

MAY 2024



# CAVALIER NEWSLETTER



## COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT CORNER

Dear Families and Friends,

As the HHC First Sergeant, I am overflowing with pride for the hard work that each Soldier gives daily. The unwavering dedication of each Soldier to their mission has been truly inspiring. Whether it's their growth in military tactical skills, personal advancements through civilian education, or their volunteer work with various organizations while deployed in Poland, their commitment is remarkable. We've had the privilege of connecting with the communities around us through outreach engagements, and it's been heartwarming to see how our Soldiers interact with the local Polish communities. Getting involved in volunteer opportunities has not only provided a unique change of pace in the mission but has also given our Soldiers a life-changing experience by allowing them to immerse themselves in the local culture of Poland. Our Soldiers always put their best foot forward, proudly wearing their uniforms, knowing they represent the United States Army and their families back home.

Recently, the unit was fortunate to have a visit from Brigadier General (BG) Charles B. Martin Jr. and Virginia Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Irving Reed Jr. to celebrate the Virginia National Guard's 417th birthday was a morale booster. It served as a reminder of the significance of our presence in Poland and meant a lot to our Soldiers to know that they took time out of their busy schedules to visit us. We are deeply grateful for the support of our Virginia National Guard leaders and especially for the unwavering support of our families and friends.

Your support is a source of strength for us and a testament to the strong bonds we share. I want to thank all the spouses and mothers for your support while we are away. We are forever grateful for all you do and recognize that it's not always easy. We understand the challenges that come with our mission, and we are committed to overcoming them together. We will continue to celebrate the wins and bond together as a team.

Slay the Beast,  
Brandon Wright  
Bulldog-07

## SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE LINKS:



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



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



CSM Irving Reed Jr., BG Charles B. Martin Jr., and LTC Carlos Maldonado

### Virginia National Guard Birthday in Poland

The 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) celebrated the 417th birthday of the Virginia National Guard in Poland. The celebration included a visit from the Virginia Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Brigadier General (BG) Charles B. Martin Jr., and Virginia Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Irving Reed Jr., as our distinguished guests of honor. In honor of the celebration, BG Charles B. Martin Jr. and the youngest Soldier, Specialist (SPC) Kylar Ford, did a ceremonious cake-cutting in honor of the Virginia National Guard's birthday.

BG Charles B. Martin Jr. addressed the 529th CSSB, reminding them of the importance of the heritage of the Virginia National Guard and impressing the sense of pride that we all should take in being a part of a militia that has supported missions across many different wars and conflicts. CSM Irving Reed Jr. spoke with Soldiers, expressing the appreciation for all the outstanding accomplishments the 529th CSSB has been doing in Poland. We were honored by their visit to Poland and look forward to seeing them when we return home.



### Who You Going to Call...Dronebusters

During an advanced exercise this month, Soldiers received training on counter-small unmanned aerial systems (C-sUAS). Many Soldiers were familiar with drones but had not encountered counter-drone equipment like the Dronebuster before. Educating Soldiers about threats like this is crucial to ensure they are prepared to respond effectively in any threatening situation.

The counter-drone training includes classroom lessons combined with hands-on practice under the supervision of instructors. This allows participants to engage with the Dronebuster in a real drone scenario on the range. Defense technology systems constantly evolve with new and innovative advancements; we must be ready to engage and deploy these new taking tools ctics if the threat arises.

### Cavalier Spotlights



Private First Class (PFC) Adolfo Aguilar from 541st Transportation Company, was recognized as the Cavalier of the Week for his hard work and dedication.



Cavalier of the Week award was presented to Sergeant (SGT) Jose Marin of the 1221st Transportation Company, Missouri National Guard. SGT Marin was nominated to receive this award by his leadership due to his enthusiasm while performing multiple missions and volunteering in the USO during his off-duty time.



LTC Carlos Maldonado presented Specialist (SPC) Hoi Ming Ng with a 1st Cavalry Division coin for his outstanding efforts of participating in the Bory Run. The Bory Run is a community marathon built to be challenging but scenic activity. SPC Ng persevered in completing this marathon with very little training. This is a prime example of the amazing things that Soldiers from the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion are doing in Poland.

# May Birthdays

Benjamin Drapeaux  
Hoi Ming Ng  
Idalia Reyna  
Alan Chilun Leung

# Important Dates

Mother's Day

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Cinco de Mayo

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Memorial Day

# AANHPI Heritage Month

In May, we reflect on the accomplishments and celebrate the vital roles of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) across our Armed Forces. The observance of AANHPI Heritage Month began when Congress passed a joint congressional resolution in 1978 to highlight the diversity of Soldiers in the Army. Instances of heroism are not always told such as the story involving recent Medal of Honor recipient Specialist Five (SPC5) Dennis Fujii for his heroic actions during the Vietnam War. SPC5 Fujii served honorably during a time when the Army was not as diverse with representation from people from the AANHPI community. We celebrate the remarkable role of the AANHPI community in our nation's history and the many contributions of many dedicated service members, past and present.

**ASIAN AMERICAN  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
PACIFIC ISLANDER  
MONTH**



## Giving Back: Part of the Military Business

Community engagement is essential for any military operation as it demonstrates our commitment to outreach and response when called upon. Task Force Cavalier interacted with local communities across Poland. Soldiers participated in a local festival, providing an Army experience tailored for children in the community. The children had the opportunity to explore a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), try on combat helmets, pretend to use a radio microphone, and simulate driving. The sight of a large military vehicle was not intimidating to them; it seemed familiar. One child even pointed out the resemblance between a coloring book figure and a real-life experience. The adults also showed interest in speaking with service members, posing with the service members for photographs, and expressing gratitude for their presence at the festival.

The events at the festival also showcased equipment from the Polish military. Soldiers found a sense of satisfaction from volunteering at this event as they felt engaged in the opportunity to engage with the local community. The enjoyment of seeing two forces join together at an event is proof of the progress we are making in the community. Our newfound bonds with the Polish communities mirror our dedication to how we engage with local communities in the United States. The Army has a commitment to volunteerism and outreach in the communities we serve in. Our core mission is to nurture a progressive and mutually beneficial partnership between our military, the Polish military, civilian personnel, and the communities we are honored to serve in Poland.

**A Mother's Love**

Regardless of whether it is a biological mother or a maternal figure who raised a person, the one treasure for any child is the person they see as that person they call mom. Moms have different occupations and titles, but the most important title is mom. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Nicole Arbogast is a military mom serving away from her two beautiful children. SFC Arbogast says that her two children are the most important people in her life. She knows that being a mother is not an easy task as it comes with the challenges of knowing that you will make difficult decisions that mold a child's life. She explained that being activated on this deployment was difficult as she quickly answered the call to deploy with the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion with a short suspense timeline. Military families deal with unique situations, such as deployments that force children to be adaptable. Her family's support helps her kids as she is a single mom and this is her first deployment away from both kids. She uses unique ways to stay connected with her kids, —like sending them Toniebox books to listen to her voice read books aloud, creating a way for her children to experience storytelling in a digital age. Military moms are extraordinary as they face the daunting task of being away from their kids. Each May, the United States celebrates Mother's Day to honor the mothers who gave birth to us or those who raised us as their children. Moms are indeed the mother of all heroes.



**Murphing for Memorial Day**

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) David Elliott organized two unofficial Murph Challenges in Poland. The challenges were held at two separate locations which consisted of Soldiers completing: a one-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats, and another one-mile run. The event was a powerful tribute to Memorial Day, symbolizing the physical and mental agility a human can endure in strife but overcome the battle of exhaustion to triumph. The Murph Challenge is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by our military and a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit. The Murph Challenge, combined with the significance of Memorial Day, adds to the vitality of recognizing that Memorial Day holds significant traditions, including the solemn act of laying flowers at service members' resting places and participating in the National Moment of Remembrance. This annual event encourages Americans to pause for one minute at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day to honor and remember those who have died in military service to the United States. Many people use Memorial Day to honor those in their way, but know this holiday is more than just a holiday.





### All Hands Fire and Rescue Training Exercise

The 8th Ordnance Company Firefighters participated in a joint training exercise with the Polish Military Base Firefighters and local Fire and Emergency Services in Poland. The event focused on Fire Evacuation and Rescue Procedures. During the exercise, the 8th Ordnance Company Firefighters displayed their proficiency in emergency response while demonstrating their tactical skills in fire protection operations. The primary task for training events is to provide realistic scenario-based opportunities for service members to practice battle drills and fine tune their military skills. The training exercise included completing tasks such as mass casualty rescue training, vehicle fire evacuation, and proper use of fire extinguishers. The joint training drill was a practical alliance coalition exercise to simulate how three different agencies work together collectively to improve individuals' awareness of fire hazards and educate how to react during evacuation and rescue fire operations.





### Driving to Success

The Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter System (EHETS) trailers are an integral part of military operations, responsible for transporting and recovering heavy goods and military equipment. These massive trailers, pulled by the Heavy Equipment Transport (HET), play a crucial role in the mission in Poland by allowing the transportation of the heaviest tracked vehicles on European roadways. The swift and efficient deployment of mission-critical equipment and logistical supplies relies heavily on the EHETS and the expertise of the Motor Transport Operators, also known as 88Ms in the Army. The 356th Transportation Company places a strong emphasis on safety and continuous training to ensure that their operators are proficient in tie-down procedures, ground guide instruction, trailer hook-up procedures, winching, trailer maneuvering, and operating and driving the EHET. This dedication to advanced safety tactics and in-depth knowledge of EHETS capabilities is essential to the success of missions requiring the transportation of mission-essential supplies.





### Ruck March for Tradition

The military training exercise of conducting a ruck march, better known as rucking, is built to challenge the participant's physical and mental endurance. Rucking is a full body work out as it is walking with weight on your back at a paced speed to reach a target standardized time. The use of the ruck march has practical applications in military training and functional fitness advantages for anyone who values efficiency. The 541st Transportation Company and 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducted a joint 5K ruck march as a physical training together in Poland aiming for meeting the Air Assault standard of a 15 minute 1 mile pace. The important thing to remember about rucking is that it promotes social fitness. People are able to work together to support one another by cheering for each other to keep morale high. Rucking is scalable so everyone can participate and it can be done anywhere.



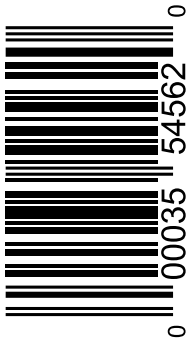
# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Task Force Cavalier Soldiers, accompanied by the Unit Ministry Team, embarked on a poignant visit to Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau to honor and commemorate Yom HaShoah. As they walked through the solemn grounds of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau, the Soldiers were confronted with the haunting remnants of the barb-wired prison camp and the solemn ruins of a crematory. This experience deeply connected them to the historical significance of this site, serving as both a resting place and a poignant symbol to memorialize the tragedy suffered by the Jewish community during the Holocaust.

The purpose of this solemn journey was to pay homage to the memory of the Holocaust victims and to provide an educational experience for the Soldiers. The visit aimed to instill a deep understanding of the powerful symbol that Auschwitz represents, bearing witness to the atrocities committed against European Jews and other marginalized groups by the Nazis. Yom HaShoah holds a deeply poignant significance for the Jewish community and other affected communities, offering a moment for collective remembrance and reflection on the immense loss caused by the Holocaust. This somber occasion serves as a stark reminder of our shared commitment to combatting hatred and working towards a world founded on compassion and justice.







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SLAY THE BEAST

