



# THE SPARTAN SENTINEL

→ TASK FORCE SPARTAN →  
OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD



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## U.S. partners with U.A.E. for Iron Union 8

By Staff Sgt. Michael Williams  
155th ABCT Public Affairs

**CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait** - Soldiers assigned to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, participated in a field training exercise with United Arab Emirates Land Forces during Iron Union 8, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, September 14 through 27.

“The fact that this is the eighth iteration of the partnership exercise, is a testament to the strong friendship that our nations have built,” said Lt. Col. Carlin Williams, commander for the 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, 155th ABCT.

For two weeks, U.S. and U.A.E. service members merged together to focus on readiness and combat arms.

“As we train and work together over these next few weeks, we shall continually learn from one another and improve each other’s capabilities,” said Williams.

Iron Union is a recurring partnership exercise where U.A.E. and U.S. forces engage in each of the war fighting functions while increasing interoperability, said Maj. Brandon Bear, operations officer for the 2nd Bn., 137th Inf. Regt. This is an opportunity for both forces to gain valuable knowledge and insight into each

other’s tactics, techniques, and procedures as well as generate lessons learned.

“The main goal of this training is to experience change between our troops and U.S. troops,” said Lt. Col. Ahmed S. Alketri, U.A.E. officer in charge for Iron Union 8, as he spoke during the opening ceremony. “And I have the honor to be one of those participants.”

Through military partnership, Iron

Union increases interoperability, emboldens allies, and works toward the objective of regional stability.

“Our partnership shows the world that we stand united to fight terrorism and aggressors anywhere in the region,” said Bear. “No matter where the threat, we will ultimately be able to operate together to close with and destroy the enemy.”

From squad-level urban operations training to battalion-level combined arms live fire exercises, the Soldiers from the 137th Inf. Regt., Kansas National Guard, lead the way during the exercise.

“Our mission was to train jointly with the U.A.E. soldiers on individual and platoon level tasks and operations,” said Bear.

**See PARTNERS, p. 5**



U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Stefan Morgan  
U.S. and U.A.E. military Abrams Main Battle tanks prepare to roll out to conduct Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise during Iron Union 8 on Sept. 23, 2018.



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# TFS opens JTC to support training in Jordan

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Doug Roles  
Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

**AMMAN, Jordan** – U.S. service members training in Jordan had the opportunity to participate in an Oct. 10 dedication ceremony for an expansion of the Jordan Armed Forces Joint Training Center. The new JTC wing provides service members a modern facility as the U.S. military and the Jordan Armed Forces continue to enhance interoperability by pursuing training opportunities together.

JTC was built in 2003 to serve as a facility for U.S. and Jordanian soldiers to train on combat and border security skills as part of the Jordan Operational Engagement Program. In 2016 the Jordanian government commissioned the expansion of JTC, to meet the evolving requirements of joint operations. A ground-breaking was held that October.

Maj. Gen. Andrew Schafer, commanding general of the 28th Infantry Division – whose headquarters battalion is serving



Maj. Gen. Andrew Schafer, commanding general of the 28th Infantry Division – whose headquarters battalion is serving as the division headquarters element of Task Force Spartan – speaks during the dedication ceremony for an expansion of the Jordan Armed Forces Joint Training Center Oct. 10, 2018.



U.S. service members salute during the playing of the U.S. and Jordanian national anthems during a dedication ceremony for an expansion of the Jordan Armed Forces Joint Training Center Oct. 10, 2018.

as the division headquarters element of Task Force Spartan –said the new center will give service members and partners the facilities needed to be successful. TFS soldiers are among the U.S. personnel who will utilize the new post.

“This new facility will allow the U.S. military and our Jordan partners to train together and counter malign influences in the region,” Schafer said. “Our allies and partners are key to our overall strength. This training center will allow the U.S. military to build on the great partnership we have with the country of Jordan now and in the future.”

“As with this new facility, when we modernize and train with new

technologies we continue to share to maintain compatibility and cooperation with our Jordan allies,” Schafer added.

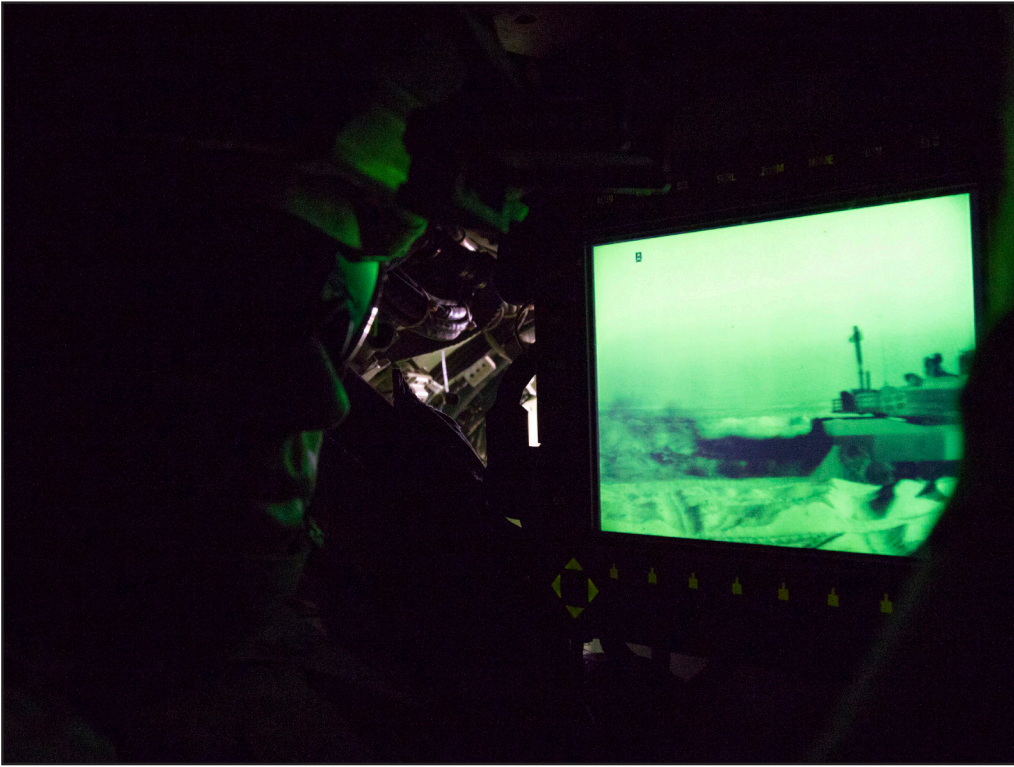
Schafer commended 28 ID Soldiers Col. Robert Robinson and Command Sgt. Maj. Mainiero, Army Forces-Jordan director and command sergeant major, respectively, saying their leadership has resulted in an excellent working relationship with Jordanian leaders on the consolidation of U.S. service members to the brand new training center.

The new facility was planned and built by Loyalty Support Services, a company that serves the U.S. and Jordanian militaries.

**See JTC, p. 7**



# Bright Star 18: Inside the belly of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle



A U.S. Army Soldier assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, observes the landscape in front of his Bradley Fighting Vehicle through a monitor during a rehearsal for a combined live-fire exercise near Alexandria, Egypt.

Story and photos by  
Sgt. James Larimer  
U.S. Army Central

**MOHAMED NAGUIB MILITARY BASE, Egypt** - Careening across the Egyptian desert at nearly 40 mph, inside a 70,000-pound armored vehicle, for hours on end can be an incredibly disorienting experience for the uninitiated. Exhaust fumes and dust pour into the dark cabin; your ears are assaulted by the clatter of the tracks beneath you as they churn up rocks. The constant, overwhelming vibration and jarring movements slam you into the Soldiers packed in around you quickly inducing the flashes of motion sickness.

For U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Bryan Fox, an infantry squad leader, assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, and his squad this is just another day at the office. Their years of individual and collective training has hardened them to the rigors of the job. When the ramp drops and Fox leads his men out into the Egyptian desert; their movements are sharp, decisive, disciplined, and expertly led. They cover ground quickly as they bound toward a machine gun bunker.

Fox and his team are one part of a company-level combined-arms live-fire exercise (CALFEX) that integrates field

artillery and mechanized mortar teams, engineers, infantry, and close air support, said Capt. John Rowland, the commander of Alpha Company.

The 155th ABCT is in Egypt participating in Exercise Bright Star 18, a multilateral U.S. Central Command training exercise. Throughout the exercise, they will be refining their craft further by integrating with and sharing best practices with the Egyptian armed forces and other partner nations.

“We’ve been training for roughly seven months to come out here and do what we did today,” said Rowland. “It is important to me because this is my validation that my company can effectively shoot, move, and communicate.”

“It’s all about lethality and audacity in an infantry company, and I think we got it,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Arispe, an infantryman track commander, assigned

to Alpha Company. “Alpha Company is where it’s at.”

During Bright Star 18 the Soldiers of the 155th ABCT and other CENTCOM personnel will conduct training with their Egyptian, Jordanian, and other partner nation counterparts to promote and enhance regional security and cooperation. “It’s important to create allies, bonds, and ties with everybody,” said Arispe. “We do this for a reason so that we can be prepared for anything.”

Exercises like these improve common processes and develop combined leadership understanding, which creates habits that can pay off in times of crisis.

When it comes to integration with forces from different countries, everyone has different doctrine, and everyone has different ways of doing things,” said Rowland. “Learning from each other is going to make our partnership stronger.”



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, bound toward an objective during a rehearsal for a combined live-fire exercise near Alexandria, Egypt, Sept. 10, 2018.



# Bright Star 18: The combined strength of partnership within the region

Story by Staff. Sgt. Matthew Keeler  
Task Force Spartan PAO

**MOHAMED NAGUIB MILITARY BASE, Egypt** - Throughout the month of September, Soldiers of Task Force Spartan joined other joint forces to combine with international allies for Bright Star 18. Bright Star 18, a multi-national exercise, offered challenges in several different training events: a Command Post Exercise (CPX), Field Training Exercise (FTX), Senior Leader Seminar, and more.

Exercises like Bright Star 18 help find the short-comings between partner nations, said Maj. Gen. Jon Mott, Director of Exercises and Training, U.S. Central Command, and also the co-director of the Exercise Control Group for Bright Star 18.

Each scenario brought its own opportunities for the nations participating U.S., Egypt, Jordan, France, Italy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The CPX united these nations in a staff driven series of scenarios.

“[The CPX] gives a common language on how we break down a [military] order. We can, as two countries together, go through the military decision making process and be able to accomplish tactical and strategic goals,” said Capt. Jeffrey Watkins, exercise and operations officer for the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan.

The exercise was designed to simulate real world challenges, without having to exercise real world costs and potential hazards. The participating nations were



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Hughes



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. James Larimer



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. James Larimer



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler

**U.S. Army Soldiers from the 28th Infantry Division, 65th Field Artillery Brigade, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, and more, combined with soldiers from the Egyptian and Jordanian armed forces to conduct Command Post and Field Training Exercises during Bright Star 18.**



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler

**A M109A6 Paladin howitzer from Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, fires a high explosive round during the Combined Arms Lived Fire Exercise, part of Bright Star 18.**

exposed to similarities and difference in military doctrine, such as restrictions on the use of military force or employment of other forces. The goal of the exercise was to leverage each other’s military capabilities to develop tactics, techniques, and procedures to solve both operational and logistical problems.

The FTX trained the maneuver aspect of the armed forces as they demonstrated their skills with Abrams Main Battle tanks, M109A6 Paladin howitzer, M4 rifles, M249 Squad Automatic rifles, and more.

The language barrier is often the biggest hurdle for working in multinational exercises and events, said 1st. Lt. Charles Myers, platoon leader for the armored platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th ABCT.

“That normally is the main problem,” said Myers. “But, another thing that we do is that we coordinate with hand and arm signals or flags, or pyro, out on the battle field – which is primarily what we use anyway so you stay off comms.”

Between the field and the command post, training events like Bright Star 18 support an opportunity to strengthen relationships with our Egyptian partner, said Mott.

It is these exercises, with partner nations that give opportunities for Task Force Spartan Soldiers memories and experiences that they may never get again.

“Exercise Bright Star is a pretty cool thing, and it is an honor to be a part of it,” said Sgt. Ryan Rouchon, bravo team leader for Alpha Co. “I’ll always remember this.”



# Tropic Thunder Validates Interoperability

By Sgt. 1st Class Clint Markland  
65th Field Artillery Brigade Public Affairs

**CAMP REDLEG, United Arab Emirates** – Breaking down language barriers and building trust across national boundaries plays an important role in the ability of countries to come together and perform. The 65th Field Artillery Brigade (FA BDE) showcased its ability to bridge that communications gap by participating in Operation Tropic Thunder, a bilateral exercise held at multiple locations throughout the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This event brought together elements from three Emirati and three U.S. field artillery battalions, exercising every echelon of artillery.

“Tropic Thunder was a bilateral field artillery command post exercise that tested the ability of the U.S. and UAE to integrate cannon and rocket fires,” said Maj. Brett Anderson, lead planner for Tropic Thunder. “This event provided the opportunity to demonstrate

interoperability between the U.S. and UAE and develop improved tactics, techniques, and procedures for bilateral artillery operations.”

Interoperability plays an important role when two countries work together. In a bilateral operating environment, understanding a partner nation’s capabilities translates to success on the battlefield. Exercises like Tropic Thunder teach commanders critical lessons on working with partner nations and achieving common goals.

“We communicated through interpreters and the default language was English,” said Capt. Cody Anderson, commander of Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment, 65th FA BDE. “Each side had soldiers with specific language skillsets that enabled detailed conversation. This skillset is invaluable. Having solid language skills is like having a third hand when it comes to interoperability. It is a key enabler.”

Tropic Thunder exercised the ability to

control fires at a brigade level. The UAE 7th Corps artillery and U.S. 65th FA BDE orchestrated the event by developing intelligence reports, controlling operations, and processing fires down to the lowest level.

“The goal of the operation was to create a base we can build upon, and create long-lasting relationship that both nations can benefit from,” said Spc. Cole Shephard, fire control operator for the 65th FA BDE. “We taught them the way we do things, and they taught us the way they do things. I believe both sides learned a great deal, and overall it was a great success.”

This herculean exercise took months of planning. Tropic Thunder planners worked diligently to create a robust exercise that integrated U.S. and UAE field artillery forces. Tropic Thunder included personnel from the following units: UAE 7th Corps artillery, UAE 79th HIMARS Regiment, UAE 74th Cannon Regiment (109), UAE 72nd Cannon Regiment (G6 Rhino), U.S. 65th FA BDE, 1-121 HIMARS battalion

(BN), 1-145th Paladin BN with enablers from the 2-222nd Paladin BN, and Charlie Company, 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion. The artillery units were spread over four locations throughout the UAE presenting challenges in synchronizing fires, communications, and command and control over space and time.

When asked about the challenges of Tropic Thunder and bilateral interoperability, Capt. Jerod Hansen, liaison officer to the 72nd Cannon Regiment, said, “Our systems are not designed to interface with each other ... We overcame the challenge of the systems gap by bridging them with manual processes with the use of liaison officers and fire direction personnel.”

The success of Tropic Thunder opens the door for future exercises of even greater complexity between U.S. and UAE artillery units. The operation reaffirmed relationships, built interoperability, and recognized the mutual trust between these two great nations.

## From PARTNERS, p. 1

“We did everything from first-aid to clear a trench, to operate in a defense as part of a combined live fire exercise.”

Despite the language barrier, both forces had to come up with a plan for communications to flow effectively.

“The language barrier was a challenge that made it difficult to ensure that clear and concise information was being passed down to the lowest soldier,” said Bear. “We have competent linguists, but we still had multiple avenues for communications

which ensured that the correct information was being disseminated.”

“We also had briefings and rehearsals to help prepare both U.S. and U.A.E. soldiers on the different training missions we completed,” he said.

At the end of the exercise, both forces stood side-by-side in formation in a closing ceremony, signifying the bond between the two countries.

During the ceremony, Williams expressed how both countries came together to work as one.

“We grew together closer as partnered nations armies, as leaders, and soldiers,” said Williams. “We are now better prepared to work side-by-side if our nations call upon us. I speak for all my soldiers when I say its been an honor and pleasure to work with United Arab Emirates.”

**Both U.S. and U.A.E. soldiers maneuver together as they practice clearing a trench on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, during Exercise Iron Union 8. The bi-lateral exercise provided the nations a chance work through potential issues that they would experience in the field.**



U.S. Army courtesy photo

# TFS Soldiers hold March For The Fallen mirror event in Jordan



– Participants in the March For The Fallen shadow event leave the starting line at 5 a.m. on Oct. 6, 2018. Those rucking in the competitive category attempted to cover 28 miles in less than 11 hours while carrying 35 pounds.

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Doug Roles  
Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

**AMMAN, Jordan** – Task Force Spartan service members training in Jordan honored the sacrifice of fallen comrades through a recent endurance ruck march mirroring the 28th Infantry Division’s annual trek in Pennsylvania. More than 100 ruckers, runners and walkers took part in the “March For The Fallen” shadow event on Oct. 6, a week after the seventh such event was held at the Pa. Army National Guard’s Fort Indiantown Gap.

Soldiers with the 28th’s Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, in support of Operation Spartan Shield, organized the Jordan event and invited service members – as well as Department of Defense contractors – at the Joint Training Center to participate. Marchers could register

in competitive and non-competitive categories by age group. Competitors wore duty uniform trousers and boots and carried a 35-pound rucksack for the 28-mile course.

“It was actually started by Maj. Gen. John Gronski [a former 28th Infantry Division commander] back in Pennsylvania. It’s conducted yearly at Fort Indiantown Gap,” said Col. Robbie Robinson, commander of TFS troops training in Jordan.

“It was first started to honor our fallen, for Pennsylvania,” Robinson added. “Over the years it’s gone international. It’s designed to test ourselves, our endurance, our wit and our will, and to honor our fallen brothers and sisters.”

Participants started their journey at 5 a.m. and had until 4 p.m. to complete the course comprised of two 14-mile laps through the Jordanian desert. Organizers set up water points and had roving teams

of medical personnel to keep tabs on marchers as temperatures reached the mid-80s and rocky terrain took its toll on feet and ankles. Putting one foot in front of the other mile after mile posed a mental and physical challenge.

“When your mind is telling you to stop, you just have to stay positive,” said Sgt. Brenda Sant’Ana, the top finisher in the female competitive marcher category. “I just kept telling myself the whole time ‘You will finish. You will do it.’”

Sant’Ana, a supply noncommissioned officer with the 151st Regional Sustainment Group, Massachusetts Army National Guard, was new to endurance rucking but posted a finish time of 8:03:15. She signed up because she wanted to challenge herself. In 2015 she completed the Boston Marathon, with a time of 4.5 hours. She termed the March “way harder.”

“Add two miles and 35 pounds,” she said. “The second lap was really hard. Pushing through when everything was hurting, that was the hardest part.”

Many of the marchers carried the memories of fallen comrades with them as they trudged along the course and bunched-up groups became strung out into solo hikers, pairs and trios. Some marchers wore T-shirts or wrist bands honoring a specific fallen warrior while others carried their reasons for marching on the inside.

“We’ve had a couple of soldiers from my previous unit who we lost to car accidents and suicide,” said 1st Lt. Ryan Slaughter as he hit the 17-mile mark. “I have them in my mind.”

Slaughter, with Bravo Company, 28 ID HHBN, was the top rucker, with a time of 6:28:02.

**See MARCH, p. 7**



– Participants in the March For The Fallen shadow event leave the starting line at 5 a.m. on Oct. 6, 2018. Those rucking in the competitive category attempted to cover 28 miles in less than 11 hours while carrying 35 pounds.





U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Roles

– A flag-raising detail stands ready during a dedication ceremony for an expansion of the Jordan Armed Forces Joint Training Center on Oct. 10, 2018. The detail was comprised of, from left: Chief Ibrahim Shuquirat, with the noncommissioned officer academy, Jordan Armed Forces; and U.S. Army personnel Sgt. Jennifer Kutcher, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 28th Infantry Division, Pa. Army National Guard; Staff Sgt. Henry Moeller, Bravo Company, HHBN, 28 ID (the detail's noncommissioned officer in charge); Staff Sgt. Joseph Santas, 728th Engineer Detachment, 416th Theater Engineer Command, U.S. Army Reserve; and Sgt. Braima Massaquoi, 151st Regional Support Group, Massachusetts Army National Guard.

### From JTC, p. 2

Robinson credited LSS and the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) for ensuring the vision of Jordan's King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein – for a truly great place for U.S. forces to train – has been achieved.

“You have done well my friends,” Robinson said to Jordanian military and government leaders present for the dedication ceremony. “It is truly a great place, thank you.”

Dignitaries, JAF, and U.S. service members gathered around a traffic circle inside the gate to the new wing to witness the hoisting of the Jordanian and U.S. flags. The short dedication ceremony was followed by a walking tour of the post. Amenities on the post include a large dining hall, multiple barracks and office buildings, drop-off laundry facilities,

a post office, and a café. Physical fitness facilities include a cardio gym, weightlifting gym, and basketball court.

In the weeks leading up to the dedication ceremony, work crews put the final coats of paint on sidewalks and cleaned streets. Open areas between buildings are covered in colored landscaping stone and street edges are adorned with plantings of palm trees, conifers, shrubs, and flowers. TFS soldiers spent several weeks moving from a previous JTC location to occupy the new space prior to the dedication ceremony.

“This incredible day was long in coming and a great deal of hard work, blood, sweat, and tears went into making this possible,” Robinson said. “Today's achievement is a testimony to the mountains that can be moved when talented, dedicated people work together in a common pursuit.”

### From MARCH, p. 6

The first participant to cross the finish line in the non-rucking category with a time of 6:11:00 was U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joshua Rasmussen who works in the U.S. embassy in Amman. He heard about the event through a TFS liaison officer.

Event organizers began planning this March For The Fallen in July. An informational meeting was held prior to the start of sign-ups to provide historical information to those interested. Led by Gronski, 28 ID soldiers began the “Iron Division's” event in 2012 after taking part in a Bataan Death March memorial event in New Mexico.

Of the 116 marchers who stepped off for the Jordan event, 61 participants

finished the entire course. Nearly 50 personnel supported the March either by staffing the water points and the weigh-in/registration station or by conducting the roving safety patrols and operating lead and trail vehicles. The support staff was comprised of a mix of soldiers and United Service Organization (USO) civilians.

All finishers received a commemorative bottle opener while the top finishers by age category received a custom-made knife. Slaughter and Sant'Ana received a hand-made commemorative mosaic plaque for their first place finishes.

“It's a really great event,” Slaughter said. “It stands for a great principle, the sacrifice of those who paid a great price.”



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Roles

Spc. Mauro Guzman (right) and Sgt. Levi Kassiano, both with Alpha Company, 1st Squadron, 18th Cavalry Regiment; and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Campagna, with 157 Military Engagement Team, make their way up a steep grade during the March For The Fallen shadow event Oct. 6, 2018.



# Cyber Awareness Month



## Task Force Spartan Cyber Security Team

mitigating and preventing CDVs and DCIs.

Within the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations CDVs and DCIs occur at an unprecedented rate. The violations often result in UCMJ action, suspension of network access, remedial training for the user and their chain of command, upon account reinstatement the user loses access to none government sites. This information is important because these violations are entirely preventable and result in an unnecessary loss of resources, both in the user's time and the government's budget. LTG Garrett and MG Schafer both have issued Command Policies to eliminate these Network Security Violations. Users who violate these policies may receive a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMAR) or non-judicial punishment.

## POC: Task Force Spartan Cyber Security Team

**VoNIP: 318-480-2455**

**VoSIP: 308-430-0465**

**E-mail: [usarmy.arifjan.usarcent.list.tfs-g6-ia@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.arifjan.usarcent.list.tfs-g6-ia@mail.mil)**



# America's Thunder celebrates with Jordan Armed Forces



**Amman, Jordan**—Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment and the 65th Field Artillery Brigade attend the cultural celebration of the heritage and traditions of the 29th Royal HIMARS battalion in Amman, Jordan Sep 18, 2018. Noncommissioned officers and officers from the U.S. and Jordan armed forces to unite to celebrate and demonstrate the trust and commitment both units have in each other's success. (U.S. Army photos by Maj. Jeremy Williams, 65th FAB)





# THE RELIGIOUS FITNESS CHECK

Lt. Col. (CH) Peter Lawson  
28th Command Chaplain

Approaching this last month of the deployment reminds me of the experience of the last lap on the quarter mile track of the two mile run in the Army Physical Fitness Test. Prior to the two mile run there are the push-up and sit-up events. Then following is the two mile run event, and I'm reminded of what goes through one's mind after seven of the eight laps have been completed and there is the final push to the finish. The question is how will we run that last lap? There's that part of us which says if we maintain our pace we can meet the standard without having to overly exert ourselves and it will be over. Yet, if we want to improve our time we will want to pick up the pace and break into an all-out spint to the finish line. When we break

into that last sprint we are giving it our all, and however much we may have improved our time or not, we can take satisfaction in knowing we gave it our best effort.

So, the question for all of us, as our deployment time draws to an end is, "How will we finish?" Whether this deployment has been or not been what we had hoped it would be we can choose how we will bring it to a close. We can choose to set up those following us for success, we can choose to make the most of the opportunities available to us in the time remaining, and we can choose to assist our fellow Soldiers make the final transition before going home.

The apostle Paul said, "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, "I press on toward the goal." (Philippians 3:13) The image here is that of a runner

striving to the finish, the "goal" of completion. In this case Paul was writing about his personal faith, as the rest of the verse reads, "of the upward prize in Christ Jesus." He wanted to make sure that whatever circumstances led him to where he was in his life, pressing toward the goal was what mattered the most. There may have been regrets along the way in the running of this race yet he refused to allow those regrets to define him. Paul, in his earlier life, was a persecutor of Christians and his regrets about this weighed heavily upon him. After his conversion he also had many struggles in trying to accomplish what God had set him apart to do as he experienced persecution himself. Yet he kept his eyes forward and did not take his eyes off the "prize". He chose to finish strong!

**Task Force Spartan**  
**Maj. Gen. Andrew P. Schafer**  
*Commanding General*  
**Command Sgt. Maj. John E. Jones**  
*Command Sgt. Major*

**Task Force Spartan Public Affairs**  
**Lt. Col. Keith Hickox**  
*Public Affairs Officer*  
**Master Sgt. Daniel Palermo**  
*Public Affairs NCOIC*  
**Sgt. 1st Class Doug Roles**  
*Sr. Public Affairs NCO*  
**Staff Sgt. Thomas Bixler**  
*Public Affairs NCO*  
**Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler**  
*Public Affairs NCO*



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U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler  
**Soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, affix an American flag to their Bradley Fighting vehicle in preparation for the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise during Bright Star 18. The 155th combined with the Egyptian and Greek armed forces for the exercise.**

### Task Force Spartan USB Awareness Guide

Steps to take if you get a pop-up or message	
Step 1	Stop!, write down any messages displayed on your screen.
Step 2	Write down actions that occurred leading up to the suspected attack.
Step 3	Remove your CAC and leave the system powered on. Do NOT remove the system from the network.
Step 4	Report the incident to the Task Force Spartan IA section.

Removable media and devices. The use of removable media (such as thumb drives, memory sticks, flash drives, Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives, pen drives, removable desktop or external USB hard drives, PCMCIA media, flash cards or any other electronic mass media device not mentioned) that can be attached to, inserted in, plugged into or connected to a IS for the purpose of charging, storing and/or transmitting data are prohibited on all USARCENT and Government networks without prior approval. **Reference: AR25-2 and USARCENT PED and RSM Policy**

**TFS IA Contact Information**  
VONIP: 318-480-2455  
VOSIP: 318-430-0465  
EMAIL: [usarmy.arifjan.usarcent.list.tfs-g6-ia@mail.smil.mil](mailto:usarmy.arifjan.usarcent.list.tfs-g6-ia@mail.smil.mil)

