



SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 / ISSUE 4

THE ANVIL INSIDER



A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by Cpl. Kyle Tanner

WORK IN MIDDLE EAST BEGINS

Soldiers are taking their positions at various locations in the region. Soldiers with Charlie Company, 628th ASB are working hard to get the brigade connected, and that all networks and systems are in working order. Read more about C Co's efforts, including a message from the C Co commander in the 628th ASB section.



Photo by Spc. Jason Kopp

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- CSA praises Guard
- Battalion Updates



Photo by Spc. Jason Kopp

TF Anvil "jells" into a great organization, wraps up training at Fort Hood with successful culminating training exercise

Warrant Officer Joanna Bradshaw, a UH-60 pilot with Alpha Company, 1-137th AHB describes air assault mission planning as a highly detailed task. She adds that Army aviation in general is a complex, reactive and multifaceted endeavor.

Given the complexity of running an Army aviation brigade in a deployed environment, it made the 28th ECAB's final exercise at Fort Hood all the more vital.

"Since the 28th ECAB is spread across nine states, support and command assets rarely get the chance to tackle missions as an organic element," said Bradshaw. "I can only speak for myself, but the time I spent at Fort Hood was challenging and greatly improved my crew coordination and mission planning skills."

The final training mission involved planning an air assault, bringing together all parts of the brigade together. Successfully completing that mission validated the brigade's ability to carry out necessary combat missions while overseas.

"We were able to bring nine different states together and, within a relatively short period of time, jelled into a great organization," said Col. Howard Lloyd, commander of the 28th ECAB.





A letter from the brigade commander



Photo by Sgt. Ted Brawn

Soldiers and Families,

Everyone has someone from back home that they wish they could see and spend time with right now. Many Soldiers are away from their spouse or significant other, and many are missing watching their children grow.

I understand the pain of separation some families are enduring and I am humbled by everyone's sacrifices to this point.

I, too, wish that I could see my wife before we embark on our overseas mission.

However, as I mentioned in a video to the FRG a couple months ago and as per guidance given to each Soldier, we are not authorized to leave our mobilization site or take a pass to spend time with loved ones before heading overseas. This is due to COVID-19 precautions from the Department of the Army, to ensure the overall health and safety of our Soldiers.

Nevertheless, please know that staying connected to your loved ones is a priority. The first thing I plan to do when I get overseas is make sure Soldiers have opportunities to send or receive mail and have reliable ways to call home.

We will also continue to keep our families informed daily through our brigade Facebook page, newsletters or video messages. If you are not aware of those things, please let us or your FRG leader know.

After training here for two months, I can confidently say that our Soldiers are well-trained and ready, and I pray that we will send them all home safely at the end of their deployment.

Wings of Iron!

Col. Howard Lloyd
Commander, 28th ECAB

CSA: When called on, Guard Soldiers succeed in the 'toughest places'

By Sean Kimmons, Army News Service



Photos by Spc. Jessica de la Torre

WASHINGTON -- During a late July visit to the National Training Center in California, the Army's chief of staff said he met a Soldier who embodied what the National Guard is all about.

Assigned to the 34th Infantry Division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, the Soldier had been with his unit as part of the first NTC rotation under COVID-19 conditions, said Gen. James C. McConville.

As a civilian, the Guardsman managed several grocery stores in Minnesota. Despite one of his stores being damaged following the death of George Floyd in May, he remained committed to his unit, which had responded to the civil unrest, the COVID-19 pandemic and now prepared for a deployment to the Middle East.

"These are the incredible people you have in your formations," McConville said Friday during the U.S. National Guard Association's annual conference. "They're proving the purpose of the National Guard is to protect your fellow neighbors and communities, while also defending the nation.

"The Army could absolutely not do what it does without the National Guard, and I would say this year that is even more true."

In early June, nearly 100,000 Guardsmen were activated to support homeland operations -- almost twice as many than the previous record during the 2005 Hurricane Katrina response, according to the National Guard Bureau.

At the height of the pandemic, McConville and other senior leaders visited many of these Soldiers as they quickly mobilized to alternate care sites and civilian hospitals to provide medical and logistics support for overburdened health care workers.

At one point, Guardsmen even came to the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts, to help staff care for retirees and veterans, McConville said.

"Throughout the entire country, you went to the toughest places at very difficult times," he said. "When you were needed, you were there. And you should be very proud of that, because we certainly are."

Talent management

The general also credited the National Guard for completing the roll out of the new Integrated Personnel and Pay System-Army. IPPS-A will eventually unite all three components on the 21st century talent management system, making it easier for leaders to track and manage talent.

"We're going to take the lessons that were learned from this and apply it to the Reserves and regular Army," he said.

McConville believes the new system will remedy the pay and personnel issues that some Guardsmen had when they were activated.

"I can envision where Soldiers are moving from components [more efficiently] when we need certain skill sets," he said.

State Partnership Program

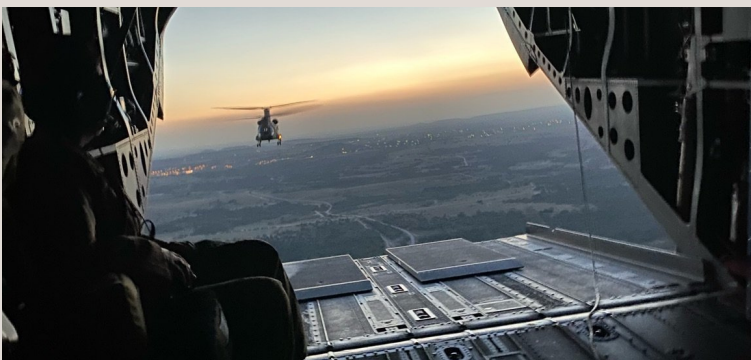
Through the State Partnership Program, many Guardsmen have also been able to use their military and civilian skills to strengthen bonds with allies and partners.

When he meets with other chiefs of staff from foreign armies, McConville said they "rave" about the program and how it enhances the capacity and capability of their formations.

The Washington National Guard, for instance, recently conducted virtual engagements with the Thai military amid the pandemic. The Texas Guard also established a relationship with Egypt's military, and combat engineers from the Wisconsin Guard deployed to Afghanistan with Romanian soldiers, he said.

One of the Army's six Security Force Assistance Brigades, the 54th SFAB -- which includes Guardsmen from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Georgia and Texas -- also officially activated in March. The specialized units are part of a refocused train, assist and advise strategy that envisions them working with allies and partners around the world."

And many other units are deployed across the world serving shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies and partners," McConville said. "Thank you for your hard work building and maintaining these important connections."



KIDS CORNER

To submit questions for the next Kids Q&A, have your parent or guardian send it to the 28th ECAB Facebook page or to your FRG leader.

Good luck to all students and teachers in the 28th ECAB family as they start the school year!

SUDOKU

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		3	9			8		

Send us your completed puzzle to receive a shout out on the brigade Facebook page!

*The Anvil Insider: a publication by the
28th ECAB and Task Force Anvil
public affairs team*

28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

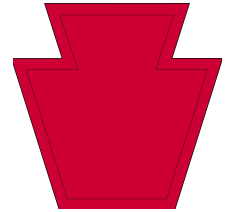
Commander:
Col. Howard Lloyd

Senior Enlisted Advisor:
Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Livolsi



1- 137AHB UPDATE

Facebook: Task Force Chickenhawk



Motto: Rule #1: Don't talk about Flight Club.



Check out the Corbis in the Newark Advocate!

<https://www.newarkadvocate.com/story/news/local/2020/09/06/johnstown-family-shares-rich-military-history/5700640002/>



ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



From the Desk of C Co. Commander

Charlie Company has accomplished a lot since arriving at Fort Hood a couple months back. After getting in place, we completed our equipment validation in four days (three day earlier than expected). Soon after, barely less than half of the Company jumped on a plane, serving as the tip of the spear for Task Force Roadrunner on our way to Kuwait.

We are now split into sections across multiple countries, but still remain as one cohesive team working to accomplish the same goals of providing network and communication support. Our Soldiers who remain in Fort Hood have been working closely with our Brigade helpdesk and recently finished supporting our Culminating Training Event. Soldiers in Kuwait are working towards completing our final equipment validation before RIP/TOA with the 834th ASB. Finally, C Co has also pushed Soldiers North of Kuwait who are conducting left seat/right seat training in order to take control of communications at those locations and get the remainder of our 834th ASB counterparts prepared to go home.

Overall, I have been extremely impressed with the incredible work that C Co has done up to this point. Everyone has remained in high spirits and proven their capabilities and professionalism through any roadblock we approach. As our Mission evolves, I look forward to seeing C Co continue to exceed expectations and demonstrate their expertise.

A final shout out to the families and friends of C Co. Thank you for the love and support that gets us through; we could not do without you!

THUNDERCATS!

CPT Timothy Bolton
Commander, C Co. 628th ASB



HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS COMING WEEK TO...

PFC Martinez	SGT Williams
PFC Sofianidis	SFC Hunsicker
SPC Castro	SFC Zeiber
CPL Menage	CW3 Ofak
SGT Galarza	1LT Myers

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Get to know your Soldiers...

Name/Rank:
SPC Jedidiah Gaddie
From: Mason, MI
Age: 23
MOS: 15U
Civilian Occupation:
Machinist

Favorite Vacation Destination: New Zealand
Goals After Deployment: Head home to
work on my house and farm.



Veterans Affairs Benefits

By MSG Jesse Putnam

Director of Veterans Affairs/ Lawrence County, PA

Transition & Care Management

- Transition & Care management is offered at the VA for post 9/11 Veterans (combat & non-combat)
- This program offers case management, care coordination and referrals for financial assistance, housing and other necessary resources upon return home.

Service Connected Disability Claims

- A Service Connection disability is awarded for an injury/illness that occurred during active duty time (National Guard or Reservist that were injured during training and have a Line of Duty)
If you served 90 consecutive days on AD and are diagnosed with ALS at any point in your lifetime, you may be eligible for a service connected disability
- Disability compensation is a tax free benefit
- If you are still currently serving in the National Guard/Reserve you are not able to receive both Drill Pay and VA Compensation. A VA Form 21-8951-2(Waiver) will need to be completed or a debt will be created at the end of the fiscal year



Soldiers have been getting to meet the wildlife (Photo by SGT Kiely Eichelberger)



C Co. Soldiers begin offloading equipment (Photos by SPC Jason Kopp)



SPC Griest configures a Satellite Terminal for validation (Photo by SPC Jason Kopp)



Roadrunner Review Staff Members SGT Eichelberger and SPC Kopp pose next to a mural from the 28th ECAB's previous deployment.



SGT Mather-Shingara validates an STT (Satellite Transportable Terminal) (Photo by SGT Kiely Eichelberger)



The Wile E. Weekly^{-ish}

On the Trail with Task Force Coyote, 2-104th GSAB

September 8, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 4



Relaxin'...

E/Co POL Soldiers enjoy the premier of Disney's Mulan in the barracks on a rainy day.

Photo and Caption SPC Raley.

All Smiles...

1LT Lloyd and 1LT Quinones pose in front of a C5.

Photo SGT Lee.



Join your company's FRG Facebook group, the battalion Facebook group, and the brigade page for updates.



Well Earned and Well Deserved...

SFC McKracken receives a coin from CSM Livolsi at Longhorn Airfield for her hard work.

Photo and Caption SGT Mayro.

Altitude...Two Feet?

Photo SPC Kushner.



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