

UTAH MINUTEMAN 2019 Volume 1



**Fallen
Utah National
Guard Soldier,
Maj. Brent Taylor**

**4th ID MCP-OD
and 109th ACS
Deploy and 142nd
MI Returns Home**

**Utah National
Guard assist with
Utah County
Flooding**

EXPERTS NEEDED!

WARRANT OFFICERS ARE TECHNICAL AND TACTICAL EXPERTS. THEY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST OF THE BEST IN THEIR FIELD. FOLLOWING THE WARRANT OFFICER PATH MEANS YOU WOULD BE CRITICAL TO ADMINISTERING AND EXECUTING PLANS, AS WELL AS BEING THE LEADER OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL LOOK TO FOR ADVICE AND DIRECTION.

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Command Sergeant Major Eric Anderson Senior Enlisted Leader

Soldiers and Airmen of the Utah National Guard are some of the best this nation has to offer. New recruits entering our service deserve outstanding noncommissioned officer leadership. The NCO

support channel parallels and complements the chain of command, touching Soldiers in different ways up the chain.

Our expectation for NCOs is quite simple: sergeants/staff sergeants lead by personal example, inspect, and train the force. Staff sergeants/technical sergeants Plan with Troop Leading Procedures, task, and execute training and operations. Sergeant 1st class/master sergeants supervise, integrate, and coordinate. First sergeants/senior master sergeants manage, mentor, develop, and forecast. Sergeant majors/chief master sergeants plan, synchronize, and resource, while command sergeant majors/command chief



Major General Jeff Burton The Adjutant General

Soldiers, Airmen and families of the Utah National Guard. As we celebrate the darkest days of winter with some of our most festive holidays, I am reminded of my youth on a small ranch. My father taught me how to work, and

he always made sure I knew our animals (horses, cows, dogs and cats) always ate before I did. I can recall many times as a young boy being sent back to the barn to complete my chores, and coming back to a cold plate of dinner because I had forgotten to take care of my duty. He also taught me about the law of the harvest. If we failed to plant our essential crops like hay and corn, our animals would have nothing to eat in the winter. And if our stock suffered, then so did we. These early lessons cemented in my mind the need to take care of the essential things in our lives, before we handle the trivial. As professional warriors, in many ways, we too are governed by the law of the harvest. If we fail to plan well, if we fail to train hard, we will face potential mission failure when called upon in time of crisis. Our profession calls for total commitment. To preparation that includes strict adherence to a physical-fitness regimen, to preparing ourselves mentally, physically and spiritually. It also includes building family resilience and a stable loving home environment, capable of taking strong hits from our adversaries.

I am always proud of each one of you, but never more so, than when I see you standing up to crisis with professionalism and resolve. Before Thanksgiving, we lost one of our own in combat operations in Afghanistan. The loss of Major

Brent Taylor was a brutal reminder of what is at stake in this business. It was a demonstration of a great Soldier performing with excellence in a harsh environment, and an amazing family standing up to unspeakable hardship with dignity and with class. Losses such as this bring us together as a team, and remind us of what really matters in life. They give us perspective and help us to learn to focus on what really matters as we avoid the trivial.

Within the coming days, weeks and months, we will have many units returning home from service in CENTCOM, and across the globe. As always, the units of the Utah National Guard are led by some of the finest officers and noncommissioned officers in the entire Armed Forces inventory. I can say that unequivocally, because I know these leaders have paid the price in peacetime, so they can perform efficiently and effectively in war. We are collectively proud when we see our units gel and perform at high levels, but more importantly, we see that true Leadership is not a job or a profession, but a true calling. Taking care of our fellow teammates is a sacred duty.

As I have said on many occasions, you are an elite group, and make up a very small percentage of the population of this great nation. You are the standard bearers of the Republic. Take this responsibility seriously. Be totally committed to protecting this nation and our way of life, so our children may continue to enjoy the benefits of freedom and self-determination.

It is the greatest honor of my life to able to serve with the superb warriors and families of the Utah National Guard. May 2019, bring renewed commitment and renewed prosperity to each one of you!

master sergeants shape, influence, and drive organizations. Our NCOs are tasked with mission accomplishment and taking care of troops. When NCOs at each grade are fully engaged, working towards the commander's goals and executing these simple requirements, we are a great organization. Oftentimes, when working through problems at each level, there is a difference between the administrative and/or "top down" approach to something and the operational or "bottom up" approach. The conflict presented by the opposing approaches is often the struggle between theory and application. Theory often dies in the face of application. Often what we see on an operational level

is that not all good ideas bear fruit. It is the job of NCOs to negotiate the operational reality with the administrative reality to ensure they are taking care of their Soldiers and accomplishing the mission. This isn't easy, but it is one of the most important jobs of the NCO. It is important to not be married to ideas....ones that bear fruit stay, those that don't go, and this includes how we work through our leader's plans and ideas. The NCOs job is to be the honest broker and provide critical feedback. I challenge every Soldier to be competent at their grade/position and sincerely appreciate all that you do.

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Utah Minuteman is an unofficial publication produced quarterly by the Utah National Guard Public Affairs Office free of charge for all current UTNG Soldiers and Airmen. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of, nor are they endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, State of Utah, Department of Defense, or UTNG. All photographs and graphics are copyrighted to the UTNG unless otherwise indicated.

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Cover photo:

Maj. Brent Russell Taylor, Utah National Guard Soldier, was killed from an insider attack while serving in Afghanistan on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018. The photo was taken prior to Taylor's deployment.

Photo by Kaitlin Westbrook, Westbrook Studios





A departure ceremony was held for Soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post—Operational Detachment, October 20, 2018 at Camp Williams, Utah marking the MCP-OD's deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel in Afghanistan.

4th ID MCP-OD receives standing ovation during deployment departure ceremony

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Utah National Guard Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment received a standing ovation from friends and family at a farewell ceremony Oct. 20, 2018 at Camp Williams, marking the detachments departure for a deployment in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel in Afghanistan.

The auditorium at the Camp Williams Readiness Center was overflowing with attendees vying to get a view of the ceremony which included a telling of the detachments history and unique mission, singing of the National Anthem, guest speakers, and a special recognition of the deploying Soldiers.

The guest speakers were members of the Utah National Guard leadership including Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, the adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Thomas Fisher, land component commander, Lt. Col. Budd Vogrinec, deputy commander, 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and Lt. Col. Talon Greef, commander of the 4th ID MCP-OD.

According to the unit history and mission which was read during the ceremony, the MCP-OD's mission is to augment the strength of the 4th ID when the division is called on for contingency operations. The detachment is part of an Army redesign called Total Force, which takes portions of active-duty Army divisions and allots them National Guard and Reserve units to provide expandability for the participating division and their headquarters.

“I had the pleasure of watching this unit start up when I was the brigade commander,” said Fisher, the former commander of the 204th MEB whose unit was



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, the adjutant general of Utah National Guard, addresses Soldiers and their families during a farewell ceremony for the 4th ID MCP-OD Oct. 20, 2018.



The audience stands for the National Anthem sung by Spencer Cannon of the Utah County Sheriff's Department during a farewell ceremony for the 4th ID MCP-OD Oct. 20, 2018 at Camp Williams. The 4th ID MCP-OD is deploying in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel in Afghanistan for approximately 10 months.

tasked with manning and training the MCP-OD. "It was a new mission and we had never done anything like this before. All the commands in the Utah Army National Guard came together to form this unit."

The MCP-OD is comprised of individual and small teams usually consisting of an officer and a noncommissioned officer that work in various specialties such as flight operations, human-intelligence operations, logistical supply, engineering, human resources, public affairs, counter intelligence and signal support.

Since the detachment's creation, it has traveled to Fort Carson, Colorado, many times and to Europe to train alongside and support the Soldiers of the 4th ID. Although the MCP-OD is still administered by the Utah Guard's 204th MEB, it wears the ivy shoulder sleeve insignia of the 4th ID to signify their unity with the division.

"They have integrated with the 4th ID to the point where the division commander cannot tell the difference between an active duty Soldier and

a National Guard Soldier, and that means they are ready for this mission," said Fisher.

Although the detachment had been training regularly with the 4th ID, they were given short notice for this deployment.

"Usually Guard members get up to a year notice for deployments which gives plenty of time to prepare yourself and family. This time was a less than 90-day notice and from an Army standpoint, that is very short," said Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Loy, the senior noncommissioned officer of the MCP-OD.

Loy also commented that even with the short deployment notice the Soldiers were ready and the detachment had a strong Family Readiness Group leader to aid the Soldiers families in their absence.

"The leadership of the Utah National Guard provided us with all the support we needed to pick the right team and that is going to make all the difference for this deployment," said Greef as he summed up the unit sentiment at the end of the ceremony. 🇺🇸

Story by Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge and Ileen Kennedy



Soldiers of 4th ID MCP-OD, gather on the drill floor at the Readiness Center at Camp Williams Oct. 20, 2018.



Sgt. Jonathan Nielson, his wife, Bailey, and one-year-old daughter, Ava, after the deployment ceremony.



Spc. Spencer Powell and his family on the drill floor at Camp William Oct. 20, 2018.

Soldiers grateful to return before the holidays

SALT LAKE CITY — A small group of 10 Soldiers with Echo Company, 142nd Military Intelligence, all experiencing their first deployment, returned Nov. 16, after serving 10 months in Afghanistan.

"My most memorable moment of the deployment was when we first landed in Afghanistan, because it was snowing," said Sgt. Cheyenne Laita. "It wasn't the Afghanistan I was expecting, as my image of Afghanistan was always a desert."

The 142nd MI Soldiers worked in a joint service environment as Signal Intelligence analysts.

"This was my first deployment, so it was great doing the work and seeing how different jobs come together and being able to work with the other units and organizations," said Sgt. Brittany Wayment upon her return.

The MI analysts evaluated signal intelligence information, which added to the bigger Intel picture. They were able to see the outcome of their work before them.

"I enjoyed the work. The work we did over there was immediately impactful," said Staff Sgt. Molly Mulcahy, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Task Force and team lead for one of the teams. "You could see the results of it pretty much as it was happening. That is pretty fulfilling."

"I think it was important to all of us that we were able to go to an environment where we felt like we were an active part of the actions that were going on in Afghanistan," said Mulcahy. "We felt like we really had something to add to the battle space and that our work was valuable and impactful."

"We were really able to see what the results of what our work led to," said 1st Lt. Helfer Yuliya, officer in charge. "The results were people doing really bad things were taken off the battlefield. To see that result was really rewarding."



Echo Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Soldiers conduct a ruck march while on deployment to Afghanistan.

The small group of Soldiers grew close over the past year. They found that during the deployment, the 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, high-stress, high-demand environment, often put them on different work schedules.

"We have a great group of individuals. Everybody had a good attitude," said Mulcahy. "It was a pretty intense environment. We had a phenomenal group of people who were able to work independently and bring a lot of value to the unit we were supporting."

"We're really close together. We came back here closer than we were before. That friendship will last a long time," Yuliya said. "We wanted to do something together so we did a few activities there that weren't mandatory, like a ruck march."

The Soldiers left just after the holidays last year and are grateful they were able to return just before the holidays this year.

"It's incredible to be home. I have two little kids, two and six, and it's really awesome to be back," said Yuliya. "It is really awesome to make it home in time for the holidays." 🇺🇸

*Story by Ileen Kennedy
Photos courteous of the 142nd Military Intelligence*



Group photo with Utah's MI team and other Soldiers in Afghanistan.



Soldiers complete a ruck march after the sun went down in Afghanistan.



Brent Russell Taylor Husband. Father. Brother. Son. Mayor. Patriot. Hero.

DRAPER, Utah — It was a cool and sunny drill weekend for a majority of Utah National Guard Soldiers and Airmen across the state when news of Maj. Brent Russell Taylor reached his family and loved ones. He had been killed from an insider attack in Afghanistan, on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018.

Jennie Taylor, Maj. Taylor's wife, met with a chaplain and Casualty Notification Officer at Utah National Guard Headquarters in Draper to receive the news first hand before anyone else was notified.

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

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



Top down: Maj. Brent Russell Taylor with his wife, Jennie Taylor, and their seven children before his deployment. A portrait of Taylor just prior to his deployment. The remains of Maj. Brent R. Taylor arrive at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, Nov. 6. Service members pay tribute to Taylor at a public viewing held at the Dee Events Center, Ogden, Utah, Nov. 16.



Police officers provide a motorcycle escorts from the Dee Events Center to Ben Lomond Cemetery.



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

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

It took only three days for Taylor's remains to arrive in the early morning hours at Dover Airfield Base in Delaware on Nov. 6, 2018. The still fog blanketed the tarmac while the audience in formation, which included the Chief of Staff for the Army, General Mark A. Milley, silently saluted as Taylor's remains slowly passed, being carried by the servicemen assigned to the task. Jennie Taylor watched from a distance with her two oldest sons and Taylor's parents, as her husband's remains were carefully placed in the hearse.

Without hesitation, and before the sun could rise, Jennie made a live statement to the national media on behalf of her husband on that same day of national elections. "I personally

Top down: Utah National Guard Honor Guard perform funeral honors for Maj. Brent Taylor, Nov. 17, at Ben Lomond Cemetery, North Ogden.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, the adjutant general, presents flags to Maj. Brent Taylor's wife, Jennie, each of their seven children and his mother, Tamara Taylor, during services Nov. 17 at Ben Lomond Cemetery, North Ogden.

cannot yet adequately tell you all that I feel as I stand here today... It seems only fitting that Brent... has come home to U.S. soil in a flag draped casket on our election day... his service will be the great honor for me and each of his seven children for the rest of their lives... The price of freedom feels incredibly high to all those of us who know and love our individual Soldiers.”

The next 10 days was a time for Taylor’s family, friends, military associates and local community to grieve, reflect and honor the sacrifice made by him and his immediate family as they awaited his funeral. Taylor was honored at countless gatherings and events where Jennie was occasionally present to receive the gratitude of Utahans and people all over the world. By chance, the Utah National Guard’s 63rd Annual Veteran’s Day Concert was held on Nov. 10, 2018 at the Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. Before the concert began, Taylor was honored by the audience, with Jennie and his family present, for a standing ovation that went on for several minutes. “Our hope is that people everywhere will not only be inspired by his life, but will find ways in their sphere of influence to advance the cause of freedom everywhere through love and service,” said Taylor’s parents, Stephen and Tamara Taylor.

On Nov. 14, Taylor’s remains arrived home to Utah with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and approximately 500 Soldiers, Airmen, firemen, and police present to honor his return. Jennie made a quick statement highlighting the celebration of Taylor’s homecoming to the Salt Lake Air Base. “11 1/2 days after he was killed in action, and 11 1/2 years since his first deployment when he left from this same Utah National Guard hangar, he is finally returning home to be with us. When he left from here on that deployment



to Iraq 11 1/2 years ago, he was a young Lieutenant and we had been married only three-and a-half years,” said Jennie. “We wear yellow today... just as women have done since the days of WWII... I proudly welcome home my sweetheart.” In a procession from the Salt Lake Air Base to North Ogden, people lined the interstate, overpasses, and streets to offer their respect and support to the family as well.

Taylor’s viewing and funeral took place at Weber State’s Dee Event Center, in Ogden. Presiding at his funeral was Elder Lawrence E. Corbridge of the Seventy, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and close friend to their family. Governor Herbert was present along with several other political and military dignitaries. Speakers included Taylor’s Father, Brent; Taylor’s Brother, Capt. Derek Taylor; a family friend, Toby Mileski; and Maj. Gen. Burton. In addition to a musical number by Machel Knowles, a 300-person combined choir from Granite School District sang an emotional and original piece by Kerry Moore titled, “Born to be a Soldier.”

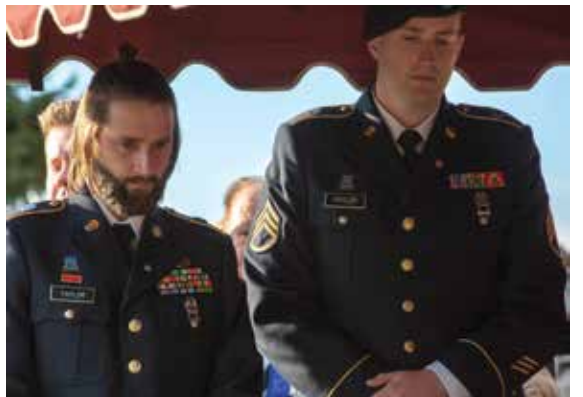
With thousands of onlookers lining the streets holding flags and signs of support, Taylor’s remains were transported to their final resting place at Ben Lomond Cemetery in North Ogden, where full, military honors were given by the Utah National Guard Funeral Honors Team. Ten folded flags, requiring two Soldiers to hold, were presented by Burton to Taylor’s immediate family members; the last one being laid on the infant carrier of their 11-month-old daughter.

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

Story by Maj. D.J. Gibb

Photos by Westbrook Studios, Ileen Kennedy, Maj. D.J. Gibb and Maj. Ryan Sutherland

Below: Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton presents flags to Jennie Taylor, her seven children and Tamara Taylor, during services Nov. 17 at Ben Lomond Cemetery, North Ogden.



Top down: Maj. Brent Taylor's wife, Jennie Taylor, is comforted by her mother-in-law, Tamara Taylor, during graveside services for her husband, Maj. Brent Taylor. Jennie Taylor and her seven children cradle flags presented to them by Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton. Two of Maj. Taylor's five brothers during the graveside services. Jennie Taylor views tributes laid on her husbands casket Nov. 17.



Warlocks deploy to keep watch over the sky in the Middle East

SALT LAKE CITY — At the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, more than 100 Airmen, along with their families and friends gathered in the dining facility for a short ceremony to begin the 109th Air Control Squadron's six-month deployment to the Middle East.

"The unit becomes like your family, especially with the 109th, we are a very close unit," said Senior Master Sgt. Jon Castleton, network branch chief for the 109th ACS. "Guys you work with for 20 years just become like your best friends and your family."

The squadron, commanded by Lt. Col. Leon McGuire, had been training and preparing for a while for this deployment. They felt prepared and ready to start their mission.

"Members of this squadron have spent a good year preparing for this deployment," said Maj. Chris Bilderback, director of operations for the 109th ACS. "Utilizing all of our drills and also our annual training, as well as one month prior spin up mobilization training in preparation for this mission."

It is hard to deploy just before the holidays but the Airmen expressed confidence in leaving their families prepared and cared for.





Airmen with the 109th Air Control Squadron attend a deployment ceremony prior to boarding a chartered aircraft to begin their six-month deployment, Nov. 6 at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.

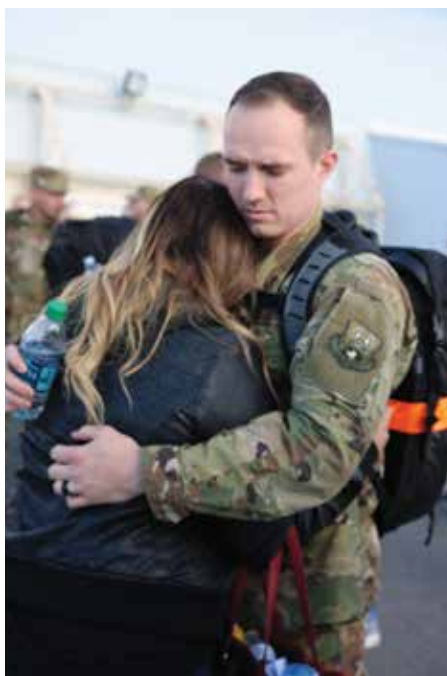
"You have a whole big group of people that have your families' back at all times," said Castleton. "My wife, Kristen, is the family support volunteer and so she makes sure that all the families have a point of contact. Someone they can call and feel comfortable with, to steer them in the right direction to anything they might need or are having trouble with."

During this deployment, the squadron will make a historic leap forward in fulfilling the Air Forces' goal of conducting Multi-Domain Command and Control Operations at the tactical level by conducting air surveillance as they keep watch

over the sky for U.S. pilots. With all the support these Airmen have in place they can stay focused on meeting this goal knowing that their families are in good hands and watched over while they are away.

"There is so much help and support out there. I don't think I could do this if I didn't know that there were so many people that have my families' back while I was gone," said Castleton. "That's a good feeling when you're over there. It lets you focus on your mission and not worry so much about home." 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Ileen Kennedy



Utah's 151st Air Refueling Wing provides support for President Trump's Elko visit



ELKO, Nev. — Twenty Airmen assigned to the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing provided security, maintenance and logistical support for President Donald Trump's visit to Elko, on Oct. 20, 2018.

Members of the 151st Security Forces Squadron led the convoy responsible for transporting equipment from Salt Lake City to Elko for ground support of Air Force One in advance of the presidential visit. Upon arrival to Elko Regional Airport, the support equipment was downloaded and staged. The Guardsmen assisted fellow Airmen from Travis Air Force Base with unloading a pallet, air stairs, and a lavatory truck. The team coordinated their efforts with an Air Force Presidential Advance Agent.

Fuel sampled from a 151st Logistics Readiness Squadron fuel truck was sent to Salt Lake City to be tested prior to

Trump's visit. Once the samples were taken, Security Forces personnel began shifts to provide 24-hour security. Aerospace ground equipment mechanics from the 151st Maintenance Group worked with the advance agents to perform operational and acoustic checks on all equipment. Additionally, the 109th Air Control Squadron provided mission support during the visit.

Once Air Force One arrived, the Utah Airmen brought the air-stairs truck in for the president to deplane. While Trump was speaking, the fuels personnel, AGE mechanics, and security forces were escorted in to service the aircraft. As the motorcade made its way back to the aircraft, the Airmen formed up in a line by their equipment and saluted the president as he passed by, earning a thumbs up from Trump.

The Air Force Presidential Advance Agent thanked the group for their efficient and professional assistance. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Joshua Blake Ward



Above: Utah Air National Guard members pose in front of Air Force One during the presidential visit at Elko, Nevada.

Left: Utah Air National Guard members pose for a photo during President Donald Trump's visit to Elko, Oct. 20, 2018. Members provided security, maintenance and logistical support during the presidential visit.



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton hands the 151st Air Refueling Wing guidon to Col. Kurt Davis, signifying formal transfer of authority during the 151st Air Refueling Wing change-of-command ceremony at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base on Oct. 13, 2018.

151st Air Refueling Wing conducts change of command

SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Air National Guard conducted a change-of-command ceremony for the 151st Air Refueling Wing at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Oct. 13, 2018.

During the ceremony attended by Airmen and community members, the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, passed the 151st ARW guidon to Col. Kurt Davis to formally signify the transfer of authority from Col. Ryan Ogan.

Burton thanked Ogan for his dedication and service as wing commander and praised Davis for his service to the Airmen and community.

“I want to commit to you that I will use my time talent and influence to ensure that we are manned, trained, equipped and resourced to accomplish our mission with excellence as our state and nation continues to call upon us,” said Davis.

Since joining the Utah Air National Guard, Davis held a variety of operational and staff positions, including vice wing commander of the 151st ARW. He is a master navigator and has more than 2,150 flight hours.

With this new assignment, Davis will assume responsibility for the control and operations of plans and programs affecting more than 1,400 Airmen, to include the combat readiness and mission capability of the 151st Air Refueling Wing. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Annie Edwards



Col. Kurt Davis addresses a group of Airmen and community members after assuming command of the 151st Air Refueling Wing during a change-of-command ceremony Oct. 13, 2018.



Airmen from the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing attended the wing change-of-command ceremony at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base.



A War of Fire and Rain

SPANISH FORK, Utah — Tropical Storm Rosa carved a path through Mexico and Arizona to reach Utah. Bolts of lightning cleaved the dark sky, wind whipped across the western Uintah Mountain Range, and over half an inch of rain fell in torrential sheets. The Pole Creek and Bald Mountain fires had ravaged a combined 120,000 acres of land only a few weeks before, leaving vast swathes of burn scars across the mountainside. Rain mixed with ash and debris to form a viscous, smoky-smelling sludge

that flowed rapidly through the trees. The debris followed the path of least resistance to swallow a pair of Spring Lake homes and bury the street in four feet of mud.

Less than forty-eight hours earlier, Gov. Gary R. Herbert, met with public safety officials in Utah County and decided to activate the Utah National Guard directly through Army Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

Utah National Guard Soldiers with the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 116th Horizontal Construction Company, 300th Military Intelligence and other support personnel assisted Utah County cities preparing for potential floods after fires burned the surrounding mountains.





“Members of the National Guard will lend crucial support by building flood berms, placing Jersey barriers, and strategically placing sandbags to guard communities from potential flash flooding,” Herbert said in an official statement. “I would much rather be safe than sorry, and we are putting strong protections in place.”

The next morning, with only a few hours notice, approximately 200 Soldiers from both the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and 300th Military Intelligence Brigade reported to the Spanish Fork Armory with skid steers, sandbag machines, dozers, loaders, dump trucks, and a backhoe.

“We’re providing the equipment and the manpower,” said Army Lt. Col. Steven Brenchley, task force commander of the flood relief operations. “We’ve filled about 2,000 sandbags, but we’re trying fill 12,000 today.”

The fight began at the Oak Hills Park in Payson, where dump trucks dropped loads of sand in the parking lot. Soldiers filled sandbags with the help of more than one hundred local volunteers. Some of the reinforcements carried shovels, with many more filling sandbags by hand, including an elderly gentleman in a wheelchair.

“The community is coming together with citizen-Soldiers in a time of need, and it’s a great thing to see,” Brenchley said.

The sandbags were loaded onto pallets and shipped by a fleet of flatbed trucks into the affected areas of Salem, Woodland Hills, Elk Ridge, and Spring Lake. Jersey barriers were pushed into place along flooding routes, dozers dug water diversion trenches, and sand bags were piled around driveways and basement windows like bunkers. When the rain and mud arrived, the Utah National Guard was ready.

Utah National Guard Soldiers work alongside locals to build sandbag barriers in Utah County cities in preparation for potential floods ahead of the forecast storms.



“It is really good to see citizens and Guard Soldiers working side-by-side in the community,” said Army Staff Sgt. Bradley Hammond, from the 116th Engineer Company. “This is what it means to be in the National Guard.” 🇺🇸

*Story by Sgt. Nathaniel Free
Photos by Ileen Kennedy and Sgt. Nathaniel Free*



Utah National Guard Soldiers assisted Utah County cities to prepare for potential floods after fires burned the mountains above Elk Ridge, Woodland Hills, Payson, Spring Lake and Covered Bridge areas. Below: Members of the Utah National Guard work in the joint operations center to support the mission.



85th CST trains at the Maverick Center



Utah National Guard's 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Team are briefed at the Maverick Center by West Valley City Fire Department as they begin their External Evaluation with Army North Dec. 11.

SALT LAKE CITY— “Exercise-exercise-exercise,” was the warning that came over the network preparing Utah National Guard senior leaders for what was to come over the next few hours as the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction—Civil Support Team began their External Evaluation with Army North at the Maverick Center in West Valley City, Dec. 11, 2018.

“This is a certification exercise that occurs every 18 months for all CSTs around the country,” said Lt. Col. Chris Caldwell, commander of the Utah CST. “U.S. Army North is our Training, Readiness and Oversight authority and will be providing our evaluation today.”

The scenario for this particular evaluation read like this:

“At 6:45 this morning 30 local dignitaries and representatives from the Olympic Development Authority showed up at the Maverick Center for meetings and reported smelling a nasty acrid smell; within a few seconds, many began to experience severe irritation of the mucous membranes, burning of the throat, and other symptoms. The 85th has been notified to help West Valley City Fire Department with casualties and on-site

lab analysis and potential support for a mass-casualty event and possible chemical release.”

“We are here to evaluate a set of standards by setting up a scenario using live products, or as live as possible, that provide similar readings,” said Joseph M. Jakubowski, U.S. Army North senior evaluator. “This creates a realistic environment to provide an accurate and complete evaluation.”

The CST immediately went to work planning and preparing for the operation while the evaluators looked on and took notes. Execution of the plan went into full swing as they entered the Maverick Center in full gear and started the search for any dangerous agents.

“The professionalism of this Utah team is remarkable, especially how they work together with the local community,” said Jakubowski. “We are always pleased with the results.”

In addition to evaluating the 85th CST, the Hawaii CST team was present to observe and plan for their upcoming evaluation as well. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Maj. D.J. Gibb





The "Iron Stallions" 118th Transportation Company Soldiers pose outside the Spanish Fork Armory with their mascot, the Iron Stallion. Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph West, (left) 489th Brigade Support Battalion, ceremoniously unfurls the red-and-gold guidon, officially recognizing the 118th Transportation Company at the Spanish Fork Armory, Oct. 12, 2018. The 118th is the newest unit in the Utah National Guard, drawing from the rich heritage of the 118th "Iron Sappers."



The 118th: A New Unit with a Rich Heritage

SPANISH FORK, Utah — The Utah National Guard established the new 118th Transportation Company during an Uncasing and Assumption of Command ceremony at the Spanish Fork Armory, Oct. 12, 2018. The 118th may be the newest unit to stand up in Utah, but it also shoulders a rich heritage.

During the unit's inaugural formation, 1st Sgt. David Larsen, slowly lowered the guidon, into the hands of Lt. Col. Woodrow Miner, commander of 489th Brigade Support Battalion, and Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph West. Together, they ceremoniously uncased and unfurled the red-and-gold guidon, officially recognizing the 118th Transportation Company as a unit under their care and command. The guidon was then passed to the unit commander, 1st Lt. Andrew Evans, who vowed to uphold the honors and traditions of the organization, dedicating himself to the Soldiers under his command.

"For me, this hits home," Miner said, addressing the new unit and the families of the Soldiers. "I started my National Guard career in this armory. I'm proud to be the battalion commander as we stand up this company. I already have a lot of pride in this company. I look out at you guys, and I know you'll do great things."

Miner went on to challenge each of the Soldiers not only to start new traditions, but also to learn the heritage of the 118th, which had previously been known as the 118th Sapper Company.

Part of their heritage includes the ultimate sacrifice of Sgt. 1st Class James E. Thode who was killed in action in Khost province, Afghanistan, from wounds suffered when insurgents

attacked the 118th with an improvised explosive device. The Blanding Armory was renamed and rededicated in Thode's honor, with a plaque that reads:

"Thank you for your bravery, patriotism and commitment to our nation. You will not be forgotten, for the memory of your tenacious spirit will live on in each patriot."

In 2017, the 118th "Iron Sappers" rolled their flag, marking the end of many years of dedicated service. With the uncasing of the guidon this year, the 118th was reborn as the 118th "Iron Stallions" Transportation Company.

"The 118th is family—our family," said Evans. "I hope



Soldiers of the 116th's Maintenance Platoon pose with a repurposed dump truck in Kuwait before a convoy in 2004. Left to Right: Sgt. "Gator" Green, Spc. Clyde McKean, Spc. Thorson, Spc. Johnson, 1st Lt. Oshitoye, and Pfc. Jay Bow.



Spc. Rhett Crane welds a stallion's head made of half-inch steel in preparation for a convoy to Iraq from Kuwait in 2004. The "Iron Stallion" was mounted on top of a repurposed dump truck as a countermeasure for tripwires.



you take ownership of that. Know the history, and prepare to make history.”

Evans took the opportunity to unveil the company's symbol, a crude iron stallion, cut out of half-inch steel. The stallion was found collecting dust in a storage closet of the Spanish Fork Armory, and it comes with a heritage of its own.

Evans explained that the stallion was made during the 116th Engineer Company's first deployment to Iraq in 2004. The maintenance platoon was in Kuwait, preparing to convoy north with the equipment they desperately needed. None of the vehicles in the convoy had any armor. At the beginning of the war, the enemy was known to hang metal wires across major roads to decapitate Soldiers. The stallion was made by Spc. Rhett Crane as a countermeasure, and mounted to the top of a five-ton dump truck that was repurposed as a gun truck.

A fitting symbol for the 118th Transportation Company. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel Free

Family Assistance Centers

Regardless of location, FACs services include:

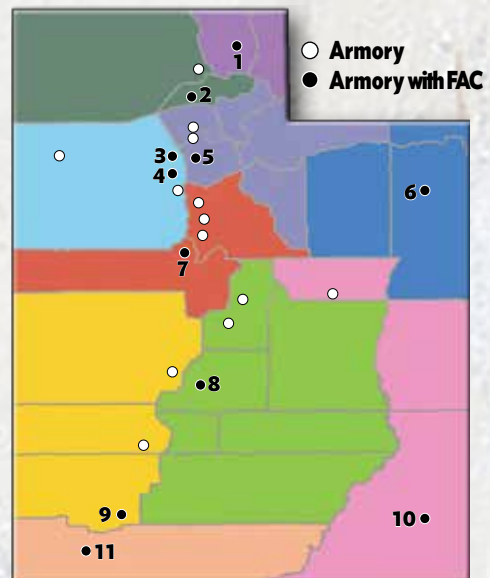
- TRICARE/TRICARE dental assistance
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- Counseling support/referral • Community support
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- Family communication • Family Readiness Group programs
- Casualty-assistance information, referral, follow-up 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 and 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
2. Ogden	801-476-3811
3. West Jordan	801-816-3577
4. Bluffdale	801-878-5037
5. Draper	801-432-4522
6. Vernal	435-789-3691
7. Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
8. Richfield	435-896-6442
9. Cedar City	435-867-6513
10. Blanding	435-678-2008
11. St. George	435-986-6705



Contact your local FAC for any questions you may have.

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

Yama Sakura: 37-years strong

CHITOSE, Japan— U.S. and Japanese flags climb parallel flagpoles outside a snow-blanketed sprawl of canvas tents at Camp Higashi-Chitose, Dec. 14, 2018. The raising of the flags marks the beginning of the annual bilateral exercise Yama Sakura, the largest command post exercise of its type in the world.

Each year, for the last thirty-seven years, Utah National Guard members have trained with one of the five armies of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to enhance combat readiness and interoperability while strengthening bilateral relationships. This year, Utah Soldiers trained on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

“I’ve been very impressed with what I’ve seen here today,” said William Hagerty, U.S. ambassador to Japan. “The extent of the collaboration, the hard work that goes into this, and the scale of the operation, all go toward making this—our most important alliance—even stronger.”

Yama Sakura provides the U.S. with an opportunity to demonstrate its resolve to support the security interests of allies and partners in the Indo-Asia Pacific region. During the exercise, U.S. military members and JGSDF members exchange ideas, tactics, techniques, military experiences, and culture.

“In order to gain a better cultural understanding of our allied forces, we train together, side-by-side,” said Lt. Col. Erick Wiedmeier, commander of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, and the officer in charge of the exercises opposition force. “This is a huge benefit for our Soldiers and their Soldiers to understand how we fight, how we think, and how we communicate, in order to fight side-by-side in a real combat situation in the future.”

Over one hundred and thirty Utah Soldiers from a variety of backgrounds and units participated in this year’s exercise, including the 65th Field Artillery Brigade, the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade, 97th Troop Command, 97th Aviation Troop Command, and the 19th Special Forces.



Utah National Guard Soldiers and their counterparts who played key opposition forces pose for exercise Yama Sakura.



Lt. Col. Erick Wiedmeier, left, and Lt. Col. Branden Clark oversee a map of Japan arrayed with unit locations for their opposition forces during exercise Yama Sakura, Dec. 12, 2018.

The opposition forces for exercise Yama Sakura were composed of Utah Army National Guard Soldiers and Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces.





The headquarters of exercise Yama Sakura's opposition force, which was mostly composed of Utah National Guard Soldiers and Japanese Ground Self-Defense Forces.

"I can say, without a shadow of a doubt, that Utah Soldiers are the best Soldiers mentally, physically, and at this exercise, have out shined their counterparts," said First Sgt. Jeffrey Yon, of 1st Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the exercises opposition forces. "The individuals we brought on this mission have exceeded the standard. They have shown the active duty components, the contractors, and the Japanese what Utah is about."

This year marks the 37th anniversary of Yama Sakura since its inception in 1982, and Utah Soldiers have been involved from the beginning. They filled roles in every area of operations, from kitchen duty to OPFOR, helping to enhance U.S. and Japanese combat readiness and interoperability while strengthening bilateral relationships. 🇺🇸

*Story by Sgt. Nathaniel Free
Photos by Sgt. First Class Whitney Houston and
Sgt. Nathaniel Free*



2nd Lt. Corinne Galland acts as opposition force during Yama Sakura.

Polar Express party for children of deployed service members



CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — On Dec. 8, 2018, the Utah Family Readiness Support Associates organized a Polar Express themed holiday, pajama-movie party for families and support members of our deployed Soldiers.

More than 150 people

were given a "ticket" to ride the Polar Express through a series of stations of fun activities and delicious treats. They decorated pillow cases and created paper hugs to send to their Soldiers, all while enjoying hot cocoa and goodies. Each child was also able to pick a Battalion Buddy teddy bear, generously donated by Operation Gratitude. Everyone was then treated to a visit with Santa, who merrily gave out little presents and took requests. All the fun ended with watching the film *The Polar Express* on the big screen.

"It was great meeting other families in our same situation," said Hilary, her spouse is deployed with Aviation. "My kids felt like someone cared about them. With all the activities available, it was nice to know someone gave a thought to us. We welcomed the break from our hectic, crazy life and enjoyed ourselves as a family without having to be concerned with anything else. This is the first time my kids have experienced Christmas without their dad, so in a time when we've been feeling lonely, that day helped bring the magic of Christmas back."

A special thanks to Dixie Clifford, of American Mother's, mom's chapter, for volunteers to run each station; Tiny Time Toys; Shirley Clawson, for arranging to get pillow cases donated by Marriott; Mariah Morseis for decorations; and Peter Gines, as Santa. All the support and donations were greatly appreciated. 🇺🇸

Story and photos courtesy of Sherri Workman



Children of deployed service members enjoy a Polar Express themed Christmas, pajama party at Camp Williams, Dec. 8.



Americas Thunder continues to shape the Middle East

A Q-53 radar with the 65th Field Artillery Brigade's Target Acquisition Platoon scans to determine the point of origin of enemy indirect fire during Operation Inherent Resolve, Aug. 14, 2018 in Southwest Asia.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES — Operating in eleven countries; participating in three named operations; fighting from the foxhole to the headquarters—America's Thunder continues to deliver results.

From the fight in Syria and Iraq—Operation Inherent Resolve, and Afghanistan—Operation Freedom's Sentinel, to countering regional aggression in the Middle East through Operation Spartan Shield, Soldiers from the 65th Field Artillery Brigade continue to show perseverance in all situations. This is their story!

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

From 2013-2015, ISIS claimed a parcel of land in Iraq and Syria about the size of modern day Great Britain. Now, after years of conflict, the 65th FA is providing a critical capability to support OIR in the removal of ISIS from the Middle Euphrates River Valley.

As coalition forces conduct clearance operations, the 65th FA Targeting Acquisition Platoon and other artillery assets serve a vital role in both identifying the point of origin of indirect fire and conducting deliberate and dynamic strikes on ISIS. Detecting the POO of enemy indirect fires provides an advantage over ISIS and enables counter-fire operations in OIR.

"Our TAP acquires data that enables the combined joint task force to develop heat maps that are used to identify patterns of activity and predict future POO sites," said Capt. Michael Resendiz, 65th FA intelligence officer. "This intelligence is used

not only to understand enemy positions and capabilities within the battle space, but the data also yields information used by targeting cells to destroy the enemy's IDF capabilities before they are able to use it against us. There is nothing they shoot that we don't exploit against them."

Seventy-four coalition partners are involved in OIR.

"This deployment has given me a deeper respect of how multi-coalition forces work together for a common goal," said Sgt. 1st Class James Montgomery, Targeting Acquisition Platoon sergeant.

Syrian Democratic Forces often rely on coordinated strikes from artillery assets to ensure passage into hostile territory. Artillery crews, ready 24-hours a day, provide this critical capability with lethal precision and accuracy.

For example, between Sept. 10 and Oct. 30, 2018, the 65th FA assisted multinational coalition forces deliver more than 400 strikes in support of OIR.

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL

The 65th FA currently provides surface-to-surface fires from different austere locations in support of OFS. It also provides a liaison team to support combat operations in Afghanistan by providing sustainment to field artillery assets throughout the region.

"Approximately one month before deploying I was assigned as one part of a two-man liaison team to the 101st Division Artillery in Afghanistan," said Maj. Wes Porter, a liaison officer

for the 65th. "While admittedly a little apprehensive not being with the team I have trained over a year with, I was also excited. I knew that acting as a link between the 65th Field Artillery Brigade and the 101st Division Artillery would be a great opportunity with unique challenges."

His primary responsibilities are to help provide shared understanding between coalition partners and other U.S. units. Some of these unique challenges mentioned by Porter include logistical challenges of moving people and ammunition throughout the region and building relationship with different U.S., coalition and Afghan entities for mission accomplishment.

"Since I began working with the Afghan people and the great professionals in the 101st DIVARTY, I have been able to see the successes partnerships can bring about on and off the battlefield," said Porter. "By gaining a shared understanding, having mutual respect and sustaining a relationship built on trust, we greatly improve our effectiveness as warfighters."

OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD

The purpose of OSS is to build partner capacity in the Middle East, promote regional self-reliance and deter regional aggression through Theater Security Cooperation. In order to accomplish this mission, the 65th FA has built stronger relationships with its partners, which include: United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Col. Adam Robinson, 65th FA commander, has stated that his vision is to be, "The premier, 'go to', group of professionals who are ready, willing, trained and relevant to respond to the needs of the Army and combatant commanders. Strategically postured with partners to protect U.S. national interests and capable of rapid transition to provide joint fires in order to defeat emerging threats."



A High Mobility Rocket Artillery System fires an M31 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GIMLRs) during exercise Black Oryx, in Amman, Jordan, Oct. 24, 2018. Black Oryx, an annual bilateral exercise, is designed to strengthen relationships and military capabilities between the U.S. and Jordan Armed Forces.



Left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Clint Markland, Sgt. Maj. Gray Hansen, and Command Sgt. Maj. Ryan receive awards from the Jordan Armed Forces for their contributions during the Jordan Noncommissioned offer subject-matter exchange, Nov. 28, 2018, at the JAF field artillery schoolhouse in Amman, Jordan.

In order to realize this vision, the 65th FA has developed and executed bilateral exercises that build interoperability.

"Interoperability means that we have the ability to fight in a coalition against a common enemy," stated Maj. Brett Anderson, 65th FA plans officer and UAE country lead. "The foundation of interoperability is trust. We trust the UAE and the UAE trusts us. With this mutual trust we can work through the friction points that come with fighting alongside a foreign military."

In multiple countries, the 65th has also increased the complexity of operations and exchanges with their partner nations as they have conducted live fires, HIMARS raids, subject-matter-expert exchanges and other various engagements. These engagements can range from a single-day event to multiple weeks. Topics vary, but the 65th FA has shown a particular expertise in targeting, field artillery operations and military decision making processes. The engagements are designed to stretch themselves and their partners through the use of practical exercises and planning future operations.

Over the past eight months, the 65th FA has completed or participated in a total of 11 named exercises and more than 40 Theater Security Cooperation engagements. By participating in U.S. Army Central named exercises such as Eager Lion in Jordan, Iron Union in the UAE, and Bright Star in Egypt along with creating and conducting multiple bilateral exercises, the Brigade has achieved Colonel Robinson's vision. 🇺🇸

*Story by Capt. Jeffrey Belnap
Photos by Staff Sgt. Jacob Roy, Sgt. Tanner Grant
and Capt. Jeffrey Belnap*



The 23rd Army Band performs with Granite School District combined choir at the Tabernacle on Temple Square Nov. 10, 2018.

Veterans Day Concert The Great War: Commemorating 100 years since the end of WWI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Within the audience was Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp of Salt Lake County. When asked why Cadet Britain Fogle was in attendance she said, "to show respect to



veterans and what they’ve done for us,” which is at the heart and soul of what veterans day is really about.

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

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

Class Sam Beall of the Utah Army National Guard.

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

Story by Maj. Kimberly Lawson

Photos by Maj. Kimberly Lawson and Ileen Kennedy





Signal Soldiers learning about the assembly and operation of the Army's V-SAT satellite communications terminals.

Bronze Order of Mercury awarded to Utah Soldiers

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — The Utah chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association has recognized the commitment and service to the Signal Corps of seven Soldiers by awarding them the Bronze Order of Mercury. The Order of Mercury awards are given to Soldiers “who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, moral character, professional competence and selflessness, and who have contributed significantly to the promotion of the Signal Corps and the Signal Regimental Association.” Mercury was the messenger of the Roman gods, a fitting symbol of the Signal Corps’ mission.*

Among the Soldiers who received this prestigious award is Sgt. 1st Class Justin Tripp, who also was recognized as the Signal Soldier of the Year. Sgt. 1st Class Tripp has contributed to both the Signal Section and the Plans and Operations section of the 19th Special Forces Group over the past year. He succeeded in fielding more than 200 Blue Force Tracker systems, as well as several other types of equipment. He is an avid contributor to the annual Signal Workshop, participating in efforts to train Signal Soldiers throughout the state in military satellite capabilities. Sgt. 1st Class Tripp’s contributions to the Signal Corps and Signal Corps Regimental Association have earned him broad recognition.

Six other Soldiers have been awarded the Bronze Order of Mercury award for their exceptional contributions as well. They are Capt. Denver Lee, Capt. Chad Marden, Master Sgt. Kenneth Jansen, Master Sgt. Craig Pace, Staff Sgt. Wayne Austin III, and Staff Sgt. Tyson Small. We would like to express our deep gratitude to these Soldiers for their commitment to excellence and the advancement of our Signal Soldiers. Their hard work paves the way for Signal Soldiers everywhere. Pro Patria Vigilans.

*Quoted text from: <https://sic.memberclicks.net/bronze-order-of-mercury> 🇺🇸

Story by Sgt. Eric Boring



Sgt. 1st Class Justin Tripp is awarded the Signal Soldier of the Year 2018. Left to right: 1st Sgt. Patrick O'Hara, Sgt. 1st Class Justin Tripp, Col. David Becker, and Chief Warrant Officer 5 Craig Petersen.



The Bronze Order of Mercury is awarded to Soldiers who have contributed significantly to the promotion of the Signal Corps.

Maj. Gen. Burton is awarded the New Birth of Freedom Award



Gov. Gary Herbert, center, introduces Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, left, the adjutant general and recipient of the New Birth of Freedom Award presented by the Sutherland Institute, Oct. 12.

SALT LAKE CITY — At an event hosted by the Sutherland Institute at the Grand America Hotel, Oct. 12, 2018, The Adjutant General for the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton, was awarded the New Birth of Freedom Award for his contributions to the cause of freedom.

“I represent Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and service members everywhere who have served this country for centuries,” said Burton.

The New Birth Freedom Award recognizes the accomplished of select individuals who have made significant contribution to the freedoms we enjoy in America. They include but are not limited to contributions in business, politics, military, government, economics, etc. Other awardees this year include, Tracie Sharp, president and CEO of State Policy Network and Greg Miller, of the Larry H. Miller Group.

After receiving his award, Burton made some brief comments and his thoughts about freedom.

“This republic exists to, number one, provide safety and security for our people, and secondly, to provide opportunity collectively and to the individual citizen so they can realize their dreams. I am grateful to be a part of that,” Burton said. “If we will endeavor to educate our youth the things that matter to us individually and as Americans, we have a bright future.”

Gov. Gary Herbert described Burton best as he introduced him to the audience. “Tonight we salute a warrior who instills resilience to those he serves, and helps them rise to their true potential.”

As he humbly accepted his award and sat down at his table, Burton leaned over to his wife, Charn, and gave her a hug. An award they both surely deserve. 🇺🇸

Story and photos by Maj. D. J. Gibb

Gapyeong Korea Tribute to the 222nd Field Artillery



Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Shepherd, Maj. Michael Rhinehardt and Lt. Col. Cody Workman, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery are honored in South Korea at a ceremony commemorating the Battle of Kapyong.

GYEONGGI PROVINCE, Korea — Soldiers with Utah National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Triple Deuce, traveled to South Korea to take part in a ceremony commemorating the Battle of Kapyong, Oct 11.

The battle occurred in Gapyeong County, which is located in the Gyeonggi Province of South Korea. The South Korean government invited representatives from the Triple Deuce to honor Soldiers from Utah and the profound impact they had on the Korean conflict.

The incident, often referred to as the Miracle at Kapyong, involved 240 men of the 213th—the predecessor of the 222nd. The Soldiers found themselves being advanced on by approximately 4,000 Chinese soldiers.

The group, which was trained and equipped for artillery, had been providing fire support for Australian, Canadian and other allied troops.

However, the artillerymen soon had to fight off advancing Chinese and North Korean troops. When the battle ended, approximately 500 enemy troops were killed and another 800 were captured.

By the end of the war, all of the original 600 southern Utah troops who were part of the 213th returned home, with not one fatal casualty.

The 213th was eventually rotated out of Korea, retiring their guidon that flew over a force having never lost a Soldier.

“This has been an amazing experience for me,” said Lt. Col. Cody Workman, commander 2-222nd FA. “I have read about this place since I was a kid. Participating in the ceremony at the memorial in Gapyeong was an emotional experience for me.”

PROMOTIONS

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Resendiz Michael James

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CHIEF WARRANT 4

Capozzi Nicholas James
Thomson Robert Andrew

CHIEF WARRANT 3

Grover Keith Wood
Roberts Patrick David
Wilcox Jason Dean

CHIEF WARRANT 2

Guymon Montell K

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER

Armantrout Danielle Gale
Bowler Emilie Laura
Canto Tony Afton
Freeman Allan Ray
Hansen Dustin Gary
Lopez Angel
McKenzie Daniel George
Nowell Caleb Spencer
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Christensen Cole R
Semanoff Tina Noell
Shreve Timothy Wayne

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS

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Cahoon Shawn Erwin
Edison John Richard IV
Fonua Sunia Max
Grant Marty Allen
Green Michael Kelvin
Hansen Kelton Gene
Jennings Scott William
Jonkman Ryan Benjamin
Merlette Jeremy Brett
Morrison Raymond Patrick
Peterson Cameron Michael II
Phelps Raegan
Skougard Jacqueline Taylor
Soto Valentin
Taylor Douglas Gerald

Vreeland Mitchell Dale
Waite Dustin Gerald
Warren Andrew Glen
White Zachary Benjamin
Young Bradley Darrell

STAFF SERGEANT

Allen Jason Travis
Atkinson Sean Kyle
Black Galen Calder
Carlson Cody Wayne
Chuprajak Panuwatr
Combe Chase Kim
Davis Alex Jeffrey
Eckles David Don

Evans Tarren James
Garrett Jaryd Arnold
Grafelman Carl Paul
Howell Craig Donald
Hughes Sarah Kathleen
Jessop David Ryan
Kaldor Matthew Warren
Lawrence Akasha Skye

Layne Christy Lyn
Lopez Troy James

Manning William Madison
Marks Andrea Kay
Moravecflores Elizabeth K
Musselman Kedric James

Naylor Daniel James
Nelson Jeffrey David
Noorda Jeffrey Scott

Quichocho Gerome Pauldebib
Reeder Anthony David
Rogers Michael Ernest
Salloman Danilo Sarol
Serranoromero Anthony

Shelley Joseph Erick
Sims Charles Jacob
Sliwa Tarra Ann

The memorial service was hosted in tribute to the visiting Soldiers who played a vital role in preventing Seoul from falling into communist hands during the war.

"I know so many of the men who fought in this battle," Workman said. "It has truly been an honor to walk the battlefield where our local heroes turned the tide of the Korean War. It has been heartwarming to see the love and appreciation the Korean people have for our Soldiers and the sacrifices they made here. There is a very special place in their hearts for the men who fought with the 213th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. We're standing on the shoulders of giants."

The ceremony was hosted in celebration of a monument erected in South Korea to the Soldiers who fought in the battle.

"They really focused on the Soldiers from southern Utah," Workman said.

The monument was built on land donated by a Korean farmer. One portion of the monument features a book sculpted out of stone that tells the story of the battle in Korean and English. 🇰🇷



Story courtesy of Richfield Reaper Online: http://www.richfieldreaper.com/news/local/article_668930da-d7a7-11e8-a34e-678adbfb560e.html

Smith Arin Michael
Steck Spencer Vincent
Steed Dustin Ryan
Thurman Jacob Robert
Topham Jerney Sheldon
Watson Kyler Gregory
Woodard James Anthony

SERGEANT

Atilano Adriana
Bernal Santiago
Blankenship Kevin Daniel
Campbell George Ted
Caruso Adam Joseph
Churchill Trevor Mackenzie
Dalgleish Spencer James
Fullmer Thomas Arthur
Gantt Jared Michael
Garita Jose Ernesto
Gwilliam Kevin Allen
Hudson Elizabeth Joy
Jensen Chance Nephi
Knuth Samuel Thomas
Larsson Stephen Richard
Lewis Erika Sage
Macdonald Nathan Michael
Miskin Craig Jonathan
Montoya Ryan Nathantovey
Neville Kyle Eugene
Ogborn Rayden Evan
Olmedo Omar
Pansegrau David Vincent
Peterson Waydanne
Powell Spencer Dean
Prisbrey Tristan Chad
Roberts Brant Lee
Rushton Alyssa Jane
Scurti Andrew Joseph
Shay Dakota Scott
Tauoa Richard Lavasii
Taylor Kaydee Lynn
Thomson William Isaac
Vranish Joseph Mathew
Wolfley Benjamin David

SPECIALIST

Akagi Tayson Chadwick
Allred Andrew Hugh
Barnes Kevin Michael
Bayardo Andy Abel
Berber Pablo Rockwell
Botelhoasdasilva Luiz E
Bradley Joshua Thomas
Bronson Jaren Trent
Butterfield Porter McGwire
Bybee Kody Grant
Calderonmartinez Susana J
Cantor Josue
Carson Dustin Jay
Carter Trevor Lynn
Castillo Sebastian Jose
Cook Dakota Chandler
Daniel Maxwell Frederic
Davis Haylee Brianne

Dejesus Ricardo
Dewart Derek Korbin
Distance Sean Cole
Dobson Derek Alexander
Dunwoody Michael Edward
Fairbourne Joseph Jaxon
Garner Carson Matthew
Harris Landin JD
Harris Reece Jerry
Herrera Leyson Edgardo
Holt Timothy Daniel
Htoo Ser Ehdoh
Hunt Braden Tyler
Jackson Matthew Daniel
Johnson Elizabeth Erin
Knight Bradley Payton
Larsen Taylor Richard
Lauritzen Austin Orson
Lee Nikki Christopher
Linford Conley Preston
London Zakary Lane
Lund Daniel Karl
Lynch Kevin Michael

Malachowski Samuel Benjamin
Mangrum James Aaron
Mannebach Atticus Schramm
Maynes Kelly Dylan
Meservy Craig Hatch
Montgomery David William
Morris Chenille McKell
Murry Adam Cole
Noleroth Kobi Rex
Okamoto Clinton Yoshio
Palmer Phillip Taylor
Pectol Isaac William
Polasky Ryan Austin
Porter Clayton Anderton
Rice Nicholas Wade
Schudel Ian James
Scotland Ryan William
Smith Colter Joshua
Smith Logan Bennett
Smith Preston Allen
Stanley Matthew Ray
Thomas Jeffrey Daniel
Torres Brenda Yaneth
Trevino Alexandria Marie
Tuuhetaufa Alfeleti Sione
Valerio Niko James
Vickers Kaylen Joseph
Watts Gregory Jacob
Winter Jason Steven
Wiser Mason Anthony
Wood Rory Teancumbrett
Workman Andrew John
Yu Fumin

CORPORAL

Bruse Joshua Daniel
Hall Jesse Legrande
Johnson Andrew Phillip
Thompson Joseph Robert
Umpig Richmund

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

Alcantara Edwin
Allen Mason Dennis
Anderson Breonah Marie
Baker Zenith Erick
Barlow Derek Ronald
Barr Martin Calvin
Barranon Alberto Axel
Bell Brianna Rene
Benson Robert Benjamin
Bird Nelson William
Bountathip Soulisha Tai
Branch Hayden Joseph
Brown Jarren Steven
Buss Connor Reilly
Carlyle Evan Frederick
Carreto Yoan
Carter Andrew Hamilton
Clancy Tyler James
Crane Jaden Lance
Decker Charles Harrison
Delgado Christian
Edwards Bryson Murray
Ellsworth Dylan Tyler
Esparza Ramon Sanchez Jr
Ewell Brittney Marrion
Fischer Margaret Ilene
Glad Connor David
Hancock Trevor David
Hollberg Ty Christopher
Horan Elizabeth
Ika Loketi F
Jensen Austin James
Jespersion Jacob Reed
Johnson Jace Parker
Judd Braden Robert
Kelley Parker Barnes
Kuhnen Scott David
Lacy Kaitlyn Xenia
Larsen Collin Archie
Lawrence Jaysen Khan
Maxwell Bridger Jon
Meyer Stockton David
Monago John Albert
Nicholes Kade Jason
Olsen Brendan Jack
Oltehua Francisco Jeremey
Pearman Garrett James
Peck Maxwell Dylan
Reynolds Antonio Diego
Richards Kendra
Russell Taylor Ray
Salasalcala Daniel
Sand Mary Clare
Smith Cooper David
Sorensen Kenneth Marc
Soria Javier David
Soto Jorge Alberto
Spring Nikolas Karlpatrick
Stencil Jeramiah Kain
Swartz Benjamin Bruce
Taylor Gabriel F
Tengono Christopher Alexand
Thomas Kelsey Marie

Vanleuven Tamara Elise
Vermillion Caden John
Viverossanchez Hector
Warner Jesse Lenard
Whitehouse Seth Nathan
Willden Justin Mitchell
Young Davis Scott
Younglabella Aspen Hunter

PRIVATE (PVI)

Abelhouzen Chandler Ridge
Anderson James Tucker
Atkinson Ashton Scott
Barlow Westin James
Beraja Alexander Julian
Borders Braxton Keith
Brainin Jaeden Michael
Brown Paedon Rex
Clark Brenden Spencer
Cordova Marcelino Maurice
Cornia Jordan David
Cox Anthony Ryan
Cox Shae Lea
Davey Gavin Zachary
Dees Richard Wade
Dejong Leonard Dakota
Elliott Jacob Matthew
Emfield Jenet Lori
Garbett John Erikeugene
Giatras Alice Jane
Gilmore Maurine
Gomez Stephanie Guadalupe
Gorringe Braxton Keith
Hansen Gage Edward
Heath Ian Clifford
Hess Amber Latey
Huhtala Alexander E
Johnson Starla Shawnon
Josephson Natasha Lyn
Judd Austin Nicholashehn
Judd Michael Jesse
Kime Catherine Rose
Kudai Jaden
Leavitt Ethan Punter
Long Christian Michael
Lunt Hunter Chad
Magleby Mikeal Russell
Marsh Mickle
McCord Alexander Ivins
Miller Nathan Elijah
Mockbee Richard McKay
Monroe Dalton McKinley
Ogden Riley Jean
Oldham Alexis Nicole
Owensby Samantha Lynn
Pai Mailelalui Kanehe
Pentz Summer Breeze
Reyes Ybarra Josephsergio
Roundy Darrin Paul
Schimbeck Joshua James
Sidlow Alexis Keilani
Sorensen Alyssa Jewel
Swaner Cameron Francis
Taylor Noah John

Thomas Derek Lawrenceshade
Walker Ethan Jacob
Wolfe Darby Lyle

PRIVATE (PV2)

Anderson Carter Danny
Attwooll Maran Reyn
Bassett Spencer Shalaco
Blake Bryton John
Bowen Christopher Paul
Bunting Dallin Willard
Burt Kade Matt
Carlson Emily Michelle
Christensen Joseph Henry
Christensen Zachary Steffen
Draper Esther Elaine
Ferrer Robert Eliseo
Furniss Holbrook Alan
Gilman Quenton Tre
Griffin Deja D
Hall Travis Christopher
Hanson Jefferey Michael
Ihde Jared Allen
Ivie Makenzie Hendrika
Jarnagin Eli Tyler
Jarvis Karlee Dshae
Johnson Dakota Thomas
Keeran-Edwards Kristopher T
Kent Chandler Michael
Kenworthy Joshua William
Laureano Isaiah Emmanuel
Lee Alexander Steven
Luttmer Weston James
Maddox Chase Anthon
Medsker Justin Michael
Mendenhall Russel Landon
Miller Dyllen Samuel
Mismash Mason Bracken
Morley Kyle Aaron
Nelson Katie Anne
Nordgren Caden Jacob
Ochoa Jayden Gwen
Olupumar Rufina Fidela
Powell Henry Ellis
Price Jessie Douglas
Revty Kaden Michael
Rix Devin Wesley
Salazarcastillo Jesse J
Salisbury Spencer Gary
Sharum Payton William
Simmons James Taft
Slivers Isaac Nakai
Smith Cone Edward III
Sorensen Nathan Kendell
Thamert Bryce Christien
Toscano Miguel Angel
Vaughan Jesse Hunter
Weatherwalk Curtis Joseph
Wenkel Ashton Kevin
Winder Jacob Harris
Wright Austin Brooks

Utah National Guard
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