

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle

## Perry speaks out on Bosnia-Herzegovina

By LINDA D. KOZARYN  
*American Forces Press Service*

Recent reports of suspicious surveillance and turbulent pre-election activities have heightened the threat level in Bosnia, according to Defense Secretary William Perry.

Even though Implementation Force troops have remained at a high state of readiness since the mission began last December, commanders are taking added precautions, Perry said during a recent interview.

The threat of terrorist actions was considered high from the very beginning, and forces were positioned accordingly, Perry said.

DoD officials imposed stringent rules and security procedures reflecting their concern, he said. "What we've had in the last week is a surveillance of a few IFOR installations, which just puts a sharper focus on that concern," he said.

Aside from the reported surveillance, Perry said, defense officials were already preparing for increased turmoil prior to the Sept. 14 elections.

People are being allowed to vote in the places where they used to live, which may now be part of a different political entity.

Refugees are trying to resettle in areas where others are already living, and people are registering to vote where others don't want them to vote, he said.

"Trying to get stable, secure governments installed in a country that has not had any stability or any security for almost

See *PERRY*, page 12



Sgt. 1st Class Brian L. Kappmeyer

Military policemen from the 720th MP Battalion arrive at Camp Lisa as Staff Sgt. Michael Crawford, 29, from Company A, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, over watches from his M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

## Soldiers prepare OSCE teams for Sept. 14 national elections

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER  
*100th MPAD*

EAGLE BASE—The first group of 1,200 elections supervisors representing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe arrived Aug. 28 to begin an orientation program designed to prepare them for their duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The group was welcomed with a

brief speech by Brig. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., assistant division commander, maneuver, before it was ushered into classes on mine awareness, unexploded ordnance, communication, and medical hygiene and first aid.

Lesley L. Israel, senior elections officer for the Tuzla region, said the 1,200 supervisors will be assigned to polling

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# From the top

## Focus, preparation key during elections

A single individual can make all the difference. When terrorists detonated a 5,000 pound bomb in a fuel truck outside Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia, 19 Americans were killed and hundreds were injured.



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

But because one Air Force security police officer was alert to the threat of a civilian vehicle parked too close to the perimeter, evacuation of the building had already begun before the blast, and countless servicemembers were saved.

The stakes are just as high here in Bosnia. The Sept. 14 elections are approaching and tensions already are rising in some sections of Task Force Eagle's area of responsibility. The terrorist threat I talked about several weeks ago continues.

Task force commanders do all they can to ensure the troops here are well protect-

ed, but the final responsibility rests on the shoulders of each individual soldier who guards a gate, checkpoint or perimeter.

NCOs, whether section chiefs or sergeants of the guard, must make sure their soldiers are well prepared for guard duty.

Sergeants must ensure their soldiers are in proper uniform for guard duty, and that they are thoroughly briefed on their mission and current threat levels.

Guards should be familiar with the rules of engagement, know what action to take in the face of suspicious activity, and practice the battle drills for their guard posts.

Communication from guards back to their NCOs, and from NCOs to higher, is the lifeline upon which everyone's safety may depend.

Sergeants of the guard should ensure radios have fresh batteries and are operable at the beginning of each shift, and enforce radio discipline at all times.

Guards must report any incidents or perceived threats in a timely, accurate and complete manner.

Guard duty is rarely fun or easy, but the soldiers who stand between Task Force Eagle and those who might wish to harm us are the first and most important line of defense we have.

Don't cut corners for the sake of comfort or convenience.

No matter if it's your first time pulling guard duty, or your 100th shift since the beginning of this deployment; you must not become complacent.

Lose your focus for just half a minute, go out on patrol just once without a map or compass, and the price could be your life and the lives of your buddies.

I'll say it again, because it bears repeating: during election time, more than ever, you must stay focused. This is perhaps the most important two weeks of our whole deployment.

Guard duty is a heavy responsibility; lives depend on NCOs and their soldiers taking that responsibility seriously.

Remember, Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

## Viewpoint

### Mine awareness a terrible thing to waste

Wake up Task Force Eagle soldiers. Death is waiting for you every time you leave your base.

So far we have been fortunate. Except for two deaths, we, the personnel of Task Force Eagle, have avoided serious accidents.

We have driven our vehicles millions of miles and have flown our aircraft for thousands of hours. We have totaled vehicles, rolled tanks and bruised helicopters and walked away on all but two occasions. As we approach elections and redeployment, let's keep the two accidental deaths and one very recent incident in mind.

The Army can mandate,



**Capt. Todd D. Lyle**  
Safety Office

write endless policies, and implement infinite countermeasures to 'protect' its personnel, but

until each and every one of us takes responsibility for our actions and the actions of those around us *every time* we perform a task, mission or operation, we will continue to experience avoidable accidents.

We must both individually and collectively learn from each other's mistakes.

Last week, a unit in the 1st Brigade sector was performing a "routine" mission when one of the vehicles left the paved road and struck an antitank mine.

The area in which this mine strike occurred is just meters from a former frontline. The route on which the soldiers were traveling bisects a trenchline. It follows that this road would have been heavily mined during the war.

Although the area had been cleared and proofed, a mine still laid in wait.

This mine strike was completely avoidable. The individuals involved in this incident were victims of a "routine mission mind set" that lead them

to become too comfortable with their surroundings. This comfort level could have cost them their lives. There is no doubt that those involved will think about this possibility the rest of their lives.

Furthermore, the occupants of the blown-up vehicle will certainly be thinking of how the *Kevlar blanket* (which received a less-than-stellar reception from units) saved them from further injury. The *Kevlar blanket* is an excellent example of an Army-developed reactive countermeasure — a countermeasure that would not have had to be tested if the soldiers remembered to stay on the paved surface. Stay alert, stay alive!

## THE TALON

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# Kevlar blankets save lives

Sgt. Brian Thompson

By Master Sgt. KATHY D. WRIGHT  
350th MPAD

Spc. Corey L. Deshazo will never again complain about how uncomfortable sitting on a Kevlar blanket is. It's the one thing that probably saved him from serious injury — or even possibly losing his life — when the HMMWV he was driving ran over an anti-tank mine recently.

Deshazo, assigned to the mortar platoon with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, was the driver of one of four vehicles in a convoy patrolling a route near Dubravice Gornje.

The group's mission was to check the Inter-Entity Boundary Line markings in the zone of separation. It was the kind of task Deshazo and his fellow soldiers had been doing for almost nine months.

Ironically, Deshazo hit the mine just six

days before he was to redeploy to Germany.

"The first thing I thought after the smoke cleared and I could see the crater the mine left in the road was that I was too short for this to happen," the 25-year-old soldier said. "Then I thought about how blessed and lucky I was."

Deshazo was very lucky. He and three other soldiers in the convoy suffered only minor injuries, while his vehicle, including the Kevlar blanket, sustained major damage.

"Six weeks ago, when the blankets came in, I didn't want to install them," the father of one said.

"Everyone knew how uncomfortable they were going to be. We had already been out here more than six months, and I sure wasn't looking to run over a mine now, especially on a route that had just been traveled the day before."

In fact, Deshazo's first thought after hitting the mine was that his newly-installed engine had blown. Other soldiers in the group thought they were under attack.

"One of the first things we did was secure the area and get everyone clear of the impact site," Deshazo said. "At that point we were just glad to see each other and realize we were OK."

Within four minutes of reporting the incident, Task Force Eagle medics, engineers and scouts were on their way to assist. Once they arrived, a second mine was discovered within a meter of the first.

"About that time I was pretty anxious to move out," Deshazo said. "Of course I wanted to call my family and let them know what happened. I told my wife that if she saw the story on the news about a land mine exploding, don't worry because I was all right."

The 5-year veteran has some advice to those who remain in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I won't feel totally safe until I leave this country, and I think that no matter when you're scheduled to redeploy you should always be cautious. Something like this could happen to anyone."



Sgt. Brian Thompson

A military safety team inspects a HMMWV damaged by a land mine.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Talon on World Wide Web

Get every issue of *The Talon* ever published on the World Wide Web. Our URL is: <http://www.dtic.mil/bosnia/talon/index.html>.

*The Talon* is also linked to Defense Link at: <http://www.dtic.mil/defenselink/>

### Sergeant sets us straight

Correction: In the Aug. 9 issue of *The Talon*, the M3 Bradley Cavalry Fighting Vehicle crew from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry was misidentified. Thanks for the letter, Staff Sgt. Mark A. Klein. We appreciate letters and e-mail messages. We will respond to every letter.

Send e-mail to:  
[thetalon@tfmain.1ad.army.mil](mailto:thetalon@tfmain.1ad.army.mil)

Mail:  
Staff Sgt. Summers  
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### 1AD Home Page rolling

The 1st Armor Division is on line! Read *The Talon* without having to download. Find maps, news releases, biographies and facts about 1AD.

<http://www.tfeagle.1ad.army.mil>

### Tuzla Basketball League (as of Sept. 7)

Team	Won	Lost	PCT	GB
5/ADA	8	2	.800	-
141 SIG BN NC72	6	2	.750	1
D 440 SIG CO	7	3	.700	1
77 MAINT	6	4	.600	2
94 ENG BN	6	4	.600	2
HHC 22 SIG BDE	3	5	.375	4
362 CSE	3	5	.375	4
1 AD	1	8	.111	6.5
90 POST BN	1	8	.111	6.5

### Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	68/54	High
Sat	63/47	High
Sun	63/47	Moderate
Mon	54/46	Moderate
Tue	54/45	Moderate
Wed	54/45	Moderate
Thur	53/47	Moderate

Provided Sept. 4 by Internet Access Weather

# 'Herald of Peace' offers unbiased news

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING  
100th MPAD

TUZLA — Every Wednesday a Tactical Psychological Operations team from the 346th Psychological Operations Company leisurely strolls through Tuzla's market square distributing information. They shake hands with the local people and play with the children. But with tensions rising due to the upcoming elections, these strolls may not remain a walk in the park.

Along with his troops, Sgt. Anthony D. Church, team chief, hits the pavement in full battle rattle carrying stacks of newspapers.

"The *Herald of Peace* is our actual link between the civilian populous and the military," Church said. "It is stuffed with brochures containing topics ranging from the elections to IFOR driving safety tips."

"The paper is not limited to IFOR information, it consists of a mixture of military and local news. There's even a sports section," Spc. Jim E. Stephenson said.

As the papers are being distributed, Cpl. Joseph R. Lizer, an assistant team leader, is heard over the airwaves as he broadcasts on FM Radio Tuzla, the largest radio station in the area.

"I read the articles from the *Herald of Peace* in English and



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

**Spc. Jim E. Stephenson, from the 346th Psychological Operations Company, distributes the *Herald of Peace* pamphlets to a man and his daughter.**

then I'm followed by an interpreter who reads them in Bosnian," Lizer said. "We do the radio broadcast for the people who we can't reach with our printed version of the paper."

In addition to putting up election posters and handing out the *Herald of Peace*, the team conducts voter election surveys. "We try to get an idea

of what the local populous knows about the elections, and we want to know what they think IFOR's role is in the elections," Stephenson said.

Soldiers use survey results to determine the content for future newspaper articles.

"We try to gear the paper to the needs of locals. There's no point in writing about things everyone already knows," Stephenson said.

"Sometimes the local papers have major slants to them; therefore, keeping these people informed is very important. The main mission behind Psychological Operations is the dissemination of truthful information," Spc. Anne M. Csipke said.

The team has not received word to increase force protection, but with the elections right around the corner, Church has taken a few extra precautions. His team does not carry any per-

sonal effects such as address books or phone numbers. "Things that are not combat or mission essential, they don't need," Church, a deputy sheriff in Cleveland said.

"In addition to their specific task of the day, each person is assigned a certain area to watch such as windows or doorways," Church said.

Other than an occasional disgruntled look or someone tearing up a paper, the team is welcomed in the local area. Church's team has come to the conclusion the majority of the people are glad IFOR is here. Most people feel IFOR has brought peace and has ended the horrifying war.

According to Church, the paper not only benefits the people by giving them important information such as how and where to vote and what IFOR is doing, it also aids in the finding of friends and families through missing persons notices.

"Four years of war has displaced people. This paper gives locals hope that their loved ones might someday see their own names in print and find their way home," said Church.



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

**Sgt. Anthony D. Church, Tactical Psychological Operations Team chief, passes out the *Herald of Peace* in front of the Monument for 25th of May Youth.**

# Engineers clear minefield, go to market

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC  
350th MPAD

The 23rd Engineer Battalion went to the market recently and found a bargain.

The Arizona Free Market is a thriving open-air emporium where citizens can buy and sell everything from cigarettes to livestock. Members of all three former warring parties — Bosnia Muslims, Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb — come together daily to trade from dawn to dark.

The market is on Route Arizona, less than 100 meters from IFOR Checkpoint A2. The market had become so popular that it snarled traffic around the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry checkpoint.

Adjacent minefields prevented civilian traffic from pulling off Arizona. Daily traffic jams backed up cars, trucks and military convoys.

"This is a critical main supply route, and the market was so successful that trucks were clogging the road," Lt. Col. Todd T. Semonite said, commander of the 23rd Engineer Battalion.

"It continues to be a chokepoint and we have to keep the way clear to ensure IFOR and civilian freedom of movement. But, the market is one of the most successful economic endeavors in the Posavina Corridor. All three entities are trading in one place, in the middle of the zone of separation," Semonite said.

Battalion engineers put together a blueprint to expand the existing market and add access roads to help organize the sprawling market. The goal was to clear the roads of parked cars and crawling traffic.

After presenting their idea to civilian officials, they found enthusiastic support

*"The market is one of the most successful economic endeavors in the Posavina Corridor."*

Lt. Col. Todd T. Semonite  
Commander  
23rd Engineer Battalion

and a local willingness to make modifications and upgrades to the basic idea.

The American project was based on a three-part plan. First, the engineers would clear and proof the area for mines, then build a drainage system and access roads to Arizona. Finally, they would construct an internal road network for the new addition to the market.

Mine clearing for the task force meant bringing in a Panther.

"The Panther is actually a Class 60 tank that's got robotics," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd M. Burnett, platoon sergeant of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 23rd Engineer Bn.

"It's run by remote control and it drags or pushes rollers. If there's a mine, we want to hit it with the rollers. Before we start, we go through mine maps with people from the factions. The factions haven't found any mines so our Panther does a final proofing," Burnett said.

After making three passes over the same piece of ground with the turretless

Panther, military police from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th MP Brigade, proofed the area with specially trained mine-detection dogs. Using their sense of smell, the dogs respond to explosives, metal and mine components.

After the Panther and the dogs deemed the area safe, engineers from Company C, 16th Engineer Bn., moved in with mine detectors and probes for a third and final phase of mine proofing.

With step one completed, soldiers of the 535th Combat Support Equipment Company used dozers, graders and rollers to cut drainage ditches, and roads.

Then engineers put down a base of gravel for the newly constructed roads and rolled them smooth.

When finished, the task force had cleared and mine proofed over 60,000 square meters. They constructed 875 meters of road and laid 1,000 cubic meters of gravel.

Local officials were out surveying the land before the engineers were even finished and, working through the brigade's civil affairs channels, have secured funding for continued improvements for the market. They intend to add more gravel for parking and install toilet facilities.

After American engineers completed the job, a local mayor organized a ceremony to thank IFOR.

"Besides the clearing of traffic congestion, two other significant accomplishments occurred," Semonite said. "First, the project provided a place for local vendors to share in commerce and increase the economic viability of the area.

"Second, because it is in the ZOS, you now have members of each of the different entities coming together, working together, sharing their wares together and as a result, having a peaceful cooperation as well as social interaction through an economic market."

Speaking to the soldiers involved in the project, Col. Gregory R. Fontenot, 1st Brigade commander, complimented them on their success.

"The things that you have done allows Serbian, Croatian, and Muslim people to meet in the zone of separation and to buy and sell and interact in a normal, peaceful way. It's an important step toward reconciliation for these people," Fontenot said. "It's a statement you've made about the validity of a great European tradition — one of coming together in the marketplace, buying and selling, talking, getting to know one another and restoring old friendships, making new friends and working together."



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Spc. Eric J. Lange, Company C, 16th Engineer Battalion, uses a mine detector as a Panther sits in a field near the Arizona Free Market.

# Eye in the Sky



Staff Sgt. Dennis L. Royster, 31, from Oxford, N.C., and Cpl. Ricardo Maldonado, 22, from Lubbock, Texas, both external pilots with VMU-1, take a plane through a low-altitude pass during a recent mission.

## Marines keep watch through Pion

By Cpl. JEFF HAWK  
USMC

BOYINGTON AIRFIELD, Bosnia-Herzegovina — As the world watches the events leading up to this country's historic elections, a Marine unit here is providing Task Force Eagle with another means of monitoring the peace.

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron One (VMU-1) from Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., is providing real-time video imagery to Task Force Eagle commanders for reconnaissance and surveillance.

Maj. John M. Pioli, 34, the unit's executive officer from Pensacola, Fla., said

the unmanned aircraft provide "another asset, another way of ensuring that the Dayton Peace Accord agreement is being followed."

The 450-pound, 17-by-14-foot aircraft are equipped with a zoom-capable camera affixed to a ball-mount which allows the plane to "see" 360-degrees around and almost straight down.

It's a bird's-eye view that 27-year-old Sgt. Matthew Trani, an external pilot from Sacramento, Calif., said gives a jump start on some of the situations that arise. "We're not the first eyeballs on the situation a lot of the time," said Trani. "But information gets passed down to us, we get the plane out to see what's going on and if something does

evolve, we're there firsthand to find out if it is going to get worse or better."

The squadron's nearly 200 Marines are operating from an airfield they affectionately named after Pappy Boyington, the famous World War II Marine fighter ace. They use the 850-foot airstrip to land the vehicle but launch it using one of two options — a pneumatic launcher truck or a rocket-assisted takeoff.

While working long hours to conduct missions, Marines are also pulling guard duty, filling sandbags, and reinforcing guard towers and perimeters to ensure the security of their airfield.

Cpl. Gregory Grow, 23, an external pilot from Bakersfield, Calif., said he thinks all the hard work is worth it.



Photos by Cpl. Jeff Hawk

1) Cpl. Gregory Gerow and Staff Sgt. Dennis Royster look skyward as they pilot an unmanned aircraft at Boyington Airfield. 2) Lance Cpl. Kevin Meyer works on the engine of a Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle.



# neer eyes

“Seeing all the destruction and devastation and seeing a child’s face when you drive into town — seeing them smiling and waving— makes it satisfying and rewarding.”

Although many Marine squadrons have flown in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR from Italy, and special operations capable Marine Expeditionary Units have supported them from the Adriatic Sea, VMU-1 is the first full Marine Corps unit to operate from a base in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Marines from Marine Corps Air Station El Toro and Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., augmented the unit in support of its mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

A rocket thrusts a Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle into the sky during a recent VMU-1 mission at Boyington Airfield.

# Medical team works in zone of separation

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING  
100th MPAD

SAPNA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In a tiny room packed with the extremely old and very young, a barefooted girl in a frayed white dress crouches on the floor next to her mother's feet.

Her big blue eyes fill with tears as she watches her little brother squirm and cry while their mother holds his hands to prevent him from scratching the lesions on his face.

Men dressed in camouflaged uniforms speaking in a foreign tongue weave in and out of the crowd. The tiny blonde girl becomes uneasy as one approaches.

She scurries to her feet and clutches her mother's arm. The man, who must look like a giant to her, kneels down and holds out a few pieces of candy for her and her brother — the ice is broken.

The good old days of doctors making house calls seem to be long gone. However, the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital is reintroducing this fading tradition in Sapna, an isolated village in the zone of separation.

"Originally we were seeing civilians at the MASH at Camp Bedrock as they came to the gate.

"However, our military mission always takes precedence and unless it's an emergency of life, limb or eyesight, we have stopped seeing the locals on a walk-in basis," said Sgt. Joseph J. Day, a licensed practical nurse attached to the 212th MASH.

The MASH may have closed its doors to walk-ins, but it has not turned its back on people in need.

A U.S. Army team consisting of a doctor, four nurses and a medic drove to this isolated town in the zone of separation to work at a temporary health clinic.



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

**Sgt. Joseph J. Day, a licensed practical nurse attached to the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, breaks the ice with patients waiting in the Sapna health clinic.**

Lt. Col. Virgil J. Patterson, civil affairs officer for the 30th Medical Brigade, is the military link behind the humanitarian assistance program.

"Ideally we will be here once a week, but how often this event will happen depends on the contingency missions that we face at the MASH. Our first priority is to provide medical care to the multinational forces of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR," Patterson said.

Because American forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been so healthy, many medical personnel have not had the opportunity to practice their skills.

"That's how this mission evolved. We began looking at ways we could mutually help the local national government in provid-

ing medical care and at the same time increase the medical proficiency of our soldiers," Patterson said.

The World Health Organization donated medical supplies to support the mission.

With the lapse of medical service over the past four years, medical care in Sapna has focused on trauma. Many secondary problems have been essentially ignored.

Maj. Thomas H. Chapman Jr., assistant chief nurse of the 212th MASH, ran the triage at the clinic.

"I think we did some real good here today. The language barrier hasn't been a problem at all.

"You know when someone likes what you're doing, and are appreciative — you can see it in their eyes.

"When a child wants to hold your hand or a patient pats you on the knee, nods and smiles, you realize that they know you have taken care of them.

That's when it's obvious you're communicating with someone, even though you don't speak the same language."



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

**Sgt. Joseph J. Day, a licensed practical nurse attached to the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, examines a Bosnian boy suffering from chicken pox.**

# U.S. joins NordPol patrols in Republika Srpska

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER  
100th MPAD

Swedish, Danish, Polish and American armor vehicles conducted joint patrols in and around Doboj, Republika Srpska this week to demonstrate IFOR unity and presence.

Tanks and infantry fighting vehicles rolled through villages and city streets in a show of force less than two weeks before Bosnia-Herzegovina's national elections.

"They patrolled for about four hours each day," said Sgt. Maj. Benoit Roosen, a Belgian with the Coalition Press Information Corps in Tuzla. "They moved pretty fast and covered a lot of ground."

The patrols were a precursor to the types of missions IFOR will conduct Sept. 14.

**On election day IFOR will:**

Provide military security.

Patrol, observe and respond to threats that require major force.

Monitor major highways, inter-sections and bridges.

Help deliver ballots and transport them to counting houses.

**IFOR will not:**

Post at individual polling places.

Escort voters.

Engage in crowd control.



Photos by Sgt. Maj. Benoit Roosen

# Quartermasters know how to move

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS  
350th MPAD

Customers of the 26th Quartermaster Supply Support Activity at Camp Dallas were surprised recently to find empty rooms where desks, computers and supplies used to be.

But not to worry, the quartermasters had merely moved to Camp Angela as part of Task Force Eagle's reshaping of forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was back to "business as usual" the following week for the quartermaster soldiers.

The quartermaster unit from Hanau, Germany, offers soldiers of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR everything from stick-on note pads to HMMWVs. Serving more than 280 units, the quartermasters offer "one-stop shopping" to their customers.

"We provide soldiers with battle dress uniforms, motor oil and brake fluid, building supplies and even vehicles and weapons," Chief Warrant Officer Carl G. Singleton, supply technician said. "Instead of going to several different places for each class of item they need, our customers can come here and get everything they want."

Unit supply officers set up an account with the 26th and request items using DA Form 2765-1. The quartermaster unit then issues the items from stock or orders from depots in Europe and the United States. They can also direct exchange equipment and uniforms.

"On a normal morning we have a line of 15 to 20 customers," Singleton said. "Sometimes it's overwhelming, but it gives us a great feeling of accomplishment to support the soldiers."

Spc. Marla A. Willis of Ann Arbor, Mich. works in the issuing tent where bulk items are stored. When orders are delivered to her tent, Willis separates and marks the items, stockpiling them in designated areas.

"I've been driving a forklift for two years now and it's fun," said the 26-year-old soldier. "I like my job because I keep busy and meet a lot of people. I feel like I'm helping them out."



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

**Spc. Marla A. Willis, 26, of Ann Arbor, Mich. moves a pallet of items for a customer in the issuing tent of 26th Quartermaster Supply Support Activity at Camp Dallas.**

In addition to supply, the 26th Quartermaster serves soldiers in other capacities as well. Their petroleum platoon runs a fuel site at Camp Rumbaugh which distributes fuel to 5,000-gallon tankers. The water platoon at Camp Bedrock purifies water taken from area lakes and streams to be used at IFOR facilities. The 240th QM Water Platoon of Bamberg, Germany is attached to the 26th and works at Camp Angela.

"Our mission here has been tremendous and the soldiers have done an excellent job," Capt. Jennifer Chronis, outgoing commander of the 26th said. "They've done miraculous things."

"For example, our supply platoon alone has done five times the workload they're used to doing in Germany, in addition to guard duty every day. It's been a constant mission and the whole company has really worked hard."

Taking command Aug. 31, Capt. Joseph E. Gadea was on hand for the transition to the new facilities.

"I'm looking forward to commanding this company," the 31-year-old commander said. "It's a great unit with great soldiers and an outstanding mission. I feel blessed by God to be here, and I feel good about helping this country."

## Army fitness school explains real purpose of PT

By Sgt. DAVID STANLEY  
U.S. Army Physical Fitness School

Physical fitness levels drop rapidly when regular physical training stops. Changes in strength and endurance occur within two to four weeks of reduced physical activity. At a minimum, soldiers should conduct PT three days per week for a minimum of 60 minutes per session.

The purpose of PT is to enhance combat readiness. When the unit is in garrison, PT must take a high priority in the daily training schedule. Maintain a proper mix between cardiorespiratory, muscle strength and endurance and flexibility.

Some deconditioning will occur during extended operations. The primary purpose for PT during operations such as JOINT ENDEAVOR is to maintain fitness levels as much as security and available resources permit.

During deployment, physical training should be conducted in accordance with METT-T (Mission, Enemy, Troops, Terrain, Time). Curtail PT to maintain force protection.

Leaders should establish personal goals for self-improvement, both mental and physical, and encourage their subordinates to do the same.

Units often find themselves in less than desirable physical condition after a de-

ployment. Because unit fitness levels normally drop during deployment, it is impossible to resume a PT program at pre-deployment intensity. Fitness trainers must incorporate:

- 1) The "hard day / easy day" principle
- 2) Low-intensity circuits
- 3) Road marching
- 4) Recovery periods

It is each soldier's responsibility and duty to ensure proper fitness levels are maintained.

For answers to fitness questions, soldiers can contact the U.S. Army Physical Fitness School at DSN 835-6380, COM (706)545-6380, or e-mail JAMESE@BENNING-EMH1.ARMY.MIL.

## ■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

# Former GI makes things happen at McGovern

By Master Sgt. KATHY D. WRIGHT  
350th MPAD

Even in the 24 years Dave Annis wore an Army uniform, he never raised his hand to salute as many times as he does now.

But now the retired sergeant major is on the receiving end as both soldiers and local national workers honor him with the military gesture as he tours 1st Brigade's McGovern Base. The popular Brown and Root base manager has made a personal goal of improving the quality of life for all who visit, live or work at the site.

Responsible for all non-mission areas on base, including construction, latrines, snow removal, laundry, the dining facility and plumbing, Annis and his staff of 71 keep hopping.

"Our purpose in being here is to let the soldiers do their jobs and not worry about anything else. It's certainly not an easy task, especially with all the coordination that has to be done, but I love it," the Wetumpka, Ala. native said. "It never gets boring and

every day brings a new challenge."

Annis has handled his fair share of challenges. Since leaving the military in 1979, he's traveled to Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Haiti filling crucial positions. But the father of four grown children doesn't mind living on the edge.

"When I got here in February, this place had gone through two different managers in two weeks. I think the problem was they weren't able to imagine or conceive a plan on how this place could take shape. To succeed in this job you definitely have to have vision."

Actually it took a great deal more than that to transform the bombed-out cooperative farming complex into one of 1st Armor Division's choice spots in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"One of the benefits I have is that I'm well familiar with how the Army operates, and I have a good understanding of what's generally required. Being a contractor, I do have some limitations on what I can do though," Annis said. "But I try to never to say, 'no,' when asked to do something. In-

stead I'll suggest some other way they can get it done."

That kind of attitude has impressed both soldiers and VIPs at McGovern.

"I care about these soldiers; I can relate to them. Maybe that's why it's easy to have a little more patience under these circumstances," Annis said. "I know it's not easy being away from home."

He knows very well how much understanding it takes on the part of a servicemember's family. Annis made 28 moves during his military career. The decision to make this last one in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR came easy.

"I kept hearing about Bosnia and I wanted to see what it was like on the other side," he said. "I wanted to be a part of what was going on. It's my intention to remain here until the whole thing folds up. I plan on staying until the end."

No matter when the end comes, those who pass through the front gates of McGovern Base, will appreciate firsthand the hard work and efforts orchestrated by Dave Annis and his team.

## 7,000 miles later, chaplain still loves Bosnia-Herzegovina

By Sgt. 1st Class  
BRIAN L. KAPPMAYER  
350th MPAD

CAMP LISA — An argument 28 years ago with a fellow University of Alabama student helped shape the career of Chap. (Capt.) Gareth V. Aldridge.

Aldridge's disagreement with a classmate started when he defended the Vietnam War as just. A woman told Aldridge, "If you believe in it so much, why don't you join the Army?" He did, and has loved the military ever since.

"Ending

the draft is probably the smartest thing we've done," Aldridge, from Orange Beach, Ala., said.

"What we are getting in the military today are winners, and I like working with winners. Everybody here has an Olympic attitude," he said. "We are champions. I have a Bronze Star and my greatest fear on earth is being a civilian."

That attitude isn't surprising since Aldridge comes from a long list of family members in the military. His father is a retired naval officer. At the University of Alabama, his daughter, Catherine

Anne, is an Army ROTC cadet and his son, Gareth III, is a cadet in Air Force ROTC. There has been someone from his family in the military since Valley Forge, he said.

Aldridge arrived in Bosnia in late January to minister to soldiers of 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery. He supports soldiers from seven artillery battery sites and estimates putting 6,000 to 7,000 miles on his HMMWV visiting troops.

He spends most of his time in the field. "I'm kinda the CathaLuthaMethaBaptaTerian out here," Aldridge said of his multi-denominational duties.

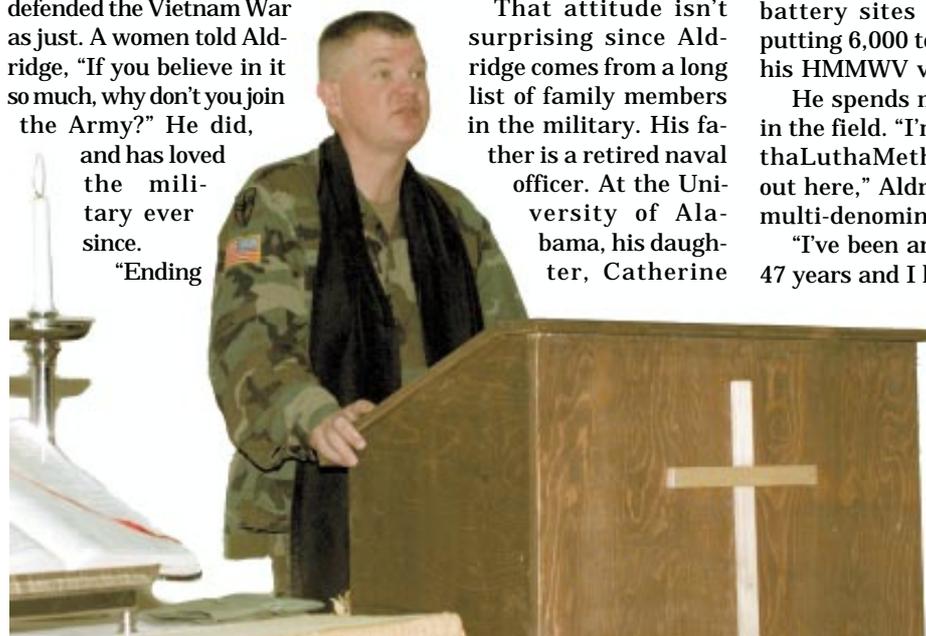
"I've been around for nearly 47 years and I have made most mistakes a man can make," he said. "For some odd reason, soldiers seem to like me, and it brings joy to their hearts to see me around, and we talk about things that

are bothering them. I'm essentially a friend to anyone who needs someone to talk to."

For a long time Aldridge fought the idea of becoming a pastor. "I had a great future in the Navy. But, as I came to understand, when God gives you an order, the best thing to do is give a salute — a cheery 'Aye — Aye Sir' — and do what you are told. It was such an overwhelming feeling this is the way it had to be; that I resigned my commission," Aldridge said. "It was my prayer and hope that eventually I would get back into the military.

"I didn't feel complete as a civilian pastor. But here as an Army chaplain, I feel God's pleasure and a feeling of completeness," said the veteran of conflicts in Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Saudi Arabia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. "I've had enough adventures to last five lifetimes and I'm not even half done yet."

Aldridge phones his wife, Georgianne, once a week and writes her almost every day. The couple celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sept. 2. After his tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aldridge expects to report to Fort Benning, Ga.



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Kappmeyer

Chap. (Capt.) Gareth V. Aldridge ministers to soldiers at Camp Lisa during his final service in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## OSCE from page 1

stations throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"They have the authority to make changes in the process and give instructions to Bosnian election officials," said Israel. "They will actively make sure that this process is working correctly."

Israel said the term election supervisor comes from language used in the Dayton Peace Agreement, which states OSCE shall supervise the conduct of the elections.

"We are here to support the OSCE in the processing orientation of the election supervisors and to prepare them for success," Casey said. "If you would have noticed the expressions on the faces of the supervisors attending the mine awareness class, it made them realize that it's a pretty unsafe environment. We need to make sure they are ready for what they are here to do."

The unexploded ordnance class was led by Staff Sgt. Charles C. Lee, 28, of the 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment. Lee said the various bombs, grenades and rockets could go off at the slightest touch and explained how to avoid them. Lee also stressed the importance of recognizing suspicious bags and luggage.

The mine awareness class, taught by Sgt. John W. Bryant, displayed different mines on a table for the supervisors to see. Bryant showed the mine fields on maps, to give the supervisors an idea of how concentrated the minefields are in the Bosnian countryside.

Bryant said, "In this area there are so many mines, and the ones going off are the



Cpl. Rob Glenn

**Staff Sgt. Charles C. Lee, 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, explains the dangers of unexploded ordnance and land mines to a group of OSCE election supervisors.**

ones that have been sitting for a long time."

Bryant said that the supervisors need to know what they're looking at and what they could be driving through.

"It's not a playground," Bryant said. "They are not back home. This is a very dangerous place."

Communication instruction was an introduction to basic radio response and language. Procedures were explained about how to contact medevac sites and what to do in an emergency.

Communications instructor 2nd Lt. Matthew T. Reiten, 27, 141st Signal Battalion said the supervisors will use handheld, two-way radios during the election

mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Capt. Michael Davoren, Eagle Base officer in charge of the training, instructed the supervisors on first aid, how to call for a medical evacuation and the threat of tainted water and food.

"I hope the supervisors will never be in a situation where they have to use these basic skills. Prevention is the key," Davoren said.

Election supervisor Tina Heino, 30, from Gothenburg, Sweden said she has a mission to complete here.

"I am committed to fulfilling my mission," Heino said. "With the additional training I have received today, I think it will help me to be successful."

## PERRY from page 1

four years now is very difficult," Perry said. "We expect our forces are going to be faced with difficult situations."

IFOR's involvement with the elections will unfold on a week-to-week basis, according to the defense secretary.

The overall responsibility is to maintain freedom of movement and provide a secure environment, Perry said.

"That requirement alone is going to have them in-

involved in an intimate way with the success of the elections," he said.

"Even though a task is not spelled out as related to the election, the task of providing a secure environment will be indirectly related to the election. It will become harder to execute as you get closer to the elections."

According to British Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Walker, commander of NATO land forces in Bosnia, conducting elections in Bosnia will take the combined efforts of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the

Implementation Force.

The international organizations will help ensure people are allowed to go back to where they wish to vote, Walker said.

In addition to providing a secure environment, IFOR troops may help deliver ballot boxes, voting lists and other documents to about 4,000 polling stations, he said.

What happens during the weeks prior to the elections will affect NATO's future role in Bosnia, Perry said.

NATO ministers are scheduled to meet the third week in September to discuss a number of complex

issues, including NATO's command structure, NATO expansion and what happens to IFOR after Dec. 20.

"The specific question we'll be discussing is, should NATO take additional security responsibilities in Bosnia after the IFOR mission concludes," Perry said.

"How that discussion goes will be influenced to a great extent by what happens between now and the time of that meeting, particularly between now and the elections."

Bosnia-Herzegovina national elections are scheduled for Sept. 14.