

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

Arty troops first back from box

By Sgt. LYNFORD A. MORTON
201st MPAD

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Staff Sgt. Scott M. Kotelnicki experienced a moment of panic when he instinctively reached for his weapon and found it missing. Then he remembered why it was gone. He was back in Baumholder.

Kotelnicki and 60 Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Division Artillery soldiers arrived home Oct. 16 from a nine-month deployment in Bosnia-Herzegovina supporting Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The battery earned the distinction of being the first 1st Armored Division unit redeploying from the Bosnian peace enforcement mission, said Capt. Jon C. Davis, Divarty Rear Detachment commander. "The other units that came back were part of the reshaping of forces when we exchanged heavy artillery for lighter units," he said.

Now the adjustment begins for HHB soldiers who must trade in life in a tactical environment for one in a more relaxed atmosphere. "In the box," as the former Yugoslavia is known to troops supporting the peacekeeping mission, M-16s, helmets, protective masks, flak jackets and "web gear" were a part of the daily uniform. And soldiers never ventured out without less than four vehicles.

"I just got back and I already had my first thought of a missing weapon," Kotelnicki said as he shook his head

See *REUNION*, page 12



Capt. Terry L. Conder

Spc. James Keough of the 258th Military Police Company, 519th MP Battalion, settles in behind a MK-19 grenade launcher before going out on patrol.

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IFOR chief makes final visit

EAGLE BASE — Admiral T. Joseph Lopez made his final visit as IFOR commander to Task Force Eagle Headquarters at Tuzla Air Base recently and said he was satisfied with the progress he has seen in Bosnia-Herzegovina over the past year.

"People in this country walk around with their heads high now," Lopez said. "That's because of the marvelous job our forces have done here."

Lopez said he hoped what's been accomplished in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not minimized or forgotten. "Progress is not manifested in sound bites," he said.

Citing specific examples, Lopez pointed out there are many signs that people in Bosnia-Herzegovina have faith in a peaceful future. "Car dealer-

See *LOPEZ*, page 12

■ FROM THE TOP

Transition should not replace safety concerns

This is my final column for *The Talon*. As we head back toward Central Region I would, first and foremost, like to take the opportunity to thank all the Iron Soldiers who served with honor and dignity for Task Force Eagle. Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR has been a success because of the professionalism you have exhibited during this deployment.

I want each and every one of you to realize that you have played a significant role in



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

helping to ensure peace in what was once a nation paralyzed by the ravages of war.

Ethnic animosity has run deep in this part of the world for hundreds of years. In 1992, this hatred bubbled to the surface and let loose some very brutal and savage killing.

However, since late 1995 when the Dayton Peace Accord was signed and Task Force Eagle troops began arriving, the fighting has stopped.

For the first time in many seasons, farmers are able to harvest their crops and parents feel safe enough to let their children out of their homes to play.

Iron Soldiers, your sacrifice has not been in vain. The holding of national democratic elections (an event that seemed hardly imag-

inable just one year ago) and the peaceful day-to-day life of the country is testimony to your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to duty.

However, our work is not yet done. I expect noncommissioned officers to start compiling their information now for after-action reports.

After this historic deployment, it is our goal to compile a complete and thorough record of lessons learned.

Senior leaders should concentrate on documenting the redeployment process and be ready with suggestions on how the 1st Armored Division can become stronger and more efficient in the future.

Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

■ VIEWPOINT

Rebuilding dreams business as usual for troops

The faint whup-whup whisper of Kiowa Warrior helicopters could be heard as we trudged through boot-high mud and slicing rain.

We could see them now, hovering above the tortured skyline of metal-shards and concrete slabs of the village of Brod.

Nothing seemed to move through the war-torn village except us and the rain. All nine of us were dogged, yet bright-eyed with coffee and adrenaline.

It was business as usual for the other eight guys, all infantrymen with 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry out of McGovern Base.

Accompanying the infantry patrol were two French TV journalists.

I was the ninth member of the patrol and as much an outsider as the French, with two cameras dangling from my body, a camera bag, and a tape recorder in hand. Not to mention a helmet, protective mask, M16A2 rifle, flak vest and ammunition.



**Cpl.
Rob Glenn**
367th MPAD

gunner weighted down with the 17-pound SAW machine gun.

Our mission was to meet up with a Bosnian Serb police squad and patrol the village of Brod together as a firm, reassuring presence to people moving back to their destroyed homes.

I asked myself, who would want to move back to this desolate place? It wasn't a place to live anymore. It seemed more like a place to die.

The forbidding environment didn't stop several Bosnian men we saw from rebuilding their home in the zone of separation. Slicing through wood on make-

shift saw horses, they watched us with eyes that had seen other soldiers in worse times.

Being resourceful in Bosnia is an art form. Both foreign soldiers and natives of Bosnia make just about any place home. That's probably one of the few things that we have in common. Some of us soldiers live in tents and some in crusty buildings with plywood walls, but we all are just glad for a place to rest our heads.

And that seems to be what these displaced people want. There are thousands of refugees in this country just hoping for a place to rest their heads. IFOR has given these people a chance to reclaim their dreams as well as their homes.

Our patrol stopped and waited for the Serbian police. We knelt to the ground as the squad leader radioed our position.

I used the respite to interview the soldiers then. The squad gunner, from West Virginia, told me his feelings about being here.

"There are times when you ask yourself why," he said. "Especially when you're in a minefield or down in the mud. But we're doing some good here."

A sergeant with a family back in Germany said, "Knowing that kids are able to go to school now, instead of staying home so they don't get shot, makes me feel good about being here, even though it is hard on us."

The Serbian police patrol never showed. We marched on.

We slopped down the steep road where we passed an old man smoking a cigarette while leaning on a jagged wooden post.

He waved to us with his free hand and smiled. Some of us smiled back. Some didn't.

That day, the nine of us weren't sifting through rubble to find dreams, we were sloshing through mud and rain helping them do that. Sometimes, they find their dreams. Sometimes, they don't. Sometimes, all we can do is just march on.

THE TALON

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Mines lurk on Eagle Base

By Spc. AARON REED
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — The Task Force Eagle Mine Action Center reports that there are 4,471 known mine belts in the Task Force Eagle area of responsibility. With as many as 30 minefields in each mine belt, some 10,000 minefields with antitank and antipersonnel mines lay in wait for the careless, unobservant and unlucky.

Soldiers accustomed to taking extra care while driving through the heavily-mined zone of separation should also take care when they return home to their base camps, a Mine Action Center officer said last week.

As recently as last October, United Nations Protection Force soldiers who made Tuzla Main their home during the war estimated there were more than 2,000 land mines here.

"Soldiers need to treat Eagle Base like any other place in Bosnia; stay on the hardtop," said Maj. Mark A. Thompson, officer in charge of the Task Force Eagle Mine Action Center.

Thompson, a native of New York, said mines aren't the only nasty surprises awaiting soldiers who leave hardtop paths and roads. While under the control of the Yugoslavian National Army, Eagle Base was home to a variety of munitions. When the JNA left, unexploded ordnance was scattered across the base.

"Just a couple of weeks ago, a civilian contractor was mowing the grass right in front of the (1st Armored Division) HHC building," said Thompson. "He hit a 40 millimeter round with the lawnmower. Luckily it didn't explode."

Air Force Master Sgt. Robert C. Hodges agreed that unexploded ordnance is a hazard on Eagle Base. Hodges, flight superintendent of the 4100th Group (EOD), said that while members of his explosive ordnance disposal team have cleared 20 mines on Eagle Base since the beginning of the operation, they have disposed of many more munitions of other types.

"There are known minefields and known mine areas on Tuzla Main," Hodges said. "And lots and lots of other pieces of unexploded ordnance." Hodges said unexploded ordnance is commonly found around some of the most heavily traveled areas of the base — the dining facility

and the post exchange.

Most of the mine warning signs that marked uncleared areas at the beginning of the operation have been taken by soldiers as souvenirs, now an article 15 offense.

Hodges said that wire or engineer tape still mark most unsafe areas. But he added that soldiers shouldn't count on markers to warn them of potential danger.

"Just follow your IFOR training," he said. "Stay alert. If you see something you didn't drop, don't pick it up."

Hodges said if a soldier sees something suspicious, he should remember the acronym MEND. "M — Mark the object with whatever you have available, or post another soldier to keep people away; E — Evacuate troops in the area to at least 100 meters away from the object; N — Notify your chain of command, who will contact EOD to dispose of the object; D — Direct EOD personnel to the object," he said.

No one has been injured or killed by a mine or UXO yet, but Hodges said stories of near-misses are common. "One guy, when he first deployed down here, saw what appeared to be a mine. He looked at it, decided it was empty, and moved it." Hodges said the soldier was

fortunate the mine didn't explode.

"Not only did he run the risk of seriously hurting himself," he said, "but once he moved the mine, we couldn't tell exactly where it had been emplaced. That's something we always need to know."

Hodges said he expects his team will be busier than ever during the transition from 1st Armored Division to the 1st Infantry Division covering force.

"We're going to get more reports for two reasons," Hodges said. "First, people are going to be moving vehicles and structures that have been in place for a long time; it's possible someone has been parked on top of a mine for the last 10 or 11 months. Second, 1st ID is bringing a new set of eyes with them."

Both Hodges and Thompson said troops, no matter how long they've been at Eagle Base, shouldn't take for granted that any area is safe. "Don't take shortcuts through the woods or around fences," Thompson said. "Paved areas are the safest places to walk."



Spc. Aaron Reed

PMA-3 anti-personnel mines like these still pose a threat at Eagle Base.

NEWS BRIEFS

1st AD website

The 1st Armored Division is on line. Read *The Talon* without having to download. Find maps, news releases, biographies and facts about 1AD at <http://www.tfeagle.1ad.army.mil>

New finance battalion

The 8th Finance Battalion (FWD) will redeploy to Central Region, Nov. 9. The 106th Finance Battalion (-) TF 106, headquartered in Wuerzburg, Germany, has arrived and assumed the mission Nov. 5.

The finance unit will be located at Tuzla Main. Points of contact are Maj. Yocum, Master Sgt. Prater and 1st Lt. Leonard at MSE 558-5623 or 551-7308.

Army offers soldiers ultimate scholarship

WEST POINT — Lt. Gen. Daniel W. Christman, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, recently issued a call for applicants to the prestigious, four-year service academy.

Each year, approximately 200 active component Army soldiers are offered admission to West Point or to the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School.

Interested soldiers must be U.S. citizens; unmarried, with no legal obligation to support dependents; less than 23 years or age prior to July 1 of the year entering USMA; of high morale character and have a sincere interest in becoming an Army officer.

Those interested in applying may contact Capt. Jim Brandon, soldier admissions officer, at:

DSN 688-5780

Commercial (914) 938-5780

E-mail

tj1632@westpoint-emh2.army.mil

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	64/38	High
Sat	59/40	Low
Sun	59/39	High
Mon	60/41	Moderate
Tue	58/42	Low
Wed	57/43	Low
Thur	60/42	Moderate

Provided Nov. 6 by Internet Access Weather

■ COVERING FORCE

Cav support troops make moving easy

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

"You call - we haul."

It's a slogan that has gotten 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry's support platoon through more than 10 months of this deployment.

Even as cavalry troops pack up and close down their camps, this platoon stays on the job, transporting anything and everything for the squadron.

Beginning December 1995 with daily runs from Zupanja, Croatia, down to Lodgment Area Burke, the platoon has been on the job seven days a week.

They moved down to Lodgment Area Sneed, 1-1 Cav. headquarters, in January.

"The unit has driven more than 300,000 miles and delivered 500,000 gallons of JP8 fuel, in addition to hauling millions of pounds of cargo to the squadron's troops," said Sgt. 1st Class Joel C. Rogerson, platoon sergeant.

To accomplish this, the platoon uses 24 heavy expanded, multipurpose wheeled vehicles — 12 for the fuel mission and 12 for cargo — plus five-ton trucks and high mobility multi-wheeled vehicles.

"We call ourselves the 'Blackhawk Express' and whatever's needed, we haul it," Rogerson said. "We move everything the troops want out here — food, mail, ammo, everything."

The squadron's lodgment areas are closing, but the support platoon still has a mission. The past weeks have seen the platoon carry dozens of truckloads of mangled, no-longer-usable, Hesco bastions to dumps, while sandbags and concertina wire go to still-existing base camps.

Arriving at another camp for the day's work, the soldiers pile out of their HEMTTs and within minutes are hard at it loading



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Support platoon members Sgt. Donald Fisher, left, and Pvt. Paulo DeSousa get a roll of concertina wire ready to be loaded as Lodgment Area Burke shuts down.

equipment or debris as if they had practiced this drill for months.

"The thing I've been most impressed about with these guys is that they are dedicated to the work," Rogerson said.

"If something needed to get done, it got done. They've kept a good attitude," he said.

Everyone in the platoon except for Rogerson and his petroleum, oils, and lubricants sergeant are either tank or Bradley crew members and for them, the whole experience has been an eye-opener.

"I've spent nine-and-a-half years as a 19K

(M1A1 Abrams crew member) and have never been in support," said Staff Sgt. Charlie Higgins, 1st Squad leader.

"I used to complain 'the ammo's late,' or 'where are those guys,' but I know a different story now," he said.

"I think it's been a valuable lesson in teamwork," Rogerson said. "Everyone had to depend on everyone else to get the job done."

"It's shown these guys the value of support," he said. "You can't really do anything without it. It takes more than just jumping in a vehicle and going."

11th Aviation Brigade lands at Commanche

By Sgt. ANDREW AQUINO
350th MPAD

The sound of choppers whipping the air over the Tuzla valley droned on as 11th Aviation Brigade aircraft announced their arrival to Commanche Base last week.

Headed by Col. Robbin C. Walker, the 11th's role is to

fall in on the outgoing 4th Aviation Brigade's mission. It will be called Task Force 11.

Task Force 11 adjutant, Capt. Scott R. Allen, said the nearly 50 aircraft arriving in theater will not create much change in the daily operations of the U.S. peace enforcement mission.

"We hope to continue

building on the successes that the 4th Brigade has had over the past 10 months," he said.

Air Fire Support Officer Capt. Richard V. Sheridan agreed that the incoming soldiers are excited about their new mission.

"I think it's a real honor to come down here," he said.

Sheridan acts as liaison between radar and Howitzers in support of Task Force 11.

"We all feel great about being a part of history," Allen said.

"We feel good about bringing peace to the Balkans and improving the way of life for the people who live here."

Raiders haven't lost art of shooting

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM
350th MPAD

McGOVERN BASE — Company A "Raiders" went to Hungary recently, knowing they were supposed to be going home, but in fact would have to return to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Disappointed about not going home as originally scheduled, the soldiers nevertheless shot better than any unit in 1st Brigade this year.

Taking the attitude that professional soldiers rise above adversity and disappointment to accomplish their mission, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, demonstrated true professionalism.

In early October, Co. A was scheduled to go through M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle gunnery firing at Taborfalva, Hungary, as part of its redeployment to Kirch-Goens, Germany. Three days before the soldiers were to depart, with nearly all their equipment and personal items packed up and ready to go, the roof fell in on them as their orders to redeploy were revoked.

The new plan called for 3-5 Cav stay until after municipal elections to provide a reassuring presence around Brcko. Ironically, three weeks after the redeployment orders were revoked, the elections were postponed.

"That was a tough thing for the guys to deal with," said

Capt. Kevin M. McAllister, Co. A commander. "I was proud about how they reacted to that. Instead of hanging their heads, they went out and executed the mission to the highest standard. They don't feel sorry for themselves."

After the gunnery firing, the entire company went to Budapest on pass for three days and 29 wives convoyed from Germany to see their husbands.

"There's a reason Task Force 3-5 is still here," said McAllister, 28. "We've done the job better than anyone else could; that's why we'll be here longer."

Sgt. Harold W. Cady, is Co. A's master gunner. He said all 14 Bradley crews qualified, with two crews rated "distinguished." To qualify as "distinguished," a crew must successfully engage nine of 10 targets, including night targets.

Cady, from LaCrosse, Wis., was the gunner on one of the distinguished crews.

McAllister was the Bradley commander and the driver was Spc.

William T. Walker.

"Even

if we couldn't go home, it was good for everyone to get away for a few days," said Cady, 27. "Ten days after finding out we weren't going home, we went to gunnery. It was a lot more challenging than any range we've been on."

The other distinguished Bradley crew included Staff Sgt. Volda A. O'Connor, commander; Sgt. Ralph J. Neville, gunner; and Spc. Jack D. West, driver.

"They did very well and everyone worked together," said O'Connor, 27. "Despite the letdown of not being redeployed, everyone gave 100 percent."

O'Connor, from Phoenix, said gunnery training was given whenever possible between missions, but his Bradley crew was not put together until three weeks before they fired.

He said he drilled his crew for eight hours a day to prepare for the live fire exercise.

"I told them before we went we would shoot the best," O'Connor said.

"Revoking our orders was just another challenge to these guys," McAllister said. "It seems when things get rougher for them, they get better. They step up to the challenge.

"As a company commander, you couldn't ask for more than to command the guys I have."



Sgt. Tim Pinkham



Hercules lands milestone

USAFENS

A milestone was passed Oct. 21 when the 2,000th U.S. C-130 Hercules landed at Tuzla Air Base. An aircrew from the 39th Airlift Squadron, 7th Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, flew the mission that touched down at 10:28 a.m. Approximately 10 minutes later, the 2,001st mission landed.

The first U.S. C-130, from Ramstein AB's 86th Airlift Wing, landed at Tuzla in December 1995. The 1,000th landed April 27.

U.S. C-130 flights represent about 53 percent of the air traffic into Tuzla. The next closest U.S. aircraft is the C-17 with 263 landings.

NATO C-130 Hercules and C-160 Transalls, flown by the German and Swedish air forces, have logged 288 missions.





Tech. Sgt. Michael T. Land



Tech. Sgt. Michael T. Land

The 2000th C-130 (left) lands on the Tuzla air strip. Hercules like the MC-130 (above) represent about 53 percent of the air traffic into Tuzla Air Base.

■ COVERING FORCE

Redlegs move in with attitude

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

CAMP ALICIA — Another unit with the 1st Infantry Division rolled into Bosnia-Herzegovina Oct. 29, bringing with them an attitude indicative of the mission they are expected to carry out.

The mission of 1st Platoon, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery is a simple one.

"We are basically here to support any element of the Implementation Force that may need us to reach out and touch someone," said Staff Sgt. Levon McCorvey, 37, of Queens, N.Y.

Based in Schweinfurt, Germany, Btry. C is equipped with M-109 A2 155mm self-propelled Howitzers.

Battery C brought an assortment of artillery rounds in addition to traditional high explosive, or HE, rounds. The choice of which round to use is based on the type of mission.

For targets which would exceed the range of a normal artillery round, a rocket assisted projectile, or RAP round is used.

The Dual Purpose Improved Munitions, or DPICM round, showers targets.

"Inside each DPICM round are mines that explode in the air," Sgt. 1st

Class Toney K. Fullard, 37, of Gainesville, Fla. said.

Along with the assortment of artillery rounds, there are an assortment of charges to get the rounds downrange.

Fullard said the different charges depend on the type of target and the surrounding terrain.

"It's like shooting water out of a garden hose," Fullard said. "The more the end of the hose is squeezed, the faster the water will shoot out, giving the water more velocity."

Fullard said charges are the same way. Some charges give the round more velocity, to get the round downrange faster.

Fuller said all charges and rounds are coordinated through 1st Platoon's Fire Direction Center.

The FDC has a computer which computes target range, according to terrain, determining which charge to use for a particular mission.

As with any artillery battery, speed is one of the driving

factors behind Btry. C's success. "One of the things we strive to employ in artillery is the ability to shoot, move and communicate," Fuller said. "We have to have the capability to pull up to a position, shoot rounds, march order, and move as efficiently as we possibly can."

1st Sgt. Jacob Ballard, 40, of Sumter, S.C. said he has seen his platoon step up in its preparation for deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"These guys are the cream of the crop. The sergeants are stepping up, and the corporals

are taking control of situations," Ballard said.

He is proud to see everything coming together, and the platoon acting as a team.

"We have fulfilled the responsibilities of a mission that was given to us, and now we will see to it that it is carried out," Ballard said.

"We train for everything, but it takes intestinal fortitude to achieve some of the things that we couldn't anticipate."

"These guys are the cream of the crop. The sergeants are stepping up, and the corporals are taking control of situations."

— 1st Sgt. Jacob Ballard



Spc. Daniel Paschall

Veterinarian's mission: taking care of man, man's best friend

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Believe it or not, the same medical section responsible for keeping military police dogs healthy is also responsible for keeping soldiers healthy. The 72nd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) inspect food products to ensure that man stays as healthy as "man's best friend."

Capt. Robin K. King, 39, of Rhinebeck, N.Y., deputy commander of the forward element of the detachment, sees a full schedule for her staff.

"Our primary missions are to support the military police working dogs and perform food inspections in the theater," King said. "These two missions will keep us very busy."

Along with taking care of MP dogs, the detachment also treats dogs belonging to foreign services and organizations supporting IFOR.

"I screen patients and issues for problems that require the veterinarian's immediate attention," said veterinarian technician Spc. Thomas Lombardi, 21, of Phoenix. "I've kept busy because I'm the only vet technician in the forward area. I assist with exams, laboratory work and recordkeeping. I also visit the kennel to check on the dogs and talk to their handlers to make sure all is well. Handlers know their dogs better than anyone."

Keeping the dog force healthy is a continuous effort. The staff administers routine physicals, complete with blood and urine tests, preventive care against worms

and tick-borne diseases and flea baths.

"We've encountered a few diseases here that we don't normally find in the U.S.," King said. "It's been a challenge trying to diagnose them."

Injuries common to most of the dogs include cuts and sprains, especially to their feet. Rocks spread all around the base camps are very hard on their pads.

The detachment's other mission involves keeping soldiers healthy by inspecting field rations, fresh food at the dining facilities and the local commercial bakeries that supply the camps with bread and doughnuts.

MREs and T-rations are inspected when they approach expiration dates, or when other problems are suspected.

"Although the food is vacuum packed, it can suffer time and temperature abuse," King said. "If a unit encounters bad rations, they should notify us. We'll take a sampling to decide if certain individual components need replacing or perhaps entire meals."

Although most of the fresh foods such as fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy products come from Germany, it's important to check dining facilities' methods of storing these perishables.

"We inspect perishable foods more often, because they are more likely to cause food-borne diseases," King said.

"It's a public health issue. We make suggestions to the DFACs so they can improve their food preparation and storage methods, and therefore, improve the quality of the food. As long as there are soldiers here for this operation, we'll be here to inspect the food."

1st ID Mental Health Team visit camps

The 1st Infantry Division Mental Health Team (Forward) is now available to serve. The team, based at Guardian Base, will send two-person teams to visit camps within the Task Force area of operations. Appointments may be coordinated through commanders, chaplains, aid stations, or as a self-referral. The Team's MSE phone number is 556-4717 which will be covered during routine duty hours. In the event of an emergency, report to the nearest aid station or to your unit leaders. MSE numbers where the team can be reached in the event of an emergency are 553-2120/2121. These are numbers to the 299th Forward Support Battalion staff duty office who will notify a mental health provider.

Services offered by the Mental Health Team include individual and group counselling, unit surveys, command consultations, medical consultations to aid stations, chaplaincy consultations, crisis intervention and a variety of educational classes. Additional mental health resources are expected by the end of November. An announcement will be made of where these resources will be placed and how to access them.

Check pay statement

Pay's a little different down here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. When that leave and statement comes, check it out. Here's what to look for:

- Foreign duty pay -

E1/2: \$8.00	E5	\$16.00
E3: 9.00	E6	20.00
E4: 13.00	E7-9	22.50
- Hostile fire pay - \$150
- Family separation pay - \$75
- Per diem - \$105 (Soldiers will receive \$80 at the end of the month. The remaining \$25 will be paid when they file a final travel voucher.
- Combat Zone Tax Exclusion - All earnings for enlisted and warrant officers, and \$4254.90 of officer pay is exempt from federal income tax. Taxes will be withheld every pay period and reimbursed the following month. Soldiers are also eligible to participate in the Savings Deposit Plan that pays 10 percent annual interest.



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Swiss dog handler Cpl. Hans Loetscher (left) comforts his patrol dog, Kirro, as Spc. Thomas D. Lombardi checks vital signs.

Cowboy hones rodeo skills in Bosnia

By Master Sgt. KATHY D. WRIGHT
350th MPAD

As a kid, Staff Sgt. Arnold R. Burks dreamed of becoming a cowboy, but he never imagined he could employ his much-loved rodeo skills while being a soldier.

Since joining the Army 13 years ago, the infantryman has found a way to combine the two occupations no matter where he roams.

The Huntsville, Ark., native seemed destined to grow up with a rope in his hands and a horse under him; nearly all his male relatives have been connected with the business at one time or another.

"I've been riding calves and roping since I was six years old," said Burks, who is assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. "Even then I was competing in the Little Britches Rodeo. The possibility of getting hurt was something I didn't think much about. It was just fun."

By age eight, Burks had advanced to riding bareback horses and bulls but gave that up ten years later when he "finally got the brains to stop." About the same time, college was looking pretty good but his finances weren't.

The U.S. Army came along and made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

"As luck would have it, I ended up being assigned to the Old Guard in Washington, D.C.," Burks said. "That gave me a chance to ride horses as a member of the caisson platoon. When we weren't participating in funerals or parades, I was able to enter a couple of rodeos in the area."

His talents did not go unnoticed, and Burks was soon selected to become the platoon's horse trainer. It became his responsibility to break-in approximately 40 horses and riders. He quickly discovered he had his work cut out for him.

"I had to teach the horses to get used to a harness and a rider," the 32-year-old soldier said. "But even more difficult was training guys who had never ridden before. After about two weeks in the saddle, many of them would get a big head and think they could ride anything. It usually didn't take long for them to discover they weren't that good."

Even with all his experience, Burks has found himself in an embarrassing spot or two. One of the more memorable occurred during a funeral detail.

"I had a team of horses and a wagon standing by as they opened the chapel doors following the service. It was about that time the band started playing and all the commotion caused the horses to go wild and just take off," Burks said. "About 90 people took off running



Master Sgt. Kathy D. Wright

Staff Sgt. Arnold Burks keeps up his roping skills using a makeshift horse while at McGovern Base.

through the parking lot. Although it only took me about 15 seconds to get the team under control, I managed to do a lot of praying in that time."

Since 1994, Burks and his family have been stationed in Kirch-Goens, Germany.

Fortunately, he found his niche as a member — and as of last year, the president — of the European Rodeo Cowboy Association.

"We're a group of 500 Americans and Europeans who assist in organizing and arranging about 20 rodeos a year in Europe.

"The organization has been around 25 years and it not only provides us with a chance to compete, it offers others a

chance to see what a rodeo is all about."

Currently the ERCA's Champion Calf Roper, Champion Wild Horse Racer and runner-up in team roping titles, Burks is looking forward to finding new competition as he heads for Fort Hood, Texas in January. He'll also have to hone his skills since he's had little opportunity to do that since being deployed for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"I haven't had much time to practice with the types of missions we've had, and of course we're a little short on rodeo equipment and livestock around here," Burks said. "But I've managed. Besides, I can always find something to rope — even if it's just a tent stake."

Army soldier show looking for talent

Are there talented soldiers in your midst? Singers? Dancers? Lighting or sound technicians? Specialty acts (magician, instrumentalist, dancer)?

Is there someone who's wanted to audition for the United States Army Soldier Show and is just waiting for that chance? Well, it's here.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is an Army entertainment program housed at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The cast and crew report to a first sergeant and detachment commander under the

U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center, the agency responsible for the Army's morale, welfare and recreation programs worldwide.

Soldiers need to be fully deployable for shows overseas. This year, the cast spent a month in Europe where they performed for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR in Hungary and at installations in Germany.

Applicants must have a minimum of 120 days remaining on active duty after Oct. 24, 1997.

It is important for soldiers

to submit a complete package which must contain the following five items:

- Videocassette (1/2" VHS) showcasing performance ability, with emphasis on mastery of various musical styles, vocal range, movement, and any special talents.

- Name, rank, social security number, unit address, duty telephone, and separation date.

- Full length official photo

- "Intent to release" memorandum signed by unit commander for 179 days temporary duty beginning on or

about Apr. 4, 1997.

- Copies of personnel qualifications, DA Form 2A and 2-1.

Soldiers who aspire to be sound, light, and stage technicians must send a technical resume and a recommendation from a local MWR representative.

Applicants must send videotapes and application packages to:

U.S. Army Soldier Show
P.O. Box 439

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5217

The package must arrive before Dec. 15, 1996. Selectees will be notified by an official message in early 1997.

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Soldier runs circles around Eagle Base

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS
350th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — When Pfc. Jason C. Small of the 324th Military Police Detachment would finish his morning runs at basic training, he was the one who yelled, "More PT drill sergeant!" A member of his college track team, Small was just warming up at two miles.

Since coming to Tuzla in August, the 20-year-old computer systems administrator is keeping up his long-distance training by running in circles.

"I went nuts in basic training because they only let us run two miles every day," said Small. "I like to run about 10 to 12 miles every morning, and here at Tuzla, there are only about two miles of road. That's a lot of loops, so it gets a little boring."

Being bored was the reason the Franklin, Ind. native decided to join the military while his freshman year at Indiana State University, where he majors in computer science.

"I went to talk to the recruiter, and he told me about the GI Bill and all the opportunities available," Small said. "I had seen those commercials with people jumping out of helicopters and it looked exciting. I felt joining the Army would be a good experience."

In addition to maintaining a 3.3 grade point average, the ISU track and cross-country team member concentrates on his physical fitness.

"I have a commitment to my team to stay in shape and keep my mileage up while I'm deployed," he said.

Every morning he warms up with 150 push-ups and crunches.

"I'm a total fanatic when it comes to fit-

ness and running," Small said. "I plan to run until my knees can't take the pounding anymore. Then I'll take up bicycling."

Small feels his experience in Bosnia will

help both his future academic and military careers. "I want to earn a letter in track, and I feel I'll be more mature, faster and stronger when I get back," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class "Hak" Haskins, operations noncommissioned officer for the 324th MPs, believes Small will succeed in his goals.

"He's a good kid — a cut above the normal soldier," Haskins said. "He's very aware of his physical fitness. It takes a lot of self-discipline to come thousands of miles away from your track coach and still run every day."

Self-discipline and commitment are a big part of Small's success in academics, physical fitness, and military training; but he admits it takes more — a love for what you are doing.

"I think running is something you real-

ly have to enjoy before you can do it seriously, because it's much too painful to do if you don't love it," he said. "That goes for just about everything you do."



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Pfc. Jason C. Small, a member of the Indiana State track team, stays in shape by running 10-12 miles every morning.

REUNION

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and chuckled at the thought.

The adjustment will also be from an atmosphere where soldiers performed their unit wartime missions daily. "We provided logistics and maintenance support to division artillery commanders and staff," said Capt. William A. Geiger, headquarters battery commander. "We provided support to firing units doing artillery surveys."

Geiger said the battery's tasks included providing meteorological support such as flying balloons that relayed wind direction. "All the missions we did were the same ones we would do during war—the ones we trained for," he said.

Kotelnicki's portion of the mission included surveying the U.S. sector of the Bosnia-Herzegovina and verifying other surveys.

"We're the link between a gun battery and its survey crew," Kotelnicki said.

"We survey every 10 kilometers. If a battery is driving down the road and run into a conflict, they can stop at one of our survey points and get new information.

"The end part was for us to draw maps or sketches. If I hand my sketch to you, you should be able to follow it like a treasure map," Kotelnicki said.



Staff Sgt. Anna M. Prusaitis

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, prepare their vehicles for redeployment at the marshalling area in Slavonski Brod.

Kotelnicki stressed the need for accuracy when performing surveys. Being off by 10 meters, "could mean the difference between your target or the mosque next door," he said.

In addition to surveys, the unit pulled guard duty at Steel Castle, the base camp near Tuzla they called "home."

Force protection was an important part of every mission. "We had threats of everything and experienced nothing. We spent nine months down there preparing for action," Kotelnicki said. "We expected snipers around every corner and mines in every field."

The vigilant life-style continued for four months. "Eventually we saw crops growing, so we knew that most of the mines were gone," he said.

As the tour progressed, Kotelnicki said soldiers had the chance to meet people in the local community. "Either you make friends or you do nothing," he said. "I'll miss seeing some of the kids."

Now back in Germany, Kotelnicki faces yet another adjustment — getting reacquainted with his wife Maria and his children Daniel, 12, and Monika, 7.



Sgt. Gregory Binford

IFOR Commander Admiral T. Joseph Lopez speaks to the media in front of Task Force Eagle headquarters at Eagle Base.

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ships with plate glass windows have opened in the past year," he said. "People who think artillery rounds will come crashing in wouldn't do that."

Lopez gave credit for progress to the forces who have been in country for the past year. "These guys came in at the toughest time of the year. They faced every possible challenge. When you look at all the things they accomplished, it's amazing. You couldn't have asked for more," he said.

As Task Force Eagle troops redeploy to Central Region, Lopez said they should look back across the Sava River and remember most of the good things that happened in Bosnia-Herzegovina happened because of them.