

# The Shield

**TASK FORCE SPARTAN NEWSLETTER | 35TH INFANTRY DIVISION**

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 **Task Force Spartan**

 **TaskForceSpartan\_OSS**

 **@TFSpartan**

## FROM THE TOP

It is now August, and that means we are getting even closer to the end of our time here.

I am looking forward to seeing my family as I know many of you are, but that being said we cannot get complacent, as we still have a mission to accomplish during the rest of our time here.

This last week, the 35th ID Headquarters attended resiliency training. This is an important topic that we must all be aware of the importance of being resilient. Resiliency is defined as "the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness". Deployments are difficult. Still, we can impact our ability to recover from the difficulties that we experience. We must get good nutrition, enough sleep (which can be tough), quality exercise and we must spend time focusing on our mental and spiritual well-being. I have found through this deployment that when I achieve most of these in a given day, my overall feeling and outlook on life is much better. Yes, there are definitely days that I do not always do well in one or more of these areas. I try to take every day as a new day. I challenge you to do the same.

You all continue to excel in every aspect! We are building relationships with our fellow units and our partner nations. When I look back over these past 5 ½ months, I am amazed at what we have accomplished together. Relationships with some nations were cool or cooling when we arrived. We fought through the problems that we did not control and met our partner militaries where they were. We found common ground and built from there. An example of this occurred with our Medical Team who conducted a personnel recovery subject matter expert exchange with the Kuwait Fire Force. Events like these help accomplish our goals of building our partnerships and maintaining our unit's readiness. The relationships were not just built at the unit level, they were built at the personal level. We must continue this process as we go through our remaining time here!

Many of us had a great time during the St. Louis 35th ID Military Appreciation Night Game. Our Public Affairs team and Bally Sports Midwest broadcast our 35th ID Soldiers live to everyone at Busch Stadium for the game against the Cincinnati Reds. Watching Spc. Klug and Sgt. Draper talk about "their" MRAP - "Goldie" made us laugh. It was great to see our families who made it to the game having a great time. It was even greater to spend time together with other Soldiers and just enjoy a moment of fun - even if it was at 0300.

We may be getting closer and closer to those family and friend reunions that will follow this deployment, but we must continue to work hard as we have this entire time. Keep on building our partnerships and maintaining diligence. Focus on the mission and look after your battle buddies to keep them going as well. Soon we will be home with our friends and family.

*Win The Day, Task Force Spartan!*



**MG WILLIAM BLAYLOCK  
COMMANDING GENERAL**





# FROM THE TOP

## Continued



Task Force Spartan Soldiers continue to excel and achieve great things as they work diligently on construction projects, security, communication, and missions across our AOR. We continue to build relationships with our partner nations in the region as we conduct a wide range of training with our Armor, Field Artillery, and Infantry units. Task Force Spartan Key Leader Engagements continue to reinforce our commitment in the region as we are working hard to develop the non-commissioned officers corps with our partner nations.

Our Non-Commissioned Officers Development Program reinforces the importance of leadership within our own organization. From authorities of an NCO, cultural and generational differences, to self-development and resiliency, our Strong Sergeants continue to mentor and provide direction to Soldiers within the 35th ID. This deployment has provided a great opportunity for Soldiers to develop themselves and their teammates in reaching personal and operational goals.

As the team crosses its midway point in the deployment, it is important to stay focused on the end game. Our mission is not complete until we return all our Soldiers home safely. 35th ID HHBn has begun working the redeployment process. This heavy lift will require assistance from everyone to ensure we have a smooth transition back stateside. I want to thank the home team for all the effort and support they have given, not only to Soldiers forward, but to family and loved ones at home.



**CSM STEVEN STUENKEL**  
**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**

# August:

## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

STORY BY SPC. CLAUDE NELSON



Since the inception of our nation, women and many other minorities have played an essential role in our ranks throughout the history of our Army. From Molly Pitcher during the Revolutionary War, to Rosie the Riveter during World War II, and even the thousands of women that serve within our ranks today, the contributions these women have made have had a significant impact on today's force.

In August, we celebrate Women's Equality Day, an observance that was established by Congress in 1971. Women's Equality Day is observed on the 26th day of August and commemorates the struggles women faced to have their voices heard prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

"I am proud to serve as a woman leader in the Army, and have never been concerned about my voice not being heard," said Maj. Kalah Paisley, Chief of Administrative Law for Task Force Spartan. "The Army has equipped me to be a leader and I am excited for the next generation of women who will lead in the future."

The observance has grown to include focusing attention on women's continued efforts toward gaining full equality. Many more steps have been taken by our military to ensure the equality of all service members.

"Soldiers now feel protected and that they have a voice. No matter their background, Soldiers are still protected because they have people to go to," said Staff Sgt. Nereida Woods, Paralegal NCOIC for Task Force Spartan.

The Army continues to make strides to ensure the protection of our best asset: our people. Through the diversity of the Army and its initiatives to protect Soldiers, the United States sustains its status as the most lethal and capable military in the history of the world.



# A life saving partnership: How training with partners saves lives

STORY BY SPC. JOSHUA BOLDING

CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT – Combat medics are essential to their units, as they serve as the first responders on and off the battlefield. The Combat medics of the 35th Infantry Division (35th ID) taught life saving skills to members of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) during a recent subject matter expert exchange (SMEE).

Capt. Shane Eaton-Williams, Personnel Recovery Officer, explains.

“We exchanged knowledge and experience regarding medical training and personnel recovery with the KFF. We taught common best practices in case we ever have an isolated person and they happen to be in KFF’s domain, they will be able to quickly recover them,” said Eaton-Williams.

Both forces participated in medica training, that included the use of the M.A.R.C.H. sequence, a tool used to help Soldiers recall the order in which to treat wounded individuals. This sequence includes treating for massive hemorrhaging, obstructed airways, respiration, circulation and hypothermia. The 35th ID Soldiers worked with the KFF to demonstrate these techniques during a practical exercise portion of the class.

The final part of the training involved both units loading several simulated injured Soldiers onto a Black Hawk helicopter, in order to be medically evacuated to safety by the 7-158th Aviation Regiment – General Support Aviation Battalion.

“Once we have an isolated individual safely recovered, we begin the process of reintegration,” said Eaton-Williams. “Reintegration is the process of returning an isolated personnel into a normal environment. After that, then they can return to duty.”

Medics put the safety of their battle buddies first, and the 35th ID medics and partners of the KFF do just that every day they serve.







## PEOPLE



## PARTNERSHIPS



## READINESS



**STRONG SERGEANTS,  
STRONG SOLDIERS!**

# "Never Quit": A chess champion making a difference in the world

STORY BY CPT ROBERT HUGHES



CAMP AS SAYLIAH, QATAR - "It's an amazing game," said Rahimullah "Ray" Bakhshsi, who serves as a linguist at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

Ray started playing chess 30 years ago when he was in Afghanistan.

"I was dreaming about chess. When I closed my eyes to sleep, I had chess in front of me, and I saw it all the time," said Bakhshsi.

Bakhshsi was once invited to the Netherlands to play in a chess tournament. The Netherlands Ambassador, U.S. Chess Federation, and Kabul mayor all helped Ray start the Afghan National Chess Federation, of which he was voted the Secretary General.

"I wanted to help the chess community in Afghanistan, specifically the chess club in Kabul to be self-sufficient, by organizing tournaments on a weekly basis," said Bakhshsi.

At one point, he even participated in a 157-person tournament and was crowned the sole champion. The game overall has taught him a lot about life, and allows him to reflect.

"Chess taught me to be patient, to never give up, never quit, and also to never celebrate too early in a winning position, always focus your concentration."

The game of chess has also kept Ray humble.

"When you lose a game, you learn from your loss. You can't win them all, and sometimes you've got to accept the defeat, and that goes for everything in life."

Ray's dream is to become an international master as an Afghan American, and he is working hard to achieve that dream, as he continues to use chess to help and inspire others.

"Never give up, never lose hope. There is always brightness after darkness," said Ray.





# AROUND THE SHIELD



TASK FORCE SUMMIT CONDUCTS AN AT4 LIVE FIRE EXERCISE



SGT. ANTHONY CASTILLO WORKS ON A MURAL IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

TASK FORCE IRON CASTLE ASSUMES AUTHORITY AS THE THEATER ENGINEER BRIGADE



TASK FORCE SPARTAN CONDUCTS AN EDRES



CPT CUMBEE PRESENTS MEDICAL TEAM WITH CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

1-124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT CONDUCTS WEAPONS TRAINING WITH RSLF PARTNERS

PEACEFUL MORNING AT CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, QATAR



SPARTAN LEGAL TEAMS CONDUCT CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION



TASK FORCE TIMBERWOLF CELEBRATES THE COMPLETION OF THEIR END OF TOUR MURAL



# Prohibited items:

## How to avoid a criminal record

COLUMN BY SSG NATHAN KARNER

CENTCOM and ASG-Kuwait have published prohibitions on the possession and importation of certain items. Some items are fairly obvious, such as controlled substances. Others are not, such as slingshots. The following is a helpful (but not all inclusive) list of prohibited items:

- Alcohol
- Controlled substances
- Drug Paraphernalia
- Currency to be traded outside of the official exchange rate
- Personal weapons
- Cultural Property that is not officially cleared for sale
- Pets
- Pornography
- War Trophies



Prohibited items are forbidden for a reason. You may disagree with those rules, but you are a member of the United States Armed Forces, and (like it or not) service members follow rules.

## St. Louis Cardinals and families show support to the 35th Infantry Division

STORY BY SPC JOSHUA BOLDING



Soldiers of the 35th Infantry Division woke up at 2:00 AM to watch the St. Louis Cardinals face the Cincinnati Reds during the Bally Sports Midwest and St. Louis Cardinal's 35th ID Military Appreciation Game.

The game was broadcast live in St. Louis and in Kuwait, where Division Soldiers were shown watching live from Camp Arifjan throughout the early morning.

Several Santa Fe Soldiers watching live were interviewed throughout the game, like the Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. William Blaylock, who proudly saw his son throw the first pitch at the start of the game.

In addition, Staff Sgt. David Crabaugh talked to his wife and children at the game live, while Spc. Zachary Klug and his family, die-hard Cardinals fans, were also interviewed live on air.

For Soldiers, this was the first time they were doing the same thing at the same time with their families since they have been away from home - enjoying America's favorite pastime. Soldiers stayed awake, and were kept on edge until the morning sun rose, where the festivities ended with a Cardinals victory!





# Veterinary team conducts pest management to protect the force

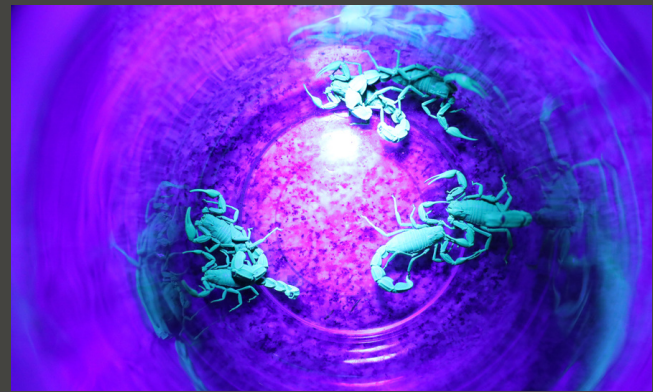
STORY BY SGT. NICHOLAS RAMSHAW

ALI AL SALEM AIR BASE, KUWAIT - As the sun goes down and the temperatures cool, this veterinary services team is starting their day, dealing with some of the world's deadliest creatures in the desert.

Meet the 169th Medical Detachment of Veterinary Support Services (MDVSS), stationed on Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. The 169th MDVSS works hard to ensure the safety of all units throughout our area of operation, including Task Force Spartan. The team regularly conducts pest management, by capturing different creatures throughout the desert with one goal in mind - Soldier safety.

"Our mission is three-fold," said Capt. Jesse Blades, Veterinary Corps Officer in Charge. "We run the animal health mission maintaining the health and well-being for the military working dogs, we work with pest management to remove feral animals from the area, and we have the food inspection mission to secure rations and sanitation for our food producing services."

Even with a busy schedule, the veterinary team regularly sets aside time to work with different units and coalition forces, taking them out into the wild to share knowledge and educate them on what should be done if Soldiers encounter these creatures in the field.



The desert is a vast oasis of creatures, and those that the 169th captures can range from deadly scorpions to not so deadly, adorable hedgehogs.

"We work with Public Health quite a bit," said Spc. Joseph Neitz, Animal Care Specialist. "We work pest management control such as arthropod capture and helping with fleas and ticks to identify zoonotic diseases in the area of operation."

Once deadly scorpions such as the Arabian Fat-Tail are captured, they are then kept to be studied in order to learn about what risks may await Soldiers in the field. For animals like the hedgehog, they are captured and examined for any possible ticks, before being released back into the wild.

Working alongside the departments of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, the 169th MDVSS gains statistical data for research in order to understand what different types of pests are present in the area where Soldiers are serving.

Events like the Creature Feature helps build Soldier's morale, but more importantly, helps build their situational awareness as to possible dangers that may be around them as they conduct their missions.



# The Shield

## TASK FORCE SPARTAN

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED BY CPL. EVAN ANDERSON

### Commanding General

Maj. Gen William Blaylock



### Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuenkel



### Division Public Affairs Team

Lt. Col. Matt Keane

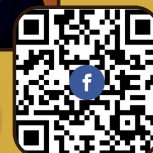
Capt. Titus Firmin, Capt. Robert Hughes

Sgt. 1st Class Beverly Stanley

Sgt. Nicholas Ramshaw

Cpl. Evan Anderson

Spc. Joshua Bolding, Spc. Claude Nelson



## SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT TO "THE SHIELD"!

### TASK FORCE SPARTAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



TaskForceSpartanOSS@gmail.com

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

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