



SPARTAN SENTINEL

TASK FORCE SPARTAN | February 2019 | Volume 2, Issue 3

OWN THE NIGHT

INSIDE

Exercise Inferno Creek 'enhances military readiness' in Oman

PAGE 4

Military Millionaires: TSP offers investing opportunity, benefits

PAGE 18

U.S., Kuwaiti artillery forces light up the night during bilateral live-fire exercise

PAGE 22

ON THE COVER



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the Utah National Guard's 65th Field Artillery Brigade, and soldiers from the Kuwait Land Force fire their High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and BM-30 Smerch rocket systems, respectively, during a joint live-fire exercise, Jan. 8, 2019, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The U.S. and Kuwaiti forces train together frequently to maintain a high level of combat readiness and to maintain effective communication between the two forces. (U.S. Army photo illustration by Sgt. James Lefty Larimer, with illustration by 1st Lt. Eric Jungels)

The Spartan Sentinel is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Spartan Sentinel are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. 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.

All content within this publication is free of copyright and available for public distribution. Attribution is appreciated.

For high-resolution photos and video, and for more updates about missions, activities and events of Task Force Spartan, or any supporting units, visit us online at the following locations:

dvidshub.net/unit/TFSpartan
[facebook.com/USArmyCentral](https://www.facebook.com/USArmyCentral)
[facebook.com/TFSpartan](https://www.facebook.com/TFSpartan)
[facebook.com/TheRedBulls](https://www.facebook.com/TheRedBulls)
[facebook.com/155ABCT](https://www.facebook.com/155ABCT)
[facebook.com/18thfabrigade](https://www.facebook.com/18thfabrigade)
[facebook.com/The20thEngineerBrigade](https://www.facebook.com/The20thEngineerBrigade)
[facebook.com/35thCAB](https://www.facebook.com/35thCAB)
[facebook.com/31stAirDefenseArtilleryBrigade](https://www.facebook.com/31stAirDefenseArtilleryBrigade)
[facebook.com/69ADABDE/](https://www.facebook.com/69ADABDE/)
[facebook.com/242dordbn](https://www.facebook.com/242dordbn)

Task Force Spartan Public Affairs Office
 Camp Arifjan, Kuwait | DSN: 318.480.0858

SHARED UNDERSTANDING

RE-STACK THE DECK

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF

How often do you report for duty to find out that what you thought you were going to work on that day has now changed? We are living and serving in a dynamic environment and what was on top of your list yesterday may not be the same the next day, or even hours later. In the life of a chief of staff this is a constant occurrence and likely happens to you as well.

While we are all working within the priorities of our commanders at all levels, there is friction and change in the execution of tasks to meet and stay on those priorities. You can't always control how and when the changes come in but you can control how you choose to react and adapt to change.

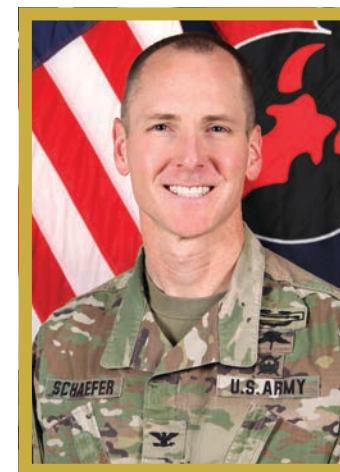
First of all, you need to know the commander's priorities, so when a

new report, email or task lands in your rucksack you can assess where it falls on your to-do list. I liken this to continually re-stacking a deck of cards. Every time I take a phone call, email, report or engage with commanders and staff I'm assessing where that interaction falls in the stack of priorities. Is this my new #1 task? Does it need to be done today, or maybe just this week? In a dynamic environment we all need to work on skills to quickly assess the task and then re-stack the deck so we're remaining focused on the correct priorities of work.

While you're re-stacking the deck and focusing on priorities of work, don't forget to insert activities and time to care for yourself, mentally, physically and spiritually. If you don't maintain yourself as an effective weapon system

then the whole organization can bear the costs.

Work on improving your ability to re-stack the deck at your level and in mentoring those around you. Developing this skill will help to increase your resiliency for the work in front of you and make you a more effective member of the team. 🇺🇸



Col. Simon L. Schaefer

Chief of Staff
 Task Force Spartan

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS AND ARTICLES

Contributions to the **Spartan Sentinel** are encouraged. Send high-resolution photos, art, news and feature stories to eric.p.jungels.mil@mail.mil.



@TFSpartan

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
 18th Field Artillery Brigade
 20th Engineer Brigade
 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade
 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment
 242nd Ordnance Battalion
 158th Military Engagement Team



34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION

@TheRedBulls
 @TheRedBulls34id

SPARTAN SENTINEL

Public Affairs Officer
 Maj. David Adams

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
 1st Lt. Eric Jungels

Division Public Affairs Team
 Sgt. 1st Class Ben Houtkooper
 Sgt. Bill Boecker
 Sgt. Linsey Williams
 Spc. Samantha Petersen





A soldier from the Royal Army of Oman readies his position for cover fire as a part of team movement drills through a wadi in Rabkoot, Oman, Jan. 28, 2019. 'Wadi' translates to 'valley' from Arabic to English. The U.S. Army and the Royal Army of Oman spent days in a wadi system conducting team, squad, and platoon maneuvers during exercise Inferno Creek 19. The bilateral exercise is designed to strengthen relations between the two militaries. It is an opportunity for both militaries to build tactical proficiency and gain shared understanding of each other's forces and support long-term regional stability. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Linsey Williams)

THUMRAIT, Oman — Just 80 kilometers from where the waves of the Indian Ocean crash onto the shore is a rocky desert outpost in Rabkoot, Oman. For a few weeks annually, U.S. and Omani Soldiers train there, side-by-side, gaining shared understanding of each other's tactics, techniques and procedures. Exercise Inferno Creek 19 is one exercise of many taking place in Southwest Asia designed to strengthen defense relationships and build partner capacity.

Task Force Spartan, a multi-component organization that supports operations in the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, regularly participates in exercises with partner nations in the region. In the last year alone, Task

Force Spartan Soldiers have worked with troops from the Gulf countries of Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Egypt, Jordan and others. They are currently focused on training with their Omani partners.

"This is the eighth month of our deployment. We've been able to train with our Jordanian partners, local partner forces in Syria as well as the Kuwaiti Land Forces," said U.S. Army Capt. Charles Woods, commander of Mississippi National Guard's Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Armored Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team. "For our guys, it's a great opportunity to see how the Omanis work differently than other countries."



U.S. Army Capt. Charles Woods, commander of Mississippi National Guard's C. Company, 2nd Battalion (Combined Arms), 198th Armored Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, tracks the mock battle with his counterparts as Omani and American Soldiers participate in an assault Jan. 30, 2019, during exercise Inferno Creek 19. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Linsey Williams)

FORGED IN FIRE

U.S., OMAN PARTNER FOR INFERNO CREEK 19

By Sgt. Linsey Williams
34th Red Bull Infantry Division





Back in the offices of Thumrait Air Base, battalion staff from both armies coordinate military decision-making processes and design the training plan that will lead to a culminating live-fire exercise. Junior Soldiers participating in the exercise continue to build cohesion and readiness by spending hours at the range firing their weapons and performing dismounted maneuvers at the company level and below.

“For this mission we just ran, we were the support by fire element,” Spc. William McBride explained after a live assault run-through. “It was a blast. We ran two gun teams: an Omani team and an American team. We worked really well together; when we [ran out of] ammo, we were able to use some of their rounds, and it just worked beautifully.”

“I think it’s important that we’re ambassadors for the U.S. and that they know they can work with Soldiers; that we’re approachable; that they know some of our [tactics, techniques and procedures] — how we operate; and that they’re comfortable if they ever need to work with us in the future.”

U.S. Army Capt. Charles Woods

Commander of C. Company, 2nd Battalion (Combined Arms), 198th Armored Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team



(Above) From left, U.S. Army Capt. Blanca Frazier, 1st Lt. Mustafa Saif Al Mamari of the Royal Army of Oman, Capt. Ashley Williams and Capt. Carmetta Maupin review a map during their military decision-making planning meeting in Thumrait, Oman during exercise Inferno Creek 19, Jan. 23, 2019. (Right) A squad of American Soldiers pulls security at a landing zone during an air assault tactics rehearsal in Rabkoot, Oman, Jan. 27, 2019. The U.S. Army and the Royal Army of Oman conducted side-by-side training during exercise Inferno Creek 19. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Sgt. Linsey Williams)



Omani soldiers signal that the “bird” is landing for a simulated medical evacuation during a joint assault rehearsal at a training area in Rabkoot, Oman, Jan. 30, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Linsey Williams)



Exercises like Inferno Creek enhance military readiness in the region, increasing responsiveness and building strong and productive relationships with partners and allies.

“I think it’s important that we’re ambassadors for the U.S. and that they know they can work with Soldiers,” Woods said, speaking of the Omani troops. “That we’re approachable; that they know some of our [tactics, techniques and procedures]; how we operate; and that they’re comfortable if they ever need to work with us in the future. Either in a bilateral exercise, a multilateral exercise or in combat – that they’d be doing that [alongside] us.”

Under command and control of the Minnesota National Guard’s 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan

and U.S. CENTCOM continue the momentum of the past year, further collaborating on plans for more multi-lateral exercises in the region.

“Being able to have that experience under our belt is going to help us further down the road if we deploy,” said McBride. “We’ll know how to handle language barriers and working with a different culture and be able to slip into that role a little more smoothly than we would otherwise.”

Exercise Inferno Creek 19 is a recurring exercise designed to strengthen the relationship between the U.S. military and the Royal Army of Oman. It is an opportunity for both countries to build tactical proficiency in critical mission areas, to gain shared understanding and to support long-term regional stability. 🇺🇸



Omani soldiers execute a squad-level assault exercise in Rabkoot, Oman, Jan. 24, 2019. U.S. and Omani troops trained with force-on-force tactics to include opposition forces and simulation munitions during the exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Linsey Williams)



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.



U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Marsh, an infantryman assigned to the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion (Combined Arms), 137th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, performs dry fire drills prior to an aerial sniper exercise Jan. 29, 2019, at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Marsh is a senior sniper deployed in support of Task Force Spartan. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Jovi Prevot)

View and download this image and more high-resolution photos on the Task Force Spartan DVIDS page!

dvidshub.net/unit/TFSpartan



A squad of Omani troops kneels in a ready position before tactically boarding an NH-90 helicopter during load and air assault tactics training Jan. 27, 2019, in Rabkoot, Oman. The U.S. Army and the Royal Army of Oman, along with the Royal Air Force of Oman, conducted side-by-side training during exercise Inferno Creek 19. The bilateral exercise, which supports long-term regional stability, is designed to strengthen relations between the armies and is an opportunity for both militaries to build tactical proficiency and gain shared understanding of each other's forces. (Below) An Omani officer demonstrates hand signals used for squad-level maneuvers Jan. 24, 2019, during exercise Inferno Creek 19 in Rabkoot, Oman. Mississippi National Guard's C. Company, 2nd Battalion (Combined Arms), 198th Armored Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which is deployed in support of Task Force Spartan, participated in the exercise. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Spc. Linsey Williams)



(Above) Task Force Spartan Soldiers assigned to the Kansas National Guard's 2nd Battalion (Combined Arms), 137th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, take part in an aerial sniper training exercise at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on Jan. 29, 2019. The training familiarizes snipers with the effects of bullet drop when firing from different altitudes. The Soldiers fired at targets while their aerial platform moved through the air at various speeds. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Samantha Petersen) (Below) As flight crews from the Kansas National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Assault Helicopter Battalion, provided lift capability for the training, sniper teams used verbal and non-verbal communication techniques to make on-the-spot firing adjustments. Spotters assisting the snipers used radio communication with the air crew to monitor and account for wind speeds, which can affect how the snipers adjust and utilize their weapons. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker)





U.S. Airmen of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron remove ordnance from a building Jan. 9, 2019, during the 4th annual Global Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Competition in Al Sulaiybiya, Kuwait. The event enhances cooperation between Kuwaiti and U.S. EOD forces. Additionally, as another opportunity for training and team building, the competition supports the goal of strengthening joint-service and multinational, interoperable EOD teams throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Experts from the 705th Ordnance Company, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and the Kuwait Ministries of the Interior and Defense participated in the competition. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Samantha Petersen) (Opposite page, above) U.S. Army Sgt. Chris Chamberlin, a team member for the 705th Ordnance Company (EOD), races to move simulated explosive ordnance during a timed event Jan. 10, 2019. (Opposite page, below) U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ryan Gallion, Task Force Hellhound EOD commander, poses for a photo with Maj. Gen. Shukri A. Alnajjar, of the Kuwait Special Forces, after their Soldiers took part in the EOD competition Jan. 10, 2019. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Sgt. Bill Boecker)





Soldiers supporting Task Force Spartan had a chance to ensure man's best friend is getting training too. Flight crews from the Minnesota National Guard's C. Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion, conducted helicopter familiarization training with military working dogs Jan. 21, 2019, at Udairi Landing Zone, Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (U.S. Army National Guard photos by Sgt. Emily Finn)

SPARTAN
SNAPSHOTS

BE READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Every Soldier deployed to U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility in support of Task Force Spartan is considered to be at least at a moderate risk of isolation (being kidnapped or taken hostage, unexpected mass transit diversions, or simply getting lost in a foreign country). While traveling, such as when moving between posts on official duty or when taking part in off-duty tourism activities, chances of becoming isolated increase.

You can increase your chances of being recovered, in the event you become isolated, by doing three simple things prior to leaving your unit and duty station:

- 1** **Ensure your Isolated Personnel Report, or ISOPREP, file is current.** Your ISOPREP file contains information that allows personnel recovery teams to validate your identity.
- 2** **Review the weekly SPINS (SPeial INSTRUCTIONS), which are published by U.S. Air Force Central.** SPINS are coded communication instructions, including challenge and passwords, brevity words for various activities and radio frequencies, that can help isolated personnel make contact and communicate with personnel recovery teams.
- 3** **Make a basic evasion plan of action.** An evasion plan outlines the actions you will take should you become isolated. It also assists recovery teams by letting them know what things they can look for to aid in your recovery.

If you have questions or concerns related to ISOPREP or SPINS, contact Sgt. 1st Class Matt Hordyk or Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chris Kelly at matthew.c.hordyk.mil@mail.mil, christopher.b.kelly4.mil@mail.mil or (DSN) 318-480-2900.



Spc. Emmanuel Johnson, a signal support systems specialist with the Minnesota National Guard's C. Company, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, saves a portion of his income and recently began investing in the Thrift Savings Plan. Johnson, who is originally from Robbinsdale, Minnesota, is currently deployed to U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility in support of Task Force Spartan. Back home, Johnson is attending college with plans to major in computer networking. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Samantha Petersen, with illustration by 1st Lt. Eric Jungels)

RETIRE RICH

Why **TASK FORCE SPARTAN** Soldiers should take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan



Commentary by 1st Lt. Eric Jungels
34th Red Bull Infantry Division

If you look around your platoon, you may see a bunch of young, motivated Task Force Spartan Soldiers. Perhaps you see rough, lethal warfighters. Maybe you notice a couple gruff, hard-charging squad leaders ready to train and inspire troops.

But, as I move about our area of operations, I see more than Americans brave enough to don camouflage uniforms. I see a bunch of future millionaires.

You read that right.

All of you may be starting from a different place financially, and it may be hard to believe, but it's possible that — one day — each and every one of you could become millionaires.

There are a number of roads to become financially wealthy: you could start and build a business; you could win the lottery or sue the brakes off somebody; and you could sharpen your gold-digging acumen and marry well.

Or, you can take the road most traveled: you can work a job you enjoy, save hard and invest well. According to Thomas Stanley, who wrote *The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy*, only about 20 percent of millionaires inherited their money. The other 80 percent are self-made millionaires who worked for their money and invested it wisely. They're regular people like you and me, but they made the decision to save consistently and invest those savings to generate wealth. They're not special. They simply made the choice to plan and win financially, and I want to encourage you to do the same.

Thrift Savings Plan

Task Force Spartan Soldiers hoping to experience long-term financial wellbeing should be aware of the opportunity and benefits presented by the Thrift Savings Plan — or TSP.

Briefly, the TSP offers flexibility, simplicity and an opportunity to build real wealth.

The TSP program allows you to control and change your investment strategy and decisions to fit your life and evolving financial goals and objectives, and the plan is available to you whether you've decided to remain in the legacy retirement system or you will be moving forward in the new Blended Retirement System.

Investing your money through the TSP, updating contributions and changing your investment allocations can be done quickly and easily.

Finally, you have an opportunity to build real wealth and long-term financial wellbeing by taking advantage of the TSP and all its benefits.

Flexibility

The TSP program allows you to control and change your investment strategy and decisions to fit your personal situation.

Do you plan to only complete your initial enlistment, or have you decided to make a career out of the military? Are you young enough to take more risks in search of bigger investment returns, or are you nearing retirement and preparing to live off of your investment income soon? Have you opted to stay in the legacy retirement system or are you in the new Blended Retirement System?

In each situation, you can tailor investment decisions in the TSP in a way that will make sense for you.

TSP's own investment strategy webpage notes that you can maximize your retirement savings by choosing the strategy, funds and tax treatments that are right for you.

For instance, through the TSP, you can choose two different tax treatments for your investments: a traditional TSP or a Roth TSP. If you want all of the earnings that your investments make to be tax-free when you withdraw the money, you should consider investing in a Roth.

TSP also notes that, as members of the armed forces, we're able to make contributions to the program from tax-exempt pay. That means by choosing to invest through a Roth TSP, you could potentially avoid paying upfront taxes on part of your earnings, those earnings could grow tax-free in investment funds, and — in retirement — those same earnings could be withdrawn tax-free!

Simplicity

Making adjustments to your investment amounts and investing strategy can be done quickly and easily with just a few clicks of a mouse.

Through the main menu in myPay, you can easily start, stop or change your TSP contributions.

If you get a pay raise and want to start investing a little more each month, simply jump on myPay, and increase the percentage of your paycheck that you would like to invest.

Making changes to the funds that you are invested in is quite simple too.

As Forbes.com recently reported, TSP offers participants a selection of five main investment funds and several lifecycle funds, which are made up of a combination of the five main funds. While that may be far fewer investment options than you'd find with the average employer's 401(k) program, the small number of options can be less confusing and it eliminates large investment fees! I encourage you to spend some time reading a little about each fund at TSP.gov, where they give a breakdown of the investment objectives, earnings components, and risk profiles of each of the TSP funds.

Also on TSP.gov, you can log into your personal TSP account and make updates to where your money is invested. Perhaps you're feeling bullish, or positive, about the direction of the global economy. In that case, you may want to move some of your money to the I Fund, where your dollars will be invested in international stocks from more than 20 developed countries around the world.

continued on page 20



Wealth

Finally, the most exciting reason to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan: by taking advantage of the TSP, you have a real opportunity to invest and grow your money, and — over time — compound interest can make you rich.

Like the average millionaire with a good financial plan, little by little, you can build wealth, and contributing to your TSP can be one part of your overall roadmap to retirement.

TSP's fund performance page currently reports that the C Fund has had an average annual return of 10.01 percent since the fund was formed January 29, 1988. The compound interest calculator at Investor.gov will tell you that just \$400 per month, invested at 10.01 percent from age 20 to age 55, will add up to over \$1 million. In fact, you'd have about \$1,525,000. Increase those monthly contributions to \$550, and you'd have over \$2 million!

That's right. Through investing platforms like the Thrift Savings Plan, it's possible to build real wealth and even become a millionaire!

While there are inherent risks in investing your money, and no investment returns are guaranteed, most of the world's wealthiest people — and most of the world's wealthiest Soldiers, for that matter — earned their wealth through consistent and wise investing.

If you are hoping to experience long-term financial wellbeing, you should be aware of the opportunity and many benefits that contributing to the TSP might offer, including flexibility, simplicity and an opportunity to build real wealth.

I want to encourage all Task Force Spartan Soldiers to consider working toward becoming military millionaires! Uncle Sam makes sure you get a paycheck for all your sacrifices and hard work, but it's up to you to also save hard and invest your money.

As you plan and make decisions about your finances and future, don't be afraid to reach out to personal financial management counselors with questions. The Department of Defense offers a number of financial counseling options for you and your family to help plan and control your financial future. Service members can access financial counseling for free through installation programs and Military OneSource at www.militaryonesource.mil.

Happy investing! 🇺🇸

One of the most wide-reaching and significant changes to military pay and benefits over the last 70 years went into effect Jan. 1, 2019, with the implementation of the Uniformed Services Blended Retirement System, known as BRS.

The new system blends aspects of the traditional defined benefit retirement pension system with a defined contribution system of automatic and matching government contributions through the TSP.

All new entrants into the uniformed services will now be enrolled in this new retirement system, which provides retirement savings benefits for the majority of service members, including those who serve fewer than 20 years.

This commentary should not be considered investment advice. It contains the opinion of the author and is meant for informative and entertainment purposes only. With regard to the performance of Thrift Savings Plan funds, past results may not be indicative of future performance. As with any investment, there is risk of loss of principal when funds are invested in the TSP. This Spartan Sentinel commentary does not constitute an offer or solicitation, on behalf of the TSP, to invest in its funds. You must meet certain eligibility requirements, such as being a member of the armed forces or working as a federal employee, in order to participate in the TSP.

References:

- Annual Returns. (n.d.). Retrieved February 5, 2019, from <https://www.tsp.gov/InvestmentFunds/FundPerformance/annualReturns.html>.
- Compound Interest Calculator. (n.d.). Retrieved April 5, 2019, from <https://www.investor.gov/additional-resources/free-financial-planning-tools/compound-interest-calculator>.
- Fund Management. (n.d.). Retrieved February 5, 2019, from <https://www.tsp.gov/InvestmentFunds/FundsOverview>.
- Horrell, K. (2015, January 05). How To Update Your TSP Elections. Retrieved February 5, 2019, from <https://www.military.com/paycheck-chronicles/2015/01/05/update-tsp-elections>.
- Maximize Your Retirement Savings: Tax Advantages. (n.d.). Retrieved February 5, 2019, from <https://www.tsp.gov/PlanningTools/InvestmentStrategy/retirementsavings/taxAdvantages.html>.
- Stanley, T. J., & Danko, W. D. (2000). The millionaire next door: The surprising secrets of America's wealthy. New York: Pocket Books. doi: <https://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0810/7-millionaire-myths.aspx>.
- Storjohann, M. B. (2018, January 11). What You Don't Know (But Should) About Your TSP. Retrieved April February 5, 2019, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/marybethstorjohann/2018/01/09/what-you-dont-know-but-should-about-your-thrift-savings-plan-tsp/>.



Spc. Justin Kapaun, a signal systems support specialist for the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, along with his wife, Danielle, and daughter, Kinsley, live in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. Justin, who is currently deployed in support of Task Force Spartan, assists in managing and maintaining systems and terminal devices that allow Soldiers and leaders to communicate throughout U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. The Kapauns believe that saving money is important to their family's financial security and wellbeing, and they have established long-term investment accounts with hopes to retire early. (courtesy photo)

Ready, aim...

Task Force Spartan Soldiers and artillerymen from the Kuwait Land Force line up 10 rocket systems and light up the night sky during a joint live-fire exercise, Jan. 8, 2019, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. (U.S. Army photo illustration by Sgt. James Lefty Larimer)

US, KUWAITI LAND FORCES TRAIN ON ROCKET SYSTEMS

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

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the Utah National Guard's 65th Field Artillery Brigade, and artillerymen from the 22nd and 23rd Battalions of the Kuwait Land Force, fired rocket systems in a bilateral live-fire exercise Jan. 8, 2019, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The 65th FAB, firing High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, and the KLF artillery battalions, which employ BM-30 Smerch rocket systems, had fired together in the past; however, the joint exercise was the first time the units had ever lined up 10 rocket systems in this particular configuration.

"This is something I've never seen before," said Capt. Jonathon Call, 65th FAB liaison officer.

Call described the rocket system setup as incredibly lethal and a quintessential example of the working relationship between Kuwaiti and U.S. Soldiers.

U.S. and Kuwaiti forces train together frequently to maintain a high level of combat readiness and to maintain and increase effective communication between the two forces. Sharing, refining and improving defense tactics and operating procedures remains a priority for the partner nations.

The 65th FAB, which transferred its role to the 18th Field Artillery Brigade in a transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 18, 2019, was deployed to U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility in support of Task Force Spartan, which

increases military readiness and capability, 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. 🇺🇸

U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the Utah National Guard's 65th Field Artillery Brigade fire their High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) during the day portion of a joint live-fire exercise with the Kuwait Land Force, Jan. 8, 2019, near Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The HIMARS is a full-spectrum, combat-proven, all-weather, lethal and responsive, precision-strike weapon system. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Bill Boecker)





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.

AVOIDING ATTACK

Use Digital Signatures to Protect Yourself and Others from Phishing Attempts and Other Email Threats

By Sgt. 1st Class Patrick O'Daniel
34th Red Bull Infantry Division

THE COMMUNIQUE TASK FORCE SPARTAN
CYBERSECURITY UPDATE



Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords, operational plans and credit card details, by posing as a trusted party like a bank, IT administrator, or human resources manager. It's a form of social engineering.

It's 2019, so it's likely you've heard of phishing. The majority of us are aware that phishing threats exist. Unfortunately, we're still not very good at identifying them. A 2015 survey by McAfee found that 97 percent of consumers were unable to correctly identify phishing emails. That's a big problem, considering that up to 150 million phishing emails are sent every day, according to the Anti-Phishing Working Group.

At the same time, the popularity and perceived validity of online, electronic communications have increased to the point where they are considered fully equivalent to traditional paper communications. Think about how many emails you send and receive every week and about the sensitive information you exchange by email. It's more important than ever that we ensure the authenticity and overall security of the communication process. One method to help with this is the use of digital signatures.

What are digital signatures, and how do they increase security?

Digital signatures are the electronic equivalent of stamped seals on paper documents. Digital signature systems employ a complex mathematical process to generate an "electronic fingerprint" and apply it to a document or email. A corresponding process on the receiver's computer checks the fingerprint, verifying that no changes have been made, no

matter how small, since the document was signed. A digital signature differs from an email signature block. Email signature blocks contain information about a sender, but they are quite easy for an attacker to fake (just copy and paste!). Email signature blocks provide convenient contact information but no security. Digital signatures, however, provide unforgeable proof of authenticity.

Email is one of our most commonly used means of military communication, so we definitely need to protect it. The Common Access Card (CAC) and SIPR token you have been issued contain digital secret keys that form the nucleus of the unforgeable digital signatures. These keys integrate with our enterprise email systems on both unclassified and classified networks. Proper use of these tools can keep our email secure and defeat phishing attempts against the U.S. military, by simply enabling Soldiers to verify who actually sent a message (and that the message has not been altered in transit).

Army policy requires that all emails which contain attachments or links must be digitally signed by the sender. But digital signatures only work if you are diligent about verifying the digital signatures of emails you receive. Look for the small, red medal icon and the "Signed By" line beneath the recipient names in your Outlook client. Emails without these marks are potentially suspect. If you think you may have received a phishing email, notify your local S6/G6 team, and continue practicing good cybersecurity to protect yourself from phishing and other email-based threats.

To learn how to configure Outlook to send and verify digitally signed email, visit https://idhq.swa.army.mil/G6/Public%20Document%20Library/CND_slides_34-40.



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.



Have you seen your Critical Information List?

OPERATIONS SECURITY
TASK FORCE SPARTAN

Do you know your unit's Critical Information List? The CIL is information about friendly activities, intentions, capabilities, or limitations an adversary seeks in order to gain a military, political, diplomatic, economic or technological advantage. Critical information may include, but is not limited to, military deployment schedules, internal organizational information, and details of security measures, etc. Your unit's CIL should be posted around your work area. If you don't know it, ask your unit's OPSEC officer.

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.

Inspector General

TASK FORCE SPARTAN

Understand the Policy on Army Corrective Training

Corrective training is an effective tool all Army leaders can use to correct minor deficiencies during the course of their daily duties. When used correctly and fairly, corrective training allows everyone — from the most junior Army leader to the most seasoned general officer — to help teach their fellow Soldiers “what right looks like” and to correct deficiencies. However, company commanders must ensure that all corrective training conducted in their unit is in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 600-20, chapters two and four.

One of the most effective administrative corrective measures is extra corrective training or instruction (including on the spot corrections). For example, if a Soldier appears in an improper uniform, a leader may require them to correct it immediately; if a Soldier fails to properly maintain their accommodations, a leader can require they immediately clean them. If a leader believes a simple on-the-spot correction will not adequately address a deficiency, they may require the Soldier to undergo additional corrective training directly related to the shortcoming. A good example of this is directing the Soldier

to give a class on a topic in which they have a shortcoming.

Soldiers can be required to attend corrective training and take corrective actions after normal duty hours, but such activities should only continue until the leader believes the Soldier has overcome the training deficiency or has adequately applied the appropriate corrective measures. Leaders at all levels must ensure that they and their subordinates do not use corrective training in an oppressive manner (e.g., 30 minutes of intense physical training after final formation is not considered appropriate corrective training for littering in the company area) or to evade the procedural safeguards regarding imposing non-judicial punishment.

Commanders who encourage or tolerate improper corrective training are in violation of AR 600-20 and can be subject to allegations of regulatory misconduct. Company commanders should have an active plan to monitor corrective training within their company and make it very clear to both their subordinate leaders and Soldiers that improper corrective training will not be tolerated. 🇺🇸

E4I

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR INFLUENCERS



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

Following this year's Super Bowl, I spoke with many Los Angeles Rams fans who were enduring the agony of defeat. It reminded me of the old TV show, *Wide World of Sports*, which used to open with this statement: “Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sport; the thrill of victory, and the agony of defeat.”

For those who've never seen that video segment, the words “agony of defeat” were spoken just as a ski jumper tumbled off of the ramp before plunging down and into a barrier.

That skier's name is Vinko Bogataj, whose home was Slovenia. He was competing as a Yugoslavian entrant at the International Ski Flying Championships in Germany on March 21, 1970. As it began to snow harder that day, the ski jump was getting slippery and increasing the speed of the jumpers. As Vinko began his descent, he realized he was going too fast and determined that he would jump past the safe sloping landing area and land on the level ground, which could have been fatal. In an effort to slow his speed, he lost control and tumbled.

Vinko had no idea that his fall was recorded and used for years on TV until he was invited to the 25th anniversary of *Wide World of Sports* and saw the opening montage. He was even more shocked when Muhammed Ali asked him for an autograph.

Vinko Bogataj's “agony of defeat” that day on the ski slope made him famous.

Be encouraged: All of us are faced with setbacks and complications and sometimes even defeats. If we are to endure and thrive through this season of deployment, we must remember to be like Vinko when hardship shows up: Get back up, train some more and make the jump. In addition, we must assist others who have fallen. And when you stick the landing, I hope that no one has recorded your defeat, like Vinko, and plays it for all the world to see!



To receive E4I on a weekly basis, send an email to 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

Above, Vinko Bogataj's famous 1970 ski-jump crash was captured on film during the International Ski Flying Championships in Germany. The crash was replayed over and over again for many years, along with the words “agony of defeat,” during the introduction montage of the popular television show *Wide World of Sports*. Screen image courtesy of ABC. (U.S. Army Illustration by 1st Lt. Eric Jungels)





SPARTAN SENTINEL

@TFSpartan  