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Major General Jefferson Burton The Adjutant General

Recently, we awoke to tragedy as one of our own citizens committed an act of mass murder at a concert in Las Vegas. We felt shock, anger, and then the feelings

of grief that are always associated with loss. In some cases, family, friends or acquaintances were affected, but in a very real sense, we were all affected.

This year has been a challenging one for the Utah National Guard. We lost one of our brave, Green Beret Soldiers in combat, and had more than a dozen wounded. We also have lost several to the tragedy of suicide. It reminded me of just how important personal engagement in each other's lives really is. As members of the military, and especially as leaders, we need to know our people. We need to know their families, and we need to take a personal interest in each one of them. The business that we are engaged in cannot just be a "hobby;" it must be a way of life. We must be aware of our teammate's physical and emotional needs, and when we see something that doesn't look or feel right, we need to take action.

Soldiers and Airmen are natural problem solvers. It's in our DNA, and while we will never be able to "fix" everything, we need to be vigilant at protecting each other in both peacetime settings and combat roles. As members of the profession of arms, we face some significant challenges both at home and abroad. But we don't face them alone; we do it as a finely tuned team, and together, we will succeed!



Command Sergeant Major Eric Anderson Senior Enlisted Leader

Now is an incredibly important time to be a Service member in the Utah National Guard. Together, we are serving our country in a way

and at a time, that challenges all of us to step up, preserving our way of life and protecting our freedom. Soldiers and Airmen from the Utah National Guard continue to stand as a beacon for freedom, whether responding to natural disasters or protecting our nation abroad. The NCO Corps recently participated in a Senior Enlisted Workshop where the senior NCOs of the UTNG validated their leadership credentials in a two-day event. We were taught that we do not rise to the

occasion in combat; you sink to the level of your training. There must be a continual, deliberate effort to develop realistic training so that our warriors hone and perfect skills that will transfer from training to the battlefield. We need to make every training minute count. Utah warriors continue to set the standard for others to follow in combat, training, and mission accomplishment. We as NCOs need to focus on deliberate planning, and lead through our core principles: credibility, vision, fundamentals, lethality, and determination. I want to thank all of you for volunteering to service, for your personal sacrifices, and for your willingness to stand as a barrier to all those who would do this great country harm.

Quarterly magazine for members of the Utah National Guard

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The Adjutant General

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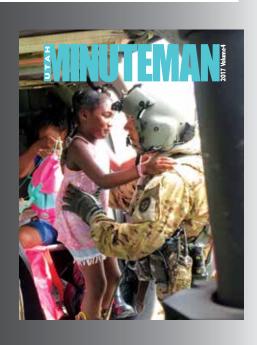
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Cover Photo:

Sgt. 1st Class Zach Kesler, flight paramedic, G Co, 2-211th GSAB, helps a little girl off the UH-60 Black Hawk at a casualty-collection point center in Beaumont, Texas, Aug. 30, 2017. Kesler and his crew extracted her and two other family members by hoist in Port Arthur as rising flood waters surrounded their home and community as a result from the intense rainfall from Hurricane Harvey.

Photo by 2-211th Aviation Battalion



The Beloved Lion



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

and Soldiers alike were struck with the harsh reminder of what is asked of our military.

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

Glancing up, flag after flag passed my view as we drove through the town. The seemingly endless line of flags waved gently in the breeze in the bright sunlight as I reflected on the ceremony that just completed at the Monticello L.D.S. Stake Center in the city where Aaron had grown up and his parents reside in to this day.

Aaron was part of a solid Utah family with deep-rooted values, with his father, mother, six brothers and one sister. But his impact obviously reached far beyond his family with so many, both in and out of uniform, attending the funeral proceedings August 26th in the remote southern Utah town. The room was vast and deep with all of the room dividers open. A sea of love and support stretched through the chapel floor, into the expansion room, across the gymnasium floor, and even onto the elevated stage beyond as all listened.

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

MONTICELLO, Utah — Head leaning into the van window, somber from the funeral proceedings, we drove down the streets of the quaint, small town of Monticello, Utah, towards the city cemetery. My heart was heavy with sadness for a Guard member whom I had never had the honor to meet—Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler.

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

The news of his death hit the state hard, as it had been seven years since Utah Guards last combat loss of Sgt. 1st Class James Thode in 2010. Citizens





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

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

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

"I have been asked many times, 'When did Aaron first have a desire to be a Soldier?' I can honestly say that Aaron was happiest when he had on his camouflage diaper," said Aaron's mother, Laura Butler, lifting the heavy-hearted room with a bittersweet smile of recollection. "Many of you have called Aaron a hero, a warrior, and a lion. And indeed, he was these things. But to me, he will always be that bright, greeneyed, toe-headed ball of fire."

"We know he had a little extra spices put in by our Heavenly Father when he created him," said Aaron's father, Randy Butler. "He had a little bit of extra passion—with everything he did he used that passion. He had a little bit extra courage, and that courage led him greatly as he grew."

It was apparent to me in the testimony of his family and associates that Staff Sgt. Butler was a man that impacted lives, and that I would have been a better person if I had known him.

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

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

"If you were lucky enough to have known Aaron, you could sense he was different in all the best ways possible," said Staff Sgt. Trevor Bell, brother-in-arms and fellow member of the 19th Special Forces, who escorted Staff Sgt. Butler home to Monticello, arriving on what would have been Aaron's 28th birthday. "Very rarely, if ever, do you meet someone like Aaron. When you do, you know it—and I knew it."

Staff Sgt. Butler had proposed to the love of his life, Alexandria Seagroves, after his departure to Afghanistan via video teleconferencing. Alexandria's love for Aaron was obvious in every pained word as she spoke of the moments they had shared, of his diary that she had only recently read, and the dreams for the future they both looked forward to. They lived together in Cedar Hills prior to his deployment.

While small in stature and weakened with grief, she stood tall in her future resolve. "Aaron will live through me," she proclaimed for all. "Everything that I do, and everyone I come into contact with will know who he was and what he did, and how much he meant to everybody."







Funeral honors were rendered with precision and dignity for the family of Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler at the graveside ceremony in Monticello, Utah Aug. 26.





I was jolted back to the present as the van came to a halt in the Monticello City Cemetery. There was a constant flow of people moving from the stake center to the cemetery along the long, straight roadway lined on both sides with flags swaying. The glimmer of motorcycles from the Patriot Riders paralleled the roadway with the leather-clad, rough riders holding flags adjacent to the crowd. The military members in attendance habitually grouped into a formation, reverently waiting. The military detail stood sharp and ready to render Staff Sgt. Butler a crisp and honorable graveside ceremony.

As we waited, I again reflected on how I was so impacted and inspired by a man I had never met. I, too, joined the military to serve my country and make a positive impact on my community. This passion was stoked by the example and dedication of Aaron that I had only just learned about.

"I know Aaron would want me to tell you to go to work. Find something in your life that you can improve on. Mend broken relationships. Show more respect and concern for your neighbors. Live your life with more gratitude for the great nation we live in and the freedoms we enjoy every single day," said Shannon. "Take a stand against evil—even if you will be hated for it. There is always a price to pay for fighting evil. Do it anyway."

The infectious patriotism of the Butler family and Alexandria was so prevalent, yet this was not a predominantly military family. Aaron was the only one to serve in the military, but the rock-solid foundation of values and support from his family coupled with his desire to serve his country was what forged him.

The focus of the group waiting in the cemetery shifted to the procession of vehicles approaching down the roadway. The lead vehicle came to a slow stop and the pallbearers reverently approached and moved into position. Military honors were executed with gratitude and precision with the rifle salute and bugle as it played in the distance. All watched as the flag draping over the casket was sharply folded,

Military and civilian alike joined to honor Staff Sqt. Aaron Butler and his family during the funeral held in Monticello on Aug. 26, 2017.



inspected, and handed to Maj. Gen. Burton who presented the flag to Aaron's mother, Laura.

Standing before Laura, as painful tears rolled down her cheeks as she clutched the flag close, his words about Aaron echoed in my mind, "He will live forever in the memories of those he served with. Aaron will never die."

Col. Larry Henry, commander of the 19th SFG (A), presented a second flag to Aaron's sister, Shannon, followed by Maj. Tyler Jensen presenting the final flag to fiancé, Alexandria. The Butler family and Alexandria stood strong, each individual that had been presented a flag, holding them tightly to their chest as if to hug Aaron one last time.

Brig. Gen. Francis Beaudette, commanding general of 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), presented Randy and Laura with the Gold Star banner. Following other tokens presented to the family, the ceremony was completed with teary hugs and quiet conversation.

But I realized in that instant that Aaron's story was not yet over, as his sacrifice and inspiration would live on. I, having never had the privilege of knowing him, will be a better person, father, and Soldier from his example.

"Aaron didn't choose to die, he chose to live and fight for others," said Gen. Raymond Thomas, commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, who flew from his Florida headquarters for the ceremony. "And while we can ponder why we are still here, I'd offer that the time is better spent seizing the opportunity to dedicate ourselves to the lasting memory of our fallen comrades."

Laura had echoed this call-to-action in her comments earlier stating "...to his brothers-in-arms, who fought so valiantly shoulder-to-shoulder, who loved our son, and brought him home to us, he would say 'Fight on, and for so great a cause.'"

The tremendous example of Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler will live on in all of us, and is reinforced through the strength and resolve of his exemplary family. Randy summed it up during the funeral stating of Aaron that he was fearless; well, almost fearless. He had one fear—his mother was the one who could find out what that was. When asked by his mother Aaron said, "The fear I have is that I will grow old..." but he didn't finish his statement.

Randy believes he knows what his son meant, and that he meant it to his core. "That Aaron was afraid to grow old, because that would mean he would not be able to do what his life dream was. And that was to be a Special Forces Green Beret, fighting in Afghanistan, defending his country."

Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler lived and died achieving his life's dream. And this beloved lion continues to impact us all with a call to action, for each of us in our own way, to do the same.

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn







Flags were presented to mother, Laura Butler, sister, Shannon Young, and fiancé, Alexandria Seagroves, during funeral honors August 26 at the Monticello Cemetery.



151st Air Refueling Wing Conducts Valuable Training in Michigan



ALPENA, Michigan — Approximately 150 Utah Air National Guard Airmen from the 151st Maintenance Group, 151st Mission Support Group, and the 151st Operations Group had the opportunity to conduct annual training at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Mich., June 5-9.

1st Lt. Enoch Pitzer, aircraft maintenance squadron operations officer with the 151st Maintenance Group (MXG), said the training was very valuable for the drill status Guardsmen in the MXG because it allowed them to focus on skills they are unable to work on during drill weekends due to other training requirements and aircraft availability.

"When you get away from the base and you're just focused on the jets, whether they break real-world or you bring training plans with you of tasks you want to work on, it allows complete and total focus on the aircraft," said Pitzer.

The group was able to bring three KC-135 Stratotankers to Alpena. Pitzer said that by conducting the training in a low-threat environment, individuals were able to have more hands-on time with the aircraft.

"Everyone is all there together on the same schedule and there are no outside factors," said Senior Airman McKell Tew, a crew chief with the 151st MXG. "When we need to get a job done, the specialists are right there ready to train, and we can accomplish the task, start to finish, and everyone learns it thoroughly."

In addition to the training conducted by the maintenance and operations personnel, 35 members of the 151st Security Forces Squadron (SFS) were able to train at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) village on both day and night operations, including self-aid buddy care, weapons training, Simunition-round training, and other required annual tasks included in the Security Forces' home station-training initiatives.

A Utah Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker prepares to take off during annual training in Alpena, Mich.

The facilities in Alpena offered a more realistic training environment, allowing them to receive better and more thorough training than they could get at home station, said Tech. Sgt. Greg Barr, the unit training manager for the 151st SFS.

"Each member was able to shoot more rounds in three days than they normally shoot in three years at home station," he said. "It gave them time to become more familiar with their weapon, to become more proficient and more comfortable if they are ever put in a situation where they have to use it."

Story by Tech. Sgt. Annie Edwards



Senior Airmen Justin Keck installs leading-edge flap locks on a KC-135 Stratotanker during annual training in Alpena, Mich.

Special Forces JTACs and Artillerymen Bond Over Fire Missions in Idaho

BOISE, Idaho — The hills of Idaho became alive with activity in August 2017, when members of the Utah National Guard participated in a joint-service training exercise, along with units from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force. The exercise focused on combining many types of air and ground assets attacking different types of realistic targets.

Representing the Utah National Guard were elements from the 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) and Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) from the 19th Special Forces Group (SFG). A U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat unit, U.S. Air Force A-10 Warthogs, and B-2 Bombers supported the air assets for the exercise.

"During this training we were able to add in air assets that we generally war game into our training," said Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Peterson, duty liaison noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery Regiment, 65th FAB. "By having the air assets and JTACs on the ground we had the opportunity to de-conflict airspace and have working timelines and hard times we had to stick to in order to succeed. On the battlefield it's crucial we stick to hard times so the mission can succeed."

Combining aircraft, which were both transporting troops and attacking targets, and artillery while attacking a target, is an ever-increasing difficult and dangerous task. The JTACs are

the men on the ground that call the shots and keep things running smoothly, said Peterson. JTACs take control of the target and all assets in the area, including artillery and aircraft. They work the assets at their disposal to accomplish the mission.

Superior weapons, like air and artillery assets, and enforcing terminal ground to air operations during training, aids in the effectiveness of 19th SFG and the Utah National Guard as a whole. It is likely that 19th SFG and the 65th FAB could be in the same area of operation fighting an enemy together. This training has helped strengthen a gap between Special Operation Forces (SOF) and conventional forces.







"With upcoming conflicts and issues in the world of today it is very likely that we could work together in a combat situation in the same AO [area of operation]," said Staff Sgt. Travis, a joint-fires observer with 19th SFG, last name being withheld for operational security. "Trainings such as these not only prepare us to be effective and efficient on the battlefield but also ensure that great relationships and friendships are built to form a larger, stronger brotherhood."

The SOF and conventional forces are working together more and more on missions in ever-complex environments around the world. This training exercise allowed units and individuals from both SOF and conventional forces to train together in a realistic scenario. Training to strengthen each other's capabilities was a large focus of this training exercise.

"Having the ability to cross train with conventional and SOF units raises the capabilities dramatically by raising awareness and enforcing standard operating procedures to work together and decrease the probability of fratricide, and bring more firepower to the battlefield," Travis said. "Anytime we can cross train with other units builds a great understanding and partnership, especially between a conventional and SOF unit furthering the process of supporting each other's mission. Being in the same state just makes it that much easier."

The 19th SFG and 65th FAB having a partnership strengthens the Utah National Guard's readiness to respond to threats around the world, as well as local situations. This partnership gives the men and woman of these units a different perspective and better prepares them for the challenges our Army faces.

"This joint training was a great opportunity to see potential mission types we could be supporting and it gave us the opportunity to see the big picture in action," Peterson said. "It identified weaknesses that we can now train for and overcome in order to be more proficient in our roles. The networking that took place during this mission is going to foster joint training in the future. They see what we can do and we see what they do. Having had the support of the command staff and full-time staff to make this happen is a testament to the Utah Guard's commitment to being the best."

Story and photos by Spc. Colin Harper

Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs), with the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Utah National Guard, participated in a joint-service training mission, August 13-18, 2017, in Boise, Idaho. The JTACs and their team assisted the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, U.S. Air Force bombers and a U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat unit, during missions to target and destroy an array of enemy positions.







65th Field Artillery Participates at Warfighter 17-05

SALT LAKE CITY - On June 2, in the early morning hours, 169 Soldiers from the 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) and 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery boarded two buses to the Salt Lake International Airport. Their destination was Camp Atterbury, Ind., home of the Joint Maneuver Training Center to participate in Warfighter 17-05.

The 65th FAB's mission was to perform the function of Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of the 40th Infantry Division (ID). This was the fifth time Camp Atterbury held a Warfighter this year. The intent of the exercise was to observe how prepared the 65th FAB was at performing its duties.

The Warfighter, under the direction of U.S. Army observers and trainers, prepares headquarter units by testing them in war-gaming scenarios and best practices to operate in today's battlespace.

The first four days of the exercise units set up, prepared, and conducted rehearsals, followed by eight days of 24-hour, non-stop execution. At two points during the exercise, time was set aside for coaching and mentoring on best practices from U.S. Army observers and trainers.

The 65th FAB was one of six units from across the country to participate in Warfighter 17-05, to include Missouri's 35th Combat Aviation Brigade; 40th ID from California; 53rd Infantry Brigade from Florida; 38th Sustainment Brigade from Indiana; and 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Each unit set up its own Tactical Operation Center to work out of for two weeks to simulate real-world, combat settings.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Fisher, Land Component commander for the Utah National Guard, flew from Utah to observe the 65th FAB in action. During his visit Fisher said he was "very impressed," with the 65th FAB Soldiers and their ability to execute their mission.

The 65th FAB took with it new Soldiers who have never experienced a Warfighter, in addition to personnel who have



Many huddles were held throughout the warfighter to ensure members of the 65th FAB were in synch and ready for the fight.

participated before. The new Soldiers learned quickly how to operate as a part of a team in the high-tempo setting. Spc. Zachary Jackson worked as a Radio Transmission Operator, whose job was to convey messages to subordinate units and relay critical information to those who needed it. When he wasn't on the radio, he operated the systems to fire artillery rounds down range. This was his first Warfighter in his five years with the unit. When asked if he would participate again he said with enthusiasm, "Yes." The 65th FAB also brought its first female Air Defense Artillery officer to the Warfighter.

During the eight days of execution, each Soldier worked a 12-hour shift, working under the same conditions they would in a combat theater. The 65th FAB improved its skills as it supported the 40th ID by providing supportive and indirect fires in the war-game scenario. The 65th improved its ability to balance its warfighting functions to include personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, and maneuver and fires elements with other functions such as public affairs, judge advocate, and medical to succeed in the war-game scenario. In addition to its primary mission, it combined with the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade for offensive missions, responded to chemical attacks, conducted media interviews, and coordinated fire support for the entire division.

> Col. Adam Robinson, brigade commander for the 65th FAB, said the exercise provided a great learning opportunity.

"The unit and Soldiers performed exceptionally, and I am very proud to be associated with the professional Soldiers of the 65th FAB," said Robinson.

Brig. Gen. Mark Malanka, 40th ID commander, was also impressed with the dedication and mission focus of the Soldiers of the 65th FAB. He expressed his appreciation to the Soldiers of the 65th for their support to his headquarters and their can-do attitude.

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Jeffrey Belnap



The 65th Field Artillery Brigade established its tactical operations center (TOC) to emulate a field setting for execution of the warfighter June 2017.

Leapfest 2017

WEST KINGSTON, R. I. — eapfest is the largest, longest-standing, international, static-line-parachute training event and competition in the world.

Hosted by 56th Troop Command of Rhode
Island and funded by National Guard Bureau,
the purpose of the competition is to promote
the camaraderie and Esprit de Corps of
the Airborne Soldier through international
competition. The competition is routinely
attended by representatives from the Active
Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard,
Marines, Navy, Air Force, and several international
teams.

This is both an individual and team event. Each team consists of five participants: four jumpers and one alternate jumper. Jumpers exit from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at an altitude of 1,500 feet (457 meters) using an MC-6 static-line, steerable, parabolic parachute. Participants aim to land as close as possible to a marked, designated X within the landing zone. Upon landing and completing a PLF (parachute landing fall), participants are timed by qualified judges until they reach the designated X.

The 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), SFG (A), of Utah and Montana, sent six teams to Leapfest this year. Group Support Battalion of 19th SFG (A) Utah sent three teams, one of which took fifth overall out of 70 teams. This team consisted of Maj. Budd Vogrinec, Sgt. Maj. Edward Bailey, Sgt. Maj. John McNichols, and Sgt.

Three CH-47 Chiook helicopters staged in support of Leapfest 2017.



1st Class Jerriah McNichols.

The 190th Chemical
Reconnaissance Detachment
(CRD) of Montana conjoined
with a team from the Army
Special Operations Task Force
(ARSOTF) 19th SFG (A),
headquartered out of Camp Williams,
Utah. Other teams competing were

1st Battalion, 19th SFG (A) Utah; 5th
Battalion, 19th SFG (A) Colorado; and
2nd Battalion, 19th SFG (A) Rhode Island.
Staff Sgt. Ryan Teeter of 5th Battalion,
19th SFG (A) of Colorado took third place
individually.

Story by Maj. Kimberly Lawson Photos courtesy of 19th SFG (A)

Left: Conquest of the "X" by a 19th SFG(A) Soldier. Background: Paratrooper flying MC-6, static-line, parabolic parachute.

VCSAF Visits Utah, Thanks Guardsmen for their Dedication

ROLAND R. WRIGHT AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Utah — Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson and his wife, Nancy, met with Utah Air National Guard (UTANG) members and toured the National Ability Center (NAC) in Park City on June 21 as part of a multi-day visit to the state.

The morning began with a presentation on the NAC mission, which focused primarily on the organization's robust military programs. The NAC provides adaptive recreation opportunities for individuals of all abilities designed to foster self-esteem, confidence and lifetime skills through sports, activities and education. The University of Utah's National Center for Veterans Studies was also highlighted for its innovative partnership with the NAC which provides a groundbreaking, condensed treatment program for Service members and Veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Both the NAC and NCVS fill a valuable, unique niche for military members and their families," Wilson said. "The healing and hope they foster is evident through the dedicated leadership and staff, tailored equipment and activities, and picturesque mountain backdrop."

Following a facilities tour, more than a dozen Airmen from units across base, including Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, UTANG commander, joined Wilson for lunch on site.

"What an incredible opportunity for our outstanding professionals to engage with senior Air Force leadership," said Burckle. "For those who had never been to the NAC before, it was also an introduction to another wellness resource close to home."

After lunch, the Wilsons, several UTANG members and their spouses were instructed on the adaptive archery course. Archery is a popular and growing Paralympic sport and therapeutic activity. The equipment and instruction can be adapted to the needs of the participant, and members of the group were able to try different mobility variations.



Above: Utah Army and Air National Guardsmen and Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson tested the adaptive archery equipment at the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah. The National Ability Center is a nonprofit organization that provides adaptive recreation opportunities for individuals of all abilities through sports, activities and education.



Left: Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson joined Brig. Gen. Christine Burckle, Utah Air National Guard commander, and several Utah Air National Guard Airmen at the National Ability Center in Park City on June 21.

Right: Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen W. Wilson chats with Maj. Sasha Perronne, 151st Civil Engineering Squadron commander, at the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah on June 21, 2017. Wilson dined with 20 Army and Air National Guardsmen, answered questions about current Air Force issues, and discussed Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David L. Goldfein's leadership vision.

Following the activities, both groups sat down for refreshments and round-table discussions.

"Issues that affect the Air Force as a whole, as well as issues specific to the Guard, including retention and family deployment support, were primary topics," said Holly Woodman. "Mrs. Wilson showed great concern and understanding for our unique Air National Guard needs."

For the Guardsmen, conversation topics included organizational culture, additional duties, talent retention, and the role Air Force families play in the health of the force.

"We have to work on stability, and we have to make families feel like they belong, so they want to be part of this journey," Wilson said.

He also lauded the work being accomplished by the UTANG. "Thanks for doing a fantastic job," he said. "You should be proud of what you bring to the fight and your role in shaping the future of the Total Force concept so skillfully employed here in Utah," he said.

For Lt. Col. Brandon Taylor, 151st Operations Group commander, the chance to interact with Wilson was equally well received.

"He was easy to talk to and genuinely interested in the conversation," he said. "It's great to know that's the caliber of leadership representing our Airmen at the very top."

Story and photos by Maj. Jennifer Eaton





Sqt. Benjamin Rogers with his wife at the Utah Cross ceremony at the Scott B. Lundell Readiness Center auditorium on Camp Williams Aug. 5.

Utah Guard Member Honored for Heroism

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Utah Guard's Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton presented the Utah Cross to Sgt. Benjamin Rogers in the Scott B. Lundell Readiness Center auditorium on Camp Williams Saturday, Aug. 5.

Rogers, a Smithfield resident and mechanic for the 214th Forward Support Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, in Tooele, was selected to receive the Utah Cross for his brave and selfless actions in January 2015.

While traveling through Logan Canyon on Jan. 9, 2015, Rogers and two civilian co-workers, Milo Bauer and Brandyn Hawkes, noticed a vehicle accident resulting in an overturned truck in the Logan River. Rogers burst into action, using his own vehicle and trailer to block oncoming traffic, and without any protective gear or concern for his personal safety, rushed into the frigid waters to assist the truck's trapped occupants. Rogers and his co-workers, plunged into the near-freezing waters, extracted the victims, carried them ashore, and began rendering first aid. With a small crowd now gathered, Rogers took command of the incident ensuring that 911 had been called, gathered medical supplies to render aid to injuries, and wrapped the victims in blankets to ensure life stabilization until first responders could arrive.

The bravery, immediate action, and selflessness of Sgt. Rogers resulted in life-saving action to a Utah father and son on that fateful day.

Rogers is a 10-year service member of the Utah Guard and is scheduled to deploy this fall. Service members of the Utah Guard do great things every day, and this patriotism and public service is evident in the heroic actions of Rogers.

The Utah Cross is second in the order of merit for Utah Guard awards and is presented to those who distinguish themselves by voluntarily subjecting themselves to danger or extraordinary responsibilities with praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage above and beyond the call of duty.

Story by Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn

2-211th Medevac Company Answers Call in Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

HOUSTON — With less than a 24-hours between notification, activation, and wheels up, two experienced aircrews comprised of eight Soldiers from G Co. (Medevac), 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) loaded up two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with medical equipment and supplies and deployed to the Houstonmetro area in response to Hurricane Harvey in southeast Texas, Aug. 26.

The devastating storm still raged on by the time the aircrews reached their area of operation at the Sugarland Airport, southwest of Houston, Aug. 29. With Harvey stalling right over the major metropolitan area, hundreds of thousands of gallons of water continued to flood the region with no signs of the rain letting up.

"The storm turned real fast," said Sgt. 1st Class Zach Kesler, critical-care, flight paramedic, 2-211th. "This was a real disaster. This was a real emergency. People are really in trouble. It was surreal."

"The flooding was much worse than I thought," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joseph Galbraith, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, 2-211th. "It was really eerie to see lines of abandoned cars on the roads, underwater with their lights still on."

Once the initial shock wore off, the aircrew immediately dove right into two exhausting days of search-and-rescue and reconnaissance operations in the east Houston area, specifically the southwest region including Beaumont, Orange, and Port Arthur, Texas. From dawn to dusk and continuously refueling whenever necessary, the Utah Guardsmen relentlessly searched for citizens requiring help and extraction from unsafe conditions. Galbraith said it was incredible to see dozens of helicopters hovering in close proximity conducting rescue missions in the cities they operated in, likening the scene to an active, swarming wasp nest.

Because of the rising flood waters and obstacles such as houses, power lines, and buildings, the crew could not land the Black Hawks and had no choice but to extract civilians with a hoist. While the pilots hovered the aircraft overhead at nearly 150 feet above ground level, the crew chief manned the hoist and lowered the flight paramedic down into the unknown waters below.

"There is no time to hesitate," said Kesler. "You just have to do it. Get out the door, go through the motions from training, but the situation is different than any kind of training we've ever done. We're hoisting in winds we've never trained in before. I'm about to touch down in water that I'm uncertain what the depth is or how clean it is."

Since the Black Hawks were several hundred feet in the air, crew members had a clear, aerial view of the devastation below. They could see some neighborhoods with water up to the roof line, while the adjoining neighborhood experienced almost no flooding. Streets and freeways became rushing rivers. Rivers became turbulent seas with whitecaps forming from gusting winds while an unprecedented amount of water continued to fall over the Houston area for several days.

"The look in people's eyes was the craziest thing," said Kesler. "When I was on the ground and hoisting people up, it seemed so post-apocalyptic to be standing in those neighborhoods. Once we were up in the air and on our way to the casualty-collection point, the look in those people's eyes, the look of disbelief of how bad it was on the ground; they're scared, worried, and devastated. That's their home."

"When I heard they were waist deep in water and hoisting elderly and children, I thought, 'Wow, if that were me or my family, I'd forever be indebted to their services,'" said Capt. Stephanie Vandenbrink, 2-211th commander. "They were innovative, motivated, and ready to perform whatever mission was thrown at them."



Sgt. 1st Class Zach Kesler, flight paramedic from G Co, 2-211th GSAB, helps hook up an Orange, Texas resident to the hoist with the help from local residents, Aug. 31, 2017.



Sgt. 1st Class Zach Kesler, flight paramedic from G Co, 2-211th GSAB, radios up to the two Black Hawk pilots while conducting search-and-rescue missions in Texas.

Kesler said one of his most memorable rescues involved a little girl from Beaumont whose mother flagged down Kesler's helicopter, desperate to get her daughter and elderly mother out of the rising flood waters surrounding their home. After unhooking himself from the hoist and making his way to the family, he could see how afraid the little girl was in her current circumstance and facing the unknown. Rather than pushing to quickly get her into the hoist strap and onto the bird, he was able to calm her down and gain her trust.

"I was probably pretty intimidating with all of my equipment, gear, and my helmet," said Kesler. "I took off my face piece, and I knelt down and told her calmly, 'I'm a firefighter [on the civilian side]. I'm here to help,' to just calm her nerves a little bit."

Kesler was able to get her and her two family members into the Black Hawk and to the casualty-collection point. Kesler said that experience was a tender moment for him because the little girl trusted him and was comforted by him even though it was for that short period of time, knowing her life may forever be altered because of the hurricane.

At the end of the exhausting, two-week deployment, the aircrews logged nearly 100 hours of flight-time; burned through 1,200 gallons of fuel; rescued almost 30 people via hoist extraction over the twoday, search-and-rescue missions; and transported approximately 1,000 pounds of equipment in the Houston area.

Utah worked alongside other Medevac companies and search-andrescue teams from Texas, Nebraska, Arizona, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kentucky, and New Jersey. Being able to speak the same Army language ensured mission success for all those taking part in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

"It was a testament to the Army system," said Galbraith. "When all the aircraft were there, everything fell into place. We all did our job, were ready, were trained, and adapted."

What set the Utah teams apart from other Medevac companies was not only the extensive training conducted by the company, but also in the mission preparation, experienced crew members, and having the only Black Hawks medically configured and capable for critical care and inter-facility transport. Both aircrews were also qualified to conduct both day and night missions including night-vision-hoist operations.

"We've been preparing for this type of scenario for a long time," said Kesler. "We've been ready for a homeland response of a stateside domestic operation for a long time. We practiced a lot, and prepared for whenever we got the call to help."

With high expectations for G Co. to rigorously train for any mission requiring its medical support, the unit's members will continue to live the National Guard moto: always be ready, always be there.

"I was extremely proud of how our crews performed," said Vandenbrink. "We all learned we have to be ready at any moment for any mission and maintaining our flight and medical proficiency is paramount to conducting successful rescue missions.

"It is a true honor for me to command such incredible people who do this mission because they want to and risk their lives to save others," continued Vandenbrink. "My only regret with Hurricane Harvey was not being able to send everyone to help."

Story by Sgt. Ashley Baum









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

MPAD Deploys to Texas to Support Hurricane Harvey Recovery

BEAUMONT, Texas — Sixteen Soldiers from the 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) deployed to Southeast Texas in early September to support the Texas National Guard with its response to Hurricane Harvey.

Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast south of Houston on August 25, and within three days, more than 12,000 Soldiers from the Texas National Guard had been mobilized to assist with recovery, according to the Texas Military Department.

Less than a week later, members of the MPAD received a warning order and began to prepare for movement to Texas.

"On Thursday August 31 we were notified via text that there was a possibility we would [go to Texas]," said 1st Sgt. Brock Jones, the senior noncommissioned officer of the MPAD. "That weekend we went through the whole process of SRP (Soldier Readiness Program), and before we knew it, on Labor Day, we were flying out of Salt Lake City to Austin."

After briefings with senior leaders of the Texas National Guard in Austin, the unit traveled to Beaumont, where a FEMA response center had been set up. Beaumont suffered from severe flooding during the storm, but waters had mostly receded by September 5, when the MPAD arrived there.

"We planned and prepared for the worstcase scenario; that our Soldiers might be falling on some pretty dire conditions," said Maj. Ryan Sutherland, commander of the 128th MPAD. "But really we fell in at a time in the crisis response where the logistical support was getting back Online. We planned for the worst, but when we got here conditions were much better on the ground than we anticipated."

There was still plenty to do. Texas military officials asked the Utah unit to continue capturing imagery, as Texas Soldiers and Airmen had done the week before, but also to package those products to tell the stories of the military response in a more comprehensive way.

"What was positive for me was that we were still able to get out and see that; even though we didn't see flood waters, people were still affected. We still saw Soldiers helping the public," said Sutherland.

"Our Soldiers have had the opportunity to go out on Chinook helicopters to drop hay bales to stranded cattle, they've been able to go do stories on animals that have been rescued, they've seen families returned to their homes after being gone from them for two weeks, and we've seen the





Pvt. Mykalob Stephens and the members of his Oklahoma National Guard unit, Company D, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, help patch up victims of Hurricane Harvey in Port Arthur, Texas, Sept. 9.

Utah's G Co. (Medevac), 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion get a birds-eye view of the devastation caused by flooding and heavy rainfall from Hurricane Harvey over the Houston metro area as they search for individuals needing help.

ramifications of a storm of this magnitude. What's more important is that we've not only been able to see that but get the word out about what's been going on," added Jones.

Sutherland also said that the way the Utah unit was tasked speaks to the readiness of the 128th, though it wasn't easy to mobilize so quickly.



Arkansas Army National Guard Soldiers assist a member of Texas A&M's Veterinary Emergency Team wrap a cow's legs that were injured from standing in flood waters after Hurricane Harvey in Beaumont, Texas, Sept. 9, 2017.

"We asked a lot of our Soldiers for this mission," he said. "It was very short notice to inform families and employers, and to see the level of enthusiasm they had for this mission. I couldn't have asked for anything more."

For several Soldiers, it was their first, real-world mission with the public affairs unit.

"One of the great things about this mission is that we've been able to integrate new Soldiers into our unit. We've had quite a few new Soldiers come into the unit in the last year," said Jones. "This mission gave us an opportunity to see how they work and get to know them and use them in ways that add strength to the MPAD."

The MPAD returned to Utah for post-deployment outprocessing on September 17. They spent a total of 12 days in Texas.

"I'm really proud of the work my Soldiers have done and the things they've been able to accomplish," said Jones.

Maj. Sutherland summed up the mission with a simple observation: "We were able to make a difference."

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Stowell Photos by Pvt. Elizabeth Johnson and Spc. Nathaniel Free







Soldiers from the Oklahoma National Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, help hand out tools and cleaning supplies at the Museum of the Gulf Coast, Sept. 9. Everything from particle masks and circular saws to bleach and pry bars are marked with the same, repeating motto: "Use it. Pass it on."

Oklahoma National Guard Soldiers visit with residents of Port Arthur, Texas near the Stephen Jackson Academy. Founded by former NBA player Stephen Jackson, the academy is serving as a point of distribution to provide food, water, and supplies to flooding victims in Port Arthur and the surrounding areas.

UTANG Airmen Support Hurricane Irma Relief Efforts

SALT LAKE CITY — Six Airmen assigned to the 151st Communications Flight at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base departed Sept. 7 for the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to provide communications support in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

The Airmen are part of a Joint Incident Site Communications Capabilities team, which will be staged at St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands until damage assessments are complete and aircraft are able to land in St. Thomas.

"The diverse training and well-maintained equipment we have in the Utah Air National Guard allows us to mobilize rapidly when our nation calls," said Col. Kristin Streukens, commander of the 151st Air Refueling Wing. "The mission of our communication package is to restore command and control after a disaster. We can bridge first-responder communication which allows for immediate action within hours of the disaster."

Once on the islands, the team will establish critical, tactical communications to enable interoperability for military and civil-authority-support agencies.

"Our task will be to provide communication support to help local radio stations, and serve as intermediate responder communications until native communications are back up," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Bacca, a cyber-support specialist assigned to the 151st CF. "Once communications are up, we can act as additional contact points for further communication relays."

Over the past 21 months the 151st Communications Flight has supported various communications requirements in Utah, across the country, and outside of the U.S., said Capt. Amy Bocage, commander of the 151st CF.



Tech Sgt. Chris Cook, 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron logistics planner and Master Sgt. Bodie Peterson, 151st Communications Flight cyber-transportation, noncommissioned officer in charge, prepare an equipment trailer for transport on a C-17 Globemaster in support of Hurricane Irma relief efforts.

Joint Incident Site Communication Capabilities team members 2nd Lt. Tyler Olsen and Master Sgt. Bryan Scharman, 151st Communications Flight, secure an equipment trailer for transport on a C-17 Globemaster to the U.S. Virgin Islands in support of Hurricane Irma relief efforts Sept. 7, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.



"The opportunity to support the local community and others all over the world by serving in the Utah Air National Guard is such an honor," Bocage said. "Upon returning from these tasking operations, members are instilled with a sense of accomplishment and pride to see that all their hard work is making a difference."

The UTANG members will remain in St. Thomas as long as it is deemed necessary to support the domestic operations mission."

Story by Staff Sgt. Danny Whitlock Photos by Lt. Col. Gene Buckner and Staff Sgt. Danny Whitlock



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

2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery (The Golden Boys) Appoints its First Female Commander

ST. GEORGE, Utah — 1 st. Lt. Megan Tidwell became Southern Utah's storied 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery's first female commander Aug. 19, as she assumed the mantle of responsibility for the 213th Forward Support Company (FSC). Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Shawn Fuellenbach, presided at the change of command ceremony as he received the colors from outgoing commander Capt. Justin Zufelt and then entrusted those colors to Tidwell.

During his remarks Fuellenbach praised Zufelt for the way he had led the 213th FSC during his tenure, raising the bar for all commanders in the battalion. During Zufelt's two years in command, the 213th FSC has become a stand-out unit in both the nation and Utah National Guard. The 213th FSC has become one of the top 10 support companies in the United States Army and top 10 units in the state of Utah. The 213th supported the 2016 Hildale flood rescue and recovery efforts, executed Operation Siesmos (a complex, multi-level, civilian/military natural-disaster event) and were an essential part of the success of the 65th FAB's first-ever, brigade exercise Operation Gunsmoke in Guernsey, Wyo. Fuellenbach concluded his comments by congratulating both Zufelt and Tidwell on their new appointments, with words of encouragement and advice.

Zufelt first thanked his wife, Leilani, their kids and the Soldiers of the 213th FSC for all their support in his success as a commander.

"Being a part of this amazing organization and having the monumental success we have had is far more than personally rewarding," said Zufelt.

He also gave Tidwell some personal advice as the outgoing commander to try her best to balance command time and family time.

Tidwell accepted the advice and challenge of being the first female commander with confidence, as she has been a forerunner throughout her military career thus far. She deployed as a young noncommissioned officer in 2011 to Baghdad, in support of Operation New Dawn and the closing out of operations in Iraq. Upon her return in 2012, she direct-commissioned becoming the first female officer in the 65th FAB and has served as the executive officer and a platoon leader with the 213th FSC. As Tidwell took charge of the formation, she thanked Zufelt and Fuellenbach for their support and confidence in her abilities to take on such a large responsibility. She then thanked her family for all of their support throughout her career thus far and for all they were willing to do to help her succeed. Tidwell then addressed the Soldiers of the 213th FSC.

"I will do all I can, in my power to care for you and your families," she said. "We stand together as a team in the fight to protect each other, our families and this nation. We will continue to build on the foundation that has been laid out before us to prepare ourselves for any call the state or nation has need of our expertise."

Story and photo by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lance Jensen



1st Lt. Megan Tidwell receives the 213th Forward Support Company guidon from 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery commander, Lt. Col. Shawn Fuellenbach, during a change of command ceremony on Aug. 19, in St. George, Utah.

ESGR Bosslift Gives Civilian Employers Up-Close Look at the Utah Air National Guard

SALT LAKE CITY — M ore than 20 local employers had the opportunity to watch a Utah Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker refuel four F-16 Fighting Falcons from Hill Air Force Base on Aug. 31, during a flight over Utah's West Desert.

The flight, part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift program, gave civilian employers a first-hand look at what their employees serving in the Utah Air National Guard do during their drill weekends and annual training days.

Steve Roberts, president of Veritas Funding in Salt Lake City, was nominated to attend the flight by his employee, Senior Master Sgt. Randal Hood, the deputy operations superintendent for the 169th Intelligence Squadron.

Roberts said the flight was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that gave him a greater understanding of what Hood and the Utah Air Guard do for the country and the community.

"The people serving our country are the heroes," said Roberts. "They're the ones that give us the freedom and the luxuries we take for granted sometimes in our everyday lives."

Hood said the opportunity for his employer to participate in the flight was very important for him personally because it allowed him to show his boss the significance of what the Utah Air Guard does and why it is important for him to serve.

"When I have to deploy, my coworkers have to pick up the slack and they know that my company supports it and the boss is behind it," said Hood. "They provide that coverage when I'm gone. You can support your country without necessarily having to wear the uniform."

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Annie Edwards

More than 20 civilian employers of Utah Air National Guard members had the opportunity to witness an air refueling mission on a KC-135R Stratotanker on Aug. 31, 2017, at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base. The employers, part of an ESGR Bosslift flight, were able to watch F-16 Fighting Falcons from Hill Air Force Base refuel over Utah's West Desert.









Robert Voyles Retires from Fort Douglas Military Museum

FORT DOUGLAS, Utah — Retired Brig. Gen. Robert Voyles or as his friends know him, Bob, has had a huge impact in both his military career and civilian life. Voyles joined the South Dakota Guard in 1963 and a couple of years later moved to Utah for a job with Kennecott Copper mines. He joined the 140th Artillery Target Acquisition Company, which would be integrated into the 145th Field Artillery. It was in the artillery that Voyles commissioned. He described himself as a "rouge" officer because he was always trying to change the way the artillery operated.

His military career came to a close in 1998 and he retired as a full colonel. It only took a year before he was bored of being retired. Luckily for him, the Fort Douglas Military Museum reached out because they needed someone to help regulate the curator. He took his same rouge attitude with him to the museum and was able to implement a vast amount of positive change. Aided by his staff, he was able to curate exhibits that brought in veterans looking to remember the past. His favorite aspect of working at the museum was watching retired service members visit and tell their stories.

"They would be pointing at certain things and you could see tears start to come to their eyes as they reminisced," said Voyles.

He hopes the future will bring expansions to the museum to make room for more modern exhibits. Voyles joked that the fish don't need to worry about his retirement because he's going to spend his time writing and being with his grandkids.

Story and photos by Spc. James Dansie



Bob Voyles and his wife at his retirement ceremony at Fort Douglas Museum auditorium Aug. 10.

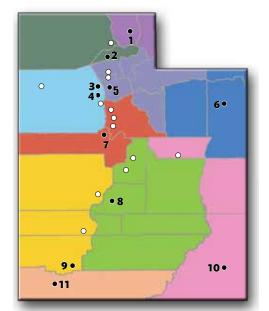
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Utah Family Assistance Centers (FAC) assist service members and their families during peacetime, training or mobilization. FACs are open to all military branches: Army Guard, Air Guard, active-duty Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and all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

Utah Regional FAC and Armory Locations

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



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Preparing for a

KAUAI, Hawaii—Natural disasters can strike without warning threatening catastrophic destruction in its path. The National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction, Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) train on a broad range of capabilities to respond at a moment's notice to these disasters.

"One of the main missions of the CST is a natural-disaster response. Hawaii, being in the Pacific Rim, has a lot of natural disaster threats. If they experience weather conditions such as a typhoon or tsunami, they would need other CSTs to go in and help mitigate their chemical issues, chemical spills or fires," said the deputy commander 85th CST.

Members of Utah's 85th CST, Hawaii's 93rd CST, Guam's 94th CST and Alaska's 103rd CST trained for disaster support on the Hawaiian island of Kauai Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Utah, Hawaii and

Disaster on Kauai

Guam are part of the same response region, Region Five, so it becomes crucial that they train together. In all, the four CSTs participated in the exercise along with Kauai Emergency Management Agency, Kauai first responders, Pacific

and other governmental and nongovernmental agencies as they exercised joint, inter-agency operations. "We are in their response sector, so if

Missile Range Facility

Hawaii had a natural disaster or a terrorist attack there, we would be one of the first teams called in to support them," said the deputy commander 85th CST. "So as such we like to train with them to kind of get the same tactics nailed down to do what we would do in a real-world scenario."

Each team member has a specific, specialized, skill set that can be called upon to augment another state's CST as needed.

"Since every team does things a little different, it's always a benefit to watch each other in exercises," said the 85th CST 1st



Civil Support Teams from Utah, Hawaii, Guam and Alaska conduct a relief in place at Barking Sands Pacific Missile Range Facility Aug 30.



An 85th CST member suits up before entering an underground bunker on the Pacific Missile Range Facility.



A Utah team member checks the data as the 85th CST prepares to identify chemicals during the exercise Aug. 30.

Sgt.

Part of the exercise was to conduct operations with team members from one of the other CSTs. The Utah CST had a team member from Alaska fulfilling a role on its team. Guam and Hawaii also exchanged teams members to provide cross training for each team.

"When working with other teams it was nice to have one of their guys work with us as far as operations go," said an 85th CST survey team member that worked directly with the Alaska team member supporting Utah. "It was good to see that the teams work very similarly and they can flow right in with one another and continue to work the mission."

"Exercises like this allow us to get together with our own region and work collectively together and also cross pollinate," said the 93rd CST science officer. "Utah is here; we get to see its TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures); it is a great sharing opportunity for all of us to get together."

"Guam is very isolated and so coming out here and working with Hawaii we will know if we have interoperability," said the 94th CST commander from Guam.

Hawaii and Guam received the initial request for assistance from the Kauai Emergency Management Agency just before 6:00 a.m.

"We activated our personnel at 0600 and arrived at 0700 and linked up with the police on base," said Hawaii's 93rd CST commander. "We are here to support the first responders of Kauai County in the event of a catastrophic event, so we are here to train and support first responders."

Hawaii and Guam worked on the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, for the entire day supporting four different site locations.

"We were activated since 6:00 this morning and now we are getting ready to do a relief-in-place—it's going on 13 hours," said Guam's commander. "Whenever it goes beyond what we can do, then we ask for assistance from other CSTs to come in and take over."





Utah's 85th Civil Support Team loads its vehicles and equipment onto a C-17 from the Mississippi Air National Guard at the Lihue Airport on the island of Kauai, Hawaii Sept. 1.

The 85th and 103rd CSTs arrived just before 6:00 p.m. to relieve the two exhausted teams. The incoming teams had been on standby since noon and were anxious to participate. They would work throughout the night and return to their home station between four and five in the morning.

"We don't do it often, but working from dusk to dawn is something we are used to doing," said an 85th CST survey team member.

The humid conditions were also something the teams had to prepare for.

"The hardest part of this mission is the humidity; when you are in the suit you are already sweating and it's hard to keep cool. When you are in a tropical environment the humidity keeps you sweating and you're not getting the relief from the sweat evaporating so it makes it a lot harder."

Another important factor when deploying to a disaster area is transporting all the specialized equipment. It is crucial to exercise loading and unloading vehicles onto military aircraft to become proficient so delays are minimized during a real-world disaster.

"The air-load portion is important to exercise because we are required to air load once a year to remain proficient on it," said 85th CST deputy commander. "We are required to rapidly deploy to different parts of the country and that may require airlift and so we need to practice because it's a very perishable skill."

The New York Air National Guard transported two survey trucks, an operations vehicle, and a medical response vehicle from Utah on its C-17. For the return trip, Mississippi Air National Guard conducted a military air-lift flight to return the equipment to Utah.

"It's good to exercise with people in our region because it gives us an opportunity to work with them in case of a man-made or natural disaster," said 85th CST 1st Sgt. "Its good to see how other teams conduct operations and, of course, it's a beautiful part of the country."

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy

Freedom Academy

CAMP WILLIAMS, UTAH — For 56 years the Utah National Guard has been teaching the importance of freedom to groups of student leaders representing high schools from across the state during the annual event known as Freedom Academy.

This year, 114 student delegates attended the retreat July 30-Aug. 4, where they had the opportunity to participate in activities at Camp Williams, listen to guest speakers, and take field trips to locations throughout the Salt Lake Valley.

The program is designed to improve leadership and teamwork skills while providing the participants with a greater understanding and appreciation of the freedoms they enjoy.

"The focus of Freedom Academy is really on the future leaders of our communities," said Air Force Maj. Bruce Lewis, Freedom Academy director.

"We work side by side with our community leaders in times of need for domestic operations," said Lewis. "On the flip side we also have our federal mission, and we need support from our community and leaders as we deploy overseas and then come home and reintegrate into those communities."

Lewis said that by helping these students, the future leaders, understand the different aspects of freedom and how the National Guard protects and preserves that, it helps us as a community come together.

The students viewed demonstrations and static displays of Utah Army and Air National Guard capabilities, and presentations by the Utah Highway Patrol, a SWAT team, and K-9 unit. They toured the state prison and federal courthouse, as well as the state Capitol, where they were addressed by Utah Gov. Gary Herbert.

The delegates also visited Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base and the Channel 2 News studio.

Some other highlights of the week included overcoming obstacles while completing the Leadership Reaction Course, rappelling off a 45-foot tower, jumping off the Airborne Tower, and the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from throughout the community. Additionally, many students participated in a speech contest and a talent competition.



High school student delegates attend Freedom Academy at Camp Williams July 30 - Aug. 4. These future leaders learned about government and gained an understanding of the freedoms we enjoy.











Jennie Scott, a senior at Lone Peak High School, said attending the camp was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that allowed her to do things most kids do not get to do, including experience what it is like to be in the military.

"I have a better sense of freedom and a greater appreciation for it and for what people are willing to do to protect our country," said Scott.

While attending the camp, students work with counselors from the Army and Air National Guard. Army Sgt. Tierra Timarky, with the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, said she volunteered to be a counselor because she wanted the opportunity to work with the future leaders in her community.

"This program is important because it gives the delegates the opportunity to understand that freedom incorporates more than just the ability to do whatever they want," said Timarky. "It allows them to see all aspects that allow the citizens of America to express themselves in any way, form or fashion."

Timarky added that she hoped the two main leadership skills the students gained from the camp, and would in-turn bring back to their schools, are integrity and honor.

"If you have these two things you will be able to not only accomplish anything that you want to do in life, you will also set others up for success around you, which is even more important," said Timarky.

Adam Norton, a senior at Pleasant Grove High School, said that attending Freedom Academy has changed the way he thinks about freedom and America in general.

"It was overall a really fun experience," said Norton. "One thing I've learned is that this country needs people with backbone and with good character and that's what I'm striving to change within myself and ultimately bring back to my students through service."

Lewis challenged the delegates to bring the skills and knowledge they have gained at Freedom Academy back to their schools where they can teach these things to the other students by hosting a freedom week or freedom-themed assemblies.

Freedom Academy is sponsored by the Honorary Colonel Corps, as well as several local businesses and community members.

Story by Tech. Sgt. Annie Edwards



Gov. Gary Herbert speaks to high school student delegates during a tour of the State Capitol as part of Freedom Academy.

Objective—Training!

DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah — Coming off of Operation Gunsmoke in 2016, the stellar 65th Field Artillery Brigade-level, annual training in Guernsey, Wyoming, 1st

Battalion, 145th Field Artillery (FA) wanted to build upon the battle-focused training momentum for 2017.

Additionally, with the new Objective-Training assessment model looming, more commonly known as "Objective-T," leadership of the battalion wanted to break the ice with a good, first look of what this model had in store. Finally, Big Red, with

warning orders for two consecutive mobilizations in hand, had to ensure the elements to be deployed in September 2017 and mid-2018 would be trained and ready.

Guidance was issued by the battalion commander to evaluate the feasibility for the unit to conduct one last, battalion-level, annual training prior to the mobilizations, while ensuring the first iteration to mobilize would be set up for success. It was recognized that this year would be the last the battalion could train collectively for several years to come. The staff, led by Maj. Michael Kjar, executive officer, and Maj. David Johnson, operations officer, went to work and thus Operation Skull Valley was born.

"Expectations were high for another great training year following Operation Gunsmoke—and they should be," said Lt. Col. Steven Fairbourn, battalion commander of the 145th. "Soldiers want to be challenged in their military training, and it is our responsibility to ensure they are trained and ready for what may come."

Review of the new Objective-T requirements identified that simply going to the field and sending rounds downrange, albeit safely, timely, and on-target, is no longer a sufficient goal for annual training. Objective-T attempts to raise the bar for collective training and shift commander assessments from subjective with guttural evaluations to objective with tangible measurements.

"Readiness is number one, and there is no other number one," Gen. Mark Milley, U. S. Army chief of staff, has counseled.

We should all know this guidance, but what exactly does it mean? Is individual readiness sufficient? The answer is no. Training, already one of four measured areas on the unit status report (USR) to determine the composite unit readiness level, must to be measured on both individual and collective fronts. Previously, the training rating was assessed only by the commander's assessment of their mission essential task list (METL), a decision which was arguably made subjectively. In 2018, the new Objective-T will mandate the objective measurement for training in four areas: weapons proficiency, commander's METL assessment, collective-training assessment, and training days required for deployment

(see Figure 2-1). Similar to the standard unit status reporting (USR) rules, the overall rating Objective-T rating cannot exceed the lowest of any measured sub-area.

Metric	Individual, Crew-Served and Platform Proficiency	Mission-Essential Task (MET) Proficiency	Collective Live-Fire Task Proficiency	Training Days to Achieve T1
1	≥ 90%	≥ T- in all METs	Unit Live-Fire conducted at	≤ 10 days
2	< 90% to ≥ 80%	≥ T- in 50% or greater of METs (No U)	appropriate echelon as determined by	≤ 35 days
3	< 80% to ≥ 70%	≥ P in 50% or greater of METs (≤1 x U)	Live-Fire Gates.	≤ 90 days
4	< 70%	≤ P- in greater than 50% of METs (or > 1 x U)	Not Live-Fire Proficient	> 90 days

Figure 2-1 (From Leaders Guide to OBJ Assessment of Training Proficiency – 15 MAR 2017)

In other words, the assessment of the training rating expands from only a METL assessment to a method which considers weapons proficiency, a unit's ability to achieve its assigned tasks, the level and complexity of collective training completed, and how long it takes a unit to deploy—each with specific measures for the scoring.

As the staff dug deeper, the collective, live-fire task proficiency area alone would drive many considerations for Operation Skull Valley. Collective training under Objective-T considers the operational environment, day/night training, leaders/Soldiers present, and whether or not the training is being scrutinized by external evaluators (see Figure 2-17).

Plan and Prepare					Execute					Assess						
Operational Enviroment			% Leaders Present at training/authorized Training Environment (L/V/C)	% Present at raining authorized	External evaluation	Performance measures	Critical performance measures	Leader Performance measures	Task proficiency rating							
SQD and PLT	CO and BN	BDE and above		oment	oment	ent at rized	ining/	ation	asures	measures	nance	rating				
Dynamic	Dynamic and complex (4 +OE	Dynamic and complex	and		Prop	≥85%	≥80%	Yes	≥90% GO		≥ 90%	Т				
(single threat)	variables and hybrid threat)	voriables	Night	onent estal	75-84%	20076	35	80-90% GO	All	80-90%	T-					
Static (single threat)	Dynamic (single threat)	e (all OE	and complex (all OE variables and single	and complex (all OE variables and single	and complex (all OE variables and single	and complex (all OE variables and single	and complex (all OE variables and single		lishes traini	65-74%	75-79%		65-79% GO		00-90%	Р
									ing environ	60-64%	60-64%	No	51-64% GO			P-
	Static (single threat)	Dynamic and complex (< all OE variables and single threat)	Day	Day	Proponent establishes training environment standards	<60%	<60%	lo	<51% GO	<all< td=""><td><80%</td><td>U</td></all<>	<80%	U				
BDE BN C CO L	brigade battalion constructive company live	e	OE P P- PL SC	pra ma T pla	erational er cticed rginally pra toon lad			T T- U V	fully t traine untra virtua	ined						
Note:																

Figure 2-17 (From Leaders Guide to OBJ Assessment of Training Proficiency – 15 MAR 2017)

The percentages used in this figure are for illustration only See the collective task's published training and evaluation

2. Dialogue between commanders at multiple echelons is essential when assessing METs. See para 2-23 of this guide.

To enable the battalion to achieve anything superior to a practiced, or "P" rating, the scenario for the annual training had to provide a robust operating environment that was dynamic and complex with a hybrid threat. To achieve this requirement, the battalion staff coordinated for Utah's Recruit Sustainment Program candidates to fulfill the hybrid threat mission, more commonly known as the opposing forces.

The battalion developed a robust operations order (OPORD) at the division level, coupled around the scenario developed by the staff to fit the Dugway area. The battalion staff then conducted the military decision-making process, or MDMP, to develop the battalion OPORD and publish it down to the lowest levels to bring realism to the training. The orders encompassed field-training exercises in March and April, culminating with the annual training in May, which allowed for the scenario to develop in a believable manner.

In an effort to make the training environment even more robust and battle-focused, the staff reached out to other elements of the Utah Guard to participate. Apaches from 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation, coupled with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs) from the 19th Special Forces, provided close-air support in the operation. Blackhawks from



Members of Utah Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program stage for an assault as they play the role of opposing forces for Operation Skull Valley.

2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation, provided medevac and aerial resupply. And logistics and resupply functions were augmented with the 489th Brigade Support Battalion. All of these sister Utah Guard units were incorporated into the OPORD that aligned into the overall scenario. Having these elements participate certainly raised the bar for the average Soldier, but also provided invaluable inter-element coordination for the battalion staff.

"This training reinforced the mutually beneficial relationship with aviation and artillery," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jared Jones, Apache pilot from the "Air Pirates." "We learned some valuable lessons that we can apply in combat, and look forward to working with the 145th again."

Day and night training are nothing new to our Army training, but running a demanding, 24-hour-operations window for five days is! The intent was to challenge Soldiers and leaders alike, and validate our ability to operate in a robust environment for a sustained period. This requirement forced leaders at all levels to develop sleep plans and balance skill sets throughout the operation to ensure success.

Another limiting factor for the training rating is the requirement

for external evaluation. Fortunately, with Big Red already having planned mobilizations in the near future, the battalion had priority for evaluators from our 1st Army partners. The battalion worked closely with 3rd Battalion, 358th Field Artillery, as its evaluation team

that worked hand-in-hand with the battalion staff to strive towards unit success during all field operations, culminating with the annual training.

Finally, the collective live-fire proficiency matrix requires minimum levels of attendance at the collective



training. A seemingly obvious reality—

The 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Joint Terminal Attack Controllers coordinate with Apache helicopters for an air-support mission at Wig Mountain during Operation Skull Valley May 2017.



1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery M109A6 Paladins conduct live-fire operations in the Wig Mountain area of Dugway.

you must have the majority of the unit present to consider collective training completed! The battalion measured its unit-member attendance closely, while not restricting any hardship excusals nor schools-in-lieu-of training. As this



was an initial measure, the battalion leadership wanted a baseline for the attendance levels without undue restrictions. And, surprisingly, attendance levels at both the overall and leadership levels allowed for a possible trained, or "T" rating.

When the dust settled at the completion of Operation Skull Valley, the Soldiers of the 145th FA completed a very demanding annual training which will be remembered for years to come. As to the actual scorecard the battalion received, a "P-" rating was achieved in the collective, live-fire assessment. It was the lack of sufficient operational environment complexity variables that limited the evaluators from a higher rating.

"I am extremely proud of how quickly the battalion graduated from the 'crawl' phase on individual and collective tasks during the preceding drills, to 'running' during Operation Skull Valley," said Command Sgt. Major Scott Evans. "These Soldiers are prepared and ready to execute their mission in the combined-arms fight."

While the specifics of the scoring methodology of the new Objective-T may be debated for years to come, the reality that this new method pushed Big Red to make a more relevant, robust, and challenging annual training is indisputable.

Story by Lt. Col. Steve Fairbourn

Redaction for Utah Minuteman 2017 Volume 3

In the "UTNG Artillery Battery Recognized as Best in the Guard" story, it was stated that for the first time in the Utah Army National Guard history one of its own has been awarded the Alexander Hamilton Award. That statement is inaccurate. In 2006, Alpha Battery from 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, took home the prestigious award as well. Both of Utah's artillery battalions have been nationally recognized with the coveted Alexander Hamilton Award established in 2002.

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PRIVATE (PV1)

Williams Wyett Scott

Barcinas Thomas J Jr H Beckstead Mathew Stevenearl

Busker Shawn Albert Carlson Jarod Alan Comsa Shaun A Dengler Jonas Alexander Esquivel Evan Evid Hernandez Alberto Hicken Erik William Hollberg Ty Christopher Hout Britten Kelly Cody James Miller Dyllen Samuel Muhoza Levis Ransom Paul Douglas Roberts Austin Dean Romero-Juarez Monzerrat Romerorodriquez Josedejesus Ross Aaron Caeden Sandberg Luke Kimball Schudel Ian James Shaw Charles Havden Stencil Jeramiah Kain Vangrimbergen Abbie Rose Webb Jessica Valerie Weinfurter Joshua Bryan Wilkin Tiara Marie Wood Andrew Beyer

PRIVATE (PV2)

Alarcon Maria A Anderson Daxton James Atherley Landon Tony Barr Martin Calvin Best Justin Eldon Bracken Jacob Kenneth Buss Connor Reilly Campbell Marilyn Jocee Cantor Iosue Carreto Yoan Craner Austin Kinkead Freiredossantos Gleyson Geeting Jaden Danyon Glatz Zayne Alexander Godfrey Preston Lee Green Benjamin Rex Harris Cameron Michael Harris Kendall Tess Herrera Leyson Edgardo Holt Geoffrey Daniel Horan Elizabeth Macguire Vincent Michael Newby Carter Mitchell Peahl Christian Frank Peterson Stephen Jack Sanders Chylie Ann Swanson Kiersten Nichole Thorn Jesse Dee Tindell Paxton Kira Trowbridge Kade Kalen Walker Collin Seely Warner Jesse Lenard Whitehouse Seth Nathan Whiteley Riley Scott Willden Justin Mitchell Winter Jason Steven Wolfley Garrett Robert Woolsey Nathan Lee Zamoraflores Victor Hugo

