

UTAH

MINUTEMAN

2021 Volume 3



First female UTARNG BG

Education Benefits

Modernizing the KC-135



STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Top down: U.S. Marines and members of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces prepare for an explosive ordnance disposal demolition range near Khemisset, Morocco, March 31, 2021. Marines, Sailors, and members of the Utah National Guard participate in Humanitarian Mine Action, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Morocco 2021. Utah National Guard members pictured are Cpt. Jeremiah Cowan and Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Bonzo, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1457 Engineer Battalion; Sgt. Stetson Bennett, 116th Engineer Company; Staff Sgt. Brandon Schill, Alpha Company, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist). Also pictured are Marines from EOD Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, and students of the Morocco USS.

— PHOTO BY Lance Cpt. Scott Jenkins, U.S. Marine Corps

Major General Michael J. Turley The Adjutant General



As National Guard members-Soldiers and Airmen, as Utahns, and as Americans; we are approaching a level of immunization and population immunity in the COVID pandemic. We have battled this for over a year and our numbers of cases continue to decline and the number of vaccinated people rises. Our governor

and commander in chief of the Utah National Guard has set a target date of the 4th of July this year to remove the majority of COVID mandates. Our legislature has set some metrics to “unwind” the health department directives for the state population. There are many positive things coming up for us as we start to allow more collective training here and overseas.

I am proud of the efforts of the Utah National Guard and each of you this past year! You have stepped up and met the demands of these missions; over and over. You have brought relief, hope, and an out-sized professionalism that

is amazing. You have been awesome! As we begin to demobilize our COVID Task Force, I want to express my appreciation for everything you have done.

Though we have many positive things going on and you should be rightfully proud of everything you have accomplished, I would like to encourage everyone (and your families) to get vaccinated if you haven’t already. As we close this chapter out for our state, the global pandemic is still a concern. India, and by extension our partners in Nepal, are getting hit with staggering numbers of cases and fatalities. Both nations have very low vaccination rates and therefore are exposed to higher risk.

As we look to travel overseas and conduct collective training, it will be imperative that all service members who will participate in the training be immunized. While the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) doesn’t mandate vaccination for service members YET, DOD will eventually require the vaccination. Furthermore, it will be our policy to allow only those vaccinated service members to participate in permissive travel, collective training, and training in overseas locations. You and your families’ safety require it.

Again, I’m very proud of you and your efforts. Let’s encourage everyone we care about to get their vaccination. Again, I can’t wait to see all of you out and about training in the near future! ■

Command Sergeant Major Spencer Nielsen Senior Enlisted Leader



Greetings to all of the Utah National Guard family. I continue to be extremely proud of this organization and the accomplishments that our members achieve on a daily basis. It is truly an honor to serve alongside each of you. This is an exciting time within our organization. The majority of our force has

received the COVID-19 vaccination, and while we still have some work to do to overcome some vaccine hesitancy and protocol fatigue, our collective dedication to triumphing over the pandemic has been largely successful. Your continued

vigilance and dedication in beating this pandemic is vital to seeing it to its end. As we finally turn the corner, let us set our sights on the future of our organization for a moment.

The Utah National Guard recently completed a significant revision to our strategic plan. Through detailed priorities, lines of effort, and objectives, the updated strategic plan communicates the vision and desired end state of our fine organization. It is our road map to perpetuate our legacy of excellence and sustain the viability and relevancy of our formations into the future. Leaders at all levels need to understand the contents of this plan, then through the principles of mission command, establish initiatives to ensure all elements are working towards its ends. We have an exceptional force, and I am confident that through the talents, creativity and passion of our people we will achieve the goals and milestones set forth within the plan.

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As we focus on our future, it is important that we take stock of our past. We will soon be celebrating the 245th anniversary of our nation's independence. While independence is often the focus of our celebrations, it is also important to focus on our founding principles. Chief among these principles is the self-evident truth of equality—equality in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The founders of our great nation felt so strongly about these principles that they were willing to sacrifice everything they had to establish them in a new form of government, instituted by the people, with powers derived only from the consent of the governed. It is these basic principles that so many, including the ranks of our formations, have sworn to defend, fought for, and some even given their last full measure of devotion to preserve.

I ask that each of us take some time to reflect on these principles and to pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve them.

Know that I have a deep respect and appreciation for this great nation and what it represents. I also have a deep respect and appreciation for each of you and the sacrifices you make in preserving our nation's founding principles. Know that the sacrifice is worth it and these principles are worth defending. The Utah National Guard has a legacy of excellence because we have excellent people who are committed to preserving that legacy. Continue doing great things, stay safe, and I look forward to serving alongside each of you as we write our next chapter of excellence. ■

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FEATURE

16 From First Sergeant to Brigadier General

Utah Army National Guard's first female Land Component Commander

Utah Army National Guard welcomes new commander, Brig. Gen. Charlene Dalto as she takes command of the Land Component Command at Camp Williams, Utah, May 1, 2021.

COVER PHOTO

Utah Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Charlene Dalto the newly promoted Land Component Commander makes history as the first female Utah Army National Guard brigadier general.

— PHOTO BY Sgt. Ariel Solomon

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Utah Minuteman is produced quarterly by the Utah National Guard Public Affairs Office free of charge for all current UTNG Soldiers and Airmen.

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Submissions/Feedback: Utah Minuteman welcomes contributions but reserves the right to edit or decline use. Email submissions to: ng.ut.utarng.list.pao@mail.mil

Coverage: For significant statewide events contact: Lt. Col. Jaime Thomas (801) 432-4407 or Ileen Kennedy (801) 432-4229 or email:

ng.ut.utarng.list.pao@mail.mil

Digital Publication / Website: ut.ng.mil

Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/utahnationalguard/albums

Current Updates: [@utahnationalguard](https://www.facebook.com/utahnationalguard) / Facebook and Instagram
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Make the Most of Your Education Benefits

Rachel M. Forbes, Education Services Specialist, Utah Army National Guard, shares her perspective on Utah National Guard education benefits.

What does education mean to me? I have spent hours pondering this question in recent weeks, driven in part by my current adventures in higher education. For just over a year, starting two months before the coronavirus pandemic took over our lives, I have been working on my doctorate. Two classes each semester, three semesters each year. I am exhausted, but I love it! My doctoral program is in Adult Learning and Development, a discipline I chose because of my role as the education services specialist with the National Guard. I knew that to best support service members in their academic and career pursuits, I needed a greater understanding of what drives adults to learn and make decisions. My classes have taught me the importance of understanding what education—what learning—means to adult learners. Kids are driven to learn by completely different forces and have little choice about their education. But everything changes when we grow up. Motivation, personal interest, and self-direction are critical for adult learners. Most of us have too much going on in our lives, too many obligations each day, to devote time to studying something we don't see value in or isn't interesting.

What do you do when you don't know where to start? Members of the National Guard have a unique opportunity to pursue education, through traditional and non-traditional means, without the financial burden that keeps many other adults from engaging in higher education or professional development opportunities. But as I have said, most adults need motivation; we need a goal in mind when learning. To make sure you use your education benefits to move you closer to your goals, I recommend asking yourself a few questions before you commit to an academic or training program.

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION BENEFITS

An Overview

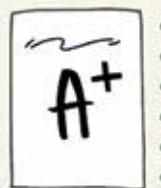
BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO ARMY GUARD ONLY ARE MARKED (ARNG)

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE

- enlist with the UTNG
- enroll in academic degree program
- attend accredited school (in- or out-of-state)
- \$250 per credit toward tuition, up to \$6,000 per year (combined with FTA if eligible)
- apply by email at least 15 business days before class start



STATE TUITION WAIVER



- MOS qualified or a cadet prior GPA of 2.0 or greater
- attend Utah public college/university, full-time
- enrolled in first associate or bachelor's degree
- waives base tuition for fall and spring semesters
- apply by email between January 1 and April 30

FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (ARNG)

- complete IADT/BOLC/WOBC
- enroll in eligible degree program
- attend participating school
- \$250 per credit toward tuition, 16 credits per year
- apply on ArmyIgnitED at least 5 business days before start



CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE (ARNG)



- complete IADT/BOLC/WOBC
- pursue credential listed on Army COOL
- up to \$4,000 per year (combined with FTA)
- use for training, exams, fees, books, & supplies
- apply on ArmyIgnitED at least 30 business days ahead

RESOURCES:

To research credentials: www.cool.osd.mil/army/

To apply for FTA or CA: www.ArmyIgnitED.com

Career Path DECIDE: <https://careerpathdecide.usalearning.gov>

DANTES College and Career System: <https://dantes.kuder.com>

QUESTIONS:

For Utah Army National Guard: ng.ut.utarng.mbx.education-office@mail.mil

For Utah Air National Guard: usaf.ut.151.arw.mbx.sta@mail.mil

- Why do you want to pursue a degree or credential?
- Do you have a career goal in mind?
- How much time do you really have to devote to study?
- How long are you willing to be a student?
- Is there a market for the career you want to pursue?
- Is a degree needed for you to be competitive in your field, or are credentials more important?
- Can you afford to pay for any expenses that aren't covered by your education benefits?

I can't answer all these questions for you, but I can provide direction and help you navigate the available opportunities. For those who haven't settled on a career path, there are resources you can explore to help make an informed decision. The website **Career Path DECIDE** is run by the Department of Defense and can be used to explore different jobs, their requirements, and salary information across the country. You can also take assessments which allow the system to make suggestions on which careers might be a good fit. The **DANTES College and Career System** provides similar options through a personal account where you can also save your assessments, create a resume, and get tips on interviewing.

What education benefits are available? Education is regularly cited as a primary reason people join the National Guard, but the process of using education benefits can be confusing and frustrating. My goal for our education office is to eliminate some of that confusion and minimize the frustration. Part of the confusion with education benefits is that there isn't a "one-size-fits-all" version of benefits. Your eligibility may differ from your buddy's eligibility and if you're both in the Army Guard and your sister is in the Air Guard, her benefits will be different from both of yours. But here are the basics:

- State Tuition Assistance (Air and Army): used for an associate, bachelor's, and/or one graduate degree (master's or doctoral level) as well as certificate programs.
- State Tuition Waiver (Air and Army): used for full-time enrollment in an undergraduate program at a Utah public college/university. (Awarded based on merit- not guaranteed.)
- Federal Tuition Assistance (Army only): used for an associate, bachelor's, and/or master's degrees and one academic certificate.
- Credentialing Assistance (Army only): used for industry-recognized credentials listed on the Army COOL website.

Beyond the benefits mentioned above, many service members will also have GI Bill benefits that may be used along with their tuition assistance. One recent bit of good news for Soldiers who use Federal Tuition Assistance and are also eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606): as of May 4, 2021, FTA and Chapter 1606 may be used at the same time if you are enrolled in an academic program more than half-time! To learn more about education benefits, my recommendation is to contact our office directly and we will help you understand your eligibility, how to apply, and how to make the most of the available resources.

Getting back to my original question: **what does education mean to me?** Education means opportunity. Education means a chance at financial stability. Education means transforming my understanding of the world through discussions with people from vastly different backgrounds. Education means that I am better able to help Soldiers here in Utah reach their goals. So—what does education mean to you? And how can I help? ☺

— ARTICLE BY Rachel M. Forbes, Education Services Specialist, Utah Army National Guard

Service Member and Family Assistance

The Service member and Family Assistance team is your point of contact for all things regarding Family Assistance and Family Readiness.

The Soldier and Family Readiness Group will be maintained by the commanders of each individual unit, company, team or battery. The SFA team provides training and record maintenance, as well as guidance to command teams.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTERS

1. Blanding	801-678-2008
2. Bluffdale	801-878-5959
3. Bluffdale	801-878-5037
4. Cedar City	435-867-6513
5. Draper	801-432-4522
6. Draper	801-432-6513
7. Logan / Ogden	801-476-3811
8. Richfield/Cedar City	435-896-6442
9. SLC (Wright Air Base)	801-245-2524
10. Spanish Fork	801-794-6011
11. St. George/Cedar City	435-986-6705
12. Vernal	435-789-3691
Veterans and Retirees	866-456-4507

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- TRICARE/TRICARE dental assistance
 - Financial assistance/counseling
 - Legal and pay issues • ID-card referral
 - Emergency-assistance coordination
 - Counseling support/referral
- Community support • Family/household emergencies • Family Care Plan information
 - Family communication • Defense Enrollment and Eligibility System information.

We are here to serve you!

Utah Family Assistance Centers 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.

Family Readiness

Readiness. What is readiness? As reported in the article "Readiness Reporting for an Adaptive Army", readiness to the service member is their ability to serve the state and nation, be operational and sustainable. This includes having their loved ones prepared to be on their own when duty calls. For military families, and families here means all support folks of military members, readiness can feel much more extensive and not always achievable.

Readiness for those who support a service member takes the form of feeling prepared for anything to happen. Families must be "ready" for their service member to deploy, serve a state active duty mission, attend training and schools, attend annual training and drill weekends. The truth is they are never ready. How do you prepare to have your service member in harm's way? How do you prepare to handle a call to serve in the fight against a global pandemic?

The truth of readiness lies in the individual. Everyone in military service, including families and support folks, has an individual choice to make about readiness. Several actually. Are you choosing to be ready in the everyday things you participate in? Are you helping those around you to feel and be ready? What would it look like to work on readiness every day? Let's look at some tips and tricks to help you along the way, no matter who you are to the military.

Tip 1: Find what works for you.

There is a decent chance you know what works for you in your life. Are you a list person? Do you thrill at the idea of checking things off a list every day? Awesome! Do that! Are you a procrastinate-until-the last-minute person? Awesome! Know you and what you do. Are you neither of these options? Great! Find what works for you.

Think about it like this: how do you prepare yourself and your household? How do you grocery shop? For the day, week, or month? How are your bills laid out? As you navigate your day, how do you accomplish the tasks you know need to be done? We all have a way to be ready.

Tip 2: Ease into long-term preparedness/readiness.

This tip was put to the test over the last fifteen months. This global pandemic has tested everyone's resilience and readiness. As a whole, we have faced a sudden change in job location, learning to teach children from home, fear of what is to come, and when this pandemic would end. We have all learned to cope. Hopefully, the coping strategies you found are helpful, sustainable, and kind to you. We have faced down the unthinkable and come out okay.

What did you do to prepare for a global pandemic? Some have food storage, others are ready with savings, and others created a safe haven for their family and friends. Did you see

your everyday life lead to readiness for a pandemic? Now you know what a world level-crisis looks like, how would you prepare now? Finding the gaps in the ways you want to be prepared or ready is vital. Keeping copies of important documents, photos, and important heirlooms in a safe place that is easily accessible is a great start. Working toward emergency savings by starting small and working your way to more considerable savings feels more manageable than starting large. Are you ready to start canning the way your grandma did? No? Perfect. Find a way to store the food and other nutritional and medical needs you might have. Be aware of what you need to achieve your storage goals and start small there as well.

Tip 3: Take care of yourself.

Move your body every day. Do what works for you. This can range from a 30-minute walk to circuit training to yoga to cycling. Just move your body. Your mind will clear, and you will feel a bit better. Encourage those around you to move their bodies also. Be kind about it and help them see the benefit. Eat a little better. We have had unlimited access to food over the past year. We have all found ourselves checking the fridge for the tenth time expecting something new to have appeared since the last time we looked. Start discovering the small ways to shift this new habit. Add food to create balance in how you eat and how you use food to cope.

Stay present. It feels like we have been nothing but present for the past year, but let's chat about presence. Yes, you were in the room, but you were not present. We have a host of distractions literally at our fingertips, begging for our attention. So first step: put down the device. Engage with the people around you. If that thought is overwhelming, work on some mindfulness strategies. Here is an easy one: check to see if you can feel the ridges of your fingerprints. Did you find them? Great. Now you are present mind and body, and your thought spin has settled. If you can't find your fingerprints because of damage to your fingers, feel the texture of your pants or shirt. It will work the same. Once you feel those details, your mind has settled, and you are ready for people or any other task at hand. What does all of this have to do with readiness? You being in the best place possible is the best way to stay ready. You can think through where to find resources, who you can rely on to help, and know the next steps to take on the challenge you face. You control your level of readiness, and we are here to help. Suppose you do not know where to turn. In that case, you are always welcome to start with the Military Community and Family Services office by calling 1-866-456-4507 or visiting our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/85691814446361/>. 

— ARTICLE BY Laci Warby,
Service Member and Family Assistance team lead, JFHQ - Draper

Best Warrior Competition allows Soldiers to test mental and physical limits

Every year, as the seasons shift from winter to spring, the changing of the weather ushers in one of the Utah Army National Guard's most anticipated traditions. During this change, each major support command selects and prepares their champions to represent them during a grueling marathon of physical and mental trials known as the state-level Best Warrior Competition. The contest is used to select the Utah National Guard's Soldier of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, and Senior NCO of the Year.

After an abbreviated one-day contest for 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions, the state returned to a multi-day competition this year, held Mar 21-24. The competition not only tested the Soldier's military knowledge, but also tested their physical endurance and mental perseverance.

"It really kind of pushes individuals past what they understand their limitations to be and gives them a good starting point or foundation of where they are currently at or what they need to do to exceed expectations," said Master Sgt. Michael Baker, the state training and operations NCO, and competition organizer.

For the Utah Army National Guard, the winners of the state competition qualify to compete in the regional level, and from there they can win their way to the Army National Guard and the Department of the Army levels.

For decades, Army units have held Soldier competitions, usually in the form of an interview board that tested military knowledge. The modern, multi-day version, with the various warrior-skill events, was developed almost 20 years ago by retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley in 2002.

"It became a total Soldier concept type of competition where you had to know field craft, and you had to know how to shoot. You still did the board but that was a very small piece of it," said Command Sgt. Maj. Spencer Nielsen, the senior enlisted leader of the Utah National Guard. "It wasn't just a board that tested your knowledge, you had to demonstrate you knew the skills."

Over the years, the Utah competition has built a reputation of being brutally exhausting both physically and mentally.



Top down: 1st Sgt. Tina Semanoff from 97th Troop Command competes during the physical-fitness assessment on the second day of the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, Utah, March 22, 2021. Soldier's complete push-ups prior to the physical fitness assessment on the second day of the BWC. Soldiers representing the Utah National Guard's major commands will endure intense mental and physical tests over a three-day competition to determine the state's Soldier of the Year, Non-commissioned Officer of the Year, and Senior NCO of the Year.



Utah National Guard Soldiers prepare to compete in the 9mm pistol portion of the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition on Camp Williams.



Sgt. 1st Class Cody Sawyer, the state incentives manager from Joint Forces Headquarters, Utah National Guard, readies his rifle to engage targets at the known distance range.

"They always tell you how hard it's going to be, but you don't know until you're there," said Spc. Adam Barlow, a fires control specialist, 65th Field Artillery Brigade.

Barlow also added that keeping a positive mindset and putting a smile on is helpful during the strenuous event.

In previous years of the competition, the physical hardships played a huge part of the competition, but in more recent contests, although still arduous, a better balance between physical and mental challenges exists.

"We want it to be challenging, we want people to be stressed, we want people to be shown that they can overcome something that they don't think they can overcome; but we don't want to break them," said Nielsen.

This year's events included a physical assessment similar to the Army Combat Fitness Test, M4 zero and small-arms marksmanship test, day- and night-and navigation, a written exam, board appearance, ruck march and a culminating mystery

event. The events are designed to stress competitors and measure how well they operate under stressful situations.

"You obviously get to see areas where you are less than you should be, and also some areas that you excel at," said Barlow. "Not only does it help me improve as a Soldier, but I can take these skills back to my unit and help improve everyone else as a Soldier too."

The pre-training for the competition can be tough on participants because of the large selection of topics that can be covered by the different warrior-task and battle-drill events. But the training offers an opportunity for competitors to increase their knowledge and sharpen their skills.

"Soldiers get a chance to hone their skill sets while preparing for the competition because they don't know what subjects they are going to be tested on or what the challenges and tasks are going to be," said Nielsen.



Above: Soldiers react to enemy contact as part of the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition March 23, 2021. Opposite page: Master Sgt. Gabriel Hernandez engages his target during the 9mm firearm portion of the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition.

Barlow said that his training leading up to the competition helped quite a bit but wished he would have been able to practice more in a field environment under stress. He added that one of the events where he had to search a simulated detainee had him flustered at first, but was able to carry on because of his previous training.

"I wasn't quite sure what to do at first, but if you just sit back and remember your training, and get back to the basics, you can deal with anything they can throw at you," Barlow said.

One Soldier participating in the competition said that he volunteered for the competition to get back into mental and physical shape after a year of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There were a lot of stressors that I wasn't used to, so I got out of shape and gained weight," said Staff Sgt. James Dansie, a recruiter from Recruiting and Retention Battalion. "I used that as an excuse to get back into the gym and work out as hard as I could. I started to lose weight and get into Best Warrior Competition kind of shape."

Dansie added that the extra hard training and keeping a goal in sight paid off and he shed quite a few pounds before the competition started.

"I was telling people that I already won before I stepped foot into this competition because before I came here I had already lost about 25 pounds," he said. "Sometimes it's overwhelming to get back into the gym, especially if it's been a while and you are out of shape, but if you give yourself little milestones to hit, and you work towards those goals, you'll achieve them."

In the end, only three Soldiers win the titles of Soldier, NCO and Senior NCO of the Year, but all those who participate bring home the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction of testing their limits in one of the most physically and mentally grueling competitions in the Army. ■

— ARTICLE BY Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge /
PHOTOS BY Sgt Nathan Baker, Spc. Bryton Bluth, Spc. Alejandro Lucero



Utah National Guard 2021 Best Warrior Competition

Soldiers endure a six-mile ruck march back to garrison during the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, Utah, March 23, 2021. Soldiers representing the Utah National Guard's major commands will endure intense mental and physical tests over a three-day competition to determine the state's Soldier of the Year, Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and Senior NCO of the Year.

UTAH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Spc. Bryton Bluth





Utah National Guard Reaction Force Training

Utah Guard members participate in National Guard Reaction Force training May 02, 2021 at the North Salt Lake City Armory. The training is designed to ensure service members are ready to respond to an NGRF activation as quickly and efficiently as possible.

UTAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Colton Elliott





From First Sergeant to Brigadier General

Utah Army National Guard's first female Land Component Commander



People usually have experiences that push them towards joining the military, for U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charlene Dalto it happened while she was attending Snow College University. Her older sister, Col. (retired) Adele Connell was the first female officer who was a role model for Dalto. Connell, an accomplished, extremely hard worker mentor, completed her doctorate while serving in the military and retiring from the U.S. Army, she always encouraged Dalto to do her best. Connell showed Dalto a fantastic program the Guard had where if you were accepted into a civilian licensed practical nurse program, the Guard would pay your tuition and books and place you on active-duty orders for the duration of the course.

"The military had a school loan repayment program, so the nursing program and great benefits for school motivated me to join the military," said Dalto.

Connell wasn't the only influence for Dalto to join, as she says, I come from a military family. Her father was also in the military, he enlisted in the Navy in 1943 where he served two years in the South Pacific during WWII as a shipfitter first class on the ship Amecius (ARL2 repair ship). He also served 18 months in the Korean Conflict. Dalto is the youngest of six children. Four of the six have served in the military, as well as her son who is close to finishing his initial entry training in the Utah Army National Guard.

In 1983, Dalto enlisted in the Army Medical Department branch as a private first class combat medic 91B and went to enlisted basic at Fort McLennan, Alabama. In 1983, the Army separated men and women for basic training.

"We lived in old World War II barracks, the front door was so old and warped it wouldn't close," said Dalto. "Males and females had separate training platoons on base, it wasn't integrated like it is now. I think it's beneficial to train as you fight, we don't separate units into male and

female elements and send them down range. Fortunately, they no longer do that, and we are moving forward as a culture."

As she worked her way up first through the enlisted ranks she only had one senior enlisted female and the rest were male.

"I look at myself as a Soldier," said Dalto. "I understand that not everyone in the military sees me in that same light. However, just because there is a difference between women and men it doesn't mean women are incapable of maintaining and achieving the required levels of performance. Over the course of my military career I have encountered stereotypes about what women can do and the capacity to perform.

"We need female leaders, role models at every rank. While there were challenges, I had phenomenal leaders who believed in me. They provided me opportunities



Staff Sgt. Charlene Dalto while on deployment with the 144th Evacuation Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1991.

and I was placed in challenging roles because I met and exceeded the standard."

Dalton attended combat medic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where she had her first military leadership position. She was assigned as the platoon leader and was responsible for accountability at formations and had to march the platoon to class and training areas and call cadence.

"I really enjoyed that job," she said. "I also had the opportunity to parachute while at Fort Sam. I did this with a private company, I jumped with a static line and we used old WWII parachutes. It was an amazing experience."

The first unit Dalton was assigned was the old 144th Evacuation Combat Hospital. The 144th was put on alert Nov. 15, 1991, and subsequently activated for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. On Nov. 24, 1990, the unit, with more than 400 members, mobilized to Fort Carson, Colorado.

"One of the hardest things to deal with was the short time frame from notification to then leaving for MOB site," said Dalton. "We had nine days to make all the final arrangements to deploy. I was a single parent and my daughter was two-and-a-half-years old at the time. The thought of leaving was overwhelming to say the least."

While at Fort Carson, Dalton's brother, serving in the Army Reserves 328th General Hospital, was activated to Germany, and also processed through Fort Carson at the same time. The two were able to spend some time together before both deploying overseas.

One of the most difficult things about deploying in 1990 was the limited lines of communication to those left back home. The only means of communication for the more than 400 people in the 144th was a land-line phone. There were long-waiting lines and virtually no privacy

while you were on the phone. The only other method of communication was through mail, which usually took more than two weeks.

While in Saudi Arabia, the unit set up a completely functional 400 bed hospital just west of the runways on King Khalid International Airport. The hospital consisted of the emergency room, operating rooms, lab, radiology, medical and surgical-patient wings. It was a herculean effort. Fortunately, the high number of causalities expected didn't transpire.

"Being deployed made me a better person," said Dalton. "I returned with more humility and appreciation of our own freedoms and I know I live more in the present, rather than focusing on things that didn't matter."

In 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Dalton, with a group of Utah National Guard Soldiers, mobilized to Louisiana to assist after Hurricane Rita hit the area. Again, it was short notice for the deployment. The Soldiers were notified at 8 p.m. and the next morning were processed at Draper, Utah and flew out immediately after, it was a very quick turnaround. Col. Chuck Gosselin was the senior medical officer where they provided medical support for other Utah Soldiers doing their missions throughout the area.

The group stayed at a grade school in a place called Cow Island. The entire assigned area was completely devastated. Every house had been flooded. Each neighborhood had huge piles of furniture, carpets and ruined belongings placed in front of homes on either side of the road. The people in the community had lost everything and yet they cooked gumbo for the Soldiers, thanking them for helping.

"I would have to say being in the medical field as an RN (registered nurse) is an extremely rewarding profession," said Dalton. "I have the opportunity to help



Capt. Charlene Dalton stands in front of some of the debris piled up along the road from the devastation communities faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita in Louisiana in 2005.



Capt. Charlene Dalton stands in front of the community center in Cow Island, Louisiana while serving with the Utah National Guard after Hurricane Rita in 2005.

people at the bedside to make a difference in their lives when they are the most vulnerable."

Nurses are known for teaching at the bedside and ensuring patients understand how to care for themselves and empower them to be their own advocate. During her career, Dalto has worked in cardiac and surgical units, post-anesthesia care unit recovery room, OBGYN—mother baby unit, newborn care, pediatric home care, both acute and hospice care, leadership and management, case management and currently works in an urgent care/outpatient setting.

"My current employer, Intermountain Health Care, has been fantastic to work with and has provided me the extra time off I have requested to work with the military," said Dalto. "When I was mobilized with the 144th EVAC, I was a RN in the civilian world but served as a 91C (licensed practical nurse) assigned to a medical/surgical patient-care section. As my rank increased in the military, so did the opportunities to serve."

Dalto spent 20 years as an enlisted Soldier, joining as an E3/private first class. Her last enlisted position held was as the senior medical noncommissioned officer for the



Master Sgt. Robert Stephens, Sgt. Max Hasson, Staff Sgt. David Mandy and Maj. Charlene Dalto serve during a humanitarian mission in Trinidad Tibago in the heat of August 2009.

medical unit—at the time she filled that position it was not authorized the first sergeant position as it is now.

After serving as a master sergeant for a few years she was approached and asked to go to the Sergeant Majors Academy. This would have made her the first female in the Utah Army National Guard to attend that school. During that same time period she was already in the process of applying for a direct commission. Dalto direct commissioned as a first lieutenant Aug. 23, 2003 as an Army nurse.

"I have always been motivated to do the best job I could," said Dalto. "This included completing all the schools required for the senior ranking enlisted position. If I hadn't had the opportunity for a commission, I would have certainly considered attending Sergeant Majors Academy."

Working in direct patient care allowed for a flexible schedule that increased Dalto's availability with the military. While serving as the Medical Detachment commander, Dalto became aware of a critical need in credentialing the Guard's Army Medical Department providers (medical doctors, dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, licensed clinical social workers, and psychologists). In 2019, she worked full time as a technician to credential all the providers in the state. Her background as an registered nurse enabled her to transition into this position seamlessly. Within the 54 states and territories, Utah was ranked last 54/54 in credential providers. At the time, Utah had 72 providers and within a year, Dalto brought Utah to 11/54, credentialing 94 percent of all providers.

The COVID-19 global pandemic, Dalto said, is the most considerable challenge she faced as a nurse, both in the civilian and military setting. Working in the



Capt. Charlene Dalto shoots an AK-47 on the Machine Gun Range during annual training at Camp Williams, Utah in 2005.



Capt. Charlene Dalto, (center), with Staff Sgt. Jeffery Blackburn, left, Staff Sgt. Sherrill Peakcock during annual training at Camp Williams, Utah in 2005.

civilian setting has been extremely demanding. Nurses constitute the majority of healthcare providers and have a critical function in the healthcare system. When people are ill and unable to get an appointment with their primary care provider, their choices for access to medical care is the emergency room or urgent care. Most people choose urgent care, making this a busy, hectic environment to work in.

"Clearly people are nervous working in the medical fields, but everyone continues to show up and do their job," said Dalto.

Providing care in the COVID-19 world requires donning/doffing (putting on/taking off) personal protective equipment for every patient seen—extensive cleaning and following COVID-19 guidelines is required. This increases the time for every patient seen in clinics. It is an exhausting routine.

"I work with an incredibly dedicated team that pitches in and helps one another. The added stress of possible exposure and subsequent illness with COVID-19 to yourself and then possibly infecting your family from COVID-19 is always on your mind. I worried about the risks to my family each time I came home. When Utah "shut down" and everyone was told to go home and isolate for two weeks, healthcare workers were not included in that mandate. The healthcare industry was gearing up for the worst," said Dalto.

Another challenge Dalto faced in her career was the military being predominately populated by males—as a female serving in the military, the tendency is to naturally look for other females that have achieved success. While there are females in the Armed Forces that had achieved significant success, it is vital to



Col. David Coates, Lt. Col. Pete Adams, Lt. Col. Charlene Dalto and Maj. Che Eissinger attend a dining in at the Officers Club at Camp Williams, Utah in 2016.

see other females within your own organization who are serving at the highest levels. Dalto explained, it is important to have female role models. It shows young women just starting their military career and those females currently serving that no door is closed to them, and that it is fine to celebrate women's accomplishments.

"This question about being the first woman has been difficult to answer because I don't want the focus of my promotion to be centered on the fact that I am a female. I was selected/promoted based on my qualifications, performance and future potential. That being said, I do realize the significance that I am the first female to be promoted to a GO (general officer) in the Utah Army National Guard," said Dalto. "Growing up my father instilled in me I could do or achieve anything with hard

work and determination. I know this has played a positive role in my life."

As an officer it's important to watch for opportunities to mentor others. Dalto had leaders and peers that were advocates for her and that believed in her. One such advocate was Dalto's former commander, Col. Bryce Taggart, she credits him as serving as an incredible leader and mentor for her. Taggart saw potential in then, Lt. Col. Dalto, and encouraged her to apply for War College.

"I hadn't considered applying for this school and never



Lt. Col. Charlene Dalto at a school where they provided medical and dental services in Agadir, Morocco in 2015.

thought I would be a candidate for War College as a nurse in the military. He believed in me and really pushed me over that hurdle of doubt,” said Dalto. “It has always been important for me to push myself and exceed the standard. I believe that leaders are held to a higher standard and that we should do all we can to improve ourselves.”

Another first for Dalto is being the first female Army Medical Department officer from the Utah Army National Guard to attend Army War College.

“Based on my career path, I would say that I love a challenge and am always looking at ways I can improve myself to be a better officer. That path involved getting outside my comfort zone and doing the additional military education courses that were not required for the AMEDD branch,” said Dalto.

Dalto’s advice to others serving in specialty branches is to continue your military education past the required Basic Officer Leadership Course. She says it will make you a better officer. All specialty branch officers should complete all primary military education courses in order to remain competitive at the DA Promotion Selection Boards. The military highly recommends that all AMEDD officers continue with their military education.

“When I went to Captain Career Course I got to see what the other services got exposed to, how those officers were being trained and I enjoyed it, I couldn’t get enough



Col. Charlene Dalto leads the Medical Detachment in pass and review at Governor’s Day in 2019.

of it,” said Dalto. “I realized that this is what the rest of the military is doing, and it is awesome.”

After the Captain Career Course Dalto, made the decision to continue with her military education. She said the course was challenging, took her 18 months to complete and took her out of her comfort zone.

“It was important to me to do the same requirements that the other officers in the other services did,” said Dalto. “I always wanted to be prepared, qualified and ready to possibly do the next position or be ready to help the organization.”

Brig. Gen. Anna Mae Violet Hays was an American military officer who served as the 13th chief of the United States Army Nurse Corps. She was the first woman in the United States Armed Forces to be promoted to a general officer rank; on June 11, 1970, Pres. Richard Nixon appointed Hayes to the rank of brigadier general. Hays paved the way for equal treatment of women, countering occupational sexism, and made a number of recommendations which were accepted into military policy.

“I am privileged to be in the Army Nurse Corps and honored to be the first female brigadier general in the Utah Army National Guard,” said Dalto. “Nurses have done a great deal to progress the place of women in the military. The first female promoted to brigadier general in the U.S. Armed Forces was Col. Anna Mae Hays, chief, Army Nurse Corps-1970. It’s an honor to be in the same career field as Brig. Gen. Hays.”

Dalto has also been appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff/Assistant Surgeon General for Mobilization, Readiness, and National Guard Affairs, Department of the Army.



Lt. Col. Charlene Dalto and Maj. Che Eissinger worked with Beyond the Horizon a humanitarian mission in Belize in 2017.

Dalto summed up her philosophy with five points.

1. Always do the right thing. Even when you make a mistake there is always a choice you have to make afterwards. It's not that you can't make mistakes, it's when you do make a mistake what do you do to rectify it. Humans are fallible, we are not perfect and so when you make the wrong choice or make a mistake, afterwards choose to always do the right thing.

2. Be good at what you do. The military trains us for a particular job, a particular military occupational specialty. As we work together if we are all doing our best, and we are all experts at what we do, then it helps move the mission forward. Each person being good at what they are trained to do helps us overcome challenges we face and contributes to the overall success of our mission.

3. The little things matter. This has to do more with resiliency. Whatever we have in our life or in our schedule, the small choices that we make to keep moving forward, help us get to the bigger goals in life. We don't get in great shape overnight, its little steps that we take to get there. We don't maintain a healthy body weight by just eating healthy meals one or two days a week, it is many choices, lots of little things that get us to our goal of a healthy body weight. In all that we do, remember that the little things matter and the little choices we make have a big impact that helps us get to our final goals.

4. We need each other. Most senior leaders will say they had help or assistance from either a great enlisted person, first sergeant, master sergeant, command sergeant major, mentor, coworker or peer to get to the position they are in. In the military it is never a singular effort to get to a successful place, even after doing a tremendous amount

of work, there are always people who have helped out—possibly opened a door, gave a hand up, or worked with others on something—we are always better as a team.

We need each other to be successful. As leaders, we need to help the people, subordinates and mentors around us. We are always better together, moving forward toward a common objective. People want to feel valued and included.

Ask for opinions and make sure that you value all those you work with and value their expertise because the thing that is most valuable about the Guard is that we have a whole expertise on the civilian side, in addition to whatever our job is in the military. That is one of the reasons why the Guard is such a powerful force.

5. Maintain Guard-work-life balance. As Soldiers, we each need to find a balance with our work, our civilian careers, our family life and the demands of our military career. Finding that balance will help us maintain greater health and well-being. Nobody can really do that for us. Make sure to spend quality time with and appreciate your family. It is our families that allow us to be successful and be gone during all our military assignments. If Soldiers are struggling and feel overwhelmed with their responsibilities in the Guard then they should talk with their leaders. Leaders can work with you to help find ways to keep you in the formation, because that is what we really want, we want you to be healthy, have a balanced life and continue to serve.

Coming into this new position Dalto wants to thank the troops for what they do and what they have done especially during this past year of COVID-19.

"It has been an extremely challenging year. Thank you for all you do and for hanging in there and being resilient," said Dalto. "I'm looking forward to being able to train together and visiting the different MSCs (Major Support Commands). It will be a privilege to serve with you and continue our distinguished tradition of service."

"I am both honored and grateful to Maj. Gen. Michael Turley and Gov. Spencer Cox for the opportunity to serve as the Land Component commander. Throughout my military career, I have been privileged to know many great Soldiers and be mentored by outstanding leaders. I pledge to continue that tradition for the Soldiers under my command. Together, we will dedicate ourselves to the great tradition of the Utah Army National Guard for excellence in serving the citizens of Utah and our great nation." ☀



Col. Charlene Dalto with her family at U.S. Army War College graduation at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania in May 2018.

— ARTICLE BY Ileen Kennedy
PHOTOS COURTESY OF Brig. Gen. Charlene Dalto



National Guard Bureau named the Utah Air National Guard as the interim KC-135 Test Detachment for the Air Force Reserve Test Center on Dec. 15, 2020. Under the agreement the 151st Air Refueling Wing will provide aircraft, aircrew and maintenance support.

The KC-135: A storied past – modernizing for the future

Utah Air National Guard leads 65-year-old KC-135 modernization Efforts

The KC-135 Stratotanker, the backbone of the U.S. Air Force's strategic aerial refueling fleet for nearly 65 years, recently gained new capabilities that will enable it to continue to carry out its mission of Global Reach and Global Power for years to come.

In July, 2020, the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing upgraded the first KC-135 in the Air Force inventory with NATO-Standard Link 16 communication capabilities as part of its real-time information in the cockpit system (RTIC), bringing the aircraft into the 21st century and revolutionizing the tanker's role in combat.

Since 2018, the Utah Air National Guard has worked with the KC-135 Program Office, Collins Aerospace and Borsight in the development and installation of situational awareness

building technologies. The RTIC adds Link 16, Situational Awareness Datalink (SADL) and Secure Beyond Line of Sight communications to the aircraft.

"As we saw the progression of the RTIC program, we knew we wanted the Utah Air National Guard to lead the charge, and we want to continue to lead the integration of technology that enables our warfighters," said Brig. Gen. Daniel Boyack, commander of the Utah Air National Guard. "The RTIC program provides the pathway and baseline for the KC-135 to support the Advanced Battle Management System."

The Advanced Battle Management System, or ABMS, allows a joint force to use cutting-edge methods and technologies to rapidly collect, analyze, share information and make decisions in real-time.

Lt. Col. Jeff Gould, a Utah Guardsman, led the team at the Air National Guard Air Force Reserve Test Center (AATC) working with the KC-135 Program Office to integrate the RTIC program on the KC-135.

"For years, I have relied on AWACS or receiver aircraft, a grease pencil and a laminated chart to build a real-time combat picture. With RTIC, my ability to gain situational awareness is near instantaneous and much more accurate," Gould stated.

"KC-135 crews will now have the ability to make better informed decisions and communicate more effectively with their receiver aircraft, who have been equipped with a tactical data link since the early 1990s, changing the way we [KC-135] operate and provide combat effect."

KC-135 Test Detachment

In December, 2020, the National Guard Bureau named the Utah Air National Guard as the interim KC-135 Test Detachment for AATC.

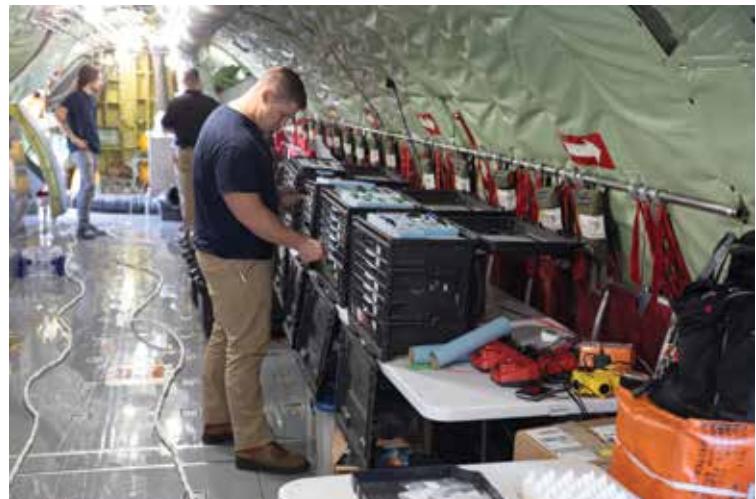
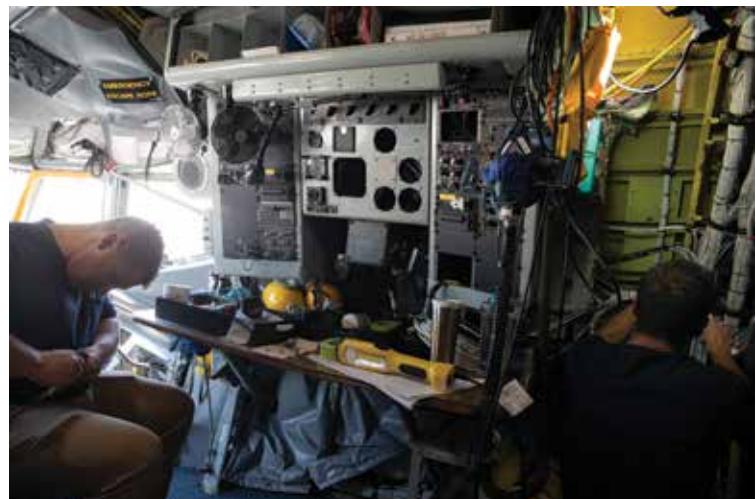
Prior to being named the interim KC-135 test detachment, the Utah Air National Guard was already leaning forward supporting in an Air Force Research Lab experiment on the Navy test range at China Lake, CA. Specialized equipment was added to the RTIC infrastructure that allowed the KC-135 to receive data from the SkyDog Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program via the Kratos Unmanned Tactical Aerial Platform-22 (UTAP-22).

The goal was for the KC-135 to act as a data repository for all air, land, sea, space and cyber players using AI to fuse and correlate data into a cohesive picture. Planned upgrades to the KC-135 that will enable air refueling include integrating a digital backbone, hardpoints and antenna upgrades.

"We were able to successfully receive off-board data from the UTAP-22 that we normally would not get through Link 16. Full-motion video, along with a host of sensor information was pushed to our crew," said Gould.

"The KC-135 is expected to play a critical role as a node within ABMS and JADC2, this is the first step in supporting the future of warfare. Gathering, correlating and fusing off-board aircraft data is critical to creating former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisitions Dr. Roper's military internet of things."

Col. Jeremiah Tucker, AATC commander, said training like this has already contributed to ABMS and JADC2 experimentation programs for manned and unmanned teaming and highlights the benefit of setting up a test detachment and working with forward thinking units like the Utah Air National Guard.



In July, 2020, the Utah Air National Guard's 151st Air Refueling Wing upgraded the first KC-135 in the Air Force inventory with NATO-Standard Link 16 communication capabilities as part of its real-time information in the cockpit system (RTIC).

“By working with the Utah Air National Guard, we believe we can start to build towards enhancing the combat effectiveness of the KC-135,” said Tucker. “We expect the KC-135 will provide and enhance combat capability beyond 2040.”

The partnership with the Utah National Guard has led to other training opportunities designed to revolutionize the KC-135’s warfighting role. Since 2018, the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command committed resources to add defensive capabilities into the KC-135.

“Our adversaries have watched how we fight wars since the end of the Cold War and built systems to counter-or blunt USAF technological advantages. We are looking at KC-135 upgrades, such as the open architecture podded solutions, to help us elevate the combat over-match trajectory we have enjoyed,” said Tucker.

Currently 20 KC-135s are modified with wing-mounted pods, known as Multipoint Refueling System (MPRS) Pods, for refueling operations with Navy and Marine Corps and NATO aircraft. AATC plans on modifying two additional ARC owned KC-135s using the MPRS outer mold-line pods with an internal open-architecture to additional space for a host of ABMS and defensive technologies.

In a future conflict, the rate and volume of 1s and 0s the KC-135 passes will be just as valuable as the fuel it provides today,” Tucker went on to state. The KC-135 open-architecture pod, tentatively called the Gladiator pod, is expected to be equipped on a few KC-135 aircraft by fiscal year 2023 for flight testing. AATC plans on equipping the pod with the necessary sensors capable of detecting, identifying, tracking, and defending as a data node within ABMS.

The ‘Gladiator pod’ is three to four times larger than any pod our fighter aircraft uses, which is why the KC-135 is well-suited for this mission. With these modifications, the KC-135 will be able to act as a data node and host within ABMS while also having the ability to protect the tanker with limited fighter support.



On December 15, 2020, the National Guard Bureau named the Utah Air National Guard as the interim KC-135 Test Detachment for AATC. Under the agreement the 151st ARW will provide aircraft, aircrew, and maintenance support.

“In order to meet the demands of a changing world, we felt it necessary to adapt the KC-135 with technology that is flying on Combat Air Forces aircraft and even on the KC-135. Utilizing the outer mold line of the MPRS pod, we can rapidly integrate modular and adaptive communication, defensive, and sensor technologies on the KC-135,” said Gould.

The Future of the KC-135

TRANSCOM and Air Mobility Command in a 2019 hearing to Congress stated the Air Force needs to maintain a fleet of 479 tankers. With an intended purchase of 179 KC-46 aircraft, the Air Force will still need 300 KC-135s primarily flown and maintained by the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves.

Adversaries, such as Russia and China, have modernized their forces while proliferating their technology around the world. Extending their reach of influence and combat effectiveness will require modernization of Eisenhower-Era tankers.

“Providing support to AATC as a test detachment will play a critical role towards the KC-135’s modernization efforts and will only help to ensure we [tankers] can provide the combat effect needed by our combatant commanders,” said Boyack. “We have a talented group of Utah Guardsmen leading these efforts and are excited to see what they help develop and field next.”

Ground and flight testing for the RTIC program will occur at the Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base from March – May 2021.

“The Utah Air National Guard is committed to making sure our friends, family and generations to come are able to go to war and return home to their families,” Boyack added.

[Editors Note: An earlier version of this article had incorrect quotes on the operational timeline of the KC-46. This article has been updated to reflect that change.] 

— ARTICLE BY Maj. Ryan Sutherland

Hey, be a little considerate

I know I am always harping on the fact that all people yearn to be seen, heard, and understood and that the most important thing in life is our relationships. Contrary to your own beliefs that the most important thing is a tidy house, well-behaved kids, and a fat wallet.

This is how I know I am right:

Imagine you are on your deathbed. Your children bend down to kiss you for the last time. What do you whisper?

- a. Did you get that math assignment turned in?
- b. Did you eat my leftovers?
- c. Pick up your room and make the bed!
- d. I love you. I am so proud of you.

Obviously, you chose 'a'. Teasing! Of course, you would tell them how much you love them.

So, let's start living our lives and our relationships as though it was the last time we could let people know we care. If that seems like a lot of work, you're basically correct.

BUT, here is a little life hack to help all your relationships, even with your in-laws and teenagers.

Truth!

Life Hack: Give the Gift of Listening.

One thing that separates us from the animal kingdom is that we have the ability to be compassionate and empathetic. Typically, we just use the word "considerate".

Used in a sentence, "Please be considerate to your father, he had a long hard weekend while I was at drill."

You're welcome female service members!

According to Oxford Languages, the word consider means to think carefully about something.

To think about something, especially something that someone said is to close your mouth and listen. Easier said than done.

Consider this: You get home from work. Your spouse starts in about all the things you already know about. Instead of saying, "Duh, I know." You could say NOTHING and listen to all the things and then respond. Whatever the response, it should convey the fact that you did in fact LISTEN and HEAR everything they said. Your response could be a hug, a validation that everything sucks, or ask for a break so you can address the issues after you've had dinner. Trust me. Your relationship will improve.

The gift of listening even for 5 minutes without interrupting or thinking about yourself is one of the most loving gifts we can give to someone. Just listening and being present with that person will change the world in which you live. Listening means that you are taking an interest and being considerate to someone.

Imagine if you were considerate to everyone that crossed your path? Okay. Let's start small. Imagine if you were considerate to your cubicle buddy, your spouse, and your children? What would happen to those relationships? How would you view yourself?

Try it. Let me know how it goes.

Today is a great day to give the gift of LISTENING.

This is Life Encouraged. 

—Andrea Phillips, LCSW Program Manager

Utah Military Family Life Consultants provides no-cost counseling services to Utah National Guard service members and their families. Contact a MFLC for more information:

Andrea Phillips, Program Manager: 801-432-4622 Draper
Bruce Jenkins: 801-878-5480 Camp Williams

Jake Vickrey: 801-716-9228 Draper and Camp Williams
CJ Gibbs: 435-867-6518 Cedar City and St. George



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Utah Gov. Spencer Cox visits the Utah Air National Guard

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox made his first official visit as governor to the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah Air National Guard, on April 28, where he received a mission brief followed by a flight to see an in-air refueling mission. Brig. Gen. Daniel Boyack, assistant adjutant general-Air, briefs Gov. Cox and his staff on capabilities of the KC-135R Stratotanker on the flight line of Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Utah. The intent of his visit to the base was to familiarize the governor with the 151st ARW missions and capabilities, as well as meet the Airmen who help make it happen. 

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Colton Elliott



Honoring a Utah National Guard legend

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — At 100 years young and counting, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Wallace B. Gatrell, a field artillery legend in his own right, received induction into the Order of Saint Barbara April 10, 2021, at the Utah Army National Guard's Scott B. Lundell Readiness Center at Camp Williams. The ceremony honored him and his service, as well as the few other artillerymen who received this prestigious honor. Gatrell poses with his family after receiving induction into the Order of Saint Barbara. 

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Capt. Melissa Stenquist



UTNG celebrates International Women's Day and Women's Heritage Month

DRAPER, Utah — The Utah National Guard celebrated International Women's Day and Women's History Month through the month of March. The full article highlights stories of women service members who serve the Utah National Guard with distinction, and are role models exemplifying our highest values. The four highlighted service members are: Lt. Col. Kimberly Lawson, Sgt. 1st Class Stacey Olsen, Maj. Monica Leger and Maj. Tandra West. Pictured: Lt. Col. Kimberly Lawson prepares for an airborne operation. 

— ARTICLE BY Maj. Tandra West / PHOTO COURTESY OF Lt. Col. Kimberly Lawson



Utah National Guard Chaplain Corps commissions two officers, first female

DRAPER, Utah — Chaplain candidate 2nd Lt. Mindy Butler takes her oath of office during a commissioning ceremony at the Utah National Guard headquarters building in Draper, Utah, May 12, 2021. Butler is the first female to be commissioned in the Utah Army National Guard Chaplain Corps. 

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge



WWII veteran takes a Black Hawk flight for his 100-year-old birthday

PROVO, Utah — Mr. Ken Potts, one of only two living survivors that were aboard the battleship USS Arizona (BB39) during the attack on Pearl Harbor, and his wife were flown accompanied by Maj. Gen. Michael Turley, the adjutant general and other senior leaders of the Utah National Guard, on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flight in celebration of his 100th birthday on April 15, 2021. 

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy



UTNG Best Warrior Competition selects top Soldiers

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — A Soldier engages a target during the known distance firearms event of the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition at Camp Williams, March 22, 2021. Twenty-two Soldiers battled frigid temperatures, as well as mental and physical challenges as they competed in the Utah National Guard Best Warrior Competition where the Soldier's physical endurance, military knowledge, and mental perseverance was tested to determine the state's Soldier of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Senior NCO of the Year. ☀

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Spc. Alejandro Lucero



Utah Guardsman receives Utah Cross for aiding crash victim

ROLAND WRIGHT AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Utah — Tech. Sgt. Erik Bornemeier, a medical technician assigned to the 151st Medical Group, Detachment 1, receives the Utah Cross from the Adjutant General of the Utah National Guard, Maj. Gen. Michael J. Turley, on March 15, 2021 at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Utah. The Utah Cross is the second highest state award that an Utah National Guard military member can receive. Bornemeier distinguished himself as the first person to respond to the scene of a head-on motor vehicle/motorcycle accident on the morning of June 2, 2020. ☀

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Colton Elliott



151st Air Refueling Wing deploys

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — U.S. Airmen from the 151st Air Refueling Wing load on to a KC-135 Stratotanker at Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base, Salt Lake City, Utah. April 6, 2020. Four KC-135 Stratotankers and approximately 120 Airmen assigned to the 151st ARW, deployed from Roland R. Wright Air National Guard Base April 5-6, 2021, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel and Spartan Shield. ☀

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Tech. Sgt. Colton Elliott



UTNG Land Component commander retires from 31-year career

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah — Maj. Gen. Michael J. Turley, adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, presents Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Fisher, the former commander of the Utah Army Guard Land Component Command, with his certificate of retirement during a retirement ceremony on Camp Williams, May 1, 2021. The certificate signifies the end of his 31-year career with the National Guard, a career that spans multiple states, deployments both international and domestic, as well as numerous military schools. ☀

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Spc. Alejandro Lucero



Utah National Guard Counterdrug Task Force supported efforts in the DEA's 20th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

CEDAR CITY, Utah — U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Alissa Snow, assigned to the Utah Counterdrug Task Force, participates in Iron County Prevention Coalition's Take-Back event in Cedar City, April 24, 2021. Utah National Guard Counterdrug Task Force supported efforts and partnered with communities across Utah in the DEA's 20th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 24, 2021. ☀

— ARTICLE BY 2ND Lt. Jesse Hudson / PHOTO BY UTNG Counterdrug Task Force

—FOR MORE IN-DEPTH STORIES, GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT: UT.NG.MIL—



UTARNG Land Component Command welcomes new commander

CAMP WILLIAMS, Utah— The Utah Army National Guard held a ceremony for the incoming and outgoing commanders of the Land Component Command on Tarbet Field at Camp Williams, May 1, 2021. The morning began with a promotion ceremony as Col. Charlene Dalto was promoted to brigadier general. Following the promotion ceremony, Maj. Gen. Michael Turley, the adjutant general, presided over the passing of the organizational colors from the current LCC Commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas Fisher, to the new commander, signifying the transition of authority to Brig. Gen. Dalto. ☀

— ARTICLE BY Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge / PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy



The final group of 1-211th ARB Soldiers returns home

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The final group of Utah's 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion Soldiers returned from deployment to reunite with loved ones May 4, 2021 at the Salt Lake International Airport. These Soldiers were part of a larger contingent of nearly 300 service members who deployed in May 2020. Service members of the battalion started returning to Utah in October 2020 and have continued to arrive in smaller groups since then. ☀

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Ileen Kennedy



Fillmore Armory: A perfect way to bring a community together

FILLMORE, Utah — On a rainy day in April 2019, the Fillmore Armory was transferred to the City of Fillmore in exchange for 50 acres near the airport for a future National Guard facility that will better meet the requirements of today's Utah National Guard units. On Jan. 4, 2021, the Fillmore Armory gained national recognition with a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Guard worked on the listing in partnership with the City of Fillmore, Utah State Historic Preservation Office, and SWCA Environmental Consultants. Pictured is the Fillmore Armory after the 2010 renovation with the triple entry configuration of windows and doors restored to imitate the pattern and style of the original design. ☀

— ARTICLE BY Jamie Brand / PHOTO COURTESY OF Utah National Guard



Local businesswoman receives recognition for support of deployed UTNG Soldier

PROVO, Utah — Ginger Livingston of Ginger Snaps Photography (right) received a Seven Seals Award by officials from the Utah Committee of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at Veteran's Memorial Park in Provo, Utah, April 15, 2021. Staff Sgt. Jullienne Labrum (left) a Basic Leader Course instructor with the 640th Regiment--Regional Training Institute, nominated Livingston for the award for the support she received from her while deployed to the Middle East. Livingston surprised Labrum with more than 1,600 photos of her young son that were taken over the 12-month period that she was deployed. ☀

— ARTICLE AND PHOTO BY Sgt. 1st Class John Etheridge

—VIEW ADDITIONAL IN THE NEWS PHOTOS ON FLICKR @UTAH NATIONAL GUARD—

AIR PROMOTIONS

COLONEL	MASTER SERGEANT	TECHNICAL SERGEANT	SENIOR AIRMAN
Farnsworth David D	Annis Tammy K	Barrett Jerome Phillip	Baker Leisel D
Foster Douglas E	Atchley Brian M	Bender James Lee	Bennion Michael B
MAJOR	Beck Thomas P	Bizarro Wendy Nmn	Bingham Emigail
Thompson Micheal S	Branham Jeremy R	Breu Stephen Alexander	Christensen Conor B
CAPTAIN	Evenson David Richard	Brown Cyle W	Comly Jayce A
Bawden Spencer Judd	Hammer Brock R	Currell Mark Patrick	Fjeldsted Ryan J
1ST LIEUTENANT	Hammond Jason Elling	Duncan Christopher M	Grow Erik H
Brunt Rosalina M	Harvey Zachariah Michael	Duvalle Matthew Howard	Hagler Christine R
Call Jesse Charles	Henningfeld Paul J	Garcia Victor A	Hogan Jared C
2ND LIEUTENANT	Hinton Matthew Ray	Harvey Chad B	Johnson Jennifer N
Atkin Jonathan R	Huggard Margaret E	Hutchinson Duncan P II	Meads Connor E
Vogel Thomas D	Itliong Brian Malala	Jones Benjamin D	Perkins Michael D
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT	Jones Konrad Deshawn	Kastanek Colton Ross	Pusey Savannah M
Miller Darin J	Lane Jean H	Nettles Stephen Michael	Reynolds Spencer A
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT	Lunt Jeffery M	Parkin Broden J	Robella Casey E
Roach Cory S	Marrott Jesse B	Stroud Cosslett J	Stockwell Brody K
Roberts Paul D	Martin Lauren Marie	Taylor Scott L	Tangog Lennard Diego P
Snyder Jack Stanley III	Montenegro Paola	Vickers Michael B	Willson Colton J
	Mosher Jeremy D	Vigil Stetson George	AIRMAN 1st CLASS
	Perry Kyle V	Wells Ty Donald J	Hirschi Isabella M
	Rosalez Bryant C	STAFF SERGEANT	Lebaron Miriam D
	Whitney Marcus D	Anderton Brooks D	
	Wilson Andrew Joseph	Appelbaum Joy M	AIRMAN
	Young Nolan F	Brandow Warren F V	Bertelli Daniel
			Rue Chase A

ARMY PROMOTIONS

BRIGADIER GENERAL	SOTOANDRADE DIANA FAVIOLA	FIRST SERGEANT	STAFF SERGEANT	MELENDERZIVERA MICHAEL J
Dalto Charlene Connell	Spencer Clayton Todd	Belliston Reyn Kelly	Adamson Darrell James	Parga Joshua
CAPTAIN	Tovmasyan Alexey	Brown Patrick Mark	Bartholomew Tyler James	Pelletier Christopher M
Barrett Bradley Dennis	Turner Daniel Shane	Corigliano Matthew Brian	Bensch David Joseph	Perrins Grant Daniel
Barrett Daniel Edward	Willden Justin Mitchell	Donnelly Michael Anthony	Berdan Lacey Marie	Pratt Christopher Corbin
Broadhead Nathaniel R	Zamorajimenez Gustavo	Jorgensen Richard Thomas	Bevan Danielle Lee	Prisbrey Tristan Chad
Brunson Travis C	Carbee Justin Eli	Pickering Jack Christopher	Bradford Brady Bert	Prounh Pang
Bunn Kolton Rick		Pogue Lee Thomas	Camacho Iokepa Keahonui	Reed Teven Gentry
Enongene Gerard Belle	Carter Kegan James	Thompson Kevin Todd	Cornejo Arthur Thomas	Reynolds Brian Charles
Forrester Daltin Si	Jessop David Ryan	Wilcox Benjamin J	Cox Milo Chandlar	Reynosa Gilberto Aaron
Golding Jake Lawrence	Mecham Nathan Kade	SERGEANT FIRST CLASS	Crossland Douglas C	Richens Joseph Earl
Hanford Isabella Grace	Raths Jason Ronald	Alef Carrie Elizabeth	Crowther Rebecca Walton	Rogers Hannah Marlene
Heino Jeremy Robert	Warr Rodney Russell	Bawden David Brian	Dyck Cameron Scott	Santana Ryan T
Hopkins Hailey Kristine		Desimone Justin Alan	Erickson Jordan Michael	Sauer Nicholas Sean
Hough Garrett Kenneth		Ferguson Glen Scott Jr	Fagan Jackson Curtis	Shinkle Russell Albert
Jackson Garrett Adam	Pogue Rachael Ann	Hutchings Derek Quey	Fordham Michael Conner	Stirland Craig Ryan
Johnson Elizabeth Erin	Sanford Aaron Thomas	Johnson Tyler Aaron	Francis David Andrew	Taylor Brady Lee
Johnson Jace Parker		Kumah Obed	Griffin Dustin Cole	Thompson Sara Elizabeth
Judd Michael Jesse		Mitchell Glenn Blaine	Gutierrez Abraham	Thomson William Isaac
Larsen Dallon Michael	Brown Richard Scott	Montgomery Charles Ian	Harrison John Edward	Underwood David Alfred
Loya Ruben James		Moxon Dennis Scott	Holmquist Michael Tyler	Wallace Spencer Bennion
Parry Robert Allen		Munoz Jose Guadalupe	Humbracht Tiffany Lynn	Warner Paul Mark
Robinson Jerry Tyrel		Murphy Joshua Andrew	Johnson Jason Ryan	Whitby Matthew Von
Scales Tyler James	Cordero Justin Ross	Petersen Lonnie J	Kitchen Ryan Stanley	Winward David Troy
Schimbeck Joshua James	Day Chevonne Aimee	Smith Randy Lee	Knighton Kolton Jay	SERGEANT
Smith Alexander Bruce	Greenhill James Giffard	Sorensen Robby Wintyen	Leavitt Jayden Andrew	Adams Mack David
Smith Connor Alexander	Gregson Jacob John	Walker Jeffrey Paul	Leprich Brody Aron	Adams Robert Quincy
Smithcheckett's Micheal W	Pack Fredrick John Jr	Walker Philip Richard	Loyd Scott Michael	Ahlstrom Casey Dwayne
	Shakespear Colton Preston	Walrath Aaron Philip	Mason Tyler David	Aldous Porter Alan
		Welcker Martin Wade	Meacham Joshua Russell	

Anderson Halleyn Bliss	Price Jacob Stewart	Filos Noah Spencer	Wilkins Chad Nicolas	Smith Brady Andrew
Baird Nicholas Dale	Rigtrup Tanner Mark	Frischknecht Dakota Shay	Wilson Kade Hunter	Sennetperales Joe Ignacio
Barker Jacob Ronald	Riley Michael Brandon Jr	Galley Victoria Kathleen	Wiseman Colby Guy	Thompson Anthony Josiah
Barnes Darryl Jordan	Ross Todd Lloydglen	Gerhardt Caleb Matthew	Wolf Ryan Alexander	Wellman Julie Angela
Bedard Megan Lavon	Russell Kaden Kelly	Good Jasper Robert	Woodard Daniel Wyatt	Wilcox Ethan Jess
Benham Trent Richard	Rylant Howie Joseph	Grace Kenneth Arthur	Yazzie Xander Tre	Wilkeshamlin Elenora M
Black Patten David	Salazarcastillo Jesse J	Grundy Addison Maelynn		Wirthlin Quin E
Bradshaw Gary Lee Jr	Schudel Ian James	Hall Christian Duran		Woodard Brendon Guy
Burge Zachary Scott	Semedo Evandro Manuel	Hall Tanner Rockwell		Workman Derek Paul
Burnside Trevor McKay	Sessions Logan Jeremy	Hansen Anthony Sean		Wozab Chandler Damien
Butterfield Jordan Scott	Smith Trevor C	Hansen Michael Brooks		
Calchera Robert Tanner	Smith Tyler Louis	Harter Kellen Luke		
Call McKenzie Zinash	Smithostgaard Gunnar B	Henderson Bryson Edger		
Call Rebecca Jean	Spencer Nathaniel Morgan	Hernandez Ismael Jr		
Clark Kelly Allen	Stein Garik P	Herrera Eduardo III		
Cluff Philip James	Stephenson Jack William	Hollowell Bronco Robert		
Costello Patrick Anderson	Tan Guangyu	Howell Jonah Leo		
Cropper Weston James	Tarma Mijail Benjamin	Jeppson Taylor Lynn		
Day Chase Kristopher	Thomas Kason Bobbi	Johanneson Payton Olivia		
Dickson Matthew Keith	Toledo Camille Marie	Johnson Braxtin D		
Dockstader Kyra Gray	Vanleuven Tamara Elise	Justice James Luke		
Ellis Ian James	Walker Eric Kent	Lang Colten John		
Freeman Kaine Howard	Walker Jaden McKay	Laudie Kayln Aaron		
Friaca Henrique	Warren Cody Dallas	Lawrence Patrick Logan		
Garcia Brandon Daniel	Webb Jessica Valerie	Lindley Matthew Isaac		
George Troyal Waynesmith	Wheelerramynke Keith Gerald	Lindow Jacob Carlgunnar		
Gonzales Alexander Vincent	White Joshua Ryder	Loomis Benjamin Sawyer		
Goold Stanley Mark	Whiteley Riley Scott	Lyman Lauren McCall		
Grondel Bradon Richard	Williams Wyett Scott	Mackay Trapper John		
Hale Dustin Wyatt	Winn Andrew	Marsh Brayden Ray		
Hansen Stockton J	Wiser Mason Anthony	Martinezacuna Fabrizio		
Hatfield Riley Thomas	Woolston Shane Trent	Mayett Daniele		
Heninger Jonathan Glen	Yapias Alex Tyler	McOmie Karsyn Grady		
Herrera Caitlin Theresia	Young Addie Christina	Monago John Albert		
Herrera Leyson Edgardo	Zarrabian Ali	Morley Mason Reid		
Hicken Quinn Alan		Munns Martee C		
Ho Benjamin Yunlin		Murphy Joshua Austin		
Hooper Alexander Coulson		Murphy Trevor Matthew		
Hunsaker Timothy Deem		Nelson Spencer Leon		
Jarnagin Zachary John		Peers Connor Jayden		
Jensen Aaron Thomas		Perez Gino G		
Karwowski Gregory Kawika		Peterson Emilee Madisen		
Leigh David Terrance		Peterson Ernest Connor		
Linville Justin Almer		Repp Casey Austin		
Loftis Jared Benjamin		Ressa David Albert		
Lund Daniel Karl		Roberts Ryan Steven		
Maloblocki Blake Edward		Rogers Douglas Jensen		
Marquez Salvador		Romero Krystian Alexander		
Marx John Luke		Sawyer Dylan James		
Matkin Jordan Chase		Sheeran Isaiah Daniel		
Moe Mitchell Paul		Simpson Caleb Suri		
Newman Ryan Gary		Smith Michael Mason		
Nicholes Kade Jason		Sousa Vania Zuleyma		
Nolan Jacob William		Stockdale Howard Dee		
Okamoto Clinton Yoshio		Walker William Talon		
Olmos Felicia Marie		Warnock Joshua Colman		
Orozcodelvalle Jesus E		Webb Terrell Gordon		
Owens Riley Norman		Weihing Jordan Charles		
Pantaleon Geronimo Medel		Wilcock Tason Wade		
Pintor Andres		Fields Lance Owen		
		Wilde Ryan Joe		

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FLASHBACK PHOTO



Nurses at the Ready!

When the U.S. entered World War I, the Army Nurse Corps had roughly 600 nurses and the American Red Cross had 8,000. The surgeon general asked for volunteers and women responded with more than 22,400 women leaving their homes and families to join the corps, with more than 10,000 having served overseas.

On the battle front, nurses endured rain and snow, harsh living conditions, disease and danger from bombardment. They treated 320,000 American Soldiers with gunshot and shrapnel wounds, gangrene, septicemia, poison gas burns, exposure and shell shock. For their service, these women held no rank and received half what an Army private was paid. But like their male comrades in arms, they volunteered for the duration of the conflict. At war's end, most returned home and were discharged. Many simply resumed their civilian work.

Pictured below: On the home front at General Medical Hospital No. 27, as Fort Douglas was formally designated during 1918-1919, primary concerns for nurses were influenza, rehabilitation and morale. Nurses also supplied excellent medical training and care for Soldiers on the road to recovery.

(Photo courtesy of Fort Douglas Military Museum Collection)

