

Army buddies celebrated SPH grad's achievements from Kuwait during the pandemic

There was a big celebration in Kuwait when SPH graduate Maurico Ripley's diploma arrived with the daily mail.

Ripley served as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) deployed to the Middle East for an important part of his graduate program, studying with the School of Public Health online – and today he holds an MPH degree with a Graduate Certificate in Food Security.

Ripley was deployed at about the time that COVID-19 began to spread throughout the world, arriving in Kuwait as military public health leaders were advising on appropriate measures for U.S. troops' safety during the pandemic.

As an Army Reserve Senior Food Safety Officer, he managed teams inspecting all food products arriving into base stations from the U.S.

Since the military procures items like fresh milk, poultry, fruits, vegetables and more from local contacts within the Middle East, it was also CW3 Ripley's job to audit food-manufacturing facilities and ensure that U.S. Forces food rules and regulations were met – basically acting in the role of USDA/FDA Inspector in the Middle East.

When not on deployment status, he serves as a Health Inspector for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD). He has been with SAMHD since 2007 and with the Army Reserves since 2001.

It was an exciting moment and a real feeling of accomplishment for the officer in 2020 when his SPH degree arrived and he celebrated with friends on base.



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