

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



A Marine of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron One (VMU-1) walks down a launcher for the unit's remote-controlled Pioneer unmanned reconnaissance aircraft.

## Marines win neighbors' trust

Cpl. Jeff Hawk

By Cpl. JEFF HAWK  
U.S. Marine Corps

BOYINGTON AIRFIELD — Suad Hamzic lifted the frayed cuff of one trouser leg above his right knee to reveal a purple scar the size of a mayonnaise lid.

Through an interpreter, Hamzic said that he received the wound, and the ones

speckling his chest, from a grenade that landed three meters away from him. The blast ripped away the muscle from the backside of his knee like the four years of fighting here seemed to rip away the hope of ever bringing peace to this country.

But the peace provided by the multinational Implementation Force has given Hamzic hope. He invited a U.S. Marine to go fishing with him in the placid lake located next to an airfield where a Marine Corps unit flies unmanned aircraft in support of Task Force Eagle.

Hamzic could have complained about the constant rumbling of the unit's generators which probably disrupt the serenity of his fishing hole, but instead he seemed eager to tell his new neighbor how pleased he was that the Marines were so close.

"As long as you are here, peace

will continue, but if you were to leave then things for sure would get worse," he said. "We want you to stay."

Hamzic's invitation mirrored the goodwill Marines displayed by inviting him and his neighbors to visit the airfield.

According to Capt. Samuel Allen, the unit's 27-year-old security officer from Kansas City, Mo., the purpose of the event hosted by Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron One (VMU-1) was to calm concerns within the community about the unit's mission. The unit flies remote-controlled Pioneer aircraft to provide a birds-eye view of areas for Task Force Eagle commanders.

"There was a lot of worry that we were flying guided missiles and aircraft-carried bombs," said Allen. "We brought the civilians here to show them that we are on a passive, peaceful mission taking video imagery of the zone of separation to ensure

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## From the top

# NCOs must combat summertime stress

As we endure the dog days of summer, NCOs must be aware of the effect that hot weather can have on the stress levels of themselves and their troops. A keen awareness of the possible increase in stressful situations goes a long way toward defusing potential problems.

There are two things that I want to emphasize in this week's column: Force Protection and the Sept. 14 Bosnian elections. These issues are inextricably linked.

Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR has come a long way since its inception in mid-December. We have successfully implemented the first three phases of the operation and have embarked on the fourth phase.



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

The Sept. 14 elections will mark a significant point in this deployment. It will signal the completion of yet another phase.

Leaders must ensure that our soldiers stay focused lest the scourge of complacency sets in. NCOs should lead by example and mustn't let their soldiers slackoff. Sergeants need to enforce the standards.

Thorough and proper preventative maintenance checks and services of vehicles and personal equipment is essential. NCOs are not only responsible for seeing that this gets done, they must also ensure daily that there is 100 percent accountability of sensitive items within their sections.

Soldiers should pay attention to their weapons. Every soldier should thoroughly clean his or her weapon at least once a week. It's up to noncommissioned officers to make sure this happens. NCOs should inspect their soldiers' weapons daily.

Soldiers should remember to clean their

ammunition as well as their weapons. Instruct your soldiers to wipe off each round with a cloth — and clean each magazine — to prevent dust and dirt from building up. Dirty ammunition or magazines can easily cause a weapon to jam.

Through direct supervision and guidance, soldiers will continue to perform to the highly professional standard that they have so far.

One final note — as I've said before, there are several units that have recently deployed to the area of operations. It is crucial they be made to understand the battle plan and force protection measures that are in place.

NCOs should not assume that the new people know everything there is to know about the mission. Senior leaders should take the time to educate and counsel the newcomers.

Remember, Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

## Viewpoint

# Game only halfway over for task force soldiers

New Year's Day, 1929, Georgia Tech played University of California in the Rose Bowl. In that game a man named Roy Riegels recovered a fumble for California. Somehow, he became confused and started running in the wrong direction. One of his teammates, Benny Lom, overtook and downed him 65 yards away, just before he scored for the opposing team. When California attempted to punt, Tech blocked the kick and scored a safety, which was the ultimate margin of victory.

That strange play came in the first half, and everyone who was watching the game was asking the same question: "What will Coach Nibbs Price do with Roy Riegels in the second half?"

No doubt Coach Price too was trying to decide what to do with



**Maj. (Chap)  
Ray Bailey**

Coach Price looked at the team and said simply, "Men, the same team that played the first half will start the second."

The players got up and started out, all but Riegels. He did not budge. The coach looked back and called to him. Still he didn't move.

Coach Price went over to where Riegels sat and said, "Roy, didn't you hear me? The same team that played the first half will start the second."

Riegels. Then the timekeeper came in and announced that there were three minutes before playing time.

Then Roy Riegels looked up and his cheeks were wet with a strong man's tears. "Coach," he said, "I can't do it to save my life. I've ruined you. I've ruined the University of California. I've ruined myself. I couldn't face that crowd in the stadium to save my life."

Then Coach Price reached out and put his hand on Riegels' shoulder and said to him: "Roy, get up and go on back; the game is only half over."

And Roy Riegels went back. Those Tech men will tell you they have never seen a man play football as Roy Riegels played that second half.

We take the ball and run in the wrong direction. We stumble and fall and are so ashamed and frustrated of ourselves that we never want to try again. You can feel this way in your marriage,

in your job, in your relationships with others you care about, or just in life in general.

Everyone, at one time or another, feels like they just can't go on any further. We are a team. We are also the coaches for each other.

All of us can't be on top doing perfectly all the time. It's up to each of us to believe in ourselves enough to realize that there is always an answer to our problems if we just keep on trying and keep playing.

No one is perfect. We are at the beginning of the second half of this mission.

We are at the beginning of the second half of the rest of our lives. And God comes to us and bends over us and says, "Get up and go on back; the game is only half over."

## THE TALON

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# Casey joins task force team

Brig. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry upon his graduation from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in June 1970. Since his commissioning, he has served in a variety of command and staff positions in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.



Brig. Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Following completion of Infantry Officer Basic Course in 1971, he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion (Air borne/mechanized), 509th Infantry, Mainz, Germany, where he served as a heavy mortar platoon leader, rifle platoon leader, and assistant battle operations officer.

He moved with a portion of the battalion to Vincenza, Italy in 1973 and served as a mortar platoon leader and company executive officer in the 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry (Airborne Battalion Combat Team) until his departure for the Infantry Officer Advanced Course in 1974.

In 1975, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 11th Infantry at Fort Carson, Colo., where he served as a battalion supply officer, rifle company commander, and combat support company commander.

Following attendance at the Armed Forces Staff College and a tour in Cairo, Egypt,

with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Casey was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 10th Infantry at Fort Carson, Colo., where he served as a battalion operations officer and battalion executive officer.

He returned to command the battalion in 1985 following an assignment as the secretary general staff, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Following battalion command, Casey served as a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, as a congressional liaison officer in the Army Secretariat, and as a special assistant to the Army chief of staff.

In August of 1991, he became the chief of staff of the 1st Cavalry Division where he served until May 1993, when he took command of the Division's 3rd "Greywolf" Brigade. Subsequent assignments in V Corps at Heidelberg, Germany, included corps training officer in March of 1995, and chief of staff in October of 1995.

In June 1996, Casey deployed to Taszar Air Base, Hungary in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, and became the U.S. Army Europe (Forward) deputy commanding general, until he arrived at Eagle Base, where he is currently serving as the assistant division commander-maneuver, of the 1st Armored Division.

Casey holds a master's degree in international relations from Denver University. He is married to the former Sheila Lynch of Eastchester, N.Y. They have two sons, Sean, who resides in Atlanta, and Ryan, who resides in Richmond, Va.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Outgoing Friday R&R flights cancelled

According to the 1st Armored Division personnel office, all outgoing Task Force Eagle Friday R&R flights have been cancelled, with the exception of the Aug. 9 flight. The flights have been cancelled by U.S. Army Europe due to funding constraints.

### Pay increase tops quality of life push

(ARNEWS) Defense Secretary William J. Perry has put DoD's focus on improving quality of life.

Keeping pay levels up over the next five years and accelerating family and barracks housing improvements are two top quality of life priorities, according to the Secretary. "The single most important thing we've done on compensation is get salary increases incorporated into the five-year plan," Perry said. "This very significant step puts more stability into the compensation plan than we've ever had before."

The fiscal 1997 budget proposal includes a 3 percent military pay raise.

### Smoking cessation

(ARNEWS) Noting that 37 percent of soldiers are smokers, compared to 25 percent for the general population, the Army is taking steps to decrease the number of soldiers who smoke to less than 20 percent.

The service is in the middle of a two-year smoking cessation project at Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bragg, N.C. and Fort Benning, Ga.

The project will be used in the Army-wide fight against smoking. The Army expects to develop a program to support soldiers who want to quit the habit.



Pfc. Luis Deya

### Ready on the firing line

Soldiers from HHC, 22nd Signal Brigade and Company B, 141st Signal Battalion qualify at the Task Force Eagle firing range near Camp Demi.

### Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	87/59	Low
Sat	91/61	Moderate
Sun	83/57	Moderate
Mon	78/53	Low
Tue	79/54	Low
Wed	83/55	Low
Thur	86/57	Moderate

Prepared July 31 by the 617th Weather Squadron



Staff Sgt. Anna M. Pursaitius

**Sgt. Arthur L. Mukes, with Company B, 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division, replaces a burned out brake light on his trailer. Mukes, a transmission systems operator from Marshall, Texas, performs preventative maintenance checks and services on his vehicle as part of mission preparedness standard operating procedure.**

## Good communication key to successful mission

*(Editors note: Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, Assistant Division Commander, Support, believes leaders need to focus more attention on preparing to execute. This article explains his ideas).*

By Staff Sgt.  
ANNA M. PRUSAITIS  
100th MPAD

**T**he Army has a model for operations. Make a plan. Prepare to execute. Execute.

When preparing for an operation, these three phases overlap. Trying to make them distinct and separate parts usually leads to failure and confusion. Integrating the three-phase concept works from the squad level all the way up to the task force level.

Army leaders are great at planning and soldiers usually have a way of making things happen at the execution phase. But there is often a break down in the prepare-to-execute phase. This is an area that every leader needs to take a look at.

Two Army communities are pretty good at preparing to execute: military police and aviation.

MPs are good at this step because it's a part of their culture to prepare. They hold a formation, equipment is inspected and patrols are readied.

Aviators are also good at preparing to execute because they religiously follow preflight air-

craft inspections.

Preflight checks are a perfect example of preparing to execute. Aviators preflight their aircraft before they can execute a plan. If every organization focused more on preparing to execute, operations would run much smoother.

If we have one area as a Task Force we've got to concentrate on, it's preparing to execute.

What is meant by preparation? It means inspecting the condition of equipment, checking radio frequencies and ensuring that everybody's radio frequencies are correct and working. It's checking the soldiers to make sure they have all the gear they're supposed to have and on occasion, laying it out in a showdown inspection.

It means what we've come to know as troop-leading procedures. It includes issuing the proper order and planning for all contingencies.

Preparation takes a lot of time. A convoy does not go out hastily, soldiers don't just fire-up their equipment and drive out the front gate. Preparation must be done to standard, and it takes a tremendous amount of time.

Take the example of long-range surveillance organiza-

tions. They know how to prepare to execute. LRS teams build a plan and go into isolation for a day — sometimes several days. During that time all they do is prepare to execute. They do nothing but concentrate on preparation for that mission.

This is the area that most leaders need to develop: preparation for operations.

When a vehicle breaks down, in about 80 percent of the cases that breakdown could have been avoided with proper preparation. About 75 percent of accidents involving an injury could have been prevented with proper preparation.

Leaders need to focus on guided preparation. When leaders do this, troops are more apt to accomplish the mission with less energy ... and accomplish it a lot faster.

The idea of preparing to execute becomes very critical during a redeployment. Every tracked and wheeled vehicle in Bosnia-Herzegovina will road march over 250 miles, just to get to the Intermediate Staging Base. To do that safely, soldiers are going to have to be prepared to execute.

Leaders need to go through

the steps on preparation by the numbers.

Don't be afraid to ask hard questions of soldiers responsible for making redeployment successful.

Don't be afraid to inspect, look at, touch, feel and examine all of the equipment, the materials and the soldiers' understanding of what they are supposed to be doing. Back briefs are a great way of making sure that everyone has a clear understanding of the mission.

Ask questions about the mission; ask the lead drivers of the convoy if they know where they are going and what they are going to do. Questions are a great way of finding out how successful leaders have been at transmitting their plans to soldiers.

Every leader in the task force should have a set of questions to ask to find out how thorough the preparations have been. These questions need to be asked before a mission ever gets launched.

Every leader, from the lowest level in the organization, ought to ask questions about the mission and get detailed back briefs to ensure the mission is completely understood.

Good answers are our insurance policy, our guarantor of success.

We are one of the few armies in the world that believes in keeping soldiers informed about their mission, and if we do that to standard there is no mission we can't accomplish.

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**Everyone, from top to bottom should understand the mission ... get details to ensure the mission is completely understood.**

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# Mother of invention aids firefighting mission

By Sgt. ANDREW AQUINO  
350th MPAD

Getting from one military camp to another isn't always easy in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially when there's a raging fire to put out.

"Answering emergency calls outside the immediate area takes up valuable time, especially when going to remote camps in our area of responsibility," said Staff Sgt. Charles Crego, fire chief of the 369th Engineers, firefighters, at Eagle Base.

"We answer calls from as far north as Camp Burke, and as far east as Alicia," he said. "It can take 45 minutes or more for us to arrive on the scene.

We had to find a way of getting fire equipment closer to the source," Crego said. "A tent can go up in flames in about 37 seconds."

Using off-the-shelf parts, Crego devised a portable fire pump powerful enough to dampen brush fires and other incendiary hazards located far from rapid-response teams.

By hooking a 1,000 liter fuel tank up to a diesel-powered portable fuel pump, Crego devised a water delivery system that is also small enough and light enough to fit on the back of a HMMWV.

"They say necessity is the mother of invention," said the Levittown, Pa. native. "We certainly had a need for it, so this is what I came up with.

"The portable fire truck complements our MACY 2500C fire engine because it's not nearly as bulky nor massive," said Crego.

"We can easily maneuver around a tent city with one of

these," he said.

"It goes places where we'd be afraid to take the fire truck."

Strapped to the back of a HMMWV, the portable fire pump goes up steep hills and muddy roads as well as into

tight places without risking damage to irreplaceable equipment.

The portable fire pump doesn't deliver as much water power as the fire department's fire truck, but it still delivers up to 100 gallons per minute.

Because it's made from pre-existing parts, production and repair are relatively inexpensive.

A portable fire pump at a remote camp could be operational in minutes and save thousands of dollars of equipment and personal property, according to the fire chief.

The Tuzla-based firefighters have been tasked to put together four more experimental portable fire pumps for theater operations, with plans to build a total of 14 portable fire pumps for outlying camps of the Multinational Division North Sector.



Sgt. Andrew Aquino

Staff Sgt. Charles Crego (above) monitors the water pressure on a portable fuel pump modified to pump water as Spc. Vince P. Murtagh (below) controls the hose during a test of the improvised firefighting system.



## Army surgeon leaves Bosnia with one last, good deed

By Spc. LEN BUTLER  
100TH MPAD

With less than 48 hours until his rotation back to the U.S. Army Hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, Col. (Dr.) Mark S. Taylor was thinking of nothing more than being reunited with his wife and son. But it all changed with the arrival of a Bosnian civilian with life-threatening injuries.

Within 30 minutes, the Boca Raton, Fla., native was performing surgery at the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital at Camp Bedrock, thinking only of the task at hand.

The patient, the unidentified 39-year-old wife of a prominent businessman liv-



Col. (Dr.)  
Mark S. Taylor

ing in Brcko, was involved in an auto accident there.

The patient was taken to a hospital at Brcko with injuries to her abdomen and right leg. But doctors there were unable to treat the injuries to the woman's leg. The

local doctors then requested a transfer to Tuzla.

When the patient arrived at the MASH, she was in a mild state of shock, having lost blood during the transfer.

Taylor said he didn't know how the 212th MASH became involved. He also

wasn't aware that the patient had been to a hospital. "We were quite surprised," said Taylor. "We initially thought we got her directly from the accident."

Taylor said his surgical team knew nothing about the treatment at the civilian hospital.

"But we then saw that her abdomen was only partially stitched, and immediately realized she had received some form of treatment," he said.

Taylor said his surgical team then learned that the doctors in Brcko had not been able to repair the veins and arteries in the leg.

The patient, in addition to intravenous

see **SURGEON**, page 12

# Signal soldiers work, play a

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS  
350th MPAD

Beautiful scenery, clean mountain air, quiet seclusion – the perfect place to set up a picnic, or a communications site. Hill 722 in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina is referred to as “the end of the world” by members of the 22nd Signal Brigade who live and work there.

Even though they are miles away from any shop or pizza place, the 31 soldiers from various signal, military police, infantry and engineer units that make up the little community, consider the hill a choice assignment.

“It’s so peaceful up here, our own little world,” said 1st Lt. Annah M. Castellini of the 440th Signal Battalion from Darmstadt, Germany. “And we provide a great service.”

Antennas pointing to the sky relay signals to six other communications or node centers located throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as enable mobile telephone/radio subscribers to reach out and touch someone. But this important communications hub had humble beginnings.

“When we first came here in January, the site was very small, there was a lot of mud and no electricity,” said Spc. Jamie E. Stowe, 440th. “There were Swedish U.N. soldiers living in two conex’s, a guard tower, and some concertina wire. It was like being in the wilderness.”

Stowe, a native of Columbus, Ga., and Sgt. Jeffrey Herndon, who has since gone back to his home unit, were the first to arrive at the former U.N. post with their radio terminal vans. Only a single strand of concertina wire separated the soldiers from intruders.

“People were curious when we came,” Stowe said. “Somebody kept tripping over things. We felt a little better when we went down to work in the generator. Now with trip flares, lights, and roving patrols, we’re in a safe zone.”

In addition to improved security, the little self-contained camp has a mess hall, er points, a small gym and recreation area.

“We’re not hurting for anything,” said Lt. Castellini, a native of Cincinnati. “We’ve put everything they could into building the site. We put up all the tents, built the walkways, and filled 30,000 lbs of living area tents, fighting positions, and a mess hall.”

Along with maintaining the



1st Lt. Annah M. Castellini, 23, site commander of 22nd Signal Brigade's Hill 722, points out the spectacular view from the communications hub. "It's so peaceful up here, I hate to leave," said the Cincinnati native.

# at end of world

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soldiers perform physical training every morning, attend readiness classes and make a two-hour trip every afternoon to pick up evening meal rations.

The guard shack and gate are manned 24 hours a day, reinforced by fighting positions for total defense. "Hill 722 and the others like it are vital for communication for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR," said Castellini. "We not only link ourselves to Tuzla and Slavonski Brod, Croatia, but connect sites throughout the theater. We also make it possible for military personnel to call back to the States."

It's a good thing the soldiers enjoy the view and seclusion of Hill 722 since they will be one of the last groups to leave Bosnia-Herzegovina, Castellini added. "We have to keep Task Force Eagle communicating."



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

m one of the defensive firing positions encircling the military



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Spc. Joel B. Hand, 23, Plainfield, Ind., pulls guard duty atop Hill 722, a communications hub that relays signals to six other node centers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Spc. Jamie E. Stowe, 21, of the 440th Signal Battalion, Darmstadt, Germany, checks connections on his radio relay van at Hill 722 in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Columbus, Ga. native is known as the "king of the hill" since he was one of the first to set up the communications system in early January.

# Explosions a way of life for 41st EOD

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM  
350th MPAD

Being in Bosnia-Herzegovina is one blast after another for Staff



Sgt. Tim Pinkham

Staff Sgt. Tyler H. Holland of the 41st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company stands in front of his unit's sign at Camp Kime. A display of inert mines and mine signs line the front of the unit area.

Sgt. Tyler J. Holland.

Holland, a member of the 41st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, is based at Camp Kime. The 41st EOD, whose motto is "Total Control of Absolute Destruction," recently blew up 1,000 pounds of ordnance during their deployment for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

This was the second mass detonation since his unit arrived in country from Fort Bliss, Texas in February, said Holland, 28, who was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the blast.

However, he said several times a week the 41st is called to blow up unexploded ordnance in place.

Most of the ordnance the crew destroyed during their last detonation had been recovered from fields by Bosnian Croat army soldiers, said Holland.

After removing the

fuses, the Bosnian Croat army soldiers loaded the ordnance onto three civilian trucks. Escorted by three Bradley Fighting Vehicles from Company C, 4th Battalion, 67th Armor, the convoy traveled several kilometers to the planned detonation site.

At the detonation site, the Bosnian Croat army soldiers unloaded the ordnance and spread it out across the ground. The ordnance included 873 mines and 132 projectiles, along with 660 pounds of ammonia nitrate and 3,000 feet of high-explosive detonation cord.

The disposal unit soldiers inventoried the ordnance, then calculated the amount of explosives needed to blow it all up. Before the explosives were added, everyone was sent two miles away except for those needed to detonate the charge.

Detonation support was provided by Company C, 23rd Engineer Battalion.

It took more than two hours to set up the explosion, said Holland. Security forces checked the entire area around the detonation site to ensure no one would

be endangered by the blast. Proper clearances were also received from both military and civilian authorities, with the countdown toward detonation being communicated by radio.

When the ordnance exploded, it could be seen for miles.

A huge fireball rose more than 100 feet in the air, fading into a thick black cloud that hung in the air for several minutes.

Holland said the total explosive content of the detonation was between 1,700 and 1,800 pounds.

About 700 pounds of that were the added high explosives which were placed on top of the ordnance by EOD. The blast left a crater about 20 feet deep and 25 feet in diameter.

"I love my job," said Holland, who has been with 41st for six years and in the Army for 10 years. "I think it's exciting."

Besides the opportunity to practice his job skills, Holland believes his deployment is paying off in another way. "It's good that we're here, because it gives these people at least a year of peace."

## Deployed officers granted education course extensions

On a case-by-case basis, officers deployed in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR who enrolled in the nonresident Command and General Staff College correspondence course, will be granted an extension on their course completion deadline.

To receive the extension, officers must provide the school of corresponding studies a copy of orders verifying deployment and length of deployment.

Officers will be granted a course extension equal to the length of the deployment.

Officers are encouraged to finish their studies as soon as practical.

Successful course completion gives an officer a military education level code of four.

The same procedures outlined above apply for officers enrolled in the nonresident portion of CAS3.

USAREUR point of contact is Lt. Col. Jerald Mayer. DSN 370-7221 / 8463.



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

## Changing of the Guard

National colors and unit guidons are presented during the 22nd Signal Brigade's change of command ceremony July 20, at Eagle Base airfield. Col. James D. Culbert handed over command to Col. Gregory J. Premo.



Spc. Craig Pickett

Spc. Christopher E. Myers and Sgt. Quintin D. Jessup prepare to mount a new thermal weapon sight on a MK-19.

## Experimental thermal scope helps MPs see through fog

By Spc. CRAIG PICKETT  
350th MPAD

CAMP LISA — Military policemen serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina recently received six thermal weapon sights.

Three sights were given to each of the 1st Armor Division's two combat maneuver brigades.

When using the Army's only dismounted thermal weapon sights, soldiers of the 501st Military Police Company can "see" an object through dust, smoke, darkness or adverse weather conditions.

The ability to light up the night gives them a distinct edge over hostile forces.

Sgt. Quintin D. Jessup, 26, of Bowling Green, Ky., said that soldiers in his unit are the "testers" for the AN/PAS-13 sights.

The MPs were given the opportunity to use the new sights and evaluate the equipments' performance. So far, the MPs have nothing but good things to say about the sights.

"The sights are very helpful," Jessup said. "So far, we haven't had any problems with them, which is pretty surprising since they are not a production model yet."

Staff Sgt. Kenton R. Lewis, 31, of West Plains, Mo., pointed out the sights are also stealthy, because they are battery powered.

Portable power makes AN/PAS-13 sights operate much more quietly than

**With the Army's only dismounted thermal weapon sights, soldiers can "see" an object through dust, smoke, darkness or in adverse weather conditions ... giving them a distinct edge over hostile forces.**

other night vision sights.

Another unique feature is that they can be mounted or removed easily from a weapon system.

According to Spc. Christopher E. Myers, 21, of Sebring, Fla., the sights are extremely easy to use.

"They would have helped in Haiti because it was dusty and at night the streets had no lights," he said.

Now the lightweight, silent sights are helping protect troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

By having the ability to find potentially dangerous targets, human or otherwise, the MPs have an advantage that many forces do not.

## Bosnia-Herzegovina information briefs

■ U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor's trade mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina has already produced results. Among the agreements negotiated during the trip: building a highway through Bosnia-Herzegovina between the Croatian cities of Zagreb and Dubrovnik, reopening a route from the Sava River to Ploce on the Adriatic Sea, and rebuilding the railway from Ploce to Sarajevo.

■ Bosnian politicians have started campaigning for the Sept. 14 nationwide election. The elections will choose a three-member presidency (one Bosnian Muslim, one Bosnian Croat, and one Bosnian Serb) a 42-member, multi-ethnic House of Representatives, two regional assemblies and local councils.

■ Bosnia-Herzegovina Vice President Ejup Ganic met with the President of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, recently to discuss improving communication and trade links between the two countries. Ganic called the talks open and straightforward. "The two countries are closer than they were before," he said.

■ Republika Srpska Interior Minister Dragan Kijac said recently that Bosnian Serb border posts have been told to end their demands that Bosnians from Federation-controlled territory obtain visas before crossing the inter-entity boundary line.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Kris Janowski said, "We will have to wait and see" if the new policy will make it easier for residents of Federation-controlled territories to cross the IEBL, but "at least on paper they (the Bosnian Serbs) have delivered."

■ At a gutted restaurant on the border between Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Muslim controlled territory, Bosnians from each of the three former warring factions meet each weekend to visit with family and friends, reports *The New York Times*.

"We want to live together, like we did before," said Sejo Beslic, a Bosnian Muslim who had come over from Jajce to drink beer with his Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb friends.

"I would like to vote to have my former life," added Nenad Safner, a Bosnian Serb who had come to Jezero to meet an old Bosnian Muslim friend from Jajce.

# Kevlar blankets could save your life

By Capt. TODD D. LYLE  
TFE Safety Office

Each time the Army comes up with a new idea, concept, or piece of equipment the skeptics are the first to be heard. This time it is regarding the new Kevlar blankets that arrived in theater last month.

Their comments are all too familiar. It doesn't fit, it's too hard, and it gets in the way, etc. With these thoughts in mind, I spoke with Spc. Martin Begosh formerly of the 709th Military Police Battalion. Begosh was the first U.S. servicemember to be injured by a mine blast.

Last December, while on patrol, he became disoriented and drove down an unauthorized, unapproved route. His HMMWV struck an antitank mine, destroying the vehicle and seriously injuring Begosh. He lost 30 percent of his right heel bone and has nerve damage to his left leg.

Many soldiers complain that the blanket makes them uncomfortable.

Begosh's response was concise; "Anything that will provide added protection is worth short-term discomfort."

Begosh is currently convalescing at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington D.C. where he is expected to stay for at least another year.

At that point, a decision will be made regarding his military career.

We here in the task force have been extremely fortunate to

have had no additional incidents such as Begosh's.

With redeployment coming, now is certainly not the time to become complacent.

Kevlar blankets placed on the floor and seat of one's vehicle is a tremendous mine strike countermeasure.

Sure, they're a bit uncomfortable and they will take some adjusting to on our part; however, as Begosh said, short-term discomfort is worth it in the long term.

At present, over 1,000 Kevlar blankets have been outfitted in Task Force Eagle HMMWVs.

There has been one incident reported where the blanket was thought to have caused a HMMWV's accelerator to stick. In order to avoid this type of incident it is important to ensure a proper fit.

During your vehicle preventative maintenance checks and services, ensure that the blanket is properly in place and that the floor board is free of trash and debris. If you have a concern or have questions about installing the Kevlar blanket, see your motor sergeant or battalion maintenance officer.

Additionally, you may contact Staff Sgt. Marvin Newbill in the Force Modernization office (MSE 558-5762), or call the Task Force Eagle safety office at 553-9375.

Kevlar blankets for 5-ton trucks, 2 1/2-ton trucks and HEMMTs are coming.

Use of the Kevlar blanket is mandatory. Remember, much like the weather here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the dynamics of this operation could change tomorrow. Do not let complacency cut short your life.

## Engineers tear down Camp Punxsutawney

By Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner  
100th MPAD

CAMP PUNXSUTAWNEY – A chorus of hammers noisily pounded and pried at the lumber. Destruction was the mission of the day.



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Pvt. Travis R. Autotte, Company A, 16th Battalion Engineers, stacks sections of internal frames from dismantled tents.

Combat engineers of Companies A and C, 16th Battalion, are hardly at a loss for work. During the early phases of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR their energy was channeled towards force protection.

Now that some units are pulling back to Germany or relocating within the Tuzla valley, the engineers' efforts are now funneled towards breaking down the camps they built months ago.

Pvt. Joshua B. Dias, a combat engineer with Company C said he believed Camp Bedrock, his base camp, has excellent security. "We've had lots of excellent training because we built an anti-sniper wall, six lookout towers, numerous protective bunkers, and over 400 fighting positions," he said.

Although Camp Punxsutawney is scheduled for closure, the Lukavac area is a bustle of activity as departing soldiers pack for new destinations.

The camp's population peaked at nearly 2,400 during the early spring, but it has now dwindled to approximately 900 soldiers. Arriving engineers go against the flow of traffic to reach desolate empty tents left behind.

"I've been here tearing down camp for a week now," said Spc. Jody D. Scott.

Dismantling the tent cities is an unusual experience for many of the newer soldiers, but they performed like seasoned pros as the wooden framed structures became piles of lumber.

"We're ahead of schedule because of the hard work the soldiers have done. They've

been able to tear down approximately 66 tents, which involves palletizing the frames and the floor boards," said 2nd Lt. Anthony V. Hughes, a platoon leader with Company C.

Employees with Brown & Root Inc. have assisted in the project by removing the electrical wiring and fixtures before the tents come down. They also band the pallets of materials and move them to holding areas.

Almost everything can be used again; wiring, light fixtures, plumbing, hot water heaters, and of course sandbags.

The teamwork effort is going smoothly. "Brown & Root has helped a lot," said Hughes.

The completion of the tent removal phase is followed by the collection of concertina wire. "We're taking down approximately 1,600 meters of triple stranded wire. It should take two and a half days," Hughes said.

Sgt. Donald M. Perry, of Company A, doesn't mind the hectic schedule of a combat engineer. "I love this type of work; time flies when we're busy. I haven't gotten into a boring routine just yet," he said.

Hughes said that the engineers of Company C want to work hard, and that they hate to sit around doing nothing. "Company A recognized our hard work, so we get picked for projects like this. All these things we've been doing; they're not being taught in (engineering) school. We just adapt, we're soldiers. We definitely learn a lot," said Hughes.

## Getting on track

Pfc. Jason P. McBee, Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, replaces a shock on his M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle. McBee of Spartanburg, S.C., has been on active duty for two years and in Bosnia-Herzegovina for six months. "This deployment has been a great learning experience."



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

### PHYSICAL FITNESS FUN

# Electrician accepts MWR challenge

By Staff Sgt.  
ANNA M. PRUSAITIS  
100th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH — Physical and mental challenges are constant to the men and women in today's military forces.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation director at Camp Sava North, recognizes the importance of having a facility which provides not only entertainment, but a place for soldiers to build strength and endurance as well.

Being director of an MWR center is a challenge in itself, said Staff Sgt. Tim Bahadar, Company A, 127th Aviation Battalion, based in Germany.

"When I arrived, all the fitness equipment was in place, but it wasn't being used. It was unorganized and some pieces weren't properly assembled," Bahadar said.

Bahadar, from Kennewick, Wash., volunteered for the MWR director position.

His usual duty is that of an aircraft armament electrician.

After returning from rest and

recuperation leave in Germany where he was reunited with his wife, Roswitha, and his almost 6-year-old daughter, Tamara, he assumed his new duties at Camp Sava North.

"Since I wasn't real familiar with which piece of fitness equipment worked specific muscle groups, I got some input from a few soldiers," Bahadar said.

"With their help I assembled it correctly and organized it to better serve the troops."

The MWR center here is also known as the "glass house" because of all the windows in the 2,700 square foot building.

"Space was plentiful," said Bahadar, who arranged the entertainment areas for foos-ball, ping-pong and billiards and a separate area for viewing movies, back in the more secluded

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**"When I arrived, all the fitness equipment was in place, but it wasn't being used."**

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*Staff Sgt. Tim Bahadar*

corner of the center.

Plenty of room is still available for the occasional live music entertainment the center brings in for the soldiers, to enjoy. "I wanted to make the soldiers feel

more at home and relaxed," Bahadar said.

Deployments can be stressful because of changes in location and culture as well as long duty hours.

"The soldiers can come here and get away from all that for awhile," said Bahadar.

Spc. Shawn L. Taylor, a generator mechanic with Company C, 123rd Main Support Battalion, said. "This is a lot bigger than what we had at Lukevac."

Taylor, a native of Ventura, Calif., has been in country since the deployment to Operation

JOINT ENDEAVOR began in December 1995.

"There's much more equipment available and the air quality is 100 percent better than at our last duty assignment," Taylor said. "And it's one step closer to home."

The MWR center is on the second floor of an old warehouse.

The foyer is filled with neatly arranged exercise bicycles and stair-masters all of which have a good view of a 21-inch color television.

Many soldiers enjoy using the facility, including 1st Sgt. Merle D. Jones, from the 92nd Military Police Company.

"This is an outstanding facility," said Jones from Neptune, N.J. "It's a good place to relax and burn off stress."

Servicemembers deployed to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR are called upon to meet challenges everyday.

To be able to mentally relax and maintain fitness is important to the morale of the soldiers, and keeping the morale up is exactly what Bahadar does best.



Spc. Andrew McGalliard

## 'Iron sailor' hands over IFOR helm

Adm. Leighton W. Smith, IFOR commander, and his wife, Dorothy, arrive at Eagle Base's airfield for a farewell ceremony, July 29.

At the ceremony, the 1st Armored Division band played "Anchors Aweigh," and Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, Task Force Eagle commander, thanked Smith for his leadership.

"Sir, you are a member of the finest navy in the world. But, today, you are an Iron Soldier," said Nash.

Smith has commanded IFOR since the inception of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. He will retire from the U.S. Navy.

The IFOR helm will be passed to Adm. T. Joseph Lopez on Wednesday in Naples, Italy.

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that both sides are keeping in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accord.

The open house kicked off with a presentation by the village's mayor. "He presented us with a letter that the village had collectively written thanking us for being here, telling us how safe they felt that we were in their area and how they can start to build their lives again," said Allen.

Wide-eyed toddlers clung to their mothers' blouses and some fathers hoisted their children on their shoulders as the group strolled over to look at a display of the unit's equipment. Many gathered around what looks like a rocket launcher but is actually a pneumatic launcher truck used to fling

the aircraft into the sky like a slingshot.

Others checked out the rocket-assisted takeoff (RATO) display; some wandered into the ground control station to view the video image produced by one of the aircraft's cameras; and many flocked to the refreshment table to grab a donut and some juice.

Marines like 25-year-old Sgt. David Hinrichs, an assistant technician's chief from Kenai, Alaska, manned the displays to answer questions through interpreters.

"I would be concerned if the military came into my hometown and made a ruckus everywhere they went," said Hinrichs. "We invited the Bosnians here today to show them exactly what we're doing, and to give them a little reassurance that our being here for them is a good idea."

Navy Chief Gordon Ellis, 47, an advanced

hospitalman from Springville, N.Y. used his medical training to spread goodwill.

"One youngster did fall down and scrape up his knee, so I responded, washed off his knee, put a little bit of antibacterial stuff on it and bandaged it up," said Ellis. "Before I knew it, I was swarmed. There were seven or eight more people around me, so I just proceeded to fix up."

Marines mingling with the people gave out candy, posed for photos, and talked to the guests through interpreters. Though language barriers existed, the event brought the two groups closer together.

"One of the gunnery sergeants gave one of the little children a flashlight," said Allen. "Interaction with the locals boosts the morale of this unit and builds the confidence of the people who live here."

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fluids, received 11 pints of blood at the MASH, according to Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Sarla Saujani, who assisted Taylor with the operation. Taylor and Saujani used Teflon graft material to repair the vein and artery in the leg.

Orthopedic surgeon Col. (Dr.) Robert Toon also lent a hand.

Toon performed a fasciotomy, in which an incision was made in the muscles of the leg to allow for swelling.

Saujani said if a fasciotomy had not been performed pressure could have built in the leg, causing muscles in the leg to die.

"It definitely was a save," said Taylor. "It feels good to go home now knowing that I've saved a life."

## Explosion rocks Slavonski Brod base

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia – Fire engulfed a building in a Croatian tank automotive plant July 25, one-half mile south of living areas occupied by IFOR troops assigned to the Task Force Eagle Rear Command Post.

There were no injuries to IFOR personnel and little reported damage to IFOR equipment.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but the initial assessment is that the fire began accidentally in a building used by Croats.

The fire spread to at least one other building and several explosions were reported before Croatian fire fighters extinguished the blaze.

Soldiers in the area responded by taking immediate force protection measures.

Those persons have returned to their normal working and living locations.

The Task Force Rear Command Post has established a crisis action center that is conducting ongoing coordination with the Croatian police.

An assessment team of specialists has investigated the area and determined that the base camp is safe for all personnel.

The tank factory is a shared-use facility and the fire occurred in a section operated by the Croats.