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THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by CW5 Rich Adams

28th ECAB Soldiers look back at their accomplishments from the first half of deployment...

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Halfway through deployment, 28th ECAB remains focused

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Soldiers with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade recently passed the midway point of their deployment to the Middle East.

They are serving in support of the fight against Daesh, maintaining a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia and enhancing partnerships with U.S. allies. Their primary roles are aviation operations using UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook and AH-64 Apache helicopters, as well as some fixed-wing and unmanned aerial assets.

The 28th ECAB's overarching mission in the Middle East is to support U.S. Central Command in creating an environment for peace and stability in the region in support of U.S. interests.

Spc. Tyler Speer's feelings about reaching the halfway point in the deployment echo many other Soldiers in the brigade. He is proud of what has been accomplished but is still excited to finish and go home.

"My unit and I have accomplished many missions, but some that stick out are when we refueled Apaches, helping them with a mission in western Iraq, or when we refueled an allied CH-47 that was transporting an ISIS prisoner," said Speer. He is a petroleum supply specialist with Echo Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, 28th ECAB, and serves at a remote outpost near the Syrian border. "But I look forward to getting home, getting back on the ice and playing hockey and seeing my girlfriend and our new house."

The 28th ECAB arrived in the Middle East in September and took over for the 34th ECAB, an aviation unit from Minnesota deployed since late-2019. Soldiers with the 34th ECAB ensured a smooth transition.

Since then, 28th ECAB Soldiers have carried out their duties while adhering to COVID-19 precautions. Their activities across the Middle East have included combat missions against Daesh, medevac, personnel movement, supply movement and the logistical requirements that make those missions possible. They have also played a key role in enhancing the interoperability capabilities between the U.S. and militaries from allied nations.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest, the 28th ECAB left their homes and families in July for training and in-processing at Fort Hood, Texas. Almost 1,400 Soldiers came together from New Jersey, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Oklahoma, with the majority coming from Pennsylvania.

While at Fort Hood, COVID-19 presented unique challenges, and Soldiers had to adhere to numerous precautions. Those precautions included a 14-day quarantine upon arrival, a COVID-19 test for each Soldier, limiting movement to a designated cohort area, wearing masks, social distancing and increased emphasis on personal hygiene and sanitation.

Soldiers across the brigade also completed many flight hours, refueling operations, gunnery training, logistics operations and functional training to ensure their mission readiness.

"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, 28th ECAB commander. "The Soldiers not only got to know each other, but they developed confidence in each other and are well-trained and motivated for this mission."

Bahrain and U.S. Conduct Joint Anti-Terrorism Exercise

NAVCENT Public Affairs

5TH FLEET AREA OF OPERATIONS — Forces assigned to the Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) participated in a combined, joint anti-terrorism exercise in the 5th Fleet Area of Operations, Jan. 12-13.

The bilateral exercise focused on enhancing mutual security and anti-terrorism capabilities by testing responses to simulated scenarios.

“This exercise demonstrated the combined capability of U.S. and Bahraini forces in responding to a crisis together,” said Lt. Cmdr. Cody Hitchcock, lead exercise planner. “The security and mass casualty scenarios which were practiced all highlighted the power of our combined partnership.”

Hitchcock also stated that this was the largest anti-terrorism drill that has been conducted by Bahraini and U.S. forces.

Scenarios included simulated site security, building clearing and hostage rescue drills conducted by Bahrain and U.S. joint security personnel, and a mass casualty evacuation drill conducted by the two countries’ medical teams.

Rear Adm. Curt A. Renshaw, deputy commander of NAVCENT, observed the exercise and praised the capabilities displayed by both forces.

“Our combined emergency response forces impressively performed to the highest standards of readiness,” said Renshaw.



Bahrain Defense Force and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command personnel simulate clearing a building during a joint anti-terrorism exercise in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Operations, Jan. 13. The bilateral exercise focused on enhancing mutual security and anti-terrorism capabilities by testing responses to simulated scenarios. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Matthew Riggs)

“We will continue to enhance mutual security capabilities and interoperability with our Bahraini partners by regularly operating and training alongside one another.”

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The expanse is comprised of 20 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.

Spc. Diana Owusu is originally from Ghana but came to the U.S. with her little brother eight years ago.

She joined the military to help pay for school and "to protect the people of this great country." On the civilian side, she spent five years as a nurse aide for children with intellectual disabilities. In that time, she completed her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from. She graduated in May 2020 but then deployed a month later.



Photo by Spc. Jessica de la Torre

When she gets home, she plans on completing the NCLEX, starting work as a registered nurse and enjoying her mom's cooking and going to the movies. (Spotlight by Spc. Mikaela Bolker)



The work that Soldiers like **Spc. Troy Layman** and **Pfc. Joshua Conner** do is very important in keeping our crews safe in the air. The two are UH-60 Black Hawk repairers with Delta Company, 2-104th GSAB. (Photos by Sgt. Joshua Mayro)



Soldiers like **Sgt. Maxwell Connor**, **Sgt. Kevin Freeman** and **Spc. Calvin Martinez** play important roles, making sure our equipment is in working shape to support the mission. The three are equipment repairers with Echo Company, 2-104th GSAB. (Photos by Spc. Mariliz Serrano)



Spc. Mikaela Bolker, also known as The Fiddling Soldier, has played violin since kindergarten and performed in various orchestras since then, including the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. She continued to study music at Lawrence University and learned how to sing with Dr. Karen Leigh-Post. She joined the military at 17 years old to help pay for school and for an experience she could be proud of. After deployment, she hopes to showcase her musical talents to wider audiences.

Bolker is currently deployed with Golf Company, 2-104th GSAB as a signal support systems specialist.

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

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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



SHARP Professional of the Month

Chief Warrant Officer Two Rachel S. Abramson has been named the SHARP Professional of the Month for December 2020. CW2 Abramson has not only supported our Brigade Headquarters but has also assisted with the training of Soldiers in another Brigade on Post. She works well with our team and the other full time SARC on post. Her efforts continue to shine a positive light on the 28th ECAB SHARP Program.



Public Affairs Team Recognized

The Brigade Public Affairs Team was recently recognized for their efforts and overall support of the 28th ECAB SHARP program by the Task Force Anvil SHARP Team. Captain Travis Mueller and Specialist Stanford Toran IV were inducted as Honorary Members of the TF Anvil SHARP Team. They continuously highlight the positive outreach efforts of the SHARP Team across our Brigade.

Resources Available



There are many resources available to those who have experienced Sexual Harassment or Sexual Assault. We encourage you to reach out to your Victim Advocates or SARC to discuss any issues or concerns. We are always available for you. You can speak with any credentialed SHARP Victim Advocate. Below are some external resources.

www.militaryonesource.mil
www.safehelpline.org
www.pcar.org

MSG JP Karpovich
TF Anvil SARC
570-709-2325
Signal App



SSG Andrea Whelan
TF Anvil VA
717-609-5598
Signal App

SPONSORED BY TASK FORCE ANVIL SHARP TEAM



The Wile E. Weekly^{-ish}

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

January 25th, 2020

Volume 2, Issue 1

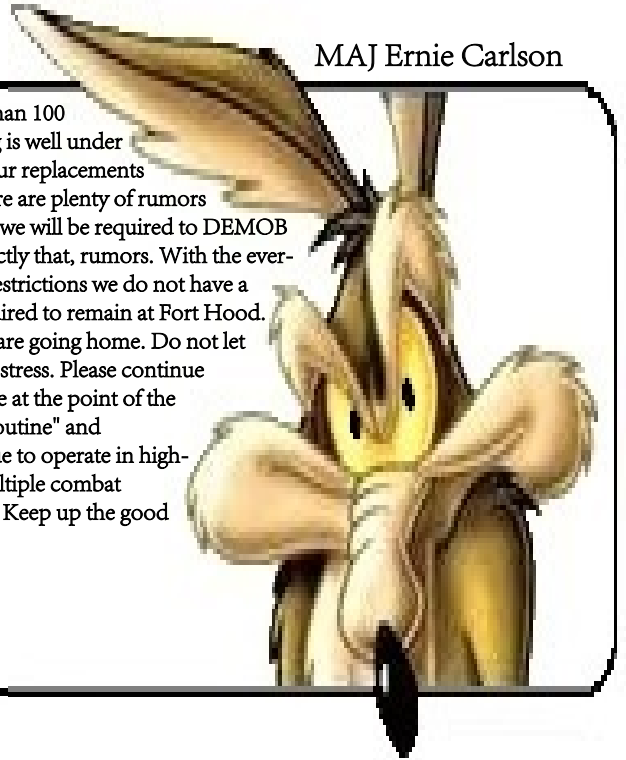


A note from the:
Operations Officer

MAJ Ernie Carlson

We are now in the double digits, less than 100 days and we will be going home. Planning is well under way and we are anxiously waiting to see our replacements on the ground in less than 3 months. There are plenty of rumors circulating about the amount of time that we will be required to DEMOB at lovely North Fort Hood. These are exactly that, rumors. With the ever-changing COVID-19 environment and restrictions we do not have a 100% answer on how long we will be required to remain at Fort Hood. Remain patient; the good news is that we are going home. Do not let DEMOB become an additional source of stress. Please continue keeping an eye out for one another, we are at the point of the deployment where operations become "routine" and complacency begins to set in. We continue to operate in high-threat environments and we are flying multiple combat missions daily in four different countries. Keep up the good work and remain vigilant.

For now.... That's All Folks,
Wile-E 03



"DOING OUR PART"

BELOW: Medical Soldiers from the 2-104 GSAB pose for a photo before receiving their first round of COVID-19 vaccinations. Pictured (left to right) are: SGT Kyle Timmons, SFC Justin Shaffer, SFC David Keck, SGT Denis Mulligan, SGT James Russell, and CPT Christina Broomell.



ABOVE: SPC Kelly Sendek, of the HHC 2-104 GSAB S3 team, shows the others how to get swole as she flexes and holds during an exercise meant to build her pectoralis muscles. She prefers "working out 'dem' guns," but admitted "it was chest day, so I was forced into some flys."

Photo by SSG Matthew Gray

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



"A THEATER AWAY"

ABOVE: A team from B Co 2-104 GSAB awaits a return flight from Spain following receipt, preparation, and inspection of several ERFS tanks, critical to the OIR mission. ERFS, or "Extended Range Fueling System," according to Boeing, when installed into the CH47F "Chinook," allows for a mission radius in excess of 400 miles.

Photo by CPT Austin Westmoreland



"RAINY SEASON"

ABOVE: D Co 2-104 GSAB prepares for potential flooding by elevating storage containers above projected floodlines. Pictured: SSG Mark Reilly, SPC Cody Hoy, and SPC Kelly Kline

Photo by SPC Jose Brown

"HANGING ON BY A THREAD"

RIGHT: SSG James Murray prepares SGT Cristian Schuster to descend from a hoist during a training exercise in the OIR Area of Operations. The two Soldiers are flight medics with C Co, 2-104 GSAB and continue to train in order to maintain their skills at a high level of proficiency.

Photo by SFC Jeff Grimm



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



Tech-Tip Timeout

SPC Richard Snedden Jr. is a 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist with the S6 Communications Staff team, HHC 2-104 GSAB. When asked what routine computer issue he assists Soldiers with regularly, he responded "certificates." Soldiers (and some civilians back home) routinely use a Common Access Card (CAC) to access various systems on their workstations. Each Soldier's CAC leaves certificates, or electronic traces of their presence when used. Sifting through those certificates with each login may prove cumbersome to the primary user of the computer, so SPC Snedden offers a solution for removal.

PHOTO LEFT: SPC Snedden assists SGT Thomas Jagel with certificate removal. Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer

THE PROCESS:

- 1) Type "Internet Options" into the lower left "type here to search" bar.
- 2) Click "Content," the fourth tab at the top.
- 3) Click "Certificates."
- 4) Select all certificates you wish to remove. **BONUS TIP:** You can select the top certificate on the list and hold the SHIFT key, then select the last certificate to highlight a continuous selection of certificates.
- 5) Click the "Remove" button.
- 6) Click "Yes."



"IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT"

ABOVE: 1LT Coby Smith of A Co 2-104 GSAB operates a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter while on a routine training flight in Kuwait.

Photo submitted by 1LT Coby Smith

"ON A MISSION"

BELOW: A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter conducts a routine flight in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

Photo submitted by CPT Michael Rant





ABOVE: Soldiers from the 28 ECAB Attend a service led by CH Jason Nelson. Photo by CPL Zachary Schneck

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SUPPORT TEAM:

Our Task Force Coyote Religious support team has joined hands with Task Force Javelin in order to provide the best Religious Services, Morale and Welfare events, and Spiritual Resiliency Trainings to our 28 ECAB Team here on the Flight line. Our Flight Line Chapel team consists of two Chaplains and two Religious Affairs Specialists. (Chaplain Lehr, Chaplain Nelson, CPL Schneck, Specialist Naayers). Our Flight line Chapel also has seven members of our Praise and Worship Band that consist of soldiers throughout the Brigade. As we all are hit hard by COVID-19, we continue to support our soldiers by utilizing aircraft maintenance hangers to enable us to support social distancing guidelines. We even offer virtual services on our Flightline Chapel Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Flight-Line-Chapel-120894146178854/>

Follow us there to attend our services virtually from the comfort of your home!

Some Services we offer to our soldiers include but are not limited to:

- Sunday Morning Flight line Chapel Service
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study
- Wednesday Evening Devotional Service
- Friday Night Movie Night
- Spiritual Resiliency Training Classes

Our soldiers are also able to attend all services offered by other chaplains within the Brigade and even offered by other chaplains located on post. As the Task Force Coyote religious support team, it is our duty to provide and support any religious or spiritual needs any soldier may ask for to the best of our ability.

The Wile E. Weekly Staff

Regular contributors (UPARs)

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 B - 2LT Dean Johnson/SPC John Kushner
 C - SGT Eric Smith
 D - SGT Joshua Mayro/ SPC Jose Brown
 E - SGT Carissa Diggs/ SPC Jennifer Raley/ SPC Tyler Speer
 F - SSG Breanna Chase

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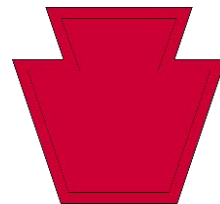
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Join your company's FRG Facebook group, the battalion Facebook group, and the brigade page for updates.



1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Motto:

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

01.25.2021

Issue XVII



Photos by
SPC De La Torre,

Spotlight by
SPC Mikaela Bolker



Recently the 28th ECAB Public Affairs Team interviewed SPC Owusu, originally from Ghana, but came to the U.S. with her little brother eight years ago.

She joined the military to help pay for school and "to protect and serve the people of this great country." On the civilian side, she spent five years as a nurse aide for children with intellectual disabilities. In that time, she completed her Bachelors of Science in Nursing at Mercy College. She graduated in May and deployed a month later.

When she gets home, she plans on completing the NCLEX, starting work as a registered nurse, enjoying her mom's cooking and going to the movies.

She is currently deployed with the 1-137 AHB as a unit Supply Specialist.

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!



ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



Promotions and Re-Enlistments

FROM THE TASK FORCE COMMANDER

To the Soldiers of Task Force Roadrunner...

Congratulations! You've now made it to single digits with less than 100 days until we start movement towards our homes. So far we've conquered the heat of Texas and the sands of Kuwait/Iraq/Syria/Saudi Arabia all while battling COVID-19 along the way.

We've driven thousands of miles, fixed hundreds of vehicles, connected thousands of Soldiers with digital communications, pumped nearly 1/2 a million gallons of fuel, and enabled TF Anvil to continue to fly nearly 2,000 hours a month. You've safely accomplished this mission but we need to focus on the next 100 days. My goal is to return every single service member to their families at the end of this journey and continue to support the National Guard with the most experienced support battalion in the country.

As a team, we will accomplish this mission with continued success. I ask that you mitigate risk and stay vigilant in everything that you do.

WITHOUT COMPROMISE!

Michael S. Gross
LTC, AV
628 ASB/TF Roadrunner Commander



Congratulations to B Co's SGT Bryan Drake and CPL Kuhn Elijah Groff on their recent promotions (photos on left).

We would also like to recognize two of B Co's Soldiers; SPC Donovan McCallum and SGT Nicolas Giannotti, on their recent 6 Year Re-Enlistments.

(Photos by SGT Zach Mateja)



B Co. T-Wall Wrap-Up



Work on the B Co Pirates' T-Wall comes to a close. SPC Jadelynn Geedy and SPC Dalton Leik are awarded Company Coins to recognize them for their hard work on the T-Wall.

(Photos by SGT Zach Mateja)

Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

PFC Hinds	SGT High
PFC Jones, J	SGT Miller, C
SPC Chacon	SGT Poper
SPC Douglas	SSG McFarland
SPC Griffin	CPT Thomas, J
SPC Powers	MAJ Kurzawa
SPC Viruet	CW4 Favinger

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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 Anndiolin Miranda

Hometown: Hellertown, PA

Age: 23

MOS: 74D

Civilian Occupation: Security Truck Driver

Favorite Video Game: Overwatch

Goal After Deployment: Spend time with Grandma and Mom

Dedication Recognized



SSG Harris and SFC Good of HSC were recognized as Task Force Anvil SHARP Professionals of the Month for October and November respectively. They were awarded certificates by the Brigade SARC Team, MSG Karpovich and SSG Whelan.

If you would like to know more about SHARP, please reach out to them.

(Photos by SPC Stanford Toran)

Sunset Fuelers



Fuelers of A Co conducted fueling operations on UH-60 Blackhawk at sunset.

(Photos submitted by SGT Nicole Kuhn)

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

Learning the Ropes



With instruction from SGT Will, Soldiers of B Co. rehearsed the motions of the new Marksmanship qualification. Soldiers from the first round of instruction several weeks prior served as subject matter experts to help coach Soldiers.

(Photos submitted by CPL Bobbie King)