

The Shield

TASK FORCE SPARTAN NEWSLETTER | 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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Task Force Spartan



TaskForceSpartan_OSS



@TFSpartan

FROM THE TOP

The beginning of July means we are now half-way through our mobilization. We are closer to the end than we are to the beginning. Although this is exciting, our Spartan Soldiers still must continue to work hard and execute our mission. We still have much to accomplish.

Traveling across our AOR, I've seen the hard work we continue to do. I'm always humbled by what our Soldiers achieve using the skills developed in their military and civilian careers. I have no doubt that we will fulfill everything we need to do until our time here is done.

We celebrated Independence Day, a day to recognize our nation's founding, a day usually spent with family and friends. While we couldn't be with family this year, we had each other. I spent my evening at one of our more remote outposts talking with the lifeblood of our Task Force – young Soldiers. They reminded me of the massive talent and enthusiasm within our ranks. I am thankful for all the support and capabilities we have here in theater as a Division family.

Speaking of family, during the upcoming St. Louis Cardinals 35 ID Appreciation Game, our Soldiers will be shown giving shout outs on the big screen to our families back home. I'm always taken aback by the support shown to our service members back home, and from such a great team of course, Go Cardinals! We are also working to conduct a similar type function for the Kansas City Royals. More information to follow.

We will continue to complete our mission to the best of our abilities while we remain here. We pride ourselves on our people and our partnerships, and will continue to do so. Soon enough, we will be home with our family and friends. For now, we must stay focused on our mission and look out for each other as we progress through the remainder of the deployment.

Win the Day! Santa Fe!



**MG WILLIAM BLAYLOCK
COMMANDING GENERAL**



**CSM STEVEN STUENKEL
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**

As we enter the month of July and celebrate Independence Day, we are reminded of the sacrifices that our families and Soldiers make to ensure the freedoms that we all enjoy. As Soldiers here in Task Force Spartan stand ready to meet any challenge, overcome any obstacle, and complete any task, I am amazed at our team's resolve and am proud of their abilities to complete any mission they find themselves apart of.

Our team works hard here supporting the force across the Task Force Spartan Area of Responsibility, and continues to build relationships and conduct training with our partner nations to build our capabilities.

As we reach the half way point in our deployment, I want to thank everyone for the support you have provided for our Soldiers and ask that you continue to do so as we progress through the remainder of our tour.

We have a great PAO team here that provides our families with pictures and stories of our Soldiers. I encourage everyone to join our social media outlets to follow our Soldiers on mission and congratulate one another on all of our accomplishments thus far.

Ready anytime and anywhere: TF Spartan conducts EDREs

STORY BY SPC. JOSHUA BOLDING

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – Readiness is essential for members of the American military to protect ourselves and our partnerships, by being capable of responding to any threat or emergency no matter where in the world it may occur.

The 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Cavalry Regiment, the 3-157th Field Artillery Battalion, and the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, demonstrated this during several recent emergency deployment readiness exercises (EDREs).

EDREs are designed to prepare service members to rapidly deploy and fight on extremely short notice, anywhere, in conjunction with their counterparts across the joint force.

For the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Cavalry Regiment, their first task of the EDRE was to load equipment for transportation – but to accomplish this, they first had to conduct a joint inspection with the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing of Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

In addition to a vehicle inspection of Mine-Resistant Ambush Protection (MRAP) vehicles, and M1 Abrams tanks, other supplies such as ammunition were inspected by Soldiers and Airmen, before being secured for air transport.

Once key inspection tasks, such as weighing tanks and inspecting weapon systems were complete, cleared vehicles and supplies were loaded into C-17s and C-130s and transported across the region for live-fire missions. All of these key tasks are included in an average EDRE.

“One of the most important things we learned was cooperation,” said 2nd Lt. Steven Hellmann, Armored Platoon Leader for the 163rd Cavalry Regiment. “By cooperating with different elements, we moved much more quickly and efficiently.”

The 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, played a critical role in the EDRE, by preparing several of their High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) to be transported across the U.S. ARCENT area of operations from Kuwait to the United Arab Emirates, aboard a C-130.

While all this was occurring, another HIMARS remained in Kuwait to conduct a simultaneous live fire mission. This part of the EDRE demonstrated the power and precision of the HIMARS unit and tested their communication and cooperation skills.

“By having our working relationship with the Air Force, we can get to places across the globe quickly and smoothly,” said 1st Lt. Jacob Reynolds of A Battery, 157th Field Artillery Regiment. “At any given time, we can rapidly transport anywhere in the CENTCOM AOR and be on alert and ready to mobilize at a moment’s notice.”

Rapid deployment exercises keep our force prepared to face any threat that may come. As Soldiers with Spartan, our team dedicates significant time and effort during these events in order to accomplish our mission of preserving peace and maintaining stability in the region.



35th ID and Kuwait Land Forces exchange in Medical & Legal Symposium

STORY BY SPC JOSHUA BOLDING

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT – There is much to learn when it comes to medicine and law. Members of the U.S. Army and the Kuwait Land Forces learned side by side when they came together at Jaber Al Ahmad Military Hospital in Kuwait City for a Medical & Legal Symposium.

The symposium, organized by members of the 35th Infantry Division and the Kuwait Land Forces, focused on the legal aspects of medical care. American and Kuwaiti speakers at the event discussed various aspects of what civilian and military medical professionals should know when working in the field.

Lt. Col. Ferdinand Bacomo, Deputy Commander of Clinical Services for the 531st Hospital Center, spoke during the symposium, and discussed the dual responsibilities of medical professionals in the armed forces.

"As a doctor, your main priority is your patient, and you have to make sure that they are taken care of and their autonomy is respected," said Bacomo. "As a Soldier however, your main priority is your mission, and how can you get your patient back in action as fast as possible."

Speakers throughout the event discussed the duty of military medical professionals to strike a balance between a patient's wellbeing and their ability to complete a mission.

Service members also examined the Geneva Conventions, and the regulations on how military doctors are supposed to be treated by other military personnel during wartime, as well as the complex medical laws of different countries.

Maj. Stephanie Milburn, Judge Advocate for the 35th Infantry Division, explained that the symposium helped service members integrate together.

"The symposium helped strengthen our partnership with the Kuwaitis by enhancing our interoperability and allowing us to share our legal and medical experiences together," said Milburn.

Task Force Spartan will continue to build relationships and partnerships with host nations through symposiums like these.



PEOPLE



PARTNERSHIPS



READINESS



STRONG SERGEANTS, STRONG SOLDIERS!



AROUND THE SHIELD



THE 3-157TH FIELD ARTILLERY BN PREPARES FOR AN EDRE



STAFF SGT. JONES RE-ENLISTS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

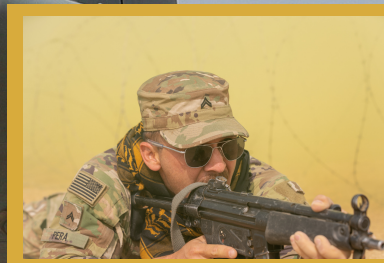
TF HURRICANE CONDUCTS TRAINING WITH THE AIR FORCE



SOLDIERS AT JTC EARN THEIR SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA



TF GRIZ CONDUCTS A CALFEX



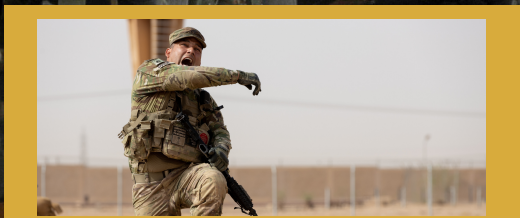
1-124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CONDUCTS WEAPONS TRAINING

35TH ID CG MEETS WITH TF HURRICANE SOLDIERS & ROYAL SAUDI LAND FORCES



35TH ID PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY

TF HURRICANE CONDUCTS LEVEL 1 COMBATIVES TRAINING



SOLDIERS IN SAUDI ARABIA PRACTICE SQUAD MOVEMENTS DURING PLATOON IMMERSION

July:

CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE

BY SGT. 1ST. CLASS LONNIE HAJNEY & MAJ. ALLEN JONES

Independence Day is a great time for families and friends to come together. They spend the day enjoying eating BBQ and shooting off their spleen splitters, whisker biscuits, honkey lighters, hoosker doos, hoosker don'ts, cherry bombs, nipsy daisers, (with or without the scooter stick), and whistlin' kitty chasers. What they might not know, is the history behind the single most important day in our nation's history, Americas Birthday!

In June 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, before it went through numerous edits. The Continental Congress created a "Committee of Five" to edit the Declaration, consisting of Roger Sherman, John Adams, Robert Livingston, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin, and all but Franklin were attorneys.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to sever ties with Britain, and on July 4, 1776, Congress officially adopted the Declaration. Only nine colonies voted in favor of adopting the Declaration. Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted against, Delaware was undecided, and New York abstained.

Eight of the 56 signers of the Declaration were born in Britain and twenty-five of the signers were attorneys. Hundreds of original copies of the Declaration were made, but only 26 copies are known to have survived to this day.

John Hancock served as president of the Continental Congress, and as such, had the honor of being the first person to sign the Declaration, and as we all know in 2004, Benjamin Franklin Gates successfully stole the Declaration of Independence from Washington, D.C.

Happy Independence Day from the 35th Infantry Division JAG Team across Southwest Asia!

Exercising your right to vote while deployed overseas

There's still time to participate in upcoming primary elections and the 2022 Midterm Elections!

1 Navigate to **www.fvap.gov/military-voter**

2 **Select your state** on the map for state specific registration regulations

3 Register and request your absentee ballot with the **Federal Post Card Application**

4 Print the completed application and mail it to your local Election Office

5 Once your mail or electronic ballot arrives, exercise your right!



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

"A Phenomenal Team": The story of a Soldier and his dog

STORY BY CAPT. ROBERT HUGHES

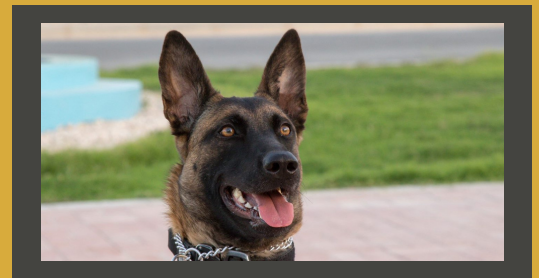
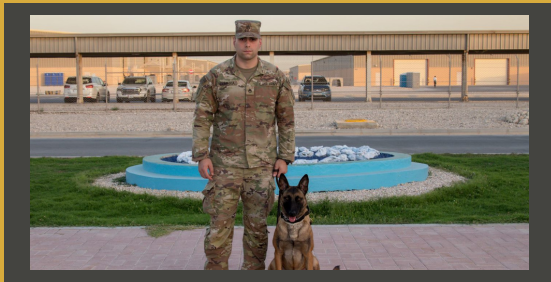
CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar - "Halt, halt, halt, or I'll release my dog," Staff Sgt. Robert Demaria shouted, as he trained his military working dog (MWD) "Arkansas" at the Camp As Sayliyah Qatar dog kennel.

"I have wanted this job for a long time, now that I have it, I would not trade it for anything...it has been a blast, and it is a dream I have always wanted to do. I think it is very rewarding," said Demaria, who is assigned to the 550th Military Police Working Dog Detachment out of Fort Bragg North Carolina.

Arkansas, a three-year-old female Belgian Malinois bomb dog, proudly walks around with what looks like a large arm cast, a tool handlers use during bite training. Demaria and Arkansas recently returned home from their first deployment together at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, where Arkansas served as a bomb dog, keeping service members safe while abroad.

Regardless of what the future holds, the time developing their skills has been well spent, and both have made an impact on each other throughout the duo's journey serving alongside each other.

"Even if she is not with me, she is still a great asset to the Army. If she is paired with somebody and doing her job, that is what matters to me at the end of the day," said Demaria.



New Escape Room enhances Army SHARP training

STORY BY SPC. CLAUDE D. NELSON

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) training is crucial in building well-rounded Soldiers, and by being able to adapt and change the way we train SHARP; Soldiers can engage with the resources, actively learn, and retain the information at a higher level.

Sgt. 1st Class Trudy Tyson, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for Area Support Group - Kuwait, says that the Escape Room on Camp Arifjan, will help train Soldiers on how to use resources and what to do when a SHARP situation arises.

"The SHARP escape room is a tool that Soldiers can use to implement training fundamentals and Army values," said Sgt. 1st Class Tyson. "We' are giving Soldiers an opportunity to interact with the resources and retain the information via training."

Through this new interactive method of training, Soldiers are able to apply their SHARP training to real-life situations in the force, in order to better protect themselves and all of their fellow Soldiers.



Linguist couple helps Task Force Spartan communicate to region

STORY BY SGT NICHOLAS RAMSHAW



CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT -- Hassina and Hussein Alhamdany, a linguist couple, assigned to assist Task Force Spartan, work together to help accomplish the many missions of Operation Spartan Shield. Linguists are an important asset to building strong relationships with our partners by helping us communicate our message, and we are fortunate to have these two on our team.

Hassina and Hussein work for Amentum, a linguistic facilitation company that supports Task Force Spartan. Their role is to help translate, interpret, and transcribe for key leader engagements, symposiums, and conferences.

Working together as a married couple brings a unique dynamic to the fight.

"We know each other well; she checks my work and polishes it, and vice versa," said Hussein. "We produce better results that way because we have two heads working together towards one goal."

The Alhamdany's take pride in their roles and responsibilities as linguists with Task Force Spartan. Hassina and Hussein also enjoy meeting many different individuals and enjoy the opportunity to learn and benefit from each engagement they assist with, which has helped established a stronger working relationship with our partners.

"We like working with the Army, and we consider it our second family," said Hassina. "We all embrace similar hardships, and, most importantly, look out for and take care of each other."

The Shield

TASK FORCE SPARTAN

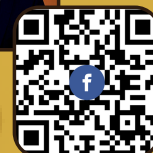
Commanding General
Maj. Gen William Blaylock



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.



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