

UTAH MINUTEMAN 2017 Volume 1



**Det. 2, 101st Airborne Division and
19th SF Soldiers return from deployment**

142nd MI Soldiers Deploy to Iraq

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg



Major General Jefferson Burton The Adjutant General

I was reminded recently of the amazing capacity and skill of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard, as we responded to the planning

and execution of a major event involving thousands of participants which required detailed planning and pinpoint execution. I reflected on the professionalism and the level of commitment that is such an important part of the Profession of Arms. As members of our nation's oldest fighting force, we stand ready to respond at a moment's notice to close with and destroy the enemies of the United States abroad, and to react to disasters in the homeland. Everything that we do in a uniform prepares us to perform this vital, dual mission.

As our federal government transitions to new leadership, we will continue to face fiscal challenges that impact our force structure and potentially our training readiness. Job #1 for all commander's and military formations within the Utah National Guard is, and will continue to be READINESS.

We must be ready when our nation calls upon us. Leaders at all levels will review their training programs to ensure that we make maximum time of collective-training opportunities to build our readiness. Staffs at the battalion and above will practice the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP), and Mission Command during every drill period. It has been said that "Adversity does not develop character, it reveals it," and nowhere is that more apparent than in the continued, sustained performance of our military members and their families over the past 15 years of war. I could not be more proud of each one of you!

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Berg



Command Sergeant Major Michael Miller Senior Enlisted Comments

Another great year in the history books and a new year ahead in which the Utah National Guard will

reach even higher marks. Last year our team increased capacity and capability from the individual level up through to the unit-collective objectives, which is right in line with our adjutant general's command guidance; unit readiness is the priority and the priority starts at the individual level.

What we do today will have an impact on tomorrow. Together, as one team, we will continue to make the most of our training opportunities to be prepared for any assignment or mission, whether it is attending our individual professional military or civilian education requirements or conducting realistic, dynamic, and challenging collective training. Each minute of every

hour we train needs to be elevated in order to ensure we are on mark to sustain our level of excellence and prepared for requirements of tomorrow.

Taking the necessary time to plan, resource, and evaluate objective-based training is essential. There shouldn't be any member that just shows up for a training assembly. It takes every one of us to look ahead, be prepared, and make the most out of the time we have available, especially those leaders at the team, platoon, and flight levels.

In addition, we need to ensure our families and our employers are aware of our training calendar. Their continued support and cooperation is vital as we continue to reach higher and ensure we are prepared for tomorrow.

I am humbled to be on the most capable team in the world.

The Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Jefferson S. Burton

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Contents:

Major General Jeff Burton, The Adjutant General.....	3
Command Sergeant Major Michael Miller Senior Enlisted Comments	3
19th Special Forces Soldiers Return from Deployment to Korea.....	5
Utah Soldiers Return Home After 11-month Deployment to Iraq	6
Departure Ceremony of Utah National Guard Military Intelligence Soldiers	8
The 85th CST Clears Home of Hazards during Massive Drug Bust.....	10
Last Flight for Utah's C-12	11
Operation Yama Sakura 71.....	13
Utah Guard Hosts Governor's Day 2016.....	14
Utah Air Guard CERFP Conducts Joint Training Exercises	16
Family Assistance Centers.....	17
Air Force Association Gala for the Air National Guard 70th Anniversary.....	18
"I will never leave a fallen comrade" Utah Guardsman donates kidney to friend	20
Quiet Giant.....	22
Promotion and Retirement Called Bittersweet for Utah's Land Component Command	24
"They Also Serve" 61st Annual Veterans Day Concert Honors Military Families	26
1-211th Supports JRTC Rotation	28
4th Infantry Division Commanding General Visits Utah Guard Leaders	29
Air Promotions	30
Army Promotions	31

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Cover Photo:

A Soldier from the Detachment 2, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) holds his child close as he returns to the Utah Air National Guard's Roland Wright Air Base after an 11-month deployment to Iraq Nov. 18.

Photo by Ileen Kennedy



19th Special Forces Soldiers Return from Deployment to Korea

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldiers, mobilized from Utah to South Korea in June and returned to Utah after a six-month deployment on Dec. 10 at the Salt Lake International Airport.

The SF Soldiers were attached to Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 19th SFG(A)-Texas in support of Special Operations Command Korea (SOCKOR). They arrived earlier this week from overseas to Fort Bliss, Texas, and have been undergoing demobilization processing.

"I thoroughly enjoyed it," said a Special Forces first lieutenant Soldier. "It was very easy to find training. If you were self-motivated, it was easy to get stuff done. My most memorable experience was the opportunity to jump with the Korean-partner force in Iksan and earn the Korean parachute badge. It was an opportunity to jump in a foreign country."

For many of the returning Special Forces Soldiers this was their first deployment and first experience jumping in a foreign country. A specialist in the 19th SF described it as being "exciting" to go on his first deployment and have the opportunity to earn his foreign jump wings.

"We were doing a joint-airborne operations to get our foreign jump wings," said a 19th SF specialist. "We were working with SOCKOR so we got to jump out of a Chinook. While we were up there, it was great weather, hardly any wind; we jumped over a small DZ (drop zone) that was surrounded by apple orchards. I was one of the first sticks to jump; probably one of the first three guys to go out. My landing was great — it was a beautiful area. It was a good time."

The Soldiers' arrivals were spread throughout the day over five separate flights coming into the Salt Lake International Airport.

"It was great to come home; my wife was excited to see me," said a Special Forces first lieutenant Soldier. "I went to pick my three-year-old daughter from daycare; she's so excited to see me and super excited to have me around and hasn't let me out of her sight."

One Soldier returned to his awaiting family holding a special picture of his girlfriend to greet him.



Returning Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) are greeted by loved ones upon their return after a six-month deployment Dec. 10.



"This is my girlfriend," said the 1-19th specialist when asked about the photo. "She's on her mission right now in Texas. She has eight more months left so she sent a picture saying welcome home."

All the returning Soldiers were happy to make it home before Christmas; to be able to be a part of their families' celebration and the sentiment that their homecoming was a great Christmas gift.

"It's good being home finally after being gone for six months," said another specialist in the 1-19th. "I'm glad to be home for the holidays to be with family." 📷

Story by Ileen Kennedy

Photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn and Sgt. Jake Cox



Utah Soldiers Return Home After 11-month Deployment to Iraq

SALT LAKE CITY — The excited crowd on the Utah National Guard Wright Air Guard Base tarmac could hardly be contained as the plane carrying nearly 50 Utah Army National Guard Soldiers from Detachment 2, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also referred to as the 101st MCU (multi-component unit) taxied to a stop Nov. 18.

The crowd continued to shift as they inched forward awaiting the first glimpse of their love ones as Soldiers departed the plane. Once in sight, children broke free and ran to the awaiting arms of their fathers.

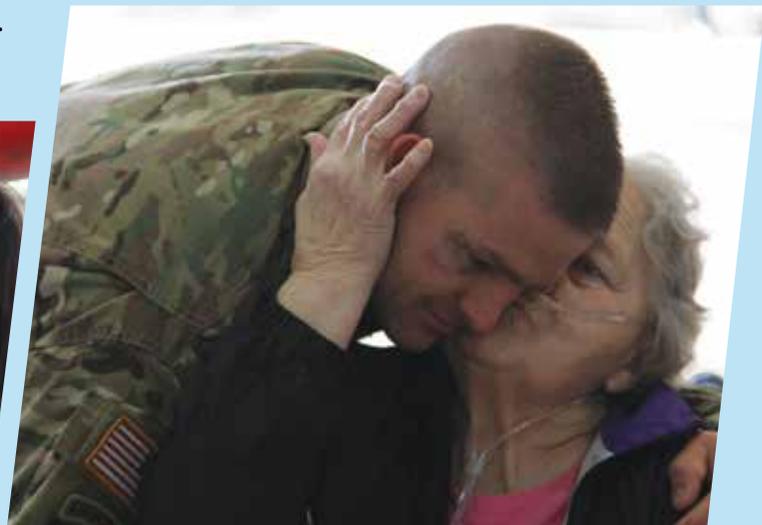
“Right when I came up my two boys came up and gave me a hug and my oldest, Tyson, gave me a big kiss. It was unreal; absolutely wonderful to be back,” said Staff Sgt. Clayton Buck. “They have grown a ton.”

Seeing the changes in his two growing boys, ages four and two, is just one of the many changes Buck will see as he returns. His wife, Jessica Buck, describes this last year as a whirlwind as they built a home while her husband was away.

“He’s coming home to a brand new home he’s never been to,” said Jessica.

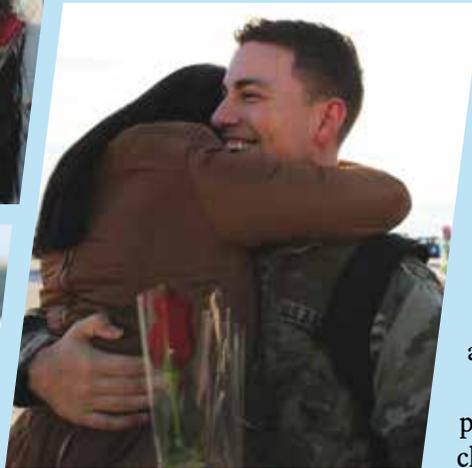
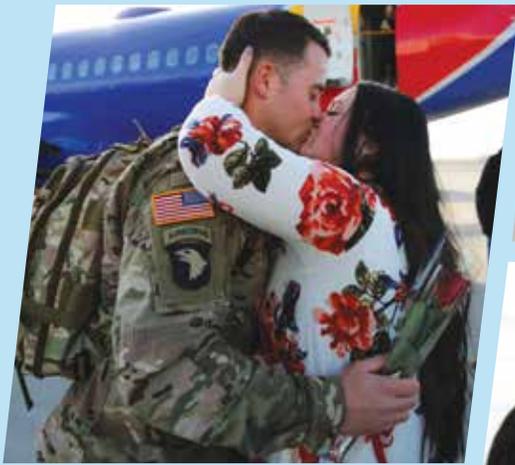
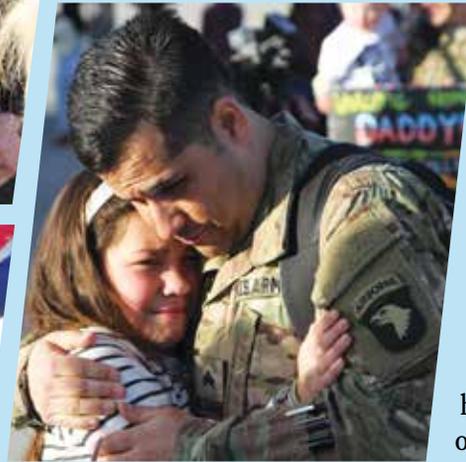
The returning Soldiers had the mission to provide critical intelligence support to the headquarters of the Screaming Eagles as they commanded the Combined Joint Task Force Iraq.

“This past year, it was tough,” said



Soldiers from the Detachment 2, 101st Airborne Division return to the Utah Air National Guard’s Roland Wright Air Base Nov. 18.

Photos by Ileen Kennedy, Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn and Tech. Sgt. Amber Monio



Clayton. “We did wonderful things over there. Everybody that served should absolutely feel proud of what they’ve done. I’m so happy to be home and so happy to serve my country and do the good things that we did and to finally come back home to loved ones; it’s fantastic; it’s wonderful to be back home.”

Staff Sgt. Richard Stanger is one of a number of Soldiers who would be holding their new baby for the first time. Stanger’s wife, Whitney, had to finish nursing their seven-week-old daughter, Magnolia, as the Soldiers departed the plane, and said she couldn’t wait to see her husband’s face when he saw his daughter in person for the first time. Magnolia is their fourth child, and the second time Stanger missed a delivery because of his military service.

“She’s the second one we had without him,” said Whitney. “This is the first one he actually got to see over Skype so I didn’t feel as bad with this one. It’s hard for him because he’s missed out on so much already. I’m super excited to have him home and not be alone anymore and maybe get some sleep.”

Richard Stanger’s face lit up as he carefully took his daughter for the first time in his arms.

“Come here Maggie, oh, you’re so beautiful,” said Richard. Looking up at his wife again he repeated, “She’s beautiful.”

Another Soldier who wasn’t able to be present in person for the delivery of his first child was Staff Sgt. Shawlan Robbins.

“I was six months pregnant when he left, so he has never met her before,” said McKinsey Robbins, as she beamed with a smile as her husband, Shawlan, held their baby daughter Atley for the first time.

“I’m just excited to see him be a dad,” said McKinsey, “that’s the thing I think I’m most excited about.

“She’s beautiful,” said Shawlan. “I don’t know what she thinks of me right now, but I wouldn’t trade this moment for anything.”

“It was hard, and I think harder on him than me,” said McKinsey, “because I get to be home with

her, and snuggle her, and watch her grow up, but he's had to miss all of that plus seeing everyone else. So it's been harder on him."

McKinsey had to have an emergency C-section while her husband was able to watch over a computer in the operating room.

"It was almost like I was there; they had the computer set up and I got to see everything as it happened," said Shawlan. "I got to spend time with Atley through Skype while my wife was in surgery. It was really awesome."

"She looks just like him," said McKinsey. "She knows his voice. She wakes up from naps when he facetimes; she definitely knows who she is talking to. It will be fun to see if she puts the voice to the face now. I'm just so happy." 📧

Story by Ileen Kennedy



Departure Ceremony for Utah National Guard Military Intelligence Soldiers



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton and Utah National Guard senior leaders greet the 24 deploying 142nd MI Soldiers after the deployment ceremony held at the Draper headquarters auditorium Dec. 10.

DRAPER, Utah — **M**embers of the Utah Army National Guard's 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion gathered at the Draper headquarters auditorium for their departure ceremony Dec. 10.

"The 142nd MI are the best in the United States Army," said Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton as he addressed the deploying Soldiers during the ceremony. "I am so proud of you all. I'm sorry you are going to be separated for the next little bit. I can tell you the day you come back will be more joyful than the pain you feel today."

The mission of these Soldiers is to provide military intelligence operations in support of the 1st Infantry Division,

with the role of Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq. These teams of intelligence Soldiers will work daily with U.S. and partner forces in Iraq ensuring the safety and operational readiness of all personnel serving in the theater.

“I feel privileged to be able to take such a highly trained group of Soldiers overseas to provide high-level intelligence support to all our fellow service members currently serving our country in Iraq,” said the detachment commander 142nd MI.

The group deploying is a mix of Soldiers with 12 married and 12 unmarried—the youngest being 21.

“So being the most junior, I’m the only junior enlisted going. I’m looking forward to the deployment. Hopefully it’s going to be a good experience.”

One Soldier is leaving on his fifth deployment and a few will experience their first deployment with this one.

“This is my second deployment,” said the commander. “Long-distance separation from family presents unique challenges, but despite the separation, the knowledge that our families support us, our work, and the firm belief that our missions are creating long-lasting positive influences helps the distance seem more bearable.”

A deploying sergeant recently moved his wife from Utah to Wisconsin so his wife and newborn son could be by her family while he was away. His wife gave birth just days before he had to leave.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton addresses the 142nd MI Soldiers and their families during their deployment ceremony Dec. 10.

“I had my son,” said the sergeant. “We stayed in the hospital for a day, then we went home. Two days later, on my birthday, I went off to do training. I got to see him on Thanksgiving, and I’ll see him for Christmas, and then I’ll see him in a year. It was hard to leave him.”

These MI Soldiers are being hailed as the most highly trained intelligence unit that the state has sent out in a long time.

“I’m honored to be able to deploy with the finest Soldiers Utah has to offer,” said their commander.

“We will be praying for you every single day while you are gone, and we won’t rest until you return,” said Burton. “God be with you.”



Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy



Soldiers with the 142nd MI listen during the deployment ceremony Dec. 10.

The 85th CST Clears Home of Hazards During Massive Drug Bust

SALT LAKE CITY — One of the largest drug busts in Utah history happened in a quiet neighborhood in Cottonwood Heights, and the Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Team was requested by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration to assist Nov. 22.

"The DEA is very appreciative of the 85th CST and the expertise that we bring to any incident," said Lt. Col. Bello, 85th CST commander. "We have a great working relationship so that when we were needed, they did not hesitate to call."

The 85th CST's mission was to clear a residence containing a clandestine production and distribution operation for illicit, counterfeit pharmaceuticals and identify any hazardous substances in order to allow the DEA to collect evidence.

"This evidence was the capstone to an ongoing investigation of a nefarious entrepreneur that had been pushing millions of dangerous pills across the country via the Dark Web," said Maj. Frost, 85th CST deputy commander.

Tech Sgt. Gatherum, 85th CST survey section team chief and Sgt. Jonathon Flick, survey section team member were the first Utah National Guard members to enter the residence.

"They wanted us to go clear the scene to make sure it was safe for their agents to go down and process the evidence," said Gatherum. "We went room to room with our detection equipment."

Gatherum and Flick, followed by two DEA agents, began their reconnaissance of the residence in Level A hazmat suits. They started upstairs in the master bathroom and bedroom, by meticulously clearing each room from hazards, checking readings on their air monitors, and providing real-time intelligence on the contents of the residence.

"It's exactly what we train for," said Gatherum. "We train to look for the non-obvious things. Things that look out of place. We started finding serious red flags."

What they found inside was huge stacks of money piled in many locations throughout the residence, along with multiple pill-making presses and chemicals to include a deadly drug known as fentanyl.

"Fentanyl is a dangerous chemical, just a small amount can kill you," said Gatherum. "We did a site characterization and told the DEA exactly what was in there."

"Fentanyl can be deadly to the touch to non-opioid users," said Brian Besser, Drug Enforcement Administration



Left to right: Maj. Dent, center, along with DEA agents and Unified Fire personnel, listens to a briefing outside the residence. Sgt. Flick, left, and Tech. Sgt. Gatherum, right, are briefed by Sgt. 1st Class Strom prior to entering and clearing the drug house.

Photos courtesy of 85th CST

agent in charge in Utah. "We are dealing with substances here that are deadly to the touch."

The operation was falsely packaging pills as black market oxycodone and Xanax. The counterfeit pharmaceuticals were being made with fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, which is 10 to 50 times more potent than heroin.

"This is absolutely catastrophic; this adds to the opioid epidemic. Synthetic opioids are extremely deadly," said Besser. "Just two milligrams of a synthetic opioid is potentially fatal to a non-opioid user."

Besser said it's likely that the total number of pills will number in the millions when they are counted up. At a rate of hundreds of thousands of pills a month, the profit was potentially millions of dollars.

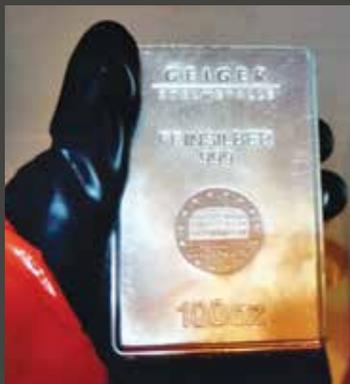
"In the bedroom the home's resident dresser drawers were just full of money, \$20 and \$100 bills," said Gatherum. "He had so much money he was balancing out his TV with stacks of money. In his closet he had a couple of safes that had even more money. From the calculations I did he was close to \$2 to \$3 million in cash and silver bullion and that doesn't account for the street value of the pills and supplies."

Agents are saying it is safe to assume that this raid is the largest seizure of pills in the state's history. During the process of clearing the home, the 85th CST found two operating pill presses and one that had recently been delivered, still crated in the garage.

"It looked like he was getting ready to ramp up his operation," said Gatherum. "The pill press we found in his office was pretty small, and the one he was using [in the basement] was kind of a mid-grade level. In his garage he had some crates of more equipment and a new pill press he had ordered; it was substantially bigger than the one he was



Silver bullion bars and stacks of money collected from inside the residence.



currently using. He wasn't quitting any time soon."

"He was pushing about a million dollars of pills a week," said Frost.

Besser said it would be very safe to say people have died from this operation due to overdoses.

"People are getting sick or dying from the product he is putting out to the street, not just here in Utah, but apparently the whole continental U.S.," said Gatherum. "There are people out there that would have taken his product, that at this point, aren't going to take his product and some of those people would have died from it. Ultimately they don't know it, but they are now not going to die. I feel good about being able to put a stop to that kind of stuff."

Gatherum has spent the past seven years with the 85th CST training to have the technical expertise to be ready to assist in an operation just like this one.

"We train all the time to do this kind of stuff," said Gatherum. "When you finally get a call that is legitimate you get to see the fruits of your labors. It's like training up for the super bowl and then finally getting to play. The past seven years of training—it felt good to be one of the good guys and have the DEA rely on me." 🇺🇸

Story by Ileen Kennedy

Last Flight for Utah's C-12

SALT LAKE CITY — At the cost of \$2.5 million, the Beechcraft C-12 is a bargain. It has long been the fixed-wing workhorse of the National Guard and Army, ferrying personnel and cargo across the states and beyond.

"Consider this...the Army could purchase nearly 15 new C-12s for the cost of one AH-64E Guardian Apache, the newest evolution of the attack airframe," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones. "I'm an Apache pilot, and no one needs to sell me on the importance of the Guardian to our nation. But I've also seen firsthand the vital role the C-12 plays in our military, and, having done so, was saddened to learn that the Utah National Guard's Detachment 50, often shortened to Det 50, just lost its long-time airframe, with the hopes of a replacement early in the new year. But an old airplane is like a long-time friend. And it's hard to say goodbye."

The 85-51271 defies her age. At more than 30 years old, she still has a sparkle to her white exterior and a well-maintained interior that easily passes for half her age. A noble airframe, she has more than 16,300 hours over terra firm, and is a smooth a ride as any other small-passenger aircraft. The 85-51271 first arrived in Utah in the mid-80s and has been piloted by an impressive list of Army aviators.



Left to right: Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lee, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Willard Gummarsall, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Holder prepare for Utah's Detachment 50 C-12's last flight.

Below: View from the window during the C-12's last flight.





Basic Aircraft Facts:
 The first C-12 models entered service with the U.S. Army in 1974, but since that time there have been numerous variants. The aircraft was essentially an "off-the-shelf" Super King Air 200, powered by the type's standard Pratt & Whitney Canada PT6A-41 engine. Although typically a personnel and equipment transport, some variants have been modified for what has been coined Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR).

According to Col. (retired) Bob Mabey, the aircraft nearly went to Idaho, but thankfully ended up in Salt Lake City. Since then she has had a busy and very fruitful career.

The C-12's final flight was piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Holder, the detachment commander, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Will Gummersall also on the flight were Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lee and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones. The flight took off on a cloudy morning out of Salt Lake City International Airport and landed at Charles M. Schulz, a.k.a. Sonoma County Airport, near Santa Rosa, California—a stark contrast from the cold, snowy day back in SLC. Sonoma County Airport welcomed the crew with rolling green hills, blue sky, and warm temperatures.

Ultimately, 85-51271 will be absorbed into the Army's fixed-wing training program, in the hands of Flight Safety, at Dothan Regional Airport, in Alabama.

According to Chief Holder, the Army has elected to reduce down to 43 bed-down bases, whereas in the past there has traditionally been at least one C-12 per state.

Currently, the Army doesn't have enough aircraft for all bed-down locations at this time due to deployment requirements and maintenance, largely because the training aircraft are so aged and outdated they will be replaced. The Army is shuffling airframes across its fleet and is in the process of taking 12 U models out of the Guard fleet.

Both pilots have fond memories of the aircraft.

"It's like driving a nice car you get attached to and then having to give it up [to someone else]," said Gummersall, "You get to know that aircraft, every inch, every little nuance. When you switch aircraft, you lose that connection."

"We've taken extreme pride in our airframe, more than most states," said Holder. "We've been blessed with some of the best fixed-wing mechanics in the world. We get

compliment after compliment from our customers—how clean it is, the interior and overall look of it. We've taken extreme pride in it. It doesn't look its age."

Previously, Det. 50 deployed to Kuwait for six months, twice to Columbia with 30-day rotations, and ISO Task Force Odin I & VI for more than nine months for reach rotation. The unit has also supported operations in Alaska and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Of note, Det. 50 was the first C-12 unit in a combat theater to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Tail number 85-51271 may be gone, but certainly not forgotten. This article is a tribute to her and all the Soldiers and cargo she has flown across the United States. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by CW4 Jared Jones



Pilot Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Holder prepares Utah's C-12 for its last flight.

Operation Yama Sakura 71



Staff Sgt. Reade King (left), and Sgt. 1st Class Jon West (center), work with Japanese Soldiers analyzing and prioritizing acquired targets Dec 11. Photo by Lt. Col Erick Wiedmeier

KUMAMOTO, Japan. — The Utah National Guard returned to Japan this December to participate in Yama Sakura 71. The annual bilateral exercise offers U.S. military and the Japan Self Defense Forces the opportunity to train together in a realistic operation simulation.

“It gives our Soldiers the opportunity to become more culturally aware of the political world and to build relations with the Japanese Self Defense Force,” said Lt. Col. Erick Wiedmeier, Joint Forces Headquarters, assigned as the officer in charge of the simulated opposition forces team.

Yama Sakura occurs every year in December. Many Utah National Guard Soldiers participate in this event filling multiple roles.

“They do things different than the U.S.,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jace Bybee, 65th Field Artillery Brigade. “It allows us to expand our knowledge as well as work with our allies. It promotes a camaraderie between us and Japan.”

Joint Forces Headquarters worked in the operations and control cell, providing simulated Opposition Forces for the exercise, with the Movement Control Team coordinating transportation of personnel coming and going to and from the airport.

“This is good training to enhance our ability to perform domestic operations at home,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Jonas, Joint Forces Headquarters.

The Utah Training Command was assigned to run the Mayor’s Cell, in charge of daily functions for the troop camp site. Various other Utah units supplied additional Soldiers as exercise players, interpreters and other needed roles.

“Opportunities like this enhance our ability to work with allies,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Carroll, Recruiting Retention Battalion. “It allows us to put skills we’ve learned in a garrison environment to practical use.”

U.S. Army’s I Corps is the primary role player in the exercise. However, they have included support from all U.S. components such as the Reserves and the National Guard.

“The ability to train with our allies gives us a better understanding on how they work, resulting in a stronger operational relationship,” said Maj. Vincent Wolff, Joint Forces Headquarters.

The Utah National Guard has been used for many years by 1st Corps to augment their resources. Due to the outstanding performance of the Utah National Guard, their presence continues to be requested with their role expanding.

“It is easier for us to perform the mission than active duty because of our continuity,” said Jonas. “We are good at what we do.”

During the exercise our National Guard Soldiers have the opportunity to work along with Japanese counterparts to assist in the operation.

“We get to work with other components in a battle staff type setting, seeing firsthand what it looks like with all war fighting functions working together,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan West, 640th Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

The exercise is carried out on a virtual battlefield where the Japanese and the opposing forces go head to head.

“Yama Sakura enables us to continue to establish rapport and relationship with our bilateral partners,” said Maj. Gerald Williams, Recruiting Retention Battalion. “It gives us a clear inside of how our partners work. It’s neat to see that wherever you go, Soldiers are Soldiers.”

Story by Capt. Samuel Wollenzien



Utah National Guard and Japanese Soldiers meet during Yama Sakura 71 in Kumamoto, Japan.

Utah Guard Hosts Governor's Day 2016



Left: Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert, right, salutes Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen at the pass in review during Governor's Day 2016.

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Children were running and playing on the parade field as families gathered at Camp Williams to see their loved ones in uniform during the 62nd annual Governor's Day parade Sept. 17.

Governor Gary R. Herbert; Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general; and other dignitaries observed a traditional pass in review to inspect unit readiness as well as to display the military professionalism of Utah's Armed Forces.

"This day is about standing united as one Utah National Guard. Both the Army and Air Guard come together on Governor's Day to show the governor they are ready to serve and also to enjoy some time with their families while in uniform," said Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, commander of the Utah Air National Guard.

During the event, Gov. Herbert delivered a speech in which he expressed his gratitude for the Soldiers and Airmen serving Utah. He said it has been a pleasure to be commander in chief of the Utah National Guard while he has been in office.

"You may not notice this, but as people see you and your service, it gives them motivation to improve their own lives and increase their service to our great country," Herbert said.

The pass in review piece of Governor's Day is a long-standing tradition in Utah, and has roots in U.S. military history dating as far back as the Revolutionary War. Traditionally it was a way for commanders to show the size and readiness of their forces. Today, it gives the entire Utah Guard a unique opportunity to show its pride to the governor and the people of Utah.

"It makes me feel proud watching my husband in the parade," said Jen Parker, wife of Tech Sgt. Patrick Parker. "The kids love it; this is their favorite event of the year."

After the parade, families enjoyed displays of military equipment such as Black Hawk and Apache helicopters, artillery pieces, and the Air Guard's mobile command center, among others. Family Programs and unit booths were also displayed along with a first-time service member car show. The cars demonstrated the service members' creativity and dedication.

As commander in chief of the Utah National Guard, Herbert expressed his commitment to the Guard to ensure it has what it needs to complete its mission.





Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen stand in formation for the pass in review during Governor's Day 2016.



“I will do all I can to ensure you will have the resources, training or equipment you need, and all that is necessary for you to serve effectively and safely for whatever you are called upon to do,” said Herbert. “I have every confidence that our men and women of the Utah National Guard are and will remain ready to serve the needs of the state and the nation.”

Story by Sgt. Ariel J. Solomon



Utah Air Guard CERFP Conducts Joint Training Exercises



SALT LAKE CITY — November kicked off two major training events for the 151st Medical Detachment 1, the medical portion of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) a joint Utah Army and Air National Guard team that responds to mass-casualty events and provides search and extraction, decontamination, medical treatment and stabilization, as well as fatality-remains recovery.

The first training event was accomplished in Idaho and centered on field-casualty care in conjunction with wide-area, search and recovery operations. Twelve members of the Davis County Sheriff Department's Search and Rescue (SAR) team conducted training with the 151st Det 1. This training provided by the 151st Det 1 members enhanced the medical skills of the SAR team while

familiarizing them with their equipment. Also in attendance were two members of the 934th Field Surgical Team and one member of the 171st Medical Evacuation unit.

In turn, Davis County SAR provided wide-area training to the 151st Det 1 members and increased valuable team skills in the event of a natural disaster affecting large populations.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Bornemeier, head of the CERFP team and lead planner for the exercise, has coined this type of training as "cross pollination."

"In my opinion, that is what the Guard is all about: citizen Airmen serving their communities," said Bornemeier, who is also the commander of the Davis County Sheriff's SAR team.

The second training event conducted by the 151st Det 1 was held at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base in Salt Lake City, and included a site visit to the University of Utah's Burn Center. The training started with a lecture by the U of U Burn Center's subject-matter expert, Anette Matherly, in the auditorium of building 210, with civilian providers from the U of U, Air Med, 934th FST, 171st MedEvac unit, and 151st Det 1 members in attendance.

After the lecture, the teams practiced burn scenarios on the 151st Det 1's patient simulator. Training continued with load and unload procedures (cold and hot engine) on the 171st MedEvac's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

The trainees then relocated to the University's Burn Center for more burn-care-protocol instruction. U of U team members who attended the morning lectures were now teaching their military classmates on U of U burn-treatment equipment and procedures, effectively generating more cross pollination among participants.

In all, 151st Det 1 personnel were able to facilitate training of 12 Davis County Sheriff Search and Rescue members, six members of the U of U Burn Center, 10 members of the 934th FST, 12 members of the 171st MedEvac team, and 45 members from 151st Det 1. In return, the 151st Det 1 members were able to glean valuable skills from the training provided by civilian and Army-response partners. 🇺🇸

Story by Maj. Kyle Williamson

Airman 1st Class Brooks Anderton, an aerospace medical technician assigned to the 151st Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) treats a simulated casualty inside a tunnel during search-and-recovery training at the Davis County Unified Fire rubble pile in Layton, Utah on April 24, 2016.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Annie Edwards

Family Assistance Centers

Regardless of location, FACs services include:

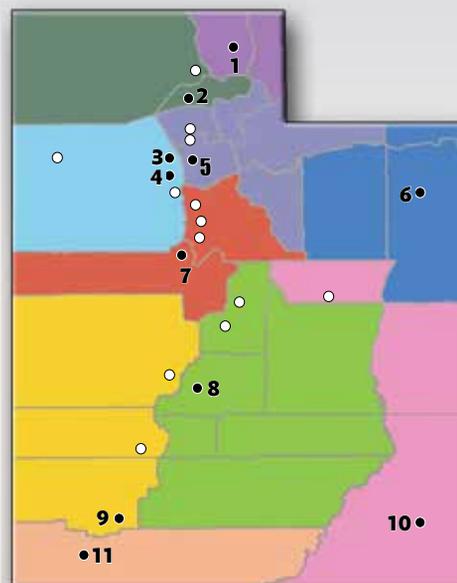
- TRICARE/TRICARE dental assistance
- Financial assistance/counseling • Legal and pay issues • ID-card referral • Emergency-assistance coordination • Counseling support/referral
- Community support • Family/household emergencies • Family Care Plan information • Family communication • Family Readiness Group programs • Casualty-assistance information, referral, follow-up and outreach • DEERS information (Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System).

We are here to serve you! 🇺🇸

Utah Family Assistance Centers (FAC) assist service members and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. FACs are open to all military branches: Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all Reserve components.

Utah Regional FAC and Armory Locations

1 • Logan 801-476-3811	5 • Draper 801-432-4522	9 • Cedar City 435-867-6513
2 • Ogden 801-476-3811	6 • Vernal 435-789-3691	10 • Blanding 435-678-2008
3 • West Jordan 801-816-3577	7 • Spanish Fork 801-794-6011	11 • St. George 435-986-5417
4 • Bluffdale 801-878-5037	8 • Richfield 435-896-6442	○ Armory ● Armory • FAC



Contact your local FAC for any questions you may have.

Visit us at www.ut.ngb.army.mil/family

Air Force Association Hosts Gala for the

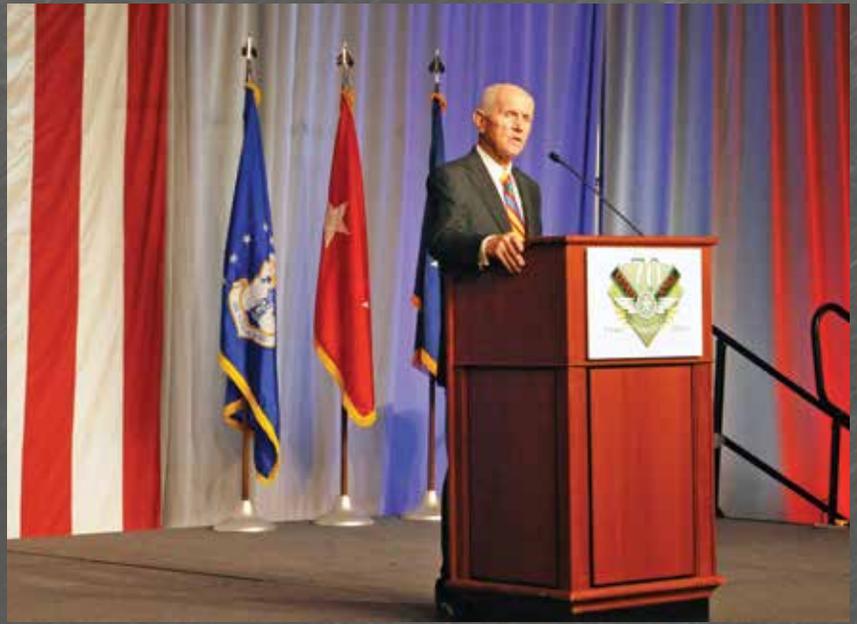


SALT LAKE CITY — More than 450 military and civilian guests attended the Utah Air National Guard 70th Anniversary Gala Nov. 4 at the Grand America Hotel.

Hosted by the Utah Air Force Association, the event featured a number of prominent speakers including Utah National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton; Utah Gov. Gary Herbert; Air Force POW, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jay Hess; and fitness and lifestyle expert Tony Horton.

Keynote speakers Hess and Horton focused their remarks on their own personal stories of tragedy and triumph, as well as the underlying themes of resiliency and patriotism. Gov. Herbert presented a proclamation to Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, Utah Air National Guard commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Brian Garrett, Joint Force Headquarters command chief, declaring Nov. 18 Utah Air National Guard day in honor of the organization's inception in 1946.

Top down: Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jay Hess, prisoner of war and Hanoi Hilton survivor, addresses a group of more than 450 military and civilian guests at the Utah Air National Guard 70th Anniversary Gala on Nov. 4, 2016. Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, Utah Air National Guard commander, prepares to cut the cake at the 70th Anniversary Gala. Tony Horton, P90X creator and fitness and lifestyle expert, addresses a group of military and civilian guests at the Utah Air National Guard's Gala.





Left: Master Sgt. Jason Blood demonstrates some of the technical aspects of his job as a KC-135 boom operator to Susan Lucy, Tony Horton's military affairs manager, and Miss Utah Lauren Wilson, during a civic-leader orientation flight on Nov. 3. Community guests participated in an air-refueling sortie designed to educate the group on the 151st Air Refueling Wing's mission and capabilities.

"It was the best Air Force event I've ever attended," said Staff Sgt. Landon Tholen, a client-systems technician with the 151st Communications Flight, who escorted special guest Miss Utah, Lauren Wilson, for the evening.

Horton's visit to Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base also included participation in a civic-leader flight and leading an intense exercise session for 60 Airmen and dependents in the days leading up to the Gala.

"This was, hands down, one of the best military trips I've had to date," said Horton, who has visited 51 military installations around the globe. "There's nothing more important than honoring the heroes whose sacrifice and vigilance safeguard our American way of life."

While anniversary events only happen so often, they are important aspects of pride and heritage said Brig. Gen. Burckle.

"In order to continue moving forward in a successful fashion, you have to take the time to honor where you came from and all of the people who've contributed to that legacy to date," she said. 🇺🇸

*Story by Maj. Jennifer Eaton
Photos by Staff Sgt. Annie Edwards*



Guests and aircrew prepare to board a KC-135 Stratotanker at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base for a civic-leader orientation flight Nov. 3. Participants were treated to a bird's eye view as the KC-135 refueled F-16 Fighting Falcons from Hill Air Force Base.



Tony Horton, celebrity fitness trainer and creator of the P90X home workout program, conducts an exercise session for 60 Airmen and dependents Nov. 3, 2016, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. Horton has conducted 51 morale visits at military installations around the globe, spreading his message of resiliency and healthy lifestyle management.

"I Will Never Leave A Fallen Comrade" Utah Guardsman Donates Kidney to Friend

DRAPER, Utah. — **W**hen Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Staples, a Utah National Guardsman, walked into Oschner Medical Center in New Orleans, La, on Dec. 12, 2016, to give a kidney to a longtime friend, Staples was personifying an ethos and creed he has lived for well over 20 years.

The Warrior Ethos and Soldier's Creed, two of the codes Soldiers are asked to live by, contain the edict, "I will never leave a fallen comrade."

Staples knew that his friend, William Randy Breland, a Vietnam War veteran, was in need of a kidney, so he offered one of his without question.

"I look at Randy as my battle buddy," Staples said, his voice filled with emotion. "We've been taught to leave no Soldier behind so I couldn't leave Randy behind when he needed a kidney."

Breland characterizes his friend's generosity as "an Iraq War veteran giving a new lease on life to an old, beat-up, Vietnam vet." Breland served as a sergeant with the 5th Infantry Division in northern Vietnam, near the demilitarized zone (DMZ), in the early 1970s. He was wounded in action twice, the first time in a command-detonated claymore explosion during an uphill assault on a bunker that killed the man to his immediate left.

"I went to two different hospitals, thought they'd ship me home, but they sent me back to the bush," he said. Thirteen days after returning to duty, he was wounded again. "I took a shrapnel fragment to the head. I had my steel pot off; it was super hot that night. I was sitting on top of a bunker and a round went off outside the perimeter," Breland said. "That was pretty minor compared to the first injury. It didn't penetrate the skull. I was kind of a shrapnel magnet," Breland said, laughing.

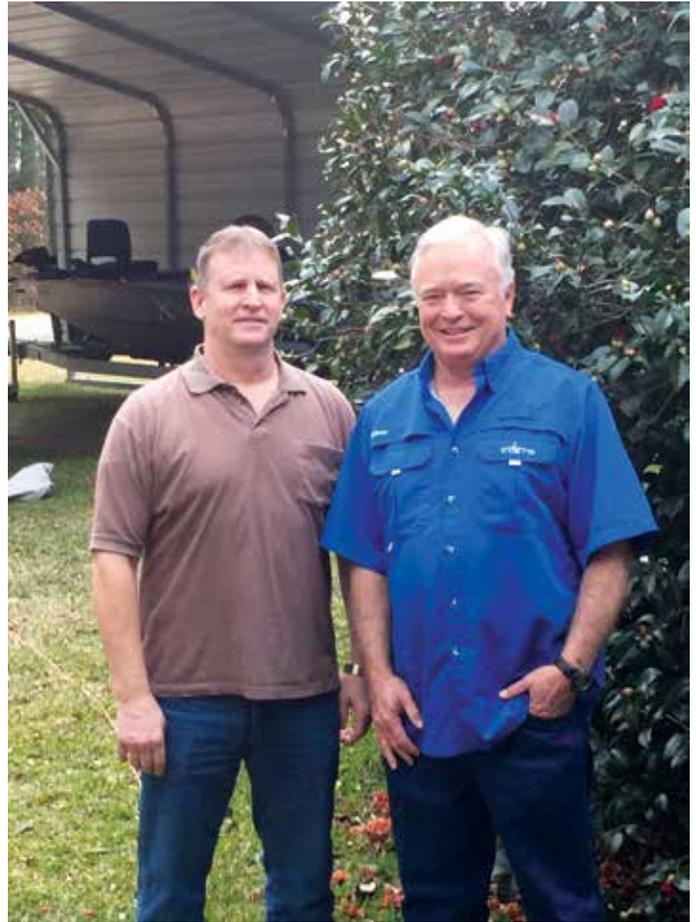
Breland spent two years in Vietnam as a regular Army volunteer. He said he was exposed repeatedly to Agent Orange, a defoliant used heavily around the DMZ where he was stationed.

"We'd go out for eight days at a time without a bath or a change of clothing and when we'd come to a bomb crater with water in it, we'd put a quick perimeter around the thing and we'd take turns bathing," he said. "So we were probably bathing in Agent Orange."

With no history of diabetes on either side of Breland's family, he said Agent-Orange exposure is to blame for his eventual kidney failure.

"Over time, the diabetes wore my kidneys out."

Enter Staples and his healthy left kidney. But as it turns out, donating a kidney is not a simple affair, especially for a Soldier concerned about how such an operation might affect his status in the Army. Unsure of what the regulations had to



Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Staples, left and Randy Breland in January 2016 during the testing stage to see if Staples would be a match for the donation.

say about giving up a kidney, Staples started looking into it.

"I talked to my readiness NCO; I talked to my commander. What I was told was that if I was trying to enlist in the service with only one kidney, the Army may or may not take me," Staples said. "But everything I found out said they weren't going to kick me out of the service if I only had one kidney unless I couldn't fulfill my military duties."

Staples admitted that even if regulations had been opposed to his donating a kidney, he'd likely have gone through with the surgery anyway.

"It really wouldn't have made much difference to me. I'd still have given my buddy my kidney," he said.

With his concerns eased, Staples pressed forward with his decision.

"I never saw anybody more determined to help a brother than Daniel was," Breland said.

That resolve didn't go untested, however. December 12 marked the third time Staples attempted to give Breland

one of his kidneys. The first attempt at the surgery was canceled due to a tooth infection Breland had come down with. Any infection can become life threatening due to the anti-rejection drugs Breland would have to take to assist with his body's acceptance of Staples' kidney, so doctors nixed the procedure. The surgery was rescheduled for August, but was canceled again when doctors were unable to catheterize Staples, who was already unconscious on the operating table. The third attempt at surgery was successful, but only after Staples persisted after being told by doctors that he wouldn't be able to donate due to the inability to catheterize him. Staples convinced doctors to have a urologist on hand to catheterize him and everything went off without a hitch.

"It's been a little over two weeks, and my kidney function has basically gone from around 10 percent to around 40 percent already," Breland said. "So the kidney's kicking in and getting stronger."

Breland's new kidney came just in time. A year and half ago doctors put a peritoneal dialysis port in Breland's stomach in preparation for the time when Breland would require dialysis. The daily maintenance of that port was burdensome, to say the least.

"I had to clean and put fresh bandages on that port every day because it was an open wound that went right into my belly. I had to be very, very cautious with it," he said. At 70, Breland takes pride in his active lifestyle. "I like to go visit my grandkids in Houston. I ride motorcycles and I hunt and I fish, and all that would go out the window if I was on dialysis because you have to be hooked up to a machine twice a day. So the transplant basically gave me my life back."

Staples and Breland met at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., in the late 1970s when Staples was stationed there as a nurse and

Breland worked for the Army as a wildlife biologist. Their friendship grew during numerous outdoor adventures during that time and over the years. Staples, who retires within the month as a human-intelligence collector with Company D, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, based out of Logan, Utah, categorizes his 40-year relationship with Breland as a brotherhood.

"Randy and I have always had kind of a special bond, more like brothers, I guess, than friends. Certainly this (surgery) has enhanced that relationship," Staples said. "Randy's a good man and I am happy I could help him and hopefully this will give him some good years of life that he might not have otherwise had."

Both Staples and Breland will be recuperating for some time as a kidney transplant operation is tough on one's body. In fact, Staples said this surgery was more painful than any of the eight knee surgeries he has gone through, worse than running his thumb through a saw or his hernia operation.

"I have to say that donating a kidney hurts a little worse than those other things," said Staples. "I'd still give Randy my kidney if I had to do it over again, but I would make him ask very nicely," Staples said with a smile.

Both Staples and Breland agree that only time will tell just how successful the transplant was, but as of now, both donor and recipient are on the mend and improving. Lynne Breland, Randy's wife, said she has a hard time expressing what Staples' gift to her husband means.

"I don't know how to explain it," she said. "It's just amazing. Everybody I tell this story to is just flabbergasted. It is definitely one of the greatest blessings we've ever had." 📖

Story 1st Sgt. Brock Jones



Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Staples after donating his kidney to his long-time friend Randy Breland.



Randy Breland, left and Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Staples at Oschner Medical Center in New Orleans, La.



Randy Breland and Dr. David Bruce who performed the transplant at Oschner Medical Center in New Orleans, La.

Quiet Giant

SALT LAKE CITY — “We stand on the shoulders of giants” is Utah Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Miller’s well-known phrase acknowledging the tremendous achievements, contributions and sacrifices of our Soldiers and Airmen, both present and past.

In that light, a giant was certainly revealed at the state Capitol Dec. 15, as a Utah Army Guard member was presented the Utah Cross by Gov. Gary Herbert for his selfless and brave actions.

Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath, a Manila resident and 19-year member of the Utah Guard, who has served on two deployments, stopped at a house ablaze in 2013 en route to his home. The gunnery sergeant for C Battery, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, was not a trained firefighter, nor was it his responsibility to deal with this situation. However, Heath saw a fellow community member in need and decided to help.

“The guy was standing there in shock and looked like he needed somebody to help him—I decided to be that guy,” said Heath.

“I’m very proud to wear the uniform here today with Sgt. Heath,” said Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, as he stood at the podium in the historic Gold Room of the state Capitol looking at Heath. “One of the things that always inspires me is Soldiers move to the sound of the guns, to the danger, instead of running in the other direction,” Burton continued shifting his focus to the Heath family and military in attendance. “He could have driven by—it wasn’t his responsibility. He stopped and took action.”



Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath, left, is presented the Utah Cross by Gov. Gary Herbert Dec. 15, 2016.

Heath, first on the scene, acted quickly to assist the homeowner who was numb in shock. He first placed him near his vehicle out of harm’s way and dashed into the burning home to ensure that the house was clear. Recognizing the dangerous situation, Heath proceeded to the back yard to shut off the propane feed to the inferno. The Manila volunteer firefighting team arrived shortly thereafter—all two of them.

Heath would not abandon the short-handed firefighting team as he joined them to fight the flames. During the struggle to quell the fire, an explosion burst from the home hurling dangerous debris—Heath was struck in the right eye.

“True heroes are those who go out and serve humanity, and sometimes at great risk,” said Gov. Herbert just prior to presenting the Utah Cross to Heath.



Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath, center, with his family and Gov. Gary Herbert after Heath was awarded the Utah Cross.



Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath, Gov. Gary Herbert, and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton at the state Capitol Gold Room.

Heath's heroism was not without a cost, as he lost vision in his right eye from the incident.

"I have had multiple surgeries," said Heath. "I had a cornea transplant, artificial lens implant, and I do have some very limited vision back in my right eye."

Maj. Gen. Burton acknowledged the threats that the members of the Utah Guard face as he stated "We are grateful for the kind of man Sgt. Heath is, and we strive to recognize goodness and performance in the military because these are extraordinary acts that our military members are asked to perform each and every day."

"That's what happens when people put themselves out front and lay it on the line on behalf of their fellow citizens who are looking for some assistance, so we honor him today," said Gov. Herbert.

Sgt. 1st Class Heath's wife, Natilee, beamed with pride as she watched the governor pin the award to Heath's uniform only feet in front of her with their children close at her side.

"It's a privilege that people are noticing that some people run towards danger rather than away," she commented.

Heath, certainly a giant within the formation of the Utah Guard, is more accurately a quiet giant as he hated the pomp and circumstance associated with his award. When asked if

he likes all of this attention, the man of few words responded "No, I hate it."

While Heath's words are few, his passion for continued service is immeasurable. When Natilee was asked what military service means to Brett, she replied "Everything! We keep talking about that 13-month mark for retirement and he keeps saying 'Nope, not happening.' He's going to be that old guy in the corner that you have to kick out."

With Christmas and New Year celebrations only weeks away, Gov. Herbert was inspired by Heath and his selfless act.

"If I was going to give any New Year's resolution wish for all of us, it would be that we take this example we see here in Sgt. Heath and say, what can I do in my own areas of responsibility to give service, to help a neighbor, to help somebody in need," said Gov. Herbert. "There are a lot of ways we can serve. If we follow the example of our men and women in uniform, we won't be far astray from doing the right thing."

The Utah National Guard was proud to honor the quiet giant in Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath, and truly stands a little taller with men and women such as him within our formation. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Lt. Col Steven Fairbourn



Sgt. 1st Class Brett Heath, center, Heath's family and members of the Utah National Guard at the state Capitol after Heath was presented the Utah Cross by the Honorable Gov. Gary Herbert and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton in the Capitol Gold Room for his selfless and brave actions when he came upon a home ablaze in 2013.

Promotion and Retirement Called Bittersweet for Utah's Land Component Command

DRAPER, Utah — “It’s a bittersweet day. A time of gain and a time of loss,” said Utah Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, as he oversaw a tri-fold ceremony of a promotion, change of command, and retirement of some of his close associates in the Utah National Guard headquarters on Nov. 5.

Gov. Gary R. Herbert and Rep. Jason Chaffetz joined friends and family in wishing congratulations to the newly minted Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Fisher and his appointment as the new Land Component commander for the Utah Army National Guard. Gov. Herbert told Fisher he had very big shoes to fill, but he was confident that he would be able to fulfill his new duties and obligations.

Fisher follows Brig. Gen. Val Peterson and will be responsible for training, logistics, and administration of the six major commands within the Utah National Guard. Leading up to this assignment Fisher served as commander of the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, based at Camp Williams.

Burton said one of the best characteristics Fisher brings to the table is the concern he has for people in general and his Soldiers in particular.

“When we look for someone to become a general officer, we look for a lot of things,” Burton said. “Those include courage, character, commitment and most importantly we look for a selfless servant. We need someone who will place the needs of a Soldier ahead of their own. So when it came time to look at who could come in behind Val, Tom Fisher’s name was raised to the top of the list.”



Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Fisher hands off the colors of the Army Component of the Utah National Guard to Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson during a change-of-command ceremony Nov. 5. Fisher took over for the retiring Brig. Gen. Val Peterson as Land Component commander.

Continuing to list values that qualified Fisher for his new position was his experience as a civil servant.

“Tom isn’t a typical citizen-Soldier,” Burton said. “When he isn’t wearing the uniform he’s the Summit County manager.”

Fisher’s civilian colleague Diane Foster, city manager of Park City, came to observe Fisher in a military setting, one very different from where she sees him on a regular basis. She stated that it gave her a broader perspective to how the National Guard fits into the civilian picture.

“It was an honor to come,” Foster said. “Before today, I never saw the link between citizen and Soldier.”

Peterson, who has spent a good portion of his life in the service of Utah’s Soldiers, will have the opportunity to spend more time as a citizen.

With a military career stretching from 1987 to the end of November, Peterson’s 32 and-a-half years culminated as the officer who oversaw the six major Army commands of the Utah Army National Guard.

Peterson spent the majority of his career in military intelligence, with the exception of short stints in 97th Troop Command and Joint Force Headquarters. His various



Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Fisher kneels to accommodate his parents as they place his new rank on his shoulders Nov. 5. Fisher was promoted in a ceremony at the Utah National Guard headquarters and took command of Utah’s Land Component.

commands included Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 300th Military Intelligence Brigade; Charlie Co. 141st MI Battalion; and the 300th MI Brigade.

During his retirement ceremony, Peterson made a point to thank those who mentored and inspired him throughout his career. First and foremost he credited his wife Anne, with pushing him to join the Reserve Officers Training Program at Brigham Young University. Peterson also mentioned his first platoon sergeant John Zubriski, and his first platoon leader retired Col. Scott Olsen.

The same influence that Peterson's mentors gave him is one that Peterson himself has given to many a Soldier. Many who presented Peterson with awards or tokens of appreciation for his efforts and leadership, made it a point to emphasize his mentorship and willingness to share the limelight.

Lt. Col. David M. Price, commander of Camp Williams, the Utah Training Center, focused on this admirable quality that Peterson possesses of sharing recognition. He called him, "the Lone Ranger."

"His mask," Price said, "is that he doesn't care who gets the credit. He wants to share the credit."

Although retired, Peterson will continue to give his service in Utah's House of Representatives, representing District 59. He will also continue as Vice President of Finance and Administration at Utah Valley University, the largest and fastest growing campus in Utah. Present at Peterson's retirement ceremony was the UVU basketball team to show their support.



Brig. Gen. Val Peterson, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, Brig. Gen. Thomas Fisher and Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Anderson during the Land Component change-of-command ceremony Nov. 5.

It was a bittersweet day indeed for the Utah Army National Guard—the pain of losing someone who has done so much for others, tempered only by the gain of someone so selfless and willing to put others before himself. 🇺🇸

Story by Sgt. Scott Wolfe

Photos by Sgt. Scott Wolfe and Sgt. 1st Class Shana Hutchins



Retiring Brig. Gen. Val Peterson is presented with a shadow box by Utah Adjunct General, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton during his retirement ceremony. The shadow box commemorates the various units Peterson was a part of and the citations he was awarded during his 32-and-a-half years of military service in the Utah National Guard.



Utah Gov. Gary R. Herbert and Rep. Jason Chaffetz applaud during a triple ceremony, Nov. 5 at the Utah National Guard headquarters. The two attended the promotion of Col. Thomas Fisher to brigadier general, the change of command from Brig. Gen. Val Peterson to Fisher and Peterson's retirement.

"They Also Serve" 61st Annual Veterans Day Concert Honors Military Families



SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah National Guard's 23rd Army Band performed at the 61st annual Veterans Day Concert at the Huntsman Center on the University of Utah campus, Nov. 11.

This year's theme was "They Also Serve," based on the popular song by John Conlee, which spotlighted the difficulties of military service and the sacrifices made by service members, veterans and their families.

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

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



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

Later during the concert, several awards were presented to some special guests. Most notably was Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Sterling Poulson, well known for being the meteorologist for KUTV news and also for his service to veterans, who received Zions Bank's 7th annual Veterans Service Award. He was presented a statue of an eagle and the crowd gave him a standing ovation as thanks for his years of military service and continued dedication to veterans and their families.

The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah and Granite PTA presented awards to their Military Essay Contest winners: Emily Langie, a 10th grade student from Hillcrest High School; Shadrach Jensen, a 9th grader from Mueller Park Junior High School; and Zachary Bertholet, a 5th grader from Sands Springs Elementary.



A lone trumpeter from the 23rd Army Band plays Taps. The Utah National Guard 23rd Army Band plays at the 61st annual Veterans Day Concert Nov. 11.



Lastly, Gov. Gary Herbert gave thanks to service members and veterans and spoke about how these concerts can help bring everyone together and help support military families.

“I hope this will motivate all of us in our own ways to serve and to enhance the opportunity we have and look for ways to be proactive in helping families who have sacrificed so much when their loved ones are away in the service of their country,” said Herbert.

After giving his final thanks to all of the veterans and their families, Herbert took over as conductor for the Army Band and led it through the final song for the evening, *Stars and Stripes Forever*, giving an inspiring and patriotic ending to the concert honoring the men and women who serve our country and the families that serve alongside them. 🇺🇸

Story by Staff Sgt. Nicolas A. Cloward



Top down: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Denny Saunders conducts the 23rd Army Band. Students from the Granite School District high school choirs perform during the Veterans Day Concert. Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) Sterling Poulson, center, is awarded the Zions Bank's 7th annual Veterans Service Award.

Gov. Gary Herbert conducts Stars and Stripes Forever during the Veterans Day Concert. Granite School District high school choir students perform during the 2016 Veterans Day Concert. The Honorary Colonels Corps and Granite School PTA present awards to student essay-contest winners.

1-211th Supports JRTC Rotation

FORT POLK, La. — In July of 2016, 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) located at Fort Polk, La. JRTC is a “Force-on-Force” exercise for ground and aviation units with a resident opposition force (OPFOR) trained and equipped to test the combat abilities of U.S. Army units.

A JRTC rotation is a difficult and demanding event, especially in the sticky heat of a Cajun summer. Units that have participated in JRTC before understand the massive scale of such an exercise and the daunting assignment it can present. Any unit assigned to a JRTC rotation faces a myriad of challenges that must be overcome in order to be successful.

The 1-211th was assigned to act as the Aviation Task Force headquarters controlling all aviation assets under 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT). In the months leading up to JRTC, 1-211th conducted multiple training events and exercises in Utah and New York in preparation for its rotation to Fort Polk. All of this training culminated with 1-211th transporting 500 Soldiers, 100 ground vehicles, and 11 Apache AH-64D Longbows from Utah to Fort Polk.

The environment at JRTC is designed to mimic a complex, combat environment against a sophisticated and dangerous enemy. The complexity and threat level increases over the course of the exercise until the units are challenged by multiple threats such as drones, artillery, and Special Forces harassing its assembly areas with often debilitating success.

Despite these ever-present threats in stifling heat, the 1-211th did its best to maintain esprit de corps and achieve its objectives. On numerous occasions, aviation was attributed by the brigade commander as the most influential assets of the operation. The 1-211th Soldiers worked tirelessly to provide air and ground support, with engaged leadership to mitigate the effects of the OPTEMPO and weather conditions.



Armament personnel load the aircraft for gunnery operations.

Missions included air assaults, air movement, sling-load operations, screens, deliberate/hasty attacks, reconnaissance, forward Army and refueling operations, ground-tactical convoys, and large-scale MedEvac operations. The end result was invaluable experience and lessons learned that will directly influence the current generation of Soldiers within the unit as well as those who will gain from the experiences transferred in the future.

The “Air Pirates” of the 1-211th will take this highly successful rotation and use their experience and skills to begin training this year for two such rotations at the desert training center at Fort Irwin, Calif. in 2018. These two very demanding training exercises in Louisiana and California are the premier-training events the Army provides its combat units and will prepare the 1-211th for future combat operations when the nation calls. 🇺🇸

Story by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Jones

Photos by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones and Warrant Officer Travis Brown



Pilots huddle around Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ryan Eyre, as the unit begins its occupation of the area of operations.



Lt. Col. Ricky Smith congratulates Task Force Pirates upon completion of JRTC Rotation 16-08.

4th Infantry Division Commanding General Visits Utah Guard Leaders

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves, Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division (ID) headquartered at Fort Carson, Colo., visited with Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton and other senior leaders of the Utah National Guard at Camp Williams, Utah, Dec. 3, 2016.

The visit allowed Utah National Guard senior leadership and 4th ID to meet and discuss the 4th ID Main Command Post-Operational Detachment (MCP-OD), a new unit to the Utah Guard, and continue to forge a relationship.

The 4th ID MCP-OD's mission is to augment the strength of the 4th ID when it is deployed for contingency operations. It is part of a major force redesign called the Army Total Force, which takes a portion of an active-Army division and slices it over to the National Guard and Reserves to provide expandability for the division and its headquarters. During the past year, 4th ID MCP-OD has sent multiple teams of Soldiers to participate in and observe training with the 4th ID in both in the U.S. and overseas.

During the meeting, Burton and Gonsalves discussed personnel and unit training and how the UTNG and the 4th ID will work closely together to ensure mission success.

"Maj. Gen. Gonsalves and the 4th ID staff and Soldiers have welcomed us as part of the Iron Horse Division. We appreciate their support, and the support of the Utah National Guard leadership, as the unit stands up and

prepares to support the 4th ID in its NATO exercise being conducted in February, 2017," said Lt. Col. Talon Greeff, the 4th ID MCP-OD commander.

Following the leadership meeting, Gonsalves met with 41 of the 4th ID MC-POD Soldiers. He emphasized the importance of the unit and the skill sets they bring to the 4th ID. He spoke to them for 20 minutes followed by a question-and-answer forum with the Soldiers that lasted another 20 minutes.

"It's exciting to be on the cutting edge of the integration of active duty and National Guard forces. It is the reality of the Army Total Force policy, and I am looking forward to a long and vibrant relationship between the Utah Army National Guard and the 4th Infantry Division," Greeff added about the meeting.

Burton summarized the meeting in a statement following the visit:

"The recent visit of the Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division to Utah aptly demonstrates the seamless integration of active, Guard and Reserve forces into the total force. Simply put, we are one Army dedicated to defending the nation and defeating any threat to our citizens. We will not falter in that duty, and we will not fail." 🇺🇸

*Story by Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge
Photo by Maj. Choli Ence*



Maj. Gen. Ryan Gonsalves, right, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division headquartered at Fort Carson, Colo., and Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, center, along with Utah National Guard members at Camp Williams Dec. 3.

Air Promotions

COLONEL

Boyack Daniel D

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

Eaton Timothy J
McGuire Leon F III

CAPTAIN

Barley Adam C
Bocage Amy C
Dillingham Steven Richard
Moss Brian Spencer

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Foss Travis N
Smith Steven S

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Lamb Tayva J
Lee Jourdan K
Olsen Tyler K
Whetstone Fenton B

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT

Daley Shawn W
Langille Cody R
Salazar John S

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Waters Michael J

MASTER SERGEANT

Adams Mandy A
Gauger Amy M
Gill James B
Jackson Lucas E
Porter Nathan G
Rich Jarod T
Stevens Christopher
Teel Brian Paul
Wilkins Christopher M
Young Joshua M

TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Anderson Nathan L
Bailey Cord H
Brown Merrill K
Dao Danielle Antoinette
Des Islets Daniela Maria
Duncan David B
Hofherr Jessica Ann
Jenkins Adam T
Lamb Scott D
Mackay Nathaniel J
McIntosh Oldaker Sarah E
Pace Christopher
Perry Kyle V
Rice John Reuben
Stark John Houston
Tubbs Adam W

STAFF SERGEANT

Bernier Alexander X
Butler Timothy J
Caldwell Brandon Lee
Christensen Samuel R
Church Kenneth G
Crowton Daren G
Cunningham Christopher D
Donaldson Nicholas Everett
Ellis Corey D
Evans Daniel W
Farley Michael A
Farnsworth Jeffrey D
Farnsworth Joseph T
Gordon Randy Flash
Guymon Brendon K
Hardman Matthew W
Harris Ethan Anthony
Helquist Shaylee
Huggard Margaret E
Kaldhusdal Sean C
Lewis Joshua Michael
Lister Randall C
Lyman Gary L
Moody Rance W
Mulcahy Isaac T
Pehrson Katherine
Perez Michael R
Rowell Jeffery A
Rutherford Kyle G
Spencer Stephanie J
Tanner Jack S
Trujillo Dakota C
Tuttle Matthew J
Verdine Priscilla Melo

SENIOR AIRMAN

Allred Derek F
Bolt Tyler R
Dixon Derek T
Hansen Anastasia C
Hymer Floyd V
Jones Matthew E
Loveless Rebecca B
Mcconnell Michael B
Sanzone Brody C
Scherbel Matthew W
Slagowski Sam K
Stookey Matthew F
Youd Derek B

AIRMAN

Capella Ludwing

Army Promotions

BRIGADIER GENERAL

Fisher Thomas Charles

COLONEL

Becker David Albert
King Ryan Michael
Rodgers Paul Williams
Stevens Steve Gary

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Fuellenbach Shawn M
Kawai Russel Paul Hideo
Lord Ron Kenneth
Nelson Shaun Robert
Stevenson Jeremy Hale
Wisner Marcus Dean

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Ditto Michael James
Flint Aaron Helland
Hyatt Robert Preston
Kimber Kelly Keith
Larson Joseph Tait
McCarthy Penny Jo
Peers Matthew Lester

CAPTAIN

Bowler Benjamin James
Dimond Travis Lee
Doan Luca Liemhung
Fudge Leland Shaun
Henderson Otha Ballard Jr
Henriquez Walter Antonio
Hoffman Kritina Ronelle
Jardine Aaron Kevin
Norman Brian Thomas
Petersen Joseph Hyrum
Peterson Gary Eugene
Sullivan Casey James
Wallis Colby Dean
Yockey Daniel Vance

FIRST LIEUTENANT

Rhees Jeffrey Scott Jr

SECOND LIEUTENANT

Hill Benjamin Thomas
Muramoto Kami Kristine

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4

Lovejoy Andrew Gale

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 3

Banuelos Jonathan
Bown Jay Stephan
Johnson Bartley Gordon

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2

Grover Keith Wood
Turner Scott Eugene

WARRANT OFFICER

Berry Jonathan Mark
Swanger James Russell

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Nelson Kody Ryan
Rhinehart Matthew Shane

SERGEANT MAJOR

Gale Jared Alan

FIRST SERGEANT

Jacobsen Adam Wayman
White Samuel Cosand

MASTER SERGEANT

Austin Wayne Given Jr
Bochat William Brian
Briones Marco Enrique
Hohosh Linda Jean
Jennings Scott William
Lundell Jed M
McConnell Lennie James
Pace Craig Matthew
Pierro Sean Michael
Solie Eric Lee
Sower Tamara Lyn
Stewart Nathan Leo

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Bonzo Aaron James
Brice Justin James
Campbell Cody Simcox
Cobabe Joshua Paul
Crofts Michael Don
Dwelle Eric Joseph
Hallock Jennifer Lee
Hunt Bryan Richard
Hyde Zachary Ryan
Madsen Timothy Lewis
Millward Stephen Anthony
Russo Daniel Thomas
Stowell Richard Alan
Tabbal Tory Nickolas
Taylor Matthew James
Tobin Thomas William IV
Torres Nathan Raymond
Warren Richard Lee
Wood Joshua Steven

SERGEANT

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Allred Joseph Merle
Anthian Joshua Pierre
Arana Daniel Jonathan
Bahr Preston Michael
Barker Bracken Lynn
Bartholomew Sheldon
Douglas
Bevan Benjamin Lyman
Brasfield Trevor C
Calton Lyndsey Michelle
Campbell Brandon Curtis
Cao Liz Thuy
Carter Landon Ross
Chapman Kendall Blair
Cooper Dalton Allen

Army Promotions Continued

Cooper Tyler Steven
Dalton Ryan Scott
Daly Jacen Todd
Dean Esteban August
Dickinson Nickolas Robin
Dotta Daniel Leon Jr
Franco Jacom Nicholas
Gonzales Devon Michael
Halacy Joshua John
Hamala Keoni
Hardman Kade Anthony
Hatch Colin Dallas
Helsloot Samuel Kremer
Hughes Kyle Christopher
Huot Sidney Tel
Jensen Andrew Christin
Jolley Samuel Christian
Jones Korey Kenneth
Kunsman Richard Michael
Lahman Brian Allen
Larsen Bryce Owen
Lopezrosario Christian D
Martin Zachary Terry
Meacham Alicia Lee
Mull Charles Alexander
Neighbor Joseph Abraham
Nowell Caleb Spencer
Ohiku Dennis
Pacheco Vinicius Resende
Packard Richard Lee
Prather Ryan Nicholas
Rafael Lester John
Ruesch Logan Grey
Ryan Timothy Michael
Saiz Sterling Langdon
Shaha Steven Andrew
Spalding Daniel Joseph
Stransky Jonathan Joseph
Taylor Matthew Ryan
Upwall Aaron James
Vanroosendaal Jacob C
Welmers Anthony Stephen
Wickel Jesse Levi
Wiebe Charles Henry
Willden Jeramy Dean
Wright Alyssa Michelle
Wright Michael Terry

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Blood Parker Louis
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Carlin Joseph Michael
Carter Cree Kiowa
Carver Andrew Jensen
Cheney Ammon Michael
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Coombs Corbin Phillip
Croft Scott Braxton
Day Shayne Michael
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Durham Bryan William
Evon Nathaniel Davis
Felts Nathan Scott
Forsberg Brandon Michael
Francoparamo Chris
Frandsen Justin Owen
Gallegos Emir
Giles Joseph Duncan
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Halweg Matthew Lee
Hansen Thomas Talin
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Haws Gary Nathan
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Hicks Payton Lee
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Huntington Ethan Richard
Jackson Garrett Adam
James Brian Kelly
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Jenkins Monica Marie
Jensen Joseph Andrew
Johnson Adam Loyd
Kinnersley Wells Russell
Kumpf Joshua Scott
Kurtz Alexander Paul
Linville Justin Almer
McCarthy Jasmine Marie
McElroy Mark Anthony II
Medinarivera Yaritza Sarah
Miyasaki Matthew Thomas
Morse Robert Sloan
Newman Ryan James
Nielsen John Rollin
Oakeson Greg Spencer
Parrish Bryce Dakota
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Phalen Tyler Joseph
Pham Viet Ky
Pinedaponce Gerson Heriberto
Raeder Ronald Joseph M
Reed Jason Cheney
Rehm Brenton Boyd
Rich Laramie Cole
Richards Christopher Paul
Rodriguez Estrella Fransica
Rollins Braeden Rance
Rollins Cathryn Emily
Roper Joshua Joe
Sevy Mason Neil
Sine Isaac Winfield
Stewart Corey Don
Strong Taffin Kelly
Swartz Miranda Josephine
Tagger Dwon Xavier
Taulogo Toriano Tofamamao
Teti Joseph Scott Gilman
Tew David Wayne
Thomas Aaron Michael
Tindell Kylie Christine
Toledo Camille Marie
Tsiyu Samuel Nana
Valerio Colby T

Vesely Jared Michael
Waite Braydon Kelly
Weathers Jeffrey Allen
West Brighton Lee
Whatcott Gregory Shaun
Whitby Matthew Von
Wilkin William Gray II
Wilkinson David Lynn II
Williams Braxton Jeremy
Young Sydnee Erin

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Amador Jessie Edwards
Anderson Cade Dutton
Atebata Patience Iziegbe
Besendorfer Benjamin Aaron
Black Porter Shumway
Bourne Nicholas Ronald
Bowcutt C J Donald
Brown Chasen Daniel
Christensen Michael Dean
Comp Molly Jane
Conger Bryson Kerry
Conkling Alexander James
Dorn Dalton Reece
Eccles Jarred Brandon
Elliott Joel Howard
Ferguson Taylor Isaac
Florian Madeline Kate
Folston Joshua Tyler
Fuhr Jay Daniel
Garciaearlewine Marley J
Gaus Jonathan Francis
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Matthews Henry Allan
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Wabel Brigham Zachary
Warren Cody Dallas
Watts Gregory Jacob
Westover Jacob Taylor
Willoughby Brian Chance
Zuech Alex Richard

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Arredondo Jaime
Barr Martin Calvin
Beaman Brooklyn Deborah
Berry Benjamin K
Borders Brayden Phillip
Brittain Cody Douglas
Bronson Patrick Jason
Byington Kyler Day
Campbell Marilyn Joice
Cantor Josue
Carter Hailey Paige
Davis Christian Carter
Delatorre Nancy Bridgette
Freeman Kaine Howard
Fuell Austin Wayne
Glatz Zayne Alexander
Hamblin Shayne Robert
Hanrion Gabriel Jonathan
Hansen Garrett McKay
Herrera Leyson Edgardo
Jackson Matthew Daniel
Johnson Elizabeth Erin
Kaa Jack
Klingler Maxwell Ludwig
Lavaki Maile Eliza
Leon Jose Manuel
Maynes Kelly Dylan
McKay Gordon Lewis
Morris Deangelo Jeffery
Mulder Caleb Woodruff
Munguia Analilia
Noleroth Kobi Rex
Ojeda Carmen Garcia
Palmer Andrew James
Panter Brenner David
Platt Julie Leann
Porter Emily Megan
Reed Kip Waldon
Shelton Austin Blaine
Thompson Devan Robert
Thorn Jesse Dee
Trowbridge Kade Kalen
Wall Dillon Nicholas
Wells Dallen T
Wilcox Austin Michael
Williams Wyatt Scott
Workman Nathan Trae
Zook Robert Lee

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Baird Andrew Peter
Banta Jess Matthew
Barney Marcus Richard
Biddinger Caden Jay Lloyd
Brophy Ty Christopher
Bybee Kody Grant
Chandler Spencer Lowell
Cheney Caleb Matthew
Clemence Ethan Joshua
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Floyd Mattingly Benjamin
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Huston Benjamin Alan
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Iluzada Benjamin Julius Kua
Iman Alex Ray
Jimenez Cesar
Jones Bobbee Thomas
Kelly Aaron Jacob
Kezior Jared Paul
Larsen Taylor Richard
Leavitt Tyler Thomas
Lehman Zachariah Michael
London Zakary Lane
Lopez Juwan Joseph
Mangrum James Aaron
Marquez Salvador
Metzkow Alysa Ann
Nguyen Loc Thuy Vinh
Oakes John Daniel
Opdahl Jerod Jerome
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Pulsipher Chelsea Delaine
Quintana Michael Anthony
Rasmussen Joshua Steele
Rebman Samuel Hirschi
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Schiro McKayla Bailey
Schmidt Cody James
Smith James Thomas
Smith Logan Bennett
Smith Tyler Louis
Smith Yuri Carlos
Stanton Austin Paul
Stewart Tylar J
Taylor Brandon Lewis
Thomas Kason Bobbi
Vogal Nathaniel Thomas
Webber Justin Chase
White Austin Garth
Wiedmeier Caleb Randall
Wiser Mason Anthony
Wood Sierra Dawn
Workman Andrew John
Wyatt Ebbin Snow

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations.

So help me God. "



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