

## **LEAVITT NAMES DEAN AT SUU ADJUTANT UTAH GUARD GENERAL**

Laurie Sullivan

**The Salt Lake Tribune.** Salt Lake City, Utah: May 18, 1994. pg. B.3

*Copyright Salt Lake Tribune May 18, 1994*

It has been a momentous week for Jim Miller.

The dean of the college of education at Southern Utah University got married last Friday.

On Tuesday, he was named the 16th adjutant general of the Utah National Guard.

Gov. Mike Leavitt looked to his hometown of Cedar City to make the appointment, tapping a two-star general with contacts and credentials in higher education and national defense.

"They couldn't have gotten a better qualified person for this job," said SUU President Gerald Sherratt.

The 57-year-old general, a native of Parowan, joined the Army Guard as a youth of 17 and rose through the enlisted ranks.

He attended Officer Candidate School in 1959 with another gung-ho young soldier who made good -- Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The two later served as battalion commanders together and have remained friends.

"Our careers had crossed, but now he's kind of pulled away from me," Miller joked.

Connections in high places would be nothing new for a Utah Guard chief.

Miller is succeeding retiring Maj. Gen. John Matthews, who in 12 years as adjutant general served in a variety of posts -- including president of the National Guard Association of the United States -- that placed him in the company of the highest defense officials.

Matthews was the only Air National Guard officer to hold the adjutant post.

Miller hails from the Army artillery side.

He will step down from his university position in August and assume command of the 7,300-member Guard Oct. 1.

Miller made his mark militarily in artillery and training.

As deputy commanding general of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command from January 1989 to August 1992, Miller was the No. 2 man in charge of training for the entire Army -- active, reserve and Guard.

Prior to that he was commander of I Corps Artillery -- with responsibility for one-third of all Army artillery forces.

Most recently, Miller has been assigned to the Army Reserve Control Group, an inactive administrative structure that served as a "holding area" until he received his next assignment.

Now he's got it.

As Utah's adjutant general, Miller said, his mission will be twofold: guaranteeing the governor that the Guard is available for any emergency and enabling the governor to assure the president that the Utah Guard is trained and ready to augment active-duty forces in times of war or national emergency.

"That mission never changes," he said.

In his civilian life, Miller has served as a teacher, principal, college professor and dean.

One of his elementary pupils years ago was a future governor -- Mike Leavitt. Miller had Leavitt as a student again for high school civics and later recruited him into the National Guard - where the governor was a fire direction officer and Miller his tank commander.

"For quite a while I drove his jeep," Leavitt joshed during the announcement.

"Now he'll drive mine."

Among the challenges will be guiding the Guard through defense downsizing.

Late last year the Pentagon announced a restructuring plan for the Guard and Reserves that would cut 127,000 positions and more clearly delineate the emphasis of both -- with the Guard concentrating on combat and the Reserve focusing on combat support.

Miller said that could mean more personnel cuts in the Beehive State.

But the new adjutant general intends to remind Pentagon planners that the Utah Guard is among the best in the nation.