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THE TALON

Operation Joint Endeavor, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle

Troops keep eye on sites

Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

Peacekeeping isn't only rolling tanks, foot patrols and soaring helicopters. Sometimes it's also meticulous recordkeeping and careful counting.

"We're conducting declared weapons storage site inspections in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accord," said 1st Lt. Nate Donahoe, intelligence officer, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Three weeks after they took control of the sector from the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Task Force 1-18 is on the road covering its area of responsibility, enforcing the General Framework Agreement for Peace and the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Donahoe was rolling in a convoy towards the village of Bijela as he spoke.

The four vehicles carrying the lieutenant, a fire support team and scouts as security, were on their way to three sites maintained by the Croatian Defense Council (HVO).

"It stipulates that the former warring factions centralize and declare locations for all their military weapons, ammunition and explosives. Once declared, we inspect them regularly, depending on the type of weapon.

"Anything (weapons or munitions) 76 millimeters or larger, we (the task force) classify as a heavy site. Anything else is a minor site," Donahoe said.

Prior to leaving McGovern Base, the team assembled site information that included the inventory from the last visit and any reported moves pertaining to that equipment.

At the site, everything must balance out. The

See ***SECDEF***, page 12

55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Secretary of Defense William Perry talks to soldiers and the press during a Thanksgiving Day visit to Camp Dobol.

Perry praises forces

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL — Soldiers here were treated to a visit by Defense Secretary William J. Perry who attended an awards ceremony with Russian General of the Army Vladimir M. Toporov, then settled down to enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with soldiers at the camp dining facility.

Also present at the festivities were Gen. George A. Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and NATO commander in chief; Gen. William W. Crouch, commander of U.S. Army Europe, Allied Land Forces Central Europe and IFOR; Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, commander of 1st Armored Division; and Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, commander of 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Eagle. Also in attendance were NATO Implementation Force miltary leaders and an army of journalists.

After a brief meeting with Toporov and other top military leaders, Perry toured the facilities. Perry was given

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What they're saying

"When I make a decision, like the decision to deploy our troops to carry out the peace mission in Bosnia, it's a family decision, it affects families, and I am very mindful of that . . . Especially at Christmas time."
— President Bill Clinton, Dec. 2, 1995

"When hatred wins and war begins, something is lost forever, something that not even a new peace will ever be able to revive."
— Prime Minister Antonio Guterres of Portugal, on the necessity to prevent conflicts like the one in Bosnia, Dec. 2, 1996

"It destroyed me. It killed me. I simply thought that my life was worthless after that."
— Drazen Erdemovic, first person convicted of crimes against humanity by the International War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, on his feelings after being forced to take part in the massacre of civilians in Srebrenica last year.

"There is a self-confidence there, but certainly not a cockiness. They understand the difficulties of the mission, but they have confidence in their training, their leadership and their equipment."
— Secretary of Defense William Perry on the 1st Infantry Division covering force troops, Nov. 29, 1996

Laying down the Laws

Proper respect and courtesy is the cornerstone of any successful military organization. The 1st Infantry Division has a long, proud tradition of upholding the fine standards put forth by the U.S military.

Recently, however, it was brought to my attention by a general officer that soldiers of the Big Red One don't seem to be showing respect and demonstrating military courtesy like they used to do. I thought about this and realized his observation had a great deal of validity.

I remember when I first came into the military, enlisted soldiers, upon encountering an officer would snap a crisp salute and sound off with their unit motto and/or greeting of the day. Now, it seems that soldiers sometimes go out of their way to avoid saluting.

It seems that we have become so automated and sophisticated that soldiers have forgotten the basics of military courtesy. Such an understanding is fundamental to building and maintaining a high degree of professionalism and esprit de corps.

Command Sgt. Maj. James W. Laws
1st Infantry Division

A renewed focus on proper saluting procedures is not hard and it is not labor intensive. But such an effort will go a long way towards maintaining a strong, respectful military organization.

The bottom line is that I want all soldiers to respect each other and remember always to hold their military bearing. Be proud of your association with your organization, unit, and Task Force. Big Red One soldiers take pride in themselves.

In My Opinion

By Staff Sgt. Patrick Summers
100th MPAD

For many soldiers of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, getting mail is the highlight of their day.

This holiday season, soldiers can expect an influx of mail from people they have never met before. Through Operation Dear Abby and similar efforts, people in the United States are taking the time to send their prayers and best wishes to servicemembers they have never met.

Most, I imagine, are driven by patriotic duty — a sense of obligation and kindness to let their fellow citizens know that they are not forgotten.

Such an act of remembrance should not go unacknowledged. If you find yourself in receipt of a holiday card or friendly letter from a supporter in the states, take the time to send a reply.

A response is especially important to the children back home who have taken the time to write.

Whether it be a wide-eyed second grader who has scrawled a message on her Big Chief writing tablet or a 16-year old Eagle Scout who has organized the mailing of hundreds of care packages to the troops over here, they all deserve a response.

Imagine what impact a returned letter from an actual U.S. soldier would have for the youth who have written.

Children are fascinated by the mystery and aura of hearing back from a real live soldier in a faraway land.

Such a friendly response would validate their good efforts and further reinforce a sense of community and citizenship.

People, no matter what their age or gender, should be thanked for supporting and remembering us.

Task Force Eagle soldiers make time to write back.

The Talon

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Mayor welcomes troops

Tuzla Mayor Selim Beslagic governs one of the most ethnically-diverse cities in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Beslagic also is considered a hero by many Tuzla residents for his efforts during the war.

Interview by *Arijana Salihbasic*

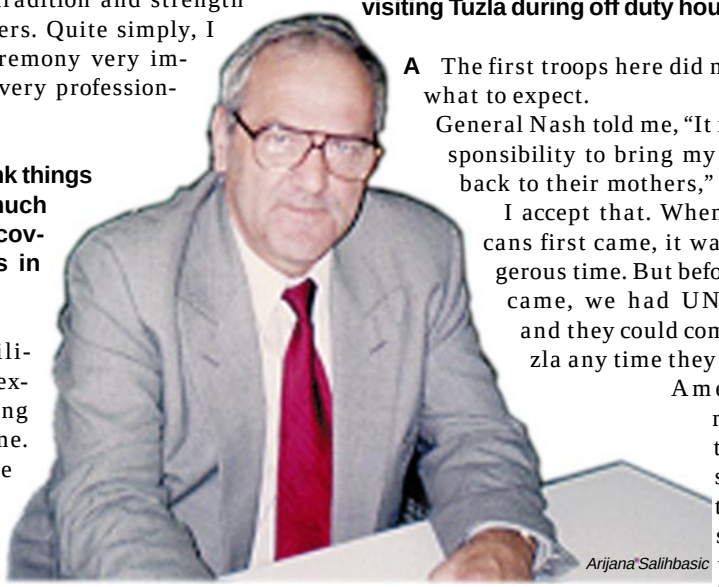
Q Tell me your feelings about the Transfer of Authority ceremony.

A It was a rare honor to be present at a ceremony like this where you can feel and see both the tradition and strength of IFOR soldiers. Quite simply, I found this ceremony very impressive and very professional.

Q Do you think things will change much now that the covering force is in place?

A In the military sense I expect everything will be the same.

I'm sure they will maintain professional standards.



Arijana Salihbasic

Selim Beslagic, mayor of Tuzla

In my conversations with the new people I will bring up the things that were not finished by the last mandate. My biggest criticism is the fact that soldiers cannot visit Tuzla on their free time.

Q How do you feel about NATO's decision to extend the mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

A I think that was the only possibility. I always believed the mission would continue; I never doubted it. I think it would be a catastrophe to withdraw forces before complete implementation of the Dayton agreement.

Q How do you feel about the reopening of Tuzla's airport to civilian traffic?

A I have wanted this ever since IFOR came here. I hope IFOR will have good intentions and reopen the airport for civilian travel soon. I will be satisfied when that happens.

Q What do you think about the conflicts that have flared up around the country recently?

A The Dayton Agreement gave a very good foundation for the reintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The agreement gave people the right to return to their homes. At first we weren't ready for that.

The agreement requires people to register. The registrations should be respected. All sides should respect the process. In the ZOS, IFOR is like the head of the household. It is responsible for what happens there.

If houses are mined, people are fighting, or people are moving into the ZOS illegally, IFOR should act. IFOR must do its part, but civilians must do their part too.

Q Tell me your feelings about Americans visiting Tuzla during off duty hours.

A The first troops here did not know what to expect.

General Nash told me, "It is my responsibility to bring my soldiers back to their mothers," and I accept that. When Americans first came, it was a dangerous time. But before IFOR came, we had UNPOFOR and they could come to Tuzla any time they wanted.

Americans made the decision not to allow soldiers to visit Tuzla on their free time. It was a military decision, and we have to respect it.

Those first soldiers did a big job. The war stopped, and they made conditions in our country better.

With such good conditions now, soldiers should be allowed to visit Tuzla. It would be pretty sad to be here for a year and not see anything.

The best thing about this situation is the good friendships and good contacts we have made with Americans.

We have learned that Americans are not so different from us. We are grateful to the first troops here. They brought us something very important: peace.

Those soldiers never got to travel around Tuzla, but they made it possible for the new troops to do that.

Q Is there anything you would like to say to the U.S. troops?

A They have done a great job. I only wish they were here in 1992.

It was a pleasure to interview the mayor. He is very down to earth and approachable. Under his leadership, Tuzla is beginning to prosper again. - AS

News briefs

Redeployment complete

The redeployment of the 1st Armored Division was completed as Companies D and C of the 7-227 Aviation and Companies A and D of the 2-227 Aviation left the Task Force Eagle area of operation for Slavonski Brod, Croatia. Blackhawk and Apache pilots, crew members and maintenance personnel departed Eagle Base early December. They were the last units of the 1st AD to leave Bosnia-Herzegovina concluding their successful involvement in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Viewpoints wanted

Do you have an opinion or a story you would like to tell? *Talon* readers just might want to hear about it.

***The Talon* is currently accepting written submissions from individuals participating in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. Make sure your voice is heard.**

Our mailing address:
The Talon
100th MPAD-JIB
Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR
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Big Red Turkey Trot

Overcoming a one-day postponement and race-day snow flurries, runners in the Danger Forward Turkey Trot 5K enjoyed a morning of fun and prizes.

Cindy Hazel from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade won the race with a time of 22:39.

Volunteers who made the race a success included: Candace Teel and Kelly Mitchell from 101st MI Bn. and Gilbert Villarreal and Twana Johnson from the 529th Ordnance Company.

A Jingle Bell Jog is scheduled for Dec. 22. Information is available at the 21 Club.

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION
Today	43/34	Low
Sat	50/38	Low
Sun	45/35	Low
Mon	41/32	Low
Tue	40/32	Moderate
Wed	41/30	Moderate
Thur	38/32	Moderate

Provided Dec. 4 by Internet Access Weather

Soldiers make encore performance

By Staff Sgt.. BRENDA BENNER
100TH MPAD

One year after crossing the flooded Sava River, a few soldiers remain. They have not been in Bosnia-Herzegovina the entire time, but have returned for their second rotation.

They possess memories of those initial experiences that give them a unique view of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert P. Seiler, 62nd Engineer Battalion, and Spc. Malachi K. West, 293rd Military Police Company, recall some of their most poignant memories of that incredibly difficult winter.

Images of that historical crossing of the river, following all the hardships encountered by the bridge companies, will certainly remain with anyone who witnessed it.

Seiler, 48, of Albuquerque, N.M., believes that those first initial weeks along the river generated both his most disheartening yet uplifting experiences.

"When we crossed over the first dike on the Croatian side of the river and viewed the results of the flood, it was certainly a demoralizing sight," said Seiler.

West agrees that he felt bad for those caught on the river's banks.

"Lots of soldiers lost most everything they had," West said. "All we could see were the tent tops sticking out of the water, and lots of equipment and gear floating around. The river was so flooded that the original bridge pieces only reached halfway across the water."

There was no way to hide the overwhelming pride Seiler felt for those soldiers once they beat the river. It was one of the highlights of his first deployment. He gave them a pep talk that he will always remember.

"I told them they should pull their chins off their chest, that this was a great feat they had accomplished. People were coming here to see the river crossing—it made history. I didn't want the incoming soldiers crossing the bridge to look at them and feel sorry for them, but to feel proud of what they had done. They could hold their heads up high."

Since they've entered Bosnia-Herzegovina a second time, both West and Seiler have noticed differences in the sights and sounds of the country and its people.

West, 21, from Berkeley, Calif., remembers what it was like as he patrolled the roads.

"In some of the towns we went through, such as Brcko or Gradacac, we didn't see many people outside their homes," West said. "The people we did encounter walking about had guns, and the police officers carried rifles. There were soldiers still in their bunkers along the roadsides."

West remembers that it was common practice for civilians to join his convoys for safety as they traveled from village to village. "They figured they wouldn't get shot, mugged, or car-jacked while with us," he said.

After one year of IFOR's presence, communities are beginning to experience previous levels of social and commercial activity.

Upon his recent return, Seiler, a veteran of both Vietnam and Operation DESERT STORM, immediately noticed the difference.

"It looks really different here the second time around," Seiler said. "There's a lot more traffic on the roads; horse carts, tractors, and pedestrians. It's noticeable that they have tried to fix up their houses, but someone has gone back in there and blown them up. It's really sad to see all this destruction."

With the holiday season here, West anticipates that this Christmas will be more enjoyable than his last. This year he has holiday mail, hot meals, and a less stressful, more stable environment.

"Last Christmas was stressful," said West.

"We heard lots of gunfire, and watched tracers fly up along the roadsides. We didn't know why they were shooting; it scared us. Now we know it was their way of celebrating. Other than that, it was a miserable day like all the others. This second deployment is not bad. At least this year I won't be trudging through three feet of mud all day."

Both West and Seiler seem relieved as they look ahead to their second Balkans tour, for they need only to look back to realize how far they've come.

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Spc. Malachi K. West, 293rd Military Police Company, is here in Bosnia-Herzegovina for his second rotation, and his second Christmas.

Pass, R&R program extended for soldiers

So you want to get away from this place? With the extension of Task Force Eagle's Fighter Management Pass and Rest and Recuperation Programs, such an escape might be possible.

The pass program is designed for all TFE soldiers and Department of Defense Civilians. There are two options for the pass. Participants can either go to Budapest or to the Life Support Area at the Intermediate Staging Base at Taszar, Hungary. Transportation is provided for participants to either location. However, participants can expect to pay for their own meals, lodging, and tours while in Budapest. The cost of lodging in Budapest varies on whether the participant chooses a single or double occupancy room. Soldiers may bring their families to Budapest, though not the ISB, at their own expense.

Allocations for the pass program are available through each individual's unit. The names of participants and other personal information is due to the personnel section, 1st Infantry Division (Forward) no later than seven days prior to the pass date.

The R&R program is a two-week leave period that must be taken in one block. Only those personnel on orders for 180 or more consecutive days are eligible for the R&R program. The program returns those who qualify to either the Continental United States or Central Region.

The point of contact for both these programs is Sgt. 1st Class Crotzer at MSE 553-3511 or IPN 7032.

Engineers wall Dobol

By Spc. J. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL — It's not the Great Wall of China, but it provides great protection — force protection, and it is being built by the members of Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion.

The Schweinfurt, Germany-based unit came well prepared and trained to take on the mission of constructing bunkers, retaining walls or anything else needed to protect the troops from harm.

Staff Sgt. Paul A. Baggett, 29, from Memphis, Tenn., said, "The morale is high because we're out here improving the camp. We're here for a reason, not just force protection, but for the overall mission (of IFOR)."

The engineers are building the wall so soldiers are not exposed to potential gunfire and cannot be observed as they go about their daily activities. Eventually the wall will encircle the camp. For now though, their main goal is to secure the area facing the road.

Sgt. Jose A. Nuñez, 24, explained that the ground has to be leveled and then the Hesco Bastion wall baskets making up the wall are filled with dirt. The four feet by four feet baskets are supplied by Brown and Root and are comprised of wire and cloth.

The engineers employ heavy equipment such as the M9 Armor Combat Earth Mover which acts like a bulldozer but looks like a tank with tracks and heavy armor plating. They also use the Small Emplacement Excavator that has a 3/4 yard capacity front bucket and a small back hoe on the rear. The excavator also has hydraulic operated chain saws and jack hammers.

Cpl. Christopher A. Miller, 26, from Carlisle, Pa., and Spc. Jonathan H. Young, 26, from Baltimore, Md. agreed that the excavator saves them hours of back breaking shoveling. Each wall basket holds about six buckets of dirt which the soldiers would normally have to fill by hand, but this versatile piece of equipment makes short work of the long wall.

"Force protection is what we are here to do," said Nuñez, from Palm Dale, Calif.

Although combat engineers typically lay mines and deal with explosives, putting up a great wall of protection is no great feat for them. Just another day on the job.

Spc. J. Craig Pickett

Spc. Brien S. Nelson of Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, operates the backhoe on a small emplacement excavator as Cpl. Christopher A. Miller and Spc. Jonathan H. Young guide him to the retaining wall around Camp Dobol.

Counter-intelligence: knowledge is power

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

When an explosion ripped through a restaurant frequented by Americans in the movie, *Good Morning Vietnam*, an army journalist who witnessed the carnage rushed to his studio, flipped on his microphone and started describing what he just saw.

He said many Americans were killed and wounded. He said a fire had broken out. He said the area was chaotic. He said emergency personnel and security forces were racing to the scene.

Suddenly his microphone went dead. His noncommissioned officer in charge had cut him off the air.

Why?

Because the journalist was providing an accurate, timely, detailed battle damage assessment for anyone who had a radio. Armies spend millions of dollars and risk lives trying to get BDAs, but in the movie, the young journalist was giving information away.

"Everyone in the military has important information that is unique to their job," said Chief Warrant Officer William J. Tucker, a counter intelligence technician with Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division.

"Cooks know how many soldiers are in an area by the amount of food they have to prepare. Mechanics in the motorpool know the condition and readiness of vehicles. Operations security is everyone's responsibility."

Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR has been a huge success. Soldiers in the counter-intelligence security section sometimes worry that too much success can lead to a false sense of security.

"We haven't had many bullets fly, but that doesn't mean we should change the way we do business," Tucker said. "OPSEC is the same whether we're involved in operations other than war or armed conflict."

Danger Forward's CI section would like to see units concentrate on four areas of security: physical, personnel, information and communication.

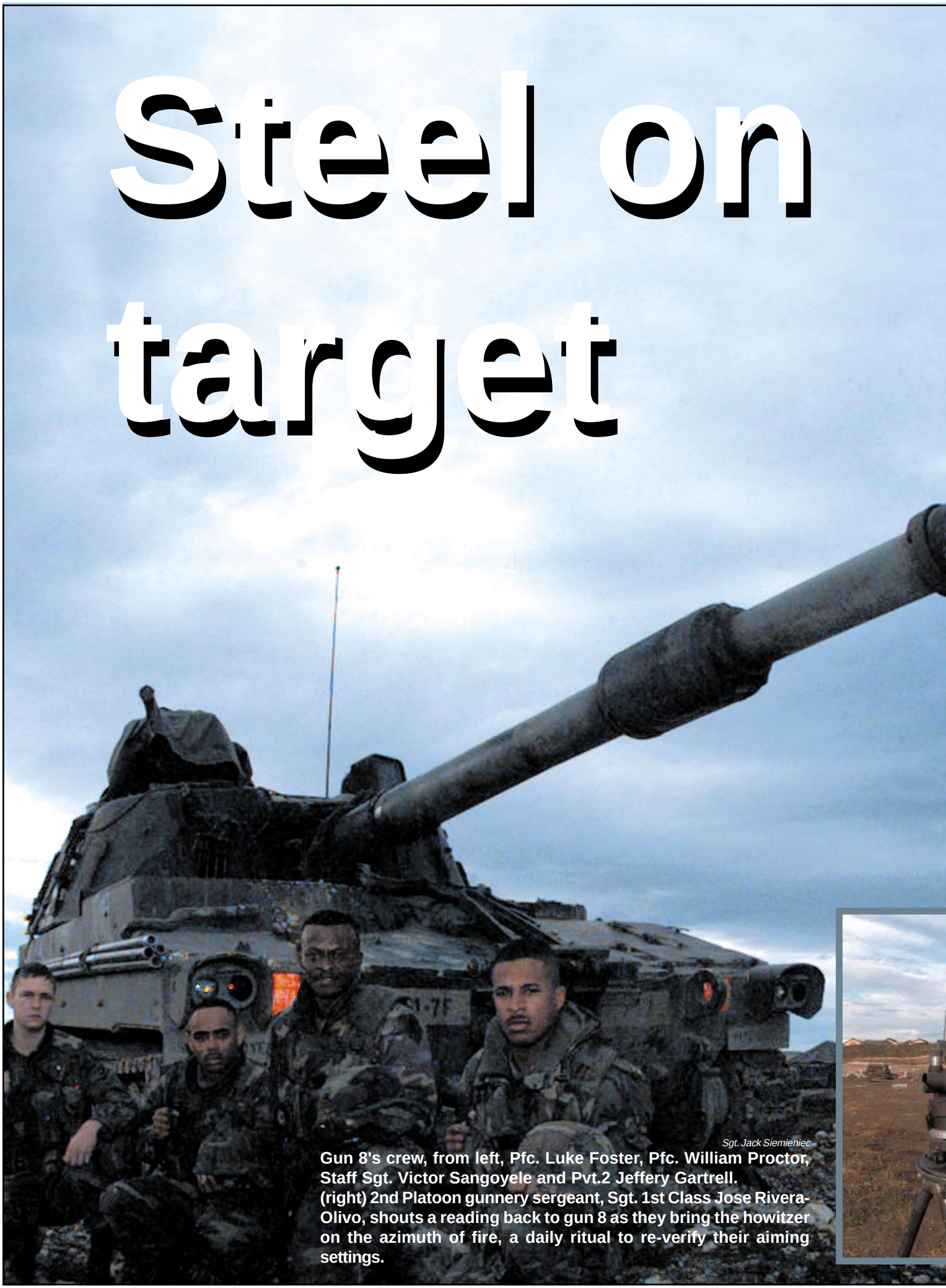
"Our basic concern is protecting soldiers," Tucker said. "We want leaders to have good force protection plans implemented.

"We want to see the right people in the right job. We want people to protect information, and we want soldiers to think about what they say on the radio, the phone, or in e-mail messages."

Tucker compared military operations to a football game. "There are only so many plays an army can run," he said. "If the other side knows what you're going to do or if they find out your weaknesses, you're going to be in trouble."

After making the analogy, Tucker quickly added, "But make no mistake about it. What we're doing here in Bosnia is no game."

Steel on target



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Gun 8's crew, from left, Pfc. Luke Foster, Pfc. William Proctor, Staff Sgt. Victor Sangoyele and Pvt.2 Jeffery Gartrell. (right) 2nd Platoon gunnery sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rivera-Olivo, shouts a reading back to gun 8 as they bring the howitzer on the azimuth of fire, a daily ritual to re-verify their aiming settings.

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

Meet the "hot gun." It's a self-propelled 155mm howitzer and it's ready to put steel on target within minutes of notification of a fire mission. It's always there, and it's always ready – thanks to the troops who man it.

Working six-hour shifts, the soldiers of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, are there 24 hours a day, seven days a week, making sure Task Force 1-18 is protected with the fire support it needs.

The battery, from Schweinfurt, Germany, has been in Bosnia and Herzegovina for about one month.

Staff Sgt. Victor Sangoyele is a section chief of Alpha Battery's gun eight at McGovern.

A 12-year Army veteran who saw action on a howitzer during the Gulf War, he is not only responsible for the 155, but also for the CAT (Carrier Ammunition Track) that is always alongside his gun, providing the powder and shells to keep him in business.

Each howitzer and its CAT are a section. So a field artillery battery — the equivalent of an infantry company – has eight sections, each with its own chief. In addition, the battery platoon has a gunnery sergeant, in charge of four guns, and a platoon sergeant.

The three soldiers in the hot gun with Sangoyele for daily their shift are all on their first enlistment. But, he works daily to mold them into a tight knit group.

"What's the rate of fire?" he asks as the four huddle inside the howitzer.

There is an open training manual on the lap of one of the soldiers as all four discuss the correct answer.

Sangoyele explains the gun tube gets so hot, if used to frequent it would cause the powder to explode on contact with the metal barrel.

There is a lot of training — a lot of questions and answers — as Sangoyele goes back to the manual several times to look up the information and show it to his soldiers.

"I try to pass on my knowledge and share my experiences ... let them know the things to expect," Sangoyele says.

"Chief (Sangoyele) told us exactly what it was going to be like," says Pvt. Jeffrey Gartrell, the gun's driver from Lincolnton, Ga. "Most everything he said was true."

The crew likes to kid each other in the track as the time passes. While Sangoyele is from New York City, the other three are from small towns and gentle ribbing shoots back and forth faster than their artillery rounds can fly downrange in a fight.

"I like to keep them loose," Sangoyele says. "I find I can get more out of them when I need to if they're more relaxed."

But the mood shifts as the crew gives a short demonstration of what they need to do to fire the weapon.

Pfc. Luke Foster, the gunner, shifts the turret to a specified quadrant of fire. Gartrell is in the assistant gunner spot, cross-training. He has to set the deflection – raising or lowering the tube.

To the untrained eye, it seems to go quickly and smoothly, but not smooth enough for Sangoyele.

He's on his soldiers, telling them what they need to do and how they need to do it.

"All of them should be able to do each other's job. We're always cross-training," the staff sergeant says.

"I'm glad I came with this section," says Gartrell. "Chief ... he keeps you motivated."

The fourth crew member, Pfc. William Proctor, from Gaffney, S.C., is normally the assistant gunner, but that's not his primary job.

"I'm with the advance party. One person from each section goes out with the gunnery sergeant and sweeps the area. Then he guides in his gun to where the gunnery sergeant places it," Proctor says.

Again, continually training his people, Sangoyele finishes off the explanation.

"They look for solid ground and clearings to fire from. The advance party prepares the next place for occupation."

Now a call comes in from fire direction control to shift the 155 to another target. The crew has to re-aim the big gun to a different direction, supporting a mission.

Proctor is in his normal assistant gunner spot and the crew moves fluidly to set the howitzer correctly. But Sangoyele is always there, double-checking each setting.

Thus far on the deployment, the soldiers haven't seen anything they have not trained for.

Since July, they have worked as a team through rotations at Hohenfels and Grafenweor, Germany.

"The people here before us (C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment) told us it would be pretty quiet," Sangoyele says.

But when one of the soldiers says it's boring, the chief talks a little about his Gulf War experience.

"We had 30 targets and had orders to hit each one with between five to 10 rounds." Then as he shakes his head, his voice lowers, "I just felt sorry for them."

His comment and reaction harks back to something he said earlier in the shift.

"I've never been on a peace mission before. It's better than war."

LIFT: Pound for pound, little big man proves strongest

By Sgt. Gregory W. Binford
1st ID PAO

EAGLE BASE — The littlest airman on Tuzla recently won a bench press competition by benching 186 percent of his body weight.

Airman 1st Class Hernan B. Grajeda stands 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 148 pounds; however, his lift of 275 pounds out did the larger competitors when calculating the ratio of body weight to pounds lifted.

Grajeda used to lift weights during high school.

It was a sport he had given up until recently, when he deployed in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

When he arrived in Tuzla in July, he wanted to do something to keep in shape.

He had his answer when Air Force 1st Lt. Steve Jacque organized a weight lifting competition.

Jacque said the bench press competition was designed to boost morale and show the airmen that they hadn't been slacking off in physical training.

"Our people are working a lot of hours, but they are still finding time for exercise. I'm proud of the fact that almost all of the competitors greatly increased their max bench press since we began getting ready for this."

He also said that he can't begin to take all the credit; he had help from about 10 airmen who assisted with the transportation of weights and a bench from the Club 21.

The actual set up and operation of the contest was a combined effort of many people.

"I am really pleased by the turn out. We only have about 220 airmen on Tuzla and we still managed to field five teams of five people," Jacque said.

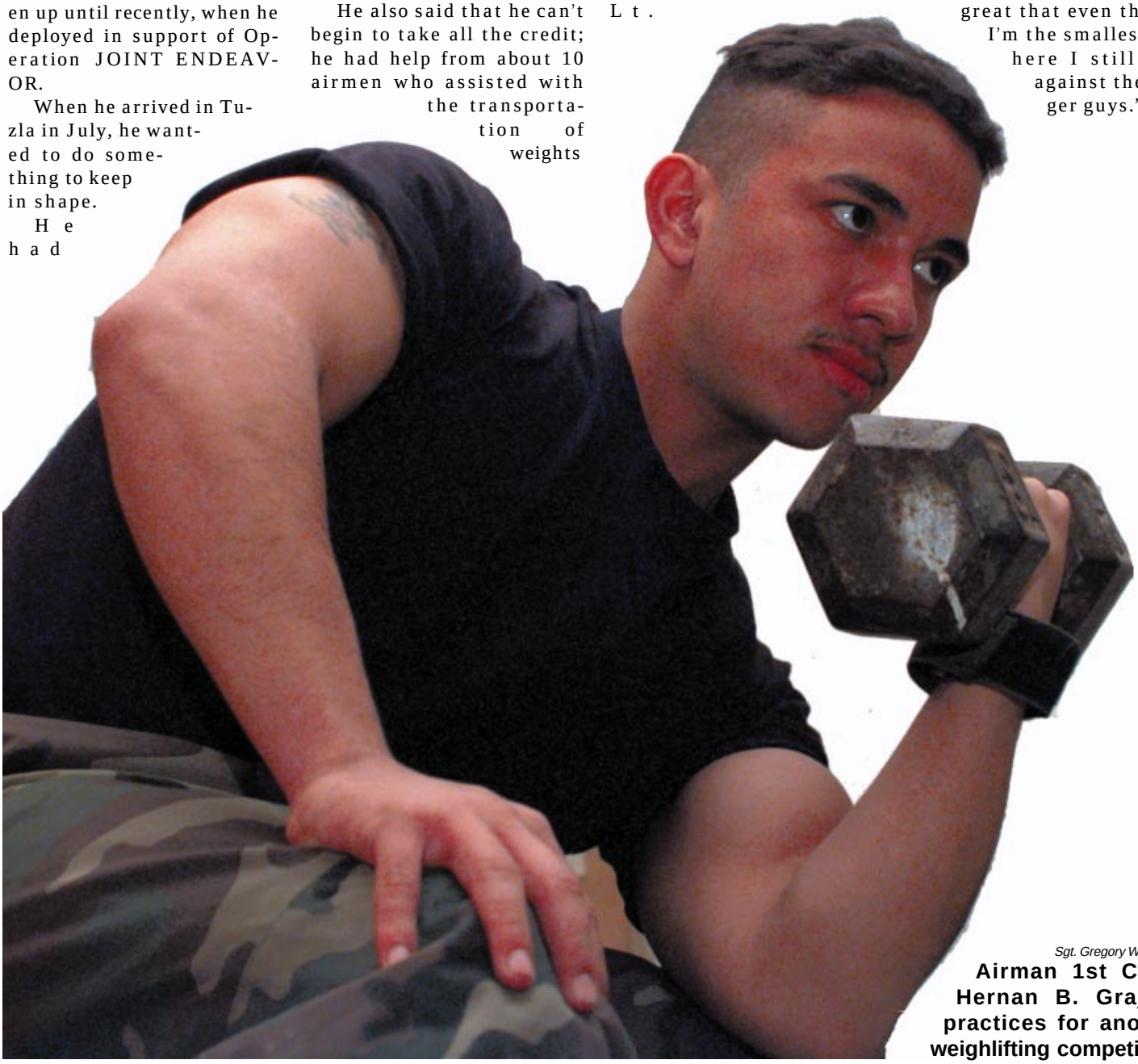
Grajeda began gearing up for the contest about four weeks before the event.

These efforts also helped his team win the competition. His team captain, Air Force 1st Lt. Pat Floyd said the Security Police who comprised the team had set certain goals which helped them become victors.

"When we began training and preparing for this, our team set the goal of each member being able to lift at least 100 pounds over his body weight. We met that goal and I'm sure it helped to ensure our win."

Grajeda said he really enjoyed lifting weights.

"It is a great way to maintain a toned body. I work out two hours every night to keep in shape, and I feel great that even though I'm the smallest guy here I still won against the bigger guys."



Sgt. Gregory W. Binford

Airman 1st Class Hernan B. Grajeda practices for another weighlifting competition.

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Capt. Thomas H. Roselius (left) and 1st Lt. Mark E. Johnson, both from the 299th Forward Support Battalion, battle it out during the battalion's first Boxing Smoker, Thanksgiving Day. Johnson outpunched Roselius, winning the first bout of the day.

Peace enforcers fight in "the box"

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

GUARDIAN BASE — Soldiers of the 299th Forward Support Battalion fought to have a good time this Thanksgiving, luckily for them, they wore gloves.

Fists flew as the screaming crowd cheered the fighters. Benches cracked and splintered under the weight of the excited, jumping fight fans.

Soldiers from the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital; 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery Regiment; and 62nd Engineer Battalion, also joined the fun.

1st Lt. Mark E. "Jack- 'em-up" Johnson, 28, of Cheshire, Conn., excited at the chance to get into the ring, felt confident on the eve of his first and only fight.

"I love the competition and the fun of getting out there and punching each other around," said Johnson, the battalion's intelligence officer.

The battalion's first "boxing smoker" is the ingenious result of Capt. Thomas H. Roselius's sudden inspiration as he watched two soldiers joking around with boxing gloves weeks before.

Roselius, the commander of Company A, agrees it was just a spur of the moment idea.

"The more punches they threw, the bigger the crowd got," he said. "I thought a boxing event would be a good idea for morale. During these last three weeks I put out fliers and people started signing up."

Winners of the two-round matches earning bragging rights and a 3-day pass to Taszar, Hungary.

"I thought it would be something fun to do for Thanksgiving," said Pfc. Abel C. Melendrez, of service battery, 1st Bn, 7th Artillery. "I signed up even before I found out there was a prize. I don't know who I'm fighting, they just match us up by weight. My strategy is to get in there and box it out. I'm going in to have fun, not to tear someone's head off."

> ***"I've practiced the past few days because I don't want a broken nose."***
> — Capt. Thomas H. "Kid Rosie" Roselius

The morning's first bout brought officers toe to toe. Johnson and his manager entered the venue "Tyson and King" style, waving a fake world title belt in the air. Roselius "Kid Rosie" followed with his entourage.

Everyone in the audience knew at that instant that they had a laughter-filled Thanksgiving Day ahead of them.

"I've never boxed before," Roselius, of Wausau, Wis. said. "I felt that since I put this together, I should jump in the ring with both feet. I've practiced the past few days because I don't want a broken nose."

"We've mostly talked a lot of hype, trying to psyche each other out," Johnson said.

The Boxing Smoker offered a dozen matches, including two female bouts and a surprise finale.

As with many sporting events, the most crowd thrilling moments are the impulsive events.

Sgt. Lisa Scianneaux, 24, of South Hampton, England, quickly overpowered her opponent.

The crowd, disappointed by the abrupt ending, supported the search for an impromptu challenger.

The screaming, whooping, and whistling reached an incredible level as Pvt. Deona Q. Miller, 21, of Salina, Kan., stood up to take the challenge. Her Co. B, 62nd Engineers worked most everyone into a frenzy.

The fast and furious action was almost more than the crowd could take. In a display of sportsmanship, both Miller and Scianneaux were declared winners by the judging panel after the referee called it quits in the first of two rounds.

The finale featured battalion commander Lt. Col. Kenneth "The Killer" Dowd facing a surprise guest from the North Pole. Santa Claus came out aggressively, but Dowd felt it wasn't in his best interest to knock him out with Christmas rapidly approaching.

Grandfather flies Balkan peace mission

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS
350th MPAD

During this holiday season, soldiers' thoughts turn to family, friends and gratitude. As one helicopter pilot at Eagle Base contrasts his peacekeeping mission here in Bosnia-Herzegovina to his experiences in Vietnam, he is especially thankful.

Chief Warrant Officer Donald R. Garnto, an Apache instructor pilot and safety officer with 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Brigade, volunteered to come to Bosnia-Herzegovina in June.

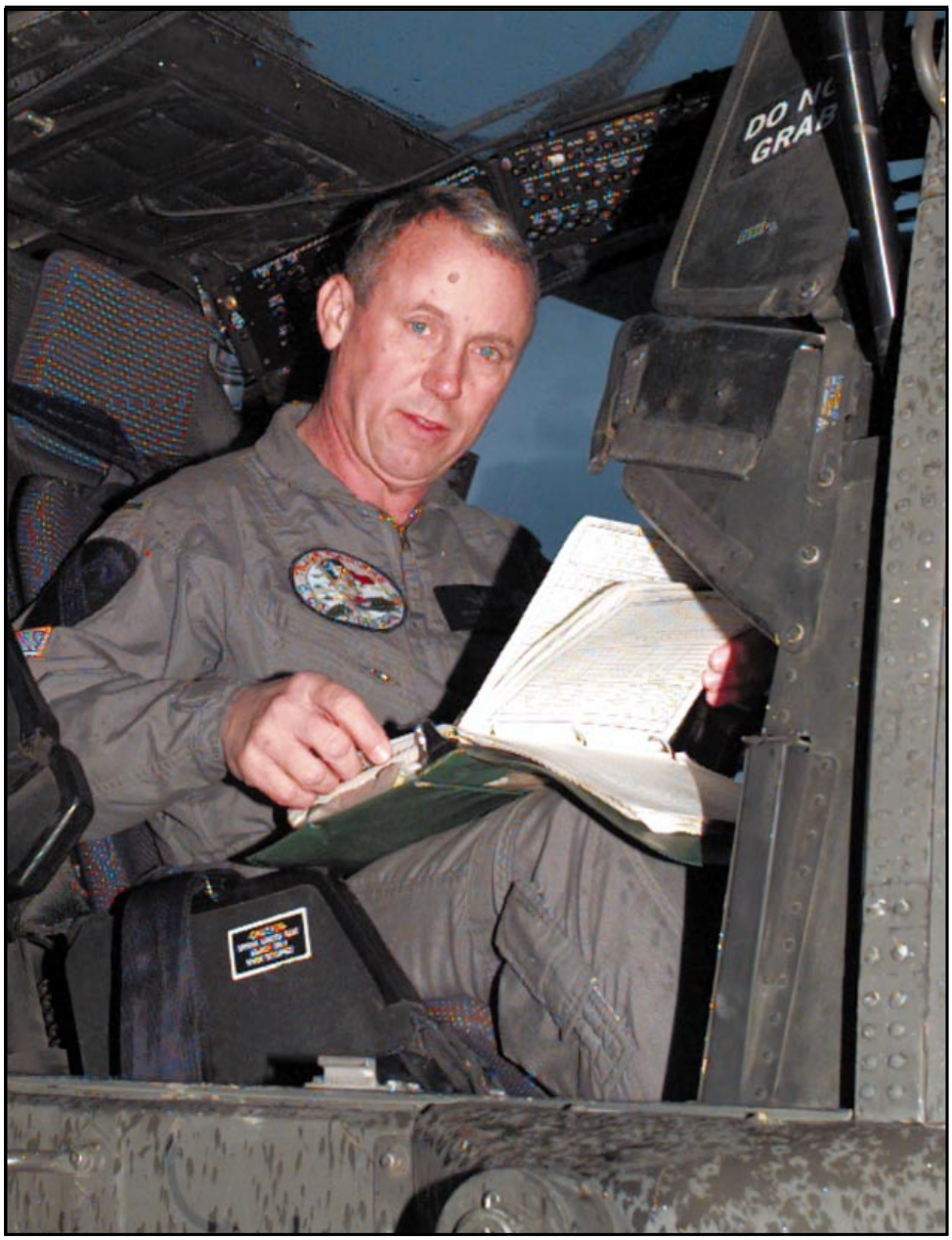
As a National Guard soldier, he was curious as to whether his training was up to par with his active duty counterparts.

As a grandfather, he wanted to help give the children of this country the chance for a better future.

"Apache units are pretty much standardized in training, techniques and aircraft equipment," Garnto said. "That gave us a big advantage when we came here. We unplugged in Texas and plugged-in here at 2nd Bn., 227th Aviation. We're doing great."

During their deployment, pilots of the 227th have flown reconnaissance and surveillance missions, provided rapid reaction to disturbances and escorted commanding officers — all to enforce the Dayton Peace Accord. Since the Apache is an attack helicopter, it has been difficult for some aviators to readjust to a peacekeeping mission.

"You have to adapt and compromise," Garnto said. "We started training for this type of operation over a year ago—escort, dealing with the media and native indigenous personnel, terrorism, surveillance and reconnaissance. Peacekeeping is a lot quieter than war. I've enjoyed this."



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Chief Warrant Officer Donald R. Garnto, of Alvin, Texas prepares to leave on a mission from Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Having been in the Texas Guard for 23 years, this is Garnto's first deployment as a guardsman. However, he first joined the active duty Army in 1969 at age 20, and served in Vietnam.

"I don't have the foggiest idea why I joined," he said.

"None of my friends were doing it. I didn't know the front end from the back end of a helicopter, but I went to warrant officer flight training school. I figured, why walk when you can ride and why ride when you can fly?"

Garnto was sent to Bien Hoa, Vietnam in 1971 and flew combat assaults in UH-1 Iroquois and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

"I couldn't even guess how many missions I flew," Garnto said. "I had a few close calls and lost a few friends. There were times when I got in the cockpit that I was scared, but I felt invulnerable then. I had a "bulletproof" t-shirt that I wore on flights."

Twenty-five years later in Bosnia, Garnto still has that raggedy, green good-luck charm.

"I'm perfectly happy flying around doing what we're doing. I'm trying to spend as much time as I can on this side of the dirt," he said. "These kids are a new breed now — a lot more informed and independent, not as gullible as we were. But they still think they are invincible. They'll stop a bullet just as quick now as they did back then."

Though the soldiers here may complain of boredom from the lack of "real" action, Garnto feels they should be careful of what they wish for.

"Someone once said that the last one who wants to fight is a soldier," Garnto said. "There are some things you don't want to experience first hand. If you like living on adrenaline 24 hours a day, war is okay, but it takes a while to get over it.

There are a lot of things I remember about Vietnam that I don't want to — friends lost, a beautiful country torn up, lovely people in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"I'm glad to be here preventing what happened there. I like seeing houses being rebuilt, lights coming on around the countryside, mothers pushing their children in strollers.

"And in all likelihood, everybody that's here will return home to their families no worse for the wear. I'm thankful for that."

Sgt. 1st Class James T. Lowery

Terry Wenham, aka Charley the Magician, shows his slight of hand tricks as Master Sgt.(P) Joseph E. Parvin, 422nd Civil Affair Battalion, tries to figure out how Charley makes the handkerchief reappear.

Clown puzzles Tuzla troops

By Sgt. JANET PETERS
350th MPAD

He didn't pull any rabbits out of his hat or make a beautiful woman disappear, nonetheless, Charley the Magician amazed his audiences wherever he went on Eagle Base. Terry Wenham of Atlanta, came to entertain the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina last month and decided to spend his last two days in country with the troops.

"Charley tried to come to Bosnia a year ago," said Ghassan Husni of Mercy International USA. "He contacted our headquarters in Michigan via Internet. He felt that after four years of war, the children needed to smile."

Ghassan escorted Charley for 23 days as he traveled to Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Zenica, making contacts and securing accommodations for him.

The two visited over 10,000 children in 50 different locations including schools, collective centers and orphanages. Charley came to Eagle Base to entertain the soldiers, Nov. 27 and 28.

Charley, or Terry as he is called without the big red nose, was born in London, England. An engineer/manager, he came to the United States 16 years ago when the Canadian company he worked for built a new facility in Atlanta.

"I started performing magic when I was seven years old," Wenham said. "It has always been a big hobby. Ten years ago I started doing it semiprofessionally and was very successful. When my company asked me to relocate to North Carolina five years ago I didn't want to go, so I went into magic full time."

Most of Wenham's customers are large corporations who hire Charley to perform at hospitality suites or employee functions. As part of the Atlanta Olympic Games Committee, Charley performed for business leaders, celebrities and politicians including Al Gore's White House staff and several senators. In addition he performs at children's parties and birthday celebrations in Atlanta, and has traveled to London, Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean. Once, Charley performed at 17 parties in one weekend.

"It would be hard to find anyone busier than I am," Wenham said.

"But I was very upset by news of the war and families being destroyed, so once the Dayton Peace Accord was signed, I just took time off. I knew I could contribute something to their healing, especially the children.

"Humor is wonderful medicine, an international language," he said.

His trip overlapped the Thanksgiving holiday, so Wenham felt it would be nice to let the soldiers see an American entertainer up close.

The soldiers were a little skeptical when they heard Charley was coming, but quickly warmed up to the idea when they found he could change a 100 deutsche mark bill into a U.S. $100 bill.

AAFES assistant manager James W. Laws Jr. agreed, "It was amazing," he said. "It was nice of him to come over and support the troops. Not many people would want to come here in this cold weather."

"I wanted to say 'thank-you' and recognize that if not for their presence, the children would not have the glimmer of peace they have at the moment," Wenham said. "Bringing peace and joy to the children is an objective myself and the troops share. We're both participating in the development of a new Bosnian society."

Big Red One website

The 1st Infantry Division's new home page has taken off thanks to initial design work by Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Pucci. He brought the web site on line Sunday and is offering the world a look at what the 1st ID is all about... and more.

The curious internet surfer can get a description of the 1st ID's mission for Task Force Eagle, read the history of the Big Red One, or even find out what weapons systems are being used by the different units of the 1st ID.

Want to know who commands the various units down to the battalion and brigade level? 1st ID's Home Page has it.

It can also link you to the Army Home Page, BosniaLink (where you'll find the latest Talon), the TFE weather page or Fort Riley's web site (the 1st Brigade, 1st ID is stationed at Fort Riley, Kan.).

To access the new web site, your computer must be connected to the network and have some type of internet software. The Internet address is *http://www.1id.army.mil*.

All information contained on the home page is approved by the 1st ID PAO.

The P.O.C. for questions or comments about the page is Chief Warrant Officer Kathleen Grote at G-6 AMO. Her MSE phone is 552-1107 or e-mail her at *webmaster@pop1-email.1id.army.mil.*

Christmas pass program to Germany

For soldiers not eligible for the R&R program who were deployed during Christmas 1995, there will be seven separate flights returning soldiers to Central Region through the holiday period. The 98th ASG will provide shuttle services between Ramstein and Schweinfurt/Wurzburg at minimum cost to each soldier. The pass period includes 2 days travel and 3 days pass. The pass dates include: 15-19 Dec. '96, 19-23 Dec. '96, 23-27 Dec '96, 27-31 Dec '96, 31 Dec. '96 - 4 Jan. '97, 4-8 Jan '97, and 8-12 Jan '97. Soldiers will be booked through their chain of command on a first-come, first-serve basis by contacting the personnel office, TFE. Family members should know this program has not yet received funding and transportation requests are working with the Air Force. Task Force Eagle is working hard to make the program a reality.

SECDEF from page 1

an operations brief by Capt. Brian K. Coppersmith, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry's commander.

"In order to maintain a proper balance of our objectives, we have to emphasize the importance of monitoring the actions of the Bosnian Serb police, as well as the movements of the refugees," Coppersmith said.

"Relations with Muslim and Bosnian Serbs are good. Civil Affairs teams have made great contact with the local leaders in our area," Coppersmith said. "We are continuing to build on our positive relationships to further improve cooperation with everyone involved."

Outside the tents, in freezing rain, Perry spoke to troops. "You should be proud of your sacrifice, and what you're doing here," Perry said.

Perry told the troops that dedication and professionalism has made him and the United States proud.

"You are the best trained group of soldiers we have to do this particular kind of mission.

"I am proud to be your Secretary, and you should be proud for what you are capable of," Perry said.

Perry said the IFOR operation is winding down, ceasing to exist on Dec. 20. "It was a tremendous success," Perry said. "Meantime, we will have a new force, a stabilization force, and your job will be to continue to implement the successes we have achieved so far."

> ***"Our primary task within the Stabilization Force is to maintain a secure environment."***
>
> — Defense Secretary William J. Perry

Perry was then escorted to an awards ceremony, where Meigs, Nash and Toporov exchanged mementos signifying a year of cooperation and friendship.

Toporov said in addition to the success of IFOR, the partnership between the Russian and American troops has brought down the skepticism that was prevalent when IFOR began almost a year ago.

"The decision to open the second phase of our operation here gives us the opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with our American friends, building on the mutual respect we have for each other," Toporov said.

Perry spoke of the Stabilization Force that will be implemented Dec. 20 at the conclusion of IFOR. He said the mission will focus on using the force as a deterrent to hostilities.

"Our primary task within the Stabilization Force is to maintain a secure environment, so that the civilian organizations can carry out their own missions for peace and stability in the region," Perry said.

Perry said he expects the civilian agencies to gather momentum and make more progress to include the economic recovery of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Ultimately sustaining peace here depends on the success of civilian operations," Perry said. "We will assist with the civilian implementation regarding these capabilities."

At the conclusion of the ceremony and press conference Perry was escorted to the dining facility and to the Thanksgiving feast.

Perry said he doesn't especially enjoy being away from his home and family on Thanksgiving.

He feels right at home being with American troops who would also rather be home with family and friends.

"I spent last Thanksgiving with our troops in Macedonia, and before that, with our troops in Haiti," Perry said. "Our troops here are giving a lot, and with that it makes me very proud."

INSPECT from page 1

teams are looking for discrepancies, either more or less than what should be there.

The task force has several teams doing inspections. In addition to the one coming from 1-18 battalion headquarters, the 519th Military Police Battalion and A Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, also have site inspection teams.

We do inspections continuously, rather than bunching them at intervals. This allows them to absorb interruptions and delays when other events may throw them off their schedule.

"We're planning to visit three sites today, but if there's a discrepancy from the inventory at one of the sites, it may take all day to resolve," he said.

Donahoe said they usually notify the people in advance of a visit to alleviate delays, such as finding keys to gain entry at a site, etc.

But, he added, they also try to keep about 10 percent unannounced, as insurance against unreported shuffling of weapons from site to site.

Spc. J. Craig Pickett

Soldiers at Camp Demi start their Thanksgiving Day morning off with a 5K "Turkey Trot". The fun run consisted of 14 laps in the snow, and was met with much enthusiasm.