

April 2021
Magazine Vol. 6
36th Inf. Div.
TF Spartan

The Arrowhead

TASK FORCE SPARTAN



**M-17
NEW
Military
Handgun**

PARTNERSHIP | DETERRENCE | READINESS
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TASK FORCE SPARTAN AND THE 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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Contribute to The Arrowhead

Send us your great photos, articles, or ideas to the Arrowhead

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From the Top

CCWO Paul Jenschke
36th ID Command CWO
Task Force Spartan



The Arrowhead TASK FORCE SPARTAN

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“In Spite of Hell” The Warrant Officer Technical Expertise Influence on the Army

If you are trying to find the most highly competent and technically proficient Soldier in today’s Army then look no further than to the Army Warrant Officer’s Corp. The warrant officers make up the professional technical foundation of the U.S. Army and are highly-trained, single tracked, technical experts who specialize in one of many technical areas that include intelligence, aviation, maintenance and engineering to name a few. The warrant officer possesses the technical expertise so they can apply their experience and ability to identify problems quickly, develop solutions, and advice on improvement and change for the better of the mission or unit.

Warrant officers are in 17 branches of the Army that encompasses 67 different warrant officer military specialties. New technical specialties for the warrant officer often are added due to the requirement that specialized experts need to progress with the ever changing advances made in technology and cutting-edge weapon systems. We are a small group of highly competent professionals that make up less than 3% of the total army force but overall this small group brings an infinite amount of experience, wisdom, and service. The majority of warrant officers in today’s Army, particularly technical warrant officers tend to stay in service 20 plus years with many achieving 30 to 40 years of dedicated service.

In addition to being the specialized technical experts, warrant officers also are combat leaders, trainers, and advisors for the commander and senior leadership. Most commander’s consider their warrant officers the go-to individual for solutions and answers related to their field of expertise. Commanders and senior leaders rely on warrant officers to provide honest, candid opinions or answers based upon sound judgement, experience and technical expertise. It is sometimes not the advice that commanders or leadership want to hear, but they will know that it is the honest truth with the mission and unit as a priority.

This Month...

When I conduct professional training to junior warrant officers, I like to iterate to them that they are the honest broker for the commander. I further remind them that integrity is one of our main principles of the Warrant Officer Creed "Earning an iron clad reputation for the absolute integrity of their word" and an Army Value. This characteristic, demanded of all warrant officer, is what has earned warrant officers the reputation from senior leadership as the Army's subject matter technical experts and trusted advisors. Over my time I have heard many stories told by senior leaders about a warrant officer that had a monumental effect on their career by training, mentoring and showing them the right way

If you think you have what it takes to be a warrant officer, respected as a technical-professional and able to live up to the reputation that has been engrained by the Army warrant officers then I challenge you to put your application packet together and join the proud Warrant Officers Corps. It will be the best decision EVER made of your military career.



April is a month full of observances. This month we are celebrating International Dance Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Month of the Military Child and Arab-American Heritage Month and Ramadaan. Above, Spc. Mohamed Salih, I&S Company, 36th Infantry Division, is a first generation Arab-American whose family is from Saudi Arabia. "I tend to really gain an appreciation for being back home amongst family. Especially during Ramadaan," he said.

TF Spartan T-Wall



Sgt. 1st Class Heriberto Hernandez, the future operations non-commissioned officer in charge for Task Force Spartan, painted TFS's commemorative T-Wall throughout March 2021, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Hernandez won the T-Wall design contest for TFS earlier in the year and began to implement his design, with the help of Staff Sgt. Dolores Bocanegra, the Provost Marshal non-commissioned officer in charge for the TFS Protection Cell.

"The design essentially came from the operation name, Task Force Spartan," said Hernandez. "I wanted the shield to be front and center to represent our posture of maintaining relationships with our host nation countries but always ready to get into the fight. I wanted to display both a Soldier and a Spartan, at the ready, with their weapons and gear, ready to take action."



(Pg. 6) The Army introduced a new pistol this month!



A new "People First" slogan and it is up to you to spread it. This month, don't forget your number one priority is looking after your battle buddy.

DONT FORGET TO FILE YOUR TAXES!

It is that time of year again when we start to run around in search of W-2s, receipts and other documentations in the hope that this years filing will be stress free. Filing taxes does not have to be torture, the Department of Defense has helpful resources for active-duty service members and their families, and it's all free through Military OneSource.

Call Military One Source at 800-342-9647 or visit:
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/all-the-ways/>.

**The tax deadline for filing
2020 taxes is May 17.**

Tax services for the military — also known as MilTax — is DOD's approved tax-filing and tax-support service — including tax preparation and e-filing software and personalized support to deal with issues such as deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals, multistate filings, and living overseas.

MilTax software is designed and tailored for the military community.





Army replaces M-9 after 30 years

See what we're using now!



The U.S. Army recently began issuing units the Sig Sauer Model P320, the first modular pistol with interchangeable grip modules that can also be adjusted in frame size and caliber by the operator.

The Sig Sauer P320 is replacing the M-9 Beretta, which had been the U.S. Military's handgun of choice for nearly 30 years.

The 10-year contract between Sig Sauer and the U.S. Army will supply Soldiers with full-sized and compact versions of the gun.



Task Force Spartan Soldiers with the 36th Infantry Division recently conducted a small-arms range at Udari Range in Kuwait, where they took advantage of the time to get qualified on the new handgun.

End of April, they got another chance to use the weapon in the TF Spartan Small Arms Competition they hosted.

Bataan Death March



Soldiers and civilians from across the world participated in The Bataan Memorial Death March this month, marching all through the night and day to complete the 26 miles.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is an annual event conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II, sacrificing their freedom, health, and, in many cases, their very lives.

The march was held virtually this year for the first time in its history due to COVID-19, allowing participants to march anywhere from April 9 -18, 2021.



Good job Spartans!



Desert Warrior

Photos and captions by Sgt. First Class Suzanne Ringle, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

Jordanian Armed Forces Southern Command Soldiers with the 3rd Border Guard Group demonstrate their spot-on accuracy of their mortars team during Desert Warrior 21, April 8, 2021. Desert Warrior is an exercise where Task Force Spartan Soldiers from Division Tactical-Jordan advise and assist the JAF Border Guard Platoon's tactical and technical execution of platoon live-fire exercises in the Border Guard Group's area of operation.



Task Force Spartan Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Davin Schultz, master gunner from Manor, Texas, talks with Jordanian Armed Forces officers from Southern Command, 3rd Border Guard Group, on the options for master gunner positions for exercise Desert Warrior 21, March 17, 2021. The group took time to talk over scenarios that would challenge their soldier's skills and empower the 3BGG non-commissioned officers.

A Michigan National Guard Soldier assists a Jordanian Armed Forces soldier during marksmanship training Feb. 21, 2021. TF Spartan Soldiers from Division Tactical-Jordan advised and assisted Soldiers with the Jordanian Armed Forces Southern Command, 3rd Border Guard Group, by sharing knowledge of basic soldier skills while also demonstrating small squad tactics.



Task Force Spartan Soldier Staff Sgt. Daniel McKey stands watch over the mortar team as they make final adjustments while waiting to receive the call for fire during Desert Warrior 21, April 8, 2021. The Jordanian Armed Forces Southern Command, 3rd Border Guard Group participated in Desert Warrior 21, an exercise where Task Force Spartan Soldiers from Division Tactical- Jordan advise and assist the JAF Border Guard Platoon's tactical and technical execution of platoon live-fire exercises.



Task Force Spartan Soldier Sgt. Alan Arjona from Austin, Texas, acts as validator for the Jordanian Quick Reactionary Force as they make final adjustments while waiting to receive the call for fire during Desert Warrior 21, April 8, 2021. The Jordanian Armed Forces Southern Command, 3rd Border Guard Group, participated in Desert Warrior 21, an exercise where Task Force Spartan Soldiers from Division Tactical- Jordan advise and assist the JAF Border Guard Platoon.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Chapa, lead non-commissioned officer for the Task Force Spartan advisement team, runs beside the Jordanian Soldier in charge of firing a Rocket Propelled Grenade down range during Desert Warrior 21, April 8, 2021. Desert Warrior is an exercise where Task Force Spartan Soldiers from Division Tactical- Jordan advise and assist the JAF. *Border Guard*



Month of The Military Child Spartan Soldier Welc

U.S. Army story by Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait (April 16, 2021) - A National Guardsman's first, active-duty deployment is filled with so many new experiences such as the first time leaving the United States, to meeting new people and learning a new job.

One Texas Guardsman recently added another new experience to the list of his deployment adventures.

Recently, Spc. Aaron Ashcraft, a team member in the personnel section for 36th Infantry Division, currently serving as part of Task Force Spartan at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, watched on his phone as another first unfolded — his wife giving birth to their first child.

Leah Renea Ashcraft was born at 10:35 p.m., April 6, 2021, at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Both my wife and I were born at JPS hospital," said Ashcraft. "It was also kind of neat to be watching Leah being born on April 7 here but in Texas it was still April 6, so in a way she has two birthdays."

Currently, due to COVID-19 restrictions the hospital did not allow anyone in the labor and delivery area except the mother-to-be. Ashcraft was able to watch the birth thanks to a nurse at the hospital that streamed it from his wife's, Mia, phone.

"It was really great being able to watch the



whole delivery on my phone," explained Ashcraft. "The staff at JPS were all really helpful and friendly."

"Knowing he was watching was really great and made it a lot easier to go through, especially considering COVID," Mia added.

When Ashcraft deployed to Kuwait this past October Mia was about three-months into her pregnancy.



comes Child

“I was thankful for the deployment opportunity because COVID-19 had really hurt my job situation,” said Ashcraft, “We needed to save up some money with a child on the way.”

Ashcraft said that his section has been really supportive throughout the whole pregnancy.

“My command bought like more than half of the things from our baby registry, which was a huge weight off my shoulders.”

Ashcraft’s section showed their support for his newborn military child and the challenges that come along with it, highlighting the fact that his family back home is important to his military family.

“Supporting your troops during any significant event is crucial,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Favela, the plans and operations non-commissioned officer in charge for G-1, Task Force Spartan. “It shows the Soldiers we care and will keep with the Soldier for the rest of their life. During any significant event in one’s life it is upon us, leaders or family, to be there for one another. Especially when we are lacking the normal support system. We have to be their support system, we have to be their family, but most important we just need to be there and show someone out here cares.”

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.



IG TEAM

**36TH Infantry Division
Inspector General Team**



Col. Eric Martinson
Command Inspector General



Capt. Seulata Rodriguez
Deputy Inspector General



Master Sgt. Frank Konarik
36ID IG Office NCOIC



Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Sipes
Assistant Inspector General



Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Davis
Assistant Inspector General

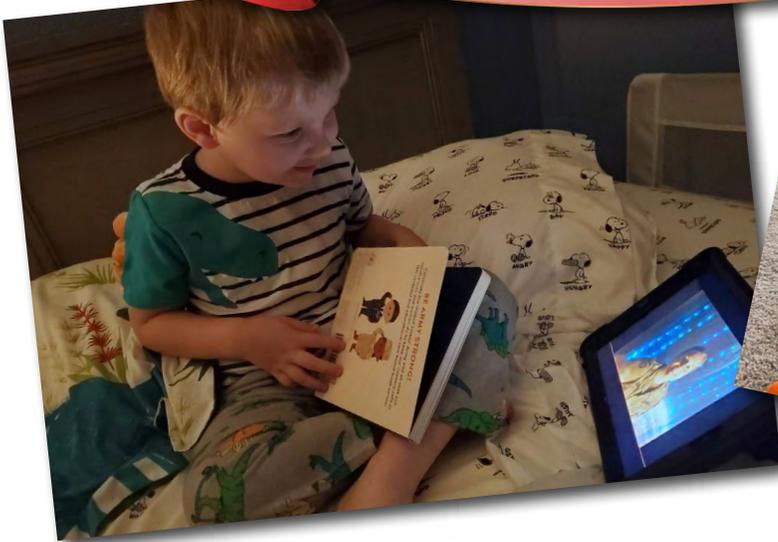
Family Readiness Groups

FRG helps foster a sense of belonging to the unit and community, and provide for the needs of family members while their soldiers are deployed overseas. For them to accomplish this mission, FRG needs volunteers to help empower Soldiers, their Families and extended families to enable them to become more resilient. To contact your unit's FRG email: 36thIDFRG@gmail.com





MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



In April we celebrate military children and their parents. It isn't easy being deployed away from family, so this month we celebrate your resiliency.

Month of the Military Child



Thoughts from Military Equal Opportunity Hoplites"

Task Force Spartan Military Equal Opportunity Office continues to selflessly serve with America's war fighters as well as supporting their families back home. Our office has gratefully supported the Soldier and their leadership through training, staff integration, responding to crises, and building on the great work that the organizations has done since before our Soldiers arrived in theater. Every day is a blessing as we look back and see Soldiers smile, share the camaraderie, enhance their teams, and continue to include Soldiers of all ranks, races, sex/gender, color, sexual orientation, national origins, and religions. So, what happened this month of April?

Our Soldiers and leadership coordinated for and received the best annual Military Equal Opportunity Training with hundreds of Soldiers attending. Equal Opportunity Leaders coordinated the training event as well as employed our office as the primary instructors for the Soldiers. Our leaders were able to address their Soldiers stressing the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect. Our office continues to coordinate support with 1st Theater Sustainment Command and 335th Signal Command on coordinating Army Heritage Month across the AOR. Our Office as well as other Military Equal Opportunity Program Offices showed support for the Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month across

Camp Arifjan. In conjunction with SAAPM, our Office was extremely busy with coordinating support command climate assessment and improvement which primarily focused on preventing sexual assaults and harassment across the force. Our three-member Office, in conjunction with other great staff sections, continue to help bring organizations together.

The 36th Infantry Division is just around the corner from redeploying while paving the way for follow on units to arrive. So what else is just around the corner? The month of May. It is a time to celebrate all the wonderful mothers in the world (9 May) who have taken on either a biological or maternal role and have sacrificed and accomplished so much. THANKS MOMS!

For all the Star Wars fans in Task Force Spartan (we have seen your Grogu/Baby Yoda plush dolls), "May the 4th Be With You!"

Thanks to President Ronald Reagan, in 1984, we annually celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day (7 May) to thank all of our spouses who have also sacrificed so much while we are supporting overseas contingencies.

This May 25, we celebrate Armed Forces Day to celebrate our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coasties, and Marines and all we have done for this great Nation. And one other day to be mentioned is Memorial Day (31 May), a

May is NMA Month!

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom.

day for reverence and honoring those who gave their lives defending the Nation and its values.

The month of May is also celebrated in the United States as Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Observed in May, each year, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month recognizes the challenges faced by Pacific Islanders, Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and their vital contributions to the American story. So who are the Asian-American and Pacific Islanders whose heritage we celebrate in May? They are very diverse backgrounds such as being of Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Indian, Laotian, Cambodian, Hmong, Thai, Pakistani, Samoan, Hawaiian, Guamanian and other unique descents. According to a recent Army report, there are currently 31,674 Asian or Pacific Islander Soldiers on Active Duty with 24,541 Enlisted and 6,131 Officers, 641 Warrant Officers, and 361 Cadets at the United States Military Academy (Active Component Demographic data dtd January 2021). There are now Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups that represent a vast array of languages and cultures that are currently serving in the United States Army.

For those of you who have read our other “Thoughts”, you will know there is also a huge history lesson that comes with these pieces. So let’s go back in time to when the 36th Infantry Division was making history. Picture this:

It’s October 1944 in the Vosges Mountains in eastern France and you are a member of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Infantry Division. The unit continues to fight around the town of St-Die only to realize that the German Army has cut off the unit. General Dahlquist, the Commanding General of the 36th Infantry Division has ordered units to come to our rescue as we have become the “Lost Battalion”. Several attempts were made to rescue the “Lost Battalion” until screams of “Bonzai” are heard across the battlefield. Emerging from the battlefield are members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, many of who were “Nisei”, second generation Americans of Japanese descent and who spent time in an internment camp just after World War II began.

According to sources, 211 Soldiers from 141st Infantry were relieved by members of the 442nd RCT (and their 100th Infantry BN) at a cost of 800 men lost in a period of five days. As you pass Soldiers of 442nd RCT who relieved the “Lost Battalion”, the last thing you will ever remember from that unit is their motto: “Go For Broke!”

It is because of the contributions of Soldiers from diverse backgrounds that make the Army great. We can remember the contributions of many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders since before the founding of this great Nation. It has only been within the last 50 years that contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were celebrated in the month of May. Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month was introduced in the House of Representatives in June 1978. A joint resolution was passed by both the House and Senate, and was later signed by the president on Oct. 5, 1978. This law directed the president to declare a seven-day period, beginning May 4, 1979, as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’ It wasn’t until 1992 that Congress designated May as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. As mentioned before, observance months such as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month isn’t just a celebration of one group of people, but a celebration of all people. It is a celebration of how we have evolved to become the Army and a Nation over the years. It is a celebration of the inclusion of all races, religions, sex, colors, sexual orientation, and national origins compared to where we were 100 years ago. It is a celebration of things to come. So as we remember May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, let us also remember the future ahead and what we can do together.

On behalf of the Task Force Spartan Military Equal Opportunity Office, we are honored to continue serving with you and look forward to what the future holds for us all. We would also like to thank the Spartan and Army Central Command Chaplain’s Office for their support in formulating these “thoughts”. Thank you and “In Spite of Hell”.

Task Force Spartan MEO Office “Hoplites”
LTC Pedro Agapay, MSG Stanford Autry, SFC
Scotty Scruggs.



130th FIELD AR



The 130th Field Artillery Brigade had a busy month executing a CALFEX, garrison activities and readying themselves for Task Force Spartan's OIP Inspection.

The 130th FAB participated in a combined arms live-fire exercise with members of the Jordan Armed Forces and Marines from the Security Cooperation Team – Jordan, recently. The bilateral exercise was composed of several positions, roles and elements - greatly enhancing interoperability with Jordanian counterparts.

The 130th also underwent OIP inspections led by TF Spartan Chief of Staff Col. Michael Hunt. OIP is an annual inspection led by TF Spartan of all sections within sub-units.

This month the 130th also observed Month of the Military Child, and celebrated by recognizing a father and son serving together (right). Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Duwayne Dame and his son Spc. Christopher Allen Dame in the United States Army are both serving in the Kansas National Guard.

ARTILLERY BRIGADE





16th THEATER E



The 16th Engineer Brigade, Ohio Army National Guard, transferred authority as Task Force Spartan's Theater Engineer Brigade to the 111th Engineer Brigade, West Virginia Army National Guard, during a Transfer of Authority Ceremony, April 22, 2021, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, commanding general of TF Spartan, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Horn, division command sergeant major for TF Spartan both attended the ceremony.

The 16th TEB's mission while deployed under Task Force Spartan was to promote stability in the region through building security and partnerships throughout Southwest Asia. The 111th TEB will now assume those same responsibilities throughout the TF Spartan AOR.

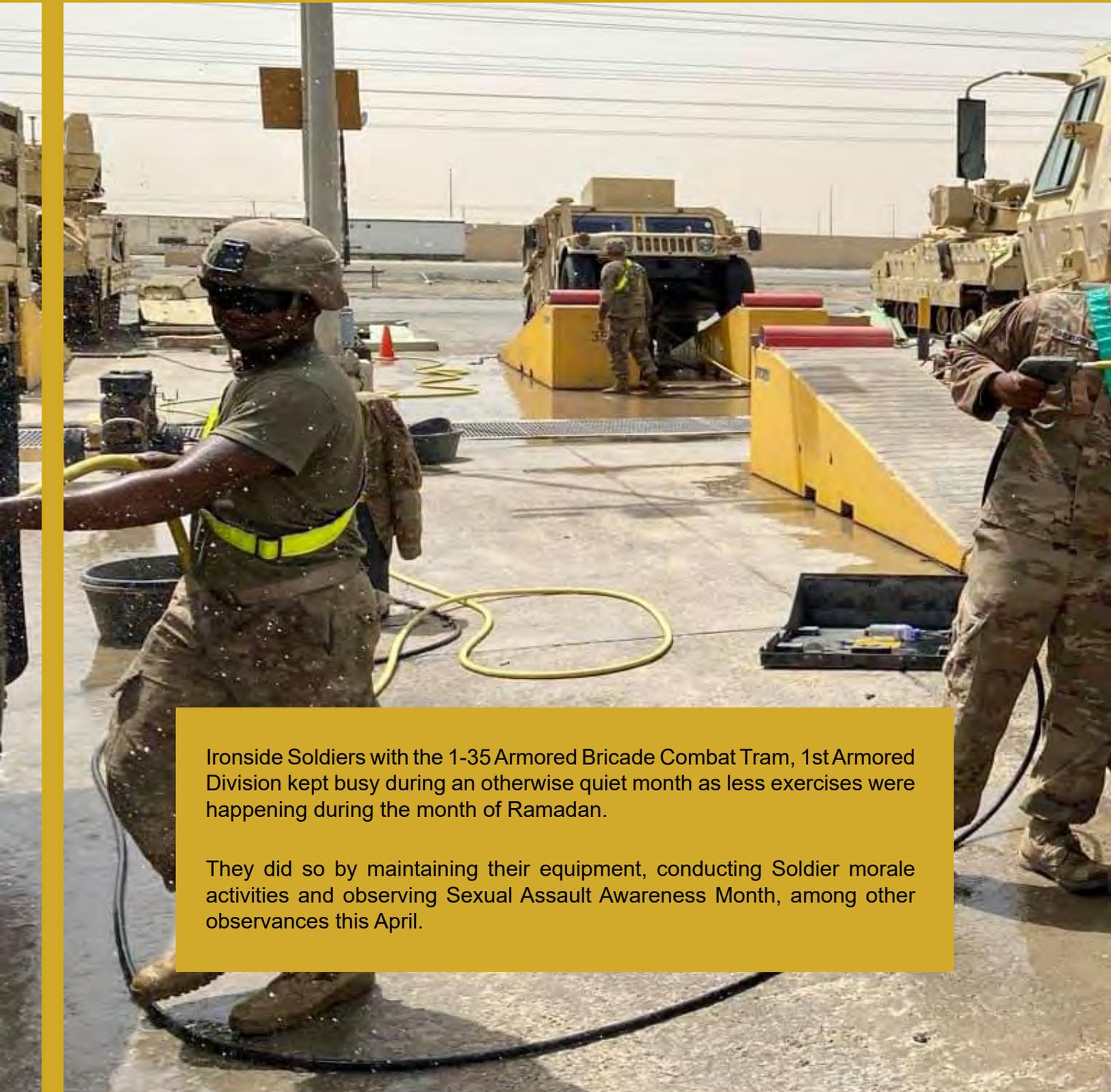
Before their deployment, the 111th TEB was visited by their state's National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Murray E. "Gene" Holt. "For the past couple of years, the 111th has been training and building readiness for this mission," said Holt. "Knowing how hard the Soldiers and leaders have trained, planned and worked in preparation for this opportunity, I am confident that as soon as they arrive overseas, they will immediately begin to make a difference."

(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Daryl Bradford, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs)

ENGINEER BRIGADE



1/35 ARMORED BRIGADE TEAM, 1ST ARMORED



Ironsides Soldiers with the 1-35 Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division kept busy during an otherwise quiet month as less exercises were happening during the month of Ramadan.

They did so by maintaining their equipment, conducting Soldier morale activities and observing Sexual Assault Awareness Month, among other observances this April.

HEAD COMBAT DIVISION

1
THE IRON BRIGADE

OLD IRONSIDES
STRIKE HARD!





28TH EXPEDITIONARY CELEBRATING OUR



The 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade spent their month conducting air missions and maintenance on their birds, in between surprising their loved ones during Military Child Month.

After being stationed in Kuwait and Iraq while serving in the 28th ECAB, Staff Sgt. Taryn Harris wanted to do something special for her 6th grade daughter Madelyn as a surprise homecoming after Madelyn tested positive for COVID-19.

"It killed me not being home, and the very first time being away from her when she's sick in 12 years," said Harris. "It was very hard calling her and having her cry, asking for me to come home."

Harris credited the people outside her family for their support as well as those in the service to give the family emotional support, and when Harris and Madelyn were finally reunited, it was not only a surprise, but something special.

COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE FEMALE WINGS OF IRON



Spartan Small Arms

Photos by TF Spartan Unit Public Affairs Soldiers with the 36th Infantry Division

Task Force Spartan soldier with the 111th Theater Engineer Brigade, shoots his M4 Carbine Assault Rifle to zero it before the Task Force Spartan 2nd Annual Small Arms Marksmanship Competition, April 27, 2021, at Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buerhing in Kuwait. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Christian Walker, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs)



Task Force Spartan Soldier breaks between shooting events to load his M4 Carbine Assault Rifle while on the range April 27, 2021, during the Task Force Spartan 2nd Annual Small Arms Marksmanship Competition at Udairi Range Complex in Kuwait. While on the range, Soldiers had the opportunity to practice their marksmanship skills while building comradery with each other. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Tanetria Mitchell, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs)

Task Force Spartan Soldiers from Headquarters Support Company, 36th Infantry Division, check Soldier's targets after firing the SIG SAUER M17 during the TF Spartan 2nd Annual Small Arms Marksmanship Competition, April 28, 2021 at the Udairi Range Complex, Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brandi Cantu, Task Force Spartan G1 HR Specialist)



Arms Competition

U.S. Army Soldiers fire the SIG Sauer M17 during the Task Force Spartan 2nd Annual Small Arms Marksmanship Competition, April 28, 2021, at Udairi Range Complex in Kuwait. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Brandi Cantu, Task Force Spartan G1 HR Specialist)



Lt. Col. Victor Becerra, the G-7 Chief of Information Operations, Task Force Spartan, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Moreno, the G-32 AMR operations non-commissioned officer, TF Spartan, analyze Moreno's shot group on his paper target during the handgun portion of the TF Spartan 2nd Annual Small Arms Marksmanship Competition, April 28, 2021, at Udairi Range Complex in Kuwait. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Daryl Bradford, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs)

The winners of the Task Force Spartan 2nd Annual Small Arms Marksmanship Competition, (From left to right) Sgt. 1st Class John Grunthaler, from Task Force Avalanche, Sgt. Scott Ingram, from TF Avalanche, and Sgt. Tyler Wilson, from the 130th Field Artillery Brigade, pose with their commendations, April 28, 2021, after the closing of the competition at Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring in Kuwait. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Daryl Bradford, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs)



Chaplains Corner

By Chaplain Harold Bender, 36th Infantry Division

Source: Jack Newman, "Lucky penguin escapes killer whale by flinging itself onto dinghy full of cheering tourists in Antarctica," Daily Mail (3-8-21)



Penguin Jumps Aboard Boat to Avoid Killer Whales



"Travel blogger Matt Karsten was sightseeing on a small dinghy during a trip to Antarctica with his wife and some friends when they happened to notice some commotion in the water. The video they took of the experience went viral.

We were heading out for a scenic Zodiac cruise between icebergs when a large pod of orcas showed up playing in the water besides us. They swam right up to the camera and said hello. Suddenly the orcas started chasing a penguin trying to eat it.

Left with no other options for survival, the penguin tried to jump into the boat. The first time it bounced off the side, but in a show of resiliency the penguin's second attempt landed it safely inside, to the shock of everyone on the boat. The orcas gave chase for a bit, but eventually gave up and moved on. Karsten said, 'After cruising for a little bit, the penguin said goodbye to the boat and hopped back into the icy water.'"

I'd like to highlight the phrase mentioned in the article, "but in a show of resiliency the penguin's second attempt landed it safely inside..." There are "orcas of the soul" circling in the waters of our life and we, like the resourceful penguin, we must be willing and quick to avail ourselves of the many resources accessible to us. From time to time we must be willing to jump into the behavioral health boat, the FRG boat, the financial resilience training, Strong Bonds, ASIST and/or ACE-SI, boats.

The point is, everybody needs a boat to jump into every now and then. Everybody needs to "cruise for a little bit" in the killer whale infested waters of life. Show some resilience. Jump in a boat. And in a little while, we'll all be ready to jump back into the icy waters once again.

Wait...did you think I would forget about the faith boat and the hope and resiliency it offers? In addition to those resources we all need from time to time, I also draw from my faith in the God of Jonah as recorded in Jonah 2:2, verses 6-8. "In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry... "Those

who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.' " And the Lord commanded the fish..." So come at me, Shamu!

CHOOSE TO GET VACCINATED

PROTECT yourself, your family, your community, and help end the pandemic.



1. The vaccine will offer additional protection from COVID-19.
2. When entire communities get vaccinated, wear masks, social distance, avoid large gatherings, and wash their hands we'll have the best chance of ending the pandemic.
3. Initial vaccine quantities will be limited. Talk with your healthcare provider or local Medical Treatment Facility for more details about when vaccine will become available.

The vaccines available for COVID-19 have been proven safe and effective, are authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and are being manufactured and distributed safely and securely.

For more information:



<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/vaccine.aspx>



COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE
19

For current COVID-19 information:

<https://phc.amedd.army.mil/covid19>
<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>

The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7:
Call 1-800-874-2273 option #1
or visit <https://www.health.mil/1-Am-A/Media/Media-Center/NAL-Day-at-a-glance>

Emergency Kit Checklist for Families:

<https://www.cdc.gov/childreanidisasters/checklists/kids-and-families.html>



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Army Public Health

The Army COVID-19 Information Hotline:
1-800-984-8523
Overseas DSN 312-421-370
Stateside DSN 421-3700

Reunion & Reintegration

Lt. Col. Jeri Gates
36th Infantry Division
Behavioral Health OIC



All around, this deployment may have been different from what you or your family and friends may have been imagining, enter: COVID-19, travel restrictions, social distancing, and reduced or lack of MWR events. Deployment may have involved worry for others due to COVID-19, missing family events or special dates, like birthdays, graduations or anniversaries. Now is the time to plan ahead for your reunion, reintegration and reconnection back in Texas, or another state. Be sure to attend the scheduled reintegration trainings, and if needed, speak to a Behavioral Health provider or Chaplain regarding any additional concerns you may have about returning home.

Armed with the right information and understanding, reuniting with your family and friends after a deployment can go more smoothly for everyone. Educate yourself on what to expect upon reintegration, and be patient with yourself, your loved one and your children. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Follow these tips to ease your adjustment.

For Yourself

First thing, relax. Be patient. Nobody has to live up to perfect. Returning Service Members often feel out of sync with the friends/family, unsure about how days are supposed to go and are easily overwhelmed. This feeling can take days, even months after homecoming to work itself out.

Keep calm and communicate on. Someone returning from deployment can be tired and disoriented. Expecting to step back into things immediately can lead to a short fuse for everyone in the family. You might need time alone, grant it.

Everybody needs to respect and communicate with each other.

Stay positive. You can't go wrong with focusing on the positive. No one can understand what happened on deployment—and no one can know how hard it was to keep things together at home. But everyone wants to be appreciated. Look at what your loved one is doing right and try not to criticize. Tell your loved one you're proud of what they accomplished and how well they managed while you were away.

Make a little time for everyone. Everybody will want some of your time—children, parents, family members, friends, neighbors. Understand that this is going to happen and make room for it.

Watch the money. It's easy to go off the rails during celebrations because everybody's been waiting so long for this moment. Try to stay on track with your budget. Once every one is settled in, think about re-examining your finances now that you don't have that extra deployment pay. Military OneSource has financial counselors available.



Know when to ask for help. Coming home can bring major emotional stresses. Remember, someone is always available who knows the ups and downs of deployment. If you or a member of your family is struggling to adjust, get free confidential support anytime from Military OneSource.

Tips for preparing your loved one

Chances are, you and your loved one have grown and changed during your time apart, and it's normal to have some growing pains. Here's how you can help your partner with the transition:

Encourage your loved one to accept mixed emotions. It's OK if excitement isn't her or his only emotion. Your loved one may also be nervous, worried or even concerned about what it will be like to have you home. Accept and acknowledge that the way they feel is perfectly OK.

Be realistic. Building your reunion up in your head may just be a recipe for disappointment. While it's certainly OK to daydream, don't let unrealistic expectations get in the way of reality.

Recognize the changes. Regardless of your situation, the basic passing of time means that things aren't likely to be exactly the same as they were pre-deployment. Focus on creating that new normal for your family rather than striving to return to your old way of life. Keep in mind that it may take a few weeks to work out your new balance of household roles and responsibilities with your spouse. Do your best to be flexible and open to change as you both adapt.

Don't bottle up your feelings. Even though it's important to be patient during the adjustment period, it's important for your loved one to avoid suppressing their feelings. Encourage your loved one to find a trusted confidante — whether it's a friend, close family member or counselor.

MilSpouse Toolkit. From education on military culture to navigating resources, this track is beneficial for new spouses who may be experiencing disconnect from their family and need to identify

a support system in their new community. This track focuses resources to assist new and current military spouses with adjustment to the military lifestyle, developing coping skills and resources for resiliency.

Tips for preparing children

Children can often have mixed emotions about a deployed parent's return. You can make the transition smoother for them if you follow these tips:

Talk it out. Your children will probably have many questions, especially if this is your family's first reunion. Try to be patient and listen carefully to their concerns. As you explain the situation, ensure you are respectful of your children's feelings and give them space to express their emotions.

Watch for signs of stress. Children tend to show stress differently than adults. If you start to notice more misbehavior, regression in developmental stages, nightmares, or changes in eating and sleeping habits, your child may be trying to tell you something. Offer as much support as you can and consider talking to your pediatrician if the problem persists. Military and Family Support Centers are found on most military installations and Military Children Connect is an online site that helps children and teens communicate and cope with deployment issues.

Discuss the "new normal." If your household routine or rules have changed considerably while the deployed parent was away, take steps to prepare your child for how the day-to-day schedule may shift now that mom or dad is home. Providing a heads-up for what to expect can help make the transition a bit smoother as your child adapts.

Plan for reconnection. Prepare both your spouse and child for a potential adjustment period by planning reconnection activities ahead of time. Talk to your child about what schoolwork or new skills to show the returning parent, and suggest a special activity or outing to your spouse for the entire family. You and your child may also benefit from Military OneSource's Building Healthy Relationships free specialty consultation to help renew and strengthen your bond during your transition period.

Communicate with school or other care providers. Sometimes children display their stress away from home. Be sure to speak with school counselors or care providers to share that the deployed parent has returned home. This communication is a proactive way of making sure comprehensive care can be provided, if needed.

Reaching Out for Help is a Sign of Strength

Experiencing stress and psychological health concerns is common. Every Service Member should feel comfortable reaching out for care or support if they are experiencing a psychological health concern. Some available resources include:

Psychological Health Resource Center: Service Members, including members of the National Guard and reserve who aren't located at or near a military installation can always call 866-966-1020 to speak with a trained health resource consultant. They are available 24/7 to talk, listen and provide confidential guidance about resources for getting help. You can also connect instantly, anywhere in the world, with the Real Warriors Live Chat from your computer or smartphone.

Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program: Offers access to resources, benefits information and referrals for health, well-being, financial management and employment issues through one- and two-day events. National Guard and reserve members and their families can find out more about program events by contacting their chain of command or by visiting the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program website.

Transition Mental Health Coaching and Support Program: If you are currently receiving psychological health care, and are looking at an upcoming transition, transferring to a new provider can be easier than you think. The inTransition Mental Health Coaching and Support Program will assign you a personal coach who will provide one-on-one support, connect you with your new provider and empower you with tools to continue making

healthy life choices. For inTransition coaching and tools call 800-424-7877 (toll-free inside the U.S.) or 800-424-4685 (DSN, toll-free outside the U.S.) or visit the inTransition website.

Strong Bonds: Consider attending an individual, couples, or family Strong Bonds event. Soldiers frequently struggle with transition from battlefield to home front, and their families struggle to adjust to disrupted routines and the challenges of reintegration and reconnection. The Strong Bonds Pre- and Redeployment Program is designed to help single Soldiers, couples, and families cope with this struggle. The program is offered through an off-site weekend retreat. In addition to relevant teaching and skills training, Strong Bonds weekends include time for relaxation, recreation, fellowship, and fun. <https://www.strongbonds.org/>

For information regarding distress responses, risk-taking behaviors following deployment, and recommendations for when to seek further help, please see: https://www.cstsonline.org/assets/media/documents/CSTS_FS_understanding_postdeployment_stress_symptoms.pdf

References:

<https://www.realwarriors.net/>

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/military-life-cy->



WARRIOR OF THE MONTH



SPC Andrew Anderson

Spc. Anderson is the go-to analyst for equipment, order of battle, and military forces capability analysis. He continually reads and is intensely curious about military hardware and force capabilities, as a lifelong learner. He contributes daily to every Fusion team analytical conversation, and is constantly seeking to improve his analytic techniques.

SPC Anderson has completed six in depth intelligence articles, eight published highlights, answered over 20 complex RFIs, and completed dozens of Weapons and Equipment Guide products, and contributed to over 60 OSINT and COIC Threat Assessments. His products and edits are regularly cited as the definitive research work on subjects. He is always ready to deliver an analysis or brief at a moment's notice.

Spc. Anderson is an avid volunteer and assists his peers with their projects, while continuing to work on his college degree in his off hours. His work in planning and working groups within TF Spartan is normally with company grade officers and above - showing his ability to extend his influence up the chain of command, surpassing his peers.

He is the most humble and unassuming Soldier in the G2 Analysis and Control Element; always taking into consideration all those around him and ensuring they feel included and respected.

Congratulations!

The IG UPDATE



Sgt. Henry Lugo, a human resources specialist assigned to 3rd IBCT, 25th Infantry Division, conducts the newly revised plank event while taking the ACFT at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on March 24, 2021.

On 22 March 2021, Sgt. Maj of the Army, Michael A. Grinston, released an SMA sends formally announcing the release of the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) 3.0 to the Total Army. This adaptation of the ACFT (effective 1 April) includes six events (3-Repetition Maximum Deadlift, Standing Power Throw, Hand-Release Push-Ups, Sprint-Drag-Carry, Leg Tuck or Plank, and 2-Mile Run), with one significant change that adds the Plank as a full 100-point alternative to the Leg Tuck for Soldier's core strength test event.

In addition to this change, ACFT 3.0 explores the establishment of an evaluation system with performance categories that may be used to proportionally tier ACFT performance according to gender. These proposed performance tiers include:

Platinum (top 1 percent; female/male);
Gold (top 2-10 percent; female/male);
Silver (top 11-25 percent; female/male);
Bronze (top 26-50 percent; female/male); and
Green (Soldiers who pass the ACFT, but do not place in the top 50 percent of scores across the Total Army.)

Under ACFT 3.0, these performance categories would be calculated annually based upon ACFT scores from across the force. Categorizing scores into tiers allows for variations in height, weight, test conditions, slope, surface, etc., and further recognizes physiological differences between men and women, while fostering and recognizing above-average physical performance.

While the Army expects to fully implement the ACFT in 2022, policy changes will only be final-

ized when sufficient data exists for Army senior leaders to make informed decisions. Until then, ACFT scores will not be linked to a Soldier's record in any Army personnel system, and as Army Directive 2020-06 stated, leaders will not take adverse administrative actions for or against Soldiers on the basis of their ACFT performance.

In addition to these changes, Soldiers and leaders should be aware of the following:

All COMPOs will conduct a minimum of one ACFT and record the results in DTMS prior to 31 August 21 (per HQDA EXORD 144-21).

The ACFT is a training requirement in Initial Military Training, but not a graduation requirement.

Soldiers with a permanent profile should execute any events their profile permits. Soldiers on a temporary profile that prevents a full six-event ACFT should recover, rehabilitate, recondition, and then complete a full ACFT.

During FY21, Soldiers attending institutional training courses that require a physical fitness test as an entrance requirement should use their last record APFT score. However, functional course commandants may continue to establish their own course-specific physical performance requirements.

The Army remains committed to the health and safety of Soldiers and encourages Soldiers to maintain physical fitness while continuing to follow COVID-19-related safety practices (washing hands, maintaining social distancing, wearing masks).



Spartan Soldier Teaches Kuwaiti Children about Space

Story By Capt. Allegra Taylor, Deputy PAO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait– At the invite of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, Task Force Spartan Chief of Space and Special Programs, Maj. Edwin Vasquez, gave a virtual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics presentation on NASA’s Artemis Space Program to students at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity April 3, 2021, in Kuwait.

Over 300 students and Soldiers logged in for the virtual event, which emphasized the importance of STEM. During the presentation, Vasquez educated the students on NASA’s plans to return to the Moon, and one day put people on Mars.

“It was an honor to speak with the students about the NASA Artemis program, something I have been fortunate to be a part of in my civilian career,” said Vasquez. “As both an engineer who has worked for NASA, and a leader in the Army’s Space Corps., I hope this presentation has only strengthened the students’ interest in space exploration so one day they too may work in this field.”

This presentation came at an exciting time for children and adults across the Arab world, as last month the United Arab Emirates became the first country in the region to reach Mars with the Hope probe.

“The students who attended this program were

thrilled to have the chance to speak with someone who worked on NASA programs,” U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché Nelson Wen said. “They asked many questions about how to pursue a career in space and about the Artemis missions. This kind of outreach shows the diversity of talent and backgrounds which U.S. military members in Kuwait have, and I hope we can continue to inspire local audiences by showcasing people like Maj. Vasquez.”

The presentation hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait was a part of their Every Soldier is an Ambassador Program. ESA aims to strengthen the Kuwaiti public’s relationship with U.S. service members through service members’ contributions of their time, skills, and experiences to their host country. Past ESA events have included volunteer work, speaking engagements about an area of interest to the service members, sports and music performances.

“This is a huge moment for our friends and partners in the Middle East,” said Vasquez. “It is exciting to see that as we strengthen our military relationships through bilateral training exercises, we may one day work together in space exploration as well.”

Task Force Spartan is a U.S. Military organization that strives to strengthen U.S. partner relationships across Southwest Asia through annual seminars, key leader engagements and training events between U.S. Soldiers and their partner nations in the region.

Around the Force

U.S. Army Soldiers Capt. Joseph Kinsey and Staff Sgt. Michael Barnes with the 130th Field Artillery Brigade participate in a combined arms live-fire exercise with members of the Jordanian Armed Forces and Marines from the Security Cooperation Team – Jordan, recently. Kinsey and Barnes served in an advise and assist role as subject matter experts on fire direction control at the battery level



The 130th Field Artillery Brigade participated in a combined live fire exercise this month in Jordan. The bilateral exercise was composed of several positions, roles and elements, greatly enhancing interoperability with Jordanian counterparts.

U.S. Army Soldiers from Task Force Spartan and U.S. Air Force Soldiers from the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Division of Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, participate in the annual “Roll Call for the Absent” at the Aggie Muster, April 21, 2021, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, gather to promote Spc. Rashad Salaam and Spc. Roxanne Mendoza to the rank of sergeant at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, April 4, 2021. With this promotion the two soldiers joined the backbone of the Army, the non-commissioned officer corps. The ceremony was concluded with all NCO's reciting the creed of the non-commissioned officer. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs)



The 130th Field Artillery Brigade recently underwent an inspection led by TF Spartan Chief of Staff, Col. Michael Hunt. In order to maintain an always-ready force, subunits are continually reviewed to ensure they operate within the current standards. Well done Redlegs!

Soldiers across Task Force Spartan celebrated Easter Sunday, April 4, with sunrise services. Soldiers in Kuwait and Jordan met before the sun rose for a sermon and praise and worship music. At Camp Arifjan in Kuwait (photo right) Maj. Charles "Levi" Leddy led worship by singing and playing guitar. (U.S. Army Photo by Capt. Allegra Taylor, Task Force Spartan)





As Soldiers, we are resolute in our commitment to live the Army Values. We will uphold a command climate free of sexual harassment, sexual assault and retaliation where every member of the Army Team is treated with dignity and respect.

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THIS WE'LL
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U.S. ARMY

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IN DIVERSITY

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If you, or anyone you know has experienced or believe you've been a victim of discrimination based on Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Color, Race or any other discrimination; or have been a victim of bullying or hazing, we can assist.



LTC Pedro Agapay



MSG Stanford Autry

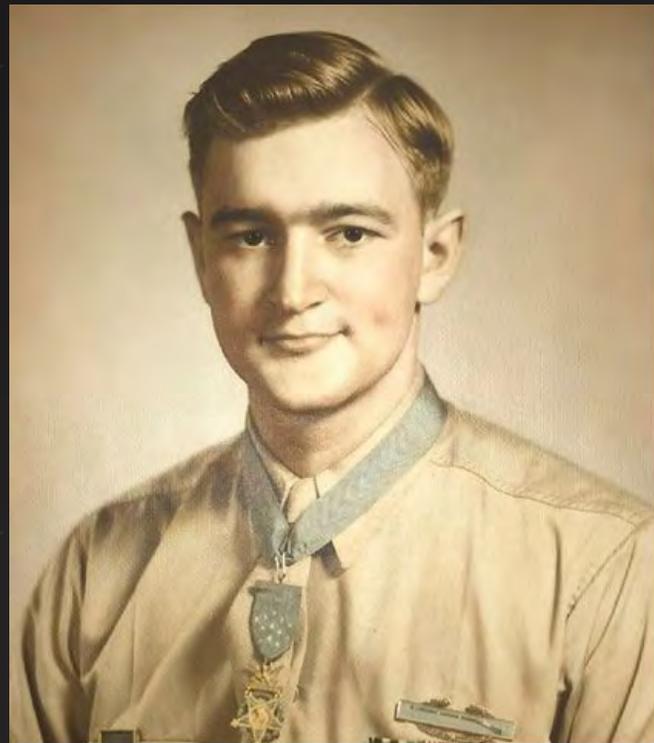


SFC Scotty Scruggs

Need Help? Have a Question? Contact Us; 318-430-6082



WORLD WAR II



TECHNICAL SERGEANT CHARLES H. COOLIDGE

BORN: AUGUST 4, 1921 SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE

ASSIGNED TO: TROOP M, 141ST INFANTRY, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

CITATION

EAST OF BELMONT SUR BUTTANT, FRANCE, 24-27 OCTOBER, 1944

LEADING A SECTION OF HEAVY MACHINEGUNS SUPPORTED BY 1 PLATOON OF COMPANY K, HE TOOK A POSITION NEAR HILL 623, EAST OF BELMONT SUR BUTTANT, FRANCE, ON 24 OCTOBER 1944, WITH THE MISSION OF COVERING THE RIGHT FLANK OF THE 3RD BATTALION AND SUPPORTING ITS ACTION. T/SGT. COOLIDGE WENT FORWARD WITH A SERGEANT OF COMPANY K TO RECONNOITER POSITIONS FOR COORDINATION THE FIRES OF THE LIGHT AND HEAVY MACHINEGUNS. THEY RAN INTO AN ENEMY FORCE IN THE WOODS ESTIMATED TO BE AN INFANTRY COMPANY. T/SGT. COOLIDGE, ATTEMPTING TO BLUFF THE GERMANS BY A SHOW OF ASSURANCE AND BOLDNESS CALLED UPON THEM TO SURRENDER, WHEREUPON THE ENEMY OPENED FIRE. WITH HIS CARBINE, T/SGT. COOLIDGE WOUNDED 2 OF THEM. THERE BEING NO OFFICER PRESENT WITH THE FORCE, T/SGT. COOLIDGE AT ONCE ASSUMED COMMAND. MANY OF THE MEN WERE REPLACEMENTS RECENTLY ARRIVED; THIS WAS THEIR FIRST EXPERIENCE UNDER FIRE. T/SGT. COOLIDGE, UNMINDFUL OF THE ENEMY FIRE DELIVERED AT CLOSE RANGE, WALKED ALONG THE POSITION, CALMING AND ENCOURAGING HIS MEN AND DIRECTING THEIR FIRE. THE ATTACK WAS THROWN BACK. THROUGH 25 AND 26 OCTOBER AND ENEMY LAUNCHED REPEATED ATTACKS AGAINST THE POSITION OF THIS COMBAT GROUP BUT EACH WAS REPULSED DUE TO T/SGT. COOLIDGE'S ABLE LEADERSHIP. ON 27 OCTOBER, GERMAN INFANTRY, SUPPORTED BY 2 TANKS, MADE A DETERMINED ATTACK ON THE POSITION. THE AREA WAS SWEEPED BY ENEMY SMALL ARMS, MACHINEGUNS, AND TANK FIRE. T/SGT. COOLIDGE ARMED HIMSELF WITH A BAZOOKA AND ADVANCED TO WITHIN 25 YARDS OF THE TANKS. HIS BAZOOKA FAILED TO FUNCTION AND HE THREW IT ASIDE. SECURING ALL THE HAND GRENADES HE COULD CARRY, HE CRAWLED FORWARD AND INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ADVANCING ENEMY. FINALLY, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE ENEMY, IN GREATLY SUPERIOR FORCE, SUPPORTED BY TANKS, WOULD OVERRUN THE POSITION. T/SGT. COOLIDGE, DISPLAYING GREAT COOLNESS AND COURAGE, DIRECTED AND CONDUCTED AN ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL, BEING HIMSELF THE LAST TO LEAVE THE POSITION. AS A RESULT OF T/SGT. COOLIDGE'S HEROIC AND SUPERIOR LEADERSHIP, THE MISSION OF THIS COMBAT GROUP WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGHOUT 4 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS FIGHTING AGAINST NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR ENEMY TROOPS IN RAIN AND COLD AND AMID DENSE WOODS.

In Remembrance

The Adjutant General of Texas recently announced the passing of Army Sgt Charles H. Coolidge, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the WWII European Theater and the 36th Infantry Division. Coolidge is a cherished example of courage, honor, and bravery exhibited by former and current members of the 36th Infantry Division.

Technical Sergeant Coolidge was assigned to M Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. On October 24, 1944, Coolidge was a technical sergeant in charge of group of machine-gunners and rifleman of M Company who were to hold a vital hilltop position in France near the German border. During four days of attacks at Hill 623, east of Belmont-sur-Buttant in France, Coolidge and his group held off numerous enemy infantrymen, plus two tanks on October 27 using grenades; one tank unsuccessfully fired 5 separate rounds at Coolidge personally. For his actions above and beyond the call of duty during the battle, Coolidge was presented the Medal of Honor by Lieutenant General Wade H. Haislip during a ceremony at an airfield near Dornstadt, Germany, on June 18, 1945.

He is survived by his wife Bonnie and their children: Lt. General (Ret) Charles H. Coolidge, Jr., Bradford, his wife Amy and their two children Bradford (Buddy) and Jack, Colleen Lindner, her husband Kent and their daughter Laurel; his son William P. Coolidge, his wife Christie and their three children, Catherine Hagaman, her husband Lance and their son Connelly and two daughters Brighton and Leland, Brandon, Kimberly Everett, her husband Cody, her daughter Jaimie and son Skyler; his son John Coolidge, his wife Marie and their two children, John and Sara.

At the age of 99, Coolidge was a pillar of the community in Chattanooga and he will be sorely missed.

Obituary: <https://www.mohhc.org/charles-coolidge-obituary/>



CHARLES H. COOLIDGE
Medal of Honor Recipient - U.S. Army
August 4, 1921 - April 6, 2021

The Arrowhead | TASK FORCE SPARTAN

Goats roaming the hills near the Joint Training Center in Jordan. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle, TFS Public Affairs)

