



# THE TALON *F.Y.I.*

VOL 2, NO 4

TASK FORCE EAGLE, TUZLA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

FEB 9, 1996

## News Briefs

### TF Eagle uniform policy

The Task Force Eagle uniform policy is helmet, protective mask, load-carrying equipment and body armor.

Helmets must be worn to and from the shower point and latrine within a soldier's tent city. Outside of the tent city, the entire uniform described above must be worn.

### Lukavac legal office open

Soldiers based in Lukavac can take advantage of the new legal assistance office there, offering such services as preparation of wills, powers of attorney, federal and state income tax return preparation assistance and general counseling on all legal matters. The office is located at Task Force Rear Lukavac on the third floor of Building 9. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

### New laundry hours

The Brown & Root Inc. laundry facility at Eagle Base, Tuzla, expanded its hours and will soon offer a new drop-off and pick-up point.

Clean laundry will be available for pick-up 24 hours a day from two storage areas currently being constructed behind the laundry building. The new facility will have storage space for up to 700 bags and be staffed by additional labor. Officials said construction is expected to be completed by Tuesday.

Brown & Root has lifted the limit on the number of bags individuals can drop off. Units desiring bulk drop-offs and pick-ups can contact laundry manager John Smith or supervisor Mirza Delic to arrange times.

Drop-off hours will remain 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Until Tuesday, patrons should drop off their laundry at the old kitchen located in the rear of the dining facility and pick up their clean laundry between 8 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. at the laundry building, located to the left of the mess hall.

Patrons picking up their laundry may experience delays because lack of adequate storage space limits access to the bags.

The contract laundry located in the dining facility building will no longer accept drop-offs. Patrons may, however, pick up laundry there from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Younger

**Soldiers from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry, greet two Russian lieutenants at Checkpoint Shark, which was transferred to Russian control.**

## Russians assume checkpoint

By Sgt. 1st Class Gary Younger  
358th MPAD

CHECKPOINT SHARK, Russian sector, Bosnia-Herzegovina — "I've been training for 12 years to fight the Warsaw Pact," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Lovins of Arlington, Texas. "Never in my wildest dreams would I ever fathom that the Russians would ever come to one of our checkpoints and relieve us. They aren't as scary looking now as they were (years ago)."

Not since the end of World War II have members of a Russian military unit peacefully taken control of a checkpoint from American soldiers in an area of tension. The historic hand-off of Checkpoint Shark from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry (Airborne Combat Team) to 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, Airborne Brigade of the Russian Army took place Feb. 1 on a

sunny, but cold morning. The changeover was in preparation for 3-325th's redeployment to their home base of Vicenza, Italy.

The Russian Brigade, part of the multinational Implementation Force (IFOR), has taken full control of its sector in the northeastern corner of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Russian sector, northeast of Tuzla, is between the U.S. 1st and 2nd Brigade combat teams of the 1st Armored Division.

As A Company's commander, Capt. Bill Bureson of Williamsburg, Va., gave his counterpart, Capt. Konstantin Torubargu of Pskov, Russia, a tour of his new "home," soldiers from both sides began eyeing each other. Slowly, smiles appeared and a few waves were exchanged. A couple of soldiers even removed their gloves and shook hands with soldiers from the other nation.

See *Russians*, page 8

## Secretary of State visits Eagle Base

By Spc. George Roache  
29th MPAD

Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised American troops for their contribution to the peace implementation process during a Feb. 3 visit to Eagle Base, Tuzla.

Addressing about 100 service personnel and civilians at the Task Force Battle Command Center or "Battle Star," Christopher said he was pleased to see what American leadership, know-how and spirit could do in Bosnia.

"You've accomplished a tremendous amount in the time you have been here," the secretary said. "You've rebuilt an airport, carried out the biggest river bridging by an American armed forces group since 1945 and prepared the way for many more troops to come. ... You've done a great job."

Christopher was touring the Balkans on the day of the second major deadline in the Dayton peace agreement, D+45. By midnight, the former warring parties were to have trans-

See *Secretary*, page 8

From the top

# Soldier's loss serves as tragic reminder

We lost a fine noncommissioned officer Saturday in Sgt. 1st Class Donald A. Dugan. The news of his untimely death was met with shock and sadness among Task Force Eagle soldiers.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley

petitive board. He was a professional in every sense of the word, and his fellow soldiers will miss him greatly.

Whenever we lose a friend, it is normal to go through a period of depression and stress. That's the time

that we, as leaders, must watch over our soldiers and monitor how they are coping.

Sgt. 1st Class Dugan died as part of a NATO effort to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina. And what an honorable tribute to him — to die in the pursuit of peace in a land that has long been torn apart by war. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to his family.

The fatality, though tragic, is a stark reminder of how we must remain vigilant and constantly

aware of what is going on around us. This country is peppered with all sorts of mines, ordnance and other lethal explosives that can and will injure us if we are not extremely careful. Even seasoned professionals such as Dugan are not immune from such dangers.

The worst mistake any of us can make is believing, "It could never happen to me." Complacency and contentment with one's surroundings could be the most dangerous enemies we face during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

We noncommissioned officers must enforce strict discipline standards of our soldiers, including personal hygiene, weapons cleaning and other aspects that emphasize professionalism and high military bearing.

Some people may look at Task Force Eagle soldiers and

wonder why we are in full battle dress. But appearances are important, and "looking the part" can sometimes be just as effective as force in an environment such as Bosnia.

Being an older soldier, I may be a little more critical than most NCOs, but perhaps I'm seeing things you may not see. Undoubtedly, Task Force Eagle soldiers are doing an outstanding job, but I'm your conscience and it's my job to point out any shortcomings in the NCO Corps.

So as you examine your soldiers, strive for excellence. When you inspect them, always remember: force protection, force protection, force protection.

And before you hit your bunk tonight, think of Sgt. 1st Class Dugan, a fallen comrade who gave his life in the most noble pursuit of all — peace.

Dugan, 38, of Belle Center, Ohio, was a Scout platoon sergeant, assigned to 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, based in Budingen, Germany. Dugan was manning a checkpoint near Gradacac, about 40 kilometers north of Tuzla when the incident occurred about 3:45 p.m.

He was recently inducted into the prestigious V Corps "Sgt. Morales Club," an organization for exceptional soldiers that requires nominees to undergo a highly com-

## Viewpoint

# Take a minute to acknowledge 'any soldier' mail

One of the highlights of a soldier's day is mail call. There is something about reading words from friends and loved ones that helps relax one after a tough day.



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Younger 358th MPAD

Regardless, someone took the time to write a short note of support for the soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines who are far from home.

As soon as that warm, fuzzy feeling takes hold, why not take a moment to acknowledge that card or

letter? Miss Manners would implore you to return all letters promptly and especially these. Many are from sources unknown, but if there is a return address, you really have no excuse to not answer the letter. And besides, just think of how

thrilled that letter writer will be to receive correspondence from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Just a quick, "Thanks for the card and your support," will suffice. Or you can tell the writer a little about yourself and what you do here, including your job title and some of your responsibilities. Kids especially get a kick out this. A line about where you are from and what you like to do in your spare time might also be nice.

Many people see what is happening over here from the TV networks and newspapers, but they really want to hear it from the people who are here doing the work and manning the

checkpoints. Peter Jennings does a great job telling the big story, but only you can describe to a third-grader what living in a tent city is like. Regardless, it really doesn't matter what you write about, just as long you do.

You could start a flow of letters that will make mail call a lot more fun. It's possible you could make a new friend, and there have even been a few romances and marriages that began with an anonymous "Any Service Member" letter.

Take just a couple of moments to write back to those folks who write to you, whether you know them or not. After all, a smile is worth sharing.

## THE TALON

**THE TALON** is produced in the interest of the servicemen and women of Task Force Eagle, headquartered at Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. **THE TALON** is an Army-funded, field expedient newspaper authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas, under the provision of AR 360-81. Contents of **THE TALON** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle, commanded by Maj. Gen. William L. Nash. **THE TALON** is published weekly for the 1st Armored Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-3351. Printed Circulation: 5,000.

- Military Civil Relations Sergeant**.....Sgt. Angela Overlin
- Public Affairs Officer**.....Maj. John E. Suttle
- NCOIC**.....Master Sgt. Guy Benson
- Production Staff:** 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; 5th Regiment Armory, Baltimore, Md. 20201-2288
- Commander**.....Maj. Robert L. Gould
- OIC**.....Capt. Drew Sullins
- NCOIC**.....Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson
- Layout Editor/Journalist**.....Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
- Journalists**.....Sgt. Ed Rollins, Spc. George Roache

## Quick takes

### Attn: Nebraska residents

Television media crews from Nebraska will be visiting Eagle Base, Tuzla, today through Monday to interview service members from Nebraska. If you are interested in meeting with the media, contact Maj. Vic Warzinski at the Joint Information Bureau, located in Building 1 near the front gate, or call the JIB at MSE 551-5230 or VSAT 7036.

### AFN request line

Got a request or dedication to make over the airwaves? Call the AFN request line at MSE 555-5556.

### Stars and Stripes distribution

Are you getting the daily newspaper? *Stars and Stripes* papers arrive at Tuzla Air Base and are transferred to the APO tent and are distributed to mail clerks who carry the papers (along with the mail) to their units. The papers are distributed on a 1-to-3 ratio and are available about 11 a.m. If you are not receiving *Stars and Stripes*, see your unit mail clerk or contact Dave Osborne, local *Stars and Stripes* representative through the APO.

### Let's go to the movies

Free movies are now shown at 8 and 10 p.m. nightly in the Eagle Base, Tuzla, Chapel (Building 14).

### Medic clinic numbers

Acute Care Clinic information is just a phone call away. In Tuzla Main, call MSE 558-5024. In Lukavac, call 551-3623. For dental care, call the Tuzla Main Clinic. For combat stress control, call MSE 558-5607.

For emergencies only: call the MASH at MSE 558-4986, or for medical air evacuations, call MSE 558-9999.

### Dining Facility open 24-7

In addition to usual breakfast and dinner hours, the Eagle Base, Tuzla, dining facility is now open 24 hours a day, offering cereal, soup, bread, coffee, MREs, bottled water and other supplements. Full-course, T-ration breakfast hours are from 6 to 9 a.m., and dinner is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The dining facility is now operated by Rezayat Corp., a catering company from Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

# Operation suffers first U.S. fatality

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano  
29th MPAD

A 1-1st Cav trooper became the first U.S. fatality in Bosnia-Herzegovina Feb. 3 as the result of injuries sustained from an explosion.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald Allen Dugan, a Scout platoon sergeant for 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, was manning a checkpoint near Gradacac, about 40 kilometers north of Tuzla when the incident occurred.

Dugan was about 25 meters off a road when an explosion took place at 3:45 p.m. He suffered a massive head injury from the explosion while in a marked minefield. There was no indication of any hostile action against him by any of the former warring factions in the course of the incident. An investigation continues.

He was medically evacuated via helicopter to the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital near Zupanka, Croatia, where he was declared dead on arrival.

Dugan was honored in a ceremony Sunday morning at Tuzla Air Base. His flag-draped coffin was brought to an awaiting C-130 Hercules by an honor guard of 30 soldiers, representing half a dozen countries which are part of the Implementation Force.

Dugan, a resident of Belle Center, Ohio, was based in Budinggen, Germany.

## Memorial held for Swedish soldier killed in accident

Implementation Force (IFOR) members joined together Jan. 31 to pay their respects at a memorial service for a fallen Swedish soldier, Pte. (Pvt.) Jorgen Ohlund. The 22-year-old soldier was killed Jan. 28, when the armored personnel carrier that he was in slid off an icy road in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Two others in the vehicle were treated for minor injuries.

Soldiers from the United States, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Poland attended the memorial service. First Armored Division and Task Force Eagle Commander Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley attended on behalf of U.S. forces.

# Medals approved for IFOR members

## Awards include the new Armed Forces Service Medal

By Sgt. 1st Class Gary Younger  
358th MPAD

U.S. service members who are part of the Implementation Force (IFOR) participating in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR may be in line for at least two service medals, according to a 1st Armored Division official. No decision has yet been made, however, as to whether a right sleeve theater patch will be authorized.

Officials have confirmed that two medals, a NATO medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal, have been authorized to be awarded to soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. However, which soldiers will actually receive the medals is up in the air.

"There still are a lot of details on award criteria to be worked out," said Maj. Dave Ellis, Deputy G-1, 1st Armored Division.

The new Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM) was announced by President Clinton during his January visit to Bosnia. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry announced the NATO Medal would be awarded to service members who have been deployed to the former Yugoslavia.

"It's a safe bet that those soldiers in Task Force Eagle will be awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal," Ellis said. "It's unclear as to whether those soldiers who are supporting the effort in Hungary and Germany would be eligible."

The AFSM is for members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, on or after June 1, 1992, participate or have participated in a significant, non-combat operation — such as peacekeeping or prolonged humanitarian operations — and encounter no foreign armed opposition or imminent hostile action. Before the AFSM was established, there was no award suitable for recognition of the participation in many significant current or future military operations not involving combat.

The NATO medal is for members of NATO military forces participating in a NATO operation. The medal was approved in December by the Pentagon for distribution to U.S. troops participating in NATO Operations.

An order of precedence as to what order the medals will appear on the uniform has yet to be announced.

Other medals being considered for authorization by the Pentagon include the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

No decision has yet been made as to whether U.S. soldiers in IFOR will be allowed to wear a patch on their right sleeve, commonly referred to as a combat or theater patch, signifying service in a theater of operations.

"Those kinds of decisions aren't made until later in the deployment," Ellis said.

However, he said that because patches have been awarded for participants in Somalia and Haiti operations, he expects one to be approved for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

# Signal soldiers make commo connection

By Spc. Rick Roth  
29th MPAD

Kneeling in a stream of flowing sludge, a soldier with the 22nd Signal Brigade pulls a wire through a drainage ditch on Eagle Base, Tuzla. Handfuls of wire snake past the soldier, running the length of the ditch and out of sight.

Reaching out to command centers and buildings throughout the base, the strands of commo line weave an intricate web connecting phones throughout the base and phones throughout the former Yugoslavia.

"There's a lot of dirt and mud but, nevertheless, the commo has got to get in," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hutchinson, a wire system installation team chief with the 22nd Signal Brigade.

With more than 1,000 soldiers on the ground in Bosnia, the 22nd Signal Brigade, now headquartered at Eagle Base, Tuzla, was one of the first units to arrive in country. The unit is commanded by Col. James D. Culbert.

The 22nd Signal Brigade has linked the U.S. sector through a secure digital phone communication network that employs node centers, which are stations perched on high mountaintops throughout Bosnia that receive and relay radio signals.

Facilitating line-of-sight antennas, the centers transmit encrypted signals via radio waves throughout the network. The system reaches out

to U.S. elements in the sector as well as the Russian, Nordic and Turkish brigades. At Eagle Base alone, 10 to 15 miles of commo wire have already been laid.

**"We will be judged on our abilities to protect our soldiers."**

— Lt. Col. Jeffrey Smith Jr.

Col. Jeffrey Smith Jr. This decreases the need to send soldiers and vehicles out into the field to exchange information, therefore reducing the ex-

This extensive system not only allows unit command elements to keep in constant contact with assets throughout Task Force Eagle, but also allows units to conduct combat service and support operations over the phone, according to Lt.

posure to any threat.

"We will be judged on our abilities to protect our soldiers," Smith said.

Terrain has been a challenge for the brigade. Line of sight communication requires that node centers be placed high on remote mountaintops. First, land needs to be negotiated for and acquired before a node center can be put in place, and after the center is in place, it needs to be protected and resupplied.

Spc. Brian Biesemeyer, a radio systems operator with the brigade, works at a center on an austere mountaintop and said he felt more independent being out in the field, although he misses some of the amenities of Eagle Base.

"As long as that colonel down the hill has his phones, my job is done," he said.



Spc. Rick Roth

**Spc. Troy Sullivan of the 22nd Signal Brigade operates Mobile Subscriber Equipment.**

## Air Force staff sergeant wears SETAF patch in Bosnia

By Spc. Rick Roth  
29th MPAD

High on a mountaintop overlooking the former Yugoslavia's zone of separation, a radio crackles. With the receiver to his ear, a member of the U.S. military keeps a vigilant watch over the zone on the crisp, clear winter day. He scans the area with binoculars, looking for any sign of movement.

Ordinarily, this job is associated with the Army. However, this time, it belongs to Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel DeBruzzi, a Tactical Air Command and Control specialist who has been attached for the past year to 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry (Airborne Combat Team), an Army unit based in Vicenza, Italy.

DeBruzzi acknowledges the peculiarity of his duty position. He works alongside his fellow infantrymen in the field and is authorized to wear the 3-325th ABCT's unit patch, the Southern European Task Force's "lion of St. Mark."

"I think we're kind of unknowns," said DeBruzzi, referring to the scant number — about 1,000 — of Tactical Air Command and Control specialists in the Air Force.

Acting as a liaison between Army ground units and Air Force assets, DeBruzzi can radio for air strikes and then guide attack planes via radio to their targets once visual contact has been made.

"I get to control fighters," said DeBruzzi, adding that he is seldom bored in his work.

A good deal of coordinating between the Army and Air Force is required to make a mission run smoothly, according to DeBruzzi, an 11-year veteran of the job.

Tactical Air Command and Control Specialist School, located at Hurlburt Field, Fla., involves 16 weeks of training. DeBruzzi, who was an instructor at the school for five years, also has completed several Army courses including Jungle Warfare School, Airborne School and Jumpmaster School. He has more than 150 jumps to his credit.

# Avoid illness through preventive medicine

By Capt. Timothy Ashley  
Public Health Officer

Historically, 50 to 80 percent of hospital admissions during military operations were due to diseases caused by things other than battle.

In the past, battles and wars have been lost because of trench foot, diarrhea and plague. Because these disease conditions are caused by general poor sanitation and hygiene, they usually affect large numbers of people. The good news is that these conditions can be prevented.

The number one illness being seen at Eagle Base Tuzla are respiratory conditions such as colds and flu. Ways to prevent becoming a victim of this include:

- Staying dry by changing boots, T-shirts and socks often.
- Sleeping in the opposite direction of the person next to you (i.e. sleeping head-to-toe).
- Allow for adequate ventilation when using MRE heaters and personal stoves. This will also prevent build-up of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

The second-most common disease seen dur-

ing military operations is diarrhea and vomiting. These are usually caused by poor food and water sanitation. Ways to prevent these diseases are:

- Drink and eat only from sources approved by Army or Air Force preventive medicine personnel. T-rations and MREs may not be the best cuisine, but they may save you from lying in the clinic with an intravenous needle in your arm.

- Wash your hands before eating and after using the latrine. The MREs come with a handi-wipe. Use it.

Eagle Base is becoming very crowded. With crowding, comes trash. With trash, comes rodents. With rodents, come diseases such as hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) and plague.

One year ago at Eagle Base, 140 U.N. military personnel came down with HFRS, a serious disease causing bleeding and kid-

ney failure.

Currently, preventive medicine personnel are assessing and prioritizing problem areas.

There is a limited supply of mouse traps and poisons, so these can't be our only solution.

Ways to prevent these diseases are: Keep your living areas, latrine areas and eating areas clean and free of food and trash. Form cleaning details if needed.

If you do trap a rodent, avoid touching it by using gloves and a shovel. Dispose of it by putting it in a bag, sealing it and throwing it in the dumpster.

Your health is your own responsibility. There are medical personnel available to care for you if you do get sick. The better answer though is to prevent illness by following preventive medicine guidelines. The field is not a comfortable place to be sick.



## *Wounded soldier honored with Purple Heart*



Spc. Kyle Davis

Sen. Bill Cohen, R- Maine, awards the Purple Heart at Camp Bedrock to 1st Lt. Robert E. Washburn, who lost part of a foot when a land mine exploded while he was inspecting a minefield Feb. 1 with Serbian soldiers southeast of Tuzla.

## Engineers destroy bunkers in ZOS

By Spc. Pat Hendricks  
358th MPAD

Destroying bunkers within the zone of separation is one condition agreed to by the former warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to the Dayton Peace Accord. But, with the large number of bunkers in place, help from NATO forces is needed.

"We're assisting factional forces in their efforts, working side-by-side with them to neutralize bunkers," said Lt. Col. Todd Semonite, 23rd Engineer Battalion commander. "They have done great manual work burning them down."

However, burning the bunkers often takes several hours, especially when the bunkers are constructed of frozen logs.

U.S. engineers are using explosives to expedite the mission in the 1st Brigade's area of operation. Soldiers of the 16th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Bamberg, Germany, recently blew up several bunkers in

the Posavina corridor.

"We're making sure that most of the bunkers along the trenches are torn down, burned or blown up," said Staff Sgt. Kelvin Gladden, C Company, 16th Engineer Battalion.

Soldiers are using C-4 explosives to blow up the water-soaked log bunkers. The task itself requires a great deal of effort and coordination, Semonite said. He said there are 200 kilometers of trenches with bunkers in the American sector.

"By blowing up the bunkers, we're ensuring compliance with the peace accord, building rapport with the factions — and it's good training for our soldiers," Semonite said.

Sgt. Timothy Gengler of C Company helped rig the bunkers with explosives. He has been in the Army for six years and has many similar missions to his credit, including those done during the Gulf War.

"I'm very confident," he said. "I've done this a lot."

## With deployment comes sacrifice

### *NCO father misses birth of new daughter*

By Staff Sgt. Brian Bowman  
203rd MPAD

LUKAVAC — Like so many men who serve in uniform and deploy to the far reaches of the globe, Sgt. James Clere knows that sacrifices must sometimes be made.

That didn't make missing the birth of his daughter any easier.

"Sure it bothers me," Clere said Feb. 2, the day after his wife gave birth in Germany to their second child. "From the father point of view, it bothers me a lot. From a soldier point of view, I knew this could happen."

Clere, a 33-year-old mechanic for C Company, 123rd Maintenance Support Battalion of Baumholder, Germany, almost was allowed to remain behind until the delivery. However, the 14-year Army veteran volunteered to deploy immediately to help get C Company's maintenance operation set up. A request to allow him to fly back to Germany was denied.

Clere said a family friend, the wife of a fellow soldier, coached his wife in labor. She delivered a healthy, 8-pound, 1-ounce baby girl, Rebecca. The Clere couple also have a 14-month old son, Christopher. Well-armed for the celebration, Clere passed out cigars to his unit after he learned the news.

"The guys knew I brought them," he said. "They kept asking for them before the baby was born."

Clere was given part of the day off to be alone with his thoughts. He was able to reach his wife twice by phone.

"I just went out back, sat down, smoked a cigar and drank a cup of coffee," Clere said. "That was nice."

He probably won't see his daughter for the first time for six months.

"That's hard," he said, "but I know of at least one other guy ... who will go through the same thing. I'll be glad to get home to my family. I love them and want to see them."

## Eagle Briefs

### Behind the postal scene

For most of us, mail is our link to "the world." Mail comes in by air to Eagle Base, Tuzla and is initially sorted by the 2-566th Postal Detachment. Sorted mail is sent by truck to units outside of Tuzla. The volume of mail received and shipped each day depends upon the weather. The postal detachments are working day and night to get all the mail out to the troops.

There are several things soldiers can do to help postal clerks. Make sure those who write to you

use your complete military address. Pack and protect breakables with styrofoam pellets, bubble wrap or newspaper. If you are having any type of mail problem, bring it up with your chain of command or call us.

### PMCS — the key to survival

To survive your tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina, you must be able to count on all your equipment whenever you need it. Daily PMCS of your vehicle and your weapon are "must do" items. Soldiers should check and clean their TA-50 and personal clothing, as well.

## Seabees fight mud to build base camps

By Sgt. Kelley Fischer  
358th MPAD

"Can Do."

It may be just a motto but they are hardly empty words to members of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 13, commonly known as the Seabees.

"If it's difficult, we do it right away. If it's impossible, it takes a little longer," said Petty Officer 1st Class Steven T. Cavanaugh, a tent floor construction supervisor.

It may sound like boasting, but watching the Seabees transform bleak and muddy fields into places where soldiers can live and work makes believers out of many.

Soldiers at 1st Brigade headquarters, located at Brigade Operating Base Kime, will soon move into a base camp, thanks to the Seabees.

"I've been living for weeks in the mud and wet straw," said Spc. Tom Wirth of the 9th Psychological Operations Battalion. "I'm looking forward to moving into the new tents and not having to trudge through the mud — and to having showers."

Providing for the soldiers and knowing their work is appreciated is what drives the Seabees.

"You probably can't find people out there who are willing to do the kind of work we're doing, in the conditions we are working in, for just a little food and a warm place to sleep," said Lt. Cmdr. Douglas G. Morton. "These people are getting paid in terms of getting compliments for their work and seeing the smiles on soldiers' faces. Our guys feed off that."

The Seabees recently completed building the base camp for the 1st Brigade headquarters at BOB Kime and are turning their attention on providing facilities for other nearby units.

They are building 84 tents for the soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry and 78 tents for 4th Battalion, 67th Armor. The sailors will build wooden floors for the tents, 4,000 linear feet of walkways and gravel parking areas. The tents will have electricity and lighting, making them more comfortable for the soldiers.

As Lt. Dean L. Hoelz, NMCB 133 chaplain, said, "We get the job done and we are having fun doing it."

## Personalities of the week

# Balkan natives return to help their homeland

By Spc. George Roache  
29th MPAD

Sgt. 1st Class Vladimir Bosnjak left the former Yugoslavia in 1974, seeking freedom in the United States he did not have at home in Croatia.

Then 24 years old, the Zagreb native was tired of seeing churchgoers being harassed, schoolchildren ridiculed for staying home to celebrate Easter and his own wife being forced to hang former Yugoslavian dictator Marshal Tito's picture in her beauty shop so she could stay in business.

Air Force Capt. Vlad Petnicki, formerly of Belgrade, immigrated to America at age 11 with his parents when his father, a Yugoslavian diplomat, went to work for the United Nations as an interpreter.

That was in 1972, and America's bicentennial celebration in 1976 so filled him with patriotism he decided to stay.

"I washed my hands of communism, came to love democracy and the American way of life and never thought I would ever come back to the former Yugoslavia for that reason," Petnicki said.

But he did, and so did Bosnjak. Both had chosen careers in the U.S. military, and now both have returned as interpreters on the IFOR staff at Eagle Base, Tuzla.

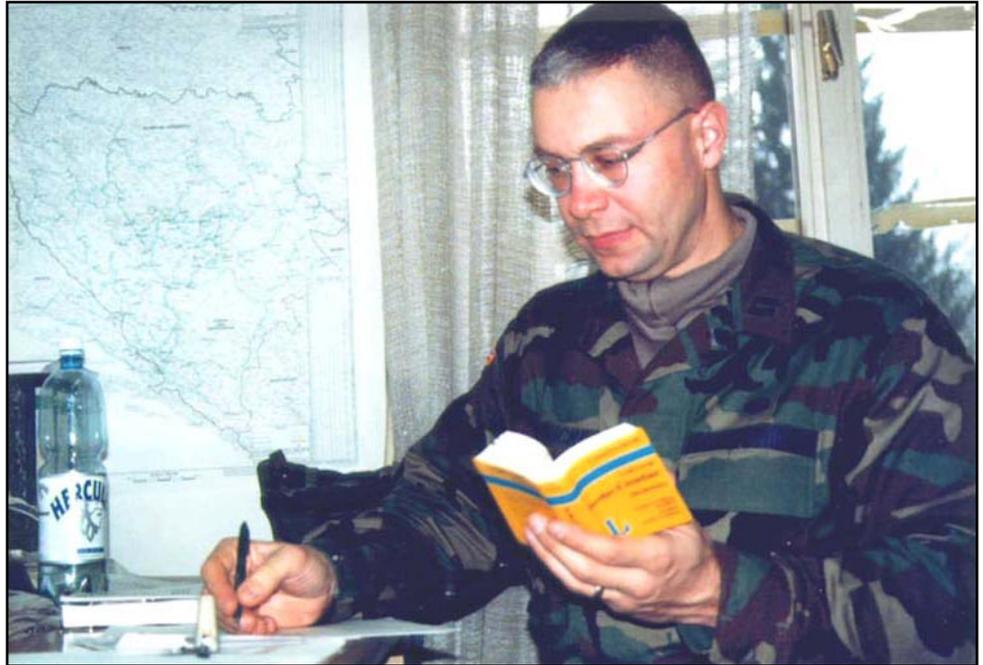
"I am very proud to be back as an American soldier, especially because when I lived here in my young years, I was oppressed," said Bosnjak, a 20-year Army veteran. "And now I come with this great American force to try to bring the peace after this vicious war."

"This is an opportunity I greatly look for-



Sgt. Mark Faram

Sgt. 1st Class Vladimir Bosnjak



Sgt. Ed Rollins

Balkan native and Air Force Capt. Vladimir Petnicki translates information.

ward to as a challenge and as a way to serve my country," said Petnicki, who was commissioned in 1992.

Boznjak once served 18 months in the Yugoslavian Army as an operator of Russian-made anti-tank missile systems. But, he took his wife and seven-month-old son to visit the United States, having already arranged for a green card and Social Security card.

He learned English by talking with Americans and found work as a design draftsman in an engineering bureau in Pittsburgh. But, he was not happy, despite earning a good salary, so he joined the Army in 1976.

"I always dreamed about freedom and democracy, and the United States was always on my mind as a leader of that," Boznjak said. "I kept thinking, I'm finally here and the best way to pay back is to serve the country. It was for me — and still is — a special honor to wear the United States Army uniform."

Petnicki, son of a Serbian mother and Croatian father, found a similar reason to join the military.

"You really (view) the freedoms and opportunities we have in America in a totally different light when you are initially raised in a communist society, where these freedoms and opportunities didn't exist or were denied to the people," he said. "Since a very young age, I wanted to serve in the military because it was the best way I could pay back the debt I owe to America, my adopted country."

Petnicki graduated from Northwestern Law School in Chicago in 1986 and spent six years in private practice before earning his commission. When war broke out in the former Yugoslavia four years ago, he reacquainted himself

with his native language, obtained a foreign language proficiency rating and informed the Air Force of his capabilities. He was finally called upon in October 1995 and spent all of November in Dayton, Ohio, as a liaison officer for the Croatian delegation.

Bosnjak was an MP based in Italy, but with his additional skills identifier, he was called to work from February to August 1995 in the Joint Task Force headquarters in Zagreb as a U.N. interpreter. He came to Tuzla in mid-December to work directly for Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, commanding general of Task Force Eagle.

Petnicki was told to pack his duffel bags again after only two months back on his job as chief of military justice at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif. He arrived at Eagle Base on Feb. 1 and is currently on the Joint Military Commission staff.

Coming back and seeing how the former Yugoslavian people have suffered was very emotional for him.

"Many times, when I would look at CNN and see an interview with (elderly) refugees and what they were going through, the thought went through my mind that they could have been my grandparents," Petnicki said, looking away. "It was very disturbing. Now that I'm here, I pray we can leave them with a peace that will last."

Bosnjak said he was happy to be back.

"We come here and finally this nation can see what an American soldier is," he said. "Before, the people were brainwashed into seeing us as imperialists. We come in peace and for peace. I have a special prouddness of wearing the American flag on my shoulder."



Spc. Cesar. G. Soriano

### Warren Christopher addresses troops at the "Battlestar."

#### Secretary, from page 1

ferred control of certain areas affected by the agreement among themselves and to have removed all military forces from those areas.

The secretary said he would tell the American people he was

gratified by the level of compliance with the agreement and what IFOR troops had been able to do by D+45.

"Warring armies have moved back from trenches that some feared would divide the country forever," Christopher said.

#### Russians, from page 1

Others put their arms around each other's shoulders as they posed for pictures of the historic moment. Just a few years ago, they likely viewed each other the enemy.

"They were never a personal adversary of myself," said Sgt. 1st Class Darren Bohn of Saginaw, Mich. "They were an adversary of the country, but this is just another job and they are just another unit that's taking our place."

"This has a great significance for our two countries," Torubargu said, through an interpreter. "This will help pull our people together and strengthen the relationship between our two countries."

Burleson's unit had been watching the checkpoint, which was deep in the Russian sector, for about three weeks.

"When we first came up here, we had both warring factions within the zone of separation," Burleson said. "That kept us busy monitoring, observing and reporting. On Jan. 19, the factions left. Since then, it's been just controlling the traffic as it moves through the checkpoint."

The infantrymen built bunkers to protect themselves and barriers to control the flow of traffic through the area. Concertina wire was strewn throughout and a steel bridge was erected to cross a large crater in the road.

After the two officers toured the checkpoint, Burleson presented Torubargu with a battalion coin as a token of friendship. He also left him with a piece of advice for surviving at Checkpoint Shark.

"Stay warm," he said.

"You have made it possible for prisoners to be reunited with their families and in many instances (for) turning guns into scrap metal. The promise of the Dayton agreement and the desire of the Bosnian people for peace can be fulfilled.

"Many, many people said this would never happen, but thanks to the work that you and your colleagues have done, it has happened. You have succeeded in the first critical stage of your mission and I congratulate you and I thank you," he said.

The audience of mostly soldiers greeted Christopher with a hearty "hoo-ah" and applauded his remarks warmly. The secretary spoke eloquently for seven-and-a-half minutes without notes, delivering a message that encouraged many of the soldiers.

"This has inspired me and made me feel better about what I am doing here," said Spc. Robert Williams of the Task Force Eagle Headquarters. "He

thanked us and he recognized us. We don't get enough of that."

Sgt. Arthur Foster, a heavy engineer with 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry (Airborne Combat Team), said he now knows how the operation is going. He said he was grateful the secretary would be telling people in the United States the troops in Bosnia were doing fine.

"This was a really good morale booster," said Pfc. Deron Jannicke, also of the 3-325th. "I felt like it came from his heart and didn't come off of a piece of paper. He's always been a good guy to the soldiers wherever he's gone."

Sgt. Christa Hopkins in the Task Force Eagle Headquarters said she wished the secretary had stayed longer, shaken a few more hands and posed for some pictures with the troops.

"It was too short and sweet," she said. "But it was nice that he came over."

## ✝ Tuzla Chapel Schedule ✪

The Eagle Base, Tuzla, Chapel is located in Building 14 (old Norwegian PX) near the dining facility. The weekly schedule is as follows:

**Catholic** Mass is held noon Monday through Friday, and 8 p.m. Saturday in Building 1 (Joint Information Bureau next to the front gate). Confessions are heard at 7:30 p.m. in Building 1. Sunday Mass is held 8 and 10 a.m. in the chapel.

**Protestant** worship is held Sunday 9 and 11 a.m. in the chapel, and 7 p.m. in Building 1. Bible study is held at 7 p.m. Monday and Friday in Building 28. A weekly Prayer Meeting is held 7 p.m. Wednesday in Building 28.

**Gospel** service is held at 2 p.m. Sunday in the chapel.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** worship service is noon Sunday in the chapel.

**Jewish** worship service is 6 p.m. Friday in Building 28.

**The ecumenical** service is 11 a.m. in the conference room Sunday for personnel working in the Task Force Eagle headquarters building.

## Germany community briefs

### AFN launches affiliate in Hanau

Hanau community members now have another source of local information, thanks to the new American Forces Network television affiliate — AFN Hanau, which began programming last month.

The new unmanned, community affiliate provides the opportunity to broadcast news and command information of interest regularly to the local Hanau military community.

"It's a new concept for AFN," said Herb Glover, AFN program director. If successful, it may be introduced in other ASG communities.

### Bamberg thief caught in the act

Military police caught a soldier in the act of stealing a wallet recently in the Bamberg Commissary. Military police officials set up a sting operation with Melanie Brookshire and Luisa Rossmann, both Bamberg PMO family members, acting as shoppers.

The thief is suspected in a string of wallet thefts at the commissary in which about \$1,500

was stolen from shoppers.

### Top official tours Wuerzburg schools

The head of the Department of Defense Education Activity recently visited Wuerzburg District to get a closer look at overseas schools.

"I'm so impressed with our students and teachers," said Dr. Lillian Gonzalez, worldwide director of Department of Defense Education Activity. "I've seen lots of parent volunteers and the military support here is great."