



APRIL 6, 2021 / ISSUE 32

THE ANVIL INSIDER

A Newsletter from the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade



Photo by Spc. Asa Naayers

Happy Easter!

Soldiers observed what many of them consider their last big holiday away from home

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3-year-old at home, deployed couple withstands challenges

By Spc. Stanford Toran IV

"He has his days where he is mad at us for leaving and other days, he cannot stop telling me how much he misses us," said Cpl. Ashley Hibbler, of her three-year-old son Landon.

Hibbler and her husband, Spc. Kyle Hibbler, are deployed to the Middle East with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade and have been away from their son since July 2020.

"At first, he did not understand what was going on," said Ashley. "But he has grown a lot since we left and has become more understanding of the situation."

At the beginning of the deployment, the Hibblers' challenges included learning how to work with each other as fellow Soldiers, instead of a married couple. Being separated from their son, they also worked to gain support from their command concerning their unique situation.

"When we first arrived at Fort Hood and met our unit, Sgt. 1st Class [Melanie] McCracken talked to me about how she had been deployed with her husband before and she made us feel very comfortable coming to her with related issues," said Kyle. "She and the command team were very accommodating."

One such accommodation was arranging for them to be assigned to the same duty location and, recently, to live together on base. Despite their different duties, Ashley as a logistics specialist and Kyle repairing helicopters, they work similar schedules so they can video chat Landon at the same time daily.

Living together has helped establish a sense of normalcy, even while deployed.

"She still makes me take out the trash," says Kyle.

However, though many say that they are lucky to deploy together, it comes with its own sets of struggles. They had to get creative at times but having a solid foundation of communication and understanding has helped them overcome obstacles.



"Not having a private area for the first six months of deployment and having to spend time together outdoors was just one of our struggles. We spent many cold, rainy nights outside but we did not care because we were together," they said. "Adjusting to the stress of the environment and being away from home can really strain a relationship. Instead of hurting our relationship, this deployment has strengthened it and made us realize we can truly tackle anything together."

While they are away, their extended family has taken care of Landon. They have also played an important role in helping him handle his parents' absence. Another thing that has helped is the ability for him to talk to his parents regularly.

"There are some days he is upset and does not want to talk. We count down the days together and although he does not fully understand the concept of time, he gets excited when I say we have 'this many days left,'" said Ashley. "He just knows Momma and Kyle will be home soon."

Kyle is actually not Landon's biological father, but has been very much involved for the majority of his life.

"The first thing he says almost every time when Ashley calls him is 'I want to talk to Kyle, Momma,'" said Kyle. "Although he is not biologically my own, I love him so much and share a bond with him that is the same as if he were."



While Kyle and Ashley are grateful to be together, they admit that it has been harder for Ashley to be away from her son than it would have been to be away from her husband.

"Being our age, we have a better understanding of being away from each other, than my three-year-old has with being away from his mom," said Ashley. "It's harder for him to understand because he is so young. He knows Mom is gone and he feels emotions he doesn't know how to process. That makes it more difficult for him and for me."

On whether or not this experience has been worth the separation, Ashley expresses mixed feelings. COVID-19 presented many challenges and changes to the expected mission and experience for the brigade. She has endured the psychological impact of being separated from her son while deployed to the Middle East while her family struggles with a pandemic at home.

"It took me six years to finally be able to deploy and I was excited for it because I love my country and this is something I've always wanted to do," she said. "However, being away from my son has made it very difficult and I have had to really push through most days."

Even though she has doubts, she is still happy to serve and share moments with her husband.

With their deployment winding down, Kyle and Ashley have contributed to their unit's mission here and achieved professional accomplishments.

Recently, Ashley was laterally promoted to corporal, with Kyle pinning her new rank during the ceremony. For Ashley she was happy to share that milestone with him and described it as a "sentimental moment."

"It felt good seeing her recognized for her hard work and perseverance," said Kyle. "Being a mother away from her child for the first time has been the greatest challenge, but she was able to put her mind to the task at hand and accomplish something that I always knew she could do."

The Hibblers are deployed with Delta Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, 28th ECAB in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the fight against Daesh, and Operation Spartan Shield.



Ashley Hibbler, left, is pinned to the rank of Corporal by her husband, Spc. Kyle Hibbler, during a promotion ceremony at an airfield in the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade's area of operations in the Middle East. Both are deployed with Delta Company, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, 28th ECAB. (Photo by Sgt. Joshua Mayro)

This was the prevailing message of the event. Know the signs if you see them, and prevent sexual assault or harassment in the Army by holding others accountable for their inappropriate language or behaviors before they lead to action.



We are giving our vehicles a good cleaning before they are inspected by customs agents and shipped home. Taking vehicles to the wash rack has historically been an indicator that Soldiers are on the home stretch of the deployment! (Photos by Cpl. Jennifer Raley)



Fixed-wing Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment (Task Force Poker) serve with us and fly UC-35 planes. The UC-35 is used as an intra-theater transport asset to move mission-critical personnel and light cargo.



Soldiers with 1-82nd ARB train on Tactical Combat Casualty Care, ensuring they have the ability to save lives when necessary. (Photos by 1st Lt. Lydia Laga)



Pfc. Samuel Perez is a paralegal specialist with 1-82nd ARB who assists in the brigade's legal section.

Originally from New York City, he joined the Army in 2019 after running into financial trouble while in college. Now, his long-term goal is to someday become the command sergeant major of the JAG corps.

"The best part about this deployment is all the experience I am gaining," said Perez. "It is not every day you get to work with National Guardsmen. It's quite the experience to get a new perspective on the job."



(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)



Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Witmer stands at a convoy checkpoint as Soldiers move vehicles down the highway. (Photo by Cpl. Jennifer Raley)

Spc. Brian Rogers originally joined the military to become an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, but wanted to get involved with IT and now enjoys being a signal support systems specialist. His favorite part of the military is meeting cool people and getting good training.

Currently enrolled at Penn State, he is pursuing a degree in computer science and physics.

Rogers is deployed with HHC.

(Spotlight by Spc. Stanford Toran IV)



Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is observed each April to raise awareness and educate communities on the prevention of sexual assault.

Last week, Lt. Col. Kevin White and Sgt. Maj. Guy Miller joined the 28th ECAB's Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention team in signing the SAAPM 2021 proclamation, reaffirming the brigade's commitment to its SHARP program.

The 28th ECAB sexual assault response coordinator can be reached at **john.p.karpovich.mil@mail.mil**.

The 28th ECAB victim advocate can be reached at **andrea.l.whelan.mil@mail.mil**.



Today's homefront hero is **Amber**, wife of Maj. Ernie Carlson.

Amber took time this deployment to send care packages to not only her husband but other Soldiers as well, on top of taking care of their children and new pets.

"I really appreciate her and have been continually impressed by her strength and perseverance throughout this deployment while we've been gone." - Spc. Donna Wauthier

Thanks for holding down the homefront, Amber!

HOMEFRONT HEROES

Soldiers and families,

We know there are many ways our families “hold down the homefront” and we want to share their stories.

If you'd like to recognize a family member back home please do one of the following:

- 1) Send a message to the 28th ECAB Facebook page with a photo of the family member and a short paragraph describing why they deserve a shout out.
- 2) Email your FRG leader with a photo of the family member and a short paragraph describing why they deserve and shout out.
- 3) Contact the brigade PAO or your UPAR for assistance



Ideas include...

- A child who reads bedtime stories to their younger siblings
- A niece or nephew who sent care packages to their Soldier's unit
- A parent or in-law who has been stepping up to take care of the kids
- A child who broke a personal record at a recent track meet
- A spouse who threw a party for their child's birthday on their own (yikes)
- A spouse or parent who picked up a new skill or earned a degree

"The strength of the armed forces of the United States is as much about its families as it is about its combat capability."

– Gen. Martin Dempsey



Follow the link
below for the
latest AFN
TV schedule

<https://v3.myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>



<https://www.facebook.com/28ECAB/>



<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/28cab>



For the latest Army news, visit
the Army News Service at
<https://www.army.mil/ARNews>

SPORTS SHOUTOUTS



Want to send a shoutout to
your favorite team? Contact
your company UPAR or the
brigade PAO

*The Anvil Insider: a publication by the
28th ECAB and Task Force Anvil
public affairs office*

28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade

Commander:
Col. Howard Lloyd

Senior Enlisted Advisor:
Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Livolsi



STAY SHARP



SAAPM Proclamation Signed

LTC White and SGM Miller participated along with the Camp Commander and Camp Command Sergeant Major in the signing of the SAAPM Proclamation and cake cutting ceremony at the main DFAC. Each Brigade Command Team from post as well as many Battalion Command Teams were present to hear the reading and then proceeded to sign the proclamation. The three full time SARC's and many Victim Advocates were also present to sign the proclamation. This was the first of many SHARP related events planned for Camp Buehring during the month of April.

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS and PREVENTION MONTH **SAAPM / SHARP CALENDAR of EVENTS**

01 April 2021 –SAAPM Proclamation signing with SHARP cake at lunch

03 April 2021 – SAAPM 5K Walk / Run

03 April 2021 – SHARP Bingo (1900 MWR Stage)

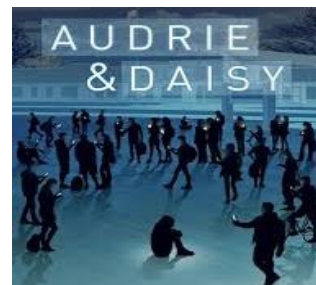
11 April 2021 – SAAPM 10 Mile Walk / Ruck (0300 MWR Stage)

18 April 2021 – Virtual Teal Bingo sponsored by USO Kuwait (Facebook Event)

21 April 2020 – SHARP Cinema Night showing of Audrie and Daisy (1900 MWR Stage)

24 April 2021 – SHARP Bingo (1900 MWR Stage)

Contact a SHARP Team member to schedule an Escape Room Visit (Groups of 4-6)



MSG JP Karpovich
TF Anvil SARC
570-709-2325
Signal App



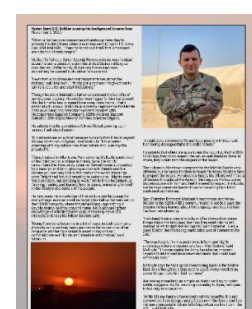
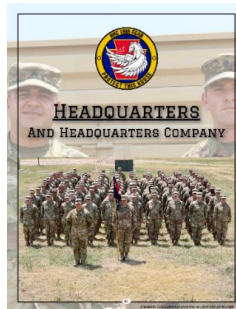
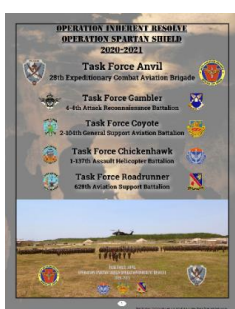
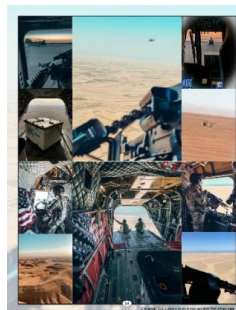
SSG Andrea Whelan
TF Anvil VA
717-609-5598
Signal App

SPONSORED BY TASK FORCE ANVIL SHARP TEAM

Yearbook order deadline extended to April 19!

- 1) Go to commpe.pictavo.com
- 2) Put 95050 in the School ID#

There will not be a future opportunity to order, so act now!





ROADRUNNER REVIEW

Task Force Roadrunner Newsletter



General's Coins



The Deputy Commander for CJTF OIR, MG Ekman, visited 628th ASB and recognized two outstanding Soldiers for their contributions to TF Roadrunner. Both SSG Brown of HSC and SPC Rearick of C Co had the high honor of being coined by the MG (Photos by SPC Zach Wynn)

Minnesotan Soldier Moves Up



A Co. had the honor of promoting CPL Erickson to SGT. SGT Erickson initially deployed with the 34th ECAB but chose to extend her deployment with the 28th. Thank you for your continued dedication to the mission (Photo by SGT Sara Miller)

Happy Birthday This Coming Week To...

PFC Geedy	CPL Anton
SPC Boyle	CPL Montague
SPC Brown, J	CPL Teglas
SPC Srey	SGT Avila-Collazo
SPC Washington, A	SGT Deister

Roadrunner Review Staff

HSC- SPC Zachary Wynn, SGT Zach Mateja
A Co.- SPC Kayla Harley
B Co.- SPC Joyce Avila, SGT Francis Calabro
C Co.- SPC Jason Kopp

Get To Know Your Soldiers...



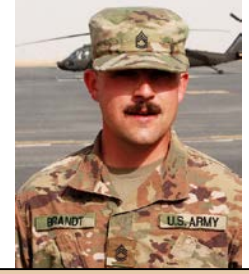
Name/Rank: SPC Heather Sharper
Hometown: Fort Lauderdale, FL
Age: 32
MOS: 42 A (Human Resources Specialist)

Civilian Occupation: US Navy Logistics Manager

Goal After Deployment: Buy a house and complete her master's degree in Supply Chain Management

Favorite childhood movie: Finding Nemo

Promotions



Joining the NCO Corps from B Co. are (pictured left to right) SGT Dodimead and SGT Lyons. In addition, three Soldiers were promoted to SSG: SSG Byers, SSG Calabro, and SSG Roman. B Co. also had the honor of promoting a new SFC: SFC Brandt.



Newly promoted from HSC were CPL Hunsberger (left) and SSG Rebar (right).



VA Benefits with MSG Putnam

Attached is a flyer for those who have questions about VA benefits. Even though it is for the Pittsburgh area (VISN 4) they can help anyone.

Highlights:

- * Many will be eligible for 5 years free healthcare through the VA (not to be confused with TriCare). It is easy to enroll. Soldiers can either visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/> or complete a 1010EZ form and send it to their nearest VA Healthcare facility. Soldiers will need their DD214 to enroll.
- * If anyone has questions about filing a service connected claim they can email the VA on the attached flyer, when they return home contact their local Veterans Affairs Office <https://www.dmvpa.gov/veteransaffairs/Documents/Outreach-and-Reintegration/countyprint.pdf> or they can ask MSG Putnam.
- * Soldiers do not necessarily need an LOD to file a VA service connected claim. It is beneficial to Veterans to visit the VA within one year after they return home. That way injuries can be documented.
- * Many will be eligible now for the VA Home Loan once they return. <https://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/>
- * Veterans are encouraged to record their DD 214 at their local courthouse. This way if they ever lose it they will be able to receive a certified copy for free. All DD214's are kept confidential and only the Veteran is able to request it.

Coined from Brigade



Brigade CDR COL Lloyd and CW3 Roberts recognize 4 soldiers and reward them with coins.

SGT Sievers and SPC Schmeck were recognized for their outstanding work ethic and dedication to the HSC 628th Motor Pool.

CW2 Nunez and SPC Troche of B Co were recognized for their efforts supporting the Brigade TMDE and Calibration program. (Photo by SPC Zach Wynn)

Have a story, Soldier to highlight, cool photo, or something else for the newsletter? Reach out to your company level Roadrunner Review staff member or email 628thPublicAffairs@gmail.com



Find Out More About the VA Benefits You Earned

Set up a Virtual Appointment with a Pittsburgh VA Benefits Counselor

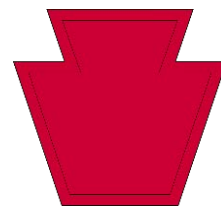
Contact Us at 412-360-2832 or PCU.VBAPIT@VA.GOV





1-137 AHB UPDATE

Facebook: @taskforcechickenhawk



Motto:

"Rule #1: Don't talk about Flight Club."

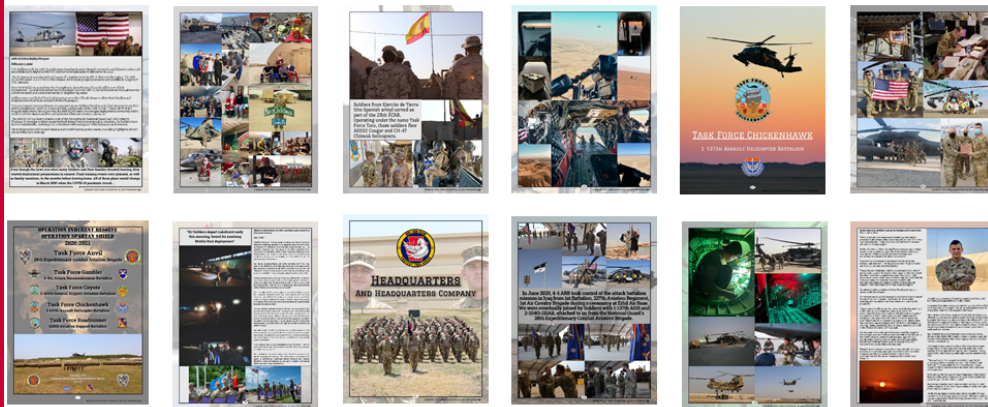
04.06.2021

Issue XXXII

Yearbook order deadline extended to April 19!

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There will not be a future opportunity to order, so act now!



Remember to order your deployment yearbook before April 19th!

Families- consider buying one as a gift for your Soldier, so they can remember their sacrifices during a unique time in world history.

Soldiers- consider buying one for your loved ones, so they can see more about what we did here and to show them appreciation for their support.

There will not be a future opportunity to order, so act quickly!



To all the friends and family of the 1-137 AHB, we would like to thank you for your continued support. As always, we remind all soldiers, friends, and family to stay in touch with loved ones. For many soldiers, this can be a challenging time, being away from friends and family.

Announcement: It is strongly recommended that families not send mail to soldiers past March 17, 2021.

If you have not already please follow the Task Force Chickenhawk Facebook Group. This is where you can stay up to date with the 1-137 AHB. Please, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out through the group for more information.

We look forward to keeping you updated on all things Task Force Chickenhawk!



PEGASUS POST

Checking in with HHC

April 6, 2021



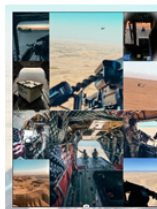
Congratulations to all our Soldiers who were patched, promoted or awarded this month!

Reminders

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The Wile E. Weekly ^{-ish}

On the Trail with Task Force Coyote, 2-104th GSAB

April 5th, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 8



ABOVE: Jesse Hansen of HHC S6 Section becomes Staff Sergeant Jesse Hansen, as he is pinned by 1LT Jean Beljour, his section OIC.

Photo by SFC Shaffer

more promotions on page 2

April 7th is World Health Day

"Health is worth more than learning."

- Thomas Jefferson



BELOW: MAJ Nathan Smith inspects the feed tray of the MK-19 weapon system during preliminary marksmanship instruction prior to a familiarization fire range.

Photo by SSgt Brien Kennedy



Join your company's FRG Facebook group, the battalion Facebook group, and the brigade page for updates.



LEFT: CPT Michael Rant, Commander of HHC 2-104 GSAB pins Sergeant First Class rank onto the chest of Matthew Cademartori. SFC Cademartori is a member of HHC's S3 Operations Section.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer



RIGHT: CPT Anthony Gianforti promotes Dragana Pesikan to Staff Sergeant.
Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer



LEFT: HHC S6 Section poses in front of the Battalion T-Wall with CPT Michael Rant, the Company Commander. All told, the section is the most promoted section in the company with 4 newly minted NCOs and 1 freshly promoted Staff NCO. Pictured from left to right are SGT Taltoan, SGT Velazquez, SGT Nguyen, CPL Purnell, CPT Rant, 1LT Beljour, SFC Grove, and SSG Hansen. SGT Thaon is also newly promoted, but not pictured.

Photo by SFC Justin Shaffer

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Soldier Spotlight: SPC Devin Young, F Co 2-104 GSAB

Story by MSG Jonathan Means

SPC Young is an Air Traffic Controller in the Oklahoma National Guard. After volunteering to deploy with the 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade from the Pennsylvania National Guard he was part of a four Soldier team assigned to provide air traffic services. During that time, he continued to develop as a controller in his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS.) He contributed to the continued safety of the Army Aviation assets operating the area by applying the orders of the FAA JO 7110.65 and the regulations of the AR 95-2. The orders and regulations proved useful, but the vantage point lacked clear view and proper depth perception of the multiple landing surfaces. The limited line-of-sight control instructions ending with “at your own risk” transferring the risk of landing solely back to the pilot in command.



Pictured from left to right, SGT Mason, SPC Young, SPC Myers, MSG Means

SPC Young and the members of the tactical terminal control system improved the area from which they controlled traffic. During this project we learned how many shovels of sand does it take to fill HESCOs¹. After many shovels of dirt filled HESCO after HESCO the project nears completion. Many risks evolve during these projects. The one we combat frequently and is relatable globally is the morale.

Each Soldier ultimately finds away to drive on. SPC Young resumed working on his college classes. He worked diligently to stay ahead on his academic work, he was mitigating the risk of the next internet outage. His strategy was to stay ahead, so that when the internet was out at the deadline, he already submitted his work. That strategy paid off as he never missed a deadline earning a 4.0 for that semester. I believe that opens the question even more, how did this Soldier stay motivated as he worked traffic during his shift, shoveled dirt outside his shift, and continued to excel in his academic quest?



He wrote music. SPC Young actively practices a few hobbies to recharge. He composes music on the laptop, plays a trumpet, and roller blades. Sometimes they are at the same time as a court jester might ride a unicycle and juggle. Recently he has been attending karaoke night at the local MWR and shared a creation on FACEBOOK². As you listen to the audio, read the lyrics, and imagine a famous singer in the genre performing it live for a post-pandemic crowd cheering wildly celebrating the gray sky's turned blue.

Links to other content

1. <https://taskandpurpose.com/mandatory-fun/how-much-sand-to-fill-hesco-tower/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/100000096862023/videos/4211926352153885/>

Join your company's FRG Facebook group, the battalion Facebook group, and the brigade page for updates.

Honoring Lieutenant Michael Murphy

BELOW: Soldiers pose for before and after photos while taking part in the "Hero WOD" (Workout of the Day), the "Murph Challenge." The workout was designed to pay homage to the sacrifice of Lieutenant Michael Murphy, a Navy Seal, who gave the last full measure of devotion in Afghanistan on June 28th, 2005. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the first member of the Navy to receive it since the Vietnam War.

Photos by 1SG Steward Wenino



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