



JANUARY 19, 2020 / ISSUE 21

THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



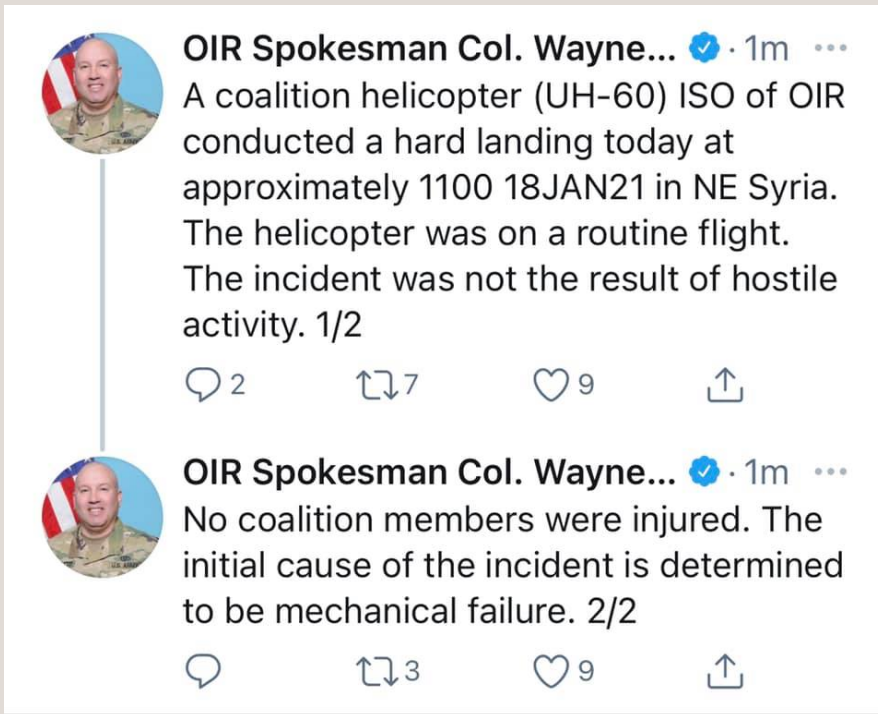
Photo by Sgt. Zach Mateja

**28th ECAB Soldiers got a taste
of the new Army weapons
qualification test. Read more
in the 628th ASB section...**

IN THIS ISSUE

- ICYMI
- News around CENTCOM
- Homefront Hero
- Battalion Updates

28th ECAB Soldiers were involved in a hard landing due to a mechanical failure. Thankfully, everyone walked away physically unharmed.



Official statement from
Col. Wayne Marotto,
CJTF-OIR spokesman,
posted on Twitter
Jan. 18, 2021

"We are very thankful that our Soldiers walked away from this incident. Our medical personnel, who responded immediately, will keep an eye on the Soldiers involved to ensure their lasting health. The nature of our duties is inherently dangerous and we appreciate our professional Soldiers for their efforts in keeping each other safe, as well as the prayers for safety from our loved ones."

-Official statement from 28th ECAB



Photo by Sgt. Caitlin Reinard

Navy Sailors in Bahrain receive COVID vaccine

By Petty Officer 1st Class Cody Boyd
U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit (NMRTU) Bahrain began administering the Moderna coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine on board Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain, Jan. 4.

In accordance with Department of Defense guidance, the vaccine is being administered in phases to ensure personnel at risk of being exposed daily are prioritized to receive it first, including healthcare, emergency services, public safety, and command staff personnel.

"Our team, along with [Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Bahrain], has put in a lot of effort up to this point coordinating the logistics of shipping, receiving, storing and administering the vaccines safely and efficiently," said Lt. j.g. Kwan Jin, NMRTU's public health emergency officer. "The unique set of challenges in our preparation made it even more rewarding to bring the first COVID-19 vaccines to our NSA Bahrain community, and immediately begin inoculations."

Prioritized DOD personnel are highly encouraged to take the vaccine in order to protect their health, families and community, and to mitigate public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've been adapting every aspect of our mission and our lives to mitigate the risks for quite some time now," said Capt. Greg Smith, NSA Bahrain commanding officer. "It feels great seeing our at-risk personnel receive a vaccine which we hope will increase safety of our personnel and help us fight this pandemic."



Capt. Greg Smith, Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain's commanding officer, receives the COVID-19 vaccine from Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Rose Martinez. The vaccine is being administered in phases based on priority levels to reduce the burden of COVID-19 in high-risk populations and simultaneously mitigate risk to military operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Justin Yarborough)

The two-dose vaccine was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration under an emergency use authorization and is currently offered to DOD personnel on a voluntary basis.

The first shipment of the vaccination arrived in Bahrain on Dec. 30, and after clearing customs, was ground delivered to NSA Bahrain and placed in cold-storage until used for inoculations.

NSA Bahrain will continue to enforce strict COVID-19 mitigation measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

"Although the vaccinations have begun, I would like to remind the public that the fight is not over and to urge everyone to continue following the COVID-19 mitigations we have in place," said Jin.



(Photo by Spc. Mariliz Serrano)



Spc. Katie Foster originally joined the military to pay for college, but deployed shortly after completing initial entry training. When she returns home, she wants to attend West Virginia University or West Liberty University and study nursing or art therapy. Before she deployed, she worked as an instructor at a day care. The three movie characters that she would want on her team in a zombie apocalypse are Katniss Everdeen, Wonder Woman and Mulan.

Foster is currently deployed with Echo Company, 2-104th GSAB as a petroleum supply specialist.

(Photo and caption by Spc. Mariliz Serrano)



This week's homefront hero is Melissa, wife of Sgt. 1st Class Jason Roberts!

Melissa is the head of the 2-104th GSAB's family readiness group and plays a huge role in taking care of families back home, connecting them with the unit and keeping them informed. But she also does so much for her husband's company behind the scenes. She sent her annual Christmas cards to everyone in the company and ensured that each Soldier received a care package.

Thank you for holding down the homefront and for your support, Melissa!

(Submitted by CSM Shannon Cullen)

Follow the instructions in the flier below if you know a Homefront Hero you'd like to see recognized.

HOMEFRONT HEROES

Soldiers and families,

We know there are many ways our families “hold down the homefront” and we want to share their stories.

If you'd like to recognize a family member back home please do one of the following:

- 1) Send a message to the 28th ECAB Facebook page with a photo of the family member and a short paragraph describing why they deserve a shout out.
- 2) Email your FRG leader with a photo of the family member and a short paragraph describing why they deserve and shout out.
- 3) Contact the brigade PAO or your UPAR for assistance



Ideas include...

- A child who reads bedtime stories to their younger siblings
- A niece or nephew who sent care packages to their Soldier's unit
- A parent or in-law who has been stepping up to take care of the kids
- A child who broke a personal record at a recent track meet
- A spouse who threw a party for their child's birthday on their own (yikes)
- A spouse or parent who picked up a new skill or earned a degree

“The strength of the armed forces of the United States is as much about its families as it is about its combat capability.”

– Gen. Martin Dempsey



Follow the link
below for the
latest AFN
TV schedule

<https://v3.myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>



<https://www.facebook.com/28ECAB/>



<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/28cab>



For the latest Army news, visit
the Army News Service at
<https://www.army.mil/ARNews>

SPORTS SHOUTOUTS



Want to send a shoutout to
your favorite team? Contact
your company UPAR or the
brigade PAO

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

28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

Commander:
Col. Howard Lloyd

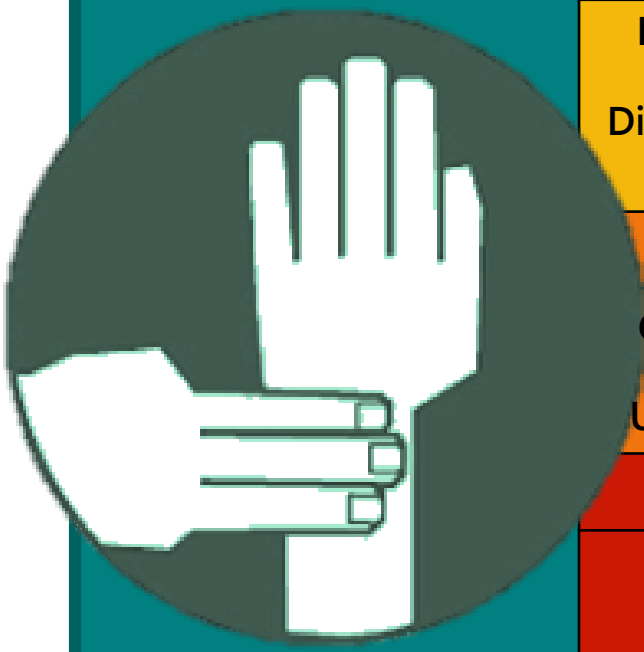
Senior Enlisted Advisor:
Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Livolsi



STAY SHARP



Checked your
section or unit's
SHARP pulse
lately?



Now, what are
YOU going to do
about it?

Professional Work Environment

Engaged Leadership Army Values
Good Order & Discipline
Dignity & Respect Ethical Standards
Accountability Safe Environment
Warrior Ethos Civilian Creed

Early Warning Signs

Excessive Flirting Toxic Atmosphere
Inappropriate Jokes/Comments
Disparaging Comments on Social Media
Inappropriate Work Relationships

Sexual Harassment

Cat Calls Sexual Innuendo Cornering
Blocking Sexually Oriented Cadence
Unsolicited Sexually Explicit Text/Email

Getting worse...

Sending Unsolicited Naked Pictures
Indecent Recording/Broadcasting
Non-consensual Kissing/Touching
Indecent Exposure Indecent Viewing
Bullying/Hazing Retaliation Stalking

Sexual Assault

Rape Abusive Sexual Contact
Aggravated Sexual Contact



SARC: MSG John Paul Karpovich / VA: SSG Andrea Whelan
Task Force Anvil SHARP Program
DSN: 318-824-3058



DoD Safe Helpline 24/7: 1 (877) 995-5247



HHC 28TH ECAB

NEWSLETTER MESSAGE

HHC
Message

**"If i cannot do
great things, i
can do small
things in a great
way."**





SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations on Spc. Courtney Petrauskas on her certificate of completion from the United States Marine Corporals Course.



COURTNEY PETRAUSKAS

SPC. COURTNEY PETRAUSKAS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST WITH THE 28TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE, WAS AWARDED A CERTIFICATE FOR HER PERFORMANCE IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPORALS COURSE. THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE TASK FORCE ANVIL TEAM!





THE WILE E. WEEKLY -ish



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

January 19, 2021

Volume 1, Issue 21



Soldiers with Charlie Company turning in after a medevac mission in Syria (Photo by Capt. Chelsey Williams)

Fuelers with Echo Company fuel one of Bravo's chinooks before a nighttime operation (Photo by Spc. Rob Donovic)



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



Pfc. Joshua Conner and **Spc. Troy Layman**, UH-60 repairers with Delta Company performing routine maintenance on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (Photos by Sgt. Joshua Mayro)

The Wile E. Weekly Staff

Regular Contributors (UPARs)

HHC- SFC Joshua Shaffer

A- CPT Nathan Bevans

B- 2LT Dean Johnson

C- SGT Eric Smith

D- SGT Joshua Mayro, PFC Luke Shepherd

E- SGT Carissa Diggs, SPC Jennifer Raley, SPC Tyler Speer

F- SSG Breanna Chase, SPC John Kushner

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CPT Planet

SGT Lee

Consultant

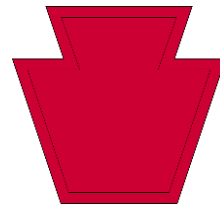
CSM Shannon Cullen

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



1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Motto:

“Rule #1: Don’t talk about Flight Club.”

01.18.2021

Issue XVI



If you have not already please check out CHP (CPT) Jason Nelson’s “Operation Deployed: Thank you” video on the TF Chickenhawk Facebook Group



To all the friends and family of the 1-137 AHB, we would like to thank you for your continued support. As holiday seasons come and go we remind all soldiers, friends, and family to stay in touch with loved ones. For many soldiers this can be a challenging time, being away from friends and family.

Announcement: For additional Soldiers of the week feel free to reach out and comment on the TF Chickenhawk Facebook group to have your soldier featured in post!

If you have not already please follow the Task Force Chickenhawk Facebook Group, this is where you can keep up to date with the 1-137 AHB. Please, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out through the group for more information.

We look forward to keeping you updated on all things Task Force Chickenhawk!

1-137 Soldier Shout Out:



Robert Irvine
@RobertIrvine

What an Amazing talent . I bet she gives some great relief while being deployed .. music is life food , mood changer 🙏👏💯😎💪🇺🇸👁️



Shauna Curry @ShaunaCurry504 · 20h
This is SPC Mikaela Bolker, a Signal Support Systems Specialist with G Co, 2-104th out of the Wisconsin NG. Currently deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. She's sharing her talents around the world!
@16thSMA @CG_CyberForge #ThisIsMySquad
[Show this thread](#)

Update...



Tweet



Michael A. Grinston
@16thSMA

Thanks for introducing us to such a talented member of your Squad. Great acoustics!



Shauna Curry @ShaunaCurry504 · 9m
This is SPC Mikaela Bolker, a Signal Support Systems Specialist with G Co, 2-104th out of the Wisconsin NG. Currently deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. She's sharing her talents around the world!
@16thSMA @CG_CyberForge #ThisIsMySquad



SPC Mikaela Bolker over the weekend shared a video of her rendition of "Devil's Dream". The video went viral and was even re-tweeted by the current CSM of the Army!! Way to go SPC Bolker!

On the right soldiers from the 1-137 sat down to watch the Alabama-OSU Championship game at 4 in the morning!! That's way too early and even though OSU lost, we were all happy to sit back together.



SOLDIER OF THE WEEK: CPT JASON NELSON



1. Where are you from?

I'm from all over, but for the last 9 years, Shelby, OH.

2. How long have you been in the military?

I first joined in 1998 and served until 2004. I rejoined in 2016. I just hit the 10 year mark.

3. Why did you join the Army National Guard?

At 17 I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps and join the infantry. I wanted to see if "I had what it took" to "be all that I could be". I later rejoined as a Chaplain because my wife and I felt it was what God was leading us to do.

8. What has been the best and worst part of deployment so far?

The best part has been connecting with the soldiers of the 1-137th AHB. The worst part has been time away from my family.

9. What are your current deployment must haves?

I have been loving my crystal light packets and my cell phone. I love being able to connect daily with my family back home on a daily basis.

10. What is one takeaway, or "lesson learned" overseas?

We work better together than we do alone.

4. What is your MOS (Military Occupational Specialty)?

I am currently a 56A – that is I am an Army Chaplain. My previous MOS's include 11B – Infantry, 19D – Cavalry Scout, 13M – Field Artillery.

5. What do you do on the civilian side?

Up until this deployment, I served as a Lead Pastor.

6. Is this your first deployment?

This is my first deployment outside of the United States. However, I have been activated for State Active Duty in the past.

11. When you are not working, what are you doing?

I'm always having conversations with other soldiers but when that is not taking place, I am talking with my family or watching movies.

12. Describe the best care package you've received so far.

I received a package from my childhood friend that contained items that we have been sending back and forth to each other for the past 25 years.

13. What is something that helps you get through deployment?

My faith and my family are the two things that I rely on most.

15. Tell some fun facts about yourself!

I have been involved in professional photography for the past 15 years. I am also a very big Pittsburgh Steelers fan.



ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



Promotion Day

Congratulations to SGT Zach Mateja of HSC as well as C Co's SPC Alexander Sofianidis and CPL Timothy Mills on their recent promotions.

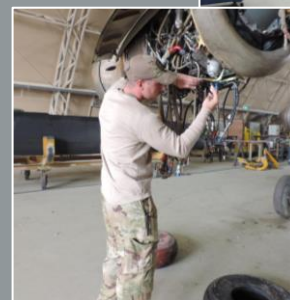
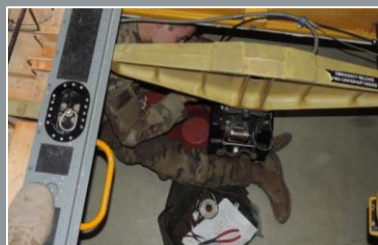
(Photos by SPC Zach Wynn and SPC Jason Kopp)



Getting the 'Hook-Up'

15U (Chinook Helicopter Repairer) Soldiers of 628th B Co. perform routine maintenance on a CH-47 Chinook.

(Photos submitted SGT Steven Will)



Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

PV1 Jones, C	SGT Kuhn, N
PFC Shepley	SGT Kukota
SPC Knights	SGT Marcus, E
SPC Seitz	SFC Myers
CPL King, B	SGM Fleming
SGT Digiacomio	MAJ Bertsch
SGT Fuentes	

Roadrunner Review Staff

HSC- SPC Zachary Wynn, CPL Zach Mateja
A Co.- SPC Kayla Harley
B Co.- SPC Joyce Avila, SGT Francis Calabro
C Co.- SPC Jason Kopp

Get To Know Your Soldiers...

Name/Rank: SPC Michael Dempsey

Hometown: Northampton, PA

Age: 34

MOS: 91B



Civilian Occupation: Commercial Driver

Favorite Comedian: Adam Sandler

Goal After Deployment: Spend time with his kids.

No More Slick Sleeves

Soldiers of HSC, A Co., and B Co. are "patched" for supporting combat operations.



New Qual Practice

628 ASB becomes the first in the Brigade to try the new Army marksmanship test in a simulated range. The pictures below were even featured on the U.S Army Central Facebook page.

(Photos by SGT Zach Mateja)



Have a story, Soldier to highlight, cool photo, or something else for the newsletter? Reach out to your company level Roadrunner Review staff member or email 628thPublicAffairs@gmail.com

Special Thanks



(Photo by SGT Zach Mateja)

Special thanks you to *For the Love of a Veteran* based out of Hanover, PA. This organization has been sending our unit care packages full with a variety of treats and staples.

SGT Peters Teaches New Range Class



As one of HSC's Squad Designated Marksmans, SGT Austin Peters along with SGT Justin Hursh, SGT Ryan Digiacomio, SSG Andrew Carpenter, and SGT Steven Will have been training the Soldiers of 628 ASB for the new Army Marksmanship Test.

SGT Peters thinks it is good for our Battalion to set the precedent of trying out the new qualification standards through these range classes.

He also enjoys going to the ranges at home and has attended Master Gunnery School in his time in the Guard. He likes to enhance his skills with multiple weapons courses.

In the future he would like to make a career in the National Guard, attend Flight Medical School, and possibly get an AGR job.