

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

■ SOLDIERS IN SARAJEVO Unit begins ARRC security mission

By Sgt. 1st Class
GARY YOUNGER
358th MPAD

SARAJEVO — Sgt. 1st Class Rick Campbell sometimes lies awake at night listening. Not to the chirping of crickets, but to the occasional cracking of undisciplined fire.

Despite the transfer of the suburban high ground to Federation authority and IFOR's visible presence, the sights and sounds of war remain in this city the viewed as ground zero of the nearly four-year Bosnian conflict.

This is the first thing Campbell and about two dozen other members of B Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry have discovered during their temporary security duty here.

The unit is part of

multinational force guarding the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters. The security team is comprised of soldiers from each of IFOR's three multinational divisions.

Task Force Eagle provides its contribution on a rotating basis. The soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team replaced a similar-sized unit from the Turkish brigade on March 23. Their duty is expected to last about 30 days.

The physical toll of war surrounds the soldiers. On one side of the former Olympic stadium — the site of the opening ceremonies for the 1984 Winter Olympics — are bombed and burned buildings. On the other is a huge cem-

see *Sarajevo*,
page 12



Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Staff Sgt. Chauncey L. Bryant and Spc. Victor R. Wise, both of the 127th MP Company, guard the south side of the Fortuna Bridge.

Sava River bridge opens

Engineers rebuild permanent structure damaged by war

By Spc. **CESAR G. SORIANO**
29th MPAD

BRCKO — Traffic once again rolls across the Fortuna Bridge over the Sava River here, thanks to repairs to the structure by U.S. and Hungarian Engineers.

"The mission was an absolute complete success," said Maj. Peter Tabacchi of the 130th Engineer Brigade during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the restored bridge March 28.

The structure connects the cities of Brcko, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Gunja, Croatia. The original bridge suffered heavy damage during the war.

The repair effort was a combined construction venture between the 130th Engineer Brigade and Hungarian Army engineers. The bridge was completed in only 24 days — two days ahead of schedule.

Initially, only IFOR vehicles will be allowed to cross the span.

In dedicating the Fortuna Bridge, Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, assistant 1st Armored Division commander for

support, commended the people of Brcko and Gunja for their support.

"We must also recognize the children who in years to come will benefit from our efforts for peace," O'Neal said.

The mission was not without challenges.

"We recognize that because of the political situation in Brcko, we bring some risk by rebuilding this bridge," Tabacchi said.

(Brcko is currently claimed by both the Bosnian Federation and the Serb Republic. The parties to the Peace Agreement could not agree on who should control the strategic town, which is located in the narrow Posavina corridor that links the two masses of Serb territory in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Arbitration of the matter will begin in June.)

The three-phase restoration project for the bridge began on March 4 with a mine sweep of the area. On March 6, engineers demolished the damaged spans of the bridge using 305 pounds of C4 plastic explosives.

The second phase involved reconstruction of bridge piers by Brown & Root Service Corp. Two sections of Baily-type bridges were then put to-

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From the top Military families are our unsung heroes

I often talk about how proud I am of our servicemembers, but the unsung heroes of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR truly are our family members and friends who are supporting us back home.



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

Through their letters and care packages, they show us how much they are thinking about us, and how much they miss us.

Hillary Rodham Clinton reminded us of this during her

visit March 25. Before flying to Bosnia, she stopped off in Germany to visit family members of 1st Armored Division soldiers.

When she flew to Eagle Base, she brought many of their letters with

her. "They really wait for every phone call and every letter," she said. "In fact, a couple of (family members) said they love your letters, particularly because they can read

them over and over again."

And the first lady is right. Letters mean so much — to us and to our family members.

Sometimes when I'm sitting around by myself feeling a little lonesome, I open the letters from my wife Gloria and re-read them. Her words bring a lot of love into this old soldier's heart.

During a deployment, it's the little things we miss so much — a hug or a kiss, or just spending time with the person we love.

I don't want to get too

mushy, but this week I'd like to remind you to make time to write or call your family members and tell them how much you appreciate them. When was the last time you did something special for your spouse?

To all family members who may read this column, I'd like to personally thank you for supporting our servicemembers. And, to the spouses, a special thanks. Without your support, we simply could not accomplish this very important peace enforcement mission.

Viewpoint

NCOs selflessly making it happen today and tomorrow

Watching a change-of-command ceremony, one can learn volumes about the supporting cast of players who make the Army so successful.



Spc. George Roache
29th MPAD

The event is an orchestrated marvel of disciplined troops following commands to execute precise and coordinated movements.

Outgoing commanders sometimes betray their emotions in farewell speeches praising their soldiers' high achievements.

Often, an incoming commander will make remarks giving credit to the selfless corps of dedicated leaders who justly deserve it — the noncommissioned officers.

Within their realm, they are the ones who insist that standards be met, policies be enforced and soldiers perform

their duties. They assist with teaching, coaching, counseling and giving direction.

It can be a lonely job, one that demands good intuition and moral courage. Unpopular decisions can isolate those at the top.

They must keep in mind that it is always a great day to be a soldier, for no matter what the situation, it could be worse. They are paid to be positive, because a leader's attitude will trickle down to his or her unit. And a first sergeant having a bad day can cause everyone in the company to have one also.

The responsibility of being leaders for today and tomorrow falls on their shoulders as teachers of soldiers and young officers. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders,

and if the NCO today does not show caring, those who follow tomorrow will not care either.

It can be as simple as a sergeant telling a troop how to properly wear the uniform. Or a first sergeant putting together a study guide for soldiers preparing for a promotion board.

It can be as subtle as being part of the command team making decisions on soldier issues, tactfully telling an officer when he or she is wrong, or offering considerations that might otherwise be overlooked but ultimately abiding by the final decision.

By leading soldiers to compete not against each other but against a standard, the NCO does a great service. By sharing their many years of experience with officers and younger enlisted personnel, NCOs make this a better

Army.

Prior to the change of command ceremony recently held by 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Thomas Burnett requested the chaplain include in the invocation a prayer for Army Sgt. Maj. Gene McKinney, whose son was killed from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

That was Burnett's way of honoring the lessons he learned when he first joined the 2-227th as an enlisted man 26 years ago in Vietnam and McKinney was his first sergeant and teacher.

Having 2-227th Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Watanabe join him in cutting the cake was a symbolic gesture of unity, loyalty and teamwork.

After all, this is one Army, and the NCO is its backbone.

THE TALON

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Troops mourn loss of comrade

68th Armor soldiers honor Spc. Floyd E. Bright

By Sgt. 1st Class GARY YOUNGER
358th MPAD

OLOVO — One by one, the soldiers solemnly stood at attention, snapped their best salute and mournfully walked away.

Many had tears in their eyes.

They were remembering their friend, Spc. Floyd E. Bright, who lost his life March 22 when the vehicle in which he was riding slid off a bridge and crashed into a ravine.

The memorial service, held March 26 for the Houston native, brought together more than 200 soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor, to pay respects to Bright.

He was a member of B Company, but became a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company when he volunteered to come to Bosnia.

Bright, 19, is the only U.S. soldier participating in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR to die as the result of a vehicle accident.

The mishap also injured the driver of the fuel tanker, Pvt. Joseph E. Dory. Dory, 22, is recovering from a broken shoulder blade.

"He was my soldier," said Sgt. Craig Carrigan, Bright's squad leader. "He had

a smile on his face 24 hours a day."

Bright, who would have turned 20 Monday, joined the Army on Jan. 5, 1995, and was assigned to B Company in May 1995. He earned an Army Achievement Medal for achieving the battalion's second-highest tank gunnery score. In December, he volunteered to join the Support Platoon of HHC.

"He died in the service of his country, helping to bring peace to this troubled land," said Lt. Col. Randy Anderson, battalion commander.

With a shiny pair of boots, a rifle, a kevlar helmet and a wooden cross as a back drop, Pfc. Milton Shelton emotionally sang "Amazing Grace" for his fallen friend.

Following the benediction, Bright was posthumously promoted and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Unit 1st Sgt. Gregory Davis then read through the traditional roll call.

As their names were called, soldiers answered, "Here, first sergeant."

"Pfc. Floyd Bright," Davis said.

Silence.

"Pfc. Floyd Bright," Davis said again.

Once again, no response.

"Pfc. Floyd Bright," the first sergeant called a third time.

This time, the mournful melody of "Taps" could be heard in the room and throughout the camp.

Bright is survived by his parents, Floyd and Mary Ann Bright.

NEWS BRIEFS

Safety briefing

An army contractor's truck was involved in a train accident recently. As the truck crossed over a set of railroad tracks during daylight hours, it was broadsided by a train. The railroad crossing was marked only by a sign and not a signal. Two civilian personnel were seriously injured.

All Task Force Eagle personnel should follow these procedures when approaching railroad crossings:

- Slow vehicle when approaching railroad crossings.

- Stop vehicle 15 meters from the crossing.

- Driver and assistant driver will ensure the crossing is clear before continuing.

- Never attempt to "beat" the train to the crossing.

In accidents involving vehicles and trains — the train always wins.

Dental services

Dental treatment is available at various locations throughout Task Force Eagle.

The dental clinic at Camp Rumbaugh provides sick call services, exams, cleanings and emergency care. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For appointments, call 558-4959.

Dental sick call and emergency treatment only are provided at the following locations: Eagle Base, Camp Gentry, Camp Linda, Camp Angela and Lukavac.

For additional information, call the Eagle Base clinic at 558-5024.

College courses

Central Texas College and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University have announced their college course schedules for Eagle Base and Comanche Base Camp. Classes are also offered at other base camps.

Registration continues through April 14. Classes run April 15-June 9. For complete schedule information, call the Education Center at 553-9347 or see your unit continuing education NCO.

In addition, the City Colleges of Chicago's video cassette program courses are also available.

The University of Maryland schedule will be released soon.

Top gun visits Bosnia



Staff Sgt. Randall Yackiel

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry (center), tours Comanche Base with Col. William L. Webb (right), 4th Brigade commander Sunday, followed by several reporters. Perry was supposed to take a helicopter tour over parts of the zone of separation and visit troops with the 1st Brigade Combat Team Command and Russian Brigade. However, inclement weather limited his tour to the Tuzla area. It was his second visit to Bosnia. Adm. Leighton W. Smith Jr., IFOR commander, accompanied Perry.

Guardsmen volunteer as artillery spotters

By Sgt. 1st Class BETTINA E. TILSON
29th MPAD

CAMP ODEN — The memories of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR will last a lifetime for 40 volunteers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's 28th Infantry Division who are helping provide field artillery fire support to Task Force Eagle's Nord-Pol Brigade.

After arriving in the former Yugoslavia Feb. 21, the soldiers were split up and assigned to various Nord-Pol units, including the Swedish, Danish and Polish battalions.

Ten soldiers support three Swedish companies, or coys, explained Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Laughman, a 37-year-old fire support NCO from Hanover, Pa.

"We make sure (all weapons) are being moved out of the (zone of separation) during the time period set," said Laughman, who works in the operations office.

Soldiers on the patrols in and out of the ZOS search for all types of weapons, including air defense artillery, heavy artillery and mortars.

"The Swedish have been here for 2 1/2 years," Laughman said. "They pretty much know everything that is going on. They have a really good working relationship with the different factions involved."

Although greatly outnumbered by the nearly 400 Swedes living at his base camp, Laughman said everyone gets along fine.

"They treat us really well," he said. A few U.S. active duty soldiers also work alongside the Guard members and Swedish troops.

The site's chief signal officer, Capt.

Thomas Kristensson, 40, from Lund, Sweden, said the soldiers are learning from each other "all the time."

Most of the patrols are conducted using SISU's, Finnish-built armored personnel carriers, or with Swedish APCs, he said.

The fire support specialty is a shortage MOS in the Army.

"They needed somebody to fill in because they were shorthanded here," Laughman said. "We were picked because they think we're one of the better units that could handle the mission."

Because they face the potential of danger on patrol, the Guard members maintain a high state of readiness. They make sure the Swedish Battalion has "the full assets of the field artillery, attack helicopters and the fast-movers (jets) from the Air Force," said Staff Sgt. Kevin L. McCreary, 34, of Fayetteville, Pa.

McCreary, a fire support sergeant who works with A Coy, said the fire support specialists brought along all they need to accomplish their mission — everything from binoculars to sophisticated equipment such as global laser designators "for precision firing."

"We receive orders from our coy commander," McCreary said. "He 'owns' us so we take direction from him. He gives us missions and we give them what support we can."

Thanks to a high rate of compliance so far, the troops haven't had to fully use their skills. "It's calm and it's boring, and that's the way we like it," he said.

The Guardsmen were visited March 31 by their Army National Guard commanding general, Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Perugino, who told the troops they are doing a "super, commendable job." Many of their fellow soldiers back home would like to replace them, he said.

When the Guard members return to Pennsylvania, they will serve as trainers, teaching the skills they have learned in Bosnia to their fellow soldiers, Perugino said.



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson

Staff Sgt. Scott T. Ryan and Spc. Paul W. Bury, 2-3 Field Artillery, repair an M109 self-propelled howitzer.

"The rest of the guys in the task force do not get to do what you do on a daily basis," said Col. Alan W. Thrasher, 1st Armored Division Artillery commander, who accompanied Perugino on the trip to several camps. "No one has anything but praise for you."

Laughman said the Guardsmen have always trained for combat, so working in a peace enforcement mission is unique.

"To me, this is a great chance to use what I've been trained for," said the 18-year veteran who spent four years in the Marine Corps.



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson

Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Laughman and Swedish Capt. Thomas Kristensson consult a map before a convoy.



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson

Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Perugino, 28th Infantry Division commander, greets local Bosnians during a visit Sunday.

Medics save Bosnian boy

By Sgt. 1st Class BETTINA E. TILSON
29th MPAD



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson

A Swedish medic works to save the life of a young boy who stepped on a mine.

EAST OF DOBOJ — Peace has replaced the brutal war that raged in the former Yugoslavia for nearly four years. But on Sunday the horror of that civil war again surfaced as a small boy fell victim to its cruel injustice.

A convoy carrying the party of Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Perugino happened upon the incident about 2:30 p.m. near Checkpoint A-3-3 in the zone of separation.

The convoy screeched to a halt when soldiers noticed a blood-soaked man running down a hillside. In his arms was a boy who had stepped on an anti-personnel mine, which had blown off his left foot.

"I looked over to my right and saw the father clutching the son's leg to stop the bleeding," said Master Sgt. Robert L. Lighty, 33, from Middletown, Pa., first sergeant for Detachment 1, Headquarters Battery, 28th Field Artillery, and operations sergeant at the Nord-Pol Brigade.

"You could tell the boy was in shock," Lighty said.

Within seconds, combat lifesavers, including Sgt. Patrick J. Grawcock, rushed to the boy's aid. Grabbing his medic bag, Grawcock appeared to go on autopilot as he instinctively wrapped a tourniquet around the boy's severed leg, possibly saving his life.

"I didn't even know I had put the tourniquet on until after I did it," said Grawcock, a 21-year-old multiple launch rocket systems specialist from Garrett, Ind., who now serves as the operations driver for HHB.

"I'm glad we got there when we did," he added.

Grawcock said the boy was

clearly in shock, even smiling at times.

The Swedish and U.S. medics huddled around him, each doing his part to save the child's life. The father nervously smoked a cigarette while comforting his son. Meanwhile, other troops alerted the medical evacuation "dust-off" helicopter, which arrived in 11 minutes.

Other U.S. combat lifesavers who assisted included Sgt. Robert A. Henderson Jr., Sgt. Joseph J. Sclama and Sgt. Brian Findley.

All four were awarded impact Army Achievement Medals for their efforts.

The boy was flown to the Nord Med Coy in Lukavac, where Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie, assistant division commander for support, later visited him.

The boy's orthopedic surgeon encouraged Cherrie to visit the child, partly because of the general's own experience with a mine blast in 1971 during his second tour in Vietnam.

He lost his right foot and two fingers, and his left heel had to be reconstructed. He was hospitalized for 18 months.

Cherrie told the boy that he would play soccer again. "You'll probably kick with the other foot, you'll be a little bit slower, but a below-the-knee amputation is not the end of the world," he said.

Mostly, he wanted to reassure the parents that their son would lead a productive life and that they should not blame themselves for what happened.

Doing the right thing earns soldier reward

By Spc. BRYAN DRIVER
Talon Staff

Doing the right thing — no matter how tough it might seem. That's what Spc. Diovelis V. Ford, 29, did on the night of March 28. Ford a native of Panama City, Panama, was on guard duty in front Eagle Base's Tent City No. 1, when a soldier entered without clearing his weapon.

As instructed in her special orders, Ford asked the soldier to clear his weapon before entering the tent city. When the soldier cleared his weapon an accidental discharge occurred. Ford immediately reported the incident to the sergeant of the guard.

Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, task force commander said Ford, "possibly saved a soldier's life by insuring that the weapon was cleared before the soldier



Spc. Diovells Ford and Maj. Gen. William L. Nash.

entered the tent city. "

For her actions, Nash presented her with a Army Commendation Medal less than two hours after the incident occurred.

Ford, assigned to HHC, 1st Armored Division, has been in the U.S. Army for 19 months. She has a teaching certificate, and bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Panama. She has two children, Deshlee, 1 and Desmond, 2.

2nd BCT to provide security for Criminal Tribunal teams

BASE CAMP LISA — The Second Brigade Combat Team soldiers provided support Tuesday to teams from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia that began preliminary investigations of alleged war crimes and mass grave sites in the 2nd BCT area.

"This is not anything we hadn't expected or planned for," said Col. John R. Batiste, 2nd BCT commander. "We are simply providing a secure environment for the experts in this area to work."

Supporting the ICTY does not change the brigade's mission — to enforce the military aspects of the Peace Agreement in its area of responsibility.

As part of IFOR, Task Force Eagle has the responsibility to provide a secure environment where civilian agencies, as experts in their various fields, can operate

under the Peace Agreement.

The 2nd BCT is aiding the ICTY by providing area security and emergency vehicle recovery. They also will furnish medical care, a liaison team and life-support assistance.

IFOR policy calls for commanders to provide appropriate support to civilian agencies at an appropriate time, on a case-by-case basis and only when it does not interfere with the military mission.

Providing a secure environment for civilian agencies does not indicate any expansion of TFE's mission.

Batiste cautioned people not to make the support something it is not.

"We've always known we would provide security," Batiste said. "Providing that local security is no different than providing security anywhere else. We do it all the time."



Capt. Michael Abele (right), an intern, confers with Capt. (Dr.) Mark Hawkins about a CAT scan.



Lt. Col (Dr.) James Schmitt, 120th Medical Detachment (Dental) commander, treats a patient at the hospital.

M * A * S * H

212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital

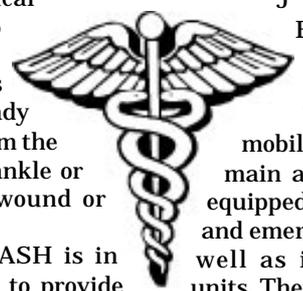
By Staff Sgt. JEFF TROTH
30th MED Brigade PAO

When the call for medical help goes out in Bosnia the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital is ready to lend a healing hand. The 212th MASH's 150 soldiers are ready to treat anything from the everyday sprained ankle or cold to a gunshot wound or mine injury.

Although the MASH is in Bosnia-Herzegovina to provide forward resuscitative surgery and medical treatment to Task Force Eagle soldiers their care does not stop there. They are also ready to provide treatment to other IFOR soldiers as well as local civilians.

Currently the 212th is located in two locations. The MASH Main is located

southwest of Tuzla at Bedrock, while the Forward is farther south at Camp Linda. The element spent the first months of Operation



J O I ENDEAVOR to provide medical care to the people of Croatia.

The MASH mobile hospital is the main and forward element, equipped with operating and emergency rooms as well as intensive care units. They both also have x-ray and pharmacy sections. The main hospital has the luxury of an immunology care unit, a CAT scan and telemedicine.

With telemedicine, MASH doctors are able to visually consult with their colleagues around the world.



Clockwise from top left:

- Spc. Dustin Dornfeld, Co. C, 16th Engineer Battalion, waits to have an injury checked.
- Staff Sgt. Elsa Allen, a medical technician, paints a sign to be hung outside the hospital.
- A MEDEVAC helicopter lands outside the MASH.
- The treatment room buzzes with activity.

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Teeter
 203rd MPAD

Air traffic controllers have eyes on the skies



Spc. George Roache

Staff Sgt. Richard Cofer (left) and Spc. James Loudermilk direct air traffic.

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — The Apache pilots of Task Force Eagle have two sets of eyes and ears — their own and those of “Victory Guardian” air traffic controllers.

“Our bible, which is the (Federal Aviation Administration) handbook, states that our primary purpose is to avoid the collision of aircraft,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Cofer, 43, of La Plata, Md.

“Pilots have their mission and their aircraft to worry about,” Cofer said. “So what’s important is to make sure that when these aircraft are coming in here, we relieve the

workload on (the pilots who are) looking around for other aircraft, and provide them a safe environment to operate. Then they can operate more freely and not worry about surrounding aircraft.”

The “Victory Guardians” of E Company, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, from Wiesbaden, Germany, provide air traffic control services throughout Germany.

Cofer and his eight-soldier crew brought their mobile ATC facility to Bosnia in early February. Initially, they tracked aircraft flying missions out of Eagle Base, Tuzla.

But when 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Air Cavalry Brigade, moved its

Apache helicopter fleet to the flightline here, the controllers’ responsibilities and workload grew.

“We are providing terminal services, as well as the flight-following services we have been providing up to this point,” said Cofer, ATC tower chief. “While on the mission, the aircraft are dispersed and at different flight levels. When they come back to the service area, which used to be known as a control zone, the tower controls entry, exit and operation within the controlled airspace.”

Coordination with the Air Force, which technically “owns” the airspace, has become more intense, Cofer said. That means making more calls to have departures approved — especially when bad weather hampers visibility — keeping the additional aircraft safely separated and telling the pilots in what order they can land.

“At first, it’s kind of scary because you don’t know what to expect,” said Pfc. Lester Roberts III, 19, of Albemarle, N.C., a flight data coordinator on his first deployment. “But as you work more of the aircraft, you get used to the stress.”

Training NCO Sgt. Paul S. McDonald, of Concord, N.H., and shift supervisor Cpl. Philip C. Adams II, 28, of Camden, N.J., make sure their soldiers receive the training needed to become qualified and rated as controllers for specific towers.

Adams sets the example by using the correct phraseology when talking to pilots. That reinforces good habits for his troops — and earns the trust of pilots.

McDonald realizes the seriousness of his job — that he has the lives of pilots in his hands. “I just hope they have enough faith and confidence to know that I know what I’m doing in my job, and they can rely on me in an emergency,” he said.

SPRING THAW

Warm weather means increased risk of tick-borne diseases

As spring brings a thaw, a new risk is emerging — disease-carrying ticks.

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is a disease native to certain regions of Europe. One form of the disease, Central European Encephalitis, is native to several regions of Europe, including the Task Force Eagle deployment area. According to V Corps Surgeon Col. David M. Lam, troops deployed to the Balkan region face an increased risk of TBE.

Encephalitis is most commonly carried by ticks, which are usually active March through September. The disease has an incubation period of one to two weeks, and occurs at a rate of 10 to 60 cases per 100,000. Areas where the ticks are most common, Lam said, include river valleys, areas of low scrub and forest edges.

Encephalitis is essentially inflammation and infection of the brain, and its ef-

fects vary from flu-like symptoms lasting weeks, to permanent neurological effects including paralysis, Lam said.

The disease occurs in two stages. The first, lasting four to six days, is marked by fever and flu-like symptoms including headache and nausea. The second phase may include disorientation, tremors, convulsions and coma.

“Eighty percent of the people who get it recover in a matter of weeks,” Lam said. “But the rest may suffer prolonged effects, including paralysis, that can last years.”

In rare cases, it can be fatal.

USAREUR Forward Surgeon’s Office is conducting a risk assessment to determine which troops have the most exposure to the disease.

“People who have to go out, because of their job, and walk through the brush in areas we know are infected, probably are at a higher risk,” Lam said. “Foot troops on

patrol are primarily the ones we’ll be looking at as high risk.”

The best defense against TBE is personal protection. This includes using DEET lotion insect repellent on skin and permethrin, a contact insecticide, on BDUs.

Soldiers should also wear their BDUs with the pants bloused and tucked well inside the boots, and sleeves down and buttoned at the wrist. Soldiers should also use buddy checks for ticks, searching the skin, arms, legs, trunk and scalp.

If ticks are detected, they should be removed immediately using forceps or tweezers, starting close to the skin and gently pulling the tick off.

Ticks are very small and also carry other diseases including Lyme disease. Any tick bite should be watched carefully for signs of lesions, redness or swelling. If these symptoms occur, seek medical attention.

Mechanized infantryman protect perimeters

By Staff Sgt. JOSEPH GARRISON
29th MPAD

Mobility is what Spc. Keith L. Haymon likes about being a mechanized infantryman, and he's been a part of many tactical movements since his deployment to Bosnia.

Haymon, a member of A Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, recently moved from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's operating area. He is now conducting perimeter security at Eagle Base, Tuzla's small airstrip.

"I liked it out there controlling the zone of separation, but I really enjoy pulling duty here at the airfield," Haymon said. "It's a different and new experience."

"We run an observation point, scanning the farm fields and a small village just off the air strip," Haymon said as he manned his Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

Soldiers like Haymon set their positions with heavy armored vehicles "mainly as a show of force and to provide security," he said.

"We also perform foot-patrols along the air strip for further protection that consist of a great deal of walking," he



Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison

Spc. Keith L. Haymon scans the perimeter of Eagle Base, Tuzla's airstrip from his tank.

said. "We get to see a lot of the country and it's great exercise, and some times we get to clear out old bunkers. This mission is a great experience — an experience of a lifetime."

Haymon's average day consists of two hours on duty and six hours off.

"I like the work pattern," he said. "We stay alert on guard, don't get bored and keep our personal hygiene up, get to write home and enjoy our time off. We run a tight

eight-man section that is very close and effective."

Haymon is set to transfer from the Old Ironsides to Fort Hood, Texas. He said he will miss the soldiers in A Company, but looks forward to the move.

"I've always wanted to be stationed in Texas because I want to go to college there once I get out of the Army in two years."

The 21-year-old Haymon dreams of completing a degree in marketing but has not yet

made his final college choice.

"I just know that I want to go to school in Texas and use my Army tuition benefits," he said.

Haymon, a native of Dyersburg, Tenn., has some important plans before reporting to his next unit.

"I want to take my three-year-old daughter to Disney World, the zoo and spend some quality time with her," Haymon said. "I haven't been home in almost two years."

Combat engineers blast trees for force protection of camp

By Staff Sgt. COLIN WARD
358th MPAD

CAMP ALICIA — A bright red and orange flash. A wave of raw power rumbling across the countryside. The ground beneath shaking with the force of a small earthquake. Trees falling to the ground in a splintered mass.

The scene, similar to the force of an advancing enemy, was A Company, 40th Engineers, recently clearing a sector of fire to help protect U.S. personnel and equipment here.

At first light, the engineers placed C-4 plastic explosives onto the base of several trees.

Prior to positioning of charges, soldiers skinned the bark from the trees, allowing for a smooth base to place the explosives.

"We had to strip the bark so the charge would hold to the tree during the other blasts," said Pfc. Patrick Brown, a combat engineer from Miami.

Several hundred meters of detonation cord ran from the charges to fortified

fighting positions, where the soldiers would escape the force of the blasts.

The thumbs-up sign was given and soldiers sank beneath the protected walls.

One by one the charges exploded, each blast shaking the ground and echoing throughout the valley.

Slowly coming into focus, as the dirt and smoke cleared, was the devastation caused by the seven successive explosions. Similar to a spilled box of toothpicks, trees and underbrush lay in twisted broken masses.

Two tasks remained before job completion: retrieving the serviceable detonation cord used to relay the fire signal to the charges and clearing the leveled trees.

A Company spearheads the defense of this isolated lodgment area. The company's goal is to have the most defensible camp within the U.S. sector, therefore providing a safe environment for the soldiers.

After all, force protection will help soldiers safely complete their mission of enforcing peace in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.



Staff Sgt. Colin Ward

Pfc. Patrick Brown prepares a C-4 charge around the bark of a tree.

Local barbers keep soldiers looking sharp



55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Troops get haircuts from professional Bosnian hairstylists

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — "Relax," you tell yourself, as you slowly climb into the chair. "They know what they're doing, right?" This may run through the mind of a soldier about to

get a haircut — especially when the barber is someone who knows little English.

However, to many a soldier's surprise, the Steel Castle barber shop employees are more than amateurs who merely claim they can cut hair. The three barbers, employed at Steel Castle, have five years

of combined formal training and many more years of experience.

Muhamed Kopic, a refugee originally from the town of Caparde, has been cutting men's and women's hair for eight years. He began by attending a one-year barbering course, where he learned how to cut, perm, color and style men's and women's hair.

Kopic learned of the barber job from a friend who overheard soldiers talking when they visited the town of Kalesija, just outside Steel Castle. The friend informed him of the opportunity, and Kopic applied and got the job.

"I don't have my own business, and it's a good chance to cut hair," Kopic said about working for the base camp here. During the war, it was hard to have a steady business and a job, and he was glad to come here, he said.

Currently, there are no female stylists available, but that shouldn't stop women from getting their hair trimmed. They need only ask for a "talijanka linija," or a trim.

"Women shouldn't be afraid to come (to us)," said

Remzudin Sahanic, who also attended a one-year course in hairstyling.

"We're professionals," added Fikret Mujcinovic, who has three years of formal training from a trade school. The barbers are contracted for haircuts only, but have the knowledge of perming and coloring hair.

Each barber agreed they were receiving good wages, but business has been somewhat slow. Their wages depend on the amount of customers. There haven't been many customers, and the three men hope this will change, since the shop is only in its first month of operation.

The three barbers agreed that life is different for them now. Not only do they have a stable job to come to every day but there are no grenades, no war, no fear of death.

"You can walk anywhere, thanks to the American Army and President Clinton, too," said Kopic. He feels the Americans have done a lot for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to include giving him a job while he looks forward to the future.

Scouts enforce peace through weapons inspections

Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

Enforcing the peace in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina is no easy task. But scouts from 4th Battalion, 67th Armor, meet that challenge head-on by staying constantly alert for undeclared weapons or ammunition.

Recently, members of the scout platoon from C Company, 4-67, inspected a declared weapons storage site on the Bosnian-Croat Federation side of the zone of separation.

Staff Sgt. Tracy F. Heap, 35, section sergeant from Nashville, Tenn., led the survey.

"It's pretty much a routine mission," Heap said before the inspection. "We have been to this site before, so I don't think there will be any problems. But we still plan before the missions to make sure everything runs smoothly, because we don't want to take that for granted."

As the scouts travel through the ZOS to the weapons site, they are alert to any possible violations of the Peace Agreement's prohibition against weapons in the buffer zone.

Sometimes they do find weapons vio-



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

U.S. and Croatian soldiers work at a declared weapons storage site.

lations.

"I don't think a lot of (violators) have a good feel for exactly where the ZOS is," Heap said. "So we get on the ground with the translator and explain the situation to them, and normally they don't give us a problem."

At the storage site, the scouts fanned out to pull security. Sgt. Daniel L. Pinion, 23, from Newton, N.J., kept a watchful eye on the area while maintaining radio contact with the vehicles.

"My job today as RTO (radio telephone operator) is to provide basic security for the other people who are in the area, and make sure everybody is safe and getting a good look at the weapons.

"We never know what we're going to see out here," Pinion said. "Basically, we should always keep our eyes open. I make sure the area is secure, and I make sure we don't walk into any mined areas or any other locations that might cause some injuries."

Heap and his platoon leader inspected and inventoried the storage facility, which contained a variety of neatly organized weapons. Among them were air-defense artillery weapons, machine guns, rocket launchers, mines, grenades and various munitions.

Missions such as this have kept the scout platoon busy since they arrived at Colt Base, the 4-67th's headquarters. Along with reconnaissance missions, the platoon provides security for convoys. Each week, they run an average of 16 missions and travel about 500 miles.

"In two months now, I think we've had one day off, and on that day we performed maintenance," Pinion said.

PERSONALITIES OF THE WEEK

Family that flies together stays together

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

Being deployed with family means never having to say you're lonely.

That's what keeps three Army aviators in Bosnia-Herzegovina flying high.

First Lt. Jon Tussing, 25, with the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Air Cavalry Brigade, flies AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. His wife, 1st Lt. Karen Tussing, 24, flies UH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopters for 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation.

Capt. Laura Ann Kuppich, Karen Tussing's 26-year-old sister and also a Black Hawk pilot, arrived at their duty station in Hanau, Germany, in June 1995.

Now the three are serving together at Comanche Base near the headquarters of Task Force Eagle.

Despite their busy schedules, they find the time to do what families do: sharing meals, going to church, hanging out, helping each other pass the time and generally giving each other support.

"There are not a lot of females in the Army," said Kuppich, currently the personnel and administrative officer in her brother-in-law's battalion. "It's hard to find that female companionship, so it's nice to have my sister here to have as a good friend.

"I can tell her all my worries and problems — the good things and bad things about the job you can't tell people in the organization you work for. I can tell Karen and Jon everything. They're great people — great family," she said.

The three share a special closeness from being children in military families that settled in Williamsburg, Va., after years of duty-related travel.

"We're all Army brats and

kind of moved around a little bit," said Jon Tussing, son of James and Martha Tussing.

His father retired a colonel after 32 years in the Army, beginning in the infantry and then moving to ordnance. Both of his brothers joined the Army. He started in the ROTC program at Florida State University and transferred to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., after his freshman year.

John Tussing's wife and sister-in-law are the daughters of Joseph and Janice Kuppich. Their father was commissioned in the infantry before moving to aviation and flying Huey gunships in Vietnam and Cobras later. They have an older brother who is an infantry captain in Korea.

Kuppich became interested in Army Aviation while at the University of Colorado at Boulder ROTC program. Karen Tussing was an ROTC cadet at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

"My sister is a very big role model for me," said Karen Tussing. "I respect and admire her. Seeing her enjoying ROTC and later Army Aviation — and (seeing her) make out well — made it seem like a possibility for me as well. Flying is the most fun thing I do on active duty."

The Tussings met in Air Assault School at Camp Gruber, Okla., in 1991, and married in August 1993, spending four months together in different phases of flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala., before he left for Hanau, Germany. She followed him eight months later in the joint married couples program.

Kuppich arrived in June 1995 with her optometrist husband, Maj. T.J. Lantz.

Being a year apart in their military careers meant the Tussings spent much of their



Spc. Robert W. Bishop

The family with wings: (left to right) Capt. Laura Ann Kuppich, 1st Lt. Karen Tussing and 1st Lt. Jon Tussing.

courtship and married life apart. It also made their deployment to Bosnia that much more special.

"We've been married for 30 months and separated for 17," Jon Tussing said, "so I figure we deserve to be stationed here together. Separation has been the hardest thing for us. Having my wife here means there's a lot less for me to miss back home in Hanau."

While at times he wishes she wasn't in the tactical situation presented by Bosnia, he said, other times he's grateful to be able to look her in the eye and see she's all right.

"It keeps me from being lonely," said Karen Tussing, executive officer for HHC, 7-227th. "I had friends while I was deployed to Turkey (twice in 1994 for 2 1/2-month stretches at a time), but it's not

the same as being with your own spouse."

The eight months the three have been together have passed quickly, she said. They play cards and board games, read magazines and talk about family. She gets advice from Kuppich that she accepts as just big sister's way of looking out for her.

And Kuppich shares with them items from the care packages her husband sends regularly from Hanau, as well as the occasional meal and church service as their schedules permit.

"I love having them close by and working with them," Kuppich said. "It's nice to be able to get away from everybody else, be silly and goof off away from the soldiers and other officers in the battalion. Otherwise, I would work all the time if I didn't have this outlet."

AFN techs extend programming to remote sites

By Staff Sgt. JOSEPH GARRISON
29th MPAD

HILL TOP 722 — The small group of soldiers who call this remote signal site home east of Srebrenik went nearly 100 days without watching a ball game on TV or listening to their favorite music on the radio.

Today, the sights and sounds of the American Forces Network can be seen and heard here, thanks to a recent visit by AFN technicians.

The small, but mobile group of broadcast technicians based at Eagle Base, Tuzla, brought plenty of tools, cable, satellite dishes and radio receivers.

"This is very important for morale," said Spc. Bob P. Abrams, a television maintenance technician with the 209th Broadcast Public Affairs Detachment, an Army Reserve unit from Rome, Ga. "Morale is the backbone in any military mission. It's great at the completion of a job to go and see soldiers turn on the television or radio for the first time in months. They are almost hypnotized, and they seem not so all alone any more."

Soldiers at this isolated location agree.

"We have worked hard to make this hilltop our home, and these services will

definitely help morale," said 2nd Lt. Annah Castellini of the 22nd Signal Brigade and site commander here.

"These services help soldiers in remote locations by giving them a small taste of home," Abrams added. "I am very satisfied with my job here in Bosnia. We get to leave something behind at each location that everybody can use and enjoy."

A new radio transmitter installed the same day beams AFN's signal as far north as Camp Kime and as far south as Lukavac.

AFN technicians also maintain television and radio transmitters and satellite receivers in the field. Abrams says that he has adjusted one base camp's satellite four times so that soldiers can continue to watch their favorite programs.

About 95 percent of U.S. personnel in Bosnia currently have access to AFN radio or television programming, according to Capt. Grady J. Goodwin, AFN Bosnia station manager and member of the 209th BPAD from Valdosta, Ga.

In the coming weeks, AFN Bosnia plans to install equipment in Task Force Eagle's Nord-Pol, Russian and Turkish brigade areas so that U.S. and non-U.S. soldiers there can receive radio and television programming, Goodwin said.

For decades, AFN has brought enter-



Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison

Spc. Bob Abrams aligns a satellite dish towards space on Hilltop 722.

tainment and news to U.S. servicemembers deployed world-wide.

"Wherever soldiers go, we are out there with them," said Sgt. Matthew Beckman of AFN Germany, serving in Bosnia.



Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Hungarian engineers forge the Fortuna Bridge.

Bridge, from page 1

gether and laid into place by U.S. and Hungarian engineers.

"It was a challenge because of the language barrier ... but we all came together and it was a big team effort," said Pvt. Rick E. Gluth, 20, a resident of Roanoke, Va., and member of the 502nd Engineer Company based in Hanau, Germany.

Pfc. Michael R. Southards, an engineer from Fort Polk, La., attached to the 502nd, said the entire bridge was put together by hand.

"We had a crane but it was a lot quicker using sheer manpower," said the Asheville, N.C., resident. He explained further that the bridge was pre-fabricated and brought to Brcko in sections. "It was like a big jigsaw puzzle. We just put the pieces together."

A plaque on the Brcko side of the bridge is engraved with the words, "IFOR U.S. Army-Hungary Engineers - 1996."

The 2,000-foot long, bright blue Fortuna Bridge was rebuilt by soldiers from the 502nd, 586th and 535th Engineer Companies, 23rd Engineer Battalion and 130th Engineer Brigade.

Sarajevo, from page 1

etry with thousands of fresh graves that stretches for acres.

"It's a shame what happened," Campbell said. "I look around and I wonder how people can do all this to one another."

The soldiers sleep in an arena where Olympic skaters dazzled the world. Today, portions of the building are rubble. Walls still standing are littered with pock marks, evidence of pitched battles where the world once gathered to cheer.

The security force spend their days like most other infantry units. Weapons maintenance, guard duty and patrols through the streets surrounding the ARRC headquarters make up a significant portion of the soldiers' activities.

"We handle a screening mission (at the gates) and we check the town out in our Bradleys," said Staff Sgt. Gary Richardson of Brooklyn, N.Y.

The presence of the heavily armed and armored Americans initially made some in the city nervous, Campbell said.

"They ask why we look like we are going into battle," he said. "We are being told we are over-prepared."

The U.S. troops work with soldiers from several other nations but have a special bond with their British counterparts. Especially the cooks.

"They took us in like we were one of their own," said Sgt. Robert Crosbie of Ephrata, Pa. "There is good cohesion and it's a good working relationship."

Slowly, the soldiers said, the sights and sounds of peace are beginning to replace those of war. People are now less afraid to come out of their homes. Others are moving into formerly abandoned houses and apartments. Even markets and businesses are now keeping more regular hours.

Spc. Jake Coffman of Marysville, Wash. said that the local population is also becoming more confident of IFOR.

"The people of the city are starting to come out more and more and they are becoming a little more comfortable," he said. Even Campbell is encouraged.

"Every night, I see more and more lights," he said.