanks to all who came out on a cold, but clear night, to show respect for all veterans and especially remember those that served and sacrificed to bring an end to World War I.
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.

JennieTaylor, 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.
More than 100 Soldiers from the Utah Army National Guard’s 65th Field Artillery Brigade, ‘America’s Thunder,’ returned from a Middle East deployment on Jan. 31, 2019 at the Utah Air National Guard’s Wright Air Base, Salt Lake City.

“The Soldiers of this unit have completed, with honor, the mission assigned them in the U.S. Central Command.”
Tech. Sgt. Sean Price, a boom operator assigned to the 151st Air Refueling Wing, was awarded the Utah Cross by Gov. Gary Herbert and the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, on April 22, 2019 at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.

Price was awarded the medal for his heroism and quick thinking when he helped save the life of a Utah man who had fallen into the Weber River after his vehicle had been seen hanging off the side of a bridge. With the help of his wife, Price administered life-saving measures and stayed with the individual until medical personnel arrived.

Nearly 50 Soldiers of the Utah National Guard’s 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post Operational Detachment returned home sporadically throughout August, arriving at the Salt Lake International Airport after more than 10 months serving in Afghanistan.

MCP0D Soldiers supported Operation Freedom’s Sentinel and Resolute Support in a number of capacities, from overseeing military operations countrywide, to training, advising and assisting at the ministerial level, and working side-by-side with Afghan partners at the corps and provincial level on a daily basis.

The Utah National Guard responded to a fire that started during training at the Camp Williams .50 Caliber gun range July 14, 2019. The fire spread into a draw known as Oak Springs and burned approximately 200 acres before it was 100 percent contained the same day within the fire breaks. Fire crews watched for hot spots and called the fire completely out within a few days.

More than 60 Utah Guard and Unified Fire Authority personnel engaged the fire with 18 brush trucks, three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, two dozers, and one grader. The helicopters made repeated sorties from nearby water sources, where they filled 600-gallon buckets, and dropped a total of 51,000 gallons of water on the fire. The dozers and grader widened existing fire breaks and added two contingency fire breaks west of the fire.

Nearly 60 Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Regiment returned home from an 11-month Iraq deployment, arriving on multiple flights over a number of days at the Salt Lake International Airport.

The 2-211th deployed on June 15, 2018, the weekend of Father’s Day, and returned just in time for Mother’s Day. The 2-211th specializes in flying UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Since June 2018, more than 200 Soldiers from the 2-211th Aviation Battalion have served as the sole General Support Aviation Battalion in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

On June 29, 2019, 15 Soldiers from Utah’s 115th Engineer Facilities Detachment, returned after 10 months serving as the Directorate of Public Works–South for Camp Arifjan and other nearby locations in Kuwait, working for Area Support Group–Kuwait of the 3rd Army. The EFD was in charge of all engineering services including facilities maintenance and providing general housing for incoming troops.

The EFD is part of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and composed of several disciplines to include licensed professionals in architecture, civil, structural, and mechanical engineering.
It was a call to action, 18 Utah Army National Guard Soldiers from the 174th Cyber Protection Team departed from the Utah National Guard headquarters in Draper, to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, to join the online battle Jan. 2, 2019. They are part of Task Force Echo III. The task force consists of 12 states working together under the 126th Cyber Battalion, based out of Massachusetts. The team will be defending the continuity and stability of U.S. infrastructure during its 400-day deployment.

The Utah National Guard established the new 118th Transportation Company during an Uncasing and Assumption of Command ceremony at the Spanish Fork Armory, Oct. 12, 2018. More than 100 Soldiers from the Utah Army National Guard’s 65th Field Artillery Brigade, ‘America’s Thunder,’ returned from a Middle East deployment on Jan. 31, 2019, at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Salt Lake City. With only a few hours notice, approximately 200 Soldiers from the Utah National Guard’s 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 116th Horizontal Construction Company, 300th Military Intelligence and other support personnel assisted Utah County cities preparing for potential floods after the Pole Creek and Bald Mountain fires ravaged a combined 120,000 acres of land, leaving vast swathes of burn scars across the mountains above Elk Ridge, Woodland Hills, Payson, Spring Lake and Covered Bridge areas.

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Given the existing and emerging challenges the U.S. military is facing, future generations will undoubtedly study and critique decisions made in regards 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 are challenging us on many fronts and in many 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 a membership of more than 5,500 Soldiers, it utilizes armories, airports and training sites in 24 strategic locations throughout the state. The UTARNG consists of nine major commands: 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 65th Field Artillery Brigade, 97th Aviation Troop Command, 97th Troop Command, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, 640th Regional Training Institute Regiment, Utah Training Center-Camp Williams and Medical Command. Each command consists of selfless leaders and highly trained Soldiers who faithfully serve and are ready to accomplish any mission assigned.

The UTARNG is engaged in many missions across the globe and here 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 that support the war effort. Soldiers are operating in various countries throughout the Middle East and other areas 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 worry stricken families. Additionally, the 2/211th Aviation Battalion supported five wildfires contributing significantly to quickly containing all wildfires in Utah 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 and was privileged to support the 150th “Golden Spike” anniversary of the joining for the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Point. A very significant mission supported by the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade was providing more than 40 Soldiers to the Customs and Border Protection at various locations along the U.S. southern border. Their intelligence skills and experience has greatly 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. The Region VII Homeland Response Force conducted a validation exercise that involved 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.

High marks are the norm in the UTARNG in every critical metric used by National Guard Bureau in assessing the 54 states and territories. Achieving these results does not happen by mistake. The professionalism and dedication of its members are what makes the difference in achieving success. 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.

After Layton City residents noticed a gas smell in their homes and water, the 85th CST made a confined-space entry using Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus on two Soldiers to take water and air samples. This was critical assistance using highly trained National Guardsmen with sophisticated equipment unavailable to the city of Layton.
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 SF shifted its focus back to solider 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 by providing regimental support to Special Operations Command-Europe while also strengthening strategic partnerships across Europe.

Group Special Troops Company, 19th SF had a very busy year. As specialized support company the GSTC consists of a Military Intelligence Detachment, Chemical Decontamination Detachment, Advanced Skills Detachment, Unmanned Aerial System Detachment, and a Signals Detachment. This year individuals from the GSTC were mobilized to support exercises and deployments to Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

This year the Military Intelligence Company, 19th SF 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 Mission 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 BN conducted Maple Resolve exercise with Canadian Armed Forces, as well as rotations to the Joint Readiness Training Center and National Training Center. This year 1st BN has 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, 19th SF maintains a focus on developing skills for lethality, communication, field craft, and survivability. The intense weapons training the GSB conducted this year allowed the unit to move onto more advanced skills like convoy training and the unitization of pack animal to complete its mission.

This next year the 19th SFG (A) will move into a state-of-the-art Special Forces Readiness Center on Camp Williams. The building is being dedicated to Staff Sgt. Arron R. Butler who was 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.
The 65th Field Artillery Brigade was busy participating 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 deployed to the United Arab Emirates. During the year the brigade welcomed three separate units home from deployment, D Battery, 1-145 Field Artillery; Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 65th FAB; and E 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 process in support of 134 HIMARS 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 when appropriate. The brigade conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, mobilizing the ARCENT Fires Response Element in Kuwait, and conducted a HIMARS Rapid Insertion (HIRAIN) 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 (UAE) 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 making improvements to Camp Redleg through service projects. The service projects entailed repairing and painting a fence that encloses the camp’s volleyball court, which Soldiers use in their recreational time. It was the brigade commander’s intent to execute service projects as part of the overall vision for quality of life improvements on the camp. The brigade stands ready it 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, 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 South West Asia. The Soldiers of the 97th AVTC have also been integral in helping the 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 ARMS inspection.

Detachment 2, 112th Aviation successfully flew across the country to support a joint border patrol operation on the southeast border 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 aviation instructors, helping to train new aviators.

In Utah, the 97th AVTC is also supporting ongoing civil operations such as wildland fire fighting and search and rescue. Even with the high OPTEMPO, the Soldiers of the 97th AVTC have had three senior non-commissioned officer's (NCO) graduate in the same class at the Sergeant Major Academy, in Fort Bliss, Texas, 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) total flight hours.
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, all of which are provided by units throughout the Utah Army and Air National Guard. The HRF participated in training events in Alaska, Montana, and Utah involving multi-level exercises and four collective-training events involving more than 2,000 troops, which included a National Guard Bureau-evaluated External Evaluation to certify the HRFs ability to respond to disasters.

The 1993rd Contingency Contracting Team remains ready to deploy at a moment’s notice to support procurement and contracting operations anywhere around the world, while assisting the Utah National Guard with required contracting actions.

The 653rd Trial Defense Team continues to defend those who defend America and serve as the leader of the western trial defense region, consisting of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. This year the TDT assisted 33 new clients and oversaw four Administrative Separation Boards.

The 85th Civil Support Team continues to keep our communities safe through continuous training and education, building relationships with local and regional partners, and supporting local and regional events. The team is ready year-round to deploy anywhere, and at any time. In Fiscal Year 2019, the team responded 15 times to calls from local fire and police agencies for assistance, including responses for a chemical suicide, screening of suspicious packages, and analyzing unknown hazardous materials contamination for both local and federal partners. Additionally, the 85th participated in 10 multi-agency exercises and provided public safety support behind the scenes on 33 occasions.

The 23rd Army Band provides music throughout the full spectrum of military operations and instills in our Soldiers the will to fight and win, foster the support of our citizens, and promote our national interests at home and abroad. In FY 2019, the band responded to requests to support local military installation activities and the adjutant general’s ongoing public relations program throughout Utah by supporting 66 events, with a total of more than 200,000 listeners through broadcast and live performances.

The 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment continues a full schedule of events, supporting 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 continuously 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. Additionally, the ASMC provided medical support for the 75th iteration of the joint and combined, Yama Sakura exercise with forces of the United States 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 bounded by simple network enclave boundaries. Area of Operations may include portions of many networks, but not the entirety of said networks. In Fiscal Year 2019 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 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 2019, 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 within Utah. The training was led by the Brigade Commander, 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 that 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 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 all units in the brigade with radio and satellite communications. Also participated in all brigade-wide FTXs and provided communication capability vital to the support of HHC, 204th MEB during its two-week AT event in August. The unit’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 performed major upgrades to all satellite communications equipment prior to support of the 204th’s AT event.

During Training Year 2019, the Soldiers of the 204th MEB worked relentlessly in the pursuit of excellence and continue to live up to the words of the brigade motto: “Solidarity in Purpose.”

HHC 204th MEB: Annual Training at Dugway Proving Grounds August 2019, Soldiers setting up the VSAT. A 118th Engineer Company Soldier learns to operate a M-302. Sandbags filled by the 116th ECC are transported to areas around Elk Ridge, Utah.
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 Counter Drug Mission (UTCDM) 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 (DoD). 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 working throughout the state assisted in analyzing financial, statistical, and evidence based data, which this year resulted in the largest fentanyl seizure seen in the western United States.

Soldiers of the 300th MI continue to travel 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 support to 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 continues to grow. During the past year more than 60 courses in 22 languages were scheduled. 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 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, who will be sorely missed, but welcomed Col. Shahram Takmili to the position of brigade commander.
The 640th Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) continued operating at a high tempo during Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). The Regiment, commanded by Col. Ryan King and Command Sgt. Maj. Kody Nelson, holds National level recognition as an Institution of Excellence and is proud of the quality Army instructors it has produced through its robust staff and faculty development program, which has benefitted Army schools across the Nation.

2019 marked several notable changes in the way the Army trains Soldiers, most notably the full implementation of the Army’s Distributed Leader Course (DLC) and the full adoption of the Select-Train-Educate-Promote (STEP) model which aims to increase academic proficiency and rigor in Army training. These focal points have been critical to many changes experienced by the 640th RTI this year. 1st Battalion (Non-Commissioned Officer Academy), led by its Commandant Command Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Butler, and 1st Sgt. Jed Lundell successfully implemented changes to the Program of Instruction for the Army’s Basic Leader Course and refined course material for the Master Leader Course. 2nd Battalion (Modular/Signal) commanded by Lt. Col. Tammy Manwaring and Master Sgt. Kenneth Jansen prepared the signal Battalion to accept significant mission growth in 2020 while teaching 10 signal courses and 12 State directed courses in 2019. 3rd Battalion (Field Artillery) commanded by Lt. Col. Shane Day and Master Sgt. Chris Branch continued to teach more than 25 Field Artillery Courses and are positioned to receive substantial growth in 2020. 4th Battalion (Military Intelligence) commanded by Lt. Col. Gloria Parks and Master Sgt. Keith Moon continued to train Military Intelligence professionals and work with Utah National Guard commands to gain real experience on tools used in the operational force. 4th battalion exemplified the qualities inherent in the 640th RTI’s instructors by constantly seeking to better understand the operational environment as well as classroom dynamics.

The Regiment managed over 160 full-time certified instructors and staff, and taught over 130 individual courses ranging in length from 2 to 12 weeks. During FY19 3283 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 2474 National Guard Soldiers, 428 of which returned directly to Utah National Guard commands more ready and more prepared to lead Soldiers. This year marked another year in the Regimental history of excellence. The RTI is prepared to move forward its culture of professionalism, and its drive for individual and organizational progress.

“FIRE AND SWORD!”
Medical Command’s primary mission is to plan, program, provide and sustain force health protection, and medical/dental support to the more than 5,600 Soldiers assigned to Utah Army National Guard.

MEDCOM is an organization of 85 medical professionals, staff and administrative support roles led by 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 medical providers 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 continues with the theme “Rising to the Challenge.” Utah is marked as a “growth state” which means we will continue to see additional growth in the form of force structure. This, in turn, will lead to increases in personnel end strength.

The command team led by Lt. Col. Michael Kjar and Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Johnson has solidified the team that promotes respect and professionalism while always placing an emphasis on customer service and mission accomplishment.

The RRB continued with the tradition of excellence by again ensuring it achieved mission end-strength of 5,620 Soldiers. Recruiting high-quality citizens and managing attrition by working closely with command teams within the Utah National Guard resulted in some units achieving more than 130 percent retention over planned goals. This is the 20th consecutive year of achieving the mission milestone.

The RRB continues to maintain its position as one of the top performing recruiting battalions across the 54 states and territories. This past year, its Recruit Sustainment Program was again recognized as the top RSP in the nation.

The RRB Marketing Team continued to develop its online presence adapting to the ever-changing market targeting its key demographic group. RRB successfully launched its recruiting app for smartphones which allows anyone to instantly submit a referral with the data fed directly to the appropriate recruiting team. RRB is fortunate to have a strong relationship with local media outlets which allowed it to spotlight Soldiers with live, on-air, local television interviews. These interviews highlighted the achievements of women in uniform and minorities and showcased the importance of their participation. Additionally, this year the RRB Marketing Team sponsored the annual Freedom Academy which brought student body leaders from high schools across the state to Camp Williams and exposed them to the key attributes of service to the state and the nation through the National Guard.

Finally, our most important asset, the Soldiers of the battalion, provide the ability for us to succeed. Nothing can replace the effectiveness of the front line recruiter. With a significant number of our recruiters having less than one year on the job it would seem almost an impossible feat to expect the RRB to achieve an increased end strength let alone accomplish the previous year’s mission numbers. However, our new recruiters possess incredible initiative and bring fresh new ideas to help us adapt to the latest generation of future Soldiers.
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, the machine gun range, and the 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 (UTC) 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 provide the ability to do 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 in order to enhance training. In another effort to improve training, construction and renovation has started on the urban assault course buildings. They will be converted into fully functional houses and rooms that can be breached and assaulted.

The 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 it was one of the most exciting in recent memory. Events included a KC-135R Stratotanker flyover and capabilities demonstrations with AH-64 Apache Longbow and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, coordinated with 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and 65th Field Artillery Brigade. Following the ceremony was the opportunity for Soldiers, Airmen, and their families to enjoy equipment displays, food booths, and a classic car show.
Homeland Response Force, commanded by Col. Steven Brenchley and Command Sgt. Major Richard Thalman, continues to provide disaster response for the FEMA Region Eight, comprising Colorado, Montana, North and South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

The HRF trains to respond within four hours to natural or man-made disasters. It saves lives with search and extractions, decontamination, and medical-response elements supported by communication and security elements, all provided by units throughout the Utah Army and Air National Guard.

This year, the HRF participated in training events in Alaska and 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 exercises from the state’s Disaster Preparedness Program. The first event, in December, focused on fire basics, confined-space rescue and unit mobilization (load plans, alerting and convoy operations). Also dog handling, fire operations, building-clearing techniques and rope-rescue techniques.

In January, with its final engagement, HRF elements completed six years of valuable training with our 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, CBRNE 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 the ORCA exercise in and around the Anchorage, Alaska region with multiple states’ Civil Support Teams. ORCA, which is an all-hazards training event, allowed the MEDEL opportunities to practice their 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.
More than 100 Airmen with the 109th Air Control Squadron say goodbye prior to boarding an aircraft starting their six-month deployment, Nov. 6 at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.

Utah Air National Guard members pose in front of Air Force One during President Donald Trump’s visit to Elko, Oct. 20, 2018. Members provided security, maintenance and logistical support during the presidential visit.

When the smoke cleared from this year’s Utah National Guard Best Warrior competition, Airman 1st Class Caleb Drake, a member of the 151st Security Forces Squadron, hoisted the bronze Spartan helmet as the Soldier/Airman of the Year during the award ceremony, April 14.

Drake and fellow competitors were put through four days of tough military tasks and tests. One series of events Soldiers and Airmen endured was German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge testing, requiring them to prove their skills in various fitness and shooting events, from swimming to sprints, ruck marching and shooting.

Tech. Sgt. Johnson Xaysana was recognized by the Air National Guard as one of the nation’s top recruiters during the Annual Certification and Training Course, March 29, held in Gulfport, Mississippi.

The Air National Guard annually recognizes its best performers nationally and Xaysana’s performance, on behalf the Utah Air National Guard during Fiscal Year 2018, earned him the distinction of being the nation’s top Air Guard Production Recruiter and Retainer of the Year.

Firefighter Russell Pressley, a driver/operator with the Roland R. Wright Fire Department stands beside a Oshkosh “Striker” Fire Fighting truck March 11, 2019 at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. Pressley responded to a tanker-truck fire on I-15 Feb. 22, 2019 and was able to assist local fire fighters extinguish the fire with the specialized truck.
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.

Lt. Gen. Scott Rice, director of the Air National Guard, and Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Anderson, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard, visited Wright ANGB, Jan., 2019, met with senior leadership and held an open forum with all Airmen.

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, 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 (ESGR) ceremony, Aug. 27, 2019, 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. 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 has remained as engaged as ever with its three major areas of responsibility during Fiscal Year 2019 which includes 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, 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 help 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 the annual USSTRATCOM exercise Global Thunder. Global Thunder is an annual 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 to the amazing work the unit has accomplished, 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.
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, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, integrating seamlessly with members of the US 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 “Kingpin” is the DOD’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 and 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 AOR’s. 109th members identified, tracked and controlled more than 40,000 aircraft, managed air-to-air refueling of more than 94 million pounds of fuel to more than 15,000 receivers. In addition, 109th Battle Managers team supported more than 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 the communications and computer infrastructure ensuring uninterrupted radar detection, secure air-to-ground communications, power generation, satellite communications and ever critical Data-Link connectivity across more than one million square miles of air space. The 109th cyber teams also broke new ground standing up the Air Forces 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 First Sergeant 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 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 their 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’ala 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.

CMSgt Russell Fox guiding members of the 130th Engineering Installation Squadron on replacing six foot parabolic microwave dish for the 169th Air Defense Group at Mt. Ka’ala Air Force Station, Hawaii, August 2019.


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 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG) is a 211-member organization made up of the 169th Intelligence Squadron, the 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 (DMS), part of the Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS). 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 over 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 Guardsmen 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 Guardsmen. This surge support increased the Combatant Command’s language analysis throughput by 900%.

One of the lessons learned by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) 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 (UPAD) 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.