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THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by Spc. Stanford Toran IV

The unique skills and abilities of coalition partners, working together, is helping in the fight against Daesh.

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Soldiers with Alpha Company, 628th ASB got a taste of the Arabian Gulf water, during a recent water purification exercise. Using a tactical water purification system, they can pump 250 gallons of drinking water per minute. (Photos by Spc. Kayla Harley)



Saudi, UK, U.S. Forces Complete Exercise Nautical Defender 21

BAHRAIN – Forces assigned to the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF), UK Maritime Component Command (UKMCC) and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) conducted tri-lateral maritime exercise Nautical Defender 21 (ND 21) in the Arabian Gulf, Jan. 20-29.

ND 21 is the capstone in a series of multi-national maritime security exercises designed to broaden levels of cooperation, support long-term regional security, and enhance military-to-military interoperability between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, UK and the U.S.

“This was the largest Nautical Defender exercise we’ve participated in thus far with significant contributions by all participants,” said Capt. Christopher Gilbertson, commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 50 and Commander, Task Force (CTF) 55, who led the exercise. “With such a large, complex force, we were able to conduct in depth training across a wide variety of skill sets.

“To expand upon existing year-round interoperability training, participating units conducted multiple simulated scenarios, practicing maritime security, coastal harbor defense, counter-unmanned aerial systems, shipboard gunnery, high value unit escort, small arms, diving and mine clearance skills.

The exercise also marked the first time that an air operations in support of maritime surface warfare (AOMSW) drill has been integrated into a named exercise between the three nations, and the seventh time NAVCENT has conducted such a drill with joint and coalition partners.

These drills feature crews aboard various surface platforms, such as destroyers or patrol craft, directing aircraft to conduct fires against simulated fast attack craft attempting to attack coalition forces.



Photo by MC2 Aja Bleu Jackson

“Our coalition forces are becoming increasingly more flexible and formidable as we involve AOMSW in more and more combined training opportunities,” said Gilbertson.

With a focus on enhancing interoperability across partner nations, ND 21 participants fielded a variety of forces, including a guided-missile destroyer, mine countermeasures ships, patrol craft, maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, fixed wing fighter aircraft, helicopters, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians, marine platoons, visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) teams and additional supporting staff.

“The increased scale for this iteration of Nautical Defender shows just how profoundly our mutual capabilities are growing as we train alongside regional and coalition partners,” said Vice Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). “With steps like this toward sustained interoperability and a long-term goal of interchangeability, we will continue to build a powerful combined force, capable of defending against any threat to freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in this region’s critical waterways.”



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Sgt. Mike Leverknight originally joined the military in 2015 because he said he was working a dead-end job and wanted to do more with his life. When he found out he could work as a full-time technician for the Pennsylvania National Guard, it made his decision to join even easier.

With his 18-inch biceps, he claims to have "the biggest arms in DUSTOFF." Like many western-Pennsylvanians, he prefers Sheetz to Wawa.

Leverknight is currently deployed as a UH-60 repairer with 2-104th GSAB.

Sgt. Emily "Momma" Cash comes from a long line of veterans. Her father served in Vietnam, her grandfather in WWII, her godfather in Desert Storm and other relatives served in the military as well.

A single mom currently serving her fourth deployment, she hates the time away from her kids but she enjoys being deployed to an austere, uncomfortable environment because it forces her to grow.

She enjoys Marvel movies (her favorite character is Hawkeye because he is an unsung hero), can recite Monty Python & the Holy Grail from memory and is contemplating doing standup comedy someday.

She is currently deployed with Golf Company, 2-104th GSAB as a flight operations specialist.



(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV and Spc. Mikaela Bolker)

Sgt. Mark Schleicher used to be an AH-64 Apache helicopter repairer and recently switched to his current role as a UH-60 crew chief, which he enjoys because it allows him to be part of the flight crew. He says the support from his fellow Soldiers is helping him get through this deployment.

A frequent user of the gym equipment at the outpost, his fellow Soldiers proclaim him to be one of the strongest in the CJTF.

(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)



Sgt. Sitara Dodd originally joined the military because she played soccer in high school and missed being part of a team. She volunteered to serve as a flight medic for this deployment, from her normal role as a ground medic.

She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in emergency medicine and worked in EMS for three years. She now serves in law enforcement at home.

Her favorite part of deployment has been using the hoist. Her least favorite part has been the time away from her wife and dog.

Dodd is currently deployed with Charlie Co., 2-104th GSAB.

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 Professionals Support Wellness Fair



Members of the Task Force Anvil SHARP Team attended the Camp Buehring Wellness Fair in January. The wellness fair was hosted by the Troop Medical Clinic. This event brought together health care providers, Chaplains, and Sexual Assault Victim Advocates allowing them to showcase the services that they can provide to our Soldiers. Keeping our Soldiers physically and mentally ready to perform their mission is the top priority of our command. The SHARP Team is pleased to participate in outreach events like this and our Teal Bean Coffee and Snack Bar. Pictured from left to right are: SGT John Mateja, 628th ASB Religious Affairs Specialist, SSG Andrea Whelan, Brigade Victim Advocate, SSG Taryn Harris, 628th ASB Victim Advocate, Chaplain Justin Thomas, SFC Mark Good, 628th ASB Victim Advocate, MSG John Paul Karpovich, Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

Sexual Assault Reporting Options



There are two types of Sexual Assault Reporting Options. Both have their advantages and it is up to the Soldier to choose which reporting option they feel most comfortable with. The options are **Restricted Report** (Law Enforcement NOT notified) and **Unrestricted Report** (Law Enforcement and Chain of Command Notified). Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), Victim Advocates (VA), and Health Care Providers can take Restricted Reports. Chaplains can speak to you and your confidentiality will be maintained, but they cannot take an actual report. SARCs, VAs, Health Care Providers, Chain of Command, and Law Enforcement can take Unrestricted Sexual Assault Reports.

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



PEGASUS POST

Checking in with HHC

February 9, 2021



***Congratulations to the following who
were promoted last week:***

LTC Paul Dangelantonio

CW5 Keith Hogan

CPT Cody Greenawalt

1LT Andrew Ward





Sgt. Cara Potts-Jones and Sgt. Brad Meloy are hard at work, painting Task Force Anvil's T-wall mural commemorating our deployment. It is outside the Brigade's HQ and they hope to have it done this month. Stay tuned for the final product!

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Reminders

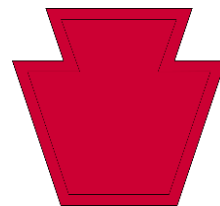
**PANCAKE BREAKFAST- FEBRUARY 12
0700-1000 AT THE HHC TENT**

**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT- FEBRUARY 23
1830-2200
(FOOD AND DRINKS PROVIDED)
SIGN UP WITH SPC BUSKIRK**



1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



10 Unique Ideas for Your Soldier's Next Care Package By SPC Mikaela Bolker, Golf Company

Sending and receiving mail is an integral part of a soldier's military experience. During extended periods of time away from home, getting mail is one of the simple joys that brings familiarity and comfort to soldiers and their families. After spending the past nine months deployed, I've learned lots of mail tips and tricks along the way. Today, I want to share them with you! Here are 10 mail ideas for your soldier that are useful, unique, and thoughtful.

1. **Ask your soldier to create a Gift Registry.** I'd recommend using Amazon Wish List. With a gift registry, soldiers can add items they need at any time, specifying quantity, brand, and priority. Registry links can be set to public or private, and are easy to link on social media or send to inquiring family and friends. Additionally, registries conveniently include the recipient's address, which eliminates hassle for the sender.
2. **There's nothing like Grandma's cooking from halfway across the world.** Homemade baked goods are a great way to physically remind your soldier of home! The most successful way to send baked goods overseas to make sure they are properly sealed. Use a vacuum sealed bag (such as FoodSaver) to ensure maximum freshness.
3. **Snacks and Hygiene Products.** Recommendations include hair ties, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, razors, baby wipes, and toothpaste/toothbrushes.
4. **Decorate!** Put a personalized spin on your mail. Decorate the inside of care package boxes with designs, messages, pictures, and words of encouragement. Personally, the best box decoration I've seen had handprints from a soldier's kid finger-painted all over the inside of the box.
5. **Important tip!** Make sure to wrap anything that could leak or spill in a plastic bag. Better safe than sorry.
6. **Seasonal items.** Seasonal trinkets and goodies always make the holidays more festive. Examples include a mini Christmas tree, Halloween candy, and Easter eggs. Even overseas, soldiers want to feel included in holidays and traditions back home.
7. **Pictures!** Many soldiers hang pictures of their family, friends, and pets on their walls, lockers, and around their workspace. A more intricate idea involving pictures is through a Flat Stanley spinoff: The soldier buys a stuffed animal overseas, and then keeps a photo diary of their adventures with it. Each month, the soldier sends these pictures back to their kids. Once the soldier returns home, their kids receive the stuffed animal in person.
8. **Stationery.** Sending stationery is a great way to encourage soldiers to write letters home. Envelopes, stamps, paper, and pens/pencils are always in demand overseas. A pen is always needed in uniform; one can never have too many. Also, if your soldier likes arts and crafts, consider sending them markers or colored pencils.
9. **Letters!** There is nothing better than receiving a handwritten letter from loved ones after a long day at work. Alternately, consider sending a funny meme, comic, or quote instead.
10. **(Virtual) Gift Cards.** Lastly, if you still aren't sure what to get your soldier, you can never go wrong with a gift card. Amazon gift cards are a great option, and they can also be sent via email. That concludes the list! Please keep in mind that every soldier and deployment is different, so make sure to ask about specifics once your soldier arrives overseas. Hopefully this article gave you some new ideas, and happy mail-ing!

02.09.2021

Issue XVIII



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



A Co. Promotion Time



A Co. forms up to congratulate the following individuals on their promotions to SGT after graduating BLC: SGT Emily Davidson, SGT Molly Kuhn, SGT Tom Lafferty, SGT Samantha Rivera, and SGT Aaron Robinson. These Soldiers salute their Company Commander and First Sergeant, CPT Matthew Gibson and 1SG Bruce Facer, before their old ranks are ripped off to make way for the 3 chevrons and all the responsibilities of an NCO.

(Photos submitted by SGT Madison Straka)



Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

PV1 Lara	SPC Huston
PV1 Raudenbush	SPC Sheehan
PV2 Kpedenou	SPC Trainor
PFC Warden	SGT Sellers

Roadrunner Review Staff

HSC- SPC Zachary Wynn, SGT 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 Peter Berlet

Hometown: Collegeville, PA

Age: 23

MOS: 25A (Signal Officer)

Civilian Occupation:
Systems Engineer

Goal After Deployment: Buy a house and start working on a new contract.

Favorite Sport To Play: Rugby, because he played it for 10 years while he lived in England.

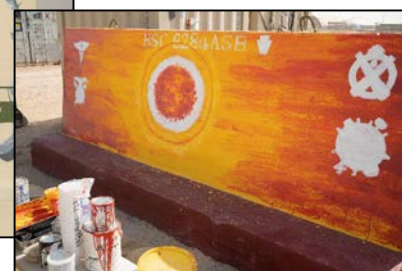
Meditation Sundays



CW4 Watson and CW2 McNeil are now facilitating Buddhist Meditation Sundays at 1400 in the SLC. In addition, they will be conducting a monthly walking meditation at the labyrinth behind GRIT.

(Photo submitted by CW2 McNeil)

T-Wall Time



SPC Heather Sharper and SGT Kellci White finish up the 628 ASB T-Wall and begin the back side mural. Meanwhile, SPC Anndiolin Miranda paints the foundation of the HSC T-Wall.

(Photos by SPC Zach Wynn)

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

Closing Shop

As our stay comes to end within the next few months, we must start preparing to leave and that means ordering must slow down. Please read the following important dates regarding mail orders.

Mail Announcement:

The cut off day for ordering items through the mail is March 24th. Be sure to let all loved ones know not to send anything after that date as well. Lastly, be sure to cancel all care package subscriptions by this time.

ADO Shipments:

The cut off day for submitting ADO requests is March 1st. If you have any orders to make for this month, you still have until the 25th to order.