00:00:00:00 - 00:00:13:17

Perfect. All right. Can you spell your first? Unless they promise a d, a V? I'd be a key or fantastic filmmaker. What's your. What's your position here, sir? I'm the command surgeon and a surgeon. Okay.

00:00:13:21 - 00:00:18:03

So what is the mission of Security Force Assistance Command?

00:00:18:03 - 00:00:26:05

Security Forces Command Deploys Force packages to advise, support, liaise and assess foreign security partners.

00:00:26:05 - 00:00:31:02

Perfect. And why was Security Force Assistance Command stood up?

00:00:31:18 - 00:00:51:10

Initially? Security Force Assistance Command was stood up to train candidates in Afghanistan to teach them how to shoot a case. Since that time, we've morphed into a geographically dispersed re-arm cycle. So each US fab has a geographic combatant commander assigned to an hour. We're focusing on combat operations in the future.

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What is the most impressive thing about security force assistance brigades?

00:00:59:22 - 00:01:19:14

Most impressive thing about the security force. And yeah, the most impressive thing about security force assistance brigades are the caliber of the personnel in the units. They're all highly qualified, highly competent. One, accomplish the mission, and they will be flexible and adaptable to ensure they accomplish that.

00:01:19:14 - 00:01:20:05

Perfect.

00:01:20:10 - 00:01:26:03

You're doing great. What What are the challenges of working with a partner force?

00:01:26:03 - 00:01:47:02

The challenge of working with a partner force depends on the partner force. There's always generally a language barrier. So if we don't speak the same language, communicating is more challenging. They have different beliefs and values systems than we may have. What we traditionally believe as Americans may not be the same value system that they have.

00:01:47:04 - 00:01:56:11

And as advisors, it's important for us to become the advising partner they need and not make them to look like we do.

00:01:56:11 - 00:02:03:08

Excellent. What challenges are unique to an S-band versus the conventional army?

00:02:03:08 - 00:02:37:22

I'd say the the unique challenges for an ash fab are their size one and their geographical dispersion during competition. So medically, for perspective, let's say a maneuver advising, battalion, advising team, they have one P.A. They don't have the surgeon, they don't have the 24 medic strong ambulance squad that can clear casualties from the casualty collection points back to a battalion aid station, which technically we don't actually have in terms of geographical dispersion.

00:02:38:00 - 00:02:51:05

We may have teams across the entire JCC with that one P.A. So that P.A. may be very challenged, if not even possible, to affect a casualty care in another country.

00:02:51:05 - 00:03:01:07

Fabulous. A lot. Can you tell me a little bit about how fabs operate differently during the competition crisis and then conflict

00:03:01:07 - 00:03:11:07

perhaps operate differently from competition through crisis and conflict, But before they deploy in competition, they have to be trained and ready to deploy straight to conflict.

00:03:11:09 - 00:03:34:03

That's the standard to deploy in competition. Their focus is heavy on the assess and the advise. And as things conditions escalate into a crisis, they may start to shift that into more support and liaise. And when full on conflict, it's heavy into support and liaise and little on the advise.

00:03:34:03 - 00:03:40:20

If the US were at war, what capabilities would that bring to the table?

00:03:40:20 - 00:03:55:01

it if wars declared or we progressed in the conflict, that's fabs bring several things to the table. First, we're a we're an inside force. We're already there with our partners because we were there and have those established relationships.

00:03:55:03 - 00:04:18:05

We trust each other. And so we can be the sensors and the eyes and ears for the joint task force that's trying to build combat power and shape that fight. Secondly, because we're there, we can now leverage, you know, joint fires to support our partners as they're fighting, delaying action or defense while the CGT that builds combat power.

00:04:18:07 - 00:04:45:08

Once the CJTF has sufficient combat power because we're there, we can facilitate that forward passage of lines so that the JTF now takes the initiative on the offense and now that's been that's occurred safely and securely. We can work with our partners to clear up bypassed companies, maybe even, you know, battalion minus formations in the rear to facilitate operations.

00:04:45:10 - 00:04:54:05

And at the same time, now we can leverage our partners fires capability to support the offensive actions of the JTF.

00:04:54:05 - 00:05:08:17

Interesting. Okay. I know that's a big point, right? Is what can we do during that period? Right. Let's switch to the actual soldiers. But what would you categorize like what are the characteristics that would make a good ASVAB officer

00:05:08:17 - 00:05:14:15

Good ASVAB officer would demonstrate all the character, all the attributes of a good adviser.

00:05:14:21 - 00:05:34:08

Know I can't quote them off top of my head, but they're trustworthy, they're honest, that build rapport. They are capable of operating in a austere without all information. What's the word I'm looking for, Joe? Yes, they can operate in an ambiguous environment. They're self-starters, they're empathetic, and they're humble leaders. Awesome.

00:05:34:08 - 00:05:39:00

Can you tell me a little bit about the six month, six month, six month rotation?

00:05:39:00 - 00:05:40:21

Because that's pretty unique.

00:05:40:21 - 00:06:05:03

So the re-arm cycle for the fabs has been six months, six months, six months cycle. What we've realized is because there's so many training requirements to get an ASVAB, Liska already out the door for competition that the six months, six months, six months cycle is just too short. So we're actually transitioning to an eight month re-arm cycle.

00:06:05:03 - 00:06:14:21

So this current force package that's out is deploying for seven months in the next force package in on will transition to an eight month free arm cycle,

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serve as a medium, which is what I think Chris was my whole life for the general public. What does that mean? And we don't have to go six months, seven month, eight tour is shorter than conventional army.

00:06:29:14 - 00:06:49:07

Is that correct? What's the difference there? Okay. Well, you know, so I wasn't here. Yeah. So I guess in my mind as the building Scorpio here, you guys deployed and you go back. Why is it different from point in the done this? I don't think far into that. Yeah.

00:06:49:07 - 00:06:57:23

So when I talk about an eight month re cycle, what that means is let's start with the first time you're in fact, you start your foundational training window.

00:06:57:23 - 00:07:27:15

That first eight months is for you to get all the basics. Your combat advisor training course graduation, all your individual certifications, weapons, qualifications, etc.. At that second foundational or collective piece, that second eighth month piece, that's when all the individuals, the units come together as a force package and they do their collective training. So all the things they have to train at the collective, the team company, battalion level to get them validated by the command, to go out the door and deploy.

00:07:27:17 - 00:07:35:17

And that 38 month piece is their employment window and they complete that and they can reset and start over.

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You said this is your has to make it.

00:07:37:16 - 00:07:42:22

So each US fab deploys a force package that consists of two battalion advising teams.

00:07:42:22 - 00:08:10:22

One is always a maneuver advising team One is either the fighters, the engineer, or the sustainment advising team. They don't deploy as a traditional battalion, but they deploy as a force package. So it's always the maneuver advising team, primarily augmented with some logistics teams from fires teams and some engineer teams to round out that force package. And so with the three maneuver advising battalion teams, we can sustain the three term cycle.

00:08:10:22 - 00:08:23:02

So there's always one in foundational training, there's always one in collective training, there's always one employment phase that enables us each fad to be persistently employed throughout each. GC

00:08:23:02 - 00:08:34:03

Yes, excellent. That was really And so I guess that's super interesting. Yeah, Yeah, I'm good at. Thank you. Appreciate it. What are the what are the and this is naturally fascinating.

00:08:34:03 - 00:08:39:00

What are the benefits of the as far as being regionally aligned,

00:08:39:00 - 00:09:01:01

the benefits of the as far as being regionally aligned is we have that persistent presence and partnership. If we were randomly deploying as fabs to different GCs, we never have those relationships built in. It's critical to have those relationships from the tactical level all the way through the strategic level so that when they need help, we can engage rapidly and be responsive to their needs.

00:09:01:13 - 00:09:22:05

Have you have you deployed with this them? I have deployed seven times with Northern for seven times looks OC at times. Well, this would be the OC if you were recruiting somebody to come join as fab going. You tell them

00:09:22:05 - 00:09:31:20

if I was recruiting someone to join. Yes I would say this is one of the greatest broadening assignments they could possibly experience.

00:09:31:22 - 00:10:04:00

The responsibility you have from the advising team level on up through frankly was command is is levels above what you'd experience at a traditional conventional maneuver unit at a team tactical level, you can literally engage at the national strategic level in that host country. At the tactical level, you can have strategic effects. And so, you know, every body that wears this uniform, that wears this patch or this brown beret, we're ambassadors of the United States and ambassadors of the United States military.

00:10:04:00 - 00:10:27:11

And so it's a great opportunity to reflect our nation and advisors there. It's a great opportunity to reflect our nation. It's a great opportunity to represent our nation and improve the capability, capacity of our foreign partners and counter malign influence from our adversaries. Fabulous.

00:10:27:11 - 00:10:31:22

So I'm going to throw out I'm going to throw a tie curveball for you, but for me, it's on the script.

00:10:32:00 - 00:10:47:20

Can you tell me about the beret? Why? Why is it so good that somebody asked that? Is that what you're Lieutenant? Think it's funny because we're the we're the two out of most that word. We find it,

00:10:47:20 - 00:10:57:06

Larry. So he's he he's a former 18 delta, and my previous 13 years have been soft, so. you're so right.

00:10:57:08 - 00:11:28:04

So, you know, so I don't I don't recall that the details of why what the brown means. But. All right. So the use of the brown beret. So initially, General Milley, who was an 18 Alpha Special Forces officer, it was his great idea to develop the the s fabs. And so originally when they were stood up, they wanted to go with this kind of p green Green Beret, which, as you know, Green Berets represent Special Forces.

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And so there was a lot of turmoil in the SDF community. And ultimately they said, well, we can't go to Banbury because the Rangers were that can't go black because everybody wears that. So let's go with a brown beret. So now the brown beret signifies getting down dirty and muddy in the mud with our foreign partners.

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I think this is so good.

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It's the whole film as a POW. Is that. Is that true? Yeah, that's true. When I was in group, we were signing

00:12:01:11 - 00:12:23:10

petitions to go to General Milley because he was trying to take me then like light green, because the SFA is, I think, defined as for a forest green or something. Yeah. And so he's like, we use p p green or o o, So yeah, yeah, I'll do that.

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So I'm sorry for the inability. So where that comes from that it's getting down dirty, you know,

00:12:30:18 - 00:12:51:17

with it's a, it's in our history somewhere. Yeah. Ask Assad Patoka but it's there. I didn't make that up. And if you did, we're like, yeah. So to be clear we, the fact we are not Special Forces,

00:12:51:17 - 00:13:01:05

correct. The questions I had was I was going to ask about the differences, but not everybody can speak about actually, maybe with your background, you what you're the perfect candidate.

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And to answer this question, what is the difference between Special forces? And that's fabulous fact.

00:13:06:19 - 00:13:30:19

So there are a lot of similarities and differences between the fabs and Special Forces. First, we train conventional partner forces. We do not train special operations partner forces. That is the realm of SOF special operations forces. Beyond that, I would say in Liska, where they operate is different.

00:13:30:19 - 00:13:53:13

They have some unique mission sets that we don't have in the competition through crisis phase. However, I'd say there are a lot of similarities. We all operate in a geographically dispersed, resource limited environment across each JCC. We all train foreign partners and essentially what are we call it? Advise support, liaison service, They call it by with and through.

00:13:53:15 - 00:14:19:13

We're working together as a team to accomplish the mission. The other piece, I would say on the maneuver advising team there, 12 people on Special forces, ODA virtual people. What's different is the ODA has redundancy. They have two of each until you get to the war, an officer teams sort of team here we don't for example on the maneuver advising team we only have 168 Whiskey, a combat medic.

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We don't have a second capability and

00:14:23:01 - 00:14:42:23

anything else you those are the big ones. That's families. I removed I removed it from my question set because I didn't want somebody freewheeling on what they usually were. Like I said of the perfect guys to ask, Right, Somebody is making shit up about right, you know, one or the other. So that I'm so glad that we were able to catch you with that.

00:14:42:23 - 00:15:04:13

I'm always for people just making sure. Yeah. So my last one, feel free. You're not on camera. Exactly. The last set of questions here are about challenges and then the future. So what would you say are the biggest external challenges that Spark has that face?

00:15:04:13 - 00:15:17:00

I would say the greatest challenges as fabs face, and I'm going to speak in medical lanes because on the command surgeon right now, we're not trained to operate in the environment we operate in.

00:15:17:00 - 00:15:43:16

Now, we're not ready for for large scale combat operation. And so one of the unique things about serving this position, there's a lot of opportunity to leverage influence outside of this command and get the three and four stars to do support initiatives. One of our greatest initiatives is the identification that we need. Combat paramedics. 6 to 8 whiskeys are great, but they're taught to treat out of an aid bag.

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Once that bags deplete or they don't see, they don't have anything else. As we're learning now in large scale combat operations, we're whole. They're holding on to houses for 24 to 48 hours. So we've got to be prepared for that. And so we've been fortunate because we're a new organization. We can identify requirements that don't exist in a BCT or even a division.

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And so we identify that our our medic advisors must be able to independently manage casualties where that's a trauma casualty or a critically ill casualty. They must be able to treat disease, non battle injury and they must be able to provide prolonged field care in a geographically resource. Geographically remote resource depleted could get. They must be able to provide prolonged casual or prolonged field care.

00:16:35:14 - 00:16:59:01

We sort of they must be able to provide prolonged field care in geographically dispersed, resource limited environment, now in competition as well as during large scale combat operations. Additionally, because we advise partners, they must understand the why of medical care. They it's not okay for them to just treat to an algorithm. They've got to be able to explain and educate our partners why we do things.

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And with that, being able to teach the why and are partners understanding the why, we significantly elevate their capability and capacity, provide better operations. And that encourages and ensures that our partners will fight harder and longer because they know they have a more robust medical capability behind them.

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This is a very interesting, okay with a situation like I'm using Ukraine as to the situation, but we don't talk about necessarily Ukraine just to get your arms around it.

00:17:29:05 - 00:17:37:16

Can as fabs complete their mission without being able to have boots on the ground in a country

00:17:37:16 - 00:17:58:14

can. Yeah, you also have to work with my work. You know the pieces that you know, how do you overcome when when the asset can't be in the actual country. Right. Okay. So assets can advise a foreign partner without having boots on the ground.

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Not all the time. I think during the competition phase, it's essential that they have boots on the ground to establish those face to face relationships. And if conditions change, that forces the U.S. fab advisors out of that country. I think they can still advise through various technical means, but I think we lose face if we do that. If the partners they're having to fight, it's really incumbent upon us to stay there with the partner and fight side by side.

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So

00:18:33:10 - 00:19:02:11

that's good. That is good, Absolutely. Okay. And this is a question that I don't know the answer to. And so you're about to end today. Meanwhile, as educators, do Russia or China have units that are that are, I guess, fabs? You know, I had yes. I mean, they they have teams that go forward and establish Chinese influence.

00:19:02:11 - 00:19:26:01

I don't think they're they're necessarily military, but they have organizations that go forward to try to establish a influence. We see that in countries where now the peers are are becoming Chinese owned or Russia. And it's it's from the country. I don't know if it's necessarily like a military organization,

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So I don't know that that China for example, or Russia have best fab like capabilities. I do know as an example with China, the Belt and Road Initiative, they're trying to through Access and Placement fund infrastructure projects that then the country can't afford to pay.

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So then China secures that and due to their presence, they're trying to influence that not only in the country but in that region and during competition. Now, with our fab, you know, geographical worldwide deployments, we're countering that malign influence. I'd also add that if crisis escalates to conflict with these foreign adversaries, they're still going to be involved in these other tokens.

00:20:14:09 - 00:20:26:10

And so it's still going to be incumbent upon the fabs to maintain some level of presence, to continue to counter their malign influence throughout the world. While the world's focused on conflict

00:20:26:10 - 00:20:37:04

as a really good. Yeah, good, good. Okay. This one's the softball for you is not out. Why does the United States Army need as fabs?

00:20:37:04 - 00:20:59:22

The United States Army needs s fabs Because we're are the the advan we're the representative of our army or the representative of our nation, and we build mutual trust and support between our nations, between our armies, between our teams without us brigade combat teams going out to do our mission that takes them away from readiness and modernization.

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In fact, during a three year armed cycle, we enable up to nine brigade combat teams to focus on modernization or readiness for Liska for this fabulous. Well, I want that bullet. Which one? Yeah, that last one. That's good. That's good. Yeah. Just to show General Hill, all this is going to take is paying attention, Is it?

00:21:22:01 - 00:21:29:11

And on the flipside of that, why does the world needs fabs?

00:21:32:11 - 00:21:50:16

The world needs. Yes, fast. Because there's a lot of chaos out in the world. There's a lot of evil out in the world. There's a lot of malign influence out in the world. If people are looking for that, that secure, trustworthy, friendly face that that partner they can rely on. And the United States is that partner.

00:21:50:16 - 00:21:54:05

Yes.

00:21:54:07 - 00:22:04:07

And this is our this is the one that we always we always go to what is something that we should know about as fabs that we haven't talked about yet, that we should know

00:22:04:07 - 00:22:20:09

I'd like to just say that that the medical training requirements for the fab were unique compared to any conventional unit brigade combat team division, whatnot. Because we were small, we're geographically dispersed, constantly deployed, and we're like, okay, well, let's go focused.

00:22:20:11 - 00:22:45:21

We identified that we really got to raise the bar for our medical training. So instead of just running tables one through eight for 68 whiskeys and sustaining it at the ten level skill set, we do that. We also have 80 hours of medical proficiency training every year. So what that is, is they are that working with our battalion pay in the clinic and getting some clinical training.

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Eventually they're going to be as a combat paramedic when you have to use approved, they'll be riding along in an ambulance. Right. Responding at the point of injury portion of illness as a first of all on that scene, being able to demonstrate, execute all their skills until they get back to the hospital. In the hospital, they'll be able to work in the emergency department for resuscitation, go to the operating room for, you know, every man intubation work in the ICU to train all those skills they're going to need to master for for prolonged casualty care.

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In addition, there's

00:23:19:01 - 00:23:37:17

somebody up the hallway and so it's going to play out. So you reach out to your patient that's still here. Yeah. So he was trained in addition. So we're at rapport resuscitation in the hospital. Yeah.

00:23:38:02 - 00:24:00:07

So in addition, because you recognize you're going to have to hold on to casualties for 24 to 48 hours until we evacuate to a higher level of care. We've created a prolonged field care contract. So it's a five day program instruction that gets them school and all the joint trauma system clinical practice guidelines, which is our medical TTPs to execute in that environment.

00:24:00:09 - 00:24:29:02

And it walks us through the paces for that. In addition, because we have some advising teams that don't have an organic medic in the maneuver teams, as I said earlier, I only have one medic. We've created the Advisor Austere Care Course, which based on some SOF training, but it takes a non medic, puts them through a seven week, eight week program of instruction and they come out with an EMT basic certificate version with a scope of practice that enables them to administer fresh professional blood.

00:24:29:04 - 00:24:54:01

Minister, I.V. analgesics, pain medicines, antibiotics, things like that to create a medical capability which provides a better capability initially, or it enables freedom maneuver operational flexibility for the ground force commander because now there's a medic on that team they can maneuver to where they need to be by having to be co-located with the team as a medic.

00:24:54:01 - 00:24:56:18

Any other meals?

00:24:56:20 - 00:25:11:20

Okay. One last thing I might work in my not I want to try I'd like to look in here so I can look directly unlike the rest of into this camera and then say you could say a little bit dramatically to one of your phrases. Campaign today to win tomorrow.

00:25:11:20 - 00:25:18:12

Campaign today to win tomorrow. Yes, I to do it again.

00:25:18:12 - 00:25:39:09

I told you I respect that I was doing that. You? Yep. Yep. Now I'm giggling and campaign today to win tomorrow. Okay. Now a little less dramatic campaign today to win tomorrow. It was the first day. it's absolutely the first day.