







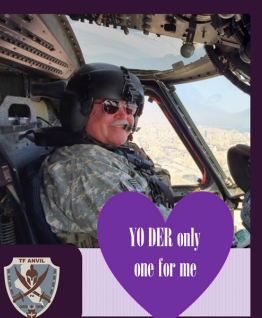







FEBRUARY 16, 2021 / ISSUE 25

THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



 <p>I love you a sling-load</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>Sending XO's</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>You make me smile</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>I'm hooked on you!</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>
 <p>Soon, we'll ride into the sunset</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>DOY NOT break my heart</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>YO DER only one for me</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>The stars aligned when I met you</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>
 <p>I C-17 reasons you should be my valentine</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>Love you to the moon and back</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>You make my heart soar</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>	 <p>I miss our long walks on the beach</p> <p>To: <input type="text"/> From: <input type="text"/></p>

SENDING LOVE TO ALL OUR VALENTINES AT HOME!

IN THIS ISSUE

- ICYMI
- Around CENTCOM
- Soldier Spotlights
- Battalion Updates

10 ideas for your Soldier's next care package

By Spc. Mikaela Bolker

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 (such as 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, some 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 is 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 and some can also be sent via email.

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!

Task Force Spartan hosts first large-scale exercise since COVID-19, Iron Union 14

By Staff Sgt. Daryl Bradford

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Soldiers from the United States' Task Force Spartan and the United Arab Emirates Land Forces gathered from Jan. 24 to Feb. 6, 2021, at Al Hamra Training Center in the United Arab Emirates for Iron Union 14, the first bi-lateral training exercise between the forces since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This recurring exercise, designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, allowed the forces to train how they might address regional security challenges. However, due to COVID-19, this year's event came with its own challenges.

"It's been an interesting process," said Capt. Ryan McGovern, the brigade planner for 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, who had a big hand in planning this exercise. "I think the real challenge is being able to accomplish this in light of the COVID conditions. This is really the first bilateral maneuver exercise that ARCENT is doing under COVID conditions. Our mitigation measures have been effective. It's a good indicator that the maneuver brigade supporting Task Force Spartan can conduct further exercises with bilateral partners both here in UAE and across the region."

The UAE is a significant partner for the U.S. within the region, and exercises such as Iron Union demonstrate a commitment by all participating nations to promoting regional stability.

"It's been great to work with the UAE Land Forces," said McGovern. "Throughout the whole process we've taken deliberate actions on both sides, on the UAE Land Forces side and U.S. side, to mitigate the risk of COVID in this exercise."

"The training and planning are an opportunity for both countries to build tactical proficiency in critical mission areas, gain an understanding of each other's forces, and support long-term regional stability."



U.S. Army Soldiers, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division, steers a M1 Abrams tank toward a simulated breaching of an enemy position during a situational training exercise, Jan. 31, 2021, at Iron Union 14 at Al Hamra Training Center in United Arab Emirates. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Daryl Bradford)

The benefits for our Soldiers and our partners are building those relationships," said Lt. Col. Bryan Bonnema, the battalion commander for 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. "For our Soldiers in particular it's important for learning the tactics, techniques, and procedures of our regional partners and being able to experience another culture."

"This exercise is important for many reasons: partnership, security, and interoperability being just a few. The underlying importance of these types of exercises is to deliver a unified message that relationships matter and training alongside partners sends a message of readiness and lethality in an effort to deter potential adversaries."

"We understand that security must be earned," said Bonnema. "It takes hard work. We are putting in that hard work with our regional partners so we can increase our capacity, we can build those relationships, and we can be prepared to address regional security threats together."



Photo by Sgt. Carissa Diggs



Photo by Sgt. Carissa Diggs



Photo by 1st Lt. Coby Smith



Photo by Capt. Michael Rant





(Photo by Spc. Emily Milosevic, spotlight by Spc. Mikaela Bolker)

Spc. Jaylah Watkins joined the military four years ago to pay for school and to be a part of something bigger than herself. She is currently a senior at The Ohio State University and studies sociology and legal foundations. After deployment, she plans to buy a house and finish school.

She says deployment has been as bad as she expected it to be, especially dealing with COVID-19, but the best part was riding on a helicopter, seeing a beautiful mountain view and stopping on an island in the Arabian Gulf.

When she's not busy monitoring and tracking flights, you can find her filming videos for her YouTube channel, Jaybugg Vlogs, or working out.

Watkins is currently deployed with HHC, 1-137th AHB as a flight operations specialist.

Our air traffic control operators typically work in a tower. When **Cpl. William Myers** and **Sgt. Ryan Smith** were temporarily unable to use the tower, they were able to direct air traffic from the flight line, still keeping aircrews safe coming into and out of the outpost.

They are both deployed with Fox Company, 2-104th GSAB.



A crew chief's helmet and face mask protect them from dust and wind but some Soldiers, like **Sgt. Jeremiah Hanley**, put their own "war paint" on it to show the pride they take in their duties and equipment.

"And it just looks cool."

Hanley is deployed with Bravo Company, 1-137th AHB.



Sgt. Caleb Estenson is currently on his second deployment and previously served in Afghanistan. He says he loves flying with his medevac unit and going on missions, but he knows that when they do get called "it's because someone is having a bad day." He says his favorite part of deployment will be going home.

Estenson is a lead mechanic, crew chief and flight instructor with Golf Company, 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

*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



TEAL BEAN

Coffee & Snack Bar

All Drinks, Drink Mixes, Water, and Snacks Are FREE



BUILDING T-004

TUESDAYS

0800-1100

Visit with your SHARP Team, MEO, and UMT.

Enjoy hometown snacks and Pennsylvania coffee.

Hot chocolate and a wide variety of tea also available.

SPONSORED BY TASK FORCE ANVIL SHARP TEAM

Thanks a LATTE for Visiting, It Just Might MOCHA Your Day!



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

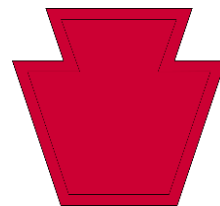


DoD Safe Helpline 24/7: 1 (877) 995-5247



1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Soldier Successfully Employs Bystander Intervention to Foster Harassment Free Work Environment

By Capt. Kevin Livingston



2020 presented many challenges to the U.S. Army in terms of accountability. High profile events, such as the tragic death of Pfc. Vanessa Guillen at the hands of a fellow Soldier after alleged harassment, exposed a critical failure in the enforcement of the Army's SHARP (Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention) program at every echelon within units at Ft. Hood, TX. While the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee's findings prompted some to cast doubt on the SHARP program's integrity, a National Guard Soldier praised its teachings in helping him recognize and intervene in a suspected sexual harassment situation.

Spc. John Pack, a signal support specialist deployed with 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment (1-137th), credits bystander intervention training for helping him to recognize and intervene when a fellow Soldier was on the receiving end of unwanted verbal and physical advances from a superior during pre-mobilization training at Ft. Hood. Although he did not know the Soldier personally, he realized that she was uncomfortable and chose to act.

"It started when he (the Soldier's OIC, or officer-in-charge) gave her his phone number for reporting purposes based on their jobs. It seemed professional, so that didn't worry me," said Pack. "Then things progressed, and he started asking her for photos, and that was an indicator for me. I thought, 'Why would this officer want this [junior Soldier's] photo?'"

Spc. Pack said he continued to keep an eye on the Soldier's situation and her continued interactions with her OIC. Over the course of the next few days, he saw the situation evolve from inappropriate text messages to direct physical contact. After an interaction in front of other Soldiers occurred with no one addressing the problem, Spc. Pack said he knew he had to do something.

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!

“Everyone who saw was enlisted and didn’t know how to address it. So I asked her directly if anything was going on and if she was ok,” said Pack. “She said he made her uncomfortable and that his advances were continuing in front of others and privately. I had spoken to other Soldiers on [our] shift, but no one wanted to come forward since he was an officer, so I decided I would intervene and let my command know.”

Spc. Pack said his leadership immediately addressed his reporting of the situation. Although he and the Soldier were in different units, Pack saw both chains of command intervene and start an investigation, ultimately holding the officer accountable and relieving him of duty. Spc. Pack would later learn that the officer in question had an alleged history of approaching and harassing Soldiers of lower rank, but that he was the first to speak up and say something to higher leadership. He also discovered that once word of potential wrongdoing had spread, others who had experienced unwanted advances began coming forward.

Bystander intervention, the act of someone perceiving a problem, interpreting it as possible harassment or assault, and stepping in to disrupt, is one of the central pieces of the Army SHARP program. The 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, or 28th ECAB (the higher headquarters for the 1-137th), emphasized bystander intervention to their Soldiers while training at Ft. Hood. Master Sgt. John Paul Karpovich, the Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, or SARC, commented that Spc. Pack’s quick thinking and willingness to come forward affected positive change for the Soldier involved and the units as a whole.

“I believe a success story is when we have someone who sees a potentially harmful event and then decides they are going to be the person to step in and feel responsible for stopping [harassment] from happening,” said Karpovich. “[Spc. Pack] took what he heard in training and made the decision to be an active bystander. That set the tone for the rest of the unit and set the climate by saying what is unacceptable.”

Spc. Pack credits his quick thinking to his classes, both during pre-mobilization and his weekend drills as a traditional guardsman, about the Army SHARP program. He acknowledged that although some units appear to lack strict enforcement of SHARP training, he has never experienced anything but professionalism and dedication by those in his unit throughout the years when reviewing the program’s content. Spc. Pack stressed that the SHARP program does work when Soldiers and leadership stand behind and support the training.

“Morals have no rank,” said Pack. “You can acknowledge something is wrong, see something, and say something. Any Soldier should be willing to put themselves in that situation to take care of each other, in and out of the uniform.”

Spc. Pack is currently deployed in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE and Operation SPARTAN SHIELD. He plans to remain in the National Guard for as long as possible, and will pursue his undergraduate degree to eventually commission as an officer once he returns home.





The Wile E. Weekly ^{-ish}

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

February 15th, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 3

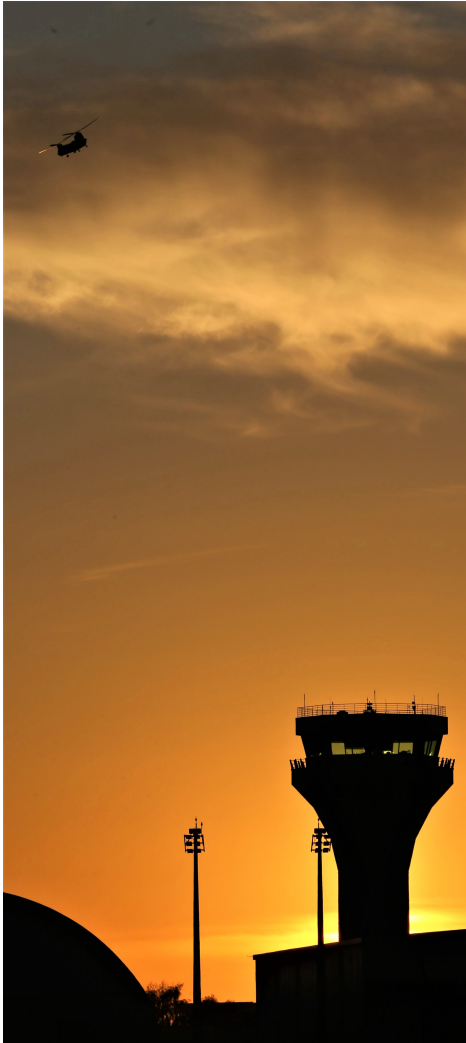
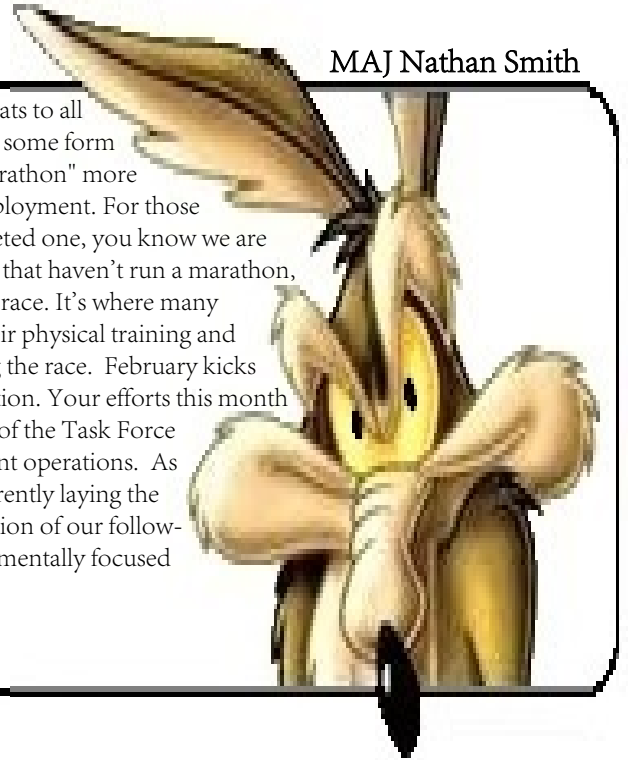


A note from the:
Executive Officer

MAJ Nathan Smith

Happy President's Day and congrats to all of our Marathon participants! I heard some form of the adage "it's not a sprint, it's a marathon" more than once when preparing for this deployment. For those of you that have trained for or completed one, you know we are crossing mile 21 right now. For those that haven't run a marathon, that's generally the hardest part of the race. It's where many runners transition from relying on their physical training and need to focus on mentally completing the race. February kicks off a month of transition and preparation. Your efforts this month will set the stage for a fluid expansion of the Task Force mission set while sustaining our current operations. As if that isn't enough, we will be concurrently laying the groundwork for the sequenced reception of our follow-on unit. Keep up the great work, stay mentally focused and let's finish this run!

Nathan D. Smith



ABOVE and RIGHT: An air traffic services tower and a DUSTOFF helicopter is silhouetted by an Arabian sunset in the OIR Area of Operations while a chinook cases the landscape in the background.

Photo by SGT Eric Smith

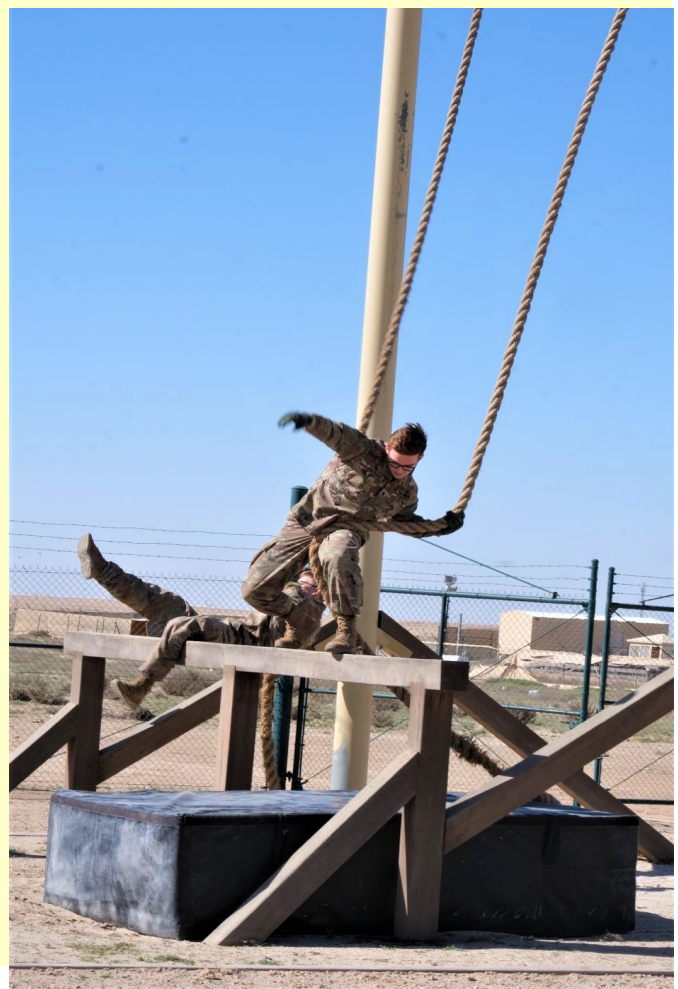


Join your company's FRG Facebook group, the battalion Facebook group, and the brigade page for updates.



ABOVE: A Soldier negotiates the razor wire-laden sand pit, part of the obstacle course at Camp Buehring
Photo by SPC Jose Brown

BELOW: Soldiers negotiate the obstacle course at Camp Buehring, a long-standing tradition in the Army to assist Leadership in building cohesion and teamwork within their units.
Photo by SPC Jose Brown



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"LEADING FROM THE FRONT"

ABOVE: SGT Darren Troche of HHC 2-104 GSAB takes his off-duty time to train CPL Aharrah in the pouring rain how to conduct drill and ceremony in accordance with Army Regulation, preparing her for attendance at Basic Leader Course.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer



LEFT: Soldiers from Task Force Coyote pose with their individually assigned weapons at the range while they await their turn to conduct live-fire.

Photo by SPC Jose Brown

RIGHT: Soldiers from TF Coyote participate in Individual Weapons Qualification training. These Soldiers are some of the first in the Brigade to explore the parameters of the newly revised Training Circular (TC) 3-20.40.

Photo by SPC Jose Brown



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LEFT: Soldiers from HHC 2-104 GSAB stand in formation as they listen to motivational words from their Commander after being presented with mid-tour awards.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer

BELOW: Soldiers from HHC 2-104 GSAB pose with their newly donned "right-sleeve" patches, denoting their direct support of combat operations.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer



ABOVE and RIGHT: The D Co 2-104 GSAB Commander and 1SG conduct a formation to promote, award, and commend Soldiers who have demonstrated their will to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Photo by SGT Joshua Mayro



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"AN ICON OF RESILIENCE"

ABOVE: A Pitted Beetle (*Adesmia cancellata*) takes a moment to rest atop an Airforce shipping pallet, which are routinely used as walkways in the Combined Joint Operational Area. Any deployed member of Task Force Coyote has likely crossed paths with many of these creatures over the past several months. Pitted Beetles are a type of Darkling Beetle that is considered "day active." They are black-colored desert beetles and are "among the most successful animals of the desert," and can be encountered most often during daylight hours. Pitted Beetles are known to be extremely resilient and well adapted to desert life, embracing the hot, dry conditions they experience. These beetles are categorized into the genus *Adesmia* which belongs to a category of beetles known as "fast runners," reaching speeds of up to one meter per second.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer

Read more about the Pitted Beetle here: <https://www.birdsofsaudiarabia.com/2013/07/pitted-beetle-dhahran-hills.html>

The Wile E. Weekly Staff

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 C - SGT Eric Smith
 D - SGT Joshua Mayro/ SPC Jose Brown
 E - SGT Carissa Diggs/ SPC Jennifer Raley/ SPC Tyler Speer
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ROADRUNNER REVIEW

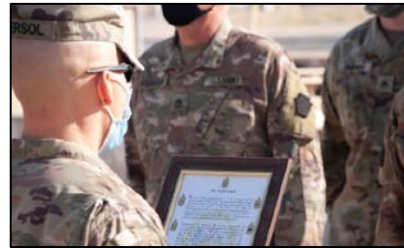
Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



Formation for the promotion of CPL Gregory Ebersol to the rank of SGT. Here he receives his new rank patch and insignia on his patrol cap before reciting the NCO Creed.

(Photos by SPC Jason Kopp and SPC Zachary Wynn)

Promotion



Chinook Rotors



15Us install new rotors on a Chinook

Making Connections



PV2 Angel Almanzar, SGT Brian Gahagen, SSG Stephen Russel, and SFC Mitchell Mueller of C Co. work on setting up an HCLOS (High Capacity Line Of Sight). This will allow them to have a back up connection for secured network lines.

(Photos by SPC Jason Kopp and SPC Zachary Wynn)

Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

PFC Pitts	CPL Powell
SPC Arce	SGT Henry, B
SPC Ferreri	SGT Kuhn, M
SPC Ross	SGT Stugart
SPC Tchagnao	SFC Lefever

Roadrunner Review Staff

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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 Daivon Lewis

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Age: 25

MOS: 92Y (Supply Specialist)

Civilian Occupation:
Postal Inspector

Goal After Deployment: Start up his own ATM business, continue stock trading, and continue to educate himself in financial literacy.

If animals could talk, he thinks the rudest would be: Ostriches

Home On The Range



628 continues to set the precedent of learning the new Army Rifle Qualifications. Soldiers successfully run through the new fast-paced rifle qualifications which include less time in-between different firing positions.

The leaders of 628 can also be found watching over the Soldiers at the range and qualifying themselves.

(Photos by SPC Jason Kopp)

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

Running Around Kuwait



CPT Samuel Debold of HSC shows his awards from placing 3rd and 2nd, within his age group, in the Winter Wonderland Half Marathon and the Virtual Half Marathon, respectively. He has also won medals from the Army Ten-Miler and completing the Taji 100 Challenge in which Soldiers run 100 miles in 28 days.

Not only has CPT Debold finished the Taji 100 within just the first 7 days of the challenge, but he is getting ready for the Valentine Day Marathon and is expecting to take home another award.



PEGASUS POST

Checking in with HHC

February 16, 2021



***Good luck to all our Soldiers participating in the TAJI 100,
an event that originated at Camp Taji, Iraq in 2010.
Participants commit to running/walking 100 miles in the
month of February.***

Reminders

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST- RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 19
0700-1000 AT THE HHC TENT**

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