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TF Spartan

# The Arrowhead

## TASK FORCE SPARTAN



**PARTNERSHIP | DETERRENCE | READINESS**

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TASK FORCE SPARTAN AND THE 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

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Exercises like Diamond Tempest are essential for ensuring units are ready and postured to respond to any adversarial threat. Read to learn how this exercise helps Soldiers become a more proficient and lethal fighting force.

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### - 75TH FAB -

The 75th is preparing to go home but not before completing a few final missions and getting their replacements set up for success. See how they are spending their final days on deployment, conducting training, and recognizing Soldiers.

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### - 16TH TEB-

Soldiers from 891st Engineer Battalion had some fun at the demolition range this month. In addition, they had a few high-level visits from leaders in our force, and in addition to blowing things up, spend some time doing what engineers do: engineering.

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### - 2/1 ABCT -

The Brigade worked hard this month to continually ensure its team members were trained and ready for any threat as well as recognized. See the photos from the CBRN exercise they went through this month, and catch a glimpse at their recently knighted Soldiers.

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### - 28TH ECAB -

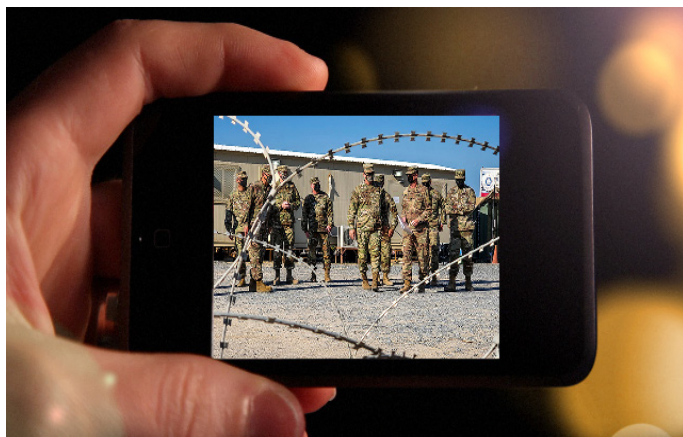
The 28th ECAB recently passed the midway point of their deployment. While they continue to provide air support for both Task Force Spartan and the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), they also helping prepare their soldiers for what some call the hardest part of deployment: the midway point.

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## Contribute to The Arrowhead

Send us your great photos, articles, or ideas to The Arrowhead

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# From the Top

Happy New Year to our friends and family members of the Arrowhead Division.



I am happy to report that even though it took me a couple of months, I have made it to nearly all the locations we have T-Patch Soldiers.

Regardless of how remote or developed the location, during each visit I witnessed the enthusiasm and the resourcefulness, through their team work, each Soldier brings that makes our teams so effective.

We have three distinct lines of efforts guiding our activities each day, and every member of our team is plugged in, adding value and building upon our successes.

Simply put, we are actively involved with our multinational partners, protecting our force, preparing for contingencies while working across our teams and building more momentum. As a result, the past three months have passed quickly, and we are in full stride.

Much of our ability to remain focused comes not only from the support the Soldiers provide one another, but also, the support received from families, friends and civilian employers. The support and sacrifices of our extended families means so much to us, and we thank you for being a valued part of our Arrowhead family.

In Spite of Hell.

Brig. Gen. Ronald "Win" Burkett  
Assistant Division Commanding General-Operations  
Operation Spartan Shield



# Historic Changes Coming to AR 670-1

Major revisions are coming to Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, which come into effect Feb. 24. The changes are vast covering everything from breastfeeding in uniform to allowing clear nail polish for men. Most changes to the 670-1 effect the female force. There will be a memo going out Army-wide in February addressing these changes.

The Army has over-hauled its grooming standards to support its "People First" priority and diversity and inclusion efforts.

New grooming standards revisions include optional wear of earrings, lipstick and nail colors for women and clear nail polish for men. Earrings will remain unauthorized in field environments, combat-related deployments or locations where access to normal hygiene is not available.

Approved hairstyle changes include no minimum hair length for female Soldiers, allowing multiple hairstyles at once (i.e. braiding, twists or locs). Soldiers will be able to wear ponytails if unable to form a bun, and may wear long ponytails while conducting physical training, in the combat uniform or when female Soldiers wear equipment such as, but not limited to, combat helmets.

Some other changes include the following:

- No minimum hair length for female Soldiers
- Multiple hairstyles to be worn at once (i.e. braiding twists or locs)
- Ponytails for Soldiers unable to form a bun

- Highlights (uniform blend of colors)
- Optional wear of earrings in the ACU for Females
- Solid lip and nail colors (non-extreme) for female Soldiers
- Clear nail polish for male Soldiers



## #ThisIsMySquad



The Army is adopting a new "People First" slogan and it is up to you to spread it. This month, don't forget your number one priority is looking after your battle buddy.

## DONT FORGET TO FILE YOUR TAXES!

It is that time of year again when we start to run around in search of W-2s, receipts, and other documentations in the hope that this years filing will be stress free. Filing taxes does not have to be torture, the Defense Department has helpful resources for active-duty service members and their families, and it's all free through Military OneSource.

Call Military One Source at 800-342-9647, or visit: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/all-the-ways/>.

**The tax deadline for filing 2020 taxes is April 15.**

Tax services for the military — also known as MilTax — is DOD's approved tax-filing and tax-support service — including tax preparation and e-filing software and personalized support to deal with issues such as deployments, combat and training pay, housing and rentals, multistate filings, and living overseas.

An advantage to the MilTax software is it's designed and tailored for the military community.





# Mentoring Soldiers is a big part of this NCO's mission

Story by Sgt. Samuel DeLeon | Photo by Staff Sgt. Daisy Broker

People join the U.S. Army for many different reasons. Some want to see the world, while others want the benefits, and still others desire to move up in the ranks to reach the top. Then there are the ones that have a true passion for both the job and taking care of people.

Staff Sgt. Dwayne Chatman from Johnstown, PA, is a HIMARS fire chief that not only has that passion for the Army, he also has an equal passion for teaching and mentoring younger Soldiers.

When Alpha Battery, 1st of the 14th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th Field Artillery Brigade, went to the field for Diamond Tempest, an air-land raid live-fire exercise, it gave Chatman a chance to help his soldiers grow and ensured they were prepared to respond to any operation throughout Southwest Asia.

Chatman said it was an opportunity to show there is more to the mission than just firing rockets.

“Getting to understand how everyone else works. How they grew up, getting to know people, you build families inside the army. And that’s my favorite part of it.”

Diamond Tempest is a live-fire training exercise that allows the 75th FAB to show their capabilities when it comes to moving out at a moment’s notice. The HIMARS team needs to be proficient at mission movements and hitting their target.

Chatman said even though he enjoys using HIMARS during training exercises — and is one of the most important aspects of his mission — mentoring his Soldiers to improve their job knowledge, help them move up the ranks and hopefully attain his position one day, is the best part of his job.

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*“As long as I am in I will keep doing what I love: mentoring my Soldiers to be good leaders and teaching them how to be the best at their jobs.”*

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“It’s a really good feeling for me,” said Chatman. “I actually have other soldiers that have progressed to the rank of Sergeant. It’s always good letting back on the reins and kind of letting them do it themselves.”

Spc. Micheal Torres is one of Chatman’s Soldiers, and he says Chatman is a good leader, mentor and teacher. But he doesn’t make it easy. “He [Chatman] challenges us instead of just giving us the answer. He makes us think about it, so we can actually learn what we have to do,” said Torres.

Chatman says he’s not sure how long he will be in the Army, but he’s going to continue doing what he loves: mentoring his soldiers to be good leaders and teaching them how to be the best at their jobs.



Staff Sgt. Dwayne Chatman, Johnstown, PA, works with one of his Soldiers on top of their High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, in preparation for the live-fire training part of the Diamond Tempest exercise in Kuwait, Dec. 22, 2020. Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th Field Artillery Brigade, participated in the exercise and demonstrated the battalion’s ability to dynamically deploy troops for response operations throughout Southwest Asia within 24-hours of getting the call.





# Partnership

## Kuwait-

Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, and the Kuwait Artillery Commander, Brig. Gen. Khaled A. Al-shualah, initial meeting allowed both men to exchange gifts from their military culture and share stories of their military beginnings. Strengthening the partnerships in the region is a primary goal for Task Force Spartan through support of Operation Spartan Shield. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Ringle, TF Spartan Public Affairs)



## Kuwait-

Brig. Gen. Win Burkett, TF Spartan Deputy Commander, joined Brig. Gen. Mubarak A. Al Zubi, 35th Mechanized Brigade Commander, for the SABOT Academy graduation in Kuwait, Jan. 5. The course trained soldiers in new systems for the future of armor ground forces. #TaskForceSpartan #Partnership (Photos courtesy of Kuwait national guard)



## Jordan-

Col. Basim Mustafa Ahmad Al-Daaja, chief of the OIFC for the Jordanian military, spoke with Col. Christopher Fletcher, TF Spartan in Jordan, at the Joint Training Center this month. Key leaders and staff of the Jordanian Military Operations and Intelligence Fusion Cell and Task Force Spartan discussed future training events that will benefit both militaries and further strengthen the bond between the two forces. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell)



## Kuwait-

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Bashore and Capt. Robert Thompson greet Kuwait Land Forces lawyers at the Kuwait Land Forces 6th Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Kuwait, Jan. 6, 2021. Task Force Spartan Judge Advocates presented information to KLF brigade commanders. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Samuel DeLeon, TF Spartan Public Affairs)

## Kuwait-

Task Force Spartan Commander, Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton, met with Kuwait Land Forces Commander, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Al-Dhafiri, at the Kuwait Land Forces Headquarters, Dec. 13. Both leaders spoke about continuing to strengthen the partnerships between the two countries and supporting the defense and stability of the region. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Samuel DeLeon, TF Spartan Public Affairs)



## Kuwait-

1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment held a Combined Arms Rehearsal (CAR) today. The event was attended by Task Force Spartan Commanding General, MG Patrick M. Hamilton, the Deputy Commanding General-Maneuver, BG Ronald W. Burkett, and the Command Sergeant Major, CSM Jim Horn. 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division



# Progress



# Women, Peace and Security Workshop

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell, 36th Infantry Division



Jordan – United States Armed Forces personnel joined members of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF), Canadian Armed Forces, and Jordanian Directorate of Military Women's Affairs for this year's Women, Peace and Security Workshop, Jan. 13, 2021.

The United States Central Command led the event via video conferencing and the Civil Liaison Team-Jordan, Civil Affairs Support Detachment-U.S. Army Central, hosted the workshop to discuss Jordan's progress toward gender integration at Military Women Center in Jordan.

"I understand the challenges and the importance of integration as a civil affairs sergeant and a female Soldier, said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Rosemarie Schuster. "Throughout my military career, I have seen how our forces are still making strides with equal integration of women. The ability to help a partner nation progress its military has been a rewarding experience."

The WPS workshop was the first U.S. sponsored Gender Integration event in the Kingdom of Jordan in nearly a year due to COVID-19, with plans for the next workshop to be held in May. It supports the Jordanian National Action Plan and the United Nations Security Council's Resolution on Women, Peace and Security.

Col. Maha Al-Nasser, the director of Jordan's Military Women's Affairs, addressed those in attendance and shared her firm support for the national action plan and the need to increase the overall percentage of female representation in her nation's armed forces. She also applauded the nation's support to the UN resolution and called for a broader scope of training for female Soldiers.

The Directorate of Military Women's Affairs was established in 1995 and works to provide women more training, increased responsibility and expanded roles in the armed forces in order to result in higher-level opportunities. It also helps foster unity with their male military counterparts.

U.S. President Donald J. Trump signed the Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017 into law on Oct. 6 of that year. The law was implemented to "ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict," according to Public Law 115-68.

The U.S. military has a long-standing relationship with Jordan to support the two nation's mutual objectives. The United States provides military

assistance to the JAF to be consistent with our national interests.

"The real value in this event is beyond the content, said U.S. Army Maj. Jeffrey Green, a USARCENT civil affairs officer. "The high profile forum provided an outstanding opportunity to not only showcase the new training center, but also facilitate critical networking between multiple JAF directorates and coalition partners."

The forum combined social distancing and other Covid-19 mitigations to ensure a safe and productive event.





# Alpha Battery Deploys for Diamond Tempest

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Daisy Broker 36th Infantry Division



When a quick-response exercise is initiated, the unit commander receives a warning order to immediately prepare his soldiers and equipment for movement.

Such an order was received by Capt. Andrew Brown, C Co 1-133rd Security Forces Commander, attached to 1st of the 14th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th Field Artillery Brigade. Exercise Diamond Tempest, designed to demonstrate the unit's ability to dynamically deploy munitions for response operations, was now underway.

"We got alerted at 2:30 a.m. We accounted for everyone. Our trucks were then loaded and pre-staged, and everything was ready to go. We got our mission brief, left post, and moved to Ali Al Saleem Air Base", said Brown.

Once the unit reached the airbase, they began loading the High Mobility Artillery Rocket

Systems, or HIMARS, onto a C-17 Aircraft.

Before plane took off, the team conducted a joint inspection with the U.S. Air Force ensuring all equipment met the flight standards, including measuring the center of gravity for the trucks, and calculating the gross vehicle weights. The aircraft load then went through a final inspection for hazardous materials, was inventoried and finally secured before takeoff.

"Working with the Air Force, observing the joint efforts, understanding how to chain down trucks and load C17's and then fly away, comeback, and unchain them was extraordinary," said Brown. "Alpha Battery enjoyed executing a mission like this and appreciated the opportunity to work with our Air Force partners."

After the flight, Alpha Battery left Ali Al Saleem Air Base, refueled their vehicles, and convoyed to the range to conduct the live-fire portion of their mission.



Exercises like Diamond Tempest are essential for ensuring units are ready and postured to respond to any adversarial threat and helps Soldiers become a more proficient and lethal fighting force.



“The team executed a four round time-on-target munition cluster,” said Brown. This sequence of firing is one technique to ensure the rockets arrive at a given target all at the same time.

Overall the exercise provided the unit a multitude of opportunities to retrain on old skills and to even learn new ones. “I had infantrymen monitoring radios and doing things that we have never been trained to do,” said Brown.

Exercises like Diamond Tempest are essential for ensuring units are ready and postured to respond to any adversarial threat and helps Soldiers become a more proficient and lethal fighting force.

**By Story by Staff Sgt. Daisy Broker |  
Task Force Spartan | Jan. 3, 2021**



Top Right: Pfc. Sean Castillo waits in his HMMWV while it is being secured to an Air Force C-17 to simulate movement to an operational area in Kuwait, Bottom: Soldiers from 1-14th Field Artillery Regiment, move to Camp Buehring in Kuwait.

# Behavioral Health

If you are experiencing anxiety, depression, or just want to talk to someone, contact your local behavioral health resources center, Chaplain, or one of the numbers here: Military Crisis Line: 800-273-8255 | Military One Source Counseling: 800-342-9647 | TRICARE Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-TRICARE (Contact to be forwarded to a mental health professional)

## Family Readiness Groups

FRG helps foster a sense of belonging to the unit and community, and provide for the needs of family members while their soldiers are deployed overseas. For them to accomplish this mission, FRG needs volunteers to help empower Soldiers, their Families and extended families to enable them to become more resilient. To contact your unit's FRG. 36th Inf. Div. FRG email: 36thIDFRG@gmail.com



***Be a good  
battle buddy  
and do buddy  
checks.***



# Task Force Spartan Honors Fallen Soldier

Staff Sgt. Timothy Manchester, 34, of Austin, died Tuesday, January 20, 2021, in a non-combat related incident while supporting Operation Spartan Shield at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Manchester was a non-commissioned officer with the 36th Infantry Division who worked in the G2 section and was greatly admired by those who worked with him.

“We are devastated by the loss of one of our own,” said Maj. Gen. Tracy Norris, the Adjutant General for Texas. “In this profession, we always know in the back of our mind that this is a possibility, but we hope it never comes to pass. The entire Texas Military Department sends our deepest condolences to Staff Sgt. Manchester’s family and loved ones he leaves behind. We are also keeping his fellow service members in our thoughts and prayers who are still overseas mourning the loss of their brother in arms.”



—*"The legacy of heroes  
— the memory of a great  
name, and the inheritance  
of a great example."*

—*Benjamin Disraeli*



## WARRIOR OF THE MONTH Spc. ThomJefferson Ang

Spc. ThomJefferson Ang served as a 12T at Contingency Location Dwyer, July thru December 2020. Spc. Ang was instrumental in OTH’s success in numerous CL Dwyer expansion projects due to his ethics for hard work and dedication to mission success.

Spc. Ang mastered his craft for surveying and construction layout at the Camp Ivy Expansion project, which was one of the highest priority projects in Afghanistan. This massive project provided mission-critical rotary wing parking for the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade. This top priority project facilitated the decluttering of the aviation apron shared with the US Air Force MQ-9, CV-22 and various other direct contact forces.

As the team’s surveyor, Spc. Ang accurately and diligently laid out over 500 control points allowing for the accurate emplacement of 3,000 linear feet of Hescos and over 250,000 square feet of AM2 matting.

His ability to plot cut and fill diagrams also drastically improved the schedule enabling his leadership to accurately and efficiently plan equipment and earth moving.

Spc. Ang also became a valuable member of the team by cross-training on the horizontal construction equipment. He became the subject matter expert in the excavator and 20-ton dump truck.

Without his dedication and positive influence, OTH Dwyer would not have been successful. SPC Ang was instrumental in the short notice footprint reduction of Over-the-Horizon engineers in Afghanistan. He led the element on ground to clear the company motor pool and company TOC in order to support ASG requirements in less than one week.



# Thoughts from Our Military Equal Opportunity

On behalf of the Task Force Spartan Military Equal Opportunity Office, we are honored to continue serving with America's best and finest Soldiers as well as their families. Did you know that this next month as with every February, Americans celebrate Black/African American History Month? "So what is it" and "how did that come to be" are questions that many will continue to ask, especially our children. Let us give you, the reader, a quick history lesson.

The celebration of Black/African American History Month officially became a law when Congress passed Public Law 99-244 in 1986, which designated February as "National Black History Month". However, the celebration actually had its origins when an author and historian named Dr. Carter G. Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926 in a week that included the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass, two major figures in African American History.

President Gerald Ford issued a message on observing of Black History Week in 1975 and then of observing Black History Month a year later. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan would continue messaging African American History Month in the following years, leading to Public Law 99-244. U.S. Presidents have continued to issue annual proclamations for National African American History Month. These proclamations let the American people know that the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to let everyone be aware of a struggle for freedom and equal opportunity.

When it comes to the military, we may recall the history of the US 36th Infantry Division and its actions during the Italian Campaign of World War II. After doing some research in the Italian Campaign, we will also find history on the US 92nd Infantry Division, a segregated unit consisting of African American Soldiers who also fought there during some of the heaviest periods of combat in the Italian Campaign.

92nd Infantry Division Soldiers (or as they were previously called the "Buffalo Soldiers") deployed to Italy in the summer of 1944 where they would fight alongside units such as the 1st Armored Division crossing the Arno River and later penetrating the "Gothic Line", a German defensive line in the north. 92nd Infantry Division Soldiers would later join the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team (consisted mostly of Japanese American "Nisei" Soldiers) in defeating the Nazi German forces. In addition to the 92nd Infantry Division in the Italian Campaign, one may also find a unit known as the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the "Red Tails", which consisted of mostly black aviators who were also known as the "Tuskegee Airmen".

Pilots from the 99th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron deployed to North Africa, followed by Sicily and then mainland Italy. The efforts of Soldiers from the 92nd Infantry Division and the 99th Pursuit Squadron contributed greatly to the US and Allied victory in the European Theater of World War II. President Harry Truman would later

sign Executive Order 9981 which desegregated the US military on 26 July 1948.

Executive Order 9981 would also lead the US Marine Corps to remove Montford Point in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as a separate training base for black Marines and turning it into Camp Johnson, home of the Marine Corps Combat Service Support School (Camp Johnson was named after a black US Marine Corps Sergeant Major Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson). Today, people of all races serve together as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and Marines and continue to do so.

Black/African American History Month is one of many celebrations to honor the successes and contributions made to secure the freedom and liberties we enjoy in this great Nation. At Fort Bliss, Texas near the CONUS Replacement Center stands the Buffalo Soldier Monument, a tribute to those Soldiers who patrolled the West. A similar monument stands tall just yards from Eisenhower Hall, the home of the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

One can read about history and may realize that every observance is a celebration of us all. Despite segregation in our great Nation between people of all races, religions, and backgrounds, as well as what many may see as dark history, one would hope others would see how far we have gone as a society today.

We see people of all backgrounds together

whether at work, church, school, or just being social.

Today, we see Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, and Airmen of all races, religions, and backgrounds serving together side-by-side.

One may even look at our own organization and see the people in the meetings we attend, the dining rooms where we gather for a meal, or the social events we participate in and notice how diverse we really are.

As we celebrate Black/African American History Month and the celebrations that follow, let us learn from the past, work towards a common goal, and secure OUR future!

On behalf of the Task Force Spartan Military Equal Opportunity Office, we are honored to continue serving with you and look forward to what we can accomplish together.

Thank you.

"In Spite of Hell".



Lt. Col. Pedro Agapay

## Need Help? Have a Question? Contact Us:

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Website: <https://idhq.swa.army.mil/EO>



# 75th FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE



This month the Diamond Brigade packed-up and prepared to transfer their authority to the next group of Soldiers prepared to continue their mission with Operation Spartan Shield.

Though they are at the end of their deployment, they did not slow down, but had a busy and productive month. Here are a few of their highlights from the month:

1) the 75th received and staged several pieces of equipment in preparation for the replacing unit. Diamond Brigade Soldiers worked around the clock to ensure all assets were received, staged, and mission ready. (Background)

2) The newest Soldiers to the 75th attended

what they call Diamond Leaders Academy, which was led by the 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment. On day one, Soldiers got to take a look at the Brigade Culture of "This is My Squad", and other things that make this unit great. ( Top Left)

3) 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery Regiment Soldiers were some of the first to get their COVID-19 vaccinations this month. Nurses and other medical providers expertly administered the vaccine. (Middle Left)

4) Many Diamond Brigade Soldiers received recognition this month for outstanding service. Sgt. Brandy Lopez was among them, and was given a battlefield promotion. (Bottom Left)





# 16th THEATER ENGINEER BRIGADE



This month, the 16th TEB was hard at work building things, blowing things up, and meeting with leaders from around the force. Here are a few of their highlights from the month:

1) Soldiers from 891st Engineer Battalion's Task Force Tornado had some fun at the demolition range. As part of the combat engineer's duties, they are required to successfully tie into a line main and/or ring main. Shape charges and bangalore torpedoes were also used to train over 60 Soldiers. (Middle, Right)

2) The Chief of Staff of the Army, General James C. McConville and Sergeant Major of the Army, Michael A. Grinston, visited the Engineers of Task Force Iron Castle. During their visit, Engineers had the unique opportunity of a Q&A session with the senior leaders, and were recognized and awarded coins of excellence for their hard work in theater. (Bottom, Right)

3) Maj. Gen. Patrick Hamilton and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Horn visit Task Force Iron Castle Engineers where they met with Col. Andrew Stone and Command Sgt. Maj. Abraham Johnson. They visited various construction sites underway in the Theater Engineer Brigade and took the opportunity to get up close to the heavy duty earth movers. (Top, Right)

4) Soldiers from the 891st Engineer Battalion participated in an M320 Grenade Launcher qualification range on Jan. 11. The M320 Grenade Launcher Module is the U.S. military's designation for a single-shot 40 mm grenade launcher and can launch a round up to 400 meters away. (Background)





# 2nd ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION



This month the 2-1 ABCT continued to make strides by hosting excellent training for their soldiers and recognizing them for their achievements. Here are some highlights from their month:

1) While deployed, Sgt. 1st Class Jackson D. Leflar III from Sacramento, CA, and Staff Sgt. Brett L. Kuenzi from Silvertown, OR, were both admitted as 'Distinguished Knights' in the Honorable Order of St. George for their service to the Iron Brigade team. (Top Left)

2) Soldiers conducted a Gas Chamber while deployed to improve understanding and confidence in Soldier's gas masks. Carrying your gas mask and knowing how (Background)

to properly don and seal it in a potential chemical attack is essential to saving lives.

3) Four Soldiers attended a Marine Corps Corporal Course hosted by the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines - Home of the Thundering Third. Even while deployed to Kuwait, Strike Soldiers continue to develop their NCO's, strengthening the Iron Brigade and ensuring they are ready for the challenges ahead. (Bottom Left)

4) Cpl. Garinesh Dorsey from the 40th Brigade Engineer Battalion was recognized as distinguished team leader. She was chosen to attend the Marine Corps NCO Academy in Kuwait, where she never neglected her role as a team leader.





# 28TH EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT TEAM



This month, the 28th EBCT passed the midway point of their deployment. While they continue to provide air support for both Task Force Spartan and the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF), they are also helping prepare their soldiers for what some call the hardest part of deployment: the midway point. Here are a few of their highlights from the month:

1) Soldiers conducted a joint exercise with a United States Air Force tactical air control party and U.S. Navy aviators. Joint exercises like this increase U.S. Central Command's interoperability. (Top Right)

2) A great deal of teamwork is involved in aircraft maintenance. This month and every month, Soldiers with the 28th EBCT perform preventative

maintenance on their helicopters. Maintaining your equipment is an important part of being a soldier and remaining always ready. (Middle Right)

3) Soldiers conducted a quick-extraction exercise at Erbil Air Base in Iraq. This procedure that they do with a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is something medics and other crew members constantly train to do. (Bottom Right)

4) Soldiers with the 2-104th GSAB recently fired M320 grenade launchers during a familiarization fire and qualification event at Camp Buehring. This training keeps Soldiers' basic fighting skills fresh.





# Active Shooter Exercise Held in Jordan

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Scovell, 36th Infantry Division



Above and Right: First Responders respond to an active shooter scenario in Jordan. This exercise was designed to test medical providers and responders in dealing with a mass casualty situation.



Joint Training Center, Jordan - Task Force Spartan Soldiers with Alpha Company, 1-35th Armored Regiment, sound the base alarm known as the “Big Voice” to tell Soldiers to shelter in place during an active shooter mass casualty exercise, Dec. 16, 2020.

The purpose of the exercise was to validate the readiness of the Joint Training Center emergency staff and volunteers, and test how they respond to an active shooter event on post with multiple injuries and mass casualties, known as a MASCAL.

The exercise also helps to improve the communication and cohesiveness of the medical and security teams, and validates the emergency response standard operating procedures in place.

Capt. James O. Wages, a doctor with the 75th Field Artillery Brigade, said the medical team responds just like everyone else at the beginning of the drill, by locking their doors and sheltering in place until they are given the all clear signal.

“During that time of all clear there are teams that will sweep the post looking for casualties,” Wages explains, “If they find casualties they will take them to a casualty collection point where they will radio the Mayor Cell and then notify the Casualty Aide Station or (CAS), that they have casualty’s incoming.”

Wages went on to say, “Once casualties arrive at the CAS they are screened in the trauma area. The team will then do a quick assessment known as the DIME method to screen incoming patients into four categories, Delayed, Immediate Minimal or Expected, to help prioritize care”.

“This type of exercise is vital to ensure our systems are in place to handle multiple casualties

at one time,” said Wages, “Everyone knows their job, and knows how to work with each other. It also trains them in areas that they might not be aware of, especially the Standard Operating Procedures that JTC has to deal with regarding the movement and tracking of patients, all of that which is unique to each location.”

Wages expressed how amazed he was that so many different units with different levels of training can come together so easily and conduct such a large-scale exercise.

“We have some really stellar performers that work here,” said Wages. “We have some really great medics and it is really cool how we can all come together and get through an exercise like this really well.”

The drill concluded with an after-action report, which gives agencies on JTC a chance to share what went well and what could be improved upon.

“This is one of the reasons we do these exercises is to identify deficiencies,” said Maj. Frank McGrew, 36th Infantry Division, the Area Support Group Surgeon. “Exercises like this is how Soldiers maintain their skills to ensure proper response in the event a mass casualty should occur.”





# Remaining Focussed Halfway Through Deployment

By Capt. Travis Mueller  
28th Expeditionary Combat  
Aviation Brigade

Soldiers with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade recently passed the midway point of their deployment to the Middle East.

They are serving in support of the fight against Daesh, maintaining a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia and enhancing partnerships with U.S. allies. Their primary roles are aviation operations using UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook and AH-64 Apache helicopters, as well as some fixed-wing and unmanned aerial assets.

The 28th ECAB's overarching mission in the Middle East is to support U.S. Central Command in creating an environment for peace and stability in the region in support of U.S. interests.

Spc. Tyler Speer's feelings about reaching the halfway point in the deployment echo many other Soldiers in the brigade. He is proud of what has been accomplished but is still excited to finish and go home.

"My unit and I have accomplished many missions, but some that stick out are when we refueled Apaches, helping them with a mission in western Iraq, or when we refueled an allied CH-47 that was transporting an ISIS prisoner," said Speer. He is a petroleum

supply specialist with Echo Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, 28th ECAB, and serves at a remote outpost near the Syrian border. "But I look forward to getting home, getting back on the ice and playing hockey and seeing my girlfriend and our new house."

The 28th ECAB arrived in the Middle East in September and took over for the 34th ECAB, an aviation unit from Minnesota deployed since late-2019. Soldiers with the 34th ECAB ensured a smooth transition.

Since then, 28th ECAB Soldiers have carried out their duties while adhering to COVID-19 precautions. Their activities across the Middle East have included combat missions against Daesh, medevac, personnel movement, supply movement and the logistical requirements that make those missions possible. They have also played a key role in enhancing the interoperability capabilities between the U.S. and militaries from allied nations.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest, the 28th ECAB left their homes and families in July for training and in-processing at Fort Hood, Texas. Almost 1,400 Soldiers came together



from New Jersey, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Oklahoma, with the majority coming from Pennsylvania.

While at Fort Hood, COVID-19 presented unique challenges, and Soldiers had to adhere to numerous precautions. Those precautions included a 14-day quarantine upon arrival, a COVID-19 test for each Soldier, limiting movement to a designated cohort area, wearing masks, social distancing and increased emphasis on personal hygiene and sanitation.

Soldiers across the brigade also completed many flight hours, refueling operations, gunnery training, logistics operations and functional training to ensure their mission readiness.

Some Mission Highlights- "Are when we refueled Apaches, helping them with a mission in western Iraq, or when we refueled an allied CH-47 that was transporting an ISIS prisoner."

-- Spc. Tyler Speer

"We were able to bring nine different states together and, within a relatively short period of time, jelled into a great organization," said Col. Howard Lloyd, 28th ECAB commander. "The Soldiers not only got to know each other, but they developed confidence in each other and are well-trained and motivated for this mission."

*Soldiers with 1-137th AHB train with a hoist to ensure their ability to quickly extract personnel without landing the helicopter.  
(Photos by 1st Lt. Garrett Walnoha)*





# Around the Force

Sgt. 1st Class Jackson D. Leflar III from Sacramento, CA, and Staff Sgt. Brett L. Kuenzi from Silvertown, OR, were both admitted as 'Distinguished Knights' in the Honorable Order of St. George for their service to the #IronBrigade team. They stand ready to fight and win against any 'beasts' they may face in the future.



Our Soldiers continue to earn their right to wear the 28th Infantry Division's keystone forever after carrying out their duties in the fight against Daesh. Officially called the Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service, wearing a "combat patch" on the right sleeve indicates that the Soldier has served with that unit in support of combat operations.



Iron Castle Engineers develop confidence and proficiency employing their Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives (CBRNE) protective masks in a controlled contamination environment during a CBRNE training exercise.



Col. Ryan E. McCormack, the 75th Field Artillery Brigade commander, called for an early morning formation to recognize Soldiers throughout the formation for their hard work during Diamond Tempest by presenting them with the Army Achievement Medal! Additionally the Col. also recognized four artistic Soldiers within the Diamond Brigade who designed and painted the brigade's T-wall throughout the holiday season.

Security forces clear an area during an Active Shooter and Mass Casualty exercise at the Joint Training Center in Jordan, Dec.16, 2020. The purpose of the exercise was to validate the readiness of the JTC emergency response staff and test how they respond to an active shooter event on post with multiple injuries and mass casualties, known as a MASCAL.



Recently some of our Steel Warriors, from 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment, spent time giving back to the USO (Camp Arifjan, Kuwait) through their volunteer efforts! The Soldiers helped by spending more than 50-hours painting the inside of the facility to freshen things up before they reopen in the future.





# Happy 100th Birthday Jim Niederer



Happy 100th Birthday to 36th Infantry Division Veteran Jim Niederer, who served during WWII, earning six bronze stars and one bronze arrowhead. Here is his story:

My life changed on July 28, 1942, when I enlisted in the U.S. Army. I was 21 years old. I was inducted into the Army in Waco, Texas and sent to Camp Walters in Wichita Falls, Texas, for basic training and supplied with uniforms and my Springfield 03 rifle. I was here a few weeks and then shipped out to Camp Crowder in Neosha, Missouri.

In Camp Crowder I trained heavily on calisthenics, medical first aid, etc. I also learned the Morse Code and even Semaphore Communications and learned wire communications; especially

telephone operation. My 74th Signal Core-SPL (Special) would be responsible for front to rear communications. My company established ship to shore communications during invasions. When that was not needed, I drove trucks hauling supplies to front positions. (I was always attached to the 36th Infantry Division or the 45th Infantry Division).

At Camp Crowder, I also went through tough physical training daily! We had miles of hiking and crawling under barb wire areas under live machine guns firing overhead - to familiarize us with wartime duty. I also had to climb walls with rope nets while wearing a backpack and always with my rifle (Springfield 03) in hand.

We were all well trained for the future and in extremely good condition! While in class, learning the Morse code, the officer teaching the class noticed one soldier, Tony Gallito, from Chicago, was sleeping and didn't have anything written down. The officer walked over and tapped Tony on the shoulder and told him to wake up. Tony told the officer he wasn't sleeping. The officer told Tony that he had his eyes shut. Tony replied, "I had my shoes on too, but I wasn't walking." A few minutes later the MP's came in and picked up Tony and I haven't seen him since then.

I also learned that "shock" could be a deadly possibility. I did not believe this, at the time, but I later found out this is true. This took to be true especially in the Anzio Beachhead.

In January 1943 I wound up in Little Creek, Virginia at the Norfolk Naval Base. It was a bitter cold and wet winter. We trained with the Navy to make invasions. We would load up on an old Navy ship about every 10 days and would go up the Atlantic Coast a few miles and make our

mock invasions-very realistic operations. We embarked over the side of the ship with backpack and rifle and some communication equipment down the rope net into the 50' Higgins boats. We loaded up 10 boats with about 35 men in each boat, and we headed about 20 miles to shore under Navy bombardment!

Every 30 minutes or so another 10 boats came ashore. Each 10 boats was called a wave. The first 4-5 waves of ten boats came in with troops only. After noon, we had 3 landings about a mile apart established. This was done on 3 beaches about a mile apart. This training prepared us for combat when late in the afternoon the next day big LST (landing ship tanks) ships would come ashore with hundreds of troops, heavy artillery, trucks, jeeps, tanks and supplies. Then we would go in further and had it made!

While in Norfolk, I was also sent to Florida on maneuvers in the swamps for a couple of weeks. I saw many alligators while there. I was thinking that we would be sent to Japan during this type of training. I left Norfolk, Virginia in June 1943 with thousands of troops not yet knowing where we were going. Then we quickly found out we were going to Oran, Africa. We were in a large convoy of about 15-20 troop ships surrounded by Navy destroyers and other Navy vessels. We zigzagged across the Atlantic for about 3 weeks to avoid German submarines. The Navy did a very good job. I was in Oran about a month and then loaded ship for our first invasion.

Now, on July 10, 1943, we landed in Scoglitti, Sicily. I was always in the first wave of all 4 of my invasions. The Navy shells the beach for about 4-5 hours before actually landing. The Air Force also does their part too. The Italians were in the war with Germany at this time. A battalion

A battalion of about 1200 Italian soldiers were camped out in a big olive orchard. At the time the Navy had "shelled" the orchard before we landed and killed or wounded half of the Italians-the rest made it without any resistance for Messina, Italy across the island. Today, I think about this sight every time I enjoy eating an olive! The Italians surrendered after we hit Salerno.

A few of us were walking up a road a few miles into Sicily and encountered an SS German trooper in a tree. He shot at us until he ran out of ammo and we shot into the tree but could not see him. Then he fired his last shot to his head and fell from the tree. SS troopers vowed to never be captured and they weren't!

During this invasion, we inadvertently shot at our own paratroopers; it was a big error on our part. We quickly found out our mistake and ceased fire. We were in the 36th Infantry Division under General Patton. At this time, we went across the island of Sicily to Messina, Italy in about 30 days. The Germans had a good Air Force now with bombers and especially fighter planes. They were bombing and strafing the U.S. day and night.

The Germans flew out of Foggio, Italy which we later captured. During the war, anytime we would pass dead Germans, we noticed that the German soldiers would stick their dead man's rifle in the ground and put the man's helmet on top of the rifle. Our troop medics would always pick up our dead men, and bury them in military cemeteries. The Germans left their men where they got hit. We left Sicily and went back to Tunis North Africa. From Tunis to Oran I had the privilege to drive a truck and trailer to Oran. We stayed in Oran long enough for me to get malaria which struck me after the Salerno invasion-3 weeks in the hospital after



landing in Salerno. Several months of Atabrine tablets cured me- I was lucky!

We left Africa for the trip to Salerno, Italy for an invasion. This trip was not much fun either. This was on September 9, 1943. We had bad stormy weather here for two or three days. The Germans had the high ground ahead of us. Then our 101st Airborne unit landed behind the Germans. Now, the Germans had us Americans on both sides and we subdued them quickly. After landing in Salerno, we went north and took Naples. All the Italians in Naples were glad to see us Americans. The Italians surrendered here.

I do not think they thought much of their President Benito Mussolini. They did not care much about Adolph Hitler either. It was here I was in combat and it took the Red Cross a month to locate me and tell me my father, "Pop" passed away. After a landing, it took about a month to get our mail.

After taking Naples, we went north of Naples to Foggio, Italy and then returned to Naples. Foggio was the site of several large air fields. The Germans flew out of these fields. All close range for them to make strikes against us. Now our Air Force had the advantage which changed the air assaults tremendously. Our Air Force now flew out of here instead of England. This was a big advantage for us, because the German Air Force was now beginning to lose their power in the air. We really could tell the difference it made. The German fuel shortage really curtailed their operations and their Air Force was about eliminated.

Now, we prepared for the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead landing on January 22, 1944. This was to become a 4-5 month ordeal for sure. There were constant 88 mm gun onslaughts, air raids and mines day and night on our 8 x 10 mile beach head; all of these made things very interesting. The huge German railroad gun came

out of its' secure tunnel and kept the supply ships further off shore. This gun fired a big shell toward the ocean to keep our supply ships off shore. This big shell had a booster shell to fire it a long distance. The booster shell always exploded directly over our heads with a big bang. This and all else took its toll. The constant stress caused many of our soldiers to go through "shell shock". Men would get grey hair or suddenly lose their hair. They would be sent back to hospitals. I never believed "shock" could kill a man until now. I saw it first hand when a fellow sergeant stood next to me. A German 88mm shell exploded very close to us and shrapnel hit his right leg very hard. (He lost his leg). He looked down, saw that his leg was gone, turned pale white and said, "I lost my leg," and then he died. In air raids, you can tell or see where the bombers or fighter planes shells are coming from and prepare a defense-but 88mm shells come in with complete surprises.

In Anzio Beachhead, early in the third week, 4 or 5 other buddies and I went in to Nettuno and into a bar and "captured" a keg of white wine and a keg of red wine (each 35 to 40 gallons). We took the kegs into our area and protectively buried them in a safe spot. We did enjoy it immensely. We never ran out of wine! Our officers never found out about this episode. We took control of it-no drunks ever had access to it. We even retrieved a second red wine later. In Anzio, We got our M-1 rifles. I also had a 45 pistol.

Before leaving Anzio Beach some of us received a two week "nerve" leave in Naples in a nice rest camp at an abandoned zoo. I received permission to go a few miles to Foggio, Italy to an air base to see my brother Charlie for those two weeks. I had to hitchhike my way to see Charlie. It was easy to catch a ride - any U.S. truck or jeep would pick you up. The jeep driver took me to Charlie's unit. Charlie lived in a tent with a concrete floor. Charlie ran the motion picture shows in the theater for his unit. He was not a pilot. When it was time for me to return to my unit, Charlie took

me back to Naples in a B-17 bomber because his unit needed to pick up new pilots from the U.S.

When we returned to Naples, Charlie and I became targets of an air raid. This was Charlie's first encounter with the enemy! Charlie had no clue what to do. I told Charlie to get behind a big tree and hug it and enjoy the moment! Charlie later went back to his unit and I went back to the beachhead by boat.

We finally broke out of the beachhead after two attempts. We now went to Rome, Italy. It was declared an open city by U.S. and the Germans. We drove peacefully across the city with a warm welcome from the Italian civilians. North of Rome, we returned to Naples, Italy to prepare for our Southern France invasion Our unit had a team of radio operators that handled all the news going out from the beach head. We had just received a new Motorola #505 radio mounted all across the back of our jeep. It was quite powerful and could reach New York. Ernie Pyle, news correspondent, was with us for about two months and we made several news broadcasts to the U.S.A. with it. Once we were using it and we had located it on a high bluff so our antenna could perform better. We looked down into the valley below and saw a battalion of about 1200 Germans all lying down and their rifles neatly stacked.

They were just waiting to be captured by us Americans. Jim Downing and I drove our jeep down to them and they were actually glad to see us. They were completely out of supplies and just could not continue on. We had them follow us a very short distance and we turned them over to our MPs (Military Police). This was the beginning of the German surrendering because our Air Force was really bombing and strafing their supply truck and train supply lines. We returned to Naples to load up for the Southern France invasion.

My 45th Infantry invaded Southern France at San Raphael on August 15, 1944 about a month after the Normandy invasion. I hauled gasoline for General Patton's tanks during this time. Our southern France invasion took a lot of pressure off the Normandy troops. The British-American invasion on Normandy was to our north and was a very deadly invasion. I was glad I did not make that invasion. Our 45th division took 126,000 prisoners and suffered 28,000 casualties during this time. We went across France quickly.

After the battle of the Bulge in Normandy, which I had nothing to do with, my unit, the 45th Infantry, was south of that. We were almost surrounded by the Germans too. We had one escape route; the Saverne Pass and we took it into northern France and reached the Maginot-Siegfried line, which was a tunnel defense system. German and

### ***A message from his son...***

*I truly believe my dad will make it to 101*

*and he looks forward to seeing*

*Michael when he returns and would like to*

*meet Captain Jackson if possible.*

*Good luck to all of you and we hope for*

*everyone's safe return from a*

*successful mission. GOD BLESS YOU*

*AND OUR TROOPS!!*



French underground tunnels with gun mounts all along the borders. It was New Year's Day 1945. We expected this to be a bad place for us. However, it was literally plowed up by our Air Force and we actually walked across it. We went across the Rhine River in Strausberg, Germany, across southern Germany through the Ruhr Valley and industrial Germany. We saw much of the German industrial area heavily in ruins.

The German Air Force was now probably 75% defeated. The Germans now shot off a few missiles to England and showed off a few jet planes – the first I ever saw! The Germans concealed the jets in the Black Forest of Germany. Their fuel shortage limited their flights. The Germans flew the jets off the Autobahn highway.

We were waiting for our engineers to build a bridge over a river, it was about 6:00 a.m. and we were at a big horse water trough that the Germans used for their work horses on a road to Dachau. Along a tree shaded road about 15-20 men clad in grey and white striped pajama-looking clothing came toward us with their hands up as we were eating our breakfast. We prepared for trouble, thinking the Germans were tricking us, but quickly found out they were from Dachau prison camp. As we approached these prisoners, they knew we were Americans and were extremely glad to see us and even hugged us. I could speak German and found out they had been digging trenches in front of a German 88mm gun mount. The Germans were forced to retreat and leave the area, so the Dachau prisoners had eagerly marched to the allied troops, which was my unit. They were so emancipated that they could not eat our rations. We had good rations at this time; corn, beans, eggs, and even Spam. We learned that Dachau was about 5-10 miles up the road. We continued on to the Dachau concentration camp. I went in the Dachau prison about 2 hours after our troops took it over. I went through the gate that had the words "Arbeit Macht Frei, Work Makes Free. Before we went into the camp, we were told not to give any of the prisoners food since their

digestive systems could not handle it as they had been without food for so long. As I went in the camp about 30 feet inside I encountered a Jewish prisoner on the corner of a wooden rack which was his bed. He reached as if to shake my hand; I did, but never again-his hand was skin and bones! Words cannot describe this unbelievable scene. I cannot describe this memory to anyone else, including the stench and odor of that place – it is impossible! I have tried to forget this ordeal, but it still haunts and lingers in my mind.

A few days after we took Dachau, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower ordered our M.P.'s (Military Police) to forcefully march all of the German population in the city of Dachau and out about 5 miles out to go through the camp. The German people had acted like they didn't know anything about it, so Eisenhower wanted to make sure the people were aware that it had existed. After Dachau my unit went on through southern Germany and went to Innsbrook, Austria when the war ended. Just before the war ended, the German army group G surrendered on May 7, 1945.

One of the happiest times for us was when President Truman ordered the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. We had just been told to get our equipment in order to make the Japan invasion. We sincerely thank God for the atomic bomb! At the end of the war, I was granted a 3 week leave to Switzerland, my parent's homeland. I found my Aunt Lena and Uncle Adolph Frei. It was wonderful for me to see a country with no damage and wonderful people. My cousin Irma was really proud of me in my uniform. I came home in November 1945 on the Queen Elizabeth from London in 4 days and arrived in New York. I then took a train to San Antonio. My sister, Ella, lived in San Antonio at the time and she picked me up at the station and drove me to Waco. I have never forgotten WWII. Many years went by and I never spoke of my experiences.

In the last 25 years, I have been questioned about my experiences and began to tell my story about the war. Many memories still linger in my mind. PTSD has affected me and I have nightmares that are very vivid to me. Out of the 225 original group of men that I went overseas with in my 74th signal company only about half of those men came home.

Dachau and Anzio are an indelible mark in my memories of WWII. Since returning to Waco and Dallas, I have encountered several of these Dachau captives – I noticed their tattoos on their hands; they all hugged me and gave their "Thanks" to me and to all of our U.S. Army troops. This is a very rewarding experience for me. It was amazing how Adolph Hitler and his regime took over Germany by deception and brutal force. A few attempts to assassinate him were quickly subdued and their perpetrators were eliminated very quickly by the SS (Secret Service) troops. The SS troops were Hitler's elite troops and enforced Hitler's rule over the entire population. Anyone who offered the least interference with Hitler's rule were quickly eliminated or put in concentration camps. They were very responsible for the 5 or 6 million Jewish people to be killed or put in concentration camps. Hatred for the

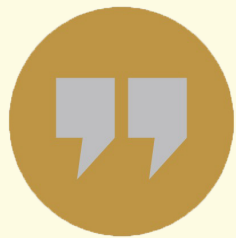
Jewish population was extremely unbelievable! I too, developed a little amount of hatred for the Germans, as all American soldiers referred to the Germans as "Krauts". I know what took place in Germany from 1930-1945. Even during the war, the older German soldiers were very glad to be captured. The younger German soldiers, the 16-19 year old men were still thoroughly convinced their secret weapons such as rockets, missiles and even jet airplanes were being developed but all too late in the war.

After the war, I knew all of the above had taken place in Germany and the majority of the population really never developed such hatred for the Americans, only the younger Germans who were actually brainwashed by the government ever developed hatred for the Americans. I have been told that I am a hero, but I don't think of myself as one. The real heroes are the ones that never came home. I was simply doing a job that needed to be done. I consider myself fortunate to have survived the war and I am glad that I had the opportunity to serve my country!





# Chaplain's Corner



*We will advance  
no further if we  
allow feelings  
to dictate our  
attitude and  
our actions.*

We have reached the point in our deployment where the Groundhog Day struggle is real. The excitement has worn off, the doldrums have set in, morale has gone down. This is to be expected. This has been the norm for all three of my deployments. It is the norm for life. Feelings; motivation; like the tide,ebb and flow with highs and lows. And like the tide, we will advance no further if we allow feelings to dictate our attitude and our actions. These are the times when motivation must be displaced with discipline if we are to make progress in any area of life.

David Elton Trueblood writes in, The New Man for Our Times, Harper Collins(January 1970), "We have not advanced very far in our spiritual lives if we have not encountered the basic paradox of freedom, to the effect that we are most free when we are bound. But not just any way of being bound will suffice; what matters is the character of our binding. The one who would like to be an athlete, but who is unwilling to discipline his body by regular exercise and by abstinence, is not free to excel on the field or the tracks. His failure to train rigorously and to live abstemiously denies him the freedom to go over the bar at the desired height, or to run with the desired speed and endurance. With one concerted voice the giants of the evotional life apply the same principle for the whole of life with the dictum: **Discipline is the price of freedom.**"

With you in the struggle. In Spite of Hell!  
Strength and blessings,








As Soldiers, we are resolute in our commitment to live the Army Values. We will uphold a command climate free of sexual harassment, sexual assault and retaliation where every member of the Army Team is treated with dignity and respect.

**TOGETHER,  
THIS WE'LL  
DEFEND.**

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Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell Dorris  
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If you, or anyone you know has experienced or believe you've been a victim of discrimination based on Religion, National Origin, Sexual Orientation, Color, Race or any other discrimination; or have been a victim of bullying or hazing, we can assist.

## IG TEAM

36TH Infantry Division  
Inspector General Team



Col. Eric Martinson  
Command Inspector General



Master Sgt. Frank Konarik  
36ID IG Office NCOIC



Capt. Seulata Rodriguez  
Deputy Inspector General



Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Sipes  
Assistant Inspector General



Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Davis  
Assistant Inspector General





## WORLD WAR II



### SECOND LIEUTENANT EDWARD C. DAHLGREN

BORN: PERHAM, MAINE

ASSIGNED TO: COMPANY I3, 142ND INFANTRY, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

#### CITATION

#### OBERHOFFEN, FRANCE, 11 FEBRUARY 1945

HE LED THE 3RD PLATOON TO THE RESCUE OF A SIMILAR UNIT WHICH HAD BEEN SURROUNDED IN AN ENEMY COUNTERATTACK AT OBERHOFFEN, FRANCE. AS HE ADVANCED ALONG A STREET, HE OBSERVED SEVERAL GERMANS CROSSING A FIELD ABOUT 100 YARDS AWAY. RUNNING INTO A BARN, HE TOOK UP A POSITION IN A WINDOW AND SWEEP THE HOSTILE TROOPS WITH SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE, KILLING 6, WOUNDING OTHERS, AND COMPLETELY DISORGANIZING THE GROUP. HIS PLATOON THEN MOVED FORWARD THROUGH INTERMITTENT SNIPER FIRE AND MADE CONTACT WITH THE BESIEGED AMERICANS. WHEN THE 2 PLATOONS HAD BEEN REORGANIZED, SGT. DAHLGREN CONTINUED TO ADVANCE ALONG THE STREET UNTIL HE DREW FIRE FROM AN ENEMY-HELD HOUSE. IN THE FACE OF MACHINE PISTOL AND RIFLE FIRE, HE RAN TOWARD THE BUILDING, THREW A GRENADE THROUGH THE DOOR, AND BLASTED HIS WAY INSIDE WITH HIS GUN. THIS AGGRESSIVE ATTACK SO RATTLED THE GERMANS THAT ALL 8 MEN WHO HELD THE STRONGPOINT IMMEDIATELY SURRENDERED. AS SGT. DAHLGREN STARTED TOWARD THE NEXT HOUSE, HOSTILE MACHINEGUN FIRE DROVE HIM TO COVER. HE SECURED RIFLE GRENADES, STEPPED TO AN EXPOSED POSITION, AND CALMLY LAUNCHED HIS MISSILES FROM A DIFFICULT ANGLE UNTIL HE HAD DESTROYED THE MACHINEGUN AND KILLED ITS 2 OPERATORS. HE MOVED TO THE REAR OF THE HOUSE AND SUDDENLY CAME UNDER THE FIRE OF A MACHINEGUN EMPLACED IN A BARN. THROWING A GRENADE INTO THE STRUCTURE, HE RUSHED THE POSITION, FIRING HIS WEAPON AS HE RAN; WITHIN, HE OVERWHELMED 5 GERMANS. AFTER REORGANIZING HIS UNIT, HE ADVANCED TO CLEAR HOSTILE RIFLEMEN FROM THE BUILDING WHERE HE HAD DESTROYED THE MACHINEGUN. HE ENTERED THE HOUSE BY A WINDOW AND TRAPPED THE GERMANS IN THE CELLAR, WHERE HE TOSSED GRENADES INTO THEIR MIDST, WOUNDING SEVERAL AND FORCING 10 MORE TO SURRENDER. WHILE RECONNOITERING ANOTHER STREET WITH A COMRADE, HE HEARD GERMAN VOICES IN A HOUSE. AN ATTACK WITH RIFLE GRENADES, DROVE THE HOSTILE TROOPS TO THE CELLAR. SGT. DAHLGREN ENTERED THE BUILDING, KICKED OPEN THE CELLAR DOOR, AND FIRING SEVERAL BURSTS DOWN THE STAIRWAY, CALLED FOR THE TRAPPED ENEMY TO SURRENDER. SIXTEEN SOLDIERS FLED OUT WITH THEIR HANDS IN THE AIR. THE BOLD LEADERSHIP AND MAGNIFICENT COURAGE DISPLAYED BY SGT. DAHLGREN IN THE HEROIC ATTACKS WERE IN A LARGE MEASURE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPULSING AN ENEMY COUNTERATTACK AND SAVING AN AMERICAN PLATOON FROM GREAT DANGER.



## WORLD WAR II



### STAFF SERGEANT THOMAS E. MCCALL

BORN: BURTON, KANSAS

ASSIGNED TO: 143D INFANTRY, 36TH INFANTRY DIVISION

#### CITATION

#### NEAR SAN ANGELO, ITALY, 22 JANUARY 1944

FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY AT RISK OF LIFE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY. ON 22 JANUARY 1944, COMPANY F HAD THE MISSION OF CROSSING THE RAPIDO RIVER IN THE VICINITY OF SAN ANGELO, ITALY, AND ATTACKING THE WELL-PREPARED GERMAN POSITIONS TO THE WEST. FOR THE DEFENSE OF THESE POSITIONS THE ENEMY HAD PREPARED A NETWORK OF MACHINEGUN POSITIONS COVERING THE TERRAIN TO THE FRONT WITH A PATTERN OF WITHERING MACHINEGUN FIRE, AND MORTAR AND ARTILLERY POSITIONS ZEROED IN ON THE DEFILED AREAS. S/SGT. MCCALL COMMANDED A MACHINEGUN SECTION THAT WAS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE RIFLEMEN. UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, COMPANY F ADVANCED TO THE RIVER CROSSING SITE AND UNDER INTENSE ENEMY MORTAR, ARTILLERY, AND MACHINEGUN FIRE CROSSED AND ICE-COVERED BRIDGE WHICH WAS CONTINUALLY THE TARGET FOR ENEMY FIRE. MANY CASUALTIES OCCURRED ON REACHING THE WEST SIDE OF THE RIVER AND REORGANIZATION WAS DIFFICULT. EXPOSING HIMSELF TO THE DEADLY ENEMY MACHINEGUN AND SMALL ARMS FIRE THAT SWIFT OVER THE FLAT TERRAIN, S/SGT. MCCALL, WITH UNUSUAL CALMNESS, UNDAUNTED AND WHELED HIS MEN INTO AN EFFECTIVE FIGHTING UNIT. HE THEN LED THEM FORWARD ACROSS THE MUDDY EXPOSED TERRAIN. SKILLFULLY HE GUIDED HIS MEN THROUGH A BARBED-WIRE ENTANGLEMENT TO REACH A ROAD WHERE HE PERSONALLY PLACED THE WEAPONS OF HIS TWO SQUADS INTO POSITIONS OF VANTAGE, COVERING THE BATTALION'S FRONT. A SHELL LANDED NEAR ONE OF THE POSITIONS, WOUNDING THE GUNNER, KILLING THE ASSISTANT GUNNER, AND DESTROYING THE WEAPON. EVEN THOUGH ENEMY SHELLS WERE FALLING DANGEROUSLY NEAR, S/SGT. MCCALL CRAWLED ACROSS THE TREACHEROUS TERRAIN AND RENDERED FIRST AID TO THE WOUNDED MAN, DRAGGING HIM INTO A POSITION OF COVER WITH THE HELP OF ANOTHER MAN. THE GUNNERS OF THE SECOND MACHINEGUN HAD BEEN WOUNDED FROM THE FRAGMENTS OF AN ENEMY SHELL, LEAVING S/SGT. MCCALL THE ONLY REMAINING MEMBER OF HIS MACHINEGUN SECTION. DISPLAYING OUTSTANDING AGGRESSIVENESS, HE RAN FORWARD WITH THE WEAPON ON HIS HIP, REACHING A POINT 30 YARDS FROM THE ENEMY, WHERE HE FIRED 2 BURSTS OF FIRE INTO THE NEST, KILLING OR WOUNDING ALL OF THE CREW AND PUTTING THE GUN OUT OF ACTION. A SECOND MACHINEGUN NOW OPENED FIRE UPON HIM AND HE RUSHED ITS POSITION, FIRING HIS WEAPON FROM THE HIP, KILLING 4 OF THE CREW. A THIRD MACHINEGUN, 50 YARDS IN REAR OF THE FIRST TWO, WAS DELIVERING A THUNDEROUS VOLUME OF FIRE UPON OUR TROOPS. S/SGT. MCCALL SPOTTED ITS POSITION AND VALLANTLY WENT TOWARD IT IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ENEMY FIRE. HE WAS LAST SEEN COURAGEOUSLY MOVING FORWARD ON THE ENEMY POSITION, FIRING HIS MACHINEGUN FROM HIS HIP. S/SGT. MCCALL'S INTREPIDITY AND UNHESITATING WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE EXEMPLIFY THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES.



# The Arrowhead | TASK FORCE SPARTAN



*BACK COVER PHOTO by Sgt. Eric Smith, 28th ECAB*

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