

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

■ METEOROLOGISTS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Weather frost or sun, forecasters at work

By Spc. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

Weather forecasts in the multinational sector of Bosnia originate with the workings of "Jack" Frost. Senior Airman Bruce A. Frost, who is nicknamed "Jack," is on the ground at Eagle Base, gathering important data used in forecasting weather throughout the theater

Frost is a meteorologist with the U.S. Air Force's 2617th Weather Squadron who has been in Bosnia since late December. He is attached to U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, which is based in Bad Kreuznach, Germany.



Frost

"So far, the biggest thing that stops air traffic into Tuzla is poor visibility," said Frost, a native of

Wilton, Maine. "Trying to learn this area's weather patterns has been the most difficult thing here."

Frost uses a disposable, battery-powered radio transmitting device that measures temperature, air pressure, dew point, hu-



Spc. Rick Roth

Senior Airman Bruce "Jack" Frost and Pfc. Adrienne King carry a weather balloon to the launch site.

midity and wind speed. The device, weighing about 11 ounces, is then attached to a hydrogen-filled balloon and released into the atmosphere.

Normally the balloon will reach an average altitude of 35,000 feet. However, Frost said one balloon he released here climbed as high as 52,000 feet.

Once airborne, the radio transmitter constantly relays data. A receiver on the ground processes the information and prints the results every five seconds. The balloon's flight, lasting about 1 hour, 30 minutes, ends when the pressure inside the balloon becomes too great in comparison to the pressure outside and finally bursts, letting the transmitter unit fall to the ground.



King

P f c . Adrienne King, a field artillery meteorologist with 1st Armored Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Baumholder, Germany, deployed to Bosnia with Frost to gather information used by the artillery. Wind speed, air pressure and temperature can affect the direction of artillery fire. The information on the meteorological conditions is then used to make corrections for firing, King said.

"If they need to fire, they want to be able to (accurately) fire for effect right off," said King, a native of West Palm Beach, Fla.

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Seabees receive Army awards

By Spc. BILL GALLAGHER
358th MPAD

BOB KIME — Fourteen members of the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion No. 133, otherwise known as Seabees, have been awarded Army medals for their work supporting the "Ready First Combat Team" (1st Brigade) serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Col. Gregory R. Fontenot, 1st Brigade commander, awarded five Army Commendation Medals and nine Army Achievement Medals to the Seabees.

Following the award presentation, Fontenot told the sailors their work and dedication helped the mission.

See **Seabees**, page 8

From the top

Leaders, enforce safe convoy practices

I've heard a lot of comments about my new name after a Feb. 21 story in *The Stars and Stripes* quoted me as Command Sgt. Maj. Jack "Finney" (Tilley).



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

Well, everyone needs a good laugh every now and then, and I suppose I've

had mine. The story focused on the possibility that the alcohol drinking ban on U.S. troops may eventually be lifted.

In case anyone has any questions about that policy, let me clarify it for you. The rule remains no drinking until the commanding general gives the autho-

ization. Period.

And now on to a pet peeve of mine.

I passed a convoy the other day where most of the troops had their helmets off, some were sleeping and their vehicle windshields were filthy, obstructing the drivers' vision.

Riding without helmets indicates soldiers are getting complacent, which is a dangerous trend.

What if someone along the road fired celebratory shots, as some local Bosnians have been known to do? If shots hit one of your vehicles, your troops would have a better chance of surviv-

ing if they were wearing their proper equipment, i.e., their kevlar and body armor.

Noncommissioned officers and leaders, it is your job to enforce strict uniform policies, making sure your soldiers wear their helmets with the chin straps properly secured under the chin.

And what about sleeping? Everyone knows riding in a vehicle can make you drowsy but don't doze while riding in a convoy. Tell your soldiers to unzip windows to get fresh air, and if they get tired, have them stop their vehicles and get out to stretch. But make sure to maintain security. And ensure your soldiers do not use personal tape player/radios that could impede their hearing.

Make sure you have communication, not only with the vehicles in your convoy, but also with your higher headquarters.

We all understand the commanding general's rule that says soldiers who are in a stopped vehicle longer than 2 minutes, 30 seconds must hop out and clean the windshield. Bosnia has many mines, and a clean windshield will help you clearly see your location, including any mines that could be located alongside the road.

Leaders, I believe that discipline is what your soldiers do when no one is looking. When soldiers understand the standards you have set and see they are being enforced, they will comply. But if you don't set them, your troops won't follow them.

From the commander

To the men and women of the Implementation Force

Feb. 18 was D+60 and the 60,000 IFOR force is set!

Congratulations to each of you on this historic accomplishment. It was a total effort by Allied Command Europe and many non-NATO nations who have joined us in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Together we have deployed nearly 60,000 troops in 30 operational maneuver battalions supported by artillery, aviation, logistics, engineers, communications, military police and other units.

Over 2,800 aircraft flights, 400 trains and 50 ships have been skillfully orchestrated by SHAPE and theater movement control centers. This unique deployment is the largest military operation in Europe since World War II.

Clearly, Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR has reaffirmed the high standards and tested procedures of our great alliance.

Equally important is that the manner in which you have performed your duties is indicative of your professionalism, pride and commitment.

With the force set, COMIFOR, COMARRC and the multinational division commanders will continue to execute the military tasks of the peace agreement.

Much has been accomplished in the first 60 days but much more still remains. At D+90 the gaining party, to include refugees, will enter the areas transferred. At D+120, forces and heavy weapons from the former warring factions will withdraw to designated cantonment areas.

Most important, the IFOR will now begin to create the secure environment to ensure freedom of movement throughout the country, not only for IFOR but for all the parties as well as United Nations and hu-

manitarian organizations and agencies. The challenge is to get economic reconstruction, elections, water, electricity, humanitarian organizations, police and other essential civilian agencies up and running in order to create momentum for peace in Bosnia and offer hope to the people.

While we will focus on our primary military tasks we will continue to support these civilian agencies within our capabilities.

I know you are aware that mines, rogue elements, snipers and other challenges such as harsh weather and ruffed terrain still make Bosnia a dangerous place. You must not become complacent. Keep your head in the game. Leaders must continue to stay engaged and active with their troops.

As IFOR continues to perform its mission, each of you must stay informed, focused and

alert. I know you will.

Again, my congratulations on the manner in which the force was deployed by D+60 and the professional way you are executing your mission on the ground as well as on the sea and in the air. You are setting the conditions for a successful peace in Bosnia and by so doing are creating the opportunity for a new security framework for Europe.

The Secretary General of NATO also asked me to express his appreciation and that of the North Atlantic Council for your outstanding efforts to date. As you must know, I am extremely proud of each of you. NATO's mission continues.

ONE TEAM - ONE MISSION!

Gen. George A. Joulwan
Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

THE TALON

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NEWS BRIEFS

Talon has a new look

Observant readers may have noticed *The Talon* has undergone a facelift. The striking, modern design changes are courtesy of the 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office.

In addition to the cosmetic changes, *The Talon* introduces "Tanker Sarge," who will be on hand each week to answer questions from the troops of Task Force Eagle. Got a burning question? Ask Tanker Sarge.

Toothbrush PMCS

The cold and flu season is in full swing, according to the 30th Medical Brigade based at Camp Rambaugh in Visca, Bosnia-Herzegovina. One of the best ways to cut down on disease transmission is to properly maintain and care for your toothbrush.

Capt. Peter H. Guevara, a dentist with the 122nd Medical Detachment, offers a few suggestions:

- Place the toothbrush in a container where it can breathe after use, but don't leave it out in the open. Germs from tentmates' sneezes or coughs can end up on your toothbrush. Simply placing a paper towel over your tooth brush will help.

- Change to a new toothbrush every two to four weeks if possible. Buy one at the local PX or have one sent from home.

- Most local water is not potable; therefore, it should not be used for brushing your teeth or even rinsing your toothbrush. But without running water, it is impossible to adequately rinse your toothbrush. To keep it clean, once a week get an empty bottled water container, fill it with two inches of bottled water, drop your toothbrush into the bottle, replace the cap and shake vigorously for two to three minutes. Remove toothbrush and rinse.

Rapid requisitioning

The Defense Logistics Agency continues to see requisitions in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR being processed through the wholesale system without project code 9EV.

To ensure the rapid resupply of material, all requisitions should be submitted with a 9EV project code. Using this code will ensure your requisition receives priority fill and transportation.

For more information, soldiers may call DSN 370-8669.

PLAIN TALK

With
TANKER SARGE

To all of the soldiers of Task Force Eagle — Greetings! This is Tanker Sarge checking into the Iron Soldier Net — if you want to read these messages no CEOI or authentication are necessary. Just some common sense, a little patriotism and a whole lot of esprit-de-corps.

As you may already know the identity, rank and duty position of Tanker Sarge is a closely guarded secret. My mission from God is to give Iron Soldiers an inside track on soldier issues, gripes, attaboys, ridiculous happenings and to share a few laughs.

Here's how it works: You ask it; I answer it, CHECK? It's sort of like a "Dear Abby meets Joe Bob Briggs sort of thing, but with a military left thrown in for good measure. Just think of me as your buddy. And speaking of buddies, let's talk about just what a buddy is.

My opening salvo and a good way to get on line is to give you *Tankers Sarge's* definition of a soldier's best buddy.

First though, let me tell you that everyone always responds that, "A buddy is the guy who will give his life to save yours," i.e. the supreme sacrifice ... drum roll, etc.

OK, that's nice, it may even happen and it's the school solution but *Tanker Sarge* says a good Iron Soldier shouldn't, and probably doesn't, really think that way. Heresy? No! Think about it!

Tanker Sarge's Rule #1

Expect your buddy to save your life only if your actions don't require of him a greater risk that he will lose his life!

"Your job is not to die for your country ... it's to make the other poor dumb bastard die for his country..." Gen. George S. Patton, Circa, 1943.

In other words, America's Army concentrates on sending bad guys to Valhalla, not on how to get your buddy there...

And so, good Iron Soldiers don't anticipate getting their buddy's butt in a sling, or establishing a risk profile that would require the "supreme sacrifice," mutilation or dismemberment of their best buddies.

According to *The Old Tanker's Guide* your best buddy is not (a) the guy that you can consider expendable, (b) not your bullet/fragmentation shield and (c) not your fail-safe device.

A buddy **WILL** (a) share his food, fire, water and bunker without complaining, (b) tell you more than you



want to know about himself, his wife, his career, his enemies, his health and his love life, (c) tell you more than you need to know about your wife, your career, your enemies, your health and your hygienic habits, (d) listens to you when you're wrong, (e) fights for you when you're wrong, (f) truly hates to tell you when you're wrong, but always will, (g) will throw you his last ammo clip if you're out and in deep doo-doo, (h) breathe his life and blood into you when everyone else gives up, (i) make the enemy think he is a reinforced platoon firing a mad-minute if they shoot at you, (j) hand your spouse or mom the flag, (k) insure your kids never need anything and never forget you, (l) FINALLY, your buddy will be at your 50th memorial reunion with flowers, a flag a prayer and a tear in his eye ... for you!!

Tanker Sarge's guidance— cut your risk profile and keep your buddy!!

BREAK, BREAK, all Iron Soldiers are invited to send their comments, gripes, jokes, anecdotes and stories by courier, fax, military postal service, distro, carrier pigeon or MP working dog to *The Talon* at Eagle Base.

Caution: *Tanker Sarge* reserves the right to return direct or indirect fire, at my will and pleasure, and to the public discomfort of the unwashed, unruly, disrespectful or unnecessarily exposed and lucrative targets.

The next subject: will be ... How to tell the difference between a "mud troll" and an Iron Soldier ...

This is Tanker Sarge, OUT.

Send your questions to:

Tanker Sarge
c/o *The Talon*
29th MPAD - JIB
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Locals help bridge communication gap

By Spc. PAT HENDRICKS
358th MPAD

Sanja Kadic and George Nashid Gamal, residents of Brcko, are helping bridge the communication gap between IFOR commanders and military and civilian authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They were hired as translators to help alleviate the language barriers.

Translators play an important role in IFOR's effectiveness. They assist commanders in their meetings with local officials; they help transcribe publications IFOR uses to get its messages out to the citizens; and they help negotiate service contracts.

"I heard that IFOR needed translators so I applied, took the tests and was hired. It's a great job," said Kadic, an 18-year-old Serbian.

Born and raised in Brcko, about 60 miles north of Tuzla, Kadic possesses an effervescent personality that overcomes the ravages of war. Despite the condition of her country, she continues to strive for a better life.

She continues to enjoy her friends, parties and just hanging out. Graduating from high school one year ago, she's now in college studying foreign economics.

Kadic learned English in school and by watching American television programs. The programs are shown with subtitles in the Serbian language, her favorite being MTV.

According to her, the music video network is just as popular with young people here as it is in the United States.

Although many houses and other buildings in Brcko were destroyed during the war, her family's home was spared. The town's population is down from 40,000 before the war to about 25,000, according to Kadic.

Kadic's family is happy she has the job with IFOR, but her mother worries about her being surrounded by so many men, she said. She tells her mother there's no need to worry. "It's an interesting job — it's always interesting when

uncle live with another family in a deserted house in Brcko. He worked as a translator for 2 1/2 years in his hometown before the Croatian Army took the area by force in 1995.

"I took my family to Belgrade to try and find a way to get out of the country, but there was no place for us. My wife once sat in the Canadian Embassy all day before they told her it would take six months just to get an interview for visas," Gamal said.

He made it to Brcko where he lived off his savings from the U.N. job. The money had run out by the time he applied for an IFOR position. He worked in a factory in Glina before the war started. His parents and brother continue to live in Serbia.

Gamal, 29, learned English from elementary to high school and further honed his English-speaking skills

while traveling around Europe, mostly in England. Gamal's mother is Serbian and his father is a native of Sudan.

Gamal's job as an IFOR translator may end in a year. After that, he's not sure what his fate will be. For now he's enjoying his job and the relative peace.

"With this job, I have been a part of something I never thought would work: bringing all three sides together, seeing Muslims, (Croats) and Serbians come together clearing mines right in the middle of road. It's an interesting job, never boring. There is much to do," said Gamal, who met his first American when IFOR came to town.

"With this job, I have been a part of something I never thought would work: bringing all three sides together."

— *George Nashid Gamal*

all sides come together. And, all the guys are very polite, very nice and friendly," Kadic said. When asked what she thought of American soldiers before actually meeting them, she replied, "I certainly didn't think what I do now. I thought they would be arrogant."

Kadic has never been outside Bosnia, but she would love to visit America some day. "America is my dream and especially Florida with all the sunshine," Kadic said, with a glow in her eyes.

Gamal, who works with Kadic, was not so lucky. He is a Serbian refugee from Glina, Croatia. He, his wife, their 12-year-old son, and his wife's mother and

Soldiers attend mine awareness refresher class

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

BOB KIME — From the beginning, mines have posed a dangerous threat to troops deploying to Bosnia.

Mine incidents since the arrival of IFOR have emphasized the need for continued training in this area. A mandatory mine refresher class held at Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division and other Task Force Eagle units focused on these incidents. Instructors talked about what was done correctly or incorrectly to add force and meaning to the training.

"The class reinforced the mine training we had in Germany and showed how it is ap-

plicable to the 'Ready First' area of operation," said Capt. Paul Hill, HHC commander and instructor of the class. "People paid more attention here than they did in Germany, because they have been here and can see that, 'yeah, that's true. That can really happen.'"

The first U.S. casualty occurred Dec. 30 when a Military Police HMMWV ran over a land mine, leaving a soldier seriously injured. The Army Center for Lessons Learned studied that mine encounter and those that followed. Their findings reinforced the lessons taught in the refresher mine awareness class.

On Jan. 10, a Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, struck an anti-personnel

mine while verifying clearance on a route. This unfortunate incident provided some positive lessons learned.

No one was seriously injured, because an armored vehicle, instead of a wheeled vehicle, was chosen to verify the route. The crew correctly remained in the vehicle, backed out to a safe area, and only then inspected the vehicle for damage. Their actions showed that "they were trained and disciplined soldiers," Hill said.

In addition to mines, booby traps and unexploded ordnance also present a serious danger to the soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The refresher training class also stressed caution and awareness of these dangers. Some main points reinforced in the training were: If

you didn't drop it, don't pick it up; stick to approved routes; and don't give in to curiosity or take chances.

The class gave soldiers a chance to sharpen their knowledge and skills here, where the proximity of danger and experience add force to each lesson. Many soldiers appreciated the opportunity.

"I was very pleased with the training," said Cpl. Scott F. Sullivan. "Mine awareness was really stressed to us before we got here, but we haven't had much training since. The class showed that leadership cares a lot about the safety of the soldiers."

In an effort to keep soldiers aware and trained to react to mine incidents, Hill said they will probably do more refresher courses every 30 to 60 days.

16th Engineer Bn soldiers assist in securing camps



Sgt. Christina Steiner

Sgt. Phillip Fritts flattens sandbags at Tuzla West to make them fit better.

By Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER
203rd MPAD

TUZLA WEST, Bosnia-Herzegovina — One of the highest priorities now for U.S. soldiers in Bosnia is securing and protecting their base camp areas quickly and bringing them to Army standards. The experts in force protection at the 16th Engineer Battalion are providing these services, manpower and advice to other units in the Tuzla Valley.

Companies A and B of the 16th are working on the ground with units at Tuzla West, Lukavac, Bedrock and other base camps to build bunkers, sandbag fighting positions and lay triple-stand concertina wire around the camps' perimeters.

"Most base camps had to build their bunkers themselves because they needed some quick force protection," said 2nd Lt. James Edmonds, First Platoon leader, A Company. "They tried the best they could, but the bunkers weren't sturdy enough or to our standards. They have to be torn down and new ones put in place."

On one assignment in mid-February, Edmonds and his platoon were on site at Tuzla West to assist the 793rd Military Police Company install a new, prebuilt bunker at its checkpoint, which was an all-day affair. The soldiers in A Company had built the bunker at the 16th headquarters in Bedrock. Edmonds explained the differences between some base camps' bunkers and the 16th Eng. Bn's:

"Ours has reinforced boards and can take more load on top," he said. "Theirs was plywood and can't hold sandbags on top."

The 16th Eng. Bn. bunkers, which take three to four hours to construct, are built

with thicker wood and are heavier. They require crane off-loading. After the bunker is in place, sandbagging in and around the bunker requires at least eight hours labor with several soldiers participating.

Sgt. Phillip "Carpetman" Fritts of A Company, supervises much of the bunker sandbagging. He is considered by his platoon to be a subject matter expert. "We're supposed to supervise," he said, "but in reality we're working a lot with these soldiers also, to teach them. There's a special way to pack the sandbags — you can't just place them around the bunker. You have to flatten them first. That way they'll fit flatter and tighter.

"There are different types of bunkers depending on their location and purpose," explained Fritts. "The checkpoint (bunker) we're doing here is designed to give a 360-degree point of view. At this location, we're expecting (hostiles) to drive straight in. Later, we'll put Plexiglas and chicken wire in the window portion so if someone hits it, the (bullet) will bounce back. The biggest threat at checkpoints is car bombs and (drive-by shootings)."

So, how did Fritts become a bunker expert? "I just read a book on how to do it," he said. "I've built about 10 bunkers so far."

In addition to bunkers and sandbagging, soldiers of A and B companies advise base camps in other force protection matters, Edmonds said. "We advise these camps on how to place their living quarters," he said. "For example, don't put the tents too close to the concertina wire. The mayors of the base camps also ask for our advice pertaining to engineering issues. We don't do roads, but we can advise."

Rubber walls provide camp with safety

By Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER
203rd MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — Others may have been intimidated by the abandoned quarry and giant tire dump, but the 16th Engineer Battalion saw the area as an opportunity and grabbed it. It was the best strategic area in the Tuzla area, said Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Walls of the 16th. Yet, even he almost turned away.

"We were looking for an area near Tuzla but not near the city," Walls said. "We saw this quarry on the map and thought it would be nice. Then we got there, saw the pit and thought, 'that's not good.' We thought the hill was nice but we got to a certain point and saw these Euclid tires — giant dump-truck tires — and almost went back."

But then Walls realized the area's potential and claimed Camp Bedrock as the headquarters of the 16th. He had the support of top brass. The 16th moved in the third week of January.

The Bedrock area, including the hill and quarry, can house 8,000 soldiers. Now, it is home to between 800 and 900 soldiers from HHC; A, B and C companies; and assigned units of the 535th, 38th, 317th and 55th engineer companies, as well as the 212th MASH.

"The hill has less mud and it's up high," Walls said. "Security-wise, this is the best place in the whole valley. We can see everything from up here."

Walls said he invented the name — Bedrock — because of the camp's "prehistoric" look. "The huge crane in the quarry looked like a dinosaur, and I could imagine Fred Flintstone riding on it."

Soldiers of the 16th and subordinate units stack the giant tires (each one measures more than 4 feet across and stands about 5 1/2 feet high) around the Bedrock perimeter for force protection.

Bedrock has the attention of the U.S. sector's generals, who say it will become the final hub for soldiers before they depart Bosnia.

Lt. Col. John Sterling, 16th commander, said, "As folks move out, some will come here on their way out of Bosnia. The last person to leave Bosnia will probably turn out the lights here."

WORKING IN THE ZOS

MCR, Russians spread message of peace

By Staff Sgt. AMY GUNNERSON
203rd MPAD

ENROUTE TO RUSSIAN CHECKPOINT NO. 39 — "It's like packing for a family vacation," said Spc. Craig Moncey, laughing, of the preparations necessary to travel in a convoy to Russian Checkpoint No. 39.

Packing rucksacks and rations into vehicles as well as conducting radio checks and ammunition checks are part of a sometimes tedious, but always necessary, ritual on convoys going into the zone of separation (ZOS) here in Bosnia.

Moncey is a member of a military civil relations team attached to the 18th Military Police Brigade here. The team was traveling into the zone of separation for the second time in two days. Part of his job is to work with Russian soldiers to disseminate information about the Implementation Force and mine awareness to the people who are returning to their homes within the ZOS, about 60 miles north of Tuzla.

The civil relations soldiers team up with MPs from the brigade to ensure full security for the convoy.

As the convoy began, Moncey and others in the vehicle waved back at the schoolchildren who dotted the snow-covered road with their brightly colored backpacks and their smiles on their way to school.

Along this road, where ve-

hicles are outnumbered by the pedestrians walking to the bus stop and playing children, the mood was light and one of progress as the residents went about their business.

An hour down the road, however, the mood changed as swiftly as the scenery. The bright colors were replaced with blackened buildings all but destroyed by the years of war, and the jokes of the soldiers were replaced with silence and the occasional comments, "Did you see that? Can you believe anyone lives there?"

Passing by charred, bullet-riddled buildings and homes without roofs, it was easy to see why the soldiers gripped their weapons a little tighter and the posture of Spc. Paul Wood up in the turret gun stiffened. The signs of war are still fresh, making the job of the military civil relations soldiers all the more important in the ZOS.

"We are working with the Russians to develop pamphlets, radio broadcasts and other products relevant to their area of operation — to put out the message that IFOR is here to protect the peace," Capt. Thomas Bergman said. The leaders do that primarily by contacting village elders and officials, stressing neutrality and the provisions of the Dayton Agreement.

"We solicit their help, such as locating known mine areas and their cooperation with IFOR objectives," Bergman said.

Working with their Russian counterparts also offers these American soldiers the opportunity to do something that many thought they might never do — work in peace with a former enemy.

"Yesterday I broke bread with my former No. 1 enemy, the former Soviet Union," Staff Sgt. Aron Leach said. "I can go home knowing I made a difference doing that."

At the checkpoint, the military civil relations team soldiers are greeted warmly by their Russian counterparts. While leaders talk business through an interpreter, the enlisted Russian soldiers have many questions for the crew. In careful, practiced English, one

soldier asks if a U.S. soldier's kevlar helmet can really stop a bullet. Another listens to a compact disc, offered by Wood.

"Garth Brooks, a BIG country music star!" Wood said as the Russian soldier nodded appreciatively with Wood's CD headphones on.

On the return convoy to Tuzla West, driving by the same war-torn neighborhood, other signs of peace, though not-so-obvious, could be noticed. While there were no children running to school, a young boy and his father stood timidly in a doorway and waved.

And a home that was once a target of gunfire, sprouted a line of brightly colored laundry hanging to dry.



Staff Sgt. Amy Gunnerson

Spc. Craig Moncey (left), Sgt. Darrin Hanner (middle) and a Russian soldier compare wristwatches.

Instructor critiques mine awareness training

By Capt. JASON BAGLEY
358th MPAD

BOB KIME — Just how well-trained are soldiers in Bosnia? That's what Capt. Scott Johnson, a mine awareness instructor for the Combat Maneuver Training Center, in Hohenfels, Germany, came to Bosnia and Herzegovina to find out.

Johnson, along with other observer-controllers from the CMTC, was asked to assist the 1st Armored Division with a mine awareness after-action review process. "They (1st Armored Division) wanted observer-controllers who were teaching this stuff to come down and assist in any way they can," he said.

According to Johnson, an important

part of this process is to gather first-hand information and incorporate it back into the training at Hohenfels.

"We're here to get as much information as we can about the operational environment, what's going on here, how we can make CMTC more realistic, and how we can do individual, replacement training better to make the whole process better for the soldiers coming to Bosnia," he said.

How realistic was the training prior to deployment? "Everybody I've talked to, both officers and enlisted, say that the training they received was right on the money," Johnson said. "The environment there is similar to the environment here as far as the cold, the wet, and the

mud. The scenario we put together was almost to a tee what they found when they got here," he said.

Johnson hopes that the mine awareness training taking place in theater helps get rid of the complacent attitude that some of the soldiers are developing, or could develop, having been here for a while in this high-risk mine environment.

Now, according to Johnson, he'll incorporate and re-emphasize what the soldiers have learned, into the training program back in Germany. Hopefully, the result will be a better-trained soldier who is more aware of the mine danger in Bosnia-Herzegovina and knows how to stay alive.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

NCO aids Apache combat readiness



Spc. Robert W. Bishop

Sgt. Robert McLoughlin inspects hellfire missiles on an Apache helicopter.

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

When Apache pilots from the 4th Air Cavalry Brigade landed at a nearly deserted army airfield in Kaposvar, Hungary, last December, they discovered their mission had changed.

Original plans called for them not to fly operational missions until they reached Tuzla, but they quickly found out they would have to fly those missions sooner than they expected.

Getting operational meant rounding up hellfire missiles and other ammunition for the Apaches as soon as possible.

And that's where Sgt. Robert McLoughlin of 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, stepped in.

McLoughlin spent five hectic days from Dec. 21 to 25 catching up with the increased tempo of the operation. Using the knowledge of ordnance he'd gained during his 12-year Army career, McLoughlin got the ammo delivered, stored and issued so those birds could fly and defend themselves.

The way he approached the challenge was dead on target, said his support platoon leader, 1st Lt. Peter Lorincz.

"McLoughlin's setting up of an ammo holding area and distributing ammo to those who needed it was a critical part of the mission," Lorincz said. "If he didn't handle it, those helicopters would have been useless. If a situation happened in which they had to use their weapons, it would have been tough luck.

"The three basic principles in a tactical situation are to shoot, move and communi-

cate. He provided the 'shoot' part," he said.

Fourth Brigade had formed Task Force Comanche using Apaches, Black Hawks, Chinooks and maintenance crews from several different units to deploy to Tuzla.

McLoughlin had flown to Kaposvar on Dec. 21 as part of a lead element of roughly 80 soldiers in a task force company team. Task Force Comanche would use the site as a staging area into Bosnia. His task was to locate where the ammo would be convoyed, find out who the key players were for getting it there, where to pick it up and where to store it.

"We came into a very cold, dark, deserted airfield," said the 29-year-old Farmingdale, N.Y., native. "That's exactly what it was — (there was) not a tent up. Advance people were living on the upstairs floor of an auto body shop. We were billeted in a SCUD missile bay that night."

However, weather held up the two Chinooks that transported the team for five nights in Giebelstadt, Germany, while commanders had decided the helicopters would be operational before reaching Tuzla.

"As soon as the Apaches got on site, they wanted missions flown," McLoughlin said. "We didn't have the time to organize and coordinate we expected. And there were 12 Apaches instead of six by the time we arrived because we had been held up."

McLoughlin found the ammo they needed had been shipped to Tazsar Airbase, Hun-

gary. He coordinated with the 19th Materials Movement Company to get it moved and made adjustments to its distribution because not enough of the right kinds had been sent for the additional six Apaches.

Working without the 10-soldier detail, the six to 11 trucks, the forklifts, tarps and fire extinguishers generally used to unload ammo from planes or trucks, McLoughlin pulled individuals from other tasks to get the job done and the birds flying.

"His work allowed Army Aviation operations to begin for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR," said 1st Lt. Leah Archer, assistant operations officer for 2-227th. "Without the ammo, none of those helicopters could have moved. Army Aviation operations would have been shut down."

Getting and distributing ammo is now simple for Task Force Comanche because of the system McLoughlin initiated, Lorincz said.

Currently, McLoughlin wears several hats as training, education and equipment automation NCO, key control officer and ammo section sergeant. He earned his associate's degree in computer studies from the University of Maryland in January and puts it to good use installing, maintaining and updating computer systems as the battalion information management officer.

Joining and excelling in the military was a natural path for McLoughlin. He grew up in a conservative, pro-military Long Island community, and several of his relatives served in the military.

McLoughlin got his start with ordnance in 1984 at an Army Reserve company within walking distance of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh where he attended college for one year. After going active duty in 1986 as a private first class, he gave new meaning to the term "high speed." In his first 18 months assigned to 8th Ordnance Company at Fort Bragg, N.C., he was selected brigade soldier of the year, garnered seven certificates of achievement, organized a holiday safety show for the 18th Airborne Corps and was promoted to specialist.

Overall, he's earned 16 certificates of achievement, five Army Achievement Medals and two Army Commendation Medals.

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Overall, he's earned 16 certificates of achievement, five Army Achievement Medals and two Army Commendation Medals. He was a distinguished honor graduate of the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course and taught common leader training in the Primary Leadership Development Course at the NCO Academy in Fort Lewis, Wash.

Weather, from page 1

Balloons are released from Eagle Base at noon and midnight every day. Information gathered from the launchings is used not only here but as far away as Vicenza, Italy and Ramstein, Germany.

Valleys, lakes and mountains directly influence weather, and the dramatic changes in Bosnia's geography wreak havoc with the predictability of daily weather patterns, Frost said.

Although, Frost said, that's what makes the job interesting.

"You may come in and start doing the same thing every day," Frost said, "but the weather isn't going to be the same every day."

Seabees, from page 1

"You have made a difference to us," Fontenot said. "The soldiers in the brigade are open and loud in admiration for the work you have done."

Although the Seabees may not get much recognition, their work is appreciated by everybody involved in the mission, Fontenot added.

"The job you've done, making (soldiers') lives a little easier when they're in the base camp counts for a lot," Fontenot said. "You make a bigger difference than you realize."

The Seabee's are currently finishing construction projects at other base camps in the 1st Brigade area. Once they are finished, they will redeploy to their home station in Rota, Spain.

KEEPING MENTALLY FIT

Medical team finds ways to combat deployment stress

By Sgt. KELLY FISCHER
358th MPAD

BOB KIME — Deployment is stressful for everyone. But sometimes the field environment or unresolved problems at home can take its toll on a soldier. Teams are visiting base camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina to help identify and treat soldiers who may need help dealing with these stresses.

"We're trying to help division commanders and company commanders identify and control combat stress," said Capt.

Raymond Durant, a social worker with the 1st Armored Division, Division Mental Health, supporting 1st Brigade.

"Combat stress" refers to any high level of stress experienced by soldiers. "A lot of people have trouble adapting to being in a high-risk situation," Durant said. "Sometimes it may be something on the home front that is causing that soldier to lose his or her concentration.

Sometimes it may just be adjusting to the new living conditions. Or challenges may arise from various working relationships."

The most common stressor found by health professionals involves problems

originating from back home. Often these are problems a soldier did not have the time to deal with before departing, or the soldier just was not prepared in some way to leave.

Combat stress can be recognized by symptoms such as irritability, short temper, lack of concentration, poor appetite and inadequate sleep, Durant said.

"We try to catch them before they get to the point where they can't function completely; that's called 'battle fatigue,'" Durant said. "We cannot eliminate stress but we can help to control it, so it

doesn't get to the point where they become battle fatigue casualties, and they can't perform their duties."

The 84th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control) from Fort Carson, Colo., is supporting 1st Armored Division Mental Health professionals. They also have teams visiting sites throughout the Task Force Eagle area of operations. They are educating commanders and referring any soldiers that need to be treated to Division Mental Health.

Division Mental Health will be visiting base camps every other week, Durant said.

"We cannot eliminate stress but we can help to control it."

— Capt. Raymond Durant

Working on the roadway ...



55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

1st Brigade soldiers implement force protection procedures by installing concertina wire at a checkpoint in the Posavina corridor, as an Abrams M1A1 tank thunders by.

CORRECTION

Last week's story headlined "Soldiers celebrate end of Ramadan season," contained inaccuracies.

During Ramadan season, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, not the other way around.

In a clarification, Islam is a religion and its followers are called Muslims. Ramadan is not a 30-day holiday every year.

The Ramadan festival length is based on the cycle of the moon.

We regret the errors.