



FEBRUARY 23, 2021 / ISSUE 26

THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Soldiers laced up for a deployment marathon in memory of Michael J. Novosel, a legendary U.S. Army aviator

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Deployed Soldiers run marathon for a good cause

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Although deployed to the Middle East, Soldiers are still finding ways to stay active, even dedicating a couple hours on Sunday to run in memory of a decorated Army aviator.

About 120 Soldiers with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade participated in a marathon and half-marathon throughout their area of operations. The main event was held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait but runners at other bases and outposts participated virtually.

They raced in memory of Michael J. Novosel, Sr., a native of Etna, Pennsylvania, who served for over 40 years as an Army aviator and received the Medal of Honor for rescuing 29 Soldiers during the Vietnam War. He served two tours in Vietnam where he flew 2,543 missions in the UH-1 Huey and nearly 5,600 medical evacuees.

"The marathon was initiated to provide our Soldiers a mid-tour event that would keep their motivation and physical endurance high," said Lt. Col. Michael Girvin, executive officer for the 28th ECAB and head organizer of the race. "What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day with a little grit and determination while away from our loved ones and to remember the sacrifices of Michael J. Novosel."

The top finisher in the marathon was Capt. Sam DeBold, support operations officer with Headquarters Support Company, 628th Aviation Support Battalion. DeBold ran at Camp Buehring and completed the marathon with a time of 3:37:59.

The top finisher in the half-marathon was Capt. Matthew Groff, a UH-60 pilot with 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion. Groff also ran at Camp Buehring and completed the half-marathon with a time of 1:22:37.

Many Soldiers also supported the race by manning medical points, passing out water and Gatorade, keeping time and encouraging runners along the route as they passed by.

"Throughout our area of operations, where we had both large and small outposts, our junior officers and NCOs stepped up to coordinate medical and logistic support," said Girvin.

Novosel's son, Michael Jr., also was an Army aviator and volunteered to serve with his father in Vietnam. After his father's death in 2006, Michael Jr. made appearances on his behalf and established the Michael J. Novosel Foundation which aims to help troops navigate gaps in Veterans Affairs benefits and with their transition to civilian life.



Soldier credits SHARP training for fostering accountability

By Capt. Kevin Livingston

KUWAIT -- 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.

"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."



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Photo by Spc. Jason Kopp



Photo by Spc. Jason Kopp



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Photo by Sgt. Eric Smith



Photo by CW3 George Lambert



Photo by Spc. Jason Kopp



(Photo and spotlight by Spc. Jose Brown)

SFC William Shillingsford originally joined the Army to pay for college but says he had too much fun and never went.

He stays in the Army because he's "got nowhere else to go" and enjoys training Soldiers. After deployment, he plans to hang out with his family and finally meet his newest granddaughter, Emmalyn, before going back to work as a safety specialist.

Between wrestling a gorilla and an alligator, he says he would rather wrestle a honey badger and box a gorilla "obviously because honey badger don't give a..."

Shillingsford is currently deployed with Delta Company, 2-104th GSAB as a UH-60 helicopter repairer.

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Thompson is one of several United States Air Force Airmen working with us, providing weather information that is crucial to conduct our missions safely.

Thompson originally joined the military to pay for school. He is currently enrolled at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and wants to fly someday. His favorite sport is hockey and he loved watching Tie Domi because he was a "small brawler" and loved his tenacity.

Although he wears an Air Force uniform, he recently earned an Army Commendation Medal for his service to the 28th ECAB.



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



SHARP Professional of the Month

Sergeant First Class Bobbi Cumpston has been named the SHARP Professional of the Month for January 2021. SFC Cumpston performs collateral duties as a SHARP Victim Advocate for 2/104 AVN. She is currently assigned as the GSAB Logistics Section NCOIC. SFC Cumpston has been working diligently with our team to help plan events for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). She is a valued member of the Task Force Anvil SHARP Team.



File Photo



File Photo

Organizations and Individuals Helping Our Cause

You cannot defeat Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault alone. Task Force Anvil SHARP Team has been fortunate enough to receive much support from our community back home. This helps us provide support to our Soldiers in numerous ways. We would like to thank AMVETS Post 59, Girl Scout Troop 30228, Verizon Telecom Pioneers, Wyoming Valley Veterans Day Parade Committee, Mission BBQ, Mrs. Alice Keiner, Ms. Elizabeth Hutfles, Twin Valley Alliance Church, and Bason Coffee Roasting for their generous donations which have helped make our Teal Bean Coffee and Stamp Out Sexual Harassment outreach programs successful.

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SPONSORED BY TASK FORCE ANVIL SHARP TEAM



PEGASUS POST

Checking in with HHC

February 23, 2021



Congratulations to all HHC Soldiers who participated in last week's Task Force Anvil marathon and half-marathon!

Reminders

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



1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Motto:

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

02.22.2021

Issue XX



To all the friends and family of the 1-137 AHB, we would like to thank you for your continued support. As always, 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 a post!

If you have not already please follow the Task Force Chickenhawk Facebook Group. This is where you can stay 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.

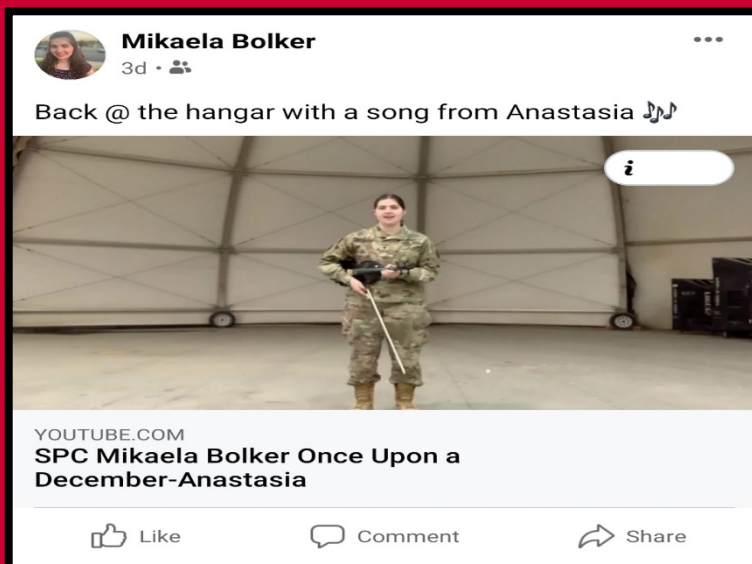
We look forward to keeping you updated on all things Task Force Chickenhawk!



AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS!

CPT Moore received the TF Anvil SHARP Professional for the month of February (Picture Top) and SGT Hall received an Army Achievement Medal for his exceptional service providing his time to sing for the TF Chickenhawk Chapel Service. (Picture Bottom)

TF Chickenhawk Talk:



TF Chickenhawk soldiers take part in a Foreign Object Debris Walk or FOD Walk alongside all soldiers from TF Anvil. Soldiers check for trash that may obstruct aircraft taking off on the flight line. (Picture Top)

SGT Hall received an Army Achievement Medal for his time spent working with the TF Chickenhawk Chapel Band and additional duties performed for the Christmas Eve Service. SGT Hall is a member of the 1-189 GSAB that stayed for an additional tour and fell under TF Chickenhawk. (Picture Bottom Left)

SPC Mikaela Bolker of Gulf Company is back again with her rendition of Once Upon a December. Check out her YouTube video that has been shared to the TF Chickenhawk Facebook Group! (Picture Bottom Right)



ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



USO Brings Soldiers Together



Promotion

Congratulations to SGT Javiet Ballard of C Co for her recent promotion to the rank of SGT. Keep up the good work Soldier!

(Photo submitted by SPC Jason Kopp)



Soldiers take a break from their training in a different base with other coalition forces. The USO sponsors this Karaoke night for the Soldiers as well as a tie dye shirt event in which the Soldiers get to create their own shirt.

(Photos Submitted by CPT Justin Thomas)

Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

SPC Clark, K	1SG Facer
SPC Dunston	CPT Hong
SPC Drake, F	CPT Palermo
SPC Jennings	CPT Schmidt
SPC McCallum	CW3 Wienches
SGT Green, C	SSG Brown, S
SGT Stouffer	SFC Sherkin, N
SGT Wootton, B	

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 C Co.- SPC Jason Kopp

Get To Know Your Soldiers...



Name/Rank: SFC Matthew Coons

Hometown: York, PA

Age: 49

MOS: 91X Maintenance Control NCO

Civilian Occupation:

Federal Technician working for the SSMO (State Service Maintenance Office)

Goal After Deployment: He has just accepted a 1SG slot at State College, and upon retirement he would like to open his own automotive repair shop with his son.

Favorite Car: AC Shelby Cobra, because he has been a Ford Fanatic for as long as he can remember.

USO Hosts Competition



Both HSC and A Co of 628 participated in a USO hosted, competitive cornhole tournament. In the end, the championship came down to an international showdown between TF Toro and TF Roadrunner. The victory went to Team USA.

(Photos submitted by CPT Justin Thomas)



Important 2020 Tax Information:

While deployed you are authorized an extension to your 2020 Federal Income tax returns. Follow this link for more information and how to verify if the IRS is tracking your current deployment information and how to find free filing services for military members. Don't assume that the extension is automatic or covers additional family members, it is still your responsibility to verify. W2's should now be available on the MyPay website but you should still consider filing by the April 15th deadline.



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

Adding to the Collection



HSCs own CPT Samuel Debold takes home yet another plaque honoring him for his outstanding dedication to running as seen through placing first in the TF Anvil Marathon on Feb 14th.



The Wile E. Weekly ^{-ish}

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

February 22nd, 2021

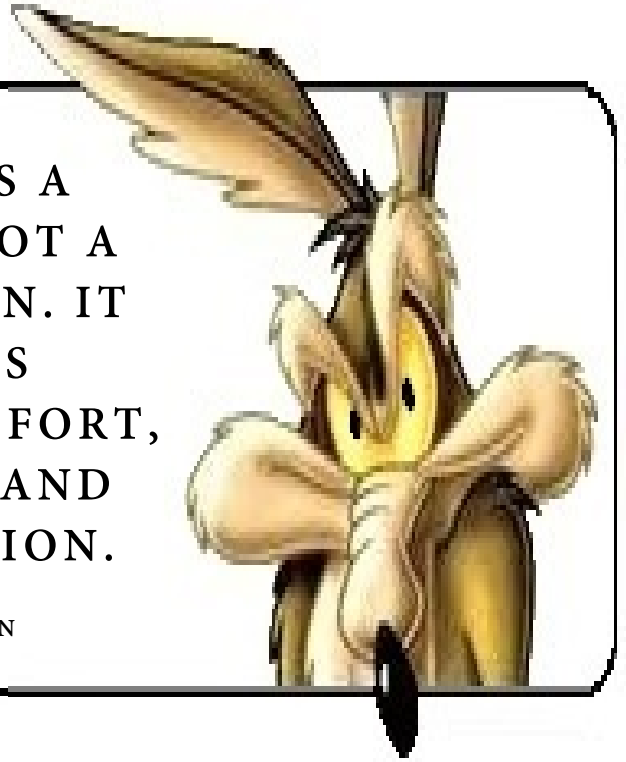
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ABOVE: 1SG Chuhran, of HHC 2-104 GSAB, takes a moment to smile for the camera during the TF Anvil Marathon at Camp Buehring, KU. He would go on to run 4:49:03 for the totality of the 26.2 mile race. **More marathon pictures on page 2.**

SUCCESS IS A
JOURNEY, NOT A
DESTINATION. IT
REQUIRES
CONSTANT EFFORT,
VIGILANCE AND
REEVALUATION.

- MARK TWAIN



"TURNING WRENCHES"

Below: A Soldier from D Co, 2-104 GSAB conducts routine maintenance on a Blackhawk helicopter.

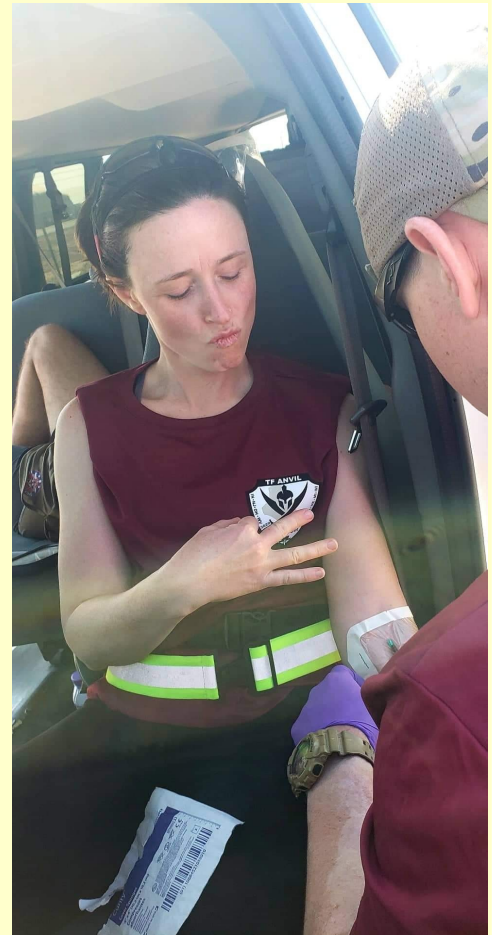


Join your company's FRG Facebook group, the battalion Facebook group, and the brigade page for updates.

TF Coyote represents at the TF Anvil Marathon



LEFT: SGT Denis Mulligan and SGT Kyle Timmons pose for a quick snapshot of their participation in the TF Anvil Half Marathon at Camp Buehring, KU.



Above: SGT James Russell of HHC 2-104 GSAB, the designated medic for the race, rehydrates CPT Christina Broomell, the Battalion's Aviation Physician Assistant after the race.

Right: SPC Greg Morris and SGT Travis Lee run the TF Anvil "full" 26.2 mile marathon. The two of them were relentless, as they spent the last 3 months training for that very event.



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BELOW: Camp Buehring MWR Staff assemble decorations to bring the spirit of Mardi Gras to the troops on ground.



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