

# The Shield

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

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 **Task Force Spartan**

 **TaskForceSpartan\_OSS**

 **@TFSpartan**

## FROM THE TOP

This month marks the final edition of The Shield for the 35ID's deployment. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all members of Task Force Spartan for your hard work and dedication to our mission.

During our time here we have formed tight-knit teams and lifelong friendships. Our impact will be felt for years to come as the 35th left a solid mark on the region. We have nations who train and engage with us regularly now who were reticent to do so when we first arrived.

As you prepare to redeploy consider what reintegration means for your team back home. First, you may feel out of sync and your return may be an adjustment for your family and friends too. Be patient and communicate to reaffirm healthy relationships with your loved ones. Your family and friends have picked up tasks that you may have normally accomplished. Be thankful that they carried the load during your absence.

Second, coming home may be an adjustment so check on your fellow Soldiers periodically. We may struggle to readjust in our own ways, but know you are not alone. If you find yourself missing your friends from the 35th it is likely they miss you too – reach out and let them know.

I am humbled by the hard work and dedication everyone has shown throughout the Division's second deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. We have worked hard to build partnerships and stability in the region during our time here and it will have lasting effect.

I look forward to all of the great things the 28ID will do to continue to advance the Spartan mission. As usual, we still have work to do to complete our mission and to make the transition smooth for the 28ID. I am proud of each and every one of you and your contributions to the team. 35ID must continue to finish strong until the transfer of authority.

*Win the Day, Task Force Spartan! Santa Fe!*



**MG WILLIAM BLAYLOCK  
COMMANDING GENERAL**





# FROM THE TOP

## Continued



As we continue to conduct redeployment operations, I ask our team to stay focused on our end game. Remember, we are not mission complete until we return home and reunite with our families. Our staff has done a great job planning for redeployment, but there will certainly be issues that arise that are out of our control. Remain flexible.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your resolve and dedication to the mission. I can say with confidence we have met the Commander's intent by setting the theater for future operations, building partner capacity, and assuring key stakeholders of our resolve.

As we near the end of our tour, we must focus on readiness and taking care of our Soldiers upon return. If you are returning to your previous unit, please ensure you make contact with the readiness personnel to let them know when you are back. With our Yellow Ribbon awaiting us when we return home, we will shift the focus to our families and reintegration with them.

Again, I want to thank the team for a job well done. The 35th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan has had a huge impact on the region. From Exercises, KLEs, SMEEs, and interactions with the local population you represented the Army well, and should be proud of a job well done.



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

# Building strong bonds with family and friends halfway across the globe

**STORY BY SPC JOSHUA BOLDING**

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait - Soldiers are no strangers to being away from home. That being said, it does not make being away from family and friends for a nine month deployment any easier.

The Army has adopted the Strong Bonds program that gives Soldiers the tools to keep their relationships strong back home, while at the same time helping build relationships with their battle-buddies to ease the stress of being away.

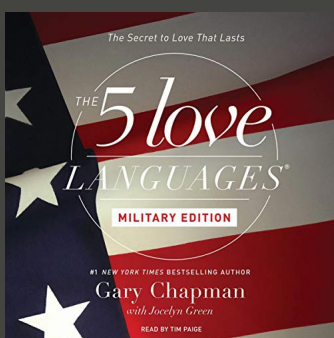
Capt. Atticus Dyer, 35th Infantry Division HHBN Chaplain, organized a Strong Bonds event in Kuwait aimed specifically at Soldiers.

"The Strong Bonds event we held taught the 5 Love Languages to Soldiers," said Dyer. "This course was for both single and married Soldiers, and was designed to provide tools to better relate to their spouse, a friend, or co-workers."

While the training is important, the Strong Bonds program emphasizes that it does not stop when the instruction ends.

"This course is one step in a long journey," said Dyer. "It is a step in a positive direction, but having a healthy relationship takes work from all involved long after the Strong Bonds class."

Stress from deployment may be difficult on the Soldier and their family back home, still, Soldiers can take what they learned from the event and continue to build stronger bonds with those they love.



**CHAPLAIN ATTICUS DYER**  
**35TH ID HHBN CHAPLAIN**

**JOIN US FOR OUR FINAL  
STRONG BONDS EVENT ON  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 2022.**

**TO REGISTER, MESSAGE SGT DEION JONES  
ON SIGNAL AT 816-209-5346**



## DEPLOYMENT IN

## Review



## March

The 35th Infantry Division took command of Task Force Spartan from the 29th Infantry Division. During the Transfer of Authority Ceremony, Maj. Gen. William Blaylock assumed the role of Commander of Task Force Spartan, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuenkel as they unfurled the Division's colors. With this moment, the Santa Fe Division had full responsibility of Operation Spartan Shield.

Staff members of the U.S. Central Command's Forensics Exploitation Lab and EOD teams for Task Force Spartan conducted training with the Kuwaiti Land Force, police and border security on 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.

## April



## May

Task Force Spartan Soldiers competed in ARCENT's Best Squad Competition. Shifting focus from individuals to squads shows how important teamwork is to the Army, and emphasizes how Strong Sergeants make Strong Squads. Our own Soldiers from the 1-153 Cavalry Regiment finished in first place, advancing to the U.S. Army competition.



## DEPLOYMENT IN

## Review

June

Spartan Soldiers conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise to kick off the month. Exercises such as this help move our forces anywhere in the region quickly and efficiently. In addition, the U.S. Army, Kuwaiti Land Forces, Saudi Land Forces and United Arab Emirates Land Forces met during a Senior NCO Symposium in the United Arab Emirates. This exchange helped each nation discuss the role of the NCO and how NCOs can learn from one another to benefit one another.



Members of the 35th Infantry Division and the Kuwait Fire Force met during a subject matter expert exchange held on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The two forces discussed methods used by first responders to save lives and conduct search and rescue operations. The exercise concluded with a simulated personnel recovery mission.

July



August

Spartan Soldiers and members of the Royal Omani Army cooperated together during a command post exercise, Inferno Creek 2022, in Oman. Inferno Creek is designed to strengthen the US – Omani partnership and helps build interoperability.



## DEPLOYMENT IN

*Review**September*

Task Force Spartan, alongside 28 partner nations participated in Exercise Eager Lion 2022 held in Jordan. This multilateral exercise represents the commitment of the U.S. to strengthen partnerships throughout the region.



## The 35th ID JAG's Deployment

*By The Numbers*

**1,000** Soldiers provided LA services

**258** Soldiers defended by TDS

**80** Legal Reviews

**36** Legal Engagements

**24** Investigations

**4** Legal Symposiums

Just like all other sections within Task Force Spartan, the Office of Staff Judge Advocate has had a busy and successful deployment.

You have probably met some of the 22 Soldiers in the JAG section, but here are just a few highlights of what the team has accomplished across CENTCOM for TF Spartan and the 35ID.

Host nation engagements are a CENTCOM priority, and JAGs are not excluded from this responsibility. We conducted a total of four symposiums as well as numerous engagements.

The Administrative Law section oversaw dozens of investigations on issues such as equal opportunity and sexual harassment.

Our Legal Assistance team provided legal services to all Soldiers in the ARCENT AOR. They provided legal assistance to over 1,000 Soldiers.

The ARCENT Special Victims Counsel team traveled CENTCOM and beyond to advocate for victims' rights. The work, compassion, and care they provided cannot be overstated as they delivered vital services to Soldiers.

Command Judge Advocates are single-stop, full-service legal advisors to their respective commands. Four 35ID attorneys served as CJAs during this tour, helping to draft policies and support their commands.

STORY BY CPT EVAN TALBOTT



## DEPLOYMENT IN

## Review

## Connecting with our loved ones through sports



STORY BY CPL EVAN ANDERSON



Not even a month into their deployment, the Santa Fe Division was lucky enough to be part of the Kansas Jayhawk's National Championship victory, appearing live on TBS during the National Anthem of the NCAA National Championship game, April 4, 2022.,

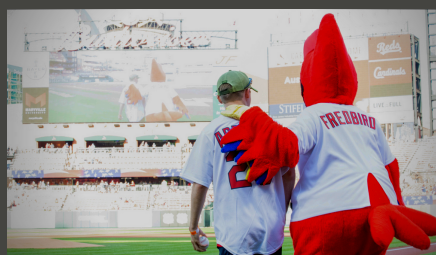


Kansas City Royal's fans of the Division also had the opportunity to be featured during the 9/11 Remembrance Game. The team donated free tickets to families and video messages from deployed Soldiers were played in the stadium.

As summer began and the MLB season kicked off in the United States, Santa Fe Soldiers were there. Bally's Sports Midwest and the St. Louis Cardinals hosted a 35th Infantry Division Appreciation Night at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, and provided Division families with over 200 free tickets, July 15, 2022.



Meanwhile, halfway across the world, Division Soldiers were featured throughout the broadcast and were able to speak to their families on the air. Austin Blaylock, son of Maj. Gen. William Blaylock threw out the first pitch.



Santa Fe Soldiers were also there as the Kansas Jayhawks football team started the season undefeated, appearing on ESPN's College GameDay and Fox Sports 1.





## PEOPLE



## PARTNERSHIPS



## READINESS



**STRONG SERGEANTS,  
STRONG SOLDIERS!**

# Kansas Airman reconnects with his true passion

**STORY BY CPT ROBERT HUGHES**

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar - From growing up in a school with just 34 students in his graduating class, Tech Sgt. Jonathan Frederick has valued tight-knit teams from the beginning.

"It is nice to know that when they talk about family atmosphere in the military, they honor that and mean it," said Frederick.

Frederick is a prior service U.S. Marine who joined the Kansas Air National Guard in 2017 at the age 38 because he missed the camaraderie, benefits, and motivation to stay fit.

Frederick lost over 20 pounds to get back in the military and is now an avid runner, having run 100 miles in May, as well as a recent 10K.

Currently deployed with the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Frederick says although he relies heavily on his team for support, it means a little more when coming from home.

"The support from home keeps me going," said Frederick. "Just to know that people back home are thinking of us out here and appreciate what we are doing goes a long way to keeping me motivated."

Frederick's home unit is the 190th Air Refueling Wing based out of Topeka, Kansas, where he handles fuel, general management, and transportation. Frederick is excited to take what he has learned and bring it back to the Sunflower State.

"It has been a great learning experience," said Frederick. "People at my home unit get excited to hear from me, and I am equally excited to see them and bring my new learning experiences back to them."

Frederick looks forward to returning home to Topeka to see his wife Lacy, and kids Hayden and Blake.

"Technology really does make deployments not as disconnected for families," said Frederick. "That being said, there is nothing I am more excited for than getting to hold my family in my arms when I get home."







# AROUND THE SHIELD



LT. COL. BAUER PAINTS HIS SIGNATURE AS THE ARTIST OF THE TFS T-WALL



MAJ. GEN. DAVID WEISHAAR, ADJUTANT GENERAL OF KANSAS, VISITS SOLDIERS FROM THE 2-130 FAR



TASK FORCE SUMMIT SOLDIERS RUN THE ARMY 10-MILER IN KUWAIT



TASK FORCE LIBERTY 35TH ID SOLDIERS CELEBRATE THEIR HARD WORK



ASG-KUWAIT MILITARY WORKING DOGS CONDUCT A THREAT SIMULATION

35TH ID PAO TEAM COVERS EXERCISE EAGER LION IN JORDAN

2-130 FAR ASSUMES COMMAND FROM THE 3-157 FAR



**MEET THE INNOVATORS**

CONGRATULATIONS TO TASK FORCE AMERICAL'S SGT MICKEY REEVE, SELECTED TO BRING HIS COUNTER UAS TRAINING INNOVATION TO CENTCOM'S INNOVATION OASIS COMPETITION IN TAMPA.



35TH ID SOLDIERS PLAY A GAME OF SOCCER WITH PARTNERS OF THE KUWAIT LAND FORCE



# U.S. military, 28 partner nations conduct Exercise Eager Lion 2022

STORY BY SPC CLAUDE NELSON

AMMAN, Jordan – U.S. forces and militaries from 28 partner nations participated with the Jordanian Armed Forces in its bi-annual multilateral Exercise Eager Lion in Jordan Sept. 4-15, 2022.

Eager Lion has been held in Jordan since 2010, having become one of the largest military exercises in the region that represents the United States' commitment to its partners in the region by building interoperability with partner nations.

The 11-day exercise consisted of a variety of scenarios which included chemical warfare, border security, counterterrorism operations, and a combined arms live-fire exercise. The scenarios not only strengthened the relationships between each partner nation, but also the ability to conduct future operations.

"Our planners met with the Jordanian planners and developed an exercise to achieve three primary objectives: build interoperability, maintain strong partnerships in the region, and enhance regional security," said U.S. Army General Micheal Kurilla, Commander of U.S. Central Command.

For Task Force Spartan Soldiers, that meant working alongside partner nation forces including the Jordanian Armed Forces, Royal Saudi Land Forces, British Armed Forces, and Italian Armed Forces.



"Our partner nations are well resourced and have given our Soldiers opportunities for joint partner training," said

SpC. Bailey Vachon, joint fire support specialist for the 197th Field Artillery Brigade. "Seeing how other militaries operate gave me insight into the bigger picture and how my job fits into the operation."

The U.S.'s continued commitment to the region ensures that their force stands ready to be anywhere at any time, whenever the mission arises.

Multilateral exercises like Eager Lion builds interoperability and comradery, and ensures that the United States is always ready to work alongside its partners.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO  
TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT  
EXERCISE #EAGERLION2022!



# 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

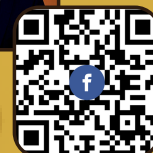
Capt. Titus Firmin, Capt. Robert Hughes

Sgt. 1st Class Beverly Stanley

Sgt. Nicholas Ramshaw

Cpl. Evan Anderson

Spc. Joshua Bolding, Spc. Claude Nelson



## SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT TO OUR TEAM!

### 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!

## CONNECT WITH US, FOLLOW OUR STORY.



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