

The Shield

TASK FORCE SPARTAN NEWSLETTER | 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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Task Force Spartan



TaskForceSpartan_OSS



@TFSpartan

FROM THE TOP

It is hard to believe we are one month into the Santa Fe Division's command of Task Force Spartan. As I have visited throughout our area of operations, I am proud of all the hard work our soldiers are doing, and am proud of how many soldiers have grown and developed as leaders just in the few weeks we have been on ground.

For those who do not know, April is the Month of the Military Child. While many back home worry about our safety, we also have concerns for our families. For those with children, the concern runs deep.

I remember my first deployment when my sons were much younger, and my youngest was worried when my wife brought my truck back to the house after saying goodbye. He was terrified that I would not have a vehicle to get away from the "bad guys". I had to take a picture of my HMMWV for my wife to show him in order to calm him down.

This is just one small example of the concern and sacrifice our military children make when we deploy in service to our nation. Thank you to our military children whose parents are serving throughout Task Force Spartan. I appreciate the sacrifices military children will make over the next few months by missing their service member at birthdays, graduations, sporting events, and overall quality time spent with us.

If you have a child or know the child of a soldier, please take a moment to thank them for what they are doing to help make us stronger.

Win the day! Santa Fe!



**MG WILLIAM BLAYLOCK
COMMANDING GENERAL**



**CSM STEVEN STUENKEL
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**

I am proud to report that the Santa Fe Division has once again answered our nation's call to support Operation Spartan Shield. As the Division Command Sgt. Maj., leading soldiers is an honor and a privilege. Leaders in this organization must set expectations and have open lines of communication to meet those expectations.

Leaders must remain dedicated and agile, as well as guide and care for our soldiers within the formation. Part of this is accomplished by building highly trained, disciplined, and fit soldiers, who in turn build cohesive teams that accomplish any task set before them. However, it is important for every team to remember that leaders cannot do this job alone.

Through the support of our noncommissioned officer corps, we build Strong Sergeants, who build Strong Soldiers!



35th ID assumes authority of Task Force Spartan

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Maj. Gen. William Blaylock II, commanding general, 35th Infantry Division, Kansas Army National Guard, assumed command of Task Force Spartan from Maj. Gen. John Rhodes, commanding general, 29th Infantry Division, Virginia Army National Guard, at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 20.

The transfer of authority ceremony was presided over by Lt. Gen. Ronald Clark, commanding general, U.S. Army Central.

During the same ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuenkel, division command sergeant major, 35th Infantry Division, assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Plude, division command sergeant major, 29th Infantry Division.

“We want to continue what the 29th has started and push to the next level. We will work to reinforce these relationships,” said Blaylock in reference to members of the Kuwait Land Forces in attendance. “The 35th Infantry Division is here to support you.”

During the ceremony, the outgoing commander and command sergeant major cased the 29th Infantry Division colors, signifying the end of their tour. The 35th Infantry Division colors were then uncased, opening a new chapter for both the division and for Task Force Spartan.

“We are stronger together than we are individually,” said Blaylock. “We must continue to build trust by treating others with respect, demonstrating integrity, and taking care of each other.”

Exercising command and control over Operation Spartan Shield, Task Force Spartan maintains a U.S. military presence in Southwest Asia to strengthen U.S. defense relationships and build partner capacity in the Gulf region.

STORY BY SPC. EVAN ANDERSON



Forensics lab resumes joint classes after two year hiatus

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Staff members at the Forensics Exploitation Lab – Central Command (FXLC) and U.S. Army explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams conducted training classes with the Kuwaiti Land Force, police and border security in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 28-29, 2022.

Kuwaiti and U.S. personnel exchanged techniques and information on how to obtain forensics data and dispose of improvised explosive devices from crime scenes.

“This training focuses on conducting the joint exploitation and safe handling of evidence-related material,” said Air Force Capt. John DeLauentis, U.S. Air Force Central Command’s intelligence engagement officer who organized the training. “It’s going to help build a shared bilateral understanding of proper handling techniques between both Kuwait and U.S. partner forces.”

The forensics exercise marks the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that the staff at FXLC taught personnel from the U.S. Army and Kuwaiti Land Forces in a joint environment.

“We are always looking for training with the U.S. Military,” said Lt. Col. Mosa Al-Mansour, of the Kuwaiti Land Force. “Because we bring people from different backgrounds and different units so when an event occurs, we do it right.”



STORY BY SPC. CLAUDE NELSON

Class participants conduct a training exercise on how to properly search equipment for possible explosive materials



Task Force Hellhound soldiers lead the Kuwaiti Land & Interior Forces in a practical exercise following their classroom instruction



Members of the Kuwaiti Land & Interior Forces conduct classroom training on explosive ordinance disposal & information gathering



PEOPLE



PARTNERSHIPS



READINESS



STRONG SOLDIERS,
STRONG SERGEANTS!



AROUND THE SHIELD



TF RAZORBACK CONDUCTS LIVE-FIRE TRAINING



ARCENT CSM MEETS WITH 29TH/35TH ID CSM'S AND MEMBERS OF THE KLF



TF SPARTAN CONDUCTS MEDEVAC TRAINING



35TH INFANTRY DIVISION JAG SECTION



TF SPARTAN MEETS WITH WARBA DISABLED SPORTS CLUB



BACKGROUND PHOTO: TF SPARTAN UNITS PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION FLAMING DRAGON

MWR hosts free events, amenities for soldiers

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait —The Military Wellness and Recreational (MWR) Center, directed and managed by Roger Disbrow, hosts a variety of events for military members at Camp Arifjan, with many of them being free of charge.

"Soldiers at Camp Arifjan don't have to pay anything, and we host all kinds of sports tournaments, game nights and give away prizes such as gift cards. During holidays, we'll do barbeques with burgers and hotdogs, all free of charge," said Disbrow.

Services such as gyms, swimming pools, racing events and off-post tours are also provided by the MWR. The amenities provide soldiers an accessible way to enjoy their hours off work and even explore what Kuwait City has to offer through off-post tour programs.

"We set up sporting events with the Kuwaitis," said Disbrow. "We had a soccer team play the Kuwaitis' at the Olympic Committee Complexes. We also did swimming, basketball, ping-pong, bowling and volleyball. Then we arranged a miniature triathlon."

MWR events provide a way for service members to explore, socialize and maintain a healthy lifestyle while based on Camp Arifjan.

For a complete list of upcoming events, check out the MWR Events Calendar, located on page 6.



ROGER DISBROW
CAMP ARIFJAN MWR DIRECTOR



STORY BY SPC. CLAUDE NELSON

April

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Since 1986, April 1 has marked the start of the Month of the Military Child to honor the important role military children play in the armed forces community.

It is important to remember and appreciate the resiliency of all military children back home during this month and throughout the rest of our deployment, and to honor the many sacrifices they make.



29TH ID RETURNS HOME FOLLOWING TF SPARTAN ROTATION



<div>  <div>CAMP ARIFJAN MWR EVENTS</div> <div>APRIL 2022</div> <div>SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS PREVENTION MONTH</div> </div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 5:45 PM 5K Run/Walk - 0500 @ Z 1 Strength Center 301 Darts Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	2 Saturday Movie Night - 1900 & 2130 @ MWR Community Center
Intramural Softball League (29 Mar - 09 Jun)						
3 DCUC 10 Mile Freedom Run/Walk 1000 @ Z 1 Strength Center 5 on 5 Blind Volleyball Tournament - 1800 @ Z 4 Volleyball Court 3 Ball Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	4 Karaoke - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	5 Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month Bingo - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	6	7 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	8 Ping Pong Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	9 Saturday Movie Night - 1900 & 2130 @ MWR Community Center
Intramural Softball League (29 Mar - 09 Jun)						
10 Power Lifting Competition - 1800 @ Z 1 Strength Center Pull Up Challenge Competition - 1800 @ Z 6 CTF	11 Karaoke - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	12 Bingo! - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	13 Dominoes Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	14 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	15 Tailgate Toss Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	16 Saturday Movie Night - 1900 & 2130 @ MWR Community Center
Singles Tennis Tournament (10-17 April) 1830 @ Z1 Tennis Court			Intramural Softball League (29 Mar - 09 Jun)			
17 Easter Bunny Games - 1700 @ MWR Community Center Benchpress Competition - 1800 @ Z 6 CTF	18 Karaoke - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	19 Bingo! - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	20 Jenga Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	21 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	22	23 ASG-Kunai's Fittest Competition - 0900 @ Z 6 CTF & Z 1 Football Field Saturday Movie Night - 1900 & 2130 @ MWR Community Center
Singles Tennis Tournament (10-17 April) 1830 @ Z1 Tennis Court			Intramural Softball League (29 Mar - 09 Jun)			
24 Arifjan Marathon 26.2 Miles - 0400 @ Z 1 Strength Center 21 Blackjack - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	25 Karaoke - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	26 Bingo! - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	27 Chess Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center 3 Point Shootout Competition - 1800 @ Z 6 Basketball Court	28 Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	29 8 Ball Tournament - 1900 @ MWR Community Center	30 Saturday Movie Night - 1900 & 2130 @ MWR Community Center
Intramural Softball League (29 Mar - 09 Jun)						

CAMP ARIFJAN MWR



CAMP ARIFJAN USO

Now open until
2300 Friday and Saturdays!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<div>1</div> <div>Cornhole @ 1900</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Celebration of Flavors @ 1700</div>
<div>3</div> <div>Mortal Kombat tourney @ 1900</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>"Moonknight" screening w/ Q&A @ 1800</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Easter Wooden Craft @ 1900</div>	<div> </div> <div>8</div> <div>Birthday Celebration @ 1800</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Texas Hold 'Em @ 1900</div>	
<div>10</div> <div>UFC Fight @ 0600</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <div>National Grilled Cheese Day @ 1800</div>	<div> </div> <div>13</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Egg Dyeing @ 1900</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Spring Dinner @ 1700 Cornhole @ 1900</div>
<div>17</div> <div>MOMC Tie-dye @ 1600</div>	<div> </div> <div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>USO Transitions webinar w/ pancakes @ 1900</div>	<div> </div> <div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Earth Day Paint Night @ 1900</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Magic the Gathering @ 1900</div>
<div>24</div> <div>Walking Tacos @ 1700</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>National Superhero Day w/ Trivia @ 1900</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Cornhole @ 1900</div>	<div>30</div> <div>BINGO @ 1900</div>

APRIL



CAMP BUEHRING USO

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Programs start at 1900 unless otherwise specified. For updated information on programs and extra events follow us on Facebook @ USO Camp Buehring.					1 Spa Night	2
3 Fried Oreo's	4 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION	5 SORRY WE'RE CLOSED	6 Paint Night	7 MAGIC	8 TEXAS Hold'em	9
10 Nacho Bar	11 USO Bob Hope Legacy Reading Program	12 SORRY WE'RE CLOSED	13 Easter Egg Dying	14	15 TRIVIA Night	16 1400 @ The USO Easter Egg Hunt
17 Gourmet Cupcakes	18 VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION	19 SORRY WE'RE CLOSED	20 LAUGH LIVE Scrabble Coasters	21 Chess Tournament	22 SUPER SMASH BROS	23
24 Grilled PB&J	25 WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!	26 SORRY WE'RE CLOSED	27 Flowerpot Painting	28 Mario Kart Tournament	29 MARIO KART	30



U.S. ARMY CENTRAL
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT



Division soldiers cheer on Kansas Jayhawks to national title victory

35th Infantry Division soldiers, along with service members from across Camp Arifjan gathered in the early hours of the morning to be featured during the national anthem of the 2022 NCAA National Championship basketball game on TBS, April 5, 2022.

Those in attendance were featured live twice during the national broadcast, where 18.5 million viewers watched back home in the United States.

Following the national anthem, service members, a majority of whom are from Kansas, cheered on the Jayhawks to their 72-69 victory against North Carolina.

Members of the 35th Infantry Headquarters Battalion (HHBN) celebrated by raising a Kansas Jayhawks flag below the state flags at their headquarters on Camp Arifjan.



The Shield

TASK FORCE SPARTAN

Commanding General
Maj. Gen William Blaylock



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuenkel



Division Public Affairs Team

Lt. Col. Matt Keane


Capt. Titus Firmin, Capt. Robert Hughes

Spc. Evan Anderson, Spc. Joshua Bolding, Spc. Claude Nelson



SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT TO "THE SHIELD"!

TASK FORCE SPARTAN PAO OFFICE

 318-480-5313

**READY TO SHARE YOUR PHOTOS, VIDEOS, OR HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT PLANNED?
REACH OUT TO OUR TEAM SO WE CAN SHARE YOUR STORY!**

CONNECT WITH US, FOLLOW OUR STORY.



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| Newsletter Design by Spc. Evan Anderson |