



FEBRUARY 2, 2021 / ISSUE 23

THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by 1st Lt. Alysa Nantarojanaporn

**We recently trained with
Airmobile Task Group Griffon,
our Italian partners in Iraq...**

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U.S., Italian soldiers train to save lives and equipment

IRAQ -- Elements of the U.S. and Italian armed forces, currently serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, recently trained together in a downed aircraft recovery exercise in northern Iraq.

Soldiers with the U.S. Army's Task Force Gambler and the Italian army's Airmobile Task Group Griffon came together to respond to a simulated emergency where an Italian NH90 tactical transport helicopter went down in enemy territory.

During the simulation, a security force and a downed aircraft recovery team was quickly flown to the area in what is called an aerial reaction force. Once the area was secured, an Italian technical team evaluated the aircraft and performed repairs on the notional mechanical failures. The helicopter was then moved back to base for further maintenance.

According to Lt. Col. Jason Woodward, commander of Task Force Gambler, relations between coalition partners are strengthened during joint exercises such as this one. He also says the training ensures that the unique skills and abilities of coalition partners can be utilized to ensure the lasting defeat of Daesh.

"Ensuring our interoperability makes us all safer, more efficient and better prepared to respond to mission requirements," said Woodward. "I am honored to serve alongside our brave Italian partners in accomplishing our shared mission."



U.S. Soldiers with Task Force Gambler and Italian soldiers with Airmobile Task Group Griffon respond to a downed aircraft scenario during an aerial reaction force exercise. The exercise ensured the coalition partners' cohesiveness in responding to downed aircraft emergencies in hostile environments. (DoD photo by Lt. Col. Alessandro Campiello, Italian Army)

A downed aircraft recovery team, or DART, responds to aircraft emergencies. They are trained to react, with little notice and in a combat environment, to recover personnel and make necessary repairs on helicopters or otherwise move damaged aircraft off a battlefield.

Task Force Gambler is made up primarily of Soldiers with the 4-4th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion and other units serving under the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade. Airmobile Task Group Griffon is made up of soldiers with Italian army aviation, and was led by Lt. Col. Andrea Seminara during the exercise.

USAF, U.S. Army train with Royal Saudi Air Force during air defense exercise

By Senior Airman Leala Marquez
378th Air Expeditionary Wing

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia -- U.S. Air Force personnel assigned to the 77th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and 77th Fighter Generation Squadron trained with the U.S. Army and Royal Saudi Air Force to execute the joint force and partner nation exercise Desert Mirage II, Jan. 19-20, 2020.

The two-day exercise deployed U.S. Air Force aircraft assigned to the 378th, 332nd and 379th Air Expeditionary Wings, RSAF's 7th Flying Wing and assets from the U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

"We utilized a live fly event to further develop our bi-lateral Defensive Counter Air and Integrated Defense Design, tactics, techniques and procedures," said Maj. John Cox, 378th AEW plans and programs chief.

Desert Mirage featured an array of aircraft including the F-16C Fighting Falcon, F-15E/SA, Pilatus PC-21, Saab E-2000 and Panavia Tornado, which worked in conjunction with U.S. Army ADA Ground Control Interceptors to neutralize simulated inbound air threats such as unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles. "[The exercise] allows us to understand each aircraft's and ground agency's strengths and limitations," said a 77th EFS pilot.

According to Cox, exercises in the region are essential for joint force and partner nation integration as well as sharpening the skillsets of PSAB's professionals.

"While the Air Force provides fully trained assets to the CENTCOM AOR, many of our personnel have not worked alongside our sister services or regional partners prior to deploying," said Cox. "It's important for our personnel to practice uncommon procedures to understand how others operate together. Integrating partner RSAF units into operations drives planning and communication, and our joint exercises provide that great opportunity to increase mission effectiveness through that process."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wes Wright)

"Along with improving interoperability between U.S. and RSAF components, the exercise also highlighted how exponentially more effective the two nations are when capitalizing on each other's strengths."

"Desert Mirage II has shown our respective Air Forces are more successful conducting integrated air defense together," said Cox. "Each side was able to learn from one another and grow as a team to accomplish the mission."

The 77th EFS pilot explained Desert Mirage II also aimed to solidify the processes, procedures and rules of engagement that are necessary to ensure effective command and control relationships.

Desert Mirage II is one of many exercises the 378th AEW plans on conducting with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to bolster PSAB's mission of sustaining and defending its joint forces, while projecting combat airpower in support of theater plans and operations.

"The Desert Mirage II exercise provided an opportunity for multiple U.S. and KSA combat units to practice defending joint forces at PSAB, which ties into the mission here," said Cox. "We are both looking forward to future training events to strengthen working relationships between KSA and U.S. flying wings."



Photo by Spc. Stanford Toran IV



Photo by Sgt. Steven Will



Photo by Sgt. Steven Will



Photo by Sgt. Caitlin Reinardl



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Photo by Spc. Jose Brown

1st Lt. Xiomí Espinosa's most humbling experience here was when she was able to interact with the local Syrians and hear about their struggles during the conflict and their shortage of water and food.

She completed flight school in 2020 and deployed shortly after. She misses being with her family and her little brother, who is commissioning into the United States Air Force as a pilot. She also misses her favorite meal which is tacos with avocado.



Espinosa is currently deployed as a medevac pilot with Charlie Company, 2-104th GSAB.

(Photo and spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)

Sgt. Luis Carrillo has been in the Army for four years, enjoys working in the aviation community and hopes to advance his career in the aviation field. He says his most exciting experience since he joined has been meeting people from all over the world and experiencing their unique personalities. Carrillo is currently deployed with 4-4 ARB as an AH-64 Apache helicopter repairer.



(Photo and spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)

Sgt. Austin Peters is a combat medic and squad designated marksman with 628th ASB. As a designated marksman, he is taking time to pass on his skills to his fellow Soldiers and prepare them for the Army's new marksmanship test. He enjoys going to ranges while at home, has attended Master Gunnery School and enhances his skills in multiple weapons courses. After deployment, he hopes to attend flight medic school and get an Active Guard Reserve job.



(Spotlight by Spc. Zach Wynn)



Capt. Jason Nelson is the chaplain for 1-137th AHB but has previously served as an infantryman, cavalry scout and artilleryman. At 17 years old, he followed his father's footsteps and joined the military in 1998 to see if he "had what it took." After an almost 12-year break in service, he rejoined the military in 2016 as a chaplain, because he and his wife felt that it was what God led them to do. While he hates the time he has to spend away from his family during deployment, he enjoys connecting with and helping Soldiers in his battalion.

(Spotlight by Spc. Mikaela Bolker)

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

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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 Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

Commander:
Col. Howard Lloyd

Senior Enlisted Advisor:
Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Livolsi



STAY SHARP



Online Misconduct

What is Online Misconduct?

The use of electronic communication to inflict harm. Examples include, but are not limited to: harassment, bullying, hazing, stalking, discrimination, retaliation, or any other types of misconduct that undermine dignity and respect. [ALARACT 061/2019]

Remember these three things when you want to send a message or post something online (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, Myspace, Snapchat).

"THINK" about what message is being communicated and who could potentially view it.

"TYPE" messages that are consistent with the Army Values.

"POST" if the message demonstrates dignity and respect for self and others.

As members of the Army team, individuals' interactions offline and online reflect on the Army and its values. Soldiers or Civilian employees who participate in or condone misconduct, whether offline or online, may be subject to criminal, disciplinary, and/or administrative action.



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



The Wile E. Weekly^{-ish}

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

February 1st, 2021

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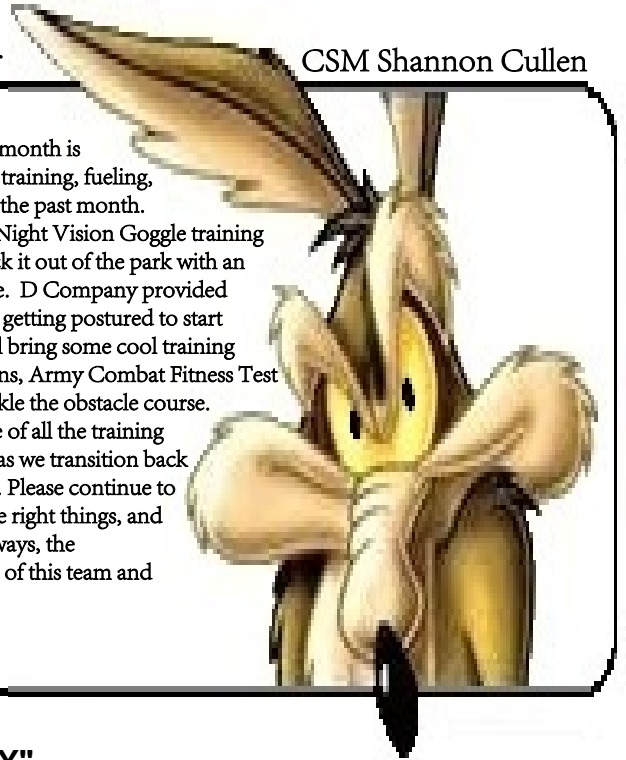
A note from the:
Command Sergeant Major

Coyotes -

We've made it to February, another busy month is behind us! TF Coyote completed a lot of training, fueling, fixing, and flying (as the boss likes to say) the past month. E Company conducted a very successful Night Vision Goggle training program. F Company continued to knock it out of the park with an extremely busy air traffic services schedule. D Company provided outstanding maintenance as always and is getting postured to start their first UH-60M PMI! This month will bring some cool training with M4 weapon training and qualifications, Army Combat Fitness Test familiarization, and an opportunity to tackle the obstacle course. We all need to continue to take advantage of all the training opportunities, it will set us up for success as we transition back to "normal" operations after mobilization. Please continue to put emphasis on safety, continue to do the right things, and continue to take care of each other. As always, the Commander and I are so extremely proud of this team and everything we are accomplishing.

CSM Cullen

CSM Shannon Cullen



"VIGILANCE IN EQUALITY"

BELOW: SFC Cumpston receives the "SHARP Representative of the Month" award for outstanding efforts of preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault. She did this by maintaining a positive attitude and continually supporting every Soldier she comes in contact with. Awarded by MSG John Paul Karpovich and SSG Andrea Whelan. Photo by SGT Travis Lee.



"SO OTHERS MAY LIVE"

ABOVE: SGT Denis Mulligan spins a windlass on a Special Operations Forces Tactical Tourniquet, or SOFTT during point-of-injury training designed to enable mastery of critical Combat Medical skills such as arterial hemorrhage control. The human patient simulator pictured is called MATT (Multiple Amputee Trauma Trainer), designed to engage medics visually and haptically as they master their skillset. More on page 2.

Photo by SGT Eric Smith

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

"SO OTHERS MAY LIVE" (continued)

1st BELOW, LEFT: SGT Kyle Timmons of HHC 2-104 GSAB Aviation Medical Section (AMS) practices laryngoscopic intubation on a human patient simulator. 2nd BELOW, LEFT: He has donned his field gear and transitions into field medical skills. It is critical for 68W Combat Medics to master skills they will encounter in both the clinical and field settings. BELOW, RIGHT: CPT Thomas Phelps prepares a reservoir to facilitate chest tube thoracostomy training for his medics. Photos by SGT Eric Smith



"SILENCE"

BELOW: "DUSTOFF" Helicopters from C Co 2-104 GSAB wait patiently for a call to come in. These aircraft never wish for a mission, but when one comes down, even after the sun sets in this picture, they are prepared. The HH-60 has an automatic flight control system, night vision goggles with lighting and forward looking infrared system that greatly enhances night low-level operations. It's hoist has a 600lb capacity to facilitate extractions in various situations.

Photo by SGT Carissa Diggs



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"STEWARDS OF THE PROFESSION"

ABOVE: SFC Melanie McCracken (left) and 1SG Jason Zahurak (right) pose with the M320 weapon system while at the range. These leaders, from D Co 2-104 GSAB, are relentless in their pursuit of Soldier training opportunities. Often, they plan, prepare, and execute training for their company while inviting participation from the remainder of the Battalion. 1SG Zahurak and SFC McCracken epitomize the Non-Commissioned officer and the "Warrior Spirit."

Photo by SGT Jose Brown



ABOVE: A Soldier fires an M320 grenade launcher as part of weapons familiarization training offered by D Co 2-104 GSAB.

Photo by SGT Eric Smith

BELOW: CW2 Smith (left) of A Co and CW2 Dunn (right) of C Co 2-104 GSAB use a rangefinder to observe and describe targets downrange for 320 firers.

Photo by SGT Eric Smith



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"ASYMMETRIC WARFARE"

ABOVE: A team of "cold-blooded killers" stands by, eager and very alert, to execute an upcoming mission. They've received orders to carry out extensive extermination measures on post. These felines have been strategically and meticulously selected to prowl across the installation with an objective of hunting rodents and other vermin, contributing to preventative medicine, a line of effort within the scheme of health services support. Rodents can act as vectors, carrying and transmitting disease(s) such as hantavirus, leptospirosis, lymphocytic choriomeningitis (LCMV), Tularemia and Salmonella. Additionally, they can cause significant property damage to vehicles and living quarters. Disease and Non-battle Injury (DNBI) have outnumbered Battle-casualties in all wars fought by the United States, and our furry friends help to mitigate this risk.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer

The Wile E. Weekly Staff

Regular contributors (UPARs)

HHC - SFC Joshua "Jusatin" Smyth
 A - CPT Nathan Bevans
 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

Editorial Staff

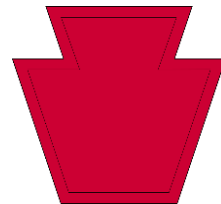
Developer
 SFC Justin Shaffer
 Chief Consultant
 CSM Shannon Cullen
 Editor-in-Chief/Publisher:
 CPT Travis Mueller, PAO

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1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Motto:

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

02.01.2021

Issue XVIII



Joint Cold Load Training!!

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!

TF Chickenhawk Cold Load Training:



TF Chickenhawk takes part in some joint training with Marines co-located with TF Chickenhawk in the Middle East.

SFC Jason Stokes gives the Marines a Cold Load brief describing the does and don'ts when entering and exiting an aircraft. For some Marines, this is their first time stepping in a UH-60 Blackhawk. Our team makes sure go through all procedures and safety measures to ensure when they do fly there are no preventable injuries.

Cold load training is typically done in anticipation of an Air Assault Mission, however it's great for our soldiers to get the repetition of briefing non-crew members on the aircraft.

SOLDIER OF THE WEEK:

JAYLAH WATKINS



1. Where are you from?

I am from the East side of Columbus, Ohio.

2. How long have you been in the military?

I have been in for a little over 4 years now. I hit 4 years in October 2020.

3. Why did you join the Army National Guard?

Not only did I want my school paid for, but I believe in something bigger than myself. I love serving and doing for others, and I feel the military complimented both.

6. Has this deployment met your expectations?

This is my very first time deploying, and I must say, it is just as bad as I expected it to be. It is not bad, but with COVID-19 happening, it makes it worse. I feel like I live the same day over and over again.

7. Describe the best part of deployment so far.

The best part of my deployment so far was going on a helicopter tour to a beautiful mountain view, and visiting an island in the Arabian gulf.

12. Do you have any exciting goals post deployment?

I plan on buying a house when I get back home. I am working on my credit now, and I WILL be a homeowner at age 23.

13. Tell some fun facts about yourself!

I have a monetized Youtube Channel with over 1,000 subscribers. I have filmed a lot of my experience being deployed so far, so go check it out if you are interested and make sure you SUBSCRIBE to Jaybugg Vlogs.

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

I am a 15P, Flight Operations Specialist. I monitor and track rotary wing flights and perform proper ground operations to ensure safe and efficient air movement.

5. What is your career on the civilian side?

I am a full time technician at a flight facility in my home town doing Flight Operations. I am also a senior at Ohio State University, studying Sociology and Legal Foundations.

10. What is a takeaway you have learned being overseas?

The biggest lesson that I have learned so far being on deployment is that drill weekends do not tell you enough about a person. You find out a lot about someone when you see them every day.

11. When you are not at work, what are you doing?

When I am not working, I am either filming videos or working out. I will be starting classes again soon, so that will have the majority of my time.

Interview by SPC Mikaela Bolker



ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



Purified Gulf Water



A Co on their trip to the Persian Gulf to conduct training on purifying water. 92Gs (Water Purification Specialists): CPL Molly Kuhn, SGT Krysta Roberts, and SGT Sara Miller are seen in the top photo putting the dolphin strainer in the ocean to start the purification process. Using the standard TWPS (Tactical Water Purification System) distribution set up, Soldiers can pump 250 gallons per minute of purified water. The Soldiers were also fortunate enough to work along side of Soldiers of the Kuwaiti Army in their water purification training.



Geronimo Drill



628 Soldier participating in a Geronimo Drill, simulating response to a base attack
(Photo by SGM Scott Fleming)

Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

PV2 Samplechavarria	SSG Toy, B
SPC Giannotti	SFC Hummel
SPC Lamb	CPT Gibson
SPC Mills	CW3 Dodson
SPC Rodriguez, J	

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: 2LT Samuel Tomlin

Hometown: Kelayres, PA

Age: 24

MOS: 92A Quartermaster Officer

Civilian Occupation: Attending College for Nursing

Goal After Deployment: Graduate with his second Bachelor's Degree, this time in Nursing.

Favorite Cartoon: Scooby-Doo

Building Leaders, Congratulations!



Several graduates of vBLC December class (left) and January class (right)

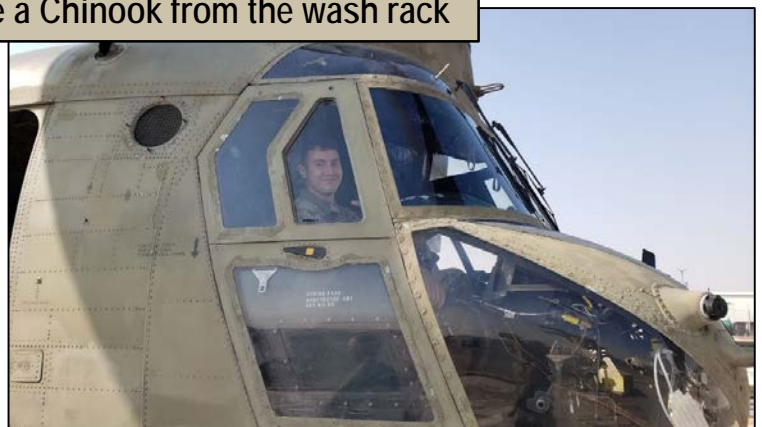


Several months into our deployment, the Army National Guard Bureau was able to start up a 22 day Virtual Basic Leader Course (vBLC), enabling our Soldiers to continue their Professional Military Education (PME), in a virtual environment. The vBLC course is the first step in the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development System (NCOPDS). Our enrolled Soldiers will learn the basic skills required of Sergeants which focuses on six Leader Core Competencies (LCC). These competencies are Readiness, Leadership, Training Management, Communications, Operations, and Program Management. Our Soldiers will also learn about counseling, conducting drill and ceremonies, and leading physical readiness training (PRT).

Being able to attend and graduate this course during our deployment will enable our Soldiers to build basic leader and trainer skills not only needed to lead teams in the U.S.A, but will also truly put their new skills to test in a deployed environment.

SGM Scott W. Fleming

15U Chinook maintainers move a Chinook from the wash rack



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



SPC Johnson of B Co. inspects the gaskets of a fuel tank for leaks during routine maintenance.