

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

## TFE artists compete in Operation Picasso

By Staff Sgt. BRIAN BOWMAN  
203d MPAD

An art competition for Task Force Eagle called Operation Picasso will kick off in May.

The competition, open for soldiers and civilians, is an opportunity to display their talent through paintings, drawings, sculptures, humor and caricatures. Entries will be displayed at Camp Punxsutawney, with an opening ceremony for the art exhibit scheduled for May 15.

Entries will be accepted starting May 7 and must be turned in no later than May 14. Winners will be announced May 22.

First prize will be a television with VCR. Other prizes include \$50 gift certificates and special passes to upcoming Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Department of Defense shows. Due to Bosnia-Herzegovina customs restrictions, only NATO personnel (non-Bosnians) are eligible for prizes.

The art categories include: everyday life, winter operations, Bosnia and soldier thoughts. Media that may be used include computers, pen and ink, packing material, paints, markers, wire, photographs, sculpting, woodworking and welding.

Works will all be by one individual, except for the special "unit" category. All entries must be in good taste; the acceptability of an entry will be determined by the judging committee headed by Task Force Eagle Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley.

Those who would like more information may contact coordinators 1st Lt. Dave Abke or Capt. Shari Corbett at MSE 551-3575.

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

# Wrecker pulls its weight

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE  
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — The soft shoulders of Bosnia's narrow roads can spell potential disaster for heavy vehicles operating here. One foot too far to the right, and a HEMTT or tanker can end up on its side in a deep ditch.

But one crew of recovery specialists prides itself on pulling vehicles safely out of the worst situations.

"We're known as the Miracle Maintenance Crew," said Sgt. 1st Class Rodgerick Scott, 36, of Clearwater, Fla., ground maintenance supervisor for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation from Hanau, Germany.

"We haven't torn up anything yet or caused anyone bodily harm in getting a truck back on the road. It's a miracle," he said.

Led by Sgt. Angel Negron, 29, a vehicle mechanic and recovery specialist from Caguas, Puerto Rico, the three-soldier team has performed or assisted in 21 different recovery missions in Bosnia, Scott said.

Most recoveries involve getting vehicles overturned in ditches back on their wheels or freeing them from being mired in deep mud.

Using "HQ 68," a HEMTT equipped with a towing mechanism, cable



Spc. George Roache

Members of the "Miracle Maintenance Crew" prepare to rescue a stranded vehicle.

and chains, the team has recovered military vehicles from other battalions, civilian buses and tankers, U.N. tankers, palletized trucks, cargo HEMTTs, and even a Bobcat mini-tractor and forklift.

"Bumper numbers don't make any difference anymore," Negron said. "It's all one big family."

Their hardest recovery was a civilian tanker that was leaking fuel after it slipped off an ice-covered road at Comanche Base and fell on its side.

"The terrain was dif-

ficult," Negron said. "We couldn't pull (the tanker) forward and we didn't want to pull it backwards because it was down in a valley between embankments and could flip over again either way."

And there was always a danger from sparks caused by metal-to-metal contact when they use chains.

After hours of night-time work in freezing mid-February weather, the team finally got the vehicle on its wheels.

See WRECKER page 12

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From the top

Spring brings new concerns for NCOs

After a long winter, spring is now finally here, but the new season brings new concerns for our Task Force Eagle leaders.



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

First of all, let me clarify the uniform for all servicemembers participating in the task force. Regardless of the new season, sleeves on the Battle Dress Uniform will remain rolled down.

This is for a number of reasons, but primarily because we remain in a field environment

where ticks and other insects flourish.

Wearing our sleeves down helps us stay camouflaged, keeps us from getting sunburned and may keep bugs off us.

Leaders should also remind their soldiers that effective April 1, summer boots were authorized.

Keep an eye on your soldiers, especially as they perform outdoor details or other strenuous work.

Make sure you and your

soldiers drink plenty of water and take frequent rests to avoid becoming heat casualties. In fact, you should force soldiers to drink water.

On another note, sergeants should inspect their troops before guard duty.

Perimeter guards should have a clean weapon, be prepared for guard duty and understand their mission.

Encourage your troops to stay focused on the mission.

Spring and summer months can be tough on vehicles. It is NCO business to maintain all equipment, so don't assume that PMCS is being performed.

Check with your soldiers to make sure these checks are being preformed.

Regular maintenance now can prevent future emergencies.

You should be proud of what you're doing, even though sometimes it's hard to see the results of your labor.

However, you can see those results as more people are moving back into their homes in the zone of separation — homes many of them haven't seen in years.

You're doing a tremendous job. Stay focused on the mission, HOOAH!

Viewpoint

'Star Spangled Banner' symbol of freedom, not oppression

The soldiers of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR take their country's flag seriously.



Spc. George Roache 29th MPAD

Deployed to help secure the blessings of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, they wear the American flag on their right shoulders proudly.

As "The Star Spangled Banner" fills the air at official ceremonies, they snap to attention and salute it smartly.

Therefore, it should surprise no one that many soldiers take a dim view of the National Basketball Association player who sat on the bench or stretched while the national anthem was being played before games.

According to him, standing for the flag is a form of na-

tionalistic worship forbidden by his religion, and the flag itself is a symbol of oppression.

But I'm not sure which flag he is referring to. It's certainly not the one displayed on my uniform.

Recently I polled several soldiers. No one with whom I spoke agreed with what the NBA star did.

Their opinions ranged from a grudging acknowledgment that he was exercising his constitutional rights to the opinion that he should either stand up for the flag or stand up and leave.

For if it were not for the American flag and the brave servicemembers who have fought for it, he would not have the freedom to either practice his religion or get the \$2.6 million a year the Den-

ver Nuggets pays him.

That's the grand irony in what he says.

Rather than symbolizing tyranny and oppression, the flag stands for guaranteeing certain rights.

His actions would not have been possible in many other countries. Instead, he would be arrested for breaking some law.

As it were, he defied a provision in the league's operations manual requiring all players to "stand and line up in a dignified posture ... during the playing of the American and/or Canadian national anthems."

One of the greatest things about America is that we have the right to make choices.

But when you join organizations like the U.S. Army or the NBA, you give up some of those rights and must conform your actions to comply

with the goals of the organization.

American soldiers stand when other nations' national anthems are played. Doing so could hardly be regarded as nationalistic worship.

Pure and simply, it's respect for others, a point lost on that ball player when he asks that others respect his beliefs.

Granted, that American freedom gives him the right not to stand, and I'm sure no soldier would have it any other way.

However, his paycheck for one game exceeds what many soldiers earn in one year.

He hardly appears oppressed.

When soldiers place their lives on the line to defend the American flag and what it represents, they expect others to show it due respect.

They are not sympathetic with anyone who dishonors it.

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Spc. Wendy M. Firestone

Staff Sgt. Costell McIntosh, 20th EOD Detachment, standing in front of an Italian soldier, helps him into protective gear during a recent conference.

## 'Dud Busters'

### *EOD teams destroy unexploded ordnance in Bosnia*

By Cpl. EDWIN DELACRUZ  
20th EOD

STEEL CASTLE — "Implementing Peace with Explosive Force" is the motto of an elite unit of soldiers whose mission is to defuse dangerous items that could take off a soldier's head, vaporize him or, if he's *lucky*, just leave him scarred for life.

These are the soldiers of the 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, or as they are more commonly known, "the Dud Busters."

Since arriving in Bosnia on Dec. 22, these EOD specialists, or "techs" as they like to be called, have investigated, rendered safe or destroyed more than 100 hazardous explosive ordnance and suspicious items.

"The majority have been mortar rounds and rocket-propelled grenades," said Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Hansen, 20th EOD operations NCO.

During the early days of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, 20th EOD techs investigated nearly every incident involving unexploded ordnance, or "UXOs," within the 1st, 2nd, and Russian brigades. Additionally, several incidents occurred in the zone of separation.

On Mount Vis, a mountain peak near Eagle Base, Tuzla, a 1,000-pound bomb was discovered by Swedish surveyors. An EOD team, led by Staff Sgt. Walter Kern of Grafenweoher, Germany, was dispatched to investigate and dispose of the bomb.

After attempting to defuse the bomb, Kern and his assistant, Sgt. Robert Hart-

ley, also from Grafenweoher, used a special device to analyze the metallic skin.

They then strategically placed explosives and detonated the bomb from a safe distance.

Large trees were annihilated by the explosion, according to Hartley. "(There were) trees left standing where the tops were ripped off for about 500 meters," he said. "The crater was as deep as a Humvee and probably as wide as two, lengthwise."

Sometimes, an EOD team is called out to investigate a suspicious package. One incident involved a mysterious box located near an IFOR base camp.

The box was brought to the attention of the security force by some local citizens in the middle of the night.

Initially, the security force thought the people involved were trying to lure them away from their post, but after further investigation they discovered the box in question and alerted the EOD team.

After examining and X-raying the box, the techs used a remote control repositioning device to check for boobytraps.

Finally, the box was determined to be harmless. It turned out the mystery box actually contained candy intended for "any soldier."

"The guards did the right thing," Hartley said. "There was no telling what was in the box."

Why would anyone would want to do EOD work? "It's an adrenaline rush," said Capt. Johnny Thompson, 20th EOD commander. "(When you investigate) an unexploded munition, it's pure adrenaline."

## News briefs

### Shuttle bus service

Many soldiers now don't have to scramble to find a convoy at the last minute or wait for hours to catch one back to their home base.

Monday, a new shuttle bus service began serving soldiers at Lukavac, Eagle Base and Steel Castle.

The service runs from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

"The purpose of the shuttle bus service is to cut down on traffic and the amount of convoys," said Sgt. 1st Class Debra Savatone, assistant to Maj. Jay Warren, division transportation office at Lukavac.

The two worked on the shuttle bus issue for about six weeks, she said.

Maj. Edwin Acker, mayor of the Lukavac-based Camp Punxsutawney, said the shuttle buses will be commercial and Army.

To find out shuttle times, soldiers may contact their local transportation office.

### Cinco de Mayo

The Steel Castle Equal Opportunity Office staff is looking for volunteers to help plan events to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, May 5, Mexico's Independence Day.

A meeting is set for 6 p.m., April 29, at the Equal Opportunity Office, located at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Complex. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Buddy Best or Sgt. 1st Danny Migenes at MSE 558-5826 or 558-5846.

### Field uniform

According to the Task Force Eagle Inspector General's office, there is a Task Force standard for wear of load carrying equipment.

It does not include machetes, Bowie knives, Ranger beads or other Rambo-style devices.

The first aid pouch goes pocket side up. Keep your load light and stay professional.

### Laundry turn-in

It is common sense to mark your clothing and personal items before turning them into the laundry.

The contractor handles thousands of brown and camouflage articles each day.

If you lose anything, document it through your chain of command to seek compensation.

# COLTs compete for gunnery slot

By Sgt. DAVID PALAZZOLO  
358th MPAD

OLOVO — The two highest rated Combat Operations Lasing Teams (COLTs) recently competed for the opportunity to be the first to participate in a live fire exercise in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Teams from Task Force 4-12 Infantry and Task Force 2-68 Armor, were chosen to compete in the one-day qualification

COLT teams are equipped with lasers that paint targets with signals used by guided artillery rounds, like the Copperhead, to zero in on targets. The beam is encoded with a pulsing frequency that is read by the artillery round. The laser can be mounted either on the turret of a tracked vehicle or carried inside a wheeled vehicle.

The live fire exercise called BOSNIAN THUNDER is being held in the British sector. It's the first artillery live fire in Bosnia by Operation JOINT



Sgt. David Palazzolo

**A soldier from Task Force 4-12 Infantry lases a target.**

ENDEAVOR forces.

The two teams took part in a competition at a training site near Camp Linda. They were graded on how well they followed standard operating procedure and then given a rating according to how quickly they acquired the targets.

During the competition, the teams took positions on hill-tops. They set up defensive positions and spread camouflage netting over vehicles. One soldier would make a sector sketch

of the terrain while the other would set up the laser.

Once set up, the laser was aimed at a target, and calculates the grid coordinate and elevation.

The information was radioed to the howitzer teams, who calculated the information and simulated a firing.

"This gives them a chance to practice high intensity skills while keeping mission focus," said 2nd Brigade Fire Support Officer Maj. Jesse Rose.

He said they have the largest sector for which to provide fire support.

"We are putting more miles on our howitzers than the task force is putting on their tanks."

The weather was poor on the day of the competition. Cold wind and snow hindered performance and visibility, preventing a clear shot, forcing them to move in closer to the targets than normal.

"In a real combat situation, we don't always have perfect weather," Rose said. "It just made things more real."

"It was a good chance to sustain skills as fire supporters and get out of the daily grind of patrols they have been running," said Capt. Patrick Morrow, fire support officer, Task Force 4-12.

Both teams wanted to be the first to participate in the live fire, Morrow said.

"Both teams really wanted to do well and they did well. But there is only one winner and one loser."

At the end of the competition, the winner was the team from the Task Force 2-68.

## ■ PEN PALS

### Warrant officer corresponds with 200 "any soldier" letter writers

By Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER  
203rd MPAD

It isn't uncommon to see soldiers post photographs of family or significant others in their office or living areas, but to blanket entire walls with photographs from "any soldier" mail might seem out of the ordinary.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert Rosier, 18th Combat Support Battalion, has collected any soldier mail and photographs since January.

He has received almost 200 first-time letters and responded to all the writers at least once.

He decorates the walls of his office and living quarters with snapshots and pictures that children have drawn.

On an elaborate spreadsheet, Rosier tracks the letters by name, state, date and number of times he and they have corresponded.

Rosier considers any soldier mail a hobby that requires at least 24 hours per week, usually at night.

"I first got interested in this because I wasn't (yet) receiving any mail from home," Rosier said. "So I started requesting any soldier mail. The interest started growing."

His original goal was to obtain letters from 200 people. Now, Rosier said he might strive for 250 and he would like to have correspondence from all 50 states.

He is lacking about 10 states. Much of the mail comes from schoolchildren and church groups.

Some correspondents and

their photographs stand out — a large wading Florida bird, sea lions, a 52-year-old female race car driver, an animal lover who was upset because Rosier hunts, and a writer who has corresponded with Rosier eight times.

"I might not remember all their names," he said, "but the basics, I remember."

### The old and new

Two Bosnian men on a horse-and-buggy carriage stretch their necks to glimpse at a flock of iron eagles — an AH-64 Apache and a UH-60 Black Hawk — parked across the road from Camp Alicia.



Spc. Ceasar G. Soriano

# Station provides Comanche soldiers care

By Spc. ROB BISHOP  
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — People hobble in on ankles they twisted while attempting a fade-away jumper at the new basketball court or stop by inquiring about the flight glasses they ordered.

Some come in sniffing and congested; others come in for physicals so they can fly helicopters.

But they all make their way to the Comanche Base Aid Station, where they find care for their injuries and compassion for their troubles.

During the aid station's 24-hour day, the medics and physicians hold sick call twice, perform flight and separation physicals and see an average of 25 patients, said Capt. (Dr.) Terry Lakin, acting brigade flight surgeon with 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation.

"When we first got here, the big scare was cold weather injuries, but now we mostly see athletic injuries," he said.

Now that the weather is becoming warmer, soldiers play basketball, run or go to the gym and end up pulling muscles or injuring joints, Lakin said.

The medical staff, the physicians and medics of the aid station are there to help any injured soldier.

"The medics are the heart of the clinic," Lakin said. "They take care of the routine tasks as well as care for the patients."

Medics are the ones who first see the soldiers. They handle the paper work and initial exams, and create treatment plans. They are also responsible for the clinic's daily supply needs and equipment maintenance.

"When a patient comes in, I treat them at my level of ability and prescribe a plan of care for them. The doctors say yes or no to



Spc. Rob Bishop

**Sgt. Eric Case, treatment NCO, orders supplies as part of his daily duties.**

the treatment plan and then they take over from there," said Sgt. Eric Case, treatment noncommissioned officer, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation.

"We use each patient as a tool for teaching," Lakin said. "If I can point out one lesson per patient, then after a while the lessons will add up."

The medics' daily lessons include preparing for wartime casualties, airway management, maintaining circulation, blood volume replacement, how to handle extreme blood loss and how to transport a patient for higher medical care, Lakin said.

"Doctors train us on sick call and exam procedures, but we concentrate on emergency treatment," Case said.

## Tick-borne encephalitis vaccine available on voluntary basis

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE  
29th MPAD

Soldiers who conduct off-road operations on foot in grassy, wooded areas should consider being vaccinated against tick-borne encephalitis, says an Army infectious disease authority.

"This infection is found in this region," said Maj. (Dr.) Robert Kushner of the 520th Theater Army Medical Laboratory at Camp Bedrock. "We know the ticks that carry this infection are in this area of operations, so we're concerned that this could be a potentially significant problem."

TBE, a virus that causes an infection or inflammation of the brain and can lead to brain damage, paralysis or death, is transmitted by tick bites.

Ticks in the Balkan region generally thrive in river valleys, high grasses, meadows, shrubs and the edges of forests and are active between March and August or September.

Medical authorities have determined that scouts, engineers, signal units and mechanized infantry, and others who patrol in grassy camp perimeters face the highest risk.

Many soldiers have already been vaccinated, Kushner said, and other soldiers in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR are encouraged to take the vaccine.

"It is only being offered to those on a voluntary basis who are at high risk of being bitten by ticks," the doctor said. "Only those who live or work in those (vegetated) areas should consider themselves at high risk and should consider taking the vaccine. Those who don't live or work in those areas probably don't need it."

Shot teams started visiting base camps throughout the theater April 22 to give more detailed information about the disease, answer questions and administer the vaccine.

The vaccine was developed in Austria but no drug company requested the FDA to license it because TBE does not occur in the United States, Kushner said. However, it has been safely used in Europe for more than 20 years.

"Over 27 million doses have been given already," Kushner said. "From the experiences in Europe, it is very safe and extremely effective. It has been 98 percent effective in preventing the infection in Austria."

Less than 5 percent who receive the

vaccine will experience minor soreness, and less than 1 percent will get low-grade fevers for a day or two, he said. There is no cure for the disease itself.

"It can start out like the flu and most people will go on and completely recover after several days of fevers, muscle aches and generally feeling lousy," Kushner said.

"But 1 to 5 percent of people infected will die. In up to 20 percent of those affected by meningitis and encephalitis may suffer long-term effects, including full or partial paralysis or brain damage.

"There is no specific therapy or treatment other than supportive care for this infection. People either get better by themselves or they don't," the doctor said.

Vaccinated soldiers should still use various forms of insect repellent for the skin, clothing and equipment, properly wear their uniforms to protect the skin and do buddy "body checks" to detect and remove ticks, Kushner said.

"The vaccine only protects against this infection," he said. "Other infections can be transmitted as well by ticks and mosquitoes, so personal protective measures should still be used."

## M-9, 9mm Pistol



**1. Unholster the weapon and point it at clearing barrel or down at ground, away from other soldiers.**

**2. Ensure the weapon is on safe and remove the magazine.**



**3. Pull and lock the slide to the rear. Look into the chamber, ensuring no rounds are present. Let the slide ride forward, while safely pointing the weapon as prescribed in Step 1.**

**4. Point the weapon in a safe direction as prescribed in Step 1. Charge the pistol three more times watching for rounds to eject and place on safe. Return the pistol to the holster.**



*Photos by Spc. Bryan Driver*

# Proper pro clearing yo

Servicemembers participating in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR have a number of hazards to worry about while on deployment, including the ever-present threat of land mines.

However, one thing they should not have to worry about is being injured by an accidental discharge from a weapon.

Since December, there have been a total of 37 accidental discharges by soldiers ranging in rank from private first class to lieutenant colonel.

"We are fortunate we have not lost a soldier because of these discharges," Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley, Task Force Eagle command sergeant major, said recently.

## M16A1 and



**1. Point the rifle at a clearing barrel or at the ground away from other soldiers. Ensure the rifle is on safe. If the rifle is not on safe, remove the magazine if present. Lock the charging handle to the rear. Place the weapon on safe. Let the bolt ride forward.**



**3. Rotate the selector switch to the semi position, pointing the weapon in a safe direction as prescribed in Step 1, and pull the trigger.**

# cedures for our weapon

Because of the increasing threat to our soldiers, *The Talon* has devoted two pages to giving soldiers a refresher course in how to clear their weapons.

All noncommissioned officers should review the steps with their soldiers to make sure they all know how to properly clear their weapons. And officers also need to review the steps.

No one is immune from an accidental discharge.

*(Note: These recommended weapon clearing procedures have been developed for the task force because of changing mission requirements. Source: Task Force Eagle G-3 Office)*

## and M16A2 rifle



2. Pull the charging handle to the rear and lock it in place. Look into the chamber, ensuring no rounds are present. Let the bolt ride forward and charge the weapon three more times.



4. Charge the weapon again, and place the selector switch on safe. Close the dust cover to keep dust out of the weapon.

## M249 Squad Automatic Weapon



1. Lock charging handle to the rear. Place weapon on safe (red ring not visible). Open the feed tray cover and remove the ammunition belt or lose links.



2. Look into the chamber, ensuring no rounds are present. Close feed tray cover assembly, ensuring it is locked in place. Place weapon on fire, letting the charging handle ride forward.



3. Charge the weapon three more times, watching for rounds to eject.



Soldiers from 2-68 Armor stand on guard duty at Checkpoint Sandra on a snowy spring day.

## Late snow challenges checkpoint duty

Story and photos  
by Sgt. DAVE PALAZZOLO  
358th MPAD

**CHECKPOINT SANDRA** — The snow falls heavily on an early April morning. A convoy of military vehicles winds its way along a narrow mountain road.

Two M-1 Abrams tanks sit with their turrets facing down the road so any vehicle approaching the checkpoint looks straight into the barrel. Concertina wire is spread around the entire compound. On this morning, the snow sticks to everything, including the wire.

Soldiers stand with snow collecting on top of their helmets and shoulders as they watch the convoy pass. The lead vehicle stops at the gate. After a few minutes, the gates rise and the convoy continues, leaving the soldiers behind to stand in the snow and watch for what may come.

"The soldiers manning the checkpoint rotate every 10 days," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Grabowski, the platoon sergeant for 2-68 Armor. "Actually the guys like com-



An M1A1 Abrams tank stands ready for action at Checkpoint Sandra.

ing here. We get tired of one place, then we move into another, but coming here seems to be the favorite of the guys and the living conditions here are much better than we thought they would be," Grabowski said.

Even though running a checkpoint translates into a lot of guard duty, the soldiers say they prefer it.

Pfc. Daniel Warner, a tank driver for 2-68 Armor, said, "We get to relax a little bit. Here we do guard duty but when our shift is over, we get to go back and read our mail, write a letter or catch up on some sleep that we normally wouldn't get at other places."

But that doesn't mean these guys take their job lightly.

"Our job is to check the vehicle and make sure that no guns or bombs are being smuggled across," Warner said. Checkpoint San-

dra separates two towns, one on the Bosnian side and one on the Serbian. "We haven't had any real problems here," Warner said. "But that doesn't mean that we won't."

Grabowski said they keep a log of every vehicle that comes through. "We want to make sure that people know that we are here and we mean business," Grabowski said.

For the most part, the soldiers at Checkpoint Sandra enjoy this job and realize they are here for a reason.

"When we go out and see the people on the side of the road it puts everything into perspective," Warner said. "We see houses where ... children aren't afraid to come out and play anymore. When I see that, it makes being here seem pretty important."

**"We see houses where ... children aren't afraid to come out and play anymore. When I see that, it makes being here seem pretty important."**

*Pfc. Daniel Warner,  
2-68 Armor*



A soldier warms up near a fire pit at Checkpoint Sandra.



A 2-68 Armor soldier pauses to check an IFOR truck as it passes through the checkpoint.



A checkpoint soldier raises the gate for traffic to pass.

## Safety Awareness Month set for May

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

**S**oldiers will train on a large variety of topics — everything from mine awareness to fratricide — during the month of May, which has been dubbed Task Force Eagle Safety Awareness Month.

“During the month, commanders will schedule every soldier to participate in a company-level safety day devoted to train, evaluate and sharpen the skills of our personnel,” said Dennis P.F. Woolsey, Task Force Eagle safety director.

Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, Task Force Eagle commander, has placed heavy emphasis on safety issues and has directed commanders to take more than a day, if needed, for the necessary training.

Soldiers will train on 16 topics, including fire prevention, water safety, heat injury prevention and hazardous material handling, to name a few.

These subjects are the minimum in-

struction mandated by the commanding general, Woolsey said. “In addition to these required subjects, commanders may develop (subject) areas unique to their organization,” he said.

“The key thing is to be able to identify methods of reducing risks,” Woolsey said. “We want to conduct situational awareness training targeted at high risk activities, e.g., mine awareness training; weapons handling; convoy operations; and crew, fire and roll-over drills. Leaders will be involved at all levels.”

A “user-friendly” safety resource guide will be provided to each commander. The guides are being distributed at company- and separate detachment-level.

The guides will consist of checklists, lesson plans, sample risk assessments, and will provide tasks, conditions and standards for many subjects, Woolsey said.

“This training will sharpen our soldiers’ skills and enhance mission capability,” Woolsey said. “Standards must be emphasized and proficiency demonstrated. These activities should be challenging and fun. The effectiveness of the activities must be measured.”

Woolsey said everyone should assume responsibility for safety. “Don’t walk by something that’s wrong. We have to take care of each other,” he said.

“The bottom line is to get all of our soldiers home safely,” Woolsey said.

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“Don’t walk by something that’s wrong. We have to take care of each other. The bottom line is to get all of our soldiers home safely.”

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*Dennis P. F. Woolsey,  
Task Force Eagle  
Safety Director*

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## MSE phone system designed for easy use

By Sgt. 1st Class JACK LEE  
203rd MPAD

Mobile Subscriber Equipment is the Army's tactical phone system.

It includes telephones that carry voice and can transfer data via fax and e-mail.

Within this system, there are two basic types of telephones: digital non-secure voice telephones, like the ones in most offices, and mobile subscriber remote telephones, which is a secure line found in vehicles.

When placing a call, the signal travels through wire to a junction box, then by cable to the small extension nodes, then to the line-of-sight van, up and out the antenna to a node center.

In the civilian phone system, the first three numerals, or prefix, designates an area of a city.

The same goes for the Army DNVF telephone, but instead of cities it generally designates the unit.

For instance, 551- designates the 1st Armored Division.

The last four numerals are also associated with a unit. The first two of the last four numerals designate the unit. For example:

10 = 1st Brigade  
20 = 2nd Brigade  
30 = Division Main  
40 = 4th Brigade  
50 = Division Artillery  
60 = Division Engineers  
70 = Division Support Command

The second two designate the staff section. For example:

10 = S-1  
20 = S-2  
30 = S-3  
40 = S-4  
50 = LNO S5  
60 = Signal Officer  
70 = Fire Support

So, 551-5010 would be the 1st Armored Division Artillery Brigade, S-1 shop. Note: this formula works about 75 percent of the time.



Spc. Ojohnis H. Morton (left) and Spc. Paul C. Orbon, 17th Signal Battalion, carry equipment for a new node site.

## Hill 852 home to node site

Story and photo  
by Sgt. RICK  
ROTH  
29TH MPAD

**T**ask Force Eagle's communications network got a boost recently when a new node site was emplaced on Hill 852.

"The stronger the network, the easier it is for people to talk and the easier it is for them to get through to each other," said 2nd Lt. Larry D. Doss, platoon leader with the 17th Signal Battalion.

Node Center 12, made up of members of the 17th Signal Battalion, part of the 22nd Signal Brigade, was originally located near Camp Harmon.

Within one day of leaving the old site, the signal team arrived at the new location and began their occupation of the hilltop.

Humvees, some loaded down with as much as 1,200 lbs. of radio gear, lumber along a road that winds its way around the mountain and to the top of Hill 852.

"It's definitely not Grafoenwhr, where you go out for a couple weeks and then come back into your cozy home," said Doss, from Sioux Falls, S.D.

Doss has had the platoon for over a year and feels comfortable working with them, he said.

**"This is life right now — this isn't looking into what you'll be doing next week. You're living life out here."**

**2nd Lt. Larry D. Doss,  
17th Signal Battalion**

Located outside the small town of Vidakovici Vrela, in mid-eastern Bosnia, Hill 852 is more like a scene from the English countryside, with its gentle rolling peak, gracefully blending into the mountain range that surrounds it.

A blanket of grass covers the hilltop and a local herd of sheep graze on the outside of the camp's perimeter.

"It's amazing to see grass," said Spc. Ojohnis H. Morton, line-of-sight antenna operator with the

17th Signal Battalion. Morton uses a compass to shoot an azimuth determining proper antenna alignment.

Capable of having the node center up and running within two hours, soldiers scramble to raise antennae, connect wires to communications vans and drive grounding rods, Morton said.

"We're one of the best node centers in the brigade, I'll boast that much," said Morton, from Richmond, Va.

Arriving in November, the 17th Signal Battalion was one of the first units in Bosnia.

Frequent moves are commonplace for node centers, which often find homes on austere hilltops.

"This is life right now — this isn't looking into what you'll be doing next week," Doss said. "You're living life out here."

## PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

# Dozer driver pushes way through deployment

By Spc. WILLIAM R. HALL  
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — When Spc. Matthew J. Mahoney graduated from Humble High School in Houston, he wanted to see the world.

That was four years ago and — thanks to the Army — he has gotten his wish.

"I wanted to see what the Army was like," Mahoney said. "I also wanted to jump out of planes and have some fun." So far, he's accomplished both. He graduated from Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., in August 1992.

"It gave me the ability to prove to myself and my family that I could jump out of a plane and walk away," he said.

Mahoney is stationed here with the 362nd Combat Support Equipment Engineer Company from Fort Bragg, N.C., the only heavy engineer airborne unit in the U.S. Army. The unit is attached to the 94th Engineer Battalion (Heavy), which is also based here.

The 23-year-old Mahoney enjoys his job as a heavy equipment operator. "We get the chance to build different things, and we've gotten to go a lot of different places, so there's always a lot of variety," he said.

"We operate the bulldozers, scrapers, bucket-loaders and graders," Mahoney said. "Basically, we have the task to build parking lots, roads, helipads or base camps — all of the horizontal construction."



Spc. William R. Hall

**Spc. Mathew J. Mahoney operates a bulldozer at Steel Castle.**

Mahoney, a veteran of deployments including Somalia, said his unit was already planning another mission when they were called up for Bosnia. "We were preparing to go to Arizona to work on a road building project, but we had a change of plans and now we're here," he said.

According to Mahoney, this deployment has not resembled past missions. "It's a totally different kind of operation," he said. "We've got a lot of work to do and little time to do it, but just being able to do your job is great. At Fort Bragg, a lot of times things are stand-down and busy work. During deployment, we can put our knowledge to the test."

Mahoney said the best thing about the deployment has been seeing the improvement of the soldiers' living conditions. "Now we have nice tents, better chow and hot showers," he said. "It's a place you can almost call home."

Like many soldiers, he misses his parents and his girlfriend back in Houston. His goals include one day graduating from college and working for his father.

But he's not in a great hurry to get home. He's proud of his service in the Army and of his unit. He said more than half of the soldiers in his unit had prior deployment experience before being deployed here.

"There's no more versatile engineer unit in the Army than the 362nd," Mahoney said. "No other engineer unit can hold a candle to us — we're combat proven. Airborne!"

## 1st Brigade soldiers help distribute seeds of hope in Odzak

Story and photo by 1st Lt.  
AL SWEPSON  
358th MPAD

ODZAK — Mercy International recently gave the citizens of Odzak a grain of hope to plant for their future.

The group provided nearly 300 families with vegetable seed packets.

"We believe in getting people back to reaping, sowing and cultivating by supplying them with something that will be useful for them, not just a hand-out," said Michael J. Yuknis, director, Mercy International, Tuzla office.

Yuknis, along with civil affairs and military civil relations soldiers from 1st Brigade, endured inclement weather, cold winds and freezing rain to distribute seeds to the thankful citizens of Odzak.

They were rewarded with warm smiles as the people

walked away with their future vegetable gardens.

Yuknis coordinated with the military leaders of 1st Brigade to provide developmental aid to residents who were slowly filtering back to resettle their war-torn city.

The military leaders of 1st Brigade suggested the town of Odzak to Mercy International, and provided logistical support in the form of manpower, linguist and security, when they mentioned they had a surplus of seeds available.

"This just seemed like a good marriage of two groups who



**Soldiers help Mercy International representatives pass out garden seeds to citizens of Odzak, who line up to receive them.**

helped each other out," Yuknis said.

"By working together, we both got a deeper understanding of each others' missions and we're both committed to the same things. So, why don't we join hands and work on the

same projects?"

Yuknis hopes that the cooperation between the U.S. Army and Mercy International will provide an example for future, mutually beneficial developments between the military and relief agencies.

# Jordan and Bulls reach new peaks

By Staff Sgt. JOSEPH GARRISON  
29th MPAD

When basketball great Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls retired almost two years ago, he



Jordan

claimed he had accomplished all he could in professional basketball — three consecutive National Basketball Association championships, the 1984 NBA slam-dunk championship, two Olympic gold medals and numerous high-scoring awards that he has broken over his 12-year career.

But the Bulls team has recently proved him wrong.

When the Chicago Bulls won their 70th game against the Milwaukee Bucks recently, they topped the past record of 69 wins set by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1971-72 season.

Along with a season record of 72-10, that puts them with the "sports best-of" ranks; the 1972 Miami Dolphins perfect 14-0 football season, and the 1906 Chicago Cubs 116-36 baseball all-time high season and another recent record-breaker, the Detroit Redwings with a 62-13-7 1996 hockey record.

Playing at home court to start the playoff schedule, the Bulls have a key advantage in their quest for an additional title with another impressive statistic — winning all but one game at home.

The Bulls do not plan to stop here. They plan on going all the way to capture their fourth championship title within six years and bring The United Center, the Chicago Bulls' new basketball arena, its first championship banner.



Sgt. Ken Glenville

## On the prowl

Soldiers from 1st Brigade take a break during a patrol in a wooded area inside the zone of separation.

## Proper reporting procedures essential

Reporting procedures are among the most basic of military tasks taught to all soldiers.

Though some units do it right, it is a problem for others, according to the Center for Army Lessons Learned. Soldiers providing reports do so late, without all the required information, and ineffectively communicate the information they do have. Soldiers receiving reports further confuse the situation by not accurately recording the information, failing to determine the important parts or asking the right questions.

This is not just a matter of filing out the form correctly. Decision-makers must be able to "see" what is happening from wherever they are — usually this means "seeing" through the reports. Decisions are based on the information contained in these reports.

### Making a Report

- ♦ First, think about what you want to say. Organize it and make sure your main message is clear. Use a standard format

## \* SALUTE

if possible.

- ♦ Be as complete as possible.

- ♦ Do not guess. If

you do not know or do not understand something, say so.

- ♦ Follow up the initial report with updates to "fill in the blanks" and better explain the situation.

- ♦ Be calm. How you say something is sometimes as important as what you say.

### Receiving a Report:

- ♦ Record what is said as accurately as possible.

- ♦ Determine the main point and understand it. If it is confusing, back brief what you think is the main message to ensure you are correct.

- ♦ Make sure all the required information has been given, or at least asked for.

- ♦ Recognize the pressure and conditions the reporter is under. Be patient and ask reasonable questions whenever possible.

**\*Size, Activity, Location, Unit, Time and Equipment.**

### WRECKER, from page 1

The most dangerous mission involved recovering a gravel-filled dump truck that had slipped off the mud at another section of the same road.

The load had shifted and caused the truck to lean sharply toward the driver's side down in the ditch.

Someone had to be behind the wheel to steer while the wrecker pulled from the front.

As the noncommissioned officer in charge of the team, Negron felt it was his place to climb in.

"It came out of the ditch jumping," he said. "I wasn't expecting it. The truck could have tilted over on its other side."

Helping get the dump truck back on the road was one of Spc. Kevin Shaw's first missions as a recovery trainee. The 25-year-old native of Bonham, Texas, said he found the creativity needed for the job fascinating.

"There are no general guidelines as to how to do it," said the HHC, 7-227th quartermaster and chemical equipment repairman. "You have to look at the picture and find out how to do it yourself."