



MARCH 23, 2021 / ISSUE 30

THE ANVIL INSIDER



A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photos by Master Sgt. Joey Swafford

Fuelers work with our partners in the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing to top off our fuel supply in a remote location with an Aerial Bulk Fuels Delivery System.

The ABFDS supports special missions and operations that require fuel delivery when local sources either aren't available or there are other limiting factors.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ICYMI
- Around CENTCOM
- Soldier Spotlights
- Battalion Updates

15 years later, pilots reunite for Mideast flight mission

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rich Adams and 1st Lt. Ernie Carlson flew 1500 hours-worth of combat missions in an AH-64 Apache helicopter during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

Fifteen years later, now Chief Warrant Officer 5 Adams and Maj. Carlson are back in the Middle East serving with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the fight against Daesh, and Operation Spartan Shield.

They recently had an opportunity to fly a mission together again, just like old times but this time in a UH-60 Black Hawk.

The biggest thing they talked about was how different this current mission feels.

"While our mission has changed drastically it helps knowing that the Kuwaitis are thriving and the Iraqis are becoming more and more self-policing. We both look forward to the day when these overseas deployments will be no longer necessary," said Adams. "In 2006, I had two young children and LT Carlson was just out of college. Today my kids are adults and all grown up and Carlson leaves his wife and two young children back home."

What was the biggest difference this time for Carlson?

"We both have a little more grey hair," he said.



"But Chief Adams has probably taught me more over the years than anyone I've ever flown with," Carlson added. "One of my first memories with Rich is getting in a fight early on in Iraq. I was the gunner and talking to ground forces with a little excitement in my voice. Rich took the radio from me and finished my transmission. Once he was complete he firmly told me 'no one wants to hear an excited Apache pilot.' We finished the mission that day and ever since then, I usually take a breath and think for a second before making radio transmissions."

They say the one thing that hasn't changed is that they miss their families and look forward to the day when they are home with them. Getting through those tough times, separated from their families, is something they have helped each other get through since 2006.

Adams currently serves as the 28th ECAB's aviation mission survivability officer and Carlson serves as the operations officer for 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion.

AROUND THE MIDDLE EAST

Egyptian ENS Sharm El-Sheikh, USS Somerset Perform Passing Exercise

By Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group Public Affairs

The Egyptian guided-missile frigate ENS Sharm El-Sheikh (FFG 901) and U.S. amphibious transport dock ship USS Somerset (LPD 25) conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX), March 14.

A PASSEX is an exercise in which multiple ships operate in close vicinity to practice evolutions together to improve crews' knowledge, navigation and interoperability.

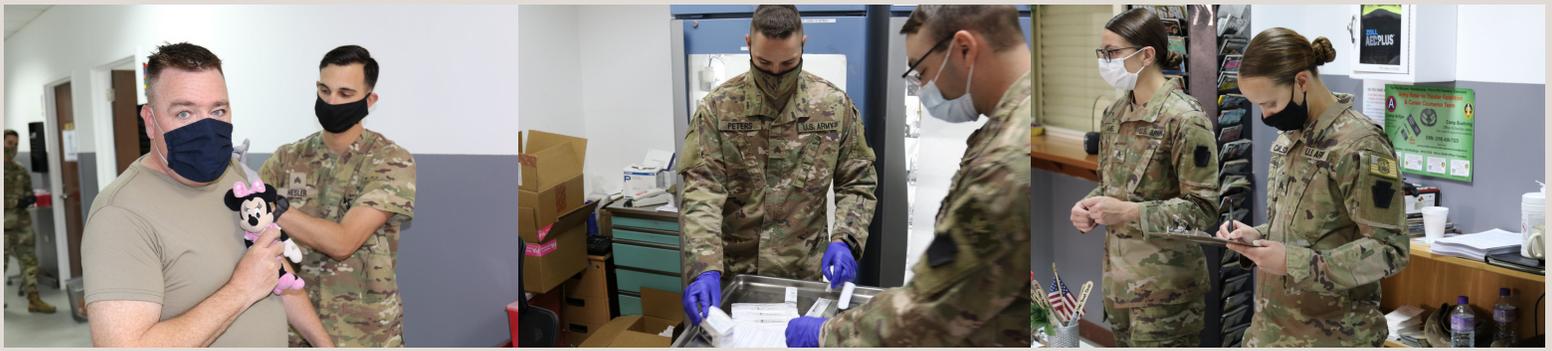
"Operating with the Egyptian Navy is a highlight for our deployment. As the U.S. Navy operates forward to reassure friends and deter adversaries, strengthening partnerships is important," said Capt. Dave Kurtz, Somerset's commanding officer.

The PASSEX commenced with Sharm El-Sheikh and Somerset performing divisional tactics and maneuvers in formation. Additionally, the ships performed replenishment-at-sea approaches to strengthen our ability to operate together and increase shiphandling skills.

"Our work with the Egyptians was coordinated in detail, and took advantage of common maritime operating procedures," said Kurtz. Although brief, it solidifies that our two navies can and often do operate from the same playbook. By capturing those lessons, the next exercise can build on that foundation and become even more complex."

Somerset is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.





Our Soldiers recently began receiving and administering COVID-19 vaccines at our medical clinics throughout the Middle East. The Johnson & Johnson Janssen vaccine required only one shot. After receiving the vaccine, Soldiers were monitored for 15 minutes by medical personnel.

Spc. Kade McNally, left, and **Sgt. Richard Peat** are fuel specialists deployed at a remote outpost with Alpha Company, 628th ASB.

McNally says his favorite thing about his job is being able to work on a lot of different ground and aviation vehicles, and being an essential part of mission accomplishment.

Peat loves having the opportunity to get up close and personal with Black Hawks, Apaches, Chinooks as well as Air Force and coalition aircraft that he doesn't normally see. He says his appreciation has grown for how these advanced pieces of aviation machinery work.



After deployment, **Staff Sgt. Alice Moses** plans on finishing her degree in jurisprudence from California University of Pennsylvania, attending the Army Advanced Leadership Course and traveling to the Caribbean.

She joined the military at the age of 17 and serves as a paralegal specialist. At home, she works for the human resources office at Fort Indiantown Gap. She loves reading, writing, hiking and exploring different restaurants. Her favorite book is Panther and the Lash.

Moses said #WomensHistoryMonth means a lot to her because she's the only female Soldier in her family, as well as the only female paralegal in the 28th ECAB.



"My mom is my role model and women's history should be celebrated more than 30 days," said Moses. "Being the only female in my section, I feel just as equal as that of my male counterparts."

(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)

Staff Sgt. Andrea Whelan joined the military at 32 after someone said that she couldn't do it. Now she is nearing retirement after a long military career.

On her downtime, she is working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology from Liberty University. After deployment, she looks forward to spending time with her children and grandchildren on Kelly's Island in Ohio.

"Womens History Month is a time of reflection for me", said Whelan. "I look at all the great women who forged the way forward for me to be able to do the incredible things I have enjoyed doing in the Army."



Whelan is deployed as the brigade victim advocate.

(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)



Sgt. Matthew Patterson likes to sing and play the piano but has a passion for motorcycles and dirt bikes. His favorite deployment experience has been flying around Saudi Arabia and wading into the Arabian Gulf.

His biggest influence is his Uncle Sam, who he says was "the best mechanic around and one of the greatest people anyone could ever get to know." He originally joined the military to experience Army aviation and help pay for school.

Patterson is a UH-60 crew chief currently deployed with Alpha Company, 1-137th AHB.

(Spotlight by Spc. Jessica de la Torre)

Staff Sgt. Raquel Runde did JROTC in high school prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army. She loves serving and plans to stay until retirement.

After deployment, she looks forward to going to Hawaii with her husband.

Runde says #WomensHistoryMonth highlights how far women have come. She appreciates seeing women doing air assault and airborne school as well as other Army schools.

Runde is an automated logistical specialist deployed with Delta Company, 2-104th GSAB.



(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)



CW3 Megan Dawson joined the Army in high school to become a medic and fell in love with the aviation community. She then commissioned as a warrant officer and has been a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot for 18 years.

She says #WomensHistoryMonth is important since it highlights the few women in aviation.

After deployment, she looks forward to spending time with her kids.

(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)

Today's homefront heroes are **Jerry** and **Andrea**, grandparents of 1st Lt. Jean Beljour's wife Kyra.

"Papa Jerry (prior United States Air Force JAG) and GrAndrea have been heroes to our family during this deployment! My three energetic boys and I came to visit in October and turned into roommates for the last six months. As if welcoming three loud kids to quarantine in their house during a pandemic isn't enough, GrAndrea ran their law firm from home and Papa (91 years old) beat and recovered from Covid. In between virtual school, work, and recovery, they taught the boys to celebrate every theme dinner they can, shine shoes, polish silver, pick lemons/oranges, make orange juice, cook Cowboy Chili by the vat, wind the grandfather clock, play cards, hand pop popcorn for Friday family movie night, 'to always be proud of themselves' and so much more.

Whether it is doing push-ups every morning while the coffee is being made, or snuggling on the couch during Jeopardy, they have made a hard time one that is filled with love and joy. They are our Homefront Heroes!" -Kyra Beljour.

Thanks for holding down the homefront, Jerry and Andrea!



If you know a homefront hero, see the instructions in the flyer below



Soldiers with Alpha Company, 1-82nd ARB give AH-64 Apaches a good cleaning to remove the dirt and dust that can be hazardous to a helicopter.



DEPLOYMENT YEARBOOK

\$23.10

ORDER BY APRIL 2

- 1) Go to commpe.pictavo.com
- 2) Put 95050 in the School ID#
- 3) Select "Shop My School"
- 4) Both options are the same yearbook but you may choose delivery to your home for \$10.50 more.

**TASK
FORCE
ANVIL**



TF Anvil soldiers should be remembered for their efforts this deployment. The deployment yearbook will be used to supplement historical documentation obligations, as well as for Soldiers and their families to enjoy.

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



SHARPEst Team Walking Group Participates in 1/2 Marathon

Members of the SHARPEst Team participated in an early morning 1/2 Marathon together with other Soldiers from across the Brigade. Walking is a great way to relieve stress and can be very therapeutic. Task Force Anvil SHARP Team formed the SHARPEst Team Walking Group during our training time at Fort Hood, Texas. The group size varies based on work schedules and other availability issues, but it continues to be a great way for us to provide outreach and support to our Soldiers. We normally walk 3.5 miles or more a night depending on the how we feel. We try not to let the weather stop us. Walking together is a great team building exercise.

I AM Strong

I = INTERVENE: When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent sexual assault. I will condemn acts of sexual harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language, or behavior. I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I will **INTERVENE**.

A= ACT: You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right. I will prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will **ACT**.

M= MOTIVATE: We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action. We are strongest...together.

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

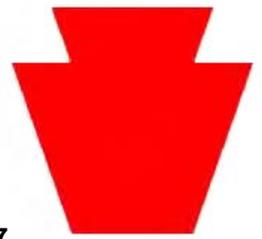


The Wile E. Weekly^{-ish}

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

March 22nd, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 7



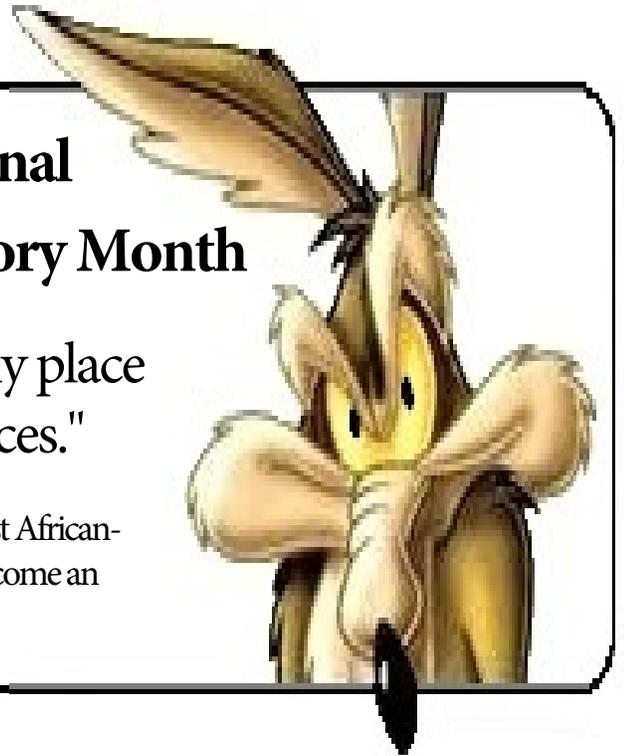
ABOVE: A Soldier takes a moment to watch a CH-47 during a FOD walk on the airfield. FOD stands for "Foreign Objects and Debris," and these such police calls are routine and essential to aviation safety.

Photo by SPC Jose Brown

March is National Women's History Month

"The air is the only place free from prejudices."

- Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman to become an airplane pilot, 1921.



Helping Out a Hercules

BELOW: Fuelers with E Co. POL conduct fueling and defueling operations on an Air Force C-130 fixed wing aircraft. Defueling these aircraft use 350 gpm pumps and can take up to 3 hours. Present during this operation were SSG Justin Rush, SGT Caleb Hill, SPC Shaddiq Houston, SGT John Coyle, CPL Tyler Hertzog, and CPL Marliz Serrano.

Photo contribution by SPC Mariliz Serrano and SGT Leonard Thاون



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



LEFT: SPC Chad Wood loads a footlocker into a shipping container in preparation for redeployment. SPC Wood is acting in the capacity as the HHC Company Unit Movement Officer, assisting Soldiers in storing their "C" and "D" bags, which are typically loaded with personal equipment which is not immediately essential. Soldiers may not see these bags again for upwards of 6 months as they make their way back to the continental United States.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer

RIGHT: SSG Jason Rex is promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class, and will return to Pennsylvania as SFC Jason Rex. He was pinned in a small ceremony in Baghdad by SSG Kody Lupton and CW2 Zach Lundgren.

Photo by SGT Carissa Diggs

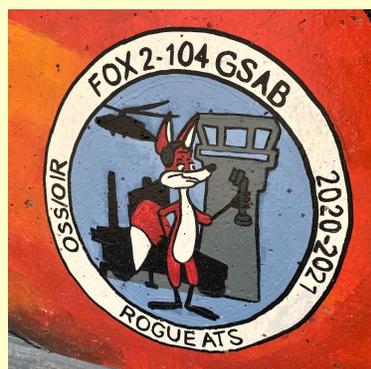
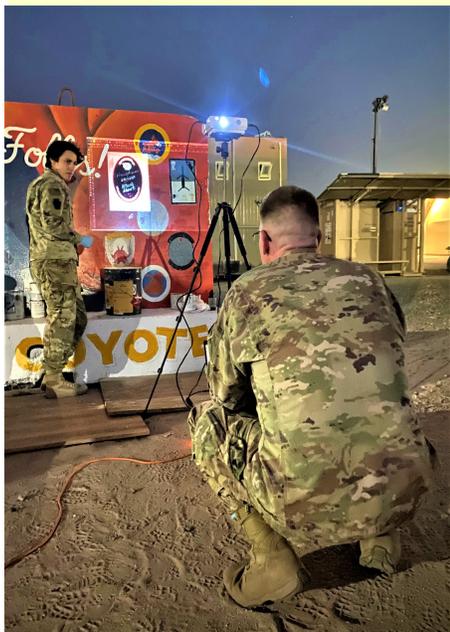


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Immortalizing the Coyote

Soldiers from HHC 2-104 GSAB put the finishing touches on the TF Coyote T-Wall. In previous editions of the Wile E. Weekly, it was discussed that T-Walls are a traditional way for units to leave their mark on military installations abroad. Involved in this rendition of TF Coyote's T-Wall creation were CPT (Ch) Christopher Lehr, SGT Destiny Velazquez, and SPC Tyresha Vaughan.

Photos by SFC Justin Shaffer



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Ready for the ACFT

BELOW: Soldiers take part in the ACFT. As reviews of the Army's new physical fitness program are conducted, Soldiers continue to participate in and log metrics pertaining to their completion of the test. These data will enable senior leadership at the National Guard Bureau and above to accurately represent Soldiers' needs and abilities to better accommodate those of the Army. Pictured on the right side of the photo (from right to left) are 1LT Jean Beljour and SGT Richard Gast, acting Officer In Charge (OIC) and Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC).

Photo by SGT Joshua Mayro



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D - SGT Joshua Mayro/ SPC Jose Brown
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1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Motto:

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

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Issue XXIII

10 Common Deployment Activities for Soldiers By SPC Bolker, Golf Company

Soldiers are encouraged to pursue their passions during their free time throughout deployment. From movie nights to college courses, below are 10 common activities Soldiers do to stay occupied overseas.

1. **Games:** Between board games, card games, and video games, there is always a game night happening on base, and competitive Soldiers eager to play.
2. **Sports:** Sports help soldiers to improve their PT and have fun at the same time. Volleyball, basketball, soccer, and football are all Soldier favorites.
3. **Religious Services:** Regularly scheduled religious services and events are always available to Soldiers.
4. **School & Career Development:** Many Soldiers take advantage of their education benefits and complete college and/or career development courses. Most bases also have an education center that has computers, Wi-Fi and a comfortable place to work.
5. **Fitness:** One benefit to living on base means that there is 24/7 access to a free gym. For especially invested Soldiers, these gyms often host events such as 5K’s, ruck marches, or weightlifting competitions.
6. **Music:** Some Soldiers bring their musical instruments with them overseas. Luckily, overseas jam sessions are common.
7. **Books & Movies:** Soldiers can finally cover their list of books and/or movies they’ve always wanted to finish. Frequent hard drive and book exchanges on base make finding new content easily accessible.
8. **MWR & USO events:** Thanks to the USO and MWR, there are always unique activities planned. Special events like karaoke night, bingo, and live concerts give Soldiers plans to look forward to after work.
9. **Connecting Back Home:** Video chat, phone calls, email, texting, and writing letters keep Soldiers and their families connected.
10. **Hanging Out With Friends:** Nobody understands what Soldiers go through on deployment better than fellow battle buddies. Because of this, deployments often create strong bonds that last a lifetime.

Ultimately, deployment can be a fantastic way for Soldiers to improve themselves both personally and professionally. It is truly inspiring to see Soldiers pursue their passions while serving their country overseas.



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: It is strongly recommended that families not send mail to soldiers past March 17, 2021.

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!



ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



Motor Pool Promotions

Congratulations to HSC's members of the mechanic section; CPL Maine Thompson, SGT Thomas Rumcik, and SGT Shane Shope on their recent promotions. Your hard work and dedication is recognized and appreciated!



SGT Megan Hall of A Co fuels up a Black Hawk while in a remote location.

Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| PV2 Almanzar | SGT Benner |
| PFC Green, R | SGT Rivera |
| SPC Byrge | CW3 Ezykowsky |
| SPC Lewis, D | |

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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 Mitchell Powl
Hometown: Elizabethtown, PA
Age: 23
MOS: 15T (Black Hawk Mechanic)
Civilian Occupation: Full-time Student

Goal After Deployment: Finish degree in Finance

Interesting Fact: He has a civilian pilot's license

T-Wall Progress

The progress continues on all the T-Walls which will solidify our time here for all to see. Artists from each company continue to do an amazing job highlighting the battalion's work in the 628 T-Wall designs. SPC Anndiolin Miranda is close to being finished with HSC's wall which has Easter Eggs hidden throughout the design. Lastly, SGT Jonathon Roa has almost completed A Co's T-Wall in just a few weeks.

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

TF Anvil soldiers should be remembered for their efforts this deployment:

The yearbook is now available to order! It is \$23.10 (before tax) or you can have it shipped to your home for \$33.60.

Steps for Ordering:

- 1) Go to commpe.pictavo.com <<http://commpe.pictavo.com>>
- 2) Put 95050 in the School ID#
- 3) Select "Shop My School"
- 4) Both options are the same yearbook but one is for delivery to your home
- 5) Check out and pay attention to the instructions in the Delivery tab.

***You must purchase your book by April 2.**

The deployment yearbook will be used to supplement historical documentation obligations, as well as for Soldiers and their families to enjoy.

If any Soldiers are interested in submitting content or designing some pages, please contact CPT Travis Mueller or their UPAR.

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

Ruck to Raise Awareness



Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) 10 Mile Walk / Ruck

April 11th 2021

Step off at 0300, then enjoy breakfast together.

Photo will be taken prior to starting our journey.

For details and shirt orders:

SFC Mark Good (628 ASB Victim Advocate)

for details and to order a shirt

mark.s.good.mil@mail.mil / [@MarkGood79](mailto:VENMO)

Shirts will cost \$15.00

*Shirts run one size smaller than normal

Not Raising any Money, Just Raising Awareness