



Utah
National
Guard

2017
Information
Update

Colonel Journal

Feb. 2017

First Quarter Activities: Army

The 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FAB) is preparing for an upcoming Warfighter Exercise (WFX). Preparations include multiple command-post exercises. This includes one in California with the 40th Infantry Division (ID). The 65th FAB will serve as the force-field-artillery headquarters and counter-fire headquarters for the 40th ID during the WFX.

In April, the 65th FAB will conduct a Fleet Synthetic Training-Joint exercise at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif. This mission allows the 65th FAB Soldiers to work with the U.S. Navy and coordinate fire-support resources in a combined/joint environment.

The 1-145th Field Artillery will be conducting crew certification tests and fire-control-alignment tests on its howitzers as they prepare for upcoming live-fire exercises in March and April. The 214th Forward Support Company (FSC) continues its mission in support of the Utah Homeland Response Force. The 214th FSC will be participating in Operation Red Cloud at the Magna rubble pile in March.

The 2-222nd Field Artillery is also preparing for live-fire exercises at Dugway, Utah in both April and May. Preparations include crew certification and safety tests at local training areas. Units will also be conducting individual-weapons qualification during March.

Members of 19th Special Forces Group Airborne, SFG(A), are currently preparing for FY17 missions. The 19th SFG(A) headquarters personnel will conduct rehearsals this quarter in preparation for a Command Post Exercise, in August.

The Tactical Unmanned Aerial Systems Platoon has settled in to its new location in Wendover. This will allow the platoon to fly more frequently using the military airspace associated with Wendover Airfield as it prepares for an upcoming mobilization.

The 1st Battalion is preparing to attend the Joint Readiness Training Center in March to get validated in preparation for a mobilization in support of Central Command.

The Group Support Battalion is preparing to conduct the Static-Line Jump Master's Course. Additionally, support is being provided to the deploying forces with an enabler package and the Mission Support Teams are providing support during the deploying unit's pre-mission training.

The Advanced Skills Company is conducting courses such as Advanced Urban Combat Course, Achilles Dagger and Level II Special Forces Sniper Course.

For Fiscal Year 2017, the higher command's training guidance remains the same and includes language training and increased language capability, Unconventional Warfare skill-set development, senior- and junior-leader development and incorporating combatives into all collective-training events.

The HHD, 97th Aviation Troop Command recently had the opportunity to send a group of 36 Soldiers comprised from subordinate units, to support First Corps (ICORPS) and Japan's Western Army exercise, Yama Sakura 71. Yama Sakura is an annual exercise conducted by ICORPS and rotates yearly between the eight Japanese Ground Defense Forces. Soldiers participated in Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Fort Lewis, Wash., by replicating a Combat Aviation Brigade for the training audience--ICORPS and Japan's Western Army. Soldiers not participating at JBLM

Save the Date

Utah National Guard Fifty-Sixth Annual

**Bronze Minuteman
Awards Dinner**

Thursday, June 22

Little America Hotel

Formal Reception 6:30 p.m.
Complimentary Dinner 7:30 p.m.



were supporting the training audience forward in Kumamoto Japan, acting as liaison officers. Although away from home, 97th Soldiers didn't have to look far to see a familiar face, as many other units outside aviation from the Utah National Guard also participated in Yama Sakura.

The 1-211th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB) began 2017 with new leadership and new challenges, but the same professionalism and standard of excellence that has led to so many successes in the past. On Jan. 7, Lt. Col. Matthew Badell took command of the "Air Pirates" from Lt. Col. Ricky Smith. A pillar of attack aviation in the Utah Army National Guard for many years, Smith's talents have now been called to serve as the Recruiting and Retention Battalion commander. His leadership and expertise will be missed. Badell brings extensive experience and dynamic leadership to the 1-211th, qualities that will be vital to the success of the battalion in the coming years.

In December 2016, members of the 1-211th participated in Yama Sakura 71 at both JBLM and locations in Japan. The extensive, war-simulation exercise provided great experience for many Soldiers to hone their mission-command skills and see the various warfighting functions come together and culminate in large-scale operations. The 1-211th Soldiers in Japan also had the opportunity to experience and learn from the Japanese culture.

This spring the "Air Pirates" will be busy executing multiple, aerial-gunnery exercises. In

February multiple aircraft will travel to Nellis AFB to provide live-fire support to the Joint Tactical Air Controller (JTAC) academy there. Crews will fly multiple sorties each day and night engaging targets with 30mm cannons and rockets while coordinating with ground-based JTACs and fixed-wing, close-air-support platforms. In May, the battalion will conduct its annual, gunnery exercise qualifying aviators in both basic and advanced tables. While executing advanced tables, crews will again train with JTACs and Joint Forward Observers, integrating with ground forces and artillery assets.

In June, the 1-211th will headquarter one of the first, aviation task forces to participate in a National Guard Bureau eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) rotation. The battalion will travel to Fort Pickett, Va., and support the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team in conducting platoon and company validation. This opportunity will allow the battalion to integrate with the 56th in advance of its National Training Center (NTC) rotation together in FY18. Simultaneous to the battalion rotation, Bravo Company will travel to Fort Hood, Texas to support an additional XCTC supporting the 278th Army Brigade Combat Team,



Capt. Thomas and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Smith work with Japan's Western Army during Yama Sakura, in Kumamoto Japan.



Lt. Col. Badell receives the 1-211th guidon from Command Sgt. Maj. Jones, completing the change-of-command ceremony.

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.

also in advance of an FY18 NTC rotation. The 1-211th will be as busy as ever in the coming months, and will continue to prove themselves as one of the premier Attack Reconnaissance Battalions in the Army.

Spring is the season of training for the Soldiers of the 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), as they prepare themselves physically and mentally for annual training and a rotation to the NTC, at Fort Irwin, Calif. The following few months will allow commanders and first sergeants the opportunity to train, evaluate, and prepare their Soldiers for the rigors of mission execution.

During February drill, aircrews will execute multi-ship, sling-load missions in the west desert and hoist training in support of the 213th Forward Support Company in St. George. The 1-112th Security and Support (LUH-72) detachment,

which falls under 2-211th for command and control, will be working with the Davis County Sheriff, Utah State Department of Safety, and Life Flight as part of a search-and-rescue exercise aimed at increasing inter-agency coordination and communication.

In March drill, or Operation March Madness, a comprehensive field-training exercise is planned where each Soldier will be given the opportunity to learn, expand, and prove his/her Soldier-skills. They will qualify with individual weapons; take part in a night-vision, goggle-familiarization fire; execute a communications exercise; discuss improvised-explosive-device tactics; and participate in round-robin Army warrior-task and battle-drill lanes, testing their physical endurance and mental toughness. These skills will be imperative to successful AT and NTC operations. Soldiers will be given the opportunity to enjoy "full-field" conditions, including tents, port-o-johns, MREs, and a gas-chamber refresher. Final preparations for AT including pre-combat inspections, operations-order briefings, and the Army Physical Fitness Test will take place during April drill as the training phase of FY17 ends and the execution phase begins.

Members of 97th Troop Command will be traveling to Morocco for the final training event prior to the full-scale Morocco Mantlet 2017. The focus of this next engagement will be logistics

Sgt. Worthington, 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, helps to pull a "man-down" casualty from the hot zone during Nevada's Vigilant Guard.



The 97th Troop Command Disaster Preparedness Program engagement, "breaching and breaking" techniques being practiced by the Royal Armed Forces of Morocco with the support of Soldiers from Utah Task Force 1.



2017 Annual Dues

\$200

**Make Check
out to:**

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84020**

**Thank you for
your continued
support!**

within the Incident Command System framework, Confined-Space Entry, and Patient Packaging for confined-space rescue. The Morocco Mantlet 2017 scenario will be based on an earthquake and the ensuing floods and disaster that may come with it. Morocco shares many of the same natural disaster threats that we do in Utah.

The 23rd Army Band (AB) and its brass quintet began the year by performing at the Gubernatorial Inauguration. The brass quintet will perform again at the Red Leg Social on Jan. 28 in Cedar City and on Feb. 11 at the Viridian Center in West Jordan. The 23rd AB just finished moving from its temporary location, and is now at its permanent location at the newly renovated Jake Garn Armory in West Jordan.

The 85th Civil Support Team (CST) just returned from Hawaii, supporting the commemorative events of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The CST also supported the 2017 Utah Gubernatorial Inauguration. As the threat has increased at public events, so has military support to ensure the public's safety. The CST continues its support to the local HAZMAT responders, and providing assistance at the University of Utah basketball games this season. While continuing to train and provide real-world assistance across the region, CST Soldiers also need to ensure everything is properly documented. In February, the CST will have an in-depth inspection conducted by the Standardization Evaluation and Assistance Team, a national-level, evaluation team from National Guard Bureau.

The 115th Maintenance Company will be decommissioning and casing its colors on Aug. 30, 2017. The 115th has spent the last few months turning in equipment and transferring Soldiers to other units. The 115th was originally federalized Apr. 28, 1939. It went through several reorganizations in the 1940s, 1952, 1961, 1967, and 1971, before being designated on Oct. 1, 1978, as the 115th Maintenance Company. The 115th participated in Central Burma and India-Burma campaigns during World War II, and was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) Streamer for its service in Iraq 2005-2006 during the War on Terrorism. As we say goodbye to the 115th, we welcome the new Cyber Protection Team that is currently standing up. The team will be the latest addition to Troop Command, and our defense against cyber threats.

The 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment will be providing journalism, photography, and videography support for a long tour in Belize. The 128th will be supporting "Beyond the Horizon 2017" from Mar. 4 through Jul. 1, 2017. This U.S. Army South mission will be its largest mission for the year, but the 128th will still be providing coverage for several local events throughout 2017.

In March, the 300th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade will host its 28th Annual Language Conference in Draper, Utah. This annual event has become a premiere, training event for language professionals throughout the National Guard and regular Army. This year's event features a theme of "A Global Discussion" and will feature keynotes from the Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G2 as well as experts of U.S. Foreign Policy to discuss the role of language and cultural proficiency.

A highlight of the conference will be a panel discussion featuring experts on Russia, China, and North Korea who will discuss the geopolitical positioning of these countries. These discussions will provide the linguists of the 300th with unique perspective and tools for the continued developing of their language skills. The 300th MI remains active in fulfilling

Save the Date!

All members encouraged to attend

**Honorary Colonels Corps
Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
12:00-1:00 p.m.**

**Utah National Guard Headquarters (UTNG HQ)
12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper**

Box lunch will be provided, courtesy of Zions Bank

**A tour of the UTNG HQ is optional after the meeting
for those interested. You are welcome to bring a
friend that may be interested in joining the Corps.**

Additional meeting details will be emailed.

its mission to provide intelligence and language support to military operations throughout the world. In November, the brigade welcomed back members of the Multi-Component Unit that supported the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. The Soldiers are now home with their families and have rejoined battalions within the 300th. At the same time, the brigade deployed another 24 Soldiers to Iraq in support of counterintelligence operations.

Through the end of 2016 and into 2017, the 300th MI Brigade will also provide language support to numerous overseas training missions. These missions will include training locations in Japan, Korea, Cameroon, Morocco, Ghana, Italy, Djibouti, Mauritius and Thailand, as well as local support locations in Florida and Texas.

Staff sections in the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (MEB) have recently been conducting training exercises in the Military Decision-Making Process and refining Command Post of the Future skills in preparation for a Warfighter Exercise with the 40th Infantry Division in June 2017.

Members of the 1457th Engineer Battalion, the 204th MEB and the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade joined together for another successful Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) engagement in Morocco this past December. Great progress was made on construction of HMA training area facilities and the brigade anticipates using these facilities for the next training engagement in March 2017.

The 1457th Engineer Battalion begins preparation for force-structure changes this year. The Army has mandated that the 116th Engineer Company (Horizontal Construction) and the 118th



Miscellaneous

Maj. Gen. Burton will be traveling to Washington, D. C. for meetings with National Guard Bureau; to Carlisle, Penn. for African Command meetings; to Chicamauga, Tenn. for the annual staff ride; and to Agadir, Morocco to attend the African Lion Exercise.

During November, December and January, 64 community support requests and 235 military funeral honors requests were processed.

Welcome

Major Gen. Burton would like to welcome Col. (Ret.) Lawrence A. Schmidt as the newest member of the Corps. Col. Schmidt recently retired from the Utah Army National Guard where he served in his last assignment as the U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer.

Sapper Company fold its flags in September 2017. The remaining line Company, the 624th Engineer Company (Vertical Construction), will change its configuration, too, by adding an equipment platoon consisting of horizontal-engineer assets and Soldiers. The engineer company will then be reflagged as the new 116th Engineer Company (Construction), which will allow it to retain all of the 116th lineage and honors inside the 1457th Engineer Battalion and the Utah Army National Guard.

Finally, the 489th Brigade Support Battalion conducted a battalion change of command on Jan. 22. Lt. Col. Richard Shuck completed a successful command, preparing the battalion for its upcoming annual training at Dugway Proving Ground in May. Shuck relinquished command to Lt. Col. Woodrow Miner. Shuck then replaced Miner as the 204th MEB deputy commander.

Engineers from the 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and 97th Troop Command stand in partnership with The Moroccan Army (USS) and Marine Forces Africa at the ground breaking of the new Humanitarian Mine Action Training Facility in Kenitra, Morocco, December 2016.

First Quarter Activities: Air

On Jan. 21, the Utah Air National Guard (UTANG) hosted the Annual Airmen of the Year awards banquet at the Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley. The event honors outstanding Airmen and their contributions to the UTANG mission. Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force (Ret) Gerald R. Murray served as keynote speaker, and attendees included a number of Air Force and Army senior leaders. The winners are: Airman of the Year, Sr. Airman Dakota Trujillo; Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year, Staff Sgt. Chris Cook; Senior NCO of the Year, Master Sgt. Shatiece Werner; Company Grade Officer of the Year, Capt. Jesse Barber; Field Grade Officer of the Year, Maj. Sasha Perrone; Civilian of the Year, Ms. Jackie Ezell; Honor Guard Member of the Year, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Belgard; and First Sergeant of the Year, Master Sgt. Rik Ombach.

In April, the Utah Air National Guard will send 65 participants to African Lion, an annually scheduled, bilateral U.S. and Moroccan-sponsored exercise designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of African partner-nation tactics, techniques and procedures. Personnel

from Morocco, the United States, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom, Tunisia, Germany, Senegal, Mauritania, and France are also scheduled to attend. Previous exercises involved various types of training to include: command post, live fire and maneuvering, peace-keeping operations, an intelligence-capacity-building seminar, aerial refueling/low-level-flight training, as well as medical and dental assistance projects.

Utah Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Edwards retired during January drill weekend after 27 years of military service. Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general, served as presiding official in front of an auditorium full of distinguished military and civilian guests. Chief Edwards began his career as an ASR radar maintenance technician and later became the wing's human-resource advisor for the 151st Air Refueling Wing where he advised the commander on force management, force development and diversity. Three years later, he was selected as the state human-resource manager, advising the assistant adjutant general for Air on the same issues at a headquarters level. He assumed the state command chief position in January 2013. Chief Master Sgt. Brian Garrett has now assumed these responsibilities.



Maj. Kirk Drennan performs a preventative-vision screening during the 2015 African Lion exercise in Morocco. More than 740 pairs of glasses were issued during the five-day exercise and more than 800 patients were seen by the optometry division.



Maj. Gen. Jefferson Burton, adjutant general, presents the Legion of Merit to Chief Master Sgt. Mike Edwards who served the military for 27 years before retiring in January.