

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

## Army Secretary tours U.S. sector

By Spc. RICK ROTH and Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO  
29th MPAD

Secretary of the Army Togo D. West Jr. spent much of Tuesday hopscotching across the Task Force Eagle area of operations.

After visiting soldiers in Hungary, he quickly made his way

via Blackhawk helicopter into Croatia and to the banks of the Sava River. Stretched out before him



Togo D. West Jr.

laid the pontoon bridge troops of the 130th Engineer Brigade from Camp Harmon put into place after battling the mighty Sava.

Crossing over the bridge, West led a large group of soldiers across the ex-

pense of water into the U.S. Sector of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was accompanied by Task Force Eagle Commander Maj. Gen. William L. Nash and Division Engineer Commander Col. Steven R. Hawkins.

"The bridge over the Sava River is one of our engineers' greatest triumphs," West later said. From

there, the secretary hopped back into the helicopter and went on to visit several base camps,

including Demi and Bedrock, where he watched a demonstration of the Panther unmanned mine-clearing robot.

At a press briefing at Eagle Base, Tuzla,

See **WEST**, page 8

## WORKING TOGETHER

A Russian soldier (left) compares protective masks with U.S. soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Colin Ward

## Americans and Russians jointly patrol IFOR sectors

By Staff Sgt. COLIN WARD  
358th MPAD

ZVORNIK, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Members of 1st Infantry Division, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry recently participated in a joint patrol with a Russian Airborne unit.

2nd Lt. James S. Wells, 3rd Platoon Leader, B Troop, and Lt. Aleksei Terebov, Platoon Leader, 1st Battalion Airborne Brigade, 76th Airborne Division, came together in Zvornik, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where their area of operations meet.

The four-vehicle patrol consisted of two Bradley Fighting Vehicles and two Russian BTR-80's (per-

sonnel carriers). Troops acquainted themselves with each other and their equipment while the platoon leaders discussed their route.

The patrol then moved into the U.S. sector as a curious crowd of citizens began to build.

"One of the big things it did is it showed the local community that IFOR is one entity and we are working together even though we are from many different nations," Wells said.

The patrol retraced its path back to the starting point to re-align and move into the Russian sector and stop at their lodgment area. While at the lodgment area, soldiers were able to interact

with each other, becoming acquainted for future patrols.

"This gives us a chance to get comfortable with each other so we can continue to work together," Terebov said.

Though language was a barrier, the soldiers communicated through sign language and body language.

"I don't think we will have a communication problem; we are all soldiers and understand our responsibilities and will complete our mission," Terebov said.

With joint patrols continuing, teamwork will help ensure a positive outcome for the multinational force supporting Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

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# Viewpoint

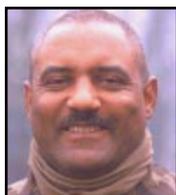
## Feeding children can have tragic results

Simple acts of charity can lead to tragedy.

That goes especially for soldiers who, acting with the best of intentions, hand out candy, trinkets or MREs to local children.

We can understand that everywhere soldiers go they want to make friends and project a favorable image.

And who wants to turn away children? They, as much as anyone else, have been victimized by more



**Spc. George Roache**  
29th MPAD

than three years of civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Naturally, everybody is curious about military vehicles and activities, but children must be taught to stay away from convoys. The only

way to do this is make sure soldiers resist the temptation to give them candy.

Armored vehicles have very limited visibility and may turn suddenly without warning. Vehicles of this type, due to their weight, are

not able to stop quickly, so children should be instructed by their parents to keep their distance.

To put it bluntly, inducing children to approach convoys every time they stop is putting those children's lives in danger.

Children may think a vehicle can stop, but adverse weather can cause a vehicle to skid or a child to slip and fall in its path. Children can also run between vehicles where they cannot be seen over the hood or in sideview mirrors.

The area's small roads were not built for the heavy

military traffic now using them, and many of those roads are being made more dangerous as truck tires break off the shoulders.

The last thing a soldier would ever want to do is strike a child in the street. Many children are too young to realize they are placing their lives in jeopardy by asking for candy from a soldier traveling in a military convoy.

Harsh as it may sound, break the habit of feeding local children.

Don't let your good intentions pave some child's road to injury or death.

# Chaplain's corner

## Military chaplains serve troops as 'keepers of springs'

Often the question is asked, "What does a chaplain do?" In this age of drawdown, why keep chaplains in a unit?



**Chaplain (Maj.) Barry W. Presley**  
205th MI Brigade

The Rev. Dr. Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the Senate in the 1950s, gave this illustration that seems to reflect the justification:

*By a small American town ran a clear stream. It was so clear and clean that each year the swans came to nest there and raise their young. Children played on its banks and swam in its waters. The village industry, a grist mill, was powered by a waterwheel in the stream.*

*All seemed idyllic, but one year the town budget got tight.*

*A meeting was called by the town council to balance the budget.*

*An item was found in the old budget called "Keeper of the Springs." No one knew what it was. Was it a person or a machine?*

*Since no one knew, they decided to cut it from the budget.*

*Soon debris began to come downstream and jam the waterwheel, causing delays and unemployment. In time, so much debris collected that it dammed up the stream and algae began to grow over*

*the pond. The swans ceased to come anymore and the children became ill and some died.*

*"Why did the stream suddenly fill with debris?" Frantically, the town council looked for an answer. A committee was appointed to investigate.*

*They went upstream a few miles and discovered the stream was now clear. Nearby they encountered an old hermit.*

*"Who are you?" they asked. He replied, "I used to be the keeper of the springs. My job was to pull out debris before it could get to the town. But the town council in its wisdom decided they didn't need me and eliminated my job. I no longer pick out trash downstream."*

Chaplains are like keep-

ers of the springs. We help you clean out the trash in your personal lives so your mind is clear to do your jobs as Task Force Eagle soldiers. We counsel soldiers and their families to reduce or eliminate personal, spiritual and emotional debris and remind them that God is still here.

When the chaplain is left out or eliminated, trash begins to collect, and units have more serious incidents, such as AWOLs, alcoholism, abuse or discipline problems.

When soldiers, family members and commanders use the chaplain as a resource, their life stream runs much clearer and problems are resolved before they become injurious or deadly.

# THE TALON

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tent stove safety

Tent fires remain a critical safety concern during operations in cold weather, according to Task Force Eagle safety officials.

During current operations, there have been seven tent fires. Seventy percent were attributed to improper refueling and maintenance operations. The following countermeasures will reduce the risk of soldiers becoming stove fire victims.

#### Countermeasures:

- Ensure soldiers have been trained on stove and heater operation.

- Assemble and operate stoves according to the technical manual or operating instructions.

- Never refuel a stove in operation or when hot. Thirty minutes of cooling down is required.

- Never refuel a stove inside a tent or building.

- If you spill fuel while refueling the stove, clean it up and dispose of the cleaning material in a nonflammable container away from the tent.

- Ensure an operational fire extinguisher is on hand. Inspect serviceability prior to initiating refueling. Two 15-pound dry chemical extinguishers are recommended. Put them by the exits so they won't be engulfed in the fire. Check the fire extinguishers periodically to make sure they are charged and in working order.

- If soldiers choose to sleep in the tent while a stove or heater is turned on, a fire guard is required.

- Make sure you are using the correct fuel for whatever type of stove you are using.

- Repair leaking fuel lines immediately.

### Optometry services

The 30th Medical Brigade has opened an optometry clinic in the Tuzla Valley. The clinic is located on Camp Rumbaugh, in the rock quarry.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. The clinic offers full service eye and vision care, ranging from eye exams to ordering of new glasses and protective mask inserts.

Anyone needing optometry services can walk into the clinic or call them at MSE 558-5031/5012.

## PLAIN TALK

*With*  
**TANKER SARGE**

This is Tanker Sarge opening the Iron Net. Break, Break ... the following is Annex One to Tanker Sarge's Recognition Guide: How to Recognize Iron Soldiers versus "mud trolls."

**VISUAL** — Iron Soldiers look like Audie Murphy, Colin Powell, Rhonda Cornum, George Patton ... tough, smart, athletic and alert. Iron Soldiers look sharp in any uniform (even covered with mud), yet take every opportunity to clean up.

Mud trolls look like pigs with guns and helmets on a good day, and like sewer rats on a bad day ... and they have more bad days than good days. Mud trolls are always dirty, even when they break starch, go before a promotion board, a court martial or visit the White House.

Mud trolls get everything and everyone else dirty, including their soap. Most of what mud trolls touch (grease, oil, food, mud, rat poison) ends up in their digestive tracts because they never wash their hands, they pick their noses, they recycle toilet paper and towels and they never use gloves.

**AURAL** — Iron Soldiers speak softly, listen carefully and patiently, and avoid loud, discordant, unharmonic, uncouth or profane noises.

You can always hear mud trolls before you see them. They are loud, uncouth and profane and can be counted on to talk first and ask questions later while never letting anyone else finish a sentence.

**OLFACTORY** — Iron Soldiers smell good — like Drakkar Noir, Mel Gibson or Demi Moore.

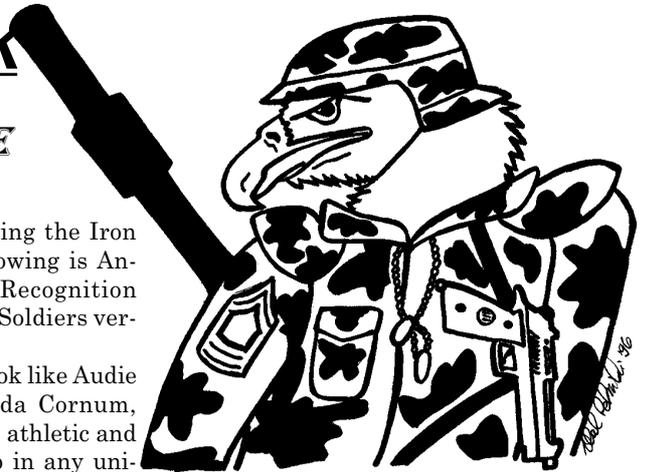
You can always smell mud trolls before you see them. They emit odors like drunk hogs, laugh and bring them to your attention, if you haven't already passed out from oxygen deprivation.

**COMBAT READINESS** — Iron Soldiers can engage the enemy efficiently, without warning ... wasting neither bullets nor blood, at any time of the day or night ... with any weapon or during periods of inclement weather or reduced visibility. One round, one hit out to 6,000 meters, 98 percent first round hit probability.

Mud trolls usually shoot too soon ... or too late ... with the wrong weapon, at the wrong target (and miss). They don't know the difference between fratricide and fraternization. Mud trolls usually shoot themselves or their buddies with "unloaded" weapons, always forget to take their weapons off safe or load a magazine and always jam their weapons at the point of decisive combat.

Mud trolls think that vehicle and aircraft recognition is knowing the difference between a Mustang and a Corvette or Delta and Lufthansa airlines.

**PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE** — An



Iron Soldier orients on accomplishing his unit's mission as his first priority by keeping himself and his soldiers alive, nourished, equipped, informed and ready to perform all stated or implied tasks IAW the commander's vision and intent.

Iron Soldiers accept missions as opportunities to demonstrate excellence and resourcefulness in developing the most effective solutions, in the correct priority, to maximize their soldiers, assets and time with the least exposure to risk, pain or blood.

Iron Soldiers orient on putting battle streamers on the Army's flag and unit citations on the right side of their uniforms while humbly accepting just awards and decorations on the left.

A mud troll finds problems where there ain't none, creates big problems out of little ones and never has enough of anything to do any mission — routine or otherwise. Missions are "extra work" or to be "gotten out of" as "beyond the scope of my MOS" responsibility, authority, etc."

Mud trolls say "I" and "me" instead of "us" or "we," covet personal awards and often wear unauthorized personal badges and decorations.

**CHARACTER** — In general, Iron Soldiers are tough on themselves and easier on, more compassionate toward and more understanding of everyone else.

In general, mud trolls are tough on everyone else and unimaginably easy on themselves, "oblivious to their own faults" might be a better term.

Mud trolls believe in nothing, no one and no idea other than themselves. They are only as smart or as dumb as the last book they read part of, the last fad they mimicked or the last rumor they "passed on," no matter how outrageous.

### TANKER SARGE'S RULE OF THUMB #2

Arguing with a mud troll is like wrestling with a pig ... Everybody gets dirty and the pig loves it!

Break, break ... Next week's subject: "Taking Care of Each Other," what it means — and what it doesn't.

This is Tanker Sarge ... Out!

(To write to Tanker Sarge, see Talon address on Page 2.)

# Artillery's guns serve as deterrent

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER  
358th MPAD

BOB KIME — The imposing M109A3 self-propelled howitzer dug in along Route Pear at Camp Kime presents an intimidating silhouette to the Bosnian people, and is an important part of the IFOR presence. The 155 mm round it shoots can travel 30,000 meters (18 miles).

"That's reaching out to touch someone," said Spc. John T. Saip, assistant gunner. "That is better than AT&T."

Saip, 25, from Galt, Mo., with driver Spc. David Robinson, 29, from Garland, N.C., and cannon crew gunner Spc. Calvin Lee Smith, 24, from Virginia Beach, Va., are with 2nd Platoon, A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery.

Here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, they are the brains behind the muscle of the howitzer in their charge. They travel with the tracked vehicle to various locations to provide fire support, if needed, for the infantry and cavalry.

"We jump around," Robinson said. "Wherever they think we're best needed, we'll go and stay there a week — maybe two or three weeks — then they send us somewhere else."

The long hours on guard, the mud and the confinement to base camps — all the trials of Bosnian field living — make the soldiers' mission a challenge.

"I told (my fellow soldiers) I was going to hook them up when I get back—send them boxes and everything," said Smith, who is soon heading back to Germany. "I know how it is out here, because I have lived here with them."

The soldiers stay focused on their mission by taking pride in their work and their section.

Each section in 2nd Platoon has a name, such as "Six Pack" or "Eight Ball."

Robinson, Smith and Saip are part of "Mighty Five." The name alone illicit pride and enthusiasm among them. "Everything we do has 'Mighty Five' standards in it," Robinson said. "We like to go above the standards set for us and set our own."

"Everyone else copies after us," Saip said. "When we get our standards set, they look at us for direction. They say, 'OK, let's be like "Mighty Five," Let's make sure we get our standards the same as them.'"

Their standards include being the first ones ready, the first ones finished, and being neat and organized.

"If you don't have your stuff squared away, people will look at you and say, 'Dog, that's a sloppy looking bunch of people,' and they're going to think, 'OK, that's a sloppy Army,'" Saip said. "If we look bad, it makes everybody look bad."

Despite the challenges, the soldiers believe their presence here is helping maintain peace.

"By us being here and by us being out in the open where people can see us, a lot of people feel more secure," said Spc. James E. Carpenter, Jr., 25, from East Chicago, Ind., a fire direction specialist with 2nd platoon. "We went downtown one time and a lady jumped down on her knees and started praying, saying 'Oh, thank you God for sending these people here.' That's the good part about being here."

The soldiers hope the howitzer's show of force is enough of a deterrent to conflict in the area. "As long as we don't have to fire a round, we've got a successful mission," Saip said.

## Engineer soldiers move from muck to field 'steel castle'

By Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER  
203rd MPAD

TUZLA EAST - Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade at Tuzla East have made the trek across the street to their new base camp, Steel Castle.

Steel Castle, a combination of Army Force Provider and Air Force Red Horse tent city packages, is the best the Army and the Tuzla Valley has in self-contained field living, said Maj. Harry Garner, camp mayor. This is the first set-up of its kind, he said, and it is being tested to see how well it will work for future military operations.

Garner described the camp as a city in a box. "You can take it out of the box, set it up, bring in water and food and it can sustain itself," he said. "It was a thing of beauty watching it being put together."

After the road work was laid by the 94th Engineer Battalion, the tent city was built in about three weeks.

Steel Castle has the normal amenities of a tent city plus more — a post exchange, laundry service, gym with weights, nightly movies, four dining tents designed to seat 700 soldiers, a fully equipped kitchen with sinks and ovens, a clinic, MWR (morale, welfare and recreation) tents with games, sporting equipment, a library, a TV room, a post office and two choices in latrines and showers — trailers or tents.

"The mess hall is the most advanced field kitchen in the world with all new equipment and the cooks love it," Garner said. "The PX is the biggest tent in the camp and one of the biggest in the area."

Soldiers have something more — more personal room — something they didn't have before. Camp officials said they want to keep living-tent populations to a minimum. The camp population is in the hundreds and growing, but it will probably hold about 2,000 soldiers as the weeks continue.

Future amenities at Steel Castle may include civilian phones, aerobic sessions, college courses, volleyball, softball and running areas, and other things, said camp officials.



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

An M109A3 self-propelled howitzer stands guard in a field near Camp Kime.

## ■ CAMP ALICIA SOLDIERS ON THE JOB

# Soldiers 'on toes' at Checkpoint Charlie

By Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO  
29th MPAD

CAMP ALICIA — At the easternmost U.S. base camp before reaching the zone of separation that borders the Russian Brigade area lies Camp Alicia.

It's a mix of temper tents and skeletal remains of buildings. In the camp's "back yard" is a muddy field several football fields in length that serves as a tank motor pool. Camp Alicia is a place 600 soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry call home.

"There's a familiar saying here in Charlie Troop" said Pfc. Mario G. Fuentes of C Troop, 3-4 Cavalry. "Life is good in Charlie Rock, but it could always be better."

"The first couple of months were tough but then Brown & Root came in and built tents and other things," said Spc. David D. Carpenter, a supply specialist for B Troop, 3-4 Cavalry. The 29-year-old Mesa, Ariz., native said his most unforgettable moment of the deployment so far was the road march into Bosnia-Herzegovina past smiling children.

Fuentes, 21, a native of Belton, Texas, is a mortar infantryman. He spends two weeks rotating between Checkpoint Charlie, about 3.5 kilometers from Camp Alicia, and Rock Observation Point.

During his time at OP Rock, Fuentes' unit goes out on frequent patrols, "basically just establishing a presence there, lets the (residents) know we're there and make sure there are no violations of the Dayton Peace Accord."

Fuentes said his most memorable missions have been joint patrols with the Swedish Army infantry units on orientation tours. The Swedish Army, that had been in the area for two years, is very familiar with the area. They passed along their knowledge to the Americans when the U.S. soldiers took over the site.

In addition to his checkpoint rotations, Fuentes must also pull the obligatory kitchen police and other daily tasks that must be done by soldiers in field environments.

"We sleep in a tent and have the basic necessities and we do have rest time," he said. "Mail flow is pretty good," Fuentes said. He explained that when they are on patrols, their mail is still brought to the field once a day by a truck. This means daily trips to Camp Alicia for water, MREs, mail and other supplies troops need in the field.

At Checkpoint Charlie, the soldiers primarily conduct searches on civilian cars, Fuentes said. It can be hair-raising at times. "When we first occupied that checkpoint, we



Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Spc. David D. Carpenter (left) and Pfc. Mario G. Fuentes of B Troop, 3-4 Cavalry inspect a mortar at Camp Alicia.

heard gunfire a lot in the distant," Fuentes said. The gunfire was not aimed at them, but was local Bosnians apparently celebrating by indiscriminately shooting toward the sky.

"But from our view point, a gunshot is a gunshot. Period."

"You've just gotta be on your toes at Checkpoint Charlie and the OP. You really never know what to expect," Fuentes said.

## Team inspects Bosnian Serb weapons storage facility

*Group records arms and equipment to verify Dayton Peace Agreement*

By Staff Sgt. COLIN WARD  
358th MPAD

ZVORNIK, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Zvornik, a city in the southeast corner of the U.S. sector, was recently the site for a U.S. inspection of a Bosnian Serb weapon storage facility. The inspecting patrol was led by Lt. Col. Anthony Harriman, Commander of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, attached to 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

The once prosperous aluminum factory in Zvornik is now used in part as a weapons storage facility for the Bosnian Serb Army's

Zvornik Brigade. The facility was divided into three major holding areas for weapons used by the former warring faction.

The purpose for the announced inspection on Feb. 28 was to determine the number, type and maintenance status of stored equipment of the Bosnian Serb Army. Bumper numbers, equipment markings and movement capabilities (self-moved or towed) were also noted, as this information would prove helpful if the event the equipment is moved.

"The cooperation shown by the Zvornik Brigade brings us (IFOR) one step closer," Harriman said. The different types of

teams inspecting the sites included military intelligence (for logging munitions data), a combat camera unit (for digital imagery support), explosives and ordnance (for munitions identification), maintenance (for determining serviceability of equipment) and other security and quick reaction force elements.

Among the three locations, numerous weapons were found. Items included artillery pieces, tracked vehicles, armored personnel carriers, anti-aircraft and tank weapons, as well as small arms and munitions.

Throughout the coming months, U.S. soldiers will continue to inspect weapon sites in their areas of operation and, with support from faction officers and troops, such inspections will hopefully remain trouble-free.

***"The cooperation shown by the Zvornik Brigade brings us (IFOR) one step closer."***

— Lt. Col. Anthony Harriman

## PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

# Bodybuilder pumps up muscles, confidence

bodybuilder for six out of the seven years she's been in the Army.

"I started training to get in shape for the Army (physical training tests)," Jackson said. "Since then, I've gotten my body in shape, dropped body fat and gained muscle mass."

She started weight training as a powerlifter, and moved onto bodybuilding because she thought the look of a muscular feminine physique was appealing.

Since then, she has been training hard to try to continually change her body for the better, and has competed in about 20 bodybuilding competitions to show off the results. Jackson captured third place in the lightweight division of her last competition in Giessen, Germany.

She plans to gain 30 pounds to move up to the middleweight division.

*Spc. William Hall*

**Spc. Kai Jackson trains at the Lukavac gym.**

**By Spc. WILLIAM HALL**  
203rd MPAD

**S**ometimes big things come in small packages. Spc. Kai Jackson, nicknamed "Big Jack," may be just the person to prove that adage true, packing a slim, muscular, 5-foot, 125-pound frame.

The 27-year-old Nashville, Tenn., native is a mechanic stationed at Lukavac with D Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion. She's been an adamant weightlifter and

Jackson said being deployed to Bosnia has had its advantages and its disadvantages. "It's been good because I've gotten a break that will let my body build more," she said. "But the weight room here really doesn't have all the equipment that I need."

Jackson works out twice a day, seven days a week. She spends an hour in the weight room during her lunch hour, and finishes her workout after her duty day is over.

Eating healthy is important to a bodybuilder, and Jackson said that the food the

Army supplies doesn't always fit into her strict dietary regime. Her normal diet for the day is two bottles of water, 20 oranges and 10 cans of tuna.

In the future, Jackson hopes to someday turn professional. In the meantime, she has set her sights on being the top bodybuilder in USAREUR and then going on to All-Army competitions.

Jackson said that sometimes her demanding Army schedule gets in the way of some of the competitions she wishes to enter, but being a soldier also has had great benefits. "From the PT that you do every day—the pushups—that has given me more discipline in my bodybuilding workouts," she said.

"I'm a lot more happy with myself and my body since I've been working out," Jackson added.

Her heavy-duty workouts have paid off, turning this rather demure soldier into a powerhouse. At a body weight of just 125 pounds, she can bench press 180 pounds and squat 200 pounds.

But these feats of strength at times lead to awkward situations in a gym.

"Sometimes the guys will see the weights that I'm working out with, so they'll try to lift more," Jackson said. "They end up hurting themselves. It's funny, but at least they are trying."

Jackson attended Tennessee State University where she was working toward a bachelor's degree in psychology and nutrition/fitness.

Anyone can improve himself through bodybuilding, Jackson said.

"If they want it, they can get it," she said. "It's up to them. Don't cheat yourself and your body."

## Smiley's club at BOB Kime offers respite for troops

**By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER**  
358th MPAD

**BOB KIME** — Some things can be counted on to make you smile. It may be a good book, a humorous movie, the company of friends, a game of cards or just a warm tent after cold hours on detail. Whatever it is that makes you smile, chances are you'll find it at "Smiley's."

Staff Sgt. Gary A. Smiley, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, has a name that lent the perfect title to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent he runs at Camp Kime.

Smiley's is like your favorite neighborhood watering hole (minus the "water," of course) where you know all the regulars, and your buddy behind the bar already knows your order. "I hope this is a good atmosphere for them," Smiley said. "I like it, and figure if I can satisfy myself — and I'm hard to satisfy — then I can satisfy them."

The atmosphere at Smiley's wasn't automatically issued to soldiers at Camp Kime. It took a lot of lumber, initiative and care to turn the two adjoining GP-medium tents into a comfortable place for soldiers to relax and play.

The first tent is a TV room filled with benches. A string of nails line the walls, for soldiers to hang their gear. In the back tent, there are four cafe-style tables with wooden stools, where soldiers can sit down to play cards or board games. A shelf filled with books lines the rear wall.

A welcome aspect of Smiley's is the temperature. "I try to keep it too warm in here, so when soldiers get in they take off all their gear, and they forget about where they are," Smiley said.

Smiley has an impressive collection of movies he shows each day from 10 a.m. to midnight. He has 2,000 movies in his inventory — most of them personally owned. "I

have everything from 'Batman Forever' to 'True Grit' ... enough to keep soldiers entertained for a year."

Smiley says the MWR tent holds 40-50 people comfortably. Thankfully, the space will expand when the GP medium tents are replaced with three temper tents. One tent will be the theater, one will be the library and one will be the gym, he said.

Smiley's is somewhat of a family tradition. Smiley's father, James Smiley, ran Smiley's Grocery in his small hometown of Eufaula, Ala. "It was a small grocery, but it didn't matter how small it was, because it was just the quality and the atmosphere that mattered," said Smiley. "My father is definitely the reason I do this the way I do it."

"My father was blind, but he would do things like tap-dance and play the piano in the store," Smiley said. "I try to make the soldiers laugh and relax and he would do things like that."

# Independence Day celebrated in Tuzla

**TOP: An honor guard from the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina marches past an international audience of IFOR soldiers and local citizens at Tuzla Stadium March 1.**

**LEFT: (left to right) Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie, assistant division commander, maneuver; Air Force Capt. Vladimir Petnicki, Joint Military Commission; Brig. Gen. Sead Delic, Commander, II BiH Corps.**

**By Lt. Col. JACK A. KINGSTON**  
*Deputy Chief, Joint Military Commission*

**O**n March 1, Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie represented Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, Task Force Eagle commander, at the Bosnia-Herzegovina Independence Day Celebration.

A parade commemorating the anniversary of the 25th Division of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina took place in Tuzla Stadium.

Worthy of note were the words of the II Bosnia-Herzegovina Corps commander, Brig. Gen. Sead Del-

ic, who told Cherrie, "We have good fighters ... but we do not yet have good soldiers like the American Army.

"When I see an American convoy or patrol, they impress me as good soldiers and good fighters — full battle dress uniform, weapons at the ready, crew-served weapons in lead and trail, every soldier alert and ready for action and all without threatening anyone unduly," Delic said.

"You are the finest Army in the world ... We, the Army of Bosnia, must train hard to be like you," he said.

# Navy airman supports Army as translator

By Spc. RICK ROTH  
29th MPAD

Only a few weeks ago, Navy Airman Vlada Musicki was at sea level working on Sea Stallion helicopters at Sigonella, Sicily. Now, Musicki is perched high above Bosnia on Hill No. 722 working as a translator for the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion.

"When the war here escalated, I had a good idea I'd eventually end up here, though I didn't think it would be with the army," said Musicki, a 23-year-old St. Petersburg, Fla. native.

Trained in helicopter repair, Musicki is part of the Navy's Heavy Combat 4 "Black Stallions" stationed at Sigonella. Once the Navy learned of his ability to speak Serbo-Croatian he was given a language test, and after scoring well on the test, Musicki was attached to the 501st and relocated to Hill No. 722. The hill is called "Golo Brdo" by locals, which translated means "the naked hilltop."

"I didn't know what was in store for me," said Musicki about his future working with the Army in his first joint exercise.

A first generation American with Serbian ancestry, Musicki still has family living in the former Yugoslavia, and though his family is aware of his presence here, he has not yet had the chance to visit them. While growing up in the United States, Musicki frequently visited family in the

## Navy airman Vlada Musicki, a native Yugoslavian, chats with Bosnian children.

*Spc. Rick Roth*

Balkans, spending a total of about three years in the former Yugoslavia.

Aside from his job as a helicopter mechanic and his current role as a translator, Musicki's ultimate goal is to be accepted into the Navy's SEAL program.

"I just want to see if I've got what it takes," Musicki said.

Having served almost three years with the Navy, Musicki sees his current position as a military intelligence translator as a career step in the right direction.

"It's a team effort up here," said Musicki, the only sailor on Hill No. 722. "We're all part of the U.S. Armed Forces and we're just out here to do our job."

## West, from page 1

West again spoke of the Army's commitment to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. He also reiterated that U.S. forces deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina are still on a 1-year timeline.

"What we are doing is what we should be doing and we are doing it well and doing it appropriately," West said, defending the country's role in the mission.

"In the end, our soldiers will leave with the feeling that they made a difference," he said.

West said he felt welcomed by the troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "I'm always excited when I get to be with soldiers ... their morale lifts my morale," he said.

The Secretary assured troops that America is behind them. "Every one of these soldiers is having an experience of a lifetime that will be with them all of their lives," he said. "And when they think back ... I need for all my soldiers to realize that — despite the cold, the hardship and the mud — there was never a doubt for a single hour of a single day that they didn't have the complete support of the American people."



*Spc. Rick Roth*  
**Army Secretary Togo D. West Jr. (right) and Col. Robert G. Shields, 130th Engineer Brigade commander, cross the famous pontoon bridge over the Sava River.**