

The Shield

TASK FORCE SPARTAN NEWSLETTER | 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

In This Issue

Trained and ready: TF Griz conducts CALFEX

Spartan takes top three places in Best Medic Competition

Why you should say something if you see something

Words matter, choose wisely

32 new UPARs trained to tell the TFS story

Celebrating Juneteenth & Pride Month



Task Force Spartan



TaskForceSpartan_OSS



@TFSpartan

Newsletter Design by Cpl. Evan Anderson

FROM THE TOP

One month ends and another begins. The months may change, but our Soldiers continue to work hard and complete the mission with flying colors. They never cease to amaze me with their dedication and service.

Soldier's long to return to their families and loved ones. However, on Memorial Day we took a moment to remember those who sacrificed everything. We will never forget the brave Soldiers and service members who gave their lives for our freedom.

We also commemorated the anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6th. Soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division passed through Normandy a month after the initial landings and fought across the continent to liberate Europe. We remember the bravery of U.S. Soldiers and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice nearly 80 years ago – lest we forget.

Thank you to our Soldiers and their families for all you have done and continue to do. *Win the Day! Santa Fe!*



**CSM STEVEN STUENKEL
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**



**MG WILLIAM BLAYLOCK
COMMANDING GENERAL**



On June 14th, the Army celebrated its 247th Birthday. The theme of this year's birthday is answering the call to defend our nation 24/7. As Soldiers, we train continuously to be ready, but the past two years have been difficult to maintain a steady state of readiness due to COVID-19. However, our Strong Soldiers, strong NCOs, and strong leaders worked together through these difficult times to prepare and train for this mobilization. This could not have happened without the support of our families.

Our families are important! A strong foundation at home is essential for a Soldier to endure the difficulties surrounding a deployment. They are key to the overall readiness of our forces. Healthy and happy families allow Soldiers to maintain a focus on the mission. I commend each family for making sacrifices in the past, present, and future.

These sacrifices have allowed our Soldiers to serve. Remember Soldiers, the first cohesive team you build is your family. A cohesive team is key to success.

This June, we also celebrate Pride Month. As we look to our left and to our right, let us take pride in all who choose to defend our nation. Sacrifice is sacrifice. There is no color, gender, or sexual orientation associated with sacrifice. As a growing and changing force, we must accept all who have made this brave decision to serve our country and work together as an inclusive and cohesive team.

In the past month we have seen what happens when you build a cohesive team. Units throughout Task Force Spartan have planned, prepared, trained for, and executed several missions and exercises. Task Force Griz recently executed a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise which was a multi-disciplined event that spanned several weeks of training with one culminating day. Task Force Hurricane recently kicked off its newest iteration of Platoon Immersion with one of our partnered nations. Task Force Granite and Task Force Lightning worked together with another partner nation over a 3-week period, building up to a live-fire exercise. These trainings and exercises would not have been successful without cohesion within our ranks.



Task Force Griz conducts combined arms live fire exercise

STORY BY SPC. JOSHUA BOLDING

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — As the saying goes, "you've got to stay ready, so you don't have to get ready." On May 22, 2022 the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Cavalry Regiment, part of Task Force Griz, conducted a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) as a culminating event to test the combat skills of the regiment.

The battalion level CALFEX involved Soldiers with various military occupational specialties such as infantrymen and M1 armor crewman throughout Task Force Griz to work cohesively for mission success.

Operations such as breaching and entering makeshift villages and supporting by fire from M1A2 Abram tanks were conducted during the CALFEX. Coordination between the units was imperative for success.

"The ability of platoons to be modular within Task Force Griz and take soldiers' organic skills and task them with Bradleys or light infantry creates a unit that can go out and accomplish any mission," said Master Sgt. Ben Ericksen, battalion master gunner for the 1st Combined Arms, 163rd Cavalry Regiment.

Communication and coordination were the primary reasons for mission success.



Lt. Col. Corey Swanson, Commander of the 1st Combined Arms, 163rd Cavalry Regiment, wants this coordination to continue.

"The biggest sustainment for me is how we trained together," said Swanson. "Communication and working together was very important. Now we want the units to be able to refine their training and continue to improve throughout the year."

By maintaining readiness and always training, Task Force Griz will be able to respond to any situation when the need arises.





PEOPLE



PARTNERSHIPS



READINESS



STRONG SERGEANTS,
STRONG SOLDIERS!

Spartan medics place in top three at medic competition

STORY BY SPC. CLAUDE NELSON

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Task Force Spartan medics competed in the Best Medic Competition at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, May 14, 2022. Medics competing tested their knowledge of the combat medic world through a stress trauma lane and a written test.

One of the top teams from Task Force Spartan explained how they performed their duties at such a high standard.

“The event seems chaotic from the outside looking in,” said Sgt. Chandler Dye, combat medic for the 35th Infantry Division. “Once you get going in your assessment, it’s almost a controlled chaos.”

Soldiers in the trauma lanes conducted tactical combat casualty care in the “kill house”, a high stress environment meant to simulate the experience on a battlefield.

Medics stayed focused in battlefield scenarios by using a system that secured the casualty, then medics performed their duties of treating life-threatening wounds and injuries.

“We use an acronym as medics called MARCH, which stands for massive hemorrhaging, airways, respiration, circulation, and hypothermia. Medics use this acronym to quickly recall the order to treat trauma casualties,” said Spc. Kyle Murden, combat medic for the 35th Infantry Division.

Sgt. Jessica Rodgers and Spc. Martin Hudson of Task Force Griz took first place in the competition. Sgt. Zachary Weeks and Sgt. Russell Holiway of the 35th Infantry Division took second place, and Sgt. Chandler Dye and Spc. Kyle Murden, also from the 35th Infantry Division took third place overall.

Congratulations to Task Force Spartan for training Strong Soldiers. We are proud of their efforts during this competition!





AROUND THE SHIELD



TF HURRICANE CONDUCTS MEDEVAC TRAINING



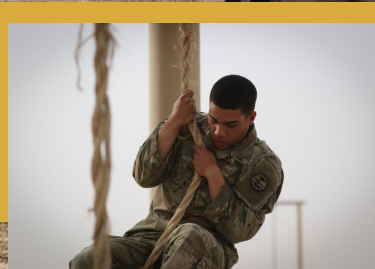
TF GRIZ CONDUCTS MOVEMENT OPERATIONS TRAINING



MASTER SGT. STALLO PROMOTED TO SGT. MAJ. ON A BLACKHAWK



MEMBERS OF CHARLIE COMPANY AND 35TH DIV. G6



TF GRIZ TRAINS ON TACTICAL OBSTACLE COURSE



3-157TH FAB CONDUCTS MEDICAL TRAINING



SANTA FE SOLDIERS COMPLETE MEMORIAL DAY "MURPH" PT CHALLENGE



35TH ID SOLDIERS PLACED 2ND & 3RD IN BEST MEDIC COMPETITION

TF HELLHOUND RECEIVES SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA



LT. GEN. AGUTO OF FIRST ARMY VISITS WITH TF GRIZ

Why you should say something if you see something

Picture this. On one of the rare, somewhat cool nights of your deployment, you decide to hang with 5 of your battles, so you put on some shorts, a t-shirt, and tennis shoes and head to the bleachers. Everything is going fantastic because you get to spend time with the group, which does not happen often. There are stories, jokes and laughs being shared all throughout the night. One particular joke made you all laugh so hard that your stomach is hurting. You are leaning over laughing but then you feel a hand touch your thigh. You do not think much of it at first. Then, one by one, your battles end up going to bed and it's just you and one battle left.

You two decide to hang out a little longer. While the two of you are spending the evening together, your conversations get in more depth than normal and your buddy starts to say inappropriate things to you. You feel shocked at first so you just laugh it off because you do not know what to say. Your "battle" moves closer to you and they put their hand on your thighs. You try to move away but they move their hand up closer and pull you towards them and kisses you. You push them away and leave.

Fast forward to a couple weeks later. You keep replaying that night in your head and it starts to eat you because you did not ask for it and they were your friend. You keep thinking about what you should do or if you should tell someone. What if this is not the first time this person has done this to someone? Could I help someone else by speaking up? Was I doing anything or saying anything to make it seem like I wanted it? You feel all alone and think no one will listen to you.

This is what we want to think because it is easier and less terrifying than recognizing that this scenario could happen to anyone. The truth is, there may be nothing you can do to stop it from happening to you, and that burden should not be on you in the first place. The Special Victims Counsel team is here to help you in making sure you have legal representation while you help stop a perpetrator.

COLUMN BY SGT. SHANNON BAKER & 1ST LT. RAYASIA MYLES

Words matter, choose wisely

I am guilty and so are some of you reading this of misusing some terms. Many of the words and phrases we have been accustomed to saying have a deep rooted association of being derogatory. These words or phrases may appear harmless from the outset, but once we begin to delve deeper into their past, we start to uncover something much more serious.

Let us start with the word "Peanut Gallery". The phrase has been synonymous with the cheapest seats in a theater during the vaudeville era of the 1800's. During that time, those that had a displeasure for the act which was being performed on stage would often throw items at the performers to include peanuts because it was the cheapest snack in the theater. As this term was being brandished about, it was more in reference to the lower class and the immigrants who inhabited those seats, regardless of their skin tone.

The next phrase I will discuss is "Cotton Picking". There is some debate as to whether or not this term is derogatory toward African Americans since many southern whites were also pickers of cotton as recently as the early 1900's. You may have heard it used like this, "you're out of your cotton picking mind." This phrase has racial overtones because southern Black slaves were the primary pickers of cotton for much of American history. Regardless of your beliefs, it seems to me the safe bet would be to simply steer clear of using this phrase.

The final word I will discuss is "Powwow". In the military, we are known for having a lot of meetings but we should never refer to them as a Powwow. For instance, "Let us have a quick Powwow". For Native Americans, Powwows are enormous celebrations that require months of planning. Powwows are a way to celebrate Native American heritage, art, and community and are still in use today.

While each of these words may not have an entirely negative or openly racist meaning, understanding their past helps us to gain a greater perspective on our future. There are many other choices or synonyms that can easily replace these phrases and still invoke the same meaning. Words matter, choose wisely.

STORY BY SGT. MAJ. STEPHEN BRANDT

Spartan trains 32 new Unit Public Affairs Representatives

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Soldiers from across Task Force Spartan arrived at Camp Arifjan in order to learn the abilities of a 46S, public affairs mass communications specialist over a two-day course from May 26–27, 2022. These Soldiers will be able to help tell the story of Task Force Spartan from all across the region through photo and video.

It may look easy, but there is a lot to learn in such a short period of time. Unit Public Affairs Representatives (UPARS) learn much in the class. Students are taught the basics of photography, videography, and article writing, as well as social media and interviewing techniques. After each lesson, UPARs conducted a practical exercise to test their skills.

"I really enjoyed the capstone event, it allowed us to show our artistic individuality," said Staff Sgt. Jared Teachey, newly trained UPAR of the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Security Forces Assistance Brigade. "We'll be able to bring a great skillset back to our units."

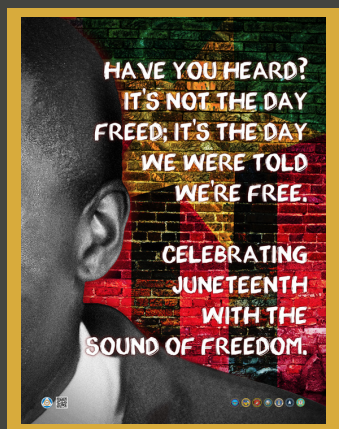
We look forward to seeing what great stories our new UPARs will produce for Task Force Spartan!

STORY BY SPC. JOSHUA BOLDING



June :

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH & PRIDE MONTH



What is Juneteenth? Juneteenth is the newest Federal Holiday and some may still be unaware of its significance. Here is a brief summary of why Juneteenth is celebrated and its connection to the diversity we see in our military today.

Juneteenth honors the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. The name "Juneteenth" is a blend of two words: "June" and "nineteenth." Although President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863. Slavery continued in Texas despite the Emancipation until June 19th, 1865, when federal troops made it to Texas to enforce the proclamation. Hence, Juneteenth.

Juneteenth marks the freeing of the last remaining slaves and was a stepping stone toward the full integration of the military as we know it today. A step toward the diversity in the ranks of our military.

Before the full integration of the military could happen on July 26th, 1948, all citizens had to be free. Juneteenth was a stepping stone toward where we are today, where African Americans in the military can serve and rise in responsibility based solely on merit, performance, and potential.

STORY BY MAJ. JUSTINN DOBY



Division Soldiers discuss balancing military, civilian life



The life of a Citizen-Soldier is one of balance. Between the mission of the Army and the loved ones Soldiers care for back home, Soldiers may face difficulty staying in touch with these communities during deployment. Luckily, Soldiers new to the Army are able to learn from their battle buddies, whose years of experience are passed down to newer Soldiers.

"Staying connected with your family is the most important thing you can do for them," said Maj. Dallas Nivens, the operational contract support integration cell deputy for the 35th Infantry Division.

Throughout his 15 years in the U.S. Army, Maj. Nivens has learned the importance of staying connected with loved ones back home during deployment.

"Staying connected while you are here gives them comfort knowing you're okay," said Maj. Nivens. "The more contact you get with your family, the more in tune you stay with them and the easier integration is when you get back home."

Sgt. David Mooney, organizational defense travel administrator for the 35th Infantry Division, went on his first deployment to Kuwait in 2017. From his experiences there and throughout his time in the Army, Sgt. Mooney was able to learn the importance of what makes relationships enduring.

"A deployment can break a relationship, or it can make it stronger than it has ever been," said Sgt. Mooney. "It forced me to really focus on the things that matter in a relationship versus the normal day to day things."

Sgt. Mooney credits his intentionality with communicating with his loved ones as the reason for maintaining healthy relationships overseas.

"You have to be very intentional when talking to loved ones back home," said Sgt. Mooney. "The primary thing my spouse and I do is we both text each other a summary about what happened in the day. That way she can wake up to a message of what is going on."

Healthy communication with loved ones is essential to enhancing a Soldier's mental health, maintaining mission readiness, and keeping lifelines back home intact.



STORY BY SPC. 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
Sgt. Nicholas Ramshaw
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.