



# SPARTAN SENTINEL

TASK FORCE SPARTAN | December 2018 | Volume 2, Issue 1

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A Qatari soldier takes up a position behind a bush during bunker clearing training with U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, as part of Exercise Eastern Action 19 in Um Hattah, Qatar, Nov. 7, 2018. Like the bunker clearing training, Eastern Action combines the two militaries to communicate and develop trust between the two forces. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. James Lefty Larimer, with illustration by 1st. Eric Jungels)

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## TASK FORCE SPARTAN

### Commanding General

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell

### Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hjelmstad

### Major Units

34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team  
65th Field Artillery Brigade  
20th Engineer Brigade  
35th Combat Aviation Brigade  
31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade  
242nd Ordnance Battalion

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## 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

[@TheRedBulls](#)   
[@TheRedBulls34id](#) 

This publication is produced by the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, lead element of Task Force Spartan.

Task Force Spartan is a unique, multi-component organization, made up of active Army and National Guard units, rounded out by U.S. Army Reserve support units.

Through Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), Task Force Spartan maintains a U.S. military posture in Southwest Asia sufficient to strengthen our defense relationships and build partner capacity.

Units supporting OSS provide capabilities such as aviation, logistics, force protection and information management, and facilitate theater security cooperation activities such as key leader engagements, joint exercises, conferences, symposia and humanitarian assistance/disaster response planning.

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# SHARED UNDERSTANDING

## WE CAUGHT SANTA WEARING COMBAT BOOTS

### A MESSAGE FROM COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JOSEPH HJELMSTAD

It was Christmas day, 2003, at Fort Stewart, Georgia, where we were conducting pre-mobilization training. There was a ruckus at the far end of the cinder-block building we called home.

It wasn't Santa.

It turns out it was two Soldiers who had just returned from a Christmas day shopping adventure. Most businesses had been closed, but there were treasures to be found. They found a store with a live tree and some leftover ornaments for the bargain price of \$15.

"It's Christmas," exclaimed one of the shoppers. "And I thought we should have a tree!"

As others gathered around to see what was happening an excitement started to build. No tree stand — no problem! The Soldiers tied the tree top to the open rafters, and it stood up just fine.

I'm Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Hjelmstad, Task Force Spartan senior enlisted

leader and 34th Red Bull Infantry Division command sergeant major, and that's just the beginning of the story of my first holiday away from family.

The memory of that day is still fresh in my mind all these years later. Whether this is your first Christmas away from home, or one of many, I want to thank you for your hard work and sacrifices while serving our great country. Being away from family during the holidays is not easy, but it can still be a special time for you and your loved ones.

Take time to connect with those back home: holiday cards, letters, and phone or video calls can all be extra special with some thought and a little creativity. My niece and nephew love opening presents for me while I'm away. And since none of the clothes intended for me will fit them, the gifts are generally waiting for me when I get home.

This is an especially important time to ensure we are looking out for each other; reach out to others so they are not alone during this season of celebration.

Take advantage of planned events, or organize a unit event. Sharing your holiday traditions is a fun way to build community and celebrate with our deployed family.

I am honored to serve with you, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet some of you during my travels. I look forward to meeting more of you, getting to know your units and working with you over the next year.

Finally, I want to wish you and your family back home a blessed, merry Christmas and happy holiday season. 🇺🇸



**Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hjelmstad**

**Senior Enlisted Leader**  
Task Force Spartan



Soldiers of the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait in support of Task Force Spartan, gather around a Christmas tree crafted out of cardboard and spray paint and decorated by Master Sgt. Daniel Manlick, a unit supply non-commissioned officer. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker)



# Like Clockwork

**Task Force Spartan Soldiers — training diligently, expanding partnerships — a source of power, stability in the Middle East**

**By 1st Lt. Eric Jungels**  
34th Red Bull Infantry Division

In the same way that the perpetual rotor is the driving force behind the precision, efficiency and relentless power of a luxury watch, the Soldier remains the impetus of the U.S. Army's capabilities and achievements. In the Middle East, each Soldier assigned to Task Force Spartan is contributing to the goals and output of a larger operation.

"Our Soldiers are competent in their craft and professional in their actions," said Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell, Task Force Spartan commander. "We've entrusted them with planning and executing a number of exercises,



U.S. Army Spc. James Downs, an indirect fire infantryman assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, conducts a mortar live fire training exercise as part of Exercise Eastern Action 19 at Al-Ghalail Range in Qatar, Nov. 11, 2018. For Eastern Action, the Soldiers of the 2-198 AR of the Mississippi Guard combined with the Qatar rapid reaction force to develop communication and coordination between the two militaries. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)



training events, seminars and engagements designed to strengthen defense relationships and enhance military readiness with our partners in the region.”

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Brady, of the 65th Field Artillery Brigade (the unit nicknamed “America’s Thunder”), is a Task Force Soldier participating in those exercises.

“Recently, we took part in Black Oryx, an annual live-fire exercise, alongside members of the Jordan Armed Forces,” Brady said. “During the exercise, Jordanians fired rounds from the HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System), and we worked to provide Jordan’s 29th Royal HIMARS Battalion with an excellent opportunity to rehearse fire missions, simulate training, and synchronize communication through their fire direction control center.”

Brady and his fellow 65th FAB Soldiers make up one of five Task Force Spartan brigades providing fire support and maneuver capability to the region while training alongside numerous partner nations to improve interoperability and cohesion.

#### A Mission in the Middle East

Task Force Spartan increases military readiness and capability, in order to maintain regional stability and expand regional partnerships. Additionally, the task force and coalition partners conduct security operations within the region,

enabling land forces to quickly build combat power through multiple mobility options in times of crisis.

“My unit is taking part in collaborative training with members of our partner nations,” Brady said. “We’re focused on training that increases our lethality at the operational level, and it’s exciting to know that we’re part of something much bigger.”

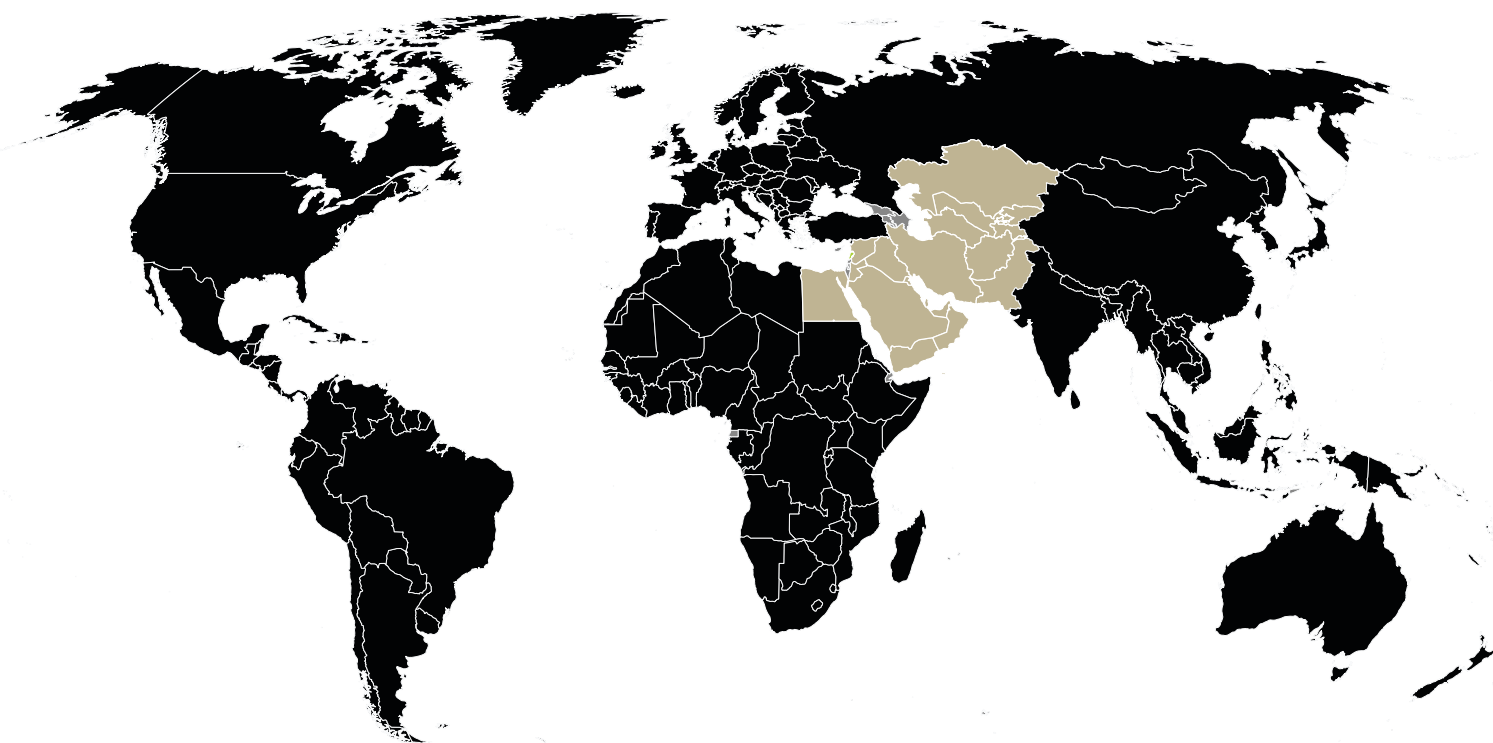
Recently, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, led by Corell, assumed command of Task Force Spartan, providing mission command of Operation Spartan Shield. With oversight from U.S. Army Central, Operation Spartan Shield contributes to the mission of U.S. Central Command, which builds cooperation among nations throughout the Middle East – responding to crises, deterring and defeating threats and increasing regional stability.

“U.S. Soldiers assigned to Task Force Spartan are working side by side with regional partners to increase cohesion, promote security and achieve mutual goals,” Corell said. “Through strong partnerships, and with integrated military capabilities, we will be ready to act together quickly in times of crisis to ensure the continued security and sovereignty of our partner nations.”

While Brady takes part in exercises in Jordan, other task force Soldiers are currently operating and taking part in training exercises and partnership-building engagements across eight other countries in the region.



Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Brady, 65th Field Artillery Brigade (right), and Wakil Mahmoud Khalaf Al-Qudah, Jordan Armed Forces, take part in a noncommissioned officer seminar held at the Jordan Armed Forces Field Artillery Schoolhouse in Amman, Jordan, Aug. 23, 2018. The seminar focused on the NCO Corps heritage of both units. (Courtesy photo)



### U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility

U.S. Central Command is one of 10 Department of Defense combatant commands. Each command has a geographic or functional mission that provides command and control of military forces in peace and war. CENTCOM is a geographic combatant command with an area of responsibility that stretches from Northeast Africa across the Middle East to Central and South Asia.

In charge of U.S. military activities in one of the most volatile and contested regions in the world, CENTCOM leads operations across 20 countries, through six time zones. This area is populated by more than 550 million people and contains at least 22 different ethnic groups speaking more than 18 languages.

Like all combatant commands, CENTCOM constitutes a headquarters element without any military units permanently assigned to it. CENTCOM operates with Component Commands – one for each of the U.S. armed services – along with a joint special operations component and a number of subordinate joint task forces. U.S. Army Central, which operates as CENTCOM’s Army component and is providing oversight for Operation Spartan Shield, also serves as the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.





Fire erupts from the barrel of an M1 Abrams main battle tank, as Soldiers of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, engage targets during the Bright Star 18 combined arms live-fire exercise at Mohamed Naguib Military Base in Egypt. The tanks were part of the combined Egyptian, Greek and U.S. armed forces, which demonstrated their ability to work together in the field. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler)

### Synchronized capability development

As the U.S. Army builds a more modern, lethal, agile and resilient force, the organization's continued development and enhanced capabilities benefit partner nations. Task Force Spartan coordinates intentional transfer of knowledge and skills between regional cohorts. Synchronization across the task force — at all echelons — and with multiple partner nations provides collective growth in trust, readiness, compatibility and lethality.

Maintaining a lethal force to deter regional aggression is a common task force objective among exercises scheduled to kick off in December 2018.

During Iron Union 9, U.S. troops will take part in a field training exercise hosted by United Arab Emirates (UAE) land forces. The exercise, which will convene mechanized infantry assets from participating countries, is set to culminate with a combined arms live-fire exercise. Participating forces will operate as a single combined task force, designed to integrate the partner nations and test interoperability.

Simultaneously, Desert Observer 2 will be taking place. This field training exercise, which will include Kuwait and U.S. land forces, is designed to test and refine defense contingency plans. The combined arms live-fire exercise will incorporate armored

units conducting a variety of tactical movements and activities, with a focus on compatibility and unified efforts in operations.

Further, the UAE Artillery Corps, in cooperation with the 65th FAB and the UAE Field Artillery School, will conduct a targeting simulation exercise to build intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance capacity. Goals of the exercise — coined Operation Thunder Cloud — include strengthening interoperability and developing tactics, techniques and procedures for future employment. Throughout the exercise, U.S. and partner forces will simulate counterfire operations to neutralize enemy indirect fire; use joint strike assets to disrupt, neutralize and destroy enemy forces; and conduct deliberate, dynamic and emergency targeting in mountainous and urban terrain.

### Deploying unique capabilities

Because military units are not permanently assigned to the Department of Defense's combatant commands, U.S. military units are activated and deployed to lead and support combatant command missions. Such is the case with units mobilized in support of Task Force Spartan.

"We arrived in Kuwait for our Task Force Spartan mission in May, and we hit the ground running," Brady said. "Back



...we will be ready to act together quickly in times of crisis to ensure the continued security and sovereignty of our partner nations.

**Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell**  
Task Force Spartan Commander

Soldiers of the U.S. Army's Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 14th Field Artillery Regiment and the Jordanian Army's 29th Royal HIMARS Battalion load a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) onto a C-17 Globemaster III for a rapid deployment July 23, 2018, at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan during Lion Flight, a bi-lateral live-fire training exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Clingeman)





home in Utah, we train all year round, preparing for a variety of contingencies. If we're not training, we're supporting homeland operations or supporting emergency and disaster response efforts."

Currently, 70 percent of the Soldiers that make up Task Force Spartan, including Brady and his team, hail from National Guard units, which are uniquely suited for the task force's mission. National Guard Soldiers bring a distinctive set of competencies to the area of operations — in warfighting, developing partnerships and protecting the homeland. Guard units also carry a wealth of leadership and management skills.

At home, the Task Force's lead element, the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, provides training and readiness oversight for 10 National Guard brigades, with a total of more than 23,000 Soldiers across Minnesota, Iowa and seven other states. Building, strengthening and supporting organizational and operational capacity of military units — through leadership, command, control, and in-depth staff analysis — is nothing new for the Red Bulls.

Through these core competencies and through tested leadership and mission command skills, Task Force Spartan Soldiers continue to execute operations with a collective vision outlined by Corell.

"Task Force Spartan operates as an agile force — successful in deterring regional aggression," Corell said. "We accomplish this by increasing collective lethality and unit readiness with our partners throughout the region. We will continue to expand upon existing military capability with our partners through engagements, exercises and operations focused on increasing theater security options. I'm proud of our Soldiers and everything they're doing to add value to our mission and improve as individuals as we provide mission command to Operation Spartan Shield."

As Brady and the rest of America's Thunder prepare for future exercises, Corell and other leaders have confidence that Task Force Spartan Soldiers continue to offer a constant, stable source of power, and they remain committed to precision, power and performance in the Middle East. 🇺🇸



Clockwise, from top left: Sgt. Chandler Morgan, a Soldier with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, covers the area with his team as another team of Soldiers bound to the next position during a combined arms live-fire exercise rehearsal at Mohamed Naguib Military Base in Egypt. The training is part of Exercise Bright Star 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler)

A High Mobility Rocket Artillery System fires an M31 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System during exercise Black Oryx, in Amman, Jordan, Oct. 24, 2018. Black Oryx, an annual bilateral exercise, is designed to strengthen relationships and military capabilities between the U.S. and Jordan Armed Forces. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jeffrey D. Belnap)

Four M2A3 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles are illuminated by the rising sun in a motor pool located at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, July 19, 2018. (U.S. Army photo illustration by Spc. Jovi Prevot)



Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, talks with members of the Mississippi National Guard's 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 2018. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill)

# AMONG WARFIGHTERS, READINESS BEGETS

# LETHALITY

By Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

ALI AL SALEM AIR BASE, Kuwait — The men and women of Det. 2, 385th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron found new perspective on their contribution to national security here recently.

Unit members said a visit by Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, gave them new insight into how their deployment here builds readiness and increases lethality, directly supporting the National Defense Strategy.

"I felt re-motivated," said Air Force Senior Airman Martin Escobar, 23, a combat systems specialist whose work includes maintaining aircraft navigation systems, radar, radio and electronic countermeasures. "It reinforces why we're here: My job — if I don't do it correctly, that plane doesn't get off the ground."

If the C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft the 385th maintains doesn't fly on schedule, people and cargo are not able to move around the U.S. Central Command theater of operations.

And that matters if, for example, you're the unit in an austere location depending on one of those C-130s to drop a resupply of Meals Ready to Eat on the eve of Thanksgiving.

Gen. Lengyel and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, senior enlisted advisor to the chief, visited the 385th and numerous other National Guard units during a Thanksgiving swing through Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan to thank troops for their service and help them understand how each service member plays a vital role in supporting the national strategy.

"It's very grounding to see our leaders out here supporting us, to find out our work doesn't go unnoticed," said Air Force Senior Airman Victoria Stapledon, 22, a crew chief.

"It shows they care," said Air Force Capt. Andrew Adduchio, 36, detachment commander. "They know we're out here and want to be with us on the holiday."

During a weeklong trip, Lengyel saw a fraction of the 30,000 Army National Guard and Air National Guard members who were contributing to the Joint Force around the world and in the homeland through the holiday.

"There is nowhere I would rather be and no one I would rather be with," said Lengyel, spending his third consecutive Thanksgiving with deployed troops.

Guard members he visited in the three countries are flying or maintaining aircraft; keeping cyber operations running; tapping America's space resources in real time to provide critical support to ongoing operations; performing ground route clearance; providing medical evacuations; defusing bombs; analyzing intelligence; and fulfilling numerous other functions essential to Joint Force success.

"We're part of this awesome operational force — part of the Army, part of the Air Force — out here just doing what America needs us to do," Lengyel told members of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Dozens of members of the 155th gathered in a horseshoe on the desert sand in front of their vehicles to hear the National Guard's most senior general officer explain how their Mississippi National Guard unit and their deployment contribute to the big picture of Defense Department priorities.

"These are all great pieces of equipment," Lengyel said, gesturing to the 155th's hulking sand-colored vehicles. "But they're not the most important thing. The most important thing is you — you are the most important weapon system we've got. We can't run any of these machines without trained, disciplined professionals. It takes every one of you."

"This is lethality. This is what Secretary Mattis talks about when he says, 'I need you to be ready, I need you to be out there, to do your job.' You build readiness here: When you go home, you'll be better than when you got here."

Lengyel and Kepner met with service members in groups and one-on-one, in part to hear comments on all aspects of the troops' deployment experiences, including the mobilization process, training and equipment and ongoing support.

"The only reason we exist is to support our Soldiers and Airmen and the National Guard in their states and territories so they can come here and perform our nation's work outstandingly," Kepner said.

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“ YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT WEAPON SYSTEM WE'VE GOT. WE CAN'T RUN ANY OF THESE MACHINES WITHOUT TRAINED, DISCIPLINED PROFESSIONALS. IT TAKES EVERY ONE OF YOU.



# THE INJUNCTION

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
TASK FORCE SPARTAN JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

## ETHICS & THE USE OF NON-TACTICAL VEHICLES

Non-tactical vehicles (NTVs) are all around us. Several among us have personally been issued an NTV or have access to use one. However, what every authorized user must understand is that the use of these vehicles is highly regulated by Congress in the Joint Ethics Regulation, and also by every level of our chain of command up to U.S. Army Central. The rule to remember is that NTVs are strictly to be used only for official purposes.

Here are some examples of how we can and can't use the vehicles:

**Authorized uses:** Delivery of official documents, attendance at official meetings, escort missions for visiting officials for the command, transportation of personnel to local airports, official ceremonies, official installation-sponsored athletic events, MWR group trips approved by the appropriate MWR authority, patient therapeutic programs, and chaplain programs.

**Unauthorized uses:** Personal errands, traveling to eating establishments, shopping areas, health clubs, barber shops, or any commercial establishment that is designed to cater to the personal business of the individual unless there is an official purpose to travel to these types of establishments.

Misuse of an NTV is punitive under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 92.

If you have additional questions about your event and the use of your NTV, talk to your chain of command.

I RETURN TO THE PENTAGON HEARTENED BY WHAT WE SAW IN KUWAIT, IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. THE PROFESSIONALISM, CALIBER AND ATTITUDE OF OUR TROOPS IS THE BEST I'VE SEEN IN MY CAREER.

”

*continued from page 13*

“To be able to do my job in support of a real-world mission is incredible,” said Air Force Senior Airman Josh McMarrow, 23, a crew chief. “I couldn’t ask for a more worthy cause to be in support of.”

The Guard members Lengyel and Kepner visited with are as diverse as America. Some were full-time troops back home. The majority were traditional Guard members, balancing civilian lives with military responsibilities.

Stapledon, McMarrow and Escobar, the three senior airmen

with the 385th, each were drawn to the National Guard for different reasons. Stapledon said she liked the benefits offered with service and the ability to serve much of the time right in her home community. McMarrow wanted to pursue college at the same time as serving. Escobar felt in a rut in school and was drawn by the idea of doing more with his life.

“You have so many different kinds of people in the Guard,” Escobar said. “That’s what I love.”

The three have just begun their military careers and for each this was their first deployment.

Over at the C-12 Regional Flight Center, Chief Warrant Officer Steve Knight had lost count of how many times he had deployed. At the end of a 39-year military career, the 60-year-old successfully sought an extension beyond normal retirement age so he could deploy as unit commander.

“We only see a little piece of the pie,” Knight said. When senior leaders visit, they not only assess ongoing operations, ascertain morale and address any issues, but they also offer troops in the field a clearer perspective on their roles. “They’re looking at the whole bakery,” Knight said.

“I return to the Pentagon heartened by what we saw in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan,” Lengyel said. “The professionalism, caliber and attitude of our troops is the best I’ve seen in my career. It is humbling and uplifting to see their spirit for service to our nation, their eagerness to contribute to something bigger than any of us are individually and their willingness to sacrifice to accomplish that.

“We’re also extraordinarily lucky to have supportive families, friends, communities and employers — we couldn’t do what we do without them.”



Pfc. Miles Cunningham of C. Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, takes aim down his Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight to engage his target during weapon familiarization and marksmanship training as part of Exercise Eastern Action, Nov. 10, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler)





Do you have photos you would like us to consider for inclusion in the **Spartan Sentinel**? Send your high-resolution pictures and photo captions to [eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil).



On and off-duty Soldiers of many units stationed at Camp Arifjan, in Kuwait, including the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, assist with flood response efforts on the base, November 15, 2018. Historic rainfall and flooding in Kuwait tormented the region in November. As the desert ground struggled to absorb rain water, storms persisted. In one 24-hour period, Kuwait received more rainfall than the country experiences in a typical year. Roads, including dozens of major highways, and airport flight lines in Kuwait closed, leaving many travelers stranded. Red Bull Soldiers, who are stationed at Camp Arifjan while deployed in support of Task Force Spartan, worked around the clock to mitigate the water's effects and to protect the health and welfare of service members on the base. Flash flooding throughout the camp had led to various difficulties, including standing water in living quarters, collapsed walking paths, and some facility closures. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Carroll)



Below, firefighter Driton Ademi, right, watches as Fire Lieutenant Gary Gulapa, left, with Area Support Group - Kuwait Fire Department station 6, pours water from his boots after clearing a clogged drainpipe at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, November 17, 2018. The pipe will allow rainwater to continue flowing away from camp. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Carroll)



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, and Qatari soldiers share best practices before conducting bunker clearing training as part of Exercise Eastern Action 19, Nov. 7, 2018. Exercise Eastern Action is designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships, promote regional security, and improve interoperability.



SPARTAN  
SNAPSHOTS





# SPARTAN SNAPSHOTS

UM HATTAH, Qatar – U.S. Army and Qatari Emiri Land Forces soldiers fire Javelin shoulder-fired anti-tank missiles during a combined arms live fire exercise as part of Exercise Eastern Action 19 at Al-Ghalail Range in Qatar, Nov. 14, 2018. The U.S. Soldiers, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, combined with the Qatar rapid reaction force to build trust and compatibility through the two-week exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)

# PRIVATE BOKER

COMICS by Pfc. Ali-Cat Larson



### SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

Pfc. Ali-Cat Larson's comic follows the experiences, adventures and silliness of Pfc. Boker. Share your ideas for **Private Boker!** Send comic concepts to [eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil).

# THE COMMUNIQUÉ

TASK FORCE SPARTAN  
CYBERSECURITY  
UPDATE

## PROTECT YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS, PROTECT THE MISSION: BANISH NETWORK SECURITY VIOLATIONS

By Maj. Peter Kapelanski  
34th Red Bull Infantry Division

The fight to banish Network Security Violations from our networks never stops. The elimination of violations remains a priority of Maj. Gen. Benjamin Corell, commander of Task Force Spartan, as he explains in *Command Policy 2019-27, Engagement to Eliminate Network Security Violations*.

These violations unnecessarily increase the risk to our mission and our forces, because they could aid the adversary to bypass security mechanisms designed to protect our information and information systems from unauthorized disclosure, corruption, or destruction.

For example, classified information leaked onto unclassified networks is more vulnerable to interception and compromise. Secure networks have additional security protection.

It's important to realize that personal cell phones, USB devices and other portable electronic devices may harbor dormant malware, unknown to the owner. If those devices are plugged into a government computer they could spread malware or provide a path for an attacker to compromise the network.

The overwhelming majority of security violations are completely preventable, if Soldiers exercise proper caution with classified information and do not connect unauthorized devices to government computers or networks. The best way to reduce the negative impact of security incidents is to prevent incidents from happening in the first place. We, the cyber defenders of Task Force Spartan, need the help of all task force Soldiers to do that. Regular users are the first line of defense!

You can prevent incidents by being disciplined and attentive to how you operate on your computer. Remember, "STOP and THINK." Know the classification of information and attachments before you scan or email, and keep phones and other USB devices to a minimum in work areas, and out of secure areas entirely. Never connect personal devices to government computers. Remember your Cyber Awareness Training, and promote cybersecurity awareness within your team.

**For more information, or to report a possible incident, contact the Information Assurance Officer in your S6/G6 section via SVOIP or SIPR email, or contact [usarmy.arifjan.usarcent.list.tfs-g6-ia@mail.smil.mil](mailto:usarmy.arifjan.usarcent.list.tfs-g6-ia@mail.smil.mil).**





# EXERCISE EASTERN ACTION 19

By **Spc. Jovi Prevot**  
155th Armored Brigade Combat Team

UM HATTAH, Qatar – Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, and Qatar Emiri Land Forces participated in Exercise Eastern Action 19, Nov. 4, 2018. Exercise Eastern Action is a long-running training exercise between U.S. and Qatari forces that demonstrates our commitment to long-term stability in the region.

Twenty years after the first Exercise Eastern Action, it has evolved from a small command post exercise into a combined field training exercise that benefits senior leaders and junior Soldiers alike.

“What’s unique about Eastern Action 19 is that it is the first time that we – the American forces – have brought over heavy equipment; normally it is a command post exercise that just brings soldiers and goes over planning,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Cooksey, commander of 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment.

The sun rises above an M2A3 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle during Exercise Eastern Action 19 at Al-Ghalail Range in Qatar, Nov. 11, 2018. The Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor Regiment, Task Force Spartan, staged in the darkness in preparation to execute a combined arms live fire exercise with their Qatar rapid reaction force. (U.S. Army National Guard photo illustration by Spc. Jovi Prevot)





The 155th ABCT continues to enhance regional stability through partnership. Recently, 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment teamed up with the Kuwait Land Forces Institute to conduct a Basic Officer Leaders Course for nearly 70 lieutenants. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams)

More than 250 Soldiers — half U.S., and half Qatari — formed multifaceted maneuver companies to maximize the training.

“This year we brought reconnaissance vehicles, infantry fighting vehicles and we brought a mechanized mortar section along with all the ground forces needed to do a field training exercise,” Cooksey said. “It really opened the door to a new phase of Eastern Action.”

Each section trained individually with their partners as well as taking part in a combined arms live fire exercise.

“Training for the event encompassed scouts, snipers, engineers, infantry, and armor units working together to understand each country’s equipment and tactics. The event culminated with a final Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise with all of these elements working together to simulate destroying an enemy,” said Maj. Aaron Oelschlager, a training exercise planner assigned to 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan.

Training like this not only increases readiness for the soldiers, it also strengthens partnerships.

The Mississippians were focused on making the most of the training.

“We do this so that we have the ability to fight with our host nations, these are our allies - our partners,” Cooksey said. “These exercises go beyond just building friendship capacity; they are actually building lethality between our two forces so that if we were ever needed to fight alongside of them — we have the interoperability we need to be a deadly force,” he said.

“Armor is lethal, infantry is lethal, but you combine those two and you’ve got almost an unstoppable force,” Cooksey said. “We had the Qatari tanks combined with our infantry and it was a very, very lethal fighting force.”



Brig. Gen. Michael D. Wickman, right, Deputy Commanding General – Operations for the 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, discusses the details of the combined arms live fire exercise with Maj. Gen. Mohammed Al-Ghanim, commander of the Qatar Emiri Land Forces, during Exercise Eastern Action 19 on Nov. 14, 2018. The CALFEX was the culmination event of the exercise, and was visited by senior officers from Qatar, U.S., Italy, and Turkey. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler)



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Spartan, took to the range to conduct training and marksmanship drills on several different weapon systems during Exercise Eastern Action 19. The Soldiers and officers of the 2-198 AR of the Mississippi National Guard utilized the M249 and M240 bravo machine gun, M4 carbine, M320 grenade launcher, and designated marksman rifle, to continue to develop their coordination and skills as part of the exercise. (U.S. Army photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler)

# DEEP DIVE

## TASK FORCE SPARTAN SOLDIER BECOMES A MASTER DIVER

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler  
28th Infantry Division

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – A Task Force Spartan Soldier became the first member of the Camp Arifjan Dive Club to become a Master Scuba Diver, on October 25, 2018.

“To achieve master diver, you have to be certified as a rescue diver and you have to have five PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) specialties and a minimum of 50 logged dives,” said 1st Lt. Matthew Powers, Fire Support Officer for the FIRES cell, 28th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, and a Painted Post, New York, native.

Above, 1st Lt. Matthew Powers, Fire Support Officer for the FIRES cell, 28th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, signals that he is ‘ok’, while diving with Camp Arifjan dive club in Kuwait. Powers recently received his certification from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors after accomplishing the required classes, dives, and specialties. (U.S. Army courtesy photo) At right, Powers discusses meeting notes with members of the Camp Arifjan Dive Club, during a meeting on Oct. 25, 2018 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Powers, also the president of the club, assists new members with joining the club and helps organize the club’s weekly dives. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Keeler)

Powers was presented the certificate for the qualification from Maj. Scott Rummings, Explosive Ordnance Officer with the 28th ID, also a PADI master diver.

“The PADI Master Scuba Diver rating is the highest nonprofessional rating in the PADI system and it places you in an elite group of respected divers who have earned this rating through both significant experience and scuba training,” said Rummings. “Fewer than two percent of divers ever achieve this rating.”

The achievement is all the more impressive, considering Powers was able to fit certification dives into his limited free time while here in Kuwait. For Powers to achieve this level of certification it took a number of qualifications first, said Rummings: log 50 dives; open water diver, advanced water diver, and rescue diver certified; and become a Project AWARE specialist, Project AWARE Coral Reef Conservation diver, boat driver, enriched air diver, and deep diver.

Over the past eight-and-a-half months, Powers has come a long way, he said. He started as an uncertified diver, and now has achieved his status as a Master diver through a mixture of book learning and dive requirements.

“Every one of the certifications has a book portion, and most of the certification have an actual diving portion too,” Powers said. “There are some specialties you can take without diving, like your ‘project AWARE’ courses. They’re all bookwork that are based around conservation and environmental conservation, and that type of stuff.”

Powers is the president of the Camp Arifjan Dive Club, an organization created in 2016, he said. The club is comprised of 150 to 200 active members, and about 600 members that

float in and out of country. They meet weekly at Camp Arifjan, and it is through the club that uncertified divers – like he was – are given the opportunity to learn and get certified as divers.

“We did all our work through the ‘AJ’ – Arifjan – Dive Club. All the training was through a local resort. They were the certifying agency, or certifying shop, for most of the instruction that we did – but we organized all the training through AJ Dive Club,” Powers said. “Scott [Rummings] will usually talk an instructional piece, or something along those lines, to try and help further dive education a little bit.”

For Powers, getting certified was something that he wanted to achieve but was always questionable whether he would have enough time to complete all the certifications and steps. Eight months goes quickly when days, weeks, and months are filled with other important tasks being on the division staff.

Part of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Powers is a volunteer firefighter back in Painted Post, New York, and he looks forward to using this new certification to continue to help his community.

“I plan on taking this forward and trying to get on one of the county dive teams and go that route with public safety type efforts as well,” he said. “I enjoy everything that I do with the fire department, so I figure this is something else that I can add to help my community with then, why not?”

The dive club is one of many activities that Camp Arifjan offers service members with a chance to learn a new skill, take a class, or more. For Powers, the club and the opportunity to dive was something that he and his friends cherished.

“I really do enjoy [diving]. Every weekend it is what we looked forward to – it really is a great time,” Powers said. 🐬



# SPARTAN NOTES

## HAVE A MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE SPARTAN?

Send information you'd like considered for inclusion in the **Spartan Sentinel** to [eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil](mailto:eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil).



# E4I

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR INFLUENCERS



## Be aware of your surroundings

Remember to be aware of your surroundings when talking about work.

You should not be talking about anything work related on the bus, in the chow hall, or throughout the PX.

Most of us work in a secret environment. Don't forget that! If you're not sure if you can talk about something, don't! 🚫

**If you have any OPSEC questions or concerns, email Capt. Jodine Pfaff, Task Force Spartan OPSEC Program Manager, at [jodine.l.pfaff.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jodine.l.pfaff.mil@mail.mil).**

## OPERATIONS SECURITY

TASK FORCE SPARTAN

## Inspector General

TASK FORCE SPARTAN

## A Message About Counseling

The Army Techniques Publication 6-22.1 outlines counseling as the process leaders use to review subordinate performance and potential. Counseling subordinates enables them to be better prepared for current and future responsibilities. Leaders are required to counsel their Soldiers at prescribed times (initial and quarterly), but should also counsel if they foresee any positive or negative personnel actions in the subordinate's future. This creates a paper trail that supports a leader's future decision-making.

There are four primary types of counseling: developmental, event-orientated, performance and professional growth.

Recent trends have shown that the counseling process is not being utilized as intended. This affects Soldiers at every level of the Command. Task Force Spartan leaders need to ensure that subordinates are given proper, timely counseling. A leader should counsel before taking extreme negative or positive action, unless regulation states otherwise. This allows the Soldier the chance to correct the behavior, if negative, or be empowered and build upon it, if positive. Without counseling, Soldiers may not understand what is expected of them beyond implied or perceived tasks. Leaders need to be specific when establishing objectives and standards, and be sure to state specific tasks required of the subordinate. 🚫

## “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let Earth receive her king!”

The classic Christmas hymn that nearly all of us sing each December proclaims that joy will pervade the hearts of those who rejoice in the coming of the savior. But for so many, it is a seasonal and shallow joy that comes and goes with the Christmas season.

Joy is not just the lack of suffering - a topic we often don't care to discuss. So much of our lives are committed to not seeing or hearing of suffering. We quickly change the channel when we see suffering on a TV commercial, because frankly, we prefer to live in an illusory world where we are fine, the people that we know are fine, and that altogether, things are fine.

Jesus said that His followers would experience suffering in this lifetime but that one day all suffering would end, and it's in this hope that believers find joy every day of the year.

As God's people, we are called to a certain kind of joy. Not the joy of the Vikings making the playoffs or the joy of seeing the first streetsweeper in the spring - those are fleeting influencers

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Buddy Winn  
34th Red Bull Infantry Division

of our mood like a pay raise or surf and turf night at the chow hall.

It's not a seasonal joy - the kind that won't sustain you when the credit card statement comes in January or when the doldrums of winter enter their third (or fourth, or fifth) month.

Godly joy is an attitude that God's people adopt because of their hope in God's love and His promises, and not a mood that comes from temporary circumstances.

Be encouraged: this time of year is about the message of good news that brings great joy! You can choose joy to anticipate your future redemption. This truth will change everything about your life and enhance your ability to bring hope to those you lead. 🚫

To receive E4I on a weekly basis, send an email to [encouragementforinfluencers@gmail.com](mailto:encouragementforinfluencers@gmail.com)

E4I  
ENCOURAGEMENT FOR INFLUENCERS

**“If you are a leader, you should never forget that everyone needs encouragement. And everyone who receives it — young or old, successful or less-than-successful, unknown or famous — is changed by it.”**

– John Maxwell







# SPARTAN SENTINEL

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