



Utah
National
Guard

2014
Information
Update

Colonel Journal

Feb. 2014

First Quarter Activities: Army

Field Artillery units in the State of Utah are gearing up for their busy time of year. Units are heavily involved in preparation for upcoming annual training events. Soldiers have been working hard to ensure the howitzers are in excellent working condition, communication procedures are top notch, and fire-mission processing is both safe and accurate. In March, the 65th Fires Brigade will conduct a Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint exercise in Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif. This mission allows the 65th Soldiers to work with the U. S. Navy and combine their fire-support assets.

The 1-145th Field Artillery will conduct training exercises, fire mission walk-through, convoy training, and unit operations in preparation for annual training in June. They will also focus on a new state-directed mission that requires them to take on additional training. Next year they will assume full responsibility of several units within the Homeland Response Force with this year being their train-up year.

The 2-222nd Field Artillery will conduct their artillery live-fire tables, convoy training, and unit operations in preparation for annual training in June. The next few months, training will include radio communications, supply and resupply operations, battery-crew certifications and artillery-maneuver operations. Units will also conduct individual and section-level training and complete services for preventive-maintenance on unit equipment. In January, the 2-222nd was responsible for the annual Redleg Social held in St. George, where the Soldiers enjoyed the practice of the long-lived Artillery traditions.

The 19th Special Forces Group has had a busy start to 2014. Operational Detachment 9125 is deployed to Eglin AFB, Fla., to participate in a HAVE-ACE East training rotation. HAVE-ACE is a Joint Army/Air Force Special Operations training event concentrating heavily on insertion, extraction, and close-air support. The 19th Special Forces Operations Detachment is currently at Camp Bullis, Texas conducting an instructor train-up for a Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat course starting in late January. The Operations Detachment will train and certify approximately 36 Soldiers in close-quarter battle and mission planning.

The 97th Aviation Troop Command recently went through a change of command. In January, Col. Lamar Blair relinquished command to Col. Gordon Behunin. Blair has served in the National Guard and Army Aviation for more than 30 years.

The 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion has had one of the most tumultuous months in the history of the unit as a plan was unveiled that would strip all AH-64D aircraft from the National Guard, Utah's 1-211th ARB included. Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton quickly rose to defend the unit and was seen on most of the major news networks in the state discussing the proposed plan and explaining how this would affect the State of Utah and our National Defense posture. During all of this public awareness battle to "Save the Pirate," unit members managed to continue conducting tactical missions and refresher training. In January, Maj. Ricky Smith took command vice Lt. Col. Greg Hartvigsen of the 1-211th. Smith has been with the 1-211th since he enlisted in the National Guard as a flight operations specialist, serving with the 1-211th on three deployments during the past 12 years and brings a wealth of aviation knowledge to the command.

2-211th Aviation arrives in Kosovo



The 2-211th Aviation participates in a change-of-responsibility ceremony upon arriving in Kosovo.

Join the Corps

Do you know someone that would like to be an Honorary Colonel?

Current members may nominate individuals to join the Corps.

If you are interested, please contact membership coordinator David Gunn at 801-372-4338 or trgunner@comcast.net.

The 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion continues to lean forward with training events despite the recent mobilization of two of its key units, one supporting operations in Kosovo and one in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Despite the felt absence of the two deployed units, 2-211th has a multifaceted training plan that lies ahead which includes diversified training with the 19th Special Forces in March and an upcoming exercise with various elements of active-duty units in early April. The involved missions will incorporate both warfighter and domestic operational tasks that further enhance the operational readiness of the Battalion. These missions will include Medevac/Casevac operations, hoist operations, tactical-troop infiltrations, external-load operations, and paradrop operations. In addition, the Battalion will begin preparing and training for the upcoming fire season by ensuring that aircrews and ground crews are fully qualified and current in Bambi-bucket and wildfire-fighting operations. This has been a skill that has been used consistently over the past several summers with great success.

The 300th Military Intelligence Brigade is engaged in missions across the world. In the next few months Soldiers will train linguistic and intelligence skills in Taiwan, France, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Germany, Cameroon, Greece, Nigeria, and Morocco. On the home front, the 300th MI will host the 25th Annual Language Conference in March. This year's theme is "Excellence in Language." The 300th MI conducted a change-of-responsibility ceremony Jan. 11, where CSM Stephen Vogl assumed responsibility of the Brigade from CSM Lane Wayment. Wayment will retire March 31 after 30 years of distinguished service. On Jan. 12, Vogl was replaced as the 141st MI Battalion command sergeant major by 1SG, soon to be CSM, Kent Warner.

In February, the 142nd MI Battalion begins its pre-deployment training of 32 Soldiers in preparation for a March deployment. They will provide Human Intelligence Collection Teams to the Combined, Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan.

The 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade had approximately 35 Soldiers return to Utah from their 10-month deployment to Afghanistan Jan. 24. Their mission was to conduct base operations and base defense for U.S. military installations in Northern Afghanistan. Additional Soldiers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom will be returning in February from Afghanistan and Kosovo. The 204th has been supporting these missions for the past year and anxiously awaits their return. The 115th Engineer Facilities Detachment members recently deployed to Afghanistan and are doing well. This spring the 1457th Engineer Battalion will be supporting a few rotations to Germany with the 116th and 624th Engineer companies.

204th MEB returns from Afghanistan



Twenty-five Soldiers assigned to the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade returned to Utah from their 10-month deployment to Afghanistan Jan. 24 via commercial aircraft at Salt Lake International Airport.

First Quarter Activities: Air

2014 Annual Dues

\$200

Make Check
out to:

Honorary
Colonels
Corps

Mail to:

Utah National
Guard

Office of the
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General

12953 S.
Minuteman Dr.

Draper, UT
84020

Thank you
for your
continued
support!

The 151st Air Refueling Wing witnessed the passing of two leadership positions during a change-of-command ceremony Jan. 11. Colonel Samuel Ramsay passed the command of the 151st Air Refueling Wing to Col. Darwin Craig, and Chief Master Sgt. Barry Vance assumed responsibilities as the Wing Command Chief. Craig previously served in command positions at the squadron and group level, and has frequently deployed with elements of the Utah Air National Guard, including Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Both the change-of-command and the transfer-of-responsibility ceremonies are rooted in military tradition, allowing troops the opportunity to see the transfer of responsibility, authority, and accountability within their units. After officially receiving command, Craig committed to Air Guardmembers to ensure the success of state and national missions, and those of the Utah National Guard. As the outgoing wing commander, Ramsay had an opportunity to address the assembled Airmen during the ceremony. "I thank each of you for the honor and privilege it has been to stand shoulder to shoulder with you for the past three and a half years, and to represent you as your commander," Ramsay said. "I will always be proud of your accomplishments and my association with you."

Miscellaneous

Major General Jeff Burton traveled to Washington, D.C. in January and will go again in February. He will travel to Morocco with the Utah National Guard delegation as part of the Utah Guard's ongoing State Partnership Program. This year marks the 10th anniversary Utah has been in partnership with the Kingdom of Morocco.

During November, December and January, 75 community-support requests were processed.

Welcome

Major Gen. Burton would like to welcome six new Honorary Colonels who have joined the Corps over the past several months: Richard K. Linton, Patrick A. Shea, BG Dallen S. Atack, Kent A. Cameron, COL (Ret) Bart O. Davis and Don L. Peterson.

151st Air Refueling Wing Change of Command



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton hands off the guide-on to Col. Darwin Craig during a change-of-command ceremony Jan. 11, 2014. Craig took command of the 151st Air Refueling Wing, replacing Col. Samuel Ramsay after three and a half years as wing commander.



Members of the Utah Air and Army National Guard stand at attention during the change-of-command ceremony for the 151st Air Refueling Wing, held in an Air National Guard base hanger Jan. 11, 2014.

The 101st Information Operations Flight is currently supporting the 601st Air Operations Center with preparations to enforce temporary flight restrictions (TFR) during the State-of-the-Union Address in January and Super Bowl LXVIII in February. USAF aircraft will be enforcing a TFR for both events to provide security from any airborne threat. A key component to this enforcement is communicating with the public in general, as well as the general aviation community specifically. Prior operations have proven that this public outreach is effective in preventing TFR violations by private pilots. The 101st has developed a consolidated, talking-points product for both senior leadership and front-line Airmen to use in communicating the goals and purposes of Operation Noble Eagle to these communities.

The 169th Intelligence Squadron began a new adventure October 2013, officially shedding their flight suits for ABU uniforms, as they converted from aircrew members on the SENIOR SCOUT weapon system to ground-based Airmen on the Distributed Common Ground System. While the Squadron has been involved in the Distributed Mission Systems (DMS) community for well over a decade, it is now the Squadron's primary mission and focus. A small contingent of unit members were activated to continue full-time DMS support for missions around the world. As the remainder of the Squadron embraces the conversion, those activated have made their mark in the DMS community as a whole, letting them know that the 169th is fully on-board and ready to excel at its new mission. As Squadron members become qualified on the system, additional missions have

Save the Date

Utah National Guard
Fifty-Third Annual

**Bronze Minuteman
Awards Dinner**

Wednesday, June 11
Little America Hotel
Formal Reception 6:30 p.m.
Complimentary
Dinner 7:30 p.m.



been added, already doubling the number of missions being supported within just a few short months. Squadron leadership has challenged unit members to complete the conversion in one year, a process which normally takes three. This challenge has been accepted and a rigorous training schedule has been embraced, enabling the operators to meet the goal. Additionally, several new crew qualifications and area certifications have been added to the mix, further expanding the unit's capability to fulfill strategic and tactical intelligence needs. Additionally, the torch has been passed to a new commander; Lt. Col. Troy Drennan assumed command in January. Many thanks to the former commander, Lt. Col. Jonathan Boyd; we wish him the best of luck in his new position as the Vice Wing Commander at the 151st Air Refueling Wing.

Utah Air and Army Color Guard Presents Colors at the Utah State Capitol



A Utah Air and Army Color Guard presents colors for the attorney general swearing-in ceremony at the Utah State Capitol Dec. 30, 2013.

Bronze Star Awarded to Brigadier General



Maj. Gen. Jeff Burton presents a Bronze Star to Brig. Gen. David Fountain, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, at the Utah Air National Guard base Jan. 11 for Fountain's meritorious achievement during his deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.