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DARPA. L l s m i t h. And what is your rank and duty, sir? M.S., I'm chief of Operations in the Air Strike G3.

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you speak any foreign languages? Foreign languages? I don't speak any at all. I don't either. So I've heard they're the same with you. I always like to ask that as we start. So what would you say is the most impressive thing about security force assistance brigades?

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Well, the most impressive things about the Security Forces Assistance Brigade is the diversity of the specialty, which that we have collectively on all the teams. So with the teams that we have made up across the different battalions and the brigades that we have in our different units across the United States, we have different abilities to go out and assist our partners and maybe other units across the Department of Defense may not have the ability to be able to to take, for instance, like logistics.

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We have some specialties that maybe can go out and assist our partners, maybe to go out and, you know, particularly go out and find problems and assist and fix those problems to assist maybe in the logistics as often specialty as on paperwork or maybe hands on as a specialist and maybe fix and find and fix that problem mechanically if needed.

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what is the most impressive thing about security force assistance brigades? One of the most impressive things about the Security Force Assistance Brigade is,

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Some of the challenges that I've found, working with a partner force is that sometimes it takes some time to have a what I would say, a warming effect when you come in and get to know each other because you're coming in and just going right to business is not always the right answer because we have to take time to get to know each other.

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One, we have to understand each other's culture. And two, we have to understand where the problem may be so we can figure out where we can figure out whether resolved, who that problem may be. Because sometimes we might think the answer is may not always be the right answer for our partner. So we have to understand truly what the right answer is for the both of us so we can work to the right resolution.

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The characteristics of a good ASVAB fires are one is trust, I would say is the most important thing as a is five advisor the country also poorly and as well as the Department of Defense and the President trust our advisor to be sent anywhere around the world to be trusted to partner with our allies to do a hard sometimes not a job that always is on the front pages that some of the other organizations might get to

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do. That always is. Maybe it's sometimes a tough job to do, sometimes asked to maybe get dirty and and get out there, feel some sandbags and get out there and teach the basics. That is always something similar to maybe what a drill sergeant maybe might do or maybe a platoon sergeant may do here in our ranks here in the United States Army.

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So that is a trusted piece of military position. That is always one of the things that we trusted as a NCO and we're led to it is actually in our creed. One a second characteristic I would say as a advisor that we're our duty bound with is always to be honest. Our allies trust that we're honest. And when we tell them something, their what we say, our word is truth.

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And when we tell them that, hey, this is something we can't do or something we can't do, we stick to our word and of ours, it comes in and we're 100% honest with it. Our allies appreciate those things and they understand where we're coming from.

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The characteristics of a good adviser are let's do that again a little slower and look at me like the characteristics are the characteristics of a good adviser. Are.

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Have you have you deployed before with us that have deployed to the continent of Africa, to Tunisia, where our partnership with our allies there. Can you tell me one of give you a success story from that deployment, meaning while the partner in Tunisia, we were a partner with our allies there, and one of the key things that they have with their military is they have a requirement that all their officers are jump qualified as they go through the process.

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So over the period of time being there with my team, we work through the process of figuring out why it was that they had a logistical problem on why they couldn't figure out how to get some of the small parts they needed for their parachutes to continue to get their program up and running so they could continue to get those officers airborne qualified.

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So over a period of time when we were there, we were able to help them work through that process and get those officers back to jump in and get them graduating and be able to help facilitate their the backlog or their officers in that program. Very cool. Can you tell me how how did the Tunisians like how was how was your work received

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by them in Egypt?

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The Tunisians were actually really grateful. Fortunately, they actually had a new commander who was actually taken over while this process was going on. So as a new commander coming on and we actually working through that process and actually being there to actually have him on ground and see us being able to take care of that problem and actually have a spotlight on him in something positive versus a negative light, It actually made him look great, which is something we always want to do.

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We always want to highlight good things for our partner. We actually were received really very well when they actually made a special place force actually located right down the hall from the commander. So we were actually within close proximity. So when he had a problem or he wanted us to help an assist with something, we were actually located close by.

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Fabulous. Fabulous. That's the attack. That's the story that we need right then. Right. Is fantastic and ethical. You're doing great. You're doing great. Crushing this stuff, crushing.

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So at times you might be advising a more experienced, higher ranking counterpart. How does how does that prepare you for that? That's kind of a unique role that you play. How does how does this fact prepare you for that?

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So one of the key things of being an advisor is we have a course called Curtsy. So Cassie is developed to develop advisors to go to the process to understand what advising is. One, because there are different levels that we advise on. And secondly, once you get done with Cassie, we also have a developed a, a deployment, a pre-deployment pipeline that we get all our teams go through an evaluation phase.

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Once we get done with evaluation phase, obviously we each team has individual training and we go through along with different brigades. And the most important thing that I think they hear with the security forces brigade is we do a lot of leader training. So with the leader training, there's a lot of emphasis on developing leaders and individuals. So with the leaders being developed, how do we down from the command in general, it takes time out to do leads, right?

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So that helps be able to let individuals be able to work two levels up so we understand things about the level as a staff. So I'm being able to understand how to develop and to design something like a brigade level five fire. If you take that level of consistency and complexity versus visor on being able to develop something like that and look at it versus his peers maybe out in the regular army versus a STEM standard in my office, he has progressed extremely farther than maybe what his peers may have had been or where he is right now compared to others.

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So being here in ASVAB, I think it expands the knowledge and abilities of an individual wearing this uniform that I'm wearing right now. Definitely by leaps and bounds compared to the peers across any level, no matter what your MOOC is, whether you're communications, logistics or if you combat arms like myself, you understand the levels two levels up. And when it comes down to working with your peers, you understand those levels and you are always partnered with the officer counterpart who's already took those key level development positions.

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When you come here and you understand those key level development positions and you're able to kind of work with that key level leader that you partner with and you both you all compare to your notes together each and every day. That's what I did with my key partners when I was a first sergeant. And we come back and we talk about so taking all those things being said, he come back.

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We work through things and then we go back and we never rush to failure, which is always a key thing. And we go back and we talk things out and we go back in. We work through a presentation and we get all the facts together and we present what we have. So one of the things that's very important that as Fab teaches you is understand your facts and make sure your facts are all together and ensure whatever you're delivering is accurate and complete.

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So you were just talking about the pride and wearing the uniform and I love the beret. It's so cool walking. Can you tell me just a little bit about why you why you wear the bright light? As for the breath? Well, I think just like any of the beret, the beret is a sense of pride, right. So donning of the beret is is always been a sense of pride, no matter what formation you wear, where there's 82nd Airborne Division, they have a Donald Rivera or any unit you come across, even in basic training.

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As I wear Jesus arm patch, you always you don't break as a sign of a completion of of being the basic training event. And that is a sense, a spirit, a core and a sense of pride in the uniform and of accomplishment. And I believe this brown beret does the same thing for the fab is a sense of pride, esprit de corps, and it symbolizes what we stand for.

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We stand for being able to go out, assist our counterparts, our allies, from being able to advise and assist them in their moment of need, from the sense of being able to in conflict or transition all the way back into their need or even even peacetime, maybe even in training. So we are always available. We are always available to answer the call whenever they need us, no matter when or wherever it may be.

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Because you said that last part one more time. We are always available. We're always available to answer the call no matter where or whenever they may ask

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if I were recruiting someone to come to ASVAB? If you're looking for opportunity to grow as your profession individual, an opportunity to enjoy what it is that you do no matter what your military occupation specialty may be, this is the place you want to be.

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There are many different places in the army and everybody will see you email or see you or give you a call and say, This is the place to be, but this is truly the place to be. There is always a sense of no matter what brigade you may walk into or what building you may walk into, there's always an atmosphere of welcome, this atmosphere of everybody wanting of beer, of belonging, of being a part of something that is special and always something that everybody wants to be a part of.

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And so we haven't talked about this yet. So I'd like if you could just take a second and tell me about where each spark goes. Like first goes here, second goes here. So First Brigade is located in Georgia, and they work primarily in South America. Second Brigade, which I was a part of for two years. I mean, I spent majority of my time now working.

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In fact, they work primarily in Africa, third Brigade, located in Texas. They work in and around over in the Middle East area. You have fourth Brigade located in Colorado. They work in Indo pay com area working out of their and then you have their work over there. Excuse me, excuse me more this year. For this year. Yeah. Fifth is an opaque paycom which allows you to go back and forth.

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Yep. Fourth works out of. Fourth is located in Colorado and they work out of Europe and a fifth is in Indo Paycom. And where are they? A fifth is located in Washington, Perth. What would you say are the biggest challenge? External challenges to the map space? I would say some of the biggest challenges that fabs face currently right now is the competition for the best talent in the military.

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Currently right now today. That is the biggest challenge that we face because with the the small number of individuals joining the military ranks, every specialty organization is looking for talent. And one of the things that we're facing right now is still trying to fight for the talent is available in the Army. So that's one of the hardest problems that we're working through right now, is trying to get available talent.

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And we want that talent and we need the talent. So we're looking at fighting and want the best talent available out there.

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Yeah, perfect. All right. This is the one I'm going to throw your softball. You're gonna hit out of the park. Are you ready? Why does the United States Army need United States Army needs as fast? Because we are what the allies will want when the bad when is a bad day and they need somebody find them right alongside them and they need a liaison to talk to the United States who's already been there for months, sit in, who knows what it is they want and they need, and they already can predict and can assist and advise and give them what they need in a timely manner fast and can help them and assist the United

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States and work through those problems no matter where they're located, no matter how few of us there is and no matter how many may be needed, we are the answer that the United States needs. Fabulous. Well, why does it seem similar? Question Why does the world needs fast? The world's needs excuse me? The world needs fabs currently right now because the atmosphere is really intense right now as we see things flaring up all over the world, our allies are often located around very hot areas.

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Oftentimes they need assistance, maybe training, sometimes they may need assistance, maybe preparing themselves defensively or maybe understanding maybe where their challenges are logistically or maybe just working through and clearing maybe rubble from a disaster. So we're here and we can help and assist and we have helping assist with all those things. Fabulous answer. What this is said is obviously a specialty in understanding culture, right?

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You have a unique mission. Can you speak for just a second about like how you handle that when you went to Tunisia, for instance, or how how do you how you adapt to that to the local cultures? One of the things that being an advisor is we have an assessment and selection. So there's a process that you go through and they hand-pick advisors and understand that they pick advisors, understanding they eliminate individuals.

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They may have a red flag that may not be able to understand different cultures when it comes to being different than what they are. That is one of the key things when you join is fair. That makes us different, that we have availability to say no, you don't fit in to what our beliefs are, and our beliefs are that we believe that everybody's culture is something that we can appreciate and that we think that everybody should.

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Hey, respect. So being that being said, being that that's one of the things that we believe it is pretty easy when we deploy around the world. We understand and we respect others cultures when we show up that one, we want our understanding. We want to learn about what it is that you do in your country and to oftentimes they want to show us what it is that they have to offer and show us the different things they have that we don't often have in the United States.

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The different foods, the different sports oftentimes, and frankly, they have different animals, flowers and all kinds of different things. And it's a learning experience. And one of the things here in the S5 is that oftentimes the scores and the different people we bring in, they're always wanting to learn. So learning is one of the key things that we have here.

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So advisors always learn, and that's one of the key things that we appreciate. We always want a constant learner and that's one of the things that makes a good advisor, someone that always wants to learn, and that's what we're always looking for.

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there? So I went to Africa once in our deploy, once as a humanitarian when we cover what's going on. We were given shots, so we were supposed to deploy and then they stopped us because they shut down our borders because of COVID. So we ended up doing a humanitarian up to Milwaukee to give a cover shot.

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So we were in support of that. So was the deployment first as that point was second. So I deployed, you know, and you had already been assigned to that, but then you went as soon. Also I was in ASVAB and we were supposed to go to Morocco. Morocco shut its borders. So then obviously we were still here in the United States.

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It in a tasking came down from the, the military that they needed support during a COBRA mission. So we did COBRA mission because this COVID shut down everything and nobody was flying anywhere. So then when we came back, retrained back up, went through the process again, and then we got ready and then we redeploy back out again. So maybe, maybe tell us what it was like being the first time stepping off the airplane in the first few days.

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So what was the talk to me? What was that experience like? So for a few days, stepping off the plane, it's always different. So Ari, being deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq have been deployed, but being deployed as advisor is a is a different experience there. There is threats. There's always threats to American military, but it's always a difference when you deploy the visor because you always have allies that are looking to meet you and they always want to show you and welcome you in with open arms.

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So the first thing they always want to do is oftentimes they want to feed you with the abundance of food. And oftentimes if you haven't been deployed or your stomach is not ready, you have the ability to have to get your body ready for a couple of days. And so the first few days when I was deployed, I had to get my body ready for a couple of days and work through that process.

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But after a couple of days of body got stronger and then I had no problems even there. The defect with them every day. And after that I was a local and I was right along with them each and every day. So no problems after that. But it took a couple of days to get my body ready and get the immune system set up and ready to go.

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But after that, I was good to go. I was way out on the food

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that you I was trying to put it in a nice way as I could. Yeah. I don't want to say like I don't want to say like I got diarrhea, but yeah, yeah,

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yeah, yeah. I messed me up. It got me pretty good. It was like the flu, Like, it's pretty bad.

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Yeah. So did you. She said that they don't include weapons, is that correct? So we deploy with our. So Africa is a little different. Okay. So we took of the other ones. Don't. So Pinzon we are second takes their weapons so I'm in second. So I go to Africa. So we take our weapons.

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So we take our weapons with us.

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So we move our whole comics and everything. It depends on it, which is fab you're in depends on if you take your weapons or you don't. So with the second you know, we have they have we have Somalia and all those different different other places. So we have places that it requires you where you you have to have your weapon available.

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So yeah, so we we deploy with our weapon, so we have our weapons available for anything else from you. Either you want to get them on. Good. Okay. This is the our last question is or was our last question. And it can be anything you anything in the world. You think what is something that we should know about as fast and we haven't asked you or talked about yet here today.

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So I think as fabs probably have the most skilled, most productive with the limited amount of resources and people with the most production of anybody in the army Federal School. Okay. So our last one, we're going to be looking at the camera on this and say a couple of like the mottos that you that you say, I work here and then Nick will give you a little bit guidance here.

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Look at this camera. The first thing I'd like you to say is campaign today to win tomorrow, campaign the day to win tomorrow. A little more assertive

00:25:11:05 - 00:25:17:19

campaign today to win tomorrow. Let's go over to campaign today to win tomorrow.