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invites U.S. Army to participate in multilateral exercise

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U.S., Kuwait forces demonstrate might during Desert Observer II exercise

ON THE COVER



Dismounted soldiers of the Kuwait Land Force await orders to advance on their objective during a joint live-fire exercise with Mississippi National Guard's 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team on Dec. 12, 2018. Desert Observer, a biannual event conducted as part of Task Force Spartan, is an exercise that integrates a three-stage planning process, a dry run-through and a joint live-fire exercise geared toward increasing interoperability and cohesiveness between the U.S. and Kuwaiti land forces. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker, with illustration by 1st. Lt. Eric Jungels)

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TASK FORCE SPARTAN

Commanding General Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell

Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hjelmstad

Major Units

34th Red Bull Infantry Division 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team 18th Field Artillery Brigade 20th Engineer Brigade 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment 242nd Ordnance Battalion 158th Military Engagement Team



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This publication is produced by the 34th Red Bull

Task Force Spartan is a unique, multi-component organization, made up of active Army and National Guard units, rounded out by U.S. Army Reserve support units.

Through Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), Task Force

aviation, logistics, force protection and information activities such as key leader engagements, joint exercises, conferences, symposia and humanitarian assistance/disaster response planning.

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updates about missions, activities and events of Task Force Spartan, or any supporting units, visit us online at the following locations:

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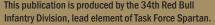
SPARTAN SENTINEL

Public Affairs Officer Maj. David Adams

Deputy Public Affairs Officer 1st Lt. Eric Jungels

Division Public Affairs Team

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Houtkooper Sgt. Bill Boecker Spc. Linsey Williams Spc. Samantha Petersen



Spartan maintains a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia sufficient to strengthen our defense relationships and build partner capacity.

Units supporting OSS provide capabilities such as management, and facilitate theater security cooperation

For high-resolution photos and video, and for more

2019, I reemphasize to Task Force Spartan the importance of safety. As we conduct our daily operations and execute missions in support of Operation Spartan Shield, I ask everyone to make risk mitigation a high priority.

s we transition operations into

The cyclical nature of deployments creates the need for leaders to focus on safety and risk management. At the start of unit deployments, Soldiers experience increased risk as they adjust to new operational environments, teams and equipment. As units begin to "see the light at the end of the tunnel" in the final phases of a deployment, increased risk exists due to complacency.

Managing risk and ensuring the safety of Soldiers requires engaged leaders at all levels. Assessing hazards and implementing controls to mitigate risk should be a deliberate and active

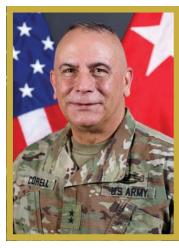
SOLDIER SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

I ask all members of Task Force Spartan to remain vigilant and be aware of their surroundings. Leaders, do your risk assessments and be present to supervise activities. Every member of the task force should feel empowered to stop an unsafe act when they see it happening.

I value every member of this great team. Ensuring we have correctly managed risk in all that we do is critical to our mission and key to our success. (§)





Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell

Commander Task Force Spartan



The 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team conducted an "Uncoil" training event in December 2018. The brigade demonstrated its agility by moving all of the unit's battalions, in concert, out of Camp Buehring and into the Kuwaiti desert to conduct training, (U.S. National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)



@TheRedBulls f (in @TheRedBulls34id @







"We have initial, mid, and final planning conferences, where we meet with [KLF] leaders, go over our commanders' training objectives to make sure they meet up; and we put together an exercise that enables me and my Kuwaiti partners to meet our training objective," Cooksey said.

Each exercise is designed to increase interoperability and cohesiveness between U.S. and Kuwaiti land forces, while sharpening defense and warfighting capabilities.

"To get together and do a joint live-fire exercise increases our lethality, increases their lethality and proves that if needed we can fight tonight as one cohesive unit," Cooksey said.

Kuwaiti leaders echoed Cooksey's remarks.

It gives both organizations a chance to refine defense practices and prepare for "any action" from enemies who would "attack our country from the air, sea or land," said Lt. Col. Abdullah Rashed Almaimoni, staff officer of the KLF's 26th Battalion.

"It's a great opportunity training-wise, but it's also a great cultural experience," Cooksey said of the training with the Kuwaiti forces.

Almaimoni agreed. "We would like to welcome all the Americans to connect and speak with us."







To get together and do a joint live-fire exercise increases our lethality, increases their lethality and proves that if needed we can fight tonight as one cohesive unit.

Lt. Col. Chris Cooksey
Commander
2nd Battalion (Combined Arms), 198th Armor Regiment.







Do you have photos you would like us to consider for inclusion in the **Spartan Sentine!**? Send your high-resolution pictures and photo captions to eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil.









MEETING OF THE MINDS

Kuwait Land Force, U.S. Army representatives meet to discuss, plan Desert Leopard II exercise

> **Story by 1st Lt. Eric Jungels** 34th Red Bull Infantry Division

epresentatives and exercise planners of the Kuwait Land Force and U.S. Army convened Dec. 26 at the KLF's headquarters in Kuwait City to discuss planning considerations for an upcoming military exercise.

Kuwait has invited U.S. Soldiers of Task Force Spartan to participate in Desert Leopard II, the second iteration of what will now be a multilateral training exercise led by Kuwait that includes U.S. and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partner troops.

"The Kuwait Land Force extended an invitation to Task Force Spartan, and we jumped at the opportunity to train with multiple regional partners," said Maj. Chris Metzger, Task Force Spartan training and exercise chief. "Kuwait is leading the exercise, and we're doing

everything we can to support this opportunity for growth — in both our warfighting capacity and our relationships with key partner nations."

Desert Leopard II will provide participants an opportunity to execute various command and control decisions as part of a combined headquarters element.

"This exercise fits perfectly with our objectives here," Metzger said. "We're operating throughout the Middle East in ways that increase military readiness and capability, with an overarching goal of maintaining regional stability and expanding regional partnerships."

The task force's training and exercise (TREX) team, which Metzger leads, contributes heavily to Task Force Spartan's mission by planning and coordinating U.S. logistics and

Representatives and exercise planners of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, the lead element of Task Force Spartan, met with officers of the Kuwait Land Force Dec. 26 at the KLF's headquarters in Kuwait.





personnel needs for a number of exercises, training events. seminars and engagements designed to strengthen defense relationships and enhance military readiness with U.S. partners in the region.

"In the end, we expect Desert Leapord to have a positive effect on important defense relationships," Metzger said. "Our land forces, and the land forces of our partners, will benefit from the chance to rehearse the leadership and command activities that allow us to build and direct combat power in times of crisis."

By Sgt. Emily Finn

35th Combat Aviation Brigade

ooking out to a vast horizon, where the brown, sandy dunes of Kuwait's desert meet the blue sky, appears a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter with a red cross on the door. The red cross is an international sign of medical assistance and a sign of hope for those in need.

Flying through the skies, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Regiment, Minnesota Army National Guard, currently assigned to the 1st Battlion, 108th Assault Helicopter Regiment, Kansas Army National Guard, is deployed to the Middle

"Charlie Company provides medical evacuation to ground force commanders in an area of operation," said U.S. Army Maj. Nathan Burr, commander of C Company.

As one of two aeromedical evacuation companies supporting the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade, Missouri Army National Guard, the medevac unit has a particularly critical mission. It provides all aeromedical evacuation aid in Kuwait, supporting all U.S. Department of Defense branches.

C Company, nicknamed Northstar Dustoff, has completed more than twice the number of medevac missions as their predecessor, in nearly half the time. "For us it's good, because we're flying and doing missions," said Burr. "It doesn't mean more people are getting hurt. I think it just means more people understand what our capabilities are."

Upon arrival in theater, the Northstar Dustoff command began spreading word of their operational capabilities to units in Camp Buehring, as well as

MED101, C Company uses aeromedical Northstar Dustoff maintains these evacuation rehearsals and other training to familiarize units with the aeromedical helicopter and crews' capabilities.

An example of this type of training was a recent rehearsal conducted to prepare U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, and Task Force Spartan for Operation Desert Observer II, a combined training exercise between U.S. and Kuwaiti land forces, Dec. 11, 2018. The training offered other units a chance to practice calling in a medical evacuation request and loading patients into and out of a helicopter.

The unit also provides transport of patients from the Troop Medical Clinic at Camp Beuhring to the hospital at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. A mission, previously conducted by ground medical evacuation crews, could take an ambulance team nearly six hours to complete. C Company can complete the task and be ready for another mission

abilities with a fleet of UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters and nearly 60 personnel.

The UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters are modified to carry all the medical equipment you would see in the back of an ambulance. Equipped to hold up to three litters or four ambulatory patients, the helicopters are pre-staged to a standard configuration, which allows all crewmembers to know exactly where medical equipment is kept for easy access. Burr said the teams regularly conduct hip-pocket training, asking each other to identify locations of various items during routine flights to maintain familiarity.

Due to the nature of their missions. all personnel assigned to C Company receive additional training to enable continuity in the back of the helicopter and maintain their flight status.

Medevac pilots attend a medical evacuation doctrine course, which teaches the basics of medical

East in support of Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve. other camps in the vicinity. Known as in less than two hours. evacuation. Knowing these procedures continued on page 18 U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Regiment, Minnesota Army National Guard, and the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, pull a patient from a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter during an aeromedical evacuation rehearsal at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 11, 2018. The rehearsal was conducted to prepare for Operation Desert Observer II, a combined arms live-fire exercise with Task Force Spartan and the Kuwait Land Force, to validate protocols and strengthen communications between the ground teams and aviation assets. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Emily Finn)

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allows a better understanding of the overall mission.

Crew chiefs are not mandated by regulation to complete medical training. However, the unit requires all team members to complete combat life saver training so they can assist the paramedics during flights, if needed. Many of them continue their training to receive a basic EMT certification so they can provide additional assistance, said Burr.

In order to become a flight paramedic, healthcare specialists must be a qualified civilian paramedic and able to pass a flight physical. When a vacancy within the unit is open, qualified personnel can apply for it, go before a review board and then, upon acceptance, attend flight training held at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Flight paramedics complete nearly 11 months of training before they are fully qualified.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schneir, a platoon sergeant, joined the unit in 2012. Like other flight paramedics assigned to C Company, Schneir works as a paramedic for the city of Rochester, Minnesota, when he is not on military duty.

"Flying is the reason I joined the Army," said Schneir, "I can treat patients in the civilian world. I can treat patients on the ground ambulance, but flying was the ultimate goal I had."

Northstar Dustoff has completed over 60 aeromedical evacuations since August 2018. They have also operated at three different sites in the Middle East supporting Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve.

"Our medics do this because they love helping people," said Burr. "They love their service. They love taking care of people. I'm slightly biased, but the medevac mission, to me, is the best mission in the military because we don't take lives. We save them."





Army CAC Certificate REDUCTION AND REALIGNMENT PLAN

What is it?

The Common Access Card (CAC) Certificate Reduction and Realignment Plan modifies the certificates on the CAC to streamline authentication functions under one certificate.

The plan entails modifying the certificates currently stored on the CAC as follows:

- Remove the ID certificate
- Realign the email-signing certificate to perform signature functions only
- Activate the Personal Identity Verification (PIV) authentication certificate to perform all authentication

What are the current and past efforts of the Army?

The Army has chosen to lead the way and implement the transition ahead of the DOD mandate. This proactive approach will ensure mission readiness by preparing Army personnel and IT resources (e.g., networks, systems, applications, etc.). Approximately two-thirds of all Army CAC holders will meet the following conditions and will be required to activate their PIV authentication certificate:

- CAC was issued prior to February 24, 2018.
- CAC has an expiration date of after the Army transition deadline of March 31, 2019.

The DMDC RAPIDS Self-Service ID Card Office Online provides instructions to activate the PIV authentication certificate no later than March 31, 2019.

What are the continued efforts planned by the Army?

The Army will continue to provide additional information on the DOD CAC Certificate Reduction and Realignment Plan, transition timelines and actions Army users and system owners must take to successfully realign and reduce CAC certificates across the Army.

Why is this important to the Army?

The Army CAC Certificate Reduction and Realignment Plan streamlines authentication functions under the PIV authentication certificate and improves operational effectiveness and the Army's cybersecurity posture.

The plan will expand, deepen and operationalize interoperability across the DOD and other U.S. Federal government agencies to seamlessly integrate system access and information sharing.

What does this mean for Soldiers?

Replacement of CACs will occur through the normal life cycle purpose. Users are not required to obtain a new CAC for the sole purpose of having an activated PIV authentication certificate. Soldiers should continue to use and protect their CACs as usual.

More seamlessly integrated systems and immediate, ondemand access to information ensures the force maintains an operational advantage against near-per adversaries and is ready to fight tonight.

PRIVATE BOKER

COMICS by Pfc. Ali-Cat Larson

Meanwhile... Private Boker at the M-4 zero range. SPORTS!!! Sergeant! My weapon is JAMMED!! Right now seems like a ...sigh. terrible time to talk about competitive physical

SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

activities!!

Pfc. Ali-Cat Larson's comic follows the experiences, adventures and silliness of Pfc. Boker. Share your ideas for **Private Boker!** Send comic concepts to eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil.

THE COMMUNIQUE TASK FORCE SPARTAN CYBERSECURITY UPDATE



SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY AND PHISHING AWARENESS

By Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Deutschman



So, you want to be a social media warrior? Well strap on your cell phone, log into your favorite social media site, and let's look into why you might be a target.

The popularity of social media has exploded in recent years, enabling people around the world — including deployed Soldiers — to share their life experiences. This has also enabled adversaries to collect and analyze information from our military community. Terrorists, cyber criminals, and foreign intelligence services use social media as a weapon against our military personnel and government agencies, to collect information or even target them and their families. So what can we do to prevent ourselves from becoming targets?

One obvious response is to stop using social media, but that may be too extreme for many. Plus, you would lose out on the benefits of communicating with your friends and family. I am not advocating stopping social media use (although it might not be a bad idea to close accounts you rarely use); instead, I'm going to talk about using social media responsibly, while protecting yourself, your family and fellow military members.

The first way to protect yourself is to stop and think before you post: will it compromise personal information, locations of U.S. forces, military operations, family, friends, or other sensitive information? What we post about our daily activities and routines may seem normal or innocent to us, but to our adversaries, it's potentially a gold mine of intelligence. Do not post pictures of secure facilities, compounds, coordinates or anything that may compromise OPSEC for military operations.

If posting pictures of military events, make sure you have the OK from the military members in the picture. Unfortunately, the adage is true: once posted online, anything posted in the digital world is forever.

Second, ensure your digital profiles are locked down so they are visible only to your friends, so that the general public can't see personal information or pictures. Minimize the personal details in your profiles.

Third, be aware of phishing. This attack can take many forms, from general conversation to emails prying or trying to get you to divulge personal, monetary and military information. If you do not know the individual contacting you, the message is filled with grammatical errors, it asks you to click a link or divulge a password, or it's suspicious in any other way, contact your network security team. Task Force Spartan members have been targeted for phishing on both their military and civilian email accounts.

Keeping yourself, your unit and our military information safe is part of your responsibility as a service member. Do your part: lock down your social media account, delete unused accounts and watch for suspicious emails.

For more help on locking down your social media accounts, visit https://dodcio.defense.gov/Social-Media/SMEandT/. For information on the Army's social media standards and conduct, visit https://www.army.mil/socialmedia/soldiers/or the Department of Defense social media hub at https://dodcio.defense.gov/Social-Media/.

SPARTAN NOTES

HAVE A MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE SPARTAN?

Send information you'd like considered for inclusion in the **Spartan Sentinel** to eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil.



Inspector General

TASK FORCE SPARTAN

What is **Destructive** Leadership?

Destructive leadership styles, often called "toxic" leadership, compromise organizational effectiveness and discourage subordinates from continuing Army service. In a variety of ways these styles undermine mutual trust and impede mission accomplishment. The higher the rank the more damaging destructive leadership can be.

The five destructive leadership styles defined by the Army are:

- 1) Incompetent managers possess inadequate cognitive or emotional fitness or have inadequate prior experience to function at their level. These leaders are incapable of moving from tactical to strategic thinking and have difficulty making decisions in a timely manner.
- 2) Affable non-participant leaders are interpersonally skilled, and intellectually sound but incapable of taking charge, making decisions, providing timely guidance, and holding subordinates accountable.
- 3) Insensitive driven achiever leaders are usually bright and energetic and consumed by need for unit accomplishment and attendant recognition. Produce impressive short term results, but micromanage climates. They lead with little to no regard for morale of their organization.

4) Toxic self-centered abuser leaders are also bright and energetic, goaloriented and boss-focused. They are capable of producing spectacular short-term results, but they are arrogant, abusive, intemperate, and distrusting. They are micro-managers with zero regard for introspection.

5) Criminal individuals may be energetic, bright, and charismatic but they cheat. lie, steal, defraud, and assault.

To produce an Army of trusted nondestructive leaders who adapt and win in a complex world, the Army has identified core leader competencies that pertain to all levels of leadership, both military and civilian. Core leader competencies are related leader behaviors that lead to successful performance, are common throughout the organization and are consistent with the organizational mission and the Army Ethic.

Non-destructive leaders display the Army's core competencies: leads others, extends influence beyond the chain of command, leads by example, communicates, fosters esprit de corps, prepares self, develops others, gets results, steward the profession, and builds trust.

For additional information on destructive leadership reference Army Regulation 600-100 para1-11 pg.7. (\$)



In late December, news reached us here in Kuwait that it was snowing heavily back home and the wind was blowing to the point that visibility was almost zero. A young spouse got off work and made her way to her car and wondered how she was going to make it home. She sat in her car while it warmed up and thought about her situation. She finally remembered her father's advice that if she got caught in a blizzard she should wait for a snow plow to come by and follow it. That way she would not get stuck in the snow drift.

34th Red Bull Infantry Division

This made her feel much better, and sure enough, in a little while a snow plow went by and she started to follow it. As she followed the snow plow she was feeling very proud of herself as they continued and she was not having any problem with the blizzard conditions.

After quite some time had passed she was somewhat surprised when the snow plow stopped and the driver got out and came back to her car and signaled for her to roll down her window. The snow plow driver wanted to know if she was all right as she had been following him for a long time.

She said that she was fine and told him about her advice to follow a snow plow when caught in a blizzard. The driver replied that it was OK with him and she could continue if she wanted but he was done with the WalMart parking lot and was going over to COSTCO next!

Scripture says that there is a way that seems right to humanity which only leads to destruction. We are encouraged to seek God's kingdom and righteous living and THEN our needs (family, emotional, social, spiritual, physical) will be met in a divine manner that isn't limited by our meager ability to produce lasting results.

Be encouraged: As we transition and face the unknowns of the New Year, let's be careful that we don't get so caught up in one course of action that we completely miss the other opportunities and ways we can move forward from here! As leaders, sometimes the best option is to plow through this life making a new path!



To receive E4I on a weekly basis, send an email to encouragementforinfluencers@gmail.com

"If you are a leader, you should never forget that everyone needs encouragement. And everyone who receives it - young or old, successful or less-than-successful, unknown or famous - is changed by it."

- John Maxwell

Above, a plow clears snow Dec. 6, 2018, at Fort McCoy, Wis. Fort McCoy's snow-removal team keeps more than 400 miles of roads, sidewalks, and parking areas clear so the Fort McCoy workforce can operate safely. (U.S. Army Photo by Scott T. Sturkol, Public Affairs Office, Fort McCoy, Wis.)





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