



THE TALON *F.Y.I.*

VOL 2, NO 6

TASK FORCE EAGLE, TUZLA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

FEB 23, 1996

Armor crew monitors zone of separation



Staff Sgt. Brian Cumper

An Abrams M1A1 tank with a mine roller clears a muddy field in the ZOS.

Sgt. Anthony J. Martinez
358th MPAD

NEAR OLOVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In the zone of separation, or ZOS, checkpoints are scattered all around to monitor the comings and goings of traffic by foot and by car.

It's a lonely job, and depending on the weather, it can be an unpleasant one too. In spite of the drawbacks, certain soldiers are tasked to man them.

One such soldier is Staff Sgt. Rodney Wilmore, San Antonio, and his M1A1 Abrams tank crew of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 68th

Armor. As he describes his responsibilities at Checkpoint 5-0, his driver, Pfc. Jens Pattis, stands atop the turret of the tank and prepares the rolling hunk of steel for movement. The four-man crew will relieve another crew, already at Checkpoint 5-0.

"Basically we have to monitor the traffic that comes through the checkpoint," Wilmore said. "You really have to watch what's going on. With peace enforcement, things aren't really as cut-and-dried as they are during war."

Although this is Wilmore's first deployment, he said he is more alert at the checkpoint than he would be in a wartime situation. "The bad guy could be anywhere. In peace enforcement, you have to restrain yourself

better (and) be able to use negotiating-type techniques to keep the peace."

He tells the story of a situation just days earlier when a group of local police were denied passage through the checkpoint on the ZOS. It is situations like this that give Wilmore's term "negotiating techniques" poignant meaning.

"Sometimes people will come up to the checkpoint and ..." he pauses to think of the best phrase, "they're bothered — bothered that they have to stop. You have to be tactful and be the negotiator."

Overall, he states that the people coming through have been cooperative, including the local people. "The reception that we've had here and the (atmosphere) that still remains is pretty good," Wilmore said. He admits he didn't expect to find the situation so favorable, but feels the positive cooperation is a pleasant surprise. "Here and there, you'll have an individual who's got nothing to give you but a bad look, but that's a very small percentage," he adds.

In fact, the situation in which he and his crew find themselves seems so acceptable that it is actually a source of concern for Wilmore. "If you can't feel any danger, then you're going to get complacent. As a soldier here, you can't get that way."

To overcome this obstacle, he said, they try to pay attention to details.

"We try to watch out for each other and ensure that we're in the right uniform and looking around, scanning the hills to make sure the job gets done right," he said.

As Wilmore walks toward his tank, he raises his voice over the low hum of the tank's turbine engine. As he directs the actions of his gunner, Sgt. Armando Cabanillas, and loader, Pfc. San Martin Sandoval, they prepare to move out. For the next 18 hours, the crew will be the eyes and ears of the U.S. Army at checkpoint 5-0 in the ZOS.

Soldier helps reunite Bosnian family Tuzla father finally 'sees' his son after 2 1/2 years

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
29th MPAD

With the help of a soldier from the 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Combat Team, one coincidence after another led to a reunion of sorts between a Bosnian father and his son who have not seen each other for 2 1/2 years.

The story started in 1993 when Carla and Steve Bouslog of Princeton, Ill., adopted a 16-year-

old Tuzla boy, Mirza Salkic. Mirza had been a star basketball player on the Bosnia-Herzegovina state team. The team played exhibition games in Croatia, Turkey, Germany and finally the United States. When they got to America, all 14 players decided to stay and were eventually scattered across the country. Mirza meanwhile became a star basketball player in his new hometown.

Last week, the Bouslogs were watching television when they spot-

ted an interview of their family friend, Sgt. Chuck Cravatta, a combat observation liaison team chief who is originally from Genoa, Ill. The Bouslogs wrote to Cravatta and told the story of how their adopted son has not been able to get mail to his family in Bosnia. The family sent Cravatta a package full of photos and letters from Mirza, in hopes Cravatta would be able to track the

Black History breakfast

Maj. Beverley Boyd, 1st Armored Division ammunition officer, will be the guest speaker at a prayer breakfast in honor of Black History Month.

The event will be at 6:30 a.m., Feb. 27, at Dining Tent No. 2 in Lukavac, said Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Watkins, equal opportunity advisor for Division Support Command.

Boyd will speak on this year's theme "African-American Women — Today and Tomorrow."

See *Reunion*, page 8

From the top

Soldiers must remain alert to hazards

I continue to talk to senior noncommissioned officers and officers about complacency, but let me give you a few examples of why we must remain vigilant.

We've recently heard the news that NATO forces raided a terrorist training facility less than 40 miles west of Sarajevo. Three of the men initially detained had Iranian papers, and eight Bosnians also were held.

NATO found a cache of weapons, including AK-47s, submachine guns, sniper rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and blasting caps at the facility.

The news should not be a sur-



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley
1st Armored Division

prise to any U.S. soldier, as certain countries have, for years, not been working in the best interests of the United States. The discovery of the facility confirms there is a terrorist threat to IFOR troops, and one that we all should certainly take seriously.

Task Force Eagle troops are under a high level of alert and must constantly exercise caution in territory peppered with mines, booby traps and other hazards. If you think for a minute that there are not people in Bosnia-Herzegovina who want to harm you, think again.

On Jan. 31, soldiers in 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Combat Team, encountered an unoccupied building. Before entering, the patrol carefully examined the building's interior through a side window. The patrol was able to detect a wire leading from the interior door knob to what appeared to be hand grenades hanging over the door entrance. The patrol did not enter the building and correctly reported the booby trap to their tactical operations center.

Upon later examination by Explosive Ordnance Disposal elements (EOD), it was determined that the apparent grenades were, in fact, only grenade fuses. However, the patrol demonstrated excellent booby trap awareness in their actions by exercising

caution and letting EOD handle booby trap problems.

Several mine incidents have been reported since IFOR soldiers arrived in Bosnia. As the spring thaw approaches, soldiers must be even more cautious as they travel around the country — even in areas that have reportedly been cleared.

With the end of Ramadan this week, there will likely be celebratory firing of weapons in the area. Remember, they may not be aimed directly at you, but be cognizant of this Muslim holiday if you hear gunfire in the distance.

As you go about your day-to-day activities, stay focused on your mission and stay alert to possible hazards that could harm you or your soldiers.

JMC update

Critical themes emphasized by commission

By Lt. Col. Jack A. Kingston
Deputy Chief, Joint Military Commission

The Joint Military Commission, or JMC, process at battalion/brigade level is the cutting edge of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR because it provides a forum for the Former Warring Factions and the IFOR to coordinate implementation of the military aspects of the General Framework Peace Agreement.

In the execution of this mission, several critical themes have become obvious.

OBJECTIVITY must be evident and demonstrated in every transaction conducted. Simply put, be smart, rigid and fair in dealing with each person you encounter. Remember, actions speak louder than words.

FORMALITY refers to the requirement to maintain an appropriate personal manner, military courtesy and bearing, as well as a friendly tone, while avoiding the establishment of friendships. The correct combination of these precludes insult based on official, cultural or personal transgressions, while also precluding ingratiating approaches or emotional assumptions by FWF personnel, which might allow them to clear their actions of blame based on real or perceived insult or special friendships, to the disadvantage of our mission.

INITIATIVE must be maintained. It is essential to establishing "who's in charge." On this point, there can be no mitigation — IFOR is in charge, period. That is only one reason why the constant and correct wear of personal combat gear, along with the ready carriage of weapons,

is so important; it conveys an impression of readiness and willing to react to any threat, at any time and place.

JUSTICE is inseparable from peace. The real and perceived actions of TFE troops must offer the hope of justice to all of those people who have lost loved ones, or treasured family homes and property owned for centuries, or otherwise suffered unspeakable atrocities and cruelties, often at the hands of former neighbors. Justice will be hard under these circumstances, but the first step must be to focus on the future instead of the past. This is absolute if we are to avoid getting sucked into the vicious cycle of racial, ethnic, religious and political vendettas. Don't discuss the past and we can avoid the quagmire of blame that fuels hatred and revenge in the Balkan psyche.

For example, in once instance, I inquired as to why an attack was directed at civilian factions. The reply was, "In the battle of Kosovo, in 1389, the Muslims and Croats betrayed the Serbs." When I observed that Serbs actually fought on both sides of that battle some 600 years ago, the reply was, "Well, only 100 years ago, the Muslims wiped out a Serb family in a local village." When I then asked why that necessitated an attack yesterday, the reply was, "To make sure they don't do it to us again tomorrow." In any case, to offer the best hope of justice and peace, TFE troopers must focus on today and the future

SUCCESS is our only goal, and it is the synthesis of the correct application of all the previous themes. Orient on and expect nothing less than success in every task, big or small.

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.

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Mine awareness

Mines cataloged digitally

The Department of Defense has announced the creation of a new computerized land mine database for use by soldiers in Operation Joint Endeavor. The three-disk set, called **BosniaFile**, contains information on the 36 mines most commonly found in Bosnia.

Data include pictures, general information on the size and weight of mines, metal content, country of origin and emplacement methods.

BosniaFile is an extract of **MineFacts**, a compact disk that contains information on more than 675 land mines throughout the world. The CD was developed by DoD last summer as part of the United States' contribution to the international effort to eliminate the land mine hazard worldwide.

For more information, contact the U.S. Army Communication and Electronic Command, Fort Belvoir, Va.

PMR-1 mine revealed

The Task Force Eagle Mine Awareness Office has released a photograph of a mine soldiers should be aware of, the **PMR-1**.

The mine is an anti-personnel explosive, 4 inches tall and 3 inches in diameter with an explosive weight of about 100 grams. It is fabricated out of hard plastic and looks like a large fuel filter. The device is trip wire-activated and explodes with a fragmentation effect.

If this or any other mine is encountered, **DO NOT** attempt to disarm it. Mark the device and report its location immediately so properly trained personnel may dispose of it.



A PMR-1 anti-personnel mine

40th Engineer battalion HQ survives heavy wind storm

By Sgt. Christina Steiner
203rd MPAD

TUZLA EAST — A wind and rain storm that rocked parts of Tuzla Valley on the night of Feb. 19 caused some heavy damage to the 2nd Brigade headquarters area in the southern-most part of the U.S. sector.

One unit in that area that was hit hard, but survived with no physical injuries, was the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 40th Engineer Battalion. HHC did however sustain losses to most of its tents and equipment.

"It was around midnight when all but one tent in our area collapsed," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hornbach, operations sergeant, HHC. "Our (tactical operations cen-

ter) was demolished, but we put up a (general purpose medium tent) and had enough lumber to build another TOC. The mess hall and kitchen trailer blew away — the whole area was hit.

"The TOC was in a valley, which acts like a funnel," explained Hornbach. "Some people hung onto the center poles of their tents as the wind was blowing. Some slept on top of their GP mediums by hanging on. A modular tent blew 30 feet away."

The 40th received new tents and assistance from its higher headquarters, the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade. Civilian contractors also assisted in the cleanup. Hornbach said the mess was being cleaned up quickly. The unit was up and running by the next day.

Finance updates entitlements *Servicemembers eligible for Hostile Fire Pay*

If you processed through the Personnel Accountability System prior to Jan. 20, 1996, the entitlements below, if applicable, should be reflected on your January Leave and Earnings statement.

FSA — Family Separation Allowance. Paid to soldiers separated from family members residing at the permanent duty station. Entitlement is \$75 per month or \$2.50 per day.

HFP — Hostile Fire Pay. Paid to soldiers who are permanently stationed or on temporary duty in Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the remaining land and airspace within the former Republic of Yugoslavia. (Note: Coastal waters of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenia and Hungary are excluded). Entitlement is \$150 per month.

FDP — Foreign Duty Pay: Paid to enlisted soldiers only at the following rates: E1 and E2 — \$8; E3 — \$9; E4 — \$13; E5 — \$16; E6 — \$20; E7-E9 — \$22.50.

PER DIEM — Paid to soldiers in a TDY status. The \$80 represents about 80 percent of the amount soldiers are entitled to. The remaining 20 percent for each month will be paid when soldiers file their final settlement vouchers. If you processed through PAS and were validated by Finance prior to Jan. 10, 1996, it should have appeared on your January 1996 LES. The entitlement is \$3.50 per day.

BAS — Basic Allowance for Subsistence will continue for all deployed officers.

SR — Separate Rations is authorized for all enlisted personnel in the area of operations due to the TDY status.

COLA — Cost of Living Allowance is based on soldiers' Permanent Duty Station

(PDS) and, if entitled before the deployment, will continue during the deployment.

SDP — Savings Deposit Program. Deployed soldiers are authorized to deposit their monthly "unallotted current pay and allowances" (up to a total of \$10,000) by either filling out an allotment form or making check/cash deposit. Deposits will accrue 10 percent per annum, compounded quarterly on the "average" quarterly balance on deposit. "Unallotted current pay and allowances" is basically the soldier's monthly net pay.

CZTE — Combat Zone Tax Exclusion. To date, this issue is still pending possible approval.

If you have any questions concerning your LES, contact your local finance office. Finance support in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary is provided by soldiers from the 8th Finance Battalion, headquartered out of Baumholder, Germany. The battalion is composed of finance soldiers from various offices in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Finance offices and MSE phone numbers include: Lukavac (551-7309); Gradacac (558-5633); 2nd BCT/Camp Angela (551-7330); TA Harmon/Zupanja (558-2730); Kaposvar (552-6020); and Zagreb (633-6213).

Outlying camps not served by the above numbers can have a finance support team sent to their location. Coordination should be made with the 8th Finance Battalion by calling MSE 558-5623.

Finance services include casual payments (limited to \$100 per month), currency conversions, cashing of negotiable instruments (such as money orders and traveler's checks), and Leave and Earning Statements.

USAREUR completes deployment of Task Force Eagle troops

USAREUR News Release

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY - U.S. Army, Europe has completed deployment of Task Force Eagle, the U.S. slice of the NATO-led peace implementation force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Over the past two months, U.S. Army, Europe has moved more than 25,000 troops, its equipment and life support more than 1,000 kilometers across former Warsaw Pact countries and into the IFOR sector of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The deployment was accomplished despite several setbacks that included the flooding of the Sava River, a French rail strike, an anti-nuclear protester who shut down the German rail system for two days and the harsh Balkan winter, which delayed many flights into the Eagle Base, Tuzla, air strip. No aviation accidents occurred during the deployment, as well.

The deployment included 11,000 vehicles and other pieces of equipment, 145 aircraft and 160,000 tons of supplies. That sum includes 62,000 pairs of boots and equates to the weight of 1,800 jumbo jets. To move this force, USAREUR employed 358 trains with 6,800 rail cars, 500 busses and 1,600 trucks, while strategic airlift provided 1,300 sorties.

This first overland deployment of the U.S. Army since 1945 was executed with great cooperation from our sister services, our NATO allies, as well as Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and the republics of the Former Yugoslavia.

With the deployment phase of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR complete, USAREUR will now concentrate on sustaining the force. Each day, Task Force Eagle will consume 72,000 meals, 192,000 gallons of water, 130,000 gallons of fuel and 133 tons of other supplies. Three convoys and at least four tactical airlift sorties will move on an average day.

Final element of the Nordic-Polish Brigade enters Bosnia



Spc. Kyle Davis

Swedish soldiers from 7th Coy (Company), Mechanized Infantry Brigade, patrol an icy road in the Nordic-Polish Brigade area of operations.

By Maj. Pasi Karonen
NORDPOL BDE

The Nordic-Polish Brigade of Task Force Eagle completed deployment on Feb. 14, when the last element, the main body of the Finnish Construction Unit arrived.

The Nordic-Polish Brigade area of operations is on the northwestern flank of Task Force Eagle, about 100 kilometers from north to south and 70 kilometers from west to east, bordering the Sava River in the north. The brigade headquarters is located in Doboj, in military barracks on the western outskirts of the town. This camp has been designated the North Pole Barracks.

The brigade is currently a five-nation joint enterprise with units from the three Scandinavian countries — Denmark, Norway and Sweden — as well as Finland and Poland participating. Also the three Baltic countries, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will join the brigade with approximately a platoon-sized element each.

The brigade was redesignated the Nordic-Polish Brigade or "NORDPOL BDE" on Feb. 10; the previous name was the Nordic Brigade or "NORDBRIG." The concept of the Nordic countries cover the three Scandinavian nations, Finland and Iceland. Iceland has no unit in the brigade, although one medical doctor from that country belongs to the Norwegian Medical Company.

The Nordic-Polish Brigade has under its control a total of 154 kilometers of Inter-Entity Border Line in between the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. There are three mechanized infantry battalions:

Danish, Polish and Swedish. In addition to these, there is a Norwegian logistics battalion and medical company, a battalion-sized Finnish construction unit and two multinational units, brigade headquarters company and military police company.

The commanding officer of the Nordic-Polish Brigade is Brig. Gen. Finn Saermark-Thomsen from Denmark. The deputy commanding officers are Brig. Jan. Bergstrom from Sweden and Col. Włodzimierz Sasiadek from Poland. The chief of staff is Col. Kjell Grandhagen from Norway.

Of the present five nations in the brigade, only Denmark and Norway are NATO members. Poland formerly was a member of the Warsaw Pact. Finland and Sweden have never belonged to any of these two alliances. Denmark, Finland and Sweden are members of the European Union; Norway and Poland are not. All these five countries have a rather extensive experience in the United Nations peacekeeping operations, also in the previous U.N. Protection Force, or "UNPROFOR," in the Former Yugoslavia.

The Nordic-Polish Brigade has one field artillery battery from the 3rd U.S. Field Artillery Regiment to provide direct support in its area of responsibility. There will also be forward observer personnel from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 28th Infantry Division. Further, there is decisive fire support from the 4th U.S. Aviation Brigade available as well as U.S. helicopters and crews for medical evacuation purposes assigned to the Nordic-Polish brigade. For logistical support there is a national support group and national support elements in Pecs, Hungary and National Movement Control Center in Karup, Denmark, contributing to the mission.

Military life goes on despite deployment

Field promotions held for 18th MP brigade

By Staff Sgt. Amy Gunnerson
203rd MPAD

TUZLA WEST — Deployment to Bosnia has put many aspects of soldiers' lives on hold temporarily, but not their promotions.

A promotion board for members of HHC, 18th Military Police Brigade, was held this week, the first since the brigade was deployed to Bosnia. A change in the board's location, however, did not necessitate many changes in how things were run.

"The main difference is that you appear before the board in BDUs rather than your Class A uniform, so you don't have to worry about putting all of that together," said Staff Sgt. John Brunzell of the 18th MP Brigade S1

section. Board candidates are still asked the same variety and number of questions ranging from military programs to world affairs, and the scoring system and standards remain the same, Brunzell said.

While the field might seem like a more relaxed environment, board members make every effort to retain the formalities, including an indoor facility for board candidates to report.

"We had a hard time just finding a place to hold it," said Sgt. Kenny Mack of the fact that the base camp's tents are all filled, "and it had to be at a time when all the board members could be away from their sections."

Sgt. Lisa Lang, who appeared at the 18th MP Brigade's Bosnia board, said she took the time to shine her boots and press her uniform. "We're in the field, yes, but I wanted

to make an effort for this."

Lang said preparing for a board while deployed made it a little more nerve-wracking.

"I have a whole lot of other things on my mind right now," she said, "and it made it a little harder to concentrate."

Duty hours tend to run longer in the field, making it difficult to find "down" time to study.

And while some soldiers claim a promotion board in the field seems easier, Mack said board candidates are at a disadvantage.

"Out in field, you have a study guide, but you don't have access to a lot of the publications you need to study. You also don't have the advantage of going home at night and having someone help you study."

Despite those obstacles, Mack said, "(Lang) did very well."

Team inspects area bakeries to monitor quality

Regular checks ensure servicemembers receive safe foods

By Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer
358th MPAD

The standard fare for most U.S. troops deployed to Bosnia is two T-rations and one MRE each day. But thanks to Army contracts with local bakeries, the day's menu often includes freshly baked bread as well.

Each day, throughout the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division area, local bakeries deliver hundreds of loaves of bread.

An inspection team recently visited the Mladost bakery in Bosanska Bijela, a village near Brigade Operating Base Kime. The small bakery, which also bakes for the Croatian Army, provides 400 loaves of bread daily to HHC, 1st Brigade.

"We are here evaluating the process they use to bake the bread and verifying good (quality) controls," said Maj. Bob E. Walters, commander of the 72nd Medical Detachment Veterinary Services (Forward). Walters came to 1st Brigade to inspect bakeries and other facilities in the area that provide food for the troops.

"It is in the division operations order that Class A food can only be procured from facilities that have been approved by U.S. medical forces," said Capt. Ronald P. King, 1st Brigade Surgeon (nicknamed "Ready Doc") who assisted Walters with the bak-



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Capt. Ronald P. King, a surgeon with HHC, 1st Brigade, inspects a bakery in Bosanska.

ery inspection. The inspection team has already visited a provider of eggs for 1st Brigade and will be checking other area bakeries in the future.

Walters and King thoroughly inspected the bakery, checking the storage and baking areas and even the truck that transports the bread to BOB Kime. They spoke with the manager, asking about such things as baking temperatures and the source of the ingredients.

As with all dealings in Bosnia-Herzegovina, IFOR forces strive to show no favoritism toward any particular ethnic group, especially with civilian contracts. "We're trying to contract out equally to the different factions, so that they are all getting equal pieces of the big pie," King said. "It's worked out pretty well. We've got some bakery contracts in Brcko with the Serbs, some here, with the Croats, and in Gradacac, a

Muslim area."

The inspectors made several minor recommendations on improving safety controls at the Mladost bakery. But, overall, it got a thumbs up from the inspectors. U.S. medical personnel will return every three months to inspect the bakery. They will assure the bakeries comply with their recommendations, and see that U.S. Army standards are maintained.

New signal node center helps communication

By Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison
29th MPAD

To make a stronger and more robust communication system, the 22nd Signal Brigade recently erected a new node center on Hill No. 425 in Northern Bosnia.

The soldiers of the 22nd are known for establishing communication stations on remote hilltops.

They are creating a more stable and dependable mobile subscriber equipment, or MSE, system for the Implementation Force that makes up Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"The beauty of this system is that it is unique. It's a multiple use, two-way telephone system," said 1st Lt. Jason Smith, public affairs officer for the brigade.

"If one system goes out, is destroyed or must be evacuated, we have others hilltop locations to take its place."

According to Spc. Sean Scully, a node center operator, Hill No. 425's switches are part of flood-searching capability that search for the nearest hilltop node to route data and voice communications.

"Node centers act as the backbone to the MSE network," Scully said.

"The function of this command post is communications and passing of information," said Maj. Tom O'Sullivan, G3 operations officers.

"We collate data and information from subordinate units that provide communication to the commanding general so that he has a good awareness of what's going on throughout the sector," O'Sullivan said.

"Without those node centers, and the remote signal sites out there on the many hilltops, we would not be able to do that."

Hill No. 425 strengthens the signal brigade's communication system, enabling units to keep in touch with other units serving in Bosnia and home stations worldwide.

"We bring a lot to the operation with adding Hilltop No. 425 to our network," Smith said.

The system provides a full-duplex capability, which means two people can talk on the system like they would on a regular telephone.

They don't have to press a button to talk or wait for the net to clear, Smith said.

Future plans for the 22nd Signal Brigade are building more node sites on hilltops in the region, making a stronger, smarter and more efficient communications system.

Soldiers celebrate end of Ramadan season

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
29th MPAD

Muslim American soldiers deployed with Task Force Eagle gathered together Tuesday to celebrate the end of Ramadan, a 30-day period of fasting and prayer to give thanks to Allah.

"The purpose of Ramadan is to get closer to God, to totally subject yourself to God, when we as Muslims give thanks," said Staff Sgt. Melvin Brown, a Baltimore native with the 440th Signal Battalion.

"This is a time when Muslims fast from sunset to sunrise, denying themselves humanly pleasures such as food, drink or sexual activity," explained Pfc. Sauda Rhweee Abdus-Saadiq of the 123rd Maintenance Support Battalion in Lukavac.

"Islam is not only a religion. It is a way of life," said her husband, Staff Sgt. El-Amin Abdus-Saadiq who is deployed with the 1st Armored Division in Lukavac. "For me, it's the end of a long period of depriving yourself of daily sustenance. It's necessary as a Muslim."

Muslim American soldiers from the Tuzla area convoyed to the Tuzla Main chapel to celebrate Id, a festival with prayer and food marking the end of Ramadan. The event was held in the All Faiths Room, but soldiers said they are hoping to get their own place of worship because of the requirements placed on them by their religion. Islamics must pray to Allah five times a day, and must do so through the Abdis — the obligatory religious cleansing of the body. They must be physically clean, and the room they pray in must also be clean.

"In the Army, it's hard to pray five times a day but with faith, patience and will, it can be done," said El-Amin Abdus-Saadiq. Friday is the holy day for Islamics.

He said it felt special celebrating Ramadan in a predominantly Muslim area such as Tuzla. Local Bosnian Muslims have even offered religious supplies to the American Muslims, such as carpets to pray on and books.

"All Muslims are brothers and sisters, whether they are from the U.S., Saudi Arabia or Bosnia," he said. "There is no race in Islam."

The festival was organized by 2nd Lt. Seth Hidek and Sgt. Mikal Haneef (O'Neal) of HHC, 1st Armored Division. Muslim American soldiers seeking Islamic service information may contact Hidek via MSE 551-2253, or Haneef at 551-3333. In Lukavac, call Abdus-Saadiq at 551-3515.



'King of the battle'

Camouflaged self-propelled M109 Howitzers are positioned at 4-12 Infantry Headquarters, lodging area Demi. The artillery unit is from DIVARTY, which is based in Baumholder, Germany. Photo by Spc. Glenn W. Suggs.

Personality of the week

Medic learns through life's experiences

By Spc. George Roache
29th MPAD

Spc. Jamie Glass sees few emergencies in her job as an Army combat medic.

Back at the troop medical clinic in Hanau, she used to give medical screenings to soldiers who were processing into 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation. At Comanche Base Aid Station outside of Tuzla, she sees patients during daily sick call.

She checks blood pressures, takes pulses, administers IVs and dispenses care and compassion to fellow soldiers who seek her out.

When a child who was walking near a convoy of military vehicles that was en route from Hungary to Tuzla was seriously injured by a civilian vehicle a few weeks ago, Glass quickly went into action to give first aid and comfort.

After that experience, she now knows she can handle emergencies as well.

She chose the combat medic field because she is planning a medical career. She loves helping people in general and has a soft spot for children in particular.

Glass serves with HHC, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation. The 25-year-old native of Kingston, N.Y., former site of extensive IBM factories and one town over from the site of Woodstock II, entered the Army in November 1993 to earn college money and see Europe while she was still young.

Her mother drew blood as a blood lab technician for 10 years, and Glass has plans to be a registered nurse. She said she would not have enlisted had she not been able to become a combat medic.

"The human body is just fascinating," she said. "Everything is so different, but it pulls together and it works. That's what appeals to me."

She has wanted to go into a medical field since she was 15 or 16 years old, she said, because she got such a good feeling from helping people.

"I've been in the unit two years. People are getting to know me really well and ask my advice on something that's ailing them," Glass said. "People get sick and don't want to admit it." Glass said it makes her feel good that fellow soldiers have enough confidence in her as a medic to seek her out.

She has a special spot in her heart for children, she said.

"I love kids. I think they're great. They are young, little and innocent. They don't deserve to have anything bad to happen to them."

That feeling gave a special urgency to a recent emergency involving a 10-year-old Bosnian boy.

Glass was the medic accompanying D Company's 30-vehicle convoy during its day-long trip from Hungary to Comanche Base.

She recalled seeing children on the road the whole length of the trip, "kids running all over the street," but thought nothing of it when the convoy stopped 15 miles from its final destination. The



Photo by Spc. Robert W. Bishop

Spc. Jamie Glass peeks at Chief Warrant Officer James Mosely's tonsils.

convoy had stopped so many times before it had become almost routine, she said.

Then someone from the truck just ahead of hers jumped out, ran back and told her to grab her first aid bag. The D Company commander was in the lead vehicle, saw an accident in which a civilian vehicle had apparently struck a boy and stopped the convoy, she said.

A man picked up the injured boy from the accident scene and was about to put him in another car to take him to the hospital. The commander interceded, calling over the radio for the medic.

Glass' truck was in the middle of the convoy, about 15 vehicles from the scene of the accident.

As she ran up, she saw the man holding the boy, and her heart sank.

She didn't know how bad the injury was but she could see that the child wasn't moving and knew that moving the victim could do more damage. She spread out a shock blanket on the ground and had the child placed on it. A combat lifesaver gently held the boy's head while Glass took his vital signs. His pulse and blood pressure were normal but the child was not in good shape.

Two Norwegian medics answered the commander's radio call for a medical evacuation, and a Blackhawk helicopter was flown in to transport the child to a military hospital.

The situation made Glass grateful for the medical training she had received.

"Any emergency medical technician can do a lot more in the military than in civilian life because you are many times the only one there," she said. "I just happened to be in that convoy. I was really scared, but I had worked with a lot of good medics who taught me everything they knew.

"I didn't know whether I could deal with a situation like that, but when it happened, I could," she said.

*"The human body is just fascinating
Everything is so different but it pulls
together and works."*

-Spc. Jamie Glass

Reunion, from page 1

Salkic family down.

"I hadn't talked to them since I joined the Army so I didn't know they had adopted a Bosnian," Cravatta said. "I didn't have a phone number or anything for (the Salkic family) — just a name and street.

"I didn't really believe I could find them. I was just anxious that I might be able to track them down and see if they're still around," he said.

Cravatta happened to open the letter while playing chess with his friends, Jasmihko Kohjic and Mirza Tursunovic, Bosnian translators with 3-325. Tursunovic, it turned out, immediately recognized the street because he lives in that neighborhood. Cravatta enlisted their help in tracking the family down. "When I came back from lunch, the translators told me they had already talked to the Salkics on the phone!" Cravatta exclaimed.

With the help of soldiers from the Joint Information Bureau, the translators were able to find the Salkics' phone number. The translators arranged for a taxi to pick up Mirza Salkic's father, Redzo, and 12-year-old brother, Ajdin. Within 30 minutes, Redzo and Ajdin arrived at the front gate to meet Cravatta and several awaiting reporters. Laughs, smiles, hugs and some tears followed as Cravatta recounted the tale to Redzo of how he knew his son's adopted family.

"This has to be the coincidence of the century," Cravatta said. To add another twist, Cravatta was scheduled to leave Tuzla in two days. Had the package from the Bouslogs been delayed in the mail, the reunion would have never occurred.

The new friends learned that Mirza Salkic



Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Redzo Salkic (center) and Sgt. Chuck Cravatta smile as translator Mirza Tursunovic reads a letter from Redzo's son, Mirza, who now lives in Illinois.

is now 19 years old and a star basketball player at Princeton, (Ill.) High School. Salkic recently received basketball scholarship offers from Illinois, Iowa and Arkansas. After chatting and exchanging the photos, the JIB arranged for Salkic to speak to his son on the phone. He shed a tear and smiled as he spoke to Mirza. "Words cannot explain how I feel. I am elated," Salkic said through an interpreter. It was the first time he had spoken to his son for more than five minutes in 2 1/2 years.

Tursunovic explained that during the four-year civil war, many young Bosnians were adopted by American families. Others, espe-

cially teenagers, fled to escape the horrors of war. "Here, there was no future, no jobs," Tursunovic said. "They wanted to go to school and college but here, they didn't have enough money, or food or even sometimes a place to sleep."

Now, the mayor of Princeton, Ill., is trying to raise money to fly the Salkic family to the United States to be reunited with Mirza in person. Young Ajdin, who also is a basketball player, said he can't wait to see his older brother, who is his idol. "Who knows? Maybe he will be as famous as Michael Jordan someday," Ajdin said.

With different armies come different rank structures

Soldiers in Turkish sector given lateral promotions

By Spc. Rick Roth
29th MPAD

A promotion may have been the last thing Cpl. William Burns expected while deployed in Bosnia.

"It was quite a surprise," said Burns, member of the 440th Signal Battalion. While in Bosnia, Burns, a soldier with four years of experience, has been working as a switching systems operator in the Turkish sector.

Turkish government mandates that male citizens between the ages of 20 and 36 do 18 month military service. During this time they are conscripts, but can choose to enter the military as a career, or return to being a civilian at the end of their mandatory service. After joining the active military, the soldiers are considered specialists, but will not receive the bulk of their technical training until becoming a noncommissioned officer.

The U.S. Army's 22nd Signal Brigade sol-

diers with the rank of specialist working directly with the Turkish Army have been given lateral promotions to the rank of corporal so they would be officially recognized as being technically proficient soldiers by their Turkish counterparts.

"The appearance of a hard stripe makes a world of difference," said Capt. Kenneth Curtis, 22nd Signal Brigade's S1. The new rank also will allow the former specialists to eat in the Turkish noncommissioned officer's dining facility.

Technical expertise in the Turkish rank structure falls mainly on the shoulders of senior NCOs.

"It's not uncommon to see one of my soldiers or myself working closely with one of their sergeants major to splice a wire," said Sgt. Troy Drawbaugh, a communication specialist with D Company, 440th Signal Battalion, located in the Turkish sector.

Curtis said each country is learning about the other's military.

The ongoing work of the 22nd Signal Brigade allows the Turkish Army to interface communications with the U.S. sector.

"Once we determined the parameters we'd be working under, it only took an hour to get five phone lines installed," Drawbaugh said.

A total of four lateral promotions, initiated by Brigade Commander Col. James D. Culbert, took place in January.

"We do a good job sticking together — taking care of everything, making sure everything is up and running," Burns said.

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