

The Shield

TASK FORCE SPARTAN NEWSLETTER | 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

In This Issue

3 Spartan units compete in U.S. ARCENT's Best Squad Competition

Meet Viper: Military Working Dog on his first deployment

TFS observes ANZAC Day 2022 in Jordan

Medical Executive brings talent to the National Guard & TFS

Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Task Force Spartan



TaskForceSpartan_OSS



@TFSpartan

Newsletter Design by Cpl. Evan Anderson

FROM THE TOP

Another month down in the blink of an eye. As time goes by, our Soldiers continue to amaze me with their hard work and dedication. I am deeply humbled to be leading such an amazing group of Soldiers and I will continue to strive to be the best leader I can for them. I look forward to seeing the work and success that is coming our way.

This month has been hard on many of us. Month of the Military Child has just ended, and we now celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Mother's Day. Our families back home have continued to be on our minds.

My wife certainly deserves appreciation for putting up with this Soldier. She's proven to be resilient through 32 plus years of being married to me and all that it brings. Without her support and love back home, I would not be able to focus on my job. Our Santa Fe spouses have all my respect and appreciation.

Many of our soldiers are also mother's and had to be away from their families on Mother's Day. They're not only serving their families, but the nation as well. Thank you to all the Mothers who serve with us in the Division and Task Force Spartan.

Thank you to all the mothers and spouses who are serving with us or have a loved one serving with us.

Win The Day! Santa Fe!



**MG WILLIAM BLAYLOCK
COMMANDING GENERAL**



**CSM STEVEN STUENKEL
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**

The United States Army is a unique fighting force. But what separates us from other fighting forces? Our Strong Sergeants! Strong Sergeants make Strong Soldiers! What makes a Strong Sergeant?

Strong sergeants must be physically, mentally, and emotionally fit. They must also epitomize the Army's seven core values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

Strong Sergeants are promoted to many different leadership positions. With leadership comes more responsibility. It takes a lot of hard work and determination to lead a team, squad, and platoon. A prime example of Strong Sergeants at work was ARCENT's Best Squad Competition earlier this month.

During the ARCENT Best Squad Competition, teams participated in several events that pushed their physical, mental, and emotional limits. We saw Strong Sergeants lead their squad through these relentless events. These events showed that being in a leadership role isn't easy.

To lead, one must be able to accept and handle many different challenges and be able to adapt and overcome without breaking under the pressure. We saw great efforts by our own Task Force Spartan teams competing in the competition, and even saw one of our own teams win! Congratulations to our Strong Sergeants and Strong Soldiers who competed in this year's event.

Keep up your efforts, Task Force Spartan!



Spartan units participate in ARCENT's Best Squad Competition

STORY BY SPC. CLAUDE NELSON

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Squads from across the region represented U.S. Army Central (US ARCENT) and Task Force Spartan while competing in this year's USARCENT Best Squad Competition held at Camp Buehring and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Soldiers began the event at Camp Buehring, where the competing squads performed Army warrior tasks and battle drills such as stick lanes, medical evacuation drills, and personnel recovery operations.

The theme of this year's competition was "Strong Sergeants, Strong Soldiers." Instead of focusing on the skill of an individual soldier, the focus was working together as a team and how well the sergeants of each team could get their squad to work together to accomplish the mission.

"You got to know how to take orders and be a team player," said Spc. Connor Curtis, of Task Force Griz. "We've trained hard together, we shot live rounds next to each other, and we endured our time in the dry sand and the hot sun beating down on us. All that really helped us to come together."



Soldiers then traveled to Camp Arifjan to compete during the final day of the event, which included an eight-mile ruck march in the early morning, during which the squads had to overcome obstacles and challenges. The squads then participated in a board, followed by a closing ceremony where the winner of this year's competition was named.

This year's winning squad was the squad representing the 1-153rd Cavalry Regiment of our very own Task Force Spartan. Congratulations on your victory and for representing what it means to be Strong Sergeants, Strong Squads, and Strong Soldiers!



The special connection between military working dogs & their handlers

STORY BY CAPT. ROBERT HUGHES

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar – Meet Viper; he is a 3 year-old Belgian Malinois who works with U.S. Navy Master at Arms, Petty Officer Second Class (MA2) Dominick Wright of Deltona, Florida. Wright has served as a dog handler for seven years and Viper is his fifth dog.

"It's one of the best jobs in the military, there's no question about that," said Wright. "Viper performs his job proficiently and beyond expectations. Your dog is a representation of you, and if you don't care, the dog won't care."

Viper is currently on his first overseas deployment, far from his home base of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington. Viper's current tour included several months at Camp As Sayliyah Qatar, serving as a patrol and explosive detection dog.

The road to becoming a military working dog and handler starts at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where Viper trained for 65 days to become a certified patrol and explosive detection dog. Viper completed 60 days of patrol training, including bite work, obedience, scouting, and learning how to search and locate explosive ordnance.

As far as Viper's handler, MA2 Wright completed nearly six months of training to become a dog handler, starting with Naval police training. He then completed the military working dog handlers' course, a three-month program at Lackland Air Force Base for all military dog handlers.

Viper is now working at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Wright believes he has a bright future because he's been selected to serve in elite assignments, including as a security dog at President Joe Biden's home in Delaware. He's also been to New York City to serve as a security dog at the UN General Assembly meeting.

"You spend hours, days, weeks, years with this dog, and every single day when you're on deployment you live with it. It's a bond that you can't control," said Wright.

Task Force Spartan is proud to have Viper serving alongside our team!



PEOPLE



PARTNERSHIPS



READINESS



STRONG SERGEANTS,
STRONG SOLDIERS!



AROUND THE SHIELD



TF TIMBERWOLF CONDUCTS A UNIT ACFT



35 ID MOTHERS POSE FOR MOTHER'S DAY



TASK FORCE SPARTAN HHBN SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN "DENIM DAY"



TFS CG & CSM CONDUCT SFRG TOWN HALL EVENT



TF GRIZ SOLDIER CLEANS WEAPON DURING BSC



TF SPARTAN SOLDIERS COMPETE IN ASG KUWAIT'S "FITTEST SOLDIER" COMPETITION



RECENTLY PROMOTED TFS SOLDIERS



TFS SOLDIERS COMPLETE 8 MILE RUCK DURING BSC



TF HURRICANE SOLDIERS COMPETING IN BSC



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CEREMONY 2022

So you want to pet the cats?

So you want to pet the cats, but is it really worth it? Answer. NO! Not for you and not for the cat. What you think of as harmless compassion for an animal in an austere environment is actually something far more sinister. It could be a DEATH sentence.

CENTCOM's General Order Number 1D, affectionately known as GO-1D, prohibits "Caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal." This is a clear cut prohibition. But that's not all folks! Wait. There's more – you have the added benefit of being under another specific order, that of our very own CG, Major General William B. Blaylock, II. Fresh off the press this April, Command Policy 2022-30, Standards of Conduct, para 5g prohibits adopting as pets or mascots of any kind, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal.

This prohibited activity is in the same section as other commonly known prohibited activities such as, possession or production of alcohol (para 5a), possession/ distribution of controlled substances (para 5b), and possession of pornography (para 5i).

If you think feeding a cat is a benevolent act, you should know that rooms can and have been searched for cat food based on probable cause that the occupants of those rooms had been feeding cats. What could constitute probable cause? One credible witness telling law enforcement or a commander that they saw you feeding a cat. That is sufficient evidence to meet the probable cause requirement for a search authorization. If they search your room and find cat food, what then? Trouble for both you and the cat. You could face a court-martial and discharge and the cat could face worse.

That's right – failure to follow this simple rule not only can lead to you being disciplined under Article 92, but often leads directly to the cat's death. Cats that do not maintain distance from their human neighbors, or who are accustomed to being fed may become aggressive with a Soldier who does not feed them. One swipe at a Soldier, may lead to its death. After a cat bites or scratches a person, the animal is quarantined and monitored for approximately ten days by Veterinary Services to see if it develops signs or symptoms of rabies. After that 10 day period, it's lights out. Permanently.

It is simply a matter of doing the right thing. If you would never try and buy alcohol from some back alley purveyor or if you would never have someone mail you THC edibles, don't feed the cats! It is the same thing – they are all violations of GO-1D, with serious consequences.

Task Force Spartan Legal (aka "Rough Justice") will provide a monthly column of helpful legal advice for the Division.

COLUMN BY CPL. JEAN-PIERRE RODRIGUEZ-ESPINOZA & MAJ. KALAH PAISLEY

STORY BY SPC. JOSHUA BOLDING

Red Cross bounces back from pandemic operations



REGAN JEFFERSON
REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER

The employees and volunteers at the American Red Cross on Camp Arifjan work hard to help service members relax and enjoy their time while stationed here. The Red Cross was a popular destination for service members, but COVID-19 changed that.

When the pandemic hit, nearly all amenities on post shut down temporarily, including the Red Cross. As facilities began to open once again up, the Red Cross did so as well, but there weren't as many service members stopping by.

Now post-pandemic, about 60 service members volunteer for the organization and things are slowly returning to normal. The Red Cross is currently preparing for Resiliency Week, which will be held from May 22-28. This week will offer educational events on sleep hygiene, yoga, creative crafting, and more.

While things can get difficult, resiliency is always important to have. The Red Cross has displayed resiliency to help teach and provide resiliency to us all!

Task Force Spartan observes ANZAC Day 2022 in Jordan

STORY BY MAJ. DAVID CHAPPELL

Soldiers from the Civil Affairs section of Task Force Spartan attended the Australian Embassy's ANZAC Day sunrise service at the Citadel Amman to commemorate the service and sacrifice of all men and women who have served and continue to serve Australia, New Zealand and its allies in war and peace.

The annual service memorializes the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps' (ANZAC) disastrous attack at Gallipoli against the Ottoman Empire in 1915 during World War One. However, the gallantry and bravery of the ANZAC soldiers during the failed campaign served as a keystone in the national foundation of Australian and New Zealander identity.

Staff Sgt. Arieanto Sutrisno said, "It was an honor for soldiers from Task Force Spartan to be able to observe, honor, and pay respects of our coalition colleagues in Jordan."

ANZAC Day is an annual event that recognizes common values and mutual interests for a stable and safe Middle East and a reminder of the shared relationships many of our partners have to Jordan.



Deployed healthcare executive brings talent to the National Guard

U.S. Army Capt. Jarrod Nicholson of the Kansas Army National Guard is serving with the 35th Infantry Division as a Medical Logistics officer, currently on his second tour with the Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Nicholson, like five generations of family members that came before him, joined the Army to continue his family's tradition of military service.

Out of uniform, Nicholson serves as the Lead Project Manager of Government Services at Becton Dickinson, a multinational medical technology company that manufactures and sells medical devices.

Working at the Division level in the Army, Nicholson is able to hone in on his project management experience and bring it to serve our Division and our nation.

We all know it's no secret that medical readiness is essential to a unit's overall mission success. We are thankful for Capt. Nicholson's experience and talent that he provides that helps give our mission and Task Force Spartan, a leg up!



STORY BY CPL. EVAN ANDERSON



May :

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The U.S. Army is a diverse organization with soldiers of many different backgrounds. However, civilians who support the U.S. Army come from many diverse backgrounds as well. Leila Hascher, the drivers training instructor on Camp Arifjan, is a Filipino-American who has served U.S. service members here for 22 years.

Hascher came to Kuwait looking for work and found more than she expected.

"I came to Kuwait in 1986 at the age of 22," said Hascher. "I met my husband in 1992 around the time of the Gulf War, he was a Staff Sgt. back then. He got out later and became a contractor, and through him I was able to find this job."

Hascher considers herself fortunate to work at Camp Arifjan and serve soldiers.

"I remember after my first month of working here and getting my salary, that was the best moment for me," said Hascher. "When I came here I did not have anything, now I do not have to rely on anyone else. I called my friends and my church mates to share the blessings I received. I still remember that excitement."

However Hascher's time at Arifjan has not been without pain or suffering.

"Part of the reason why I stay is the memory of my husband," said Hascher. "I want to stay just a little bit longer in Kuwait and reminisce on those memories we had here in Kuwait." Hascher's husband was killed in a vehicular accident in 2017.

Hascher insists her heritage helped her to thrive in Kuwait for the last 30 years despite adversity and loss.

"Filipinos are known as hard workers around here," said Hascher. "We are able to adapt to different environments. These things have been a big influence on my work ethic and how I interact with others."

Mrs. Hascher has some advice for others going through what she went through.

"For first and second generation Filipinos, remember your heritage," said Hascher. "Remember and exercise the traits of our ancestors. You can still live as an American but have the legacy of your Filipino heritage."



STORY BY SPC. JOSH BOLDING & CLAUDE NELSON

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
Cpl. 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.



@35Div



@35thInfantryDivision



@TFSpartan



@TaskForceSpartan_OSS



@CENTCOM



@USArmyCentral



@USArmyCentral

"The Shield" is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the PA officer.