

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

■ ZOS CONFISCATIONS

Soldiers destroy illegal weapons

By Staff Sgt. COLIN WARD
358th MPAD

CAMP LISA — Complacency — a word that sends chills up commanders' spines.

As Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR nears the six-month mark, troops must remember the mission still requires their undivided attention as demonstrated by the 40th Engineer Battalion.

The engineers' role during the deployment is ever-expanding. It includes minefield-clearing operations, fighting position construction, observation towers, roads, hard-back tents, bridges and also destruction of weapons and bunkers found in the zone of separation.

Weapons are confiscated from civilians and soldiers if they are in violation of the Peace Agreement. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducts routine patrols within the ZOS and routine inspections at the checkpoints.

Upon confiscation of weapons, soldiers compile data concerning the type, place, time and the parties involved in the confiscation. The weapons are then turned in to the military police who log the information and secure the weapons.

"The weapons are kept in a secure area for 30 days. During that time the individuals or factions can appeal (the confiscation) for the return of their weapons," said Capt. Jeffery V. Gardner, 2nd Brigade assistant security officer.

After the 30-day window, destruction of the weapons begins.

"There are several methods of destroying

see *Weapons*, page 12



Sgt. Rick Roth

1st Lt. Paul J. Cassidy examines produce prices at a Tuzla store.

Civil affairs units check market prices, crowds

Compiled information helps determine pace of local economic recovery

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

First Lt. Paul J. Cassidy scribbles notes on a clipboard as he weaves his way through a crowded marketplace in Tuzla.

People, goods and prices are all his concerns.

The price and availability of potatoes or the amount of shoppers on their own may not mean much. But when combined with similar data from markets throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, the information reveals a great deal.

A member of the Army Reserve's 415th Civil Affairs Battalion from Kalamazoo, Mich., Cassidy gathers data that will be analyzed to gain valuable insight into the economy.

"Last time I was here I counted about 150 non-food item vendors,"

Cassidy said. "This time it was close to 200" — a positive sign, he said.

Called "normality indicators," information regarding everything from the cost of cabbage to the replacement of shot-out windows is compiled by civil affairs units throughout the country.

A system devised by the British, normality indicators are collected from each sector by the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquartered in Sarajevo and maintained in a data base format.

The compiled information enables IFOR to keep a finger on the nation's economic pulse, providing a means to help determine the success of the on-going mission.

Cassidy works for the 18th Military Police Brigade, surveying the brigade's area of responsibility.

Cassidy said the markets have grown steadily since his arrival here in February — a result he directly credits to IFOR's security presence.

"People have been able to move around more freely without the threat

see *Economy*, page 12

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Viewpoint

Soldiers' family members are first class

They may never get a medal, but the spouses and other loved ones of Task Force Eagle soldiers truly deserve one in my book.

After returning recently from R&R in Germany, I witnessed a poignant scene at Rhein Main Air Base.

It was 4 o'clock in the morning and a group of spouses — mostly wives — were embracing their soldiers just prior to a 100 percent accountability formation.

They knew they had but a few more minutes to spend with the ones they love.

I had already said good-bye to my fiancé in Frankfurt the day before as he caught a plane



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson
29th MPAD

back to Virginia, so I, along with other soldiers, stood around talking and waiting for the call to form up for the return flight to Eagle Base.

As I stood in the parking lot, I could not help noticing the expressions of pride

and love on the faces of those women.

The soldiers were given the option of spending the night at the air base so their spouses would not have to drive them back in middle of the night, but most had declined the offer.

It seemed that everyone wanted to spend the last few precious hours of R&R with their sweethearts.

As I looked at their faces, many streaked with tears, I felt a tremendous admiration and respect for these family members.

Through the long months of deployment, many are working at full- or part-time jobs.

They are raising children.

They are taking care of their homes.

They are volunteering and participating in community activities.

They are, in short, holding down the fort while their soldiers are away.

Being a Maryland Army National Guard member on a 270-day mobilization, I can only imagine how difficult it must be to endure a year's separation.

My unit, the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, will

be in the former Yugoslavia about six months.

But many of these active-duty couples — young and old — seem to be surviving the deployment with style.

Although they are incredibly busy, our loved ones have supported us with letters, soft words over the telephone, e-mail and care packages.

Because of their devotion, we are better able to focus on our mission.

To all the wives, husbands, boyfriends, girlfriends, children, parents and other family members and friends who have supported Task Force Eagle soldiers, I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation.

Thanks for supporting us during this important peace enforcement mission.

Viewpoint

Local children provide perspective for mission

I don't know about you, but there are times stuck here behind the concertina wire when things get tedious — even boring — and I wonder ...

What am I doing here and what am I helping to accomplish?

My recent opportunity to visit an elementary school in Tuzla put it back into clear focus for me. For my money, it's all about the kids.

We're not supposed to take sides in our peace enforcement effort. The innocent children in this region aren't really on any. They're all victims of a war they cannot begin to fathom.

At first glance, the school



Staff Sgt. Brian Bowman
203rd MPAD

appears normal, but I quickly noticed very young children peering out at us from the second-story window.

For an instant I thought, "How impressive to have a day care." However, I soon realized that refugees inhabited

the second story of the three-story building.

In spite of it all, the educational process goes on. And, indirectly, IFOR was able to help.

U.S. Army civil affairs representatives were on hand to make an overall assessment of the school situation, meeting school representatives and asking about their needs. The CA

reps informed the school officials of United Nations representatives they can contact for construction and other needs.

In addition, a CA officer was able to repair one of the school's two antiquated computers and is helping fix the other one.

The CA folks also brought school supplies donated by individual soldiers. (The items were not purchased by the U.S. Army.)

There was even some talk about the school starting a partnership with a U.S. school.

These things may not sound like much, but the response from the school and the students made it seem like they had been given the world.

All of it made me feel a bit selfish. Just that day, I had

complained about our showers at Lukavac (two uncontrollable temperatures — scalding and freezing), the fact I had been stuck here 15 straight days, the rerouting of the running track and other relatively meaningless gripes.

But in the faces of those students, I saw excitement, hope, optimism. The future.

As soldiers here for a year (some of us less than that), we won't see most of the results of our labor. But, if this region eventually gets back on its feet, IFOR's presence will have been a significant first step in the long walk to peace. Your presence. My presence.

So hang in there. There are a lot of people in this region who appreciate our presence.

THE TALON

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Local rail future discussed

The rail system in the former Yugoslavia has been a backbone of the region for years.

Now, Task Force Eagle officials hope to secure funds to repair the system and use it for military transport.

"What we are attempting to do is to create yet another mode of freedom of movement," said Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, assistant division commander for support of the 1st Armored Division.

"We want to use the very well-developed former Yugoslavia rail system to move military supplies," he said. "Obviously, by doing that, we set conditions for further economic development, which is not unlike what we did with the roads when we first got here."

O'Neal made his remarks June 7 following a Joint Railroad Commission meeting at Task Force Eagle Headquarters, Eagle Base.

During the meeting, representatives of Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina discussed improving rail infrastructure to support future Task Force Eagle operations and the economic recovery of both entities.

Task force officials are hopeful that one specific section of rail will open from Tuzla to Brecko. This will offer the military access to inland waterways and barge traffic.

An effort being made to engage the ministers of transportation from both entities in the process, O'Neal said.

"We made some headway. We'll meet again (soon)," he said after the meeting.

"I liken this to walking in the Balkans

in the winter with all of the ice and snow — you just take one small step at a time."

O'Neal said the first step in the process was taken once military fuel began to move by rail. "(Current efforts are) an extension of Iron Horse," he said.

The Iron Horse partnership between the Tuzla Regional Railroad and Task Force Eagle helps revive and fund repairs to the local train system, which has been nearly dormant since the start of the war.

"It's all a strategy to force the opening of freedom of movement by rail in the region and to use as the catalyst for that process the need — which is a very genuine need — to move military-related products on rail," O'Neal said. "With only a small improvement in rail, you can go from downtown Tuzla to Frankfurt."

Officials are trying to harness some of the NATO infrastructure development money for both the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. "Both of them have rail damage that has to be repaired," O'Neal said.

Securing economic aid will allow the rail system to be fixed quickly.

"We're interested in them doing that with some of the soldiers who have been demobilized," he said. "So, we see this as a win-win strategy and Iron Horse has been the tool we've been using to try to do this with."

O'Neal is hopeful the rail may be repaired to extend in three directions: Tuzla-Zvornik, Tuzla-Brecko and Tuzla-Doboj.

Interview by Staff Sgt. Russell G. McClanahan, 209th BPAD

NEWS BRIEFS

NATO increases patrols

Having completed most of its military tasks "almost flawlessly," NATO's peace implementation force is now conducting more visible patrols throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Following meetings with Bosnian Croat, Muslim and Serb leaders in Geneva June 2 and NATO officials in Berlin June 3, Christopher commended the NATO command for successfully executing its mission.

He said the force has made remarkable progress in meeting its military goals — separating the former combatants, demobilizing troops and putting heavy weapons in cantonment areas.

"They have already achieved what the cynics thought was once impossible."

While Bosnia is still a troubled country, the prospect of force being used to resolve difficulties is fading, he said.

"IFOR is now in a position to expand its presence throughout all of Bosnia to establish a safe and secure environment for civilian implementation," he said. "Our troops will conduct more visible and proactive patrols throughout the country."

Increased patrols will improve freedom of movement, help achieve the goal of holding elections by Sept. 14 — the date set in the Peace Agreement — and put suspected war criminals at greater risk of apprehension, Christopher said.

NATO forces began more patrols last month, according to a Pentagon spokesman. The increase should not be seen as a change of mission, he said. Under the Peace Agreement, the patrols are a continuation of IFOR's mission.

American Forces Press Service

Correction

The front page story in the May 24 *Talon* incorrectly stated that last winter, Company B, 123rd Main Support Battalion transported *all* of the 1st Armored Division's tracked vehicles from Hungary to the Sava River.

While Company B, 123rd did play a role in the operation, the 377th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transport) moved the majority of the tracked vehicles. The unit belongs to the 181st Transportation Battalion, a V Corps asset attached to the 16th Corps Support Group.

The Talon regrets the error.

Farewell, Iron Soldier



Spc. Christopher R. Salazar

Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie (center right) stands at attention with Task Force Eagle Commander Maj. Gen. William L. Nash Tuesday during Cherrie's departure ceremony at Eagle Base. Cherrie, former assistant division commander, left to take a position at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

WORKIN' THE PIT



Engineers produce gravel for projects

By Sgt. 1st Class JACK LEE
203rd MPAD

The 362nd Engineer Company (Combat Support Equipment) from Fort Bragg, N.C., is moving mountains — a few stones at a time.

Frustrated by the time consumed by transporting gravel to work areas, the company's 2nd and 3rd platoons recently began providing their own gravel for road-building projects.

The crushed rock comes from "borrow pits" they have established adjacent to their current work sites.

"It's called a borrow pit because that's what we do: borrow the rock from it," said 1st Lt. Jason A. Peters, 3rd Platoon leader.

He said that the term "borrow" is actually a misnomer because the rock will not be returned.

"It's the first time in Bosnia a borrow pit has been used," Peters said.

Borrow pits are commonly used in the United States when large amounts of fill material are needed during construction and road building projects.

The unit has used borrow pits at Fort Bragg, said Peters.

"The fact that we can secure material so close, we're able to save on the turn-around time — the time it takes to load the rock, drive to the site, dump it, go get more," said Spc. Robert M. Schneider, a 3rd Platoon engineer. "The work just progresses faster and we must be saving money on the fuel consumption."

The rock from the unit's borrow pit along Main Supply Route Idaho is used

at Lodgment Area Linda and for MSR repair.

"There's a switchback — a bend in the road — that has washed out," said Staff Sgt. Richard T. Rozse, 3rd Platoon sergeant.

"We have temporarily repaired the road with the rock.

We're going to eventually replace the culvert in that damaged area, too, and we'll need rock for that."

Second Platoon is working in and around Checkpoint 55.

Located at a crossroads, the checkpoint is near an old logging trail. Second platoon's borrow pit is just down the dusty trail. Upgrading that logging trail was first on the agenda.

"The company has equipment for this type operation," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey S. Delawder, noncommissioned officer in charge. "What we're fighting here is the weather. It rains a lot.

"When the weather's nice, we work as many hours as we can (and) get as much done as possible."

In addition to the upgraded access road, Checkpoint 55 also has a new parking pad for the lighter vehicles, and another pad for the HEMMTT fuel truck.

Engineers lay geo-textile — a cloth



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee

A 362nd Engineer bulldozer scoops up gravel from the borrow pit for use on road-building projects.

like fabric — on the ground first to keep the rock from sinking into the ground.

"We're placing a foot of rock down for the parking pads," said Sgt. Frank G. Davis, a heavy-construction vehicle operator.

Delawder estimated that 125 20-ton dump truck loads of rock will be taken from his borrow pit.

"When you're out this far, the inaccessibility of the site, the borrow pit isn't so unusual," Delawder said.

The borrow pit will be converted into a bus stop for local residents when construction is finished.

"Finding the rock so close to the work sites was perfect for our needs," said Capt. Heather B. Amstutz, 362nd commander.

"Some of our road projects in the Tuzla Valley have had a two-hour turn-around for the rock haulers."

Flea market serves as a meeting place

By 1st Lt. AL SWEPSON
358th MPAD

It is called the zone of separation, but the area can serve just as easily as a gathering place.

Such is the case with the Bosnian Croats, Muslims and Serbs coming together in cooperation at an open-air market in Dubrave, located between Gradacac and Brcko.

"I would say in the whole federation area, this is the only open air market that involves all three factions," said Maj. Jim Karas, civil military operations officer at 1st Brigade. "What we have here is an even mix of Croatian, Muslim and Serbian folks getting together, selling items back and forth."

Karas said the area was originally a meeting place where families came together.

Because the market place is located near the inter-entity boundary lines, they don't have to travel across the ZOS to meet with one another.

"I guess around March, people started selling soft drinks and cigarettes for the people that were meeting fam-

ily members here," Karas said. "As the weather got better, they started to picnic and bring other things to sell, such as grain seeds and agricultural products, manufacturing products, chickens, goats, pigs, cows, hard liquor — you name it."

Karas said the activity is significant because about 300 vehicles pass through the market each weekend.

The Louisville, Ky., resident also said there have been virtually no arguments or incidents between the three entities.

Most vendors said they sell items to supplement their incomes.

Dbuka Kukanovic is a Serbian woman from Velikizvornik.

She is a mother of three who earns the equivalent of \$20 a month as a nurse. The proceeds from the Chicago Bulls T-shirts and sports paraphernalia she sells here are very valuable to her family.

She said is not worried about anyone from the other factions causing her any problems.

"I met my former neighbors who are of other nationalities. I talked to them as I used to, and



1st Lt. Al Swepson

Local residents shop at the Dubrave open air market.

I didn't have any problems," Kukanovic said. "I am not scared because IFOR is always somewhere around."

The market also has become a place to renew acquaintances.

"I am trying to find something for my house, but it is not

the main reason why I am here," said Imsirovec Badema. "I wanted to see how the people get along here, and I think it is wonderful for me because it is a way for me to find people I have not seen for four years during the war."

Turkish, U.S. troops inspect weapons storage area

By 1st Lt. AL SWEPSON
358th MPAD

ZENICA — Inspectors from the 1st Armored Division Artillery and Task Force Eagle's Turkish Brigade recently inspected an Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina weapons storage site here.

"We looked at heavier weapon systems such as tanks, artillery pieces, mortars and recoilless rifles," said Maj. Richard A. Fisher, DIVARTY operations officer.

Fisher is an inspection site coordinator who verifies and validates the number of weapons at storage facilities. He coordinated the inspection of the 7th Muslim Brigade, III Corps here.

He said this and other inspections are designed to ensure parties to the Peace Agreement are complying with weapons' storage requirements.

The pact mandates that signatories consolidate weapons at authorized sites. They also must declare the complete counts of each storage facility.

"The inspection went very well," Fisher said. "The Turkish soldiers were super to work with and very cooperative. The Bosnian Army and this particular brigade were more than cooperative. They used this inspection as a show of compliance and co-

operation, and they wanted to show that they were in full compliance with the treaty."

Col. Alan W. Thrasher, DIVARTY commander, said inspectors were allowed to look at anything they liked and they found no undeclared weapons.

"The inspection was 100 percent accurate," Thrasher said. "I was very impressed with the condition of the tanks. It was very obvious the soldiers put a lot of time and effort into maintaining and refurbishing them. The air defense artillery weapon systems were in open fields the last time I saw them, but now they are building sheds to protect them. They also have been protecting them with preservatives."

"This is a prime example of the pride and effort these soldiers are displaying to ensure their weapons are maintained properly."



1st Lt. Al Swepson

Soldiers verify serial numbers on BiH tracked vehicles.

Bearded Muslim sergeants called troops to attention, and they scrambled to pick up greasy towels, tools and anything else that looked out of place as Thrasher and his teams toured the facility. Soldiers guarded entrances and stood motionless as Turkish and U.S. soldiers passed through one corridor after another revalidating the number of declared weapons.

These inspections are part of an on-going program that requires IFOR to inspect weapon sites.

MUSIC, MAGIC AND MIND GAMES

Entertainers give soldiers a break

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

The answer is: "He is the host of the second highest-rated syndicated television show, and last week visited soldiers throughout Northern Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The question is: "Who is Alex Trebek?"

The popular game show was among a trio of acts

touring Task Force Eagle last week. Magician "Dr. Bob" visited soldiers from Camp Burke to Lodgment Area Alicia while "ON STAGE" performed their Las Vegas-style review at 11 base camps.

Trebek, the personable and comical host of television's "Jeopardy!" brought his show to Lodgment Area Demi, Eagle Base and Kime Base during his ninth USO tour of military bases worldwide.

In addition to autograph sessions and mock "Jeopardy!" games, soldiers had the opportunity to audition to be a contestant on the game show.

The tryout began with a 50-question test. More than 300 soldiers took the challenging examination; unfortunately, none passed.

"It was the hardest test I have taken, said Pfc. Odos J. Clanin, 22, a member of the 40th Engineer Battalion, who auditioned at Lodgment Area Demi.

"These are difficult questions ... and taking the test is unnerving," Trebek told an audience of 150 at Eagle Base's dining facility June 8. "The questions are in the \$800 to \$1,000 range (on the show), so they're not easy."

The test featured questions in categories such as ancient history, opera and current events, of which 35 must be answered correctly. Respondents had eight seconds to scribble each answer.

Trebek consoled the soldiers after their tests were graded and joked, "When you go back to your tent or office, tell them, 'Alex told me I missed the boat, or Bradley, by one.'"

"I only answered 31 of the 50 so I knew I was under," said Spc. Don B. Slaughter, who took the test at Eagle Base by the suggestion of his first sergeant.

"I probably should have guessed instead of leaving some blank," said Slaughter, of Arlington, Va., who says "Before I was in the Army I used to watch 'Jeopardy!' a lot but now I just don't have time."

While most knew the famous host of "Jeopardy!," only one soldier recognized any of the "ON STAGE" dancers, not that that mattered to most troops.

During a lull in their gig at Steel Castle, group leader Michael LaTour introduced the entertainers.

Mary Thuermer's introduction rekindled memories of high school for Staff Sgt. Nicholson, 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, from Green Bay,

Wis.

"When she came out, I thought, 'I know that girl from somewhere,' and when she was introduced, wow, it was a girl that went to the same high school that I went to," he said.

The dancer, who is engaged to LaTour, graduated a couple of years ahead of Nicholson.

"At the time, Mishicot High School had a student population of around 500," he said. "It was good to see someone from home."

The two spoke for a while to catch up on each other's lives.

"It really is a small world," Nicholson said.

All of the performers said they volunteered for the tours.

"We feel it's important to let the servicemen and women overseas know that they haven't been forgotten by those of us back home. And as the USO says, to bring with us a touch of home."

And just as he is no stranger to volunteerism, Trebek is no stranger to Bosnia.

In April, he toured the country while on a fact-finding mission with World Vision, one of his favorite charities. World Vision helps children and families get back on their feet through donations and the rebuilding of homes and schools.

"It was basically a week in Bosnia in which we traveled and sent back some videotaped reports so that people in America could really see and understand how difficult things really are in this country," Trebek said. "(Things) are difficult for the American personnel serving here. They are even more difficult for the people who live here."

Trebek said he enjoyed his most recent tour to U.S. base camps.

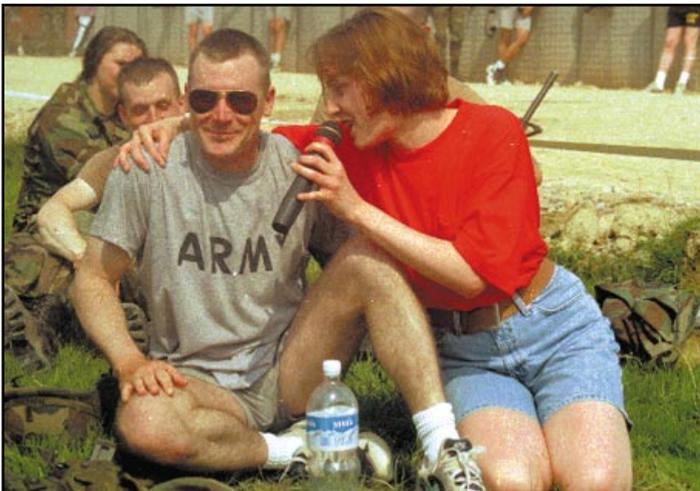
"You put me in front of equipment with a lot of power and I want to drive it, ride it or fire it. I'm just as impressed by the men and women serving here as you are by the celebrities who come and visit with you."

— Staff Sgt. Colin Ward, 358th MPAD, and Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee, 203rd MPAD, contributed to this story.



Sgt. Ed Rollins

Sgt. Angelique Washington of the 90th Personnel Support Battalion plays a card trick with magician "Dr. Bob."



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee

"ON STAGE" singer Sarah Page serenades 1st Lt. Nolan Sessions, HSC, 94th Engineer Battalion (Heavy).



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee



Staff Sgt. Colin Ward



Spc. Richard Cancellieri



Spc. Teresa Hawkins

Upcoming DoD Touring Shows

J.B. Walker & The Cheap Whiskey Band — July 3

Gin Blossoms — July 4

B.B. King — July 26

Be Wires (Top 40 rock) — July 11-17

Cody (country/rock) — July 28-Aug. 12

Clockwise from top left: “ON STAGE” performers sing golden oldies from the ‘50s during a performance at Steel Castle; a 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry soldier boogies with an “ON STAGE” dancer at Lodgment Area Demi; “Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek puts the “Double Jeopardy” test to the Task Force Eagle senior staff after a Battle Update Briefing at the Division Main Tactical Operations Center, or “Battlestar,” at Eagle Base; Trebek answers fans’ questions during a visit to the Eagle Base dining facility.

Enthusiasts form radio control model club

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — A group of radio control model enthusiasts want to drive on with their hobby here.

And they're asking anyone else interested to ride with them.

Four soldiers in Company D, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation, have formed the Radio Control Model Association.

They assemble motor-driven scale model vehicles controlled by hand-held radio sets, and hope to race them here and elsewhere.

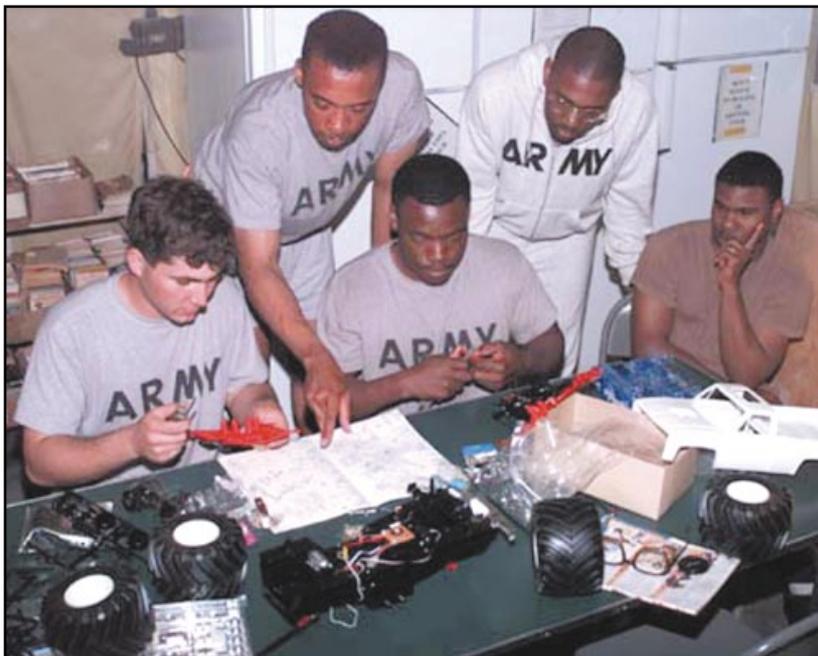
"Our goal is to start a club with enough people to compete with the club in Kaposvar (Hungary)," said Spc. Valerius Dalmida, club president.

Dalmida, Spc. Jonathan Mosebrook, Pfc. Anthony Kinney and Pfc. Warren Williams formed the club one week before Memorial Day to help boost morale in their platoon.

Dalmida said his older brother got him interested in the hobby when he was 12, back home in the Virgin Islands.

"It's a big-time event there," he said. "Every July 4th, they hold a Caribbean-wide competition."

Kinney, the club vice president, has



Spc. George Roache

Members of the Radio Control Model Association work on building their scale model trucks and cars.

been building display models for three years. He counts a Chevrolet Impala and a vintage 1960s Ford Mustang among the seven or eight he's completed.

"I like to build model cars," he said. "This is a different challenge."

Mosebrook became interested while at Fort Bragg, N.C., because his best friend was "into it pretty deep." He started with an EXT Dune Buggy 1 1/2 years ago but did little else with the hobby until arriving here.

The club's membership mushroomed to 12

tall with a 14-inch wheel base.

With their hundreds of parts, models require an average of 24 hours to assemble, he said.

Four soldiers from the 127th Aviation Support Battalion already have their models here, while Mosebrook and Williams expect theirs in the mail any day from Tower Hobbies of Champaign, Ill. Kinney put his together with Mosebrook's help.

Dalmida has already submitted a proposal for a racing track that could be located near Comanche Base.

almost immediately, Dalmida said.

"Folks expressed a lot of interest," he said. "When we saw how fast it was catching on, we decided to go (1st Armored Division-wide.)"

Membership is open to anyone who can afford the hobby, Dalmida said.

Radio control models don't come cheap. Prices range from \$350 to \$450.

"There's no entrance fee," he said. "We may charge dues in the future to get extra parts to reduce the money soldiers have to spend to maintain their vehicles."

Dalmida's Clod Buster, his first model since joining the Army, is a 4-wheel drive monster truck. A one-tenth scale model, it's nearly 19 inches long and 17 inches

Translators help take pulse of local communities

By Staff Sgt. JOSEPH GARRISON
29th MPAD

As they travel across Bosnia, soldiers of D Company, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, serve a unique dual mission in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"We check out the area, gather information to get a taste for force protection that's needed for IFOR soldiers and basically get a rapport with the locals to see what the people feel about us being here," said section supervisor Staff Sgt. Robert L. Rader, a counterintelligence agent from Genoa, Ohio.

Many people are moving back to their damaged homes in the Tuzla valley region, said Spc. Alex P. Tobin.

"It's a good sign for the imple-

mentation forces here in Bosnia," said Tobin, who calls the Netherlands home.

"We have found out today that they are cleaning up, wanting to fix the power or water services and waiting on aid and construction assistance to help them move their families in," added Tobin, who speaks German, Dutch, Russian and Serbo-Croatian.

Navy Ensign Christian T. Jurs, a translator who speaks Serbo-Croatian, said, "It's different than the Navy but I like being with this Army section overall."

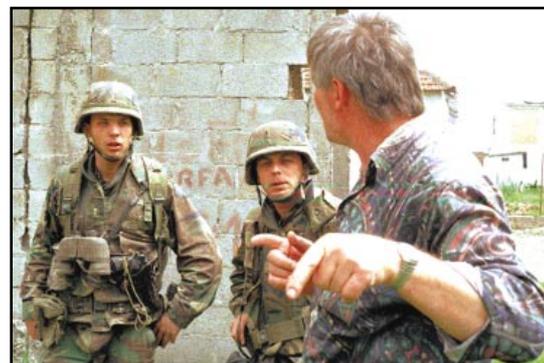
"Many of the locals would not see IFOR soldiers if it was not for us doing these patrols," said Chief Warrant Officer Kristopher J. Karlberg, a counterintelligence specialist from Columbia, Md.

"People want to come home

to move back into their homes," said Karlberg, a combat veteran of Operations URGENT FURY in Grenada, J U S T CAUSE in Panama and D E S E R T STORM.

On a recent patrol near the zone of separation, a posted sign alerted the intelligence team of a local town meeting.

The team then asked local farmers if the team could attend. This could be a great opportunity to collect more information on how the local people



Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison

Translators Navy Ensign Christian T. Jurs (left) and Chief Warrant Officer Kristopher J. Karlberg chat with a local resident.

feel toward NATO forces in their country.

Attending the meeting would help the team find out what the concerns are of the people, said Sgt. Eileen C. Piccolo, a translator from Owatona, Minn.

RAIN OF FIRE

Apaches put steel on target at gunnery

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

GLAMOC — The hills surrounding this city in southeast Bosnia-Herzegovina recently shook with the sound of live fire from above.

Apache helicopters sent their Hellfire missiles blazing into junk cars placed on mountainsides by Black Hawk helicopters.

Dirt clouds rose from the rounds fired from 30-mm guns at a rate of 650 per minute.

White plumes of flame trailed rockets streaking toward their targets.

The object was not warfare.

In a desolate area populated only by swarms of summer bugs, air crews of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Aviation Brigade, were taking their annual test for weapons proficiency — an aerial gunnery.

“What the M-16 is to an infantryman and the M-1 is to a tanker, the Apache is to an aviator,” said Capt. Stuart M. Beltson, company commander.

“Just as they go to the ranges each year to qualify on their weapons, we do the same,” he said.

“It’s just a large weapon system, just more complex,” said Beltson, the first U.S. Army aviator to launch a Hellfire missile in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

With an assisted from D and Headquarters and Headquarters companies, Company C drove 17 hours to Glamoc late last month to prepare the range for 2nd Battalion’s Apache fleet.

It amounted to a deployment within a deployment, said Company C 1st Sgt. Victor Diaz-Echeverrie, commander of the 22-vehicle convoy.

“It was raining and cold, but we set up everything from fighting positions to landing sites, and dug holes for the latrines to get us 100 percent functional,” Diaz-Echeverrie said.

In less than two days, the troops set up



Spc. George Roache

Apache helicopters await arming at the Glamoc flight line before live-fire.

Fort Apache, an outpost complete with perimeter fences, barbed wire and even shower points, he said.

The facilities provide soldiers Meals, Ready to Eat for breakfast and lunch with T-rations for dinner and A-rations every seven days.

Diaz-Echeverrie must drive 70 kilometers every other day to get water for the showers.

“This gunnery is very special not only for the 2-227th but for all of U.S. Army

Aviation in Bosnia because we are the first ones who have done this,” he said. “We have done a gunnery in the middle of a deployment.”

At the ammunition holding area, Cpl. Carlos Montanez helps unpack the 2.75-inch rockets from MILVANS, load them on trucks and deliver it then down to the flight line.

“We’re roughing it,” he said, pointing out that having cranes instead of forklifts to move the ammunition means they must be extra careful.

But the ammunition specialists had the satisfaction of doing their jobs with live ord-

nance, he said.

“We’re loving it here,” Montanez said.

Glamoc lies in the British-patrolled sector. British troops had built a range where they had been firing since the end of February.

U.S. troops built their section within two weeks after arriving, mindful that the area was along one of the factional confrontation lines during the war, said Chief Warrant Officer Albert Eggerton of 2nd Battalion, the range officer in charge.

“The area four kilometers to the northeast is heavily mined,” he said. “We saw what would fit the terrain in terms of target and firing positions, laid down templates and placed the targets.”

After meeting pregunnery qualifications, air crews did test firings that are their equivalent of “zeroing” their weapons, Eggerton said.

“We have a lot of high-speed electronics gear that’s supposed to do that for us, but bottom line is you still have to shoot to find out,” he said.

Chief Warrant Officer Mike McCann, battalion master gunner, watched videotapes recorded by cockpit cameras to grade crews on their techniques “for putting steel on the target” during day and night practice qualification runs.

Crews rotated through the range one company at a time, one a week for three weeks. The terrain offered fewer headaches and risks than gunneries in the rear, Eggerton said.

“It’s tough to put rounds out of the area,” he said. “This is far better than at Grafenwohr or Hohenfels.”



Spc. George Roache

Left to right: Spc. Teresa Nava, Spc. Cameron Mitchell and Pvt. Jeffrey Fuentes prepare to load a training missile onto an Apache helicopter during live-fire exercises.

Unit paves task force area



Spc. Richard Cancellieri

Pfc. Benjamin Pasley (left on vehicle) and Pvt. Jason Rake operate a C350D steel-wheeled roller to compress asphalt on a road building project near Steel Castle recently. The project was completed by the Asphalt Section of Support Platoon, Headquarters and Service Company, 94th Engineer Battalion (Heavy) from Vilseck, Germany.

By Spc. WILLIAM R. HALL
203rd MPAD

The 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) from Vilseck, Germany, began its trek to the former Yugoslavia in December.

The monumental task included moving 500 soldiers, 27 MILVANS, five cranes, two asphalt pavers, nine 20-ton dump trucks and other equipment.

The "Wolverines" went straight to work, focusing their construction efforts primarily on upgrading buildings, tent floor construction, road construction and base camp site preparation, said Maj. Mark R. Stevens, battalion executive officer.

Headquarters and Support Company soon constructed a bypass road and parking area for Steel Castle.

Earth movers of Company B built a 10,000 square meter parking lot and three access roads in 13 days at Kime Base. Vertical construction platoons of Company B constructed 17 tents and 33 tent floors.

After finishing bypass roads at Steel Castle and Tuzla West, HSC reconstructed a road to Mount Vis. Forty tons of hot asphalt a day were used to repair war-damaged roads.

Company A completed a 350-meter access road for Lukavac. Company B built tents, bunkers and guard towers in the Ready First Combat Team sector.

At Kime Base, 1st Platoon, Company B, constructed 27 bunkers in six days, while the earth-moving platoon built berms around Colt and Hampton Base.

While HSC continued road surface repair work, Company A worked at the U.S. encampment in the Russian Sector near the town of Ugljevik. The earth-moving platoon constructed a 40-square-meter parking pad with a 50-meter access road in five days. The vertical platoon in Company B built a total of 16 towers for base camps all over the Tuzla Valley, while 2nd Platoon built guard towers for Lodgment Areas Diane, Pat, Demi and Lisa, Stevens said.

According to Capt. Kathleen Isaacson, 94th's assistant plans and operations officer, this voluminous amount of work came from many hours of tireless work from her battalion.

"Even from the very beginning, our guys have worked from seven in the morning to past dark," Isaacson said. She added that many times, the battalion took on 24-hour operations to complete pressing missions. "We try to keep it reasonable, because we know that we have to keep working."

She said the success of the battalion belongs to everyone who has had a hand in the work: engineers, mechanics and cooks.

"We are hard on our equipment," she said. "We couldn't keep going without our mechanics."

Even with all the work that has been accomplished, the 94th can see no end in sight. "There's enough work here to keep us busy for years," Isaacson said. "With us, it's not what to do; it's what to do first."

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Satellite expert devotes time to soldiers

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

When quality tactical satellite communications is essential, Task Force Eagle relies on the technical expertise of Staff Sgt. Tony Brooks.

In April, then-assistant 1st Armored Division Commander for Maneuver, Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie, called on Brooks to be his personal tactical satellite communications operator on a mission to Dobojo.

For his work, Brooks was recognized by Cherrie during an evening Battle Update Briefing and awarded an Iron Soldier coin.

"It's more than a pat on the back," said Brooks about receiving the coin.

With nearly 17 years in the Army, Brooks, a member of the 22nd Signal Brigade, has seen his share of field experience. With six REFORGERS, five National Training Center rotations,

and an Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM deployment under his belt, Brooks is a leader in his field.

"It's overall experience that makes me feel good about what I do," Brooks said. Brooks' superiors also feel good about what he does.

"People across the field agree he's one of the most technically proficient (soldiers)," said Sgt. Maj. Walter L. Wright Jr., 22nd Signal Brigade's operations sergeant major. "Superiors and peers look up to him for his general knowledge."

A common goal of the U.S. Army is to see that everyone succeeds, Wright said.

"That's the attitude of Sgt. Brooks," he said.

Brooks believes knowledge should be shared. He devotes much of his time to training soldiers.

"I think soldiers need to know this stuff," he said.

Brooks recently spent his



Sgt. Rick Roth

Staff Sgt. Tony Brooks works on tactical satellite equipment.

two weeks of R&R in Germany with his wife, Linda, and three children.

During his vacation, his oldest son, Royce, 14, asked if the destruction here was really like what he saw on television. Brooks told him it was even worse.

"It's sad, but you get a good feeling that we're putting this country back together," said Brooks, a Jackson, Tenn., native.

"I know I may not be a big part of it," Brooks said. "But I'm a little part of it because I let people talk."

Soldier paints his way through life and deployments

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE
203rd MPAD

A deployment can be a difficult time in a soldier's life. As the workload increases, so does the amount of stress.

Many soldiers find stress relief through physical training, going to the library or watching a little television.

Cpl. Edwin N. Delacruz, 20th Ordnance Detachment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) finds relaxation in a creative way. Delacruz is a talented artist, who while deployed for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, finds stress relief through his various sketches and paintings.

"It keeps me sane," Delacruz quipped. "It's a real stress reliever."

He added that despite the rigors of deployment, he has found a great deal of spare time to do his artwork. In Kaiserslautern, Germany, his unit's home base, his wife and two sons consume most of his free time.

As a young child, Delacruz was encouraged by his parents to do his artwork.

"(I started out by) fingerpainting, mostly," said Delacruz. "I was only 4."

He remembers entering a fire preven-



Spc. Wendy M. Firestone

Cpl. Edwin N. Delacruz poses with some of his work.

tion poster contest every year when he was a child.

"I would always win it," he said.

In high school, he had his paintings and sketches printed in an art magazine published by his senior class.

He said his current project is one of his biggest to date. He is writing and doing artwork for a children's book, exclusively for his eldest son.

"(I got the idea) by talking to my son," said Delacruz. "(I'm doing the book) so he knows where I am, what I do."

Delacruz described the first scene as

showing him holding his son, while showing his son his dog tags. The book focuses on his Army career and his son. Delacruz said he hopes to get the book published someday.

Delacruz said he hopes to be selected for the Army Artist Program. The special program allows soldiers to go on temporary-duty missions to places such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, and do sketches of the deployment for the Department of Defense.

In preparation for this goal, Delacruz entered many pieces in the Operation Picasso art competition at Lukavac last month, where he won two

awards.

Despite his obvious talent, he says he is critical of his own artwork.

"I'll draw something, but I never think it's good enough."

He explained that when he looks at it long enough, he always wants to add things or take things away, changing what he has already created.

The one thing Delacruz enjoys most about his talent is capturing people's feelings.

"A person taking a deep breath—that's something I'd like to capture some day."

Economy

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of violence," he said.

"You can see the difference with the naked eye," said Maj. James L. Jaworski, 18th MP Brigade civil affairs officer. "Where we used to see plastic sheeting over windows, we now see all glass."

Jaworski is a member of the Army Reserve's 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion from Green Bay, Wis.

About 34 towns are regularly surveyed in the U.S. sector alone, Jaworski said.

Cassidy hits the shops and stores every Wednesday – market day in the former Yugoslavia – alternating his visits between Tuzla and Zivinice.

Convoying through city streets also gives Cassidy a chance to gather "passive intelligence." Seeing political posters and the temperament of the people contributes to civil affairs' ability to assess the local social climate, Cassidy said.

Weapons

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weapons — sledge hammer, vice, run them over with a tracked vehicle, C-4 plastic explosive and a cutting torch," Gardner said.

On one occasion, the blue flame of a torch sliced through the bolt of an AK-47 assault rifle as showers of sparks streamed out of the muzzle.

"I am cutting through the receiver and bolt, as well as the barrel," said Pvt. Jose A. Gutierrez, a 40th Engineer Battalion welder. The cuts are done carefully to ensure the serial number is left intact.

After the detailed destruction reports are completed and filed, the unserviceable weapons are returned to their owners. The return of these weapons shows the civilians and factions that IFOR is not keeping their weapons.

"There is a definite deterrent here. Having a weapon in the ZOS or at a checkpoint is a violation.

"By confiscating and incapacitating the weapons, the individuals will think twice about carrying a weapon," Gardner said.



Staff Sgt. Colin Ward

Sparks fly as Pvt. Jose A. Gutierrez of the 40th Engineer Battalion uses a welding torch to slice the bolt of a confiscated weapon.

Warm weather brings out slithering creatures

By Capt. MUSTAPHA DEBBOUN

255th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine)

Hot weather means the wildlife here are now on active duty. This includes those oft-feared, slithering creatures known as snakes.

Many people possess a fear of all snakes. However, soldiers should have nothing to fear about snakes if they learn a little about their habits, how to recognize the poisonous ones, how to take precautions to prevent a snake bite and what to do in case of a snake bite.

Snakes are shy, harmless and will usually avoid contact with humans unless injured, trapped or disturbed.

Most snake bites occur when a person accidentally steps on a snake; therefore, soldiers should be alert and watchful for snakes at all times.

Death from snake bites is rare but does occur in Bosnia and throughout Europe.

It is helpful to know the difference between poisonous and nonpoisonous snakes.

A poisonous snake can be recognized by its triangular head, pit between eye and nostril and elliptical pupils. A nonpoisonous snake has a narrow head, lacks a pit between eye and nostril and has round pupils.

There are three major types of poisonous snakes in Bosnia.

The Sand, Long-nosed or Nose-horned Viper's poison is highly toxic and its bite is painful and serious but rarely fatal. It is usually found at moderately high altitudes on graveled or rocky hillsides facing the sun. Its coloration is usually gray with a

zigzag pattern running the length of the back. It is a small viper with a body length of about 1.5 to 2 feet and has a short temper and strikes readily.

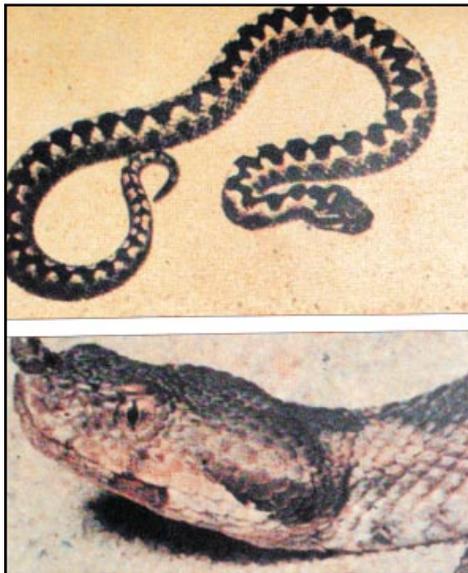
The European Viper or Common Adder is a poisonous land and water snake that is moderately to mildly toxic. It is found in mountainous areas, moist lowlands and in rivers and lakes. Its coloration is gray but the color is variable (yellowish, olive, brown, red, or entirely black) and depends on the local environment. Its length is about 23 to 31 inches and its bite is painful, resulting in a swollen site with red or purple spots about a half-inch apart.

The Meadow Viper or Field Adder, the least dangerous of the European vipers, is only slightly toxic. Its coloration is not as variable as the others but the color can still vary from gray, yellowish, greenish or light brown, with alternating rows of dark spots on each flank.

Snakes occupy a variety of habitats and it is difficult to eliminate the snake population in an area. However, the most effective control measure is to remove as much snake harborage as possible, including wood piles, rock piles and trash.

Close mowing of grass and good rodent control will also reduce snake problems because high grass provides snake harborage and rodents make up much of the diet of poisonous snakes.

There are no poisons or chemicals registered to repel or kill snakes effectively. If a soldier is bitten and you can kill the snake without risking injury to yourself, bring the snake to the nearest medical facility for identification.



The Long-nosed Viper is the most poisonous snake found in Bosnia.

Snake bite first aid

- Get medical assistance immediately.
- Immobilize the bitten area and keep the soldier at rest in a prone position.
 - Apply an ice bag to the bite
 - Place constricting bands one or two fingers width above and below the bite.