



CAVALIER NEWSLETTER



COMPANY COMMANDER CORNER

Greetings Families and Friends,



We have been settling in with our mission in Poland. As the HHC Company Commander, I could not be more proud of the hard work that each Soldier has been doing to ensure the success of this mission.

The unit engaged in a Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month Program, which is a top priority. Participation was a joint effort between Sexual Assault Response Coordinators across the Task Force and the USO. The USO has been a refuge for many service members during this deployment.

It can be challenging being away from family. As we round out the Month of April, I would be remiss if I did not express my heartfelt gratitude towards the military-connected children as it is the Month of the Military Child. Children of service members, regardless of their age, play a vital part in our community. Their bravery, fearlessness, and resilience are truly inspiring as they navigate the unique challenges of military life and being away from their parent. We want to recognize and ensure that they have the resources available to them to be rooted in the short season of this deployment.

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE LINKS:



<https://www.facebook.com/529thCSSB/>



<https://va.ng.mil/News/Category/21691/529th-combat-sustainment-support-battalion>

Slay the Beast
Captain (CPT) Benjamin Drapeaux
Bulldog-06



LTC Carlos Maldonado promotes three 1LTs to CPTs (CPT Bouadi, CPT Lam, CPT Evers)

Promotions Across the Formation

The 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) proudly promoted three Commissioned Officers from the rank of First Lieutenant (1LT) to the rank of Captain (CPT). Commissioned officers are the managers, problem solvers, key influencers and planners who lead enlisted Soldiers in all situations. Their efforts of continuous hard work and dedication aligns with their leadership capabilities to ensure the success of the mission in Poland.

Chaplain (CPT) Stanley Bouadi leads the Unit Ministry Team as the Battalion Chaplain. CPT Brian Evers is the Assistant Plans and Operations Officer. CPT John Lam is the Communications Officer in Charge. The promotion of officers is a time honored tradition of showing career progression. Climbing through the ranks is important. Being a Captain in the Army offers some of the best and most rewarding moments of an officer's career.



SFC Bundy gives a presentation on Victim Reporting to servicemembers

More Than A Military Policy

The Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program also known as SHARP guides the Army's efforts in the prevention of and response to sexual harassment, sexual assault and associated retaliatory behaviors. The Army SHARP policy ensures effective communications with internal and external stakeholders. There are multiple stakeholders outlined in the policy such as a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) and Commander. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Tera Bundy is the SARC for the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The SARC ensures that appropriate victim response care is given to victims of sexual assault or harassment.

Commanders are responsible for ensuring that the SHARP policy is enforced and that events are regularly scheduled to address the program's mission. SFC Bundy takes this program and his role very seriously as it is an important policy. The Army has zero tolerance for sexual harassment and sexual assault. The effectiveness of the commitment to eliminate acts of sexual assault and harassment starts with reinforcing a positive work environment for service members. The SHARP policy is intertwined with the Army's core values. Soldiers must uphold the Army values and exemplify a unified mindset to combat against sexual harassment and assault.

Cavalier Spotlight



Staff Sergeant (SSG) Keith Zalasar has been volunteering at the USO in Poland as a part of helping with daily operations. The USO improves the daily lives of service members and their families. The USO provides programs, entertainment and services at more than 250 USO locations worldwide. USO centers around the world provide many different versions of the same thing – a place to relax and connect while off duty. We offer free internet connections, a comfortable place to relax, and place to play video games. The USO holds truth to its mission of supporting service members and their families.



Specialist (SPC) Rebecca Downey has diligently been a volunteer with the USO in Poland. She has helped to set up many USO events which are designed to be morale and welfare boosters for troops. SPC Downey received the Bronze Mission Award from the USO.. Soldiers who volunteer at the USO is only a testament to the rewards of seeing the impact that they make on their community around them.

April Birthdays

Brandon Wright
 Brandon Harding
 Rebecca Downey
 Shakira Green
 Ethan Duval

Important Dates

April Fool's Day
 Tax Day
 Eid al-Fitr
 Earth Day
 Passover

Making Earth A Priority

April 22nd marks a special day to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day is a reminder to be conscious of the environment around us. The demonstration of support for environmental protection is a movement that encompasses activating over 192 countries to unify together to safeguard our planet to ensure a brighter future.

You can help with advocate for a healthier environment by committing to advocating awareness of conservation and sustainability. There are many ways that you can contribute on Earth Day. You could plant a tree, volunteer with a community clean-up event, or start recycling. Every little action can help with make the planet a better and cleaner place. Together, we can take action to inspire change and make the world a better place.



SAAPM Proclamation Day

The month of April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) in both civilian and military communities. Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is an opportunity for raising awareness of services available to survivors, abuse prevention presentations, and recomittments to upholding the pursuits of justice for victims of sexual violence. In Poland, the 87th Division Sustainment Support Battalion (DSSB) held a Proclamation Day where the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) stood in unity as Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Darsharee J. Saik and Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Cory D. Wemhoff addressed the Forward Operating Site (FOS) on the Army's 2024 theme "Change through Unity: Empower. Protect. Prevent." for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month from an event put together by Sergeant First Class (SFC) Paulpatrick Teregyo as an effort to join forces with other SARC's across the Task Force in Poland.

This event was a collaborative effort between multiple units and their SARC's. The joint efforts of all service members to take the proclamation ensures that we will stand forward front against sexual violence. The attendanc e of the 529th CSSB service members also included Sergeant First Class (SFC) Tera Bundy, LTC Carlos Maldonado, and CSM David Elliott. The 529th CSSB Command Team strongly believes in the importance of the message from this year's theme of SAAPM. The Mobile USO also provided food, snacks, and games for Soldiers to engage with one another. The partnership with the USO and joint efforts of multiple units coming together to reaffirm their belief in SAAPM's theme is a testament to the Army's strategy to proactively push efforts to end sexual harassment and sexual assault in our ranks.

Family Unity Pushing Through

Captain (CPT) Taekeia Dowling joined the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion for this deployment in Poland for her first deployment. She is an entrepreneur and also a loving mother and wife. As a parent of a three-year-old son, her decision to deploy comes with mixed emotions. She is excited to be able to engage in the mission while maintaining her own business on the home front. It does come with challenges, such as navigating time management and having great organizational skills to navigate the distance and time difference. However, she has flawlessly persevered, accomplishing so much during this short time.

She attests that her success does not come from one solo action but from the unwavering support of her family. Although this is her first deployment away from her family, she is not a stranger to deployment life as her husband is also deployed as a Merchant Seaman. She is thankful that her sister an Active Duty Captain in the Air Force and her brother-in-law a Chief Warrant Officer in the Army are able to care for their son while they are both away.

CPT Dowling has been able to talk with family each day. The engagement of staying connected with family has been a great way to keep her son engaged and know that both parents love him dearly. Her son has accomplished many milestones such as earning a karate white belt with stripes and learning to count to 10 in Korean. Their entire family is excited to see him flourishing and look forward to sharing a long vacation when we return hom from Poland.



More Than A Parent

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Raddell Coleman is not only a parent but also a grandparent. SFC Coleman is not a stranger to the deployment life as this is his third deployment in the Army. He and his wife have six adult children and four young grandchildren. He is proud that his wife is very supportive of his career as she is a Veteran herself. She is very understanding of him being gone and stands in the gap as the rock of the family when he is gone.

SFC Coleman understands that his children are adults now but thinks about his young grandchildren often. He was a proud grandfather to share that his oldest grandchild has been helping the younger grandchildren understand why he is gone. The entire family misses him but is excited to celebrate when he returns home. He sees this deployment as an opportunity to engage with troops and lead others. He also serves as the Equal Opportunity (EO) Representative for the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB). He considers himself to be a fair man both in his role in the company and as a family man. The advice that he has to offer other military families is keep the lines of communication open and to be understanding of both those family members back home and those deployed supporting the mission.



Money Matters

Finiancial Literacy Month and Month of the Military Child brings to thought two worlds that can combine. Below are some resources to help with improving financial literacy and opportunities to save on costs whether it be for activities or college expenses. Improving financial literacy is a jumpstart to smart money management habits.



<https://vnqa.us/virginia-credit-union/>

Virginia Credit Union (VACU) offers membership to Soldiers in the Virginia National Guard. This is one of the benefits of being a service member in teh Virginia National Guard. VACU provides service members with educational seminars, online resources for financial readiness, and one-on-one counseling. VACU is the largest state-chartered credit union in Virginia and services communities all across the commonwealth. This partnership is provided through the Virginia National Guard Association.



<https://va.ng.mil/Programs-Resources/Family-Programs/Youth-Program/>

The mission of Army National Guard (ARNG) Child & Youth Services (CYS) is to promote and sustain the quality of life and resilience of Army National Guard dependent children and youth by providing secure, timely, flexible, high-quality support services and enrichment programs. These are achieved through youth development events, education, outreach, and community partnerships. In addition to this, the CYS assists in the transitions through deployment and reintegration.



<https://www.ourmilitarykids.org/apply/>

While a service member is deployed overseas or activated on a stateside mission with the National Guard or Reserve, Our Military Kids offers grants to pay for extracurricular activities for their children, ages 1-18. These grants can be used to pay for a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports teams, music lessons, tutoring, and summer camp, to help children relieve stress, connect with peers and mentors, and gain lifelong skills while a parent serves our country.

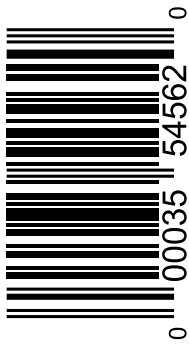


The Virginia National Guard Association scholarship program provides financial assistance directly to member officers, warrant officers and their dependent children and spouses. Scholarships are awarded on a yearly basis, and individuals are encouraged to apply annually. Applications must be submitted by 30 September each year. The annual scholarship application period is from July 1st to September 30th. Any questions should be directed to the Scholarship Committee Chair at scholarship@vnqa.us

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Eid al-Fitr is one of the major holidays celebrated by Muslims. Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr all around the world to mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan. In Poland, many service members were able to join together to commemorate this special celebration. The celebration included community-wide prayer service and meals with friends. The sharing of food with people to celebrate marks the end of the fasting period. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Issa Ibrahim was very appreciative of the support of the command and the Sustainment (S-4) Section for ensuring that there was food available to eat after fasting hours and transportation to participate in the festivities. Although the event was not spent with family, it was filled with community camaraderie. The fellowship on this special day with other service members meant a lot to him.





APRIL 2024



SLAY THE BEAST

