

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



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In September 1939, Polish soldiers on horseback faced Hitler's Panzers in a heroic but futile effort to keep their freedom. After World War II, an Iron Curtain descended across Europe and a coalition of communist nations called the Warsaw Pact faced the U.S. and her NATO allies across an ideological divide some thought would never be bridged. After four decades of cold war, Poles and Americans now stand shoulder-to-shoulder in Bosnia-Herzegovina. See story, pages 6-7.

Talon's top 10

You know you were in Bosnia too long if...

10 You begin cleaning your kitchen floor with a large squeegee and a rag.

9 You avoid picnics because they're off the hardpack.

8 You look for Norda water in the commissary.

7 Your buddies call you up to meet for happy hour, and you ask them if they have a four-vehicle convoy.

6 You install a bootwash bucket outside your front door.

5 You take your drapes down because they're a fire hazard.

4 Two words: Negligent discharge.

3 You know the difference between the ZOS and the IEBL.

2 You know what ZOS and IEBL mean.

drum roll please...

1 You're still trying to pronounce Herzegovina.

LAYING DOWN THE LAWS

So you need a little break from this place?

During an extended deployment such as this, it is important that soldiers are given the opportunity and take the time to relieve stress levels that might build up.

I would like noncommissioned officers' to monitor your fellow leaders, your troops, and yourself so that you do not fall victim to the detriments of stress.

NCO's should be able to identify the symptoms of stress. Some of these symptoms include upset stomach, anxiety, eating disorders, insomnia, and short tempers.

Leaders, arrange some down time for soldiers to unwind. I understand that it is sometimes difficult in this environment to give days off, but once again, I cannot emphasize enough the necessity of down time for yourself and your subordinates.

Make sure that time is put aside to relax while here in theater.

There are several ways in which



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

stress can be alleviated. Physical training is an excellent stress reliever. Not only are you letting out pent-up energy, but you are providing yourself with the future benefits of health and fitness as

well.

Reading also provides a diversion. Not only does it sharpen the mind, but it often provides a necessary escape from the daily routines that this deployment has to offer.

Remember, our mission here is very important and we are performing to a high standard. With a continued understanding of the necessity for stress relief, we will continue to excel.

Take care of the soldier and he will take care of you.

EDITORIAL

On behalf of the soldiers of the 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, we'd like to say farewell and thank you. Our time in Bosnia-Herzegovina is up, and we're homeward-bound.

It's been 203 long, tough, rewarding days since we first pulled into the Eagle Base convoy staging area.

But through it all, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians of Task Force Eagle - Old Ironsides and the Big Red One - have inspired us.

You won our admiration with your dedication to duty. You awed us with your professionalism at Han Pijesak, Jusici and Celic.

And in the heat and the dust, the rain and the mud, the snow and the bitter cold, your positive "can-do" attitude helped keep us

going. Thank you.

We're going home, but The Talon will remain. The next issue of Task Force Eagle's newspaper will be in someone else's hands.

But it will still be your paper. Help the new folks out. If your unit hasn't been covered, let them know.

If someone is doing something special where you are, or if you just have a great story idea, get in touch.

You can still reach The Talon editors at MSE 551-5230. Or, if you like, drop them a note at The Talon, 364th MPAD - JIB, Operation JOINT GUARD, APO AE 09789.

We're pretty sure that, try as we might, we'll never forget you.

It truly has been an honor serving with all of you in this noble endeavor.

"Iron Soldier!" "Duty First!"

THE TALON

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Sgt. Lance Kamisugi

A soldier with the unit takes down the serial number of a space heater, just one of the many responsibilities of the mayor's cell.

Army Guard plays important peacekeeping mission role

By Sgt. LANCE M. KAMISUGI
100th MPAD

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia—One Army, One Fight! This motto is a reflection of the military's Total Force concept integrating reservists with the active component units.

The 3rd Infantry Division Detachment (Rear Tactical Operations Center), Georgia Army National Guard is proving that reserve forces play an important role during peacekeeping missions.

"We coordinated force protection at a base camp in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and we became the mayor's cell of another camp in Croatia," Lt. Col. Francis B. Williams the detachment commander from Meridian, Ga., said. "The soldiers are doing an outstanding job, and the detachment has performed beyond my expectations."

Capt. Tommy L. Franklin said be-

ing mayor of a base camp is all about helping people. "We try to make life a little more livable for the people here," said Franklin, of Decatur, Ga.

After arriving July 13, the unit was the command and control element of the base cluster operations cell at Camp Dallas.

The base cluster included five (IFOR) base camps located in a rock quarry near Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. "We supported the 16th Corps Support Group by providing the operations and intelligence section, security escorts for VIP's, and routine mounted and dismounted patrols around the base cluster," said Maj. Harden P. Hopper, of Cornelia, Ga.

After adapting to the hardships, and over coming the daily challenges 3rd Infantry Division Detachment will return to Georgia in February after successfully completing its mission in the Balkans.

NEWS BRIEFS

Register for college

Registration for college classes is underway. Soldiers may sign up for classes through the University of Maryland, Central Texas College and City Colleges of Chicago. Base camp education centers have course lists and information about how to take classes.

Socially Secure?

Everyone values privacy, but here in Bosnia-Herzegovina troops put their social security numbers on everything from haircut to laundry lists. Is that a good idea? Look for a story on this next week.

Black history month

February is Black history month. This event marks the 72nd observance of the contributions African-Americans have made to our nation. The theme of this year's observance is "African Americans and Civil Rights: A Reappraisal."

Big Red One website

Access the Big Red One website at:

<http://www.1id.army.mil>

The point of contact for questions or comments about the page is Maj. William L. DuPont at 1st ID PAO. MSE 551-3351.

Viewpoints wanted

The Talon welcomes viewpoint articles from soldiers in the field. Please drop off a hard copy at our office on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 17, Eagle Base, or send us your viewpoint to:

The Talon
364th MPAD-JIB
APO AE 09789

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE
RAIN		
Today	35/21	Low
Sat	30/17	Low
Sun	27/8	Moderate
Mon	29/9	Low
Tue	34/20	High
Wed	37/22	Moderate
Thur	40/27	Low

Provided Jan. 22 by Internet Weather Service

Soldiers prove pen mightier than sword

By Spc. J. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

ZVORNIK, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Soldiers of the 346th Psychological Operations Company, also known as civil-military operations, pound the streets of cities like Zvornik daily to deliver copies of *The Herald of Peace* newspaper.

The 12-page weekly newspaper is put together by a civil-military operations team in Sarajevo. Articles come from several sources such as the Associated Press, Reuters and NATO military journalists. Although many articles deal with Bosnian issues such as resettlement and elections, there are also human interest features and articles on world events, said 1st Sgt. Michael R. Gargac, 41, from Graytown, Ohio.

Half of the publication is written in Cyrillic for Bosnian Serbs, and the other six pages, with the same information, are prepared in the Latinic alphabet.

"We're trying to get out several key ideas to the people," said Capt. Louis M. Sand, 31, from Cincinnati.

The Herald of Peace, handbills, posters, radio shows and face to face contact are used to educate and inform — to get out the Stabilization Force's message.

The first key idea is patience and acceptance of refugee resettlement and freedom of movement," said Sand, a brigade civil-military operations support com-

mander for Task Force 1-26 at Camp Dobol. The process of peace and developing a unified nation will take time.

Many refugees naturally want to return to their homes, and all citizens must allow the resettlement process to work.

Secondly, people need to understand democratic ideals and institutions. By understanding, it is easier to embrace the concept of democracy, Sand said.

"Democratic ideals and institutions are a constant theme used in radio programs, newspapers and face-to-face conversations with people," Sand said. "We stress to people to make their government work for them and that the police work for the people and not the government."

An example of democracy at work was the national election in September. "Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of a democracy and that is something that will be stressed during the municipal elections," Sand said.

The third key ideal is that economic renewal and growth can not exist without peace; they go hand in hand.

It's hard to build up businesses when the ravages of war continually shatter human dreams along with the destruction of buildings.

The final key idea that civil-military operations personnel express to Bosnians is the separation of church and state. "The government is responsible for the welfare of everyone and should not be there to oppress minorities," Sand said.

Translators, like Bob Mikicsloban, relay messages between shop owners and the soldiers.

What's on the mind of most people is freedom of movement and crossing the zone of separation, Mikicsloban said. On the Federation side, most questions are about resettlement.

However, on the Srpska side, many people are concerned about the towns in contention, such as, Dugi Dio.

Staff Sgt. Colin M. Colwell, 24, from Co-

lumbus, Ohio, said several people are curious about the soldiers' views and what they think will happen.

That's how it starts out, small bits of conversation that, over time, build into friendship and trust.

"Being face to face is important; it lets the people know we are like them and not some unapproachable occupation force," Colwell said.

The team is a regular in many shops, cafes and markets.

The proprietors are glad to see them and talk easily of what they think and what they would like to see in the future.

"We'll go out to a store or cafe and hand out the newspaper. We'll stop and chat with the locals and see what's on their minds," Colwell said.

"I think the team has been accepted very well, especially in the town of Zvornik. They have achieved a lot," Mikicsloban said.

With teams hard at work visiting many towns and talking with hundreds of people daily, the messages are getting through.

They have had an impact on how Americans are viewed, but it's not over yet.

"I think it's good we're staying," Colwell said.

"The peace process is going to take awhile. I think we're making good progress; we just need to stick around and make sure we fulfill it," he said.

"Being face to face is important. It lets the people know we are like them ..."

— Staff Sgt. Colin M. Colwell



Spc. J. Craig Pickett

Sgt. Andrew J. Smith, 24, a reservist from Columbus, Ohio, hands out the *Herald of Peace*, a newspaper carrying SFOR's message, to a young boy in Zvornik.

Reserve component soldiers prove 'total force' concept works

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers have made significant contributions to Operations JOINT ENDEAVOR and JOINT GUARD in support of the 1st Armored and 1st Infantry Divisions' effort to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Downsizing of the American military has whittled away at the Army's strength, and National Guard and Reserve units have been called upon more frequently to perform crucial tasks.

Today's reserve components provide 45 percent of the Army's combat service support units, 30 percent of the Army's combat support capability, 100 percent of the Army's training and exercise divisions, 100 percent of its railway units and enemy prisoner of war brigades, and more than 70 percent of the Army's medical and chemical capability.

The "weekend warrior" image of reserve soldiers is a thing of the past, as more and more military planners and politicians have realized that maintaining an adequate reserve force is both cost-effective and convenient.

Like the active Army, reservists are having to endure long separations from their families.

But virtually every Army Reserve and National Guard

soldier is quick to point out that this is a total force operation, not an active-duty one.

"In a way, I feel like I was meant to come here," Spc. Willie Brocks of Indianapolis said. Brocks is a vehicle mechanic from Battery E, 139th Field Artillery, Target Acquisition Battery. Brocks said being away from his new wife and spending his first Christmas away from his family has given him time to reflect. "I feel like I have gotten closer to my faith as a Christian," he said. "And I'm sure this experience will open doors of opportunity for me."

Spc. David L. Garcia of the Texas Army National Guard's 133rd Field Artillery Target Acquisition Battery said it is a good experience for all Guard and Reserve members. "Getting deployed to a foreign land and working with soldiers from other countries is something I thought would never happen to me," Garcia said. "But I've made lots of friends here, and the experience will be with me forever."

Cooperation between the active and reserve soldiers has gone well, with virtually no glitches. Everyone knows what is expected of them.

At Battery B, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, two vehicle mechanics from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard make



Cpl. Len Butler

Staff Sgt. Richard A. Washburn of the Massachusetts Army National Guard makes an adjustment to the engine of a HMMWV at Camp Caisson.

sure that Btry. B's HMMWV's keep moving.

"We usually put in 90 to 95 hours a week," Staff Sgt. Richard A. Washburn said. "It's really demanding, but we're doing good things for the guys here and that makes it worthwhile to us."

Maj. Gen. Max Baratz, chief of the Army Reserve said recently that the core qualities of American soldiers – commitment, competence, candor,

compassion and courage – apply equally to the active Army and reserve components.

Spc. Howard L. Olden of Indianapolis said his unit, the 139th FA Target Acquisition Battery has worked hard preparing for their role in Bosnia.

"We are all the same here," Olden said. "God really controls me. But among my peers, I not only want to be respected as a soldier, I want to be respected as a man."

Army answer man on call for deployed reservists

By Sgt. ANDREW AQUINO
350th MPAD

Deployments are never easy. They're usually hardest on those who have never deployed before or have been away from active duty for a while. Such is the case with many Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers serving here.

"Some units here don't know there's somebody working on their side," said Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Lebroncolon, one of Task Force Eagle's Reserve Mobilization Support Center representatives.

His job is to take care of these soldiers before their concerns become real problems.

With 20 units and more than

250 soldiers to worry about, Lebroncolon has plenty to keep him busy.

"For many reserve soldiers it's very hard adjusting to the military life, especially when there are too many changes to adjust to," he said. "This happens a lot when they've been mobilized for the first time."

To ensure proper communication of issues throughout

their deployment, all Army Reserve and National Guard units deployed in support of Operation JOINT GUARD are advised to contact the Reserve Mobilization Support liaison office weekly.

Lebroncolon's office is on the second floor of the Task Force Eagle Headquarters, Bldg. 17, at Eagle Base. MSE #553-3493.

Poland: new



(cover) Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs reviews Polish soldiers at their battalion headquarters near Bania Vrucica. (center) Polish Battalion soldiers stand at attention outside Hotel Dalmacija. (above) A Polish Army helmet at the Polish Battalion checkpoint. (photos by Spc. Aaron Reed)

By Spc. AARON REED
100th MPAD

Soldiers in jaunty red berets stood guard, AK-47s at the ready. Soviet-style BRDM-2 armored personnel carriers hunkered down in the snow. And at the entrance of the Hotel Dalmacija, two long ranks of stern-faced paratroopers stood at attention.

A visit to the Polish Battalion headquarters at Bania Vrucica is a step-back into Cold War history. It's also a look ahead into the probable future of NATO, an organization Poland is considering joining.

"Working with the Poles has given us a chance to break down old stereotypes and get to know some new friends," Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, 1st Infantry Division commander, said after a recent visit to Polish Battalion headquarters.

The Polish Battalion, which forms part of Multinational Division North's NORDPOL Brigade, has been in-country for nearly a year. During that time they've performed many of the same tasks U.S. troops have; Polish soldiers man checkpoints, patrol the zone of separation, and perform weapon site inspections.

Sgt. 1st Class Stephen P. Roy, a senior fire support sergeant with Detachment 2, 101st Field Artillery Battalion, has been working at the Polish Battalion headquarters since he

arrived in Bosnia-Herzegovina in August.

Roy's unit, a fire support team from the Massachusetts Army National Guard, patrols with the Polish soldiers. "We're teaching them to do calls for fire, coordinating radio transmissions and serving as a liaison with 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery," Roy, a native of Lowell, Mass., said. "Sometimes they're not quite as forceful as they should be when it comes to confiscating weapons, but by and large they go out there and get the job done."

As one of the few Americans living and working with the Poles, Roy said sometimes the isolation can be trying. "I've gone up to eight or nine days without mail delivery," he said. "But the biggest problem is getting parts and tires for our vehicles."

Working with the former Eastern-bloc soldiers is also rewarding, Capt. Mark A. Perkins, the battalion fire support officer, said. "It's challenging but interesting. Communication is tough sometimes, and

just how they do things is a little bit different," Perkins, a Nashua, N.H., native and member of the 101st FA Bn., said. "When I went home on leave, I bought an English-Polish dictionary and a beginning Polish textbook. Of course, the Poles know some English and they're learning more, but I'm gaining some respect by trying to learn their language."

Perkins said spending Christmas with the Poles was one of the highlights of his deployment. "They celebrate Christmas a lot like we do, but they have some different traditions I really enjoyed," he said.

Whatever their differences, the Polish troops reacted like soldiers anywhere would to a visit by their commanding general. Uniforms were clean, weapons oiled and bayonets sparkled as the troops waited at

partner in peace

attention for Meigs' review. And the soldiers were, well, just a little nervous.

After meeting the American general, Polish Maj. Jerzy Matuszynski, his face sporting a boyish grin, rushed into Perkins' office to show him the coin he received. "Gen. Meigs is very impressive, very sympathetic to us," said Matuszynski, the battalion civil affairs officer. Then he offered a wry smile. "Of course, all generals are good," he said, flipping through his IFOR Bosnia handbook with autographs from former IFOR commander Adm. Leighton Smith, 1st Armored Division commander Maj. Gen. William L. Nash and others.

As Matuszynski rushed back out of the office, Perkins laughed. "That guy's great. We call him 'Maj. Gadget.' He can

fix anything."

Meigs, a commander who clearly likes to rub elbows with the soldier in the field, makes a point of visiting all his troops — American and foreign. He said he liked what he saw of the Poles.

"The language barrier has been tough," Meigs said. "When you work very, very closely with someone under the pressure of real-world operations, nuance and colloquial meaning are very

important."

But Meigs' assessment of the Poles was straightforward. "They're all good troopers," he said. "They are alert and interested in what they're doing. It looks like a good outfit."

Globetrotting MP king of deployments

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

Like to brag about all the deployments you've been on? Watch what you say if Spc. Jerry L. Kern is in the room.

The 25-year-old military policeman figures this deployment to Colt Base in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a member of the 258th Military Police Company, 519th MP Battalion, is his tenth.

Yes, tenth.

Entering the Army in October 1989, Kern was assigned to the 545th MP Company, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. Early 1990 saw him in Puerto Rico and then Panama. The Puerto Rico mission was to provide support after a hurricane struck the island.

The Bedford, Ind., native next went to the Middle East for Operations DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM and was there from September 1990 until April 1991.



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Spc. Jerry Kern, 258th MP Company out of Fort Polk, La., has been part of almost every major deployment since 1990.

The rest of that year and the next saw him in Honduras, Somalia, Cuba and back to Kuwait City three times for 30-day rotations as part of Operation INTRINSIC ACTION.

Talking with him, even he gets confused as he tries to put it all into a timeline.

"Where'd we go after Honduras?" he thinks aloud as he builds his laundry list of places. Then a minute later he realizes he initially forgot about the Puerto Rico hurricane service as he went through the years.

The rest of his first enlistment included five rotations at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., along with other training missions.

In October 1993, he left active-duty and joined the Army Reserve.

"One day at the reserve center we sat down and figured it out and I spent all but one year and 23 days in the field in that four-year enlistment," he said.

But he hadn't had enough, and in October 1995 he returned to active duty and an assignment to the 258th at Fort Polk, La. Then, in June 1996 his company was tagged to deploy along with the battalion headquarters to Bosnia. Here he is a driver in his battalion commander Lt. Col. Charles Bradley Jr.'s escort.

The 519th as it exists in Bosnia actually formed for the first time as the companies prepared for training in Grafenwehr, Germany, prior to crossing the Sava River. The headquarters element and 258th came from Fort Polk; the 293rd came from Fort Stewart, Ga.; and the 65th joined them from their home at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I'd have to say this deployment and Desert Storm stand out the most, even though they are completely opposite of each other," Kern said.

"In DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, we were in a combat role as combat MPs. Here, we're more geared towards peace.

"I like the combat role better because you have better unit cohesion. People have to rely on each other and their weapons instead of a command structure or others outside the unit."

Kern explained the majority of his deployments were done on short notice and lasted for 30-60 days.

His company was used to fill MP slots until Fort Hood's 89th MP Brigade and its soldiers could follow them with a more permanent force.

"Division MPs move quickly, but move lightly. When you're forward support, you sleep with the vehicles. You don't usually stay in one place very long. The tents when we got here were kind of a new thing."

He said he has enjoyed the multiple deployments, but "the only downside is you're never in one place very long. There's no time to meet the people there."

Kern's unit has recently been notified to prepare for redeployment sometime early this spring. Then it will be back to Fort Polk and a wait for the next call to go.

Two-timers arrive in Bosnia-Herzegovina for encore

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

Two-timers, that's what they are.

But it's not what you think. Spc. Hugh A. Thatcher and Sgt. Robert J. Voshell have deployed twice to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Both came here in the first days of Operation JOINT EN-

DEAVOR, went home and had permanent changes of station. Summer found them returning to the Balkans with their new unit.

The first time, Voshell, from Tampa, Fla., was assigned to the 501st Military Police Company of the 1st Armored Division and deployed to Tuzla Dec. 19, 1995. He served there until March 3 as a member of

Brig. Gen. Stanley Cherrie's personal security detachment.

Thatcher crossed the Sava River into Bosnia-Herzegovina Dec. 28, 1995, as a member of the 536th MP Company, 793rd MP Battalion. He worked as a gunner in 1st Armored's 2nd Brigade area of operations until March 16.

The pair reported to Fort Polk, La., in May of last year, and

were first told they would be going to Panama in July. A few weeks later, the 258th and 519th got word they would be heading to the Balkans July 17.

The 519th is scheduled to be redeploy sometime early this spring, so Thatcher and Voshell now have the dubious distinction of not only coming to Bosnia twice, but leaving twice as well.



Sgt. Tim Pinkham

Staff Sgt. Ruby G. West, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 1-18, works on his pool game at the McGovern Base MWR tent.

McGovern: a thrill a minute

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM
350th MPAD

If you get bored at McGovern Base, you're not really trying.

There are plenty of things to do and see here 24 hours a day, and it's only going to get better, according to Thea M. Wasche, the new base Morale, Welfare and Recreation director.

She arrived in early January from Kaiserslautern, Germany, where she was director of community activities.

"This is the ultimate I can do in my career," said Wasche, 40, who has been involved in MWR for the past 14 years. "That's the purpose of MWR, to take care of the troops in the field."

The main MWR tent at McGovern contains games and the movie room. Wasche has dubbed it "Club Mud," which is an accurate description of the base for most of the year.

A smaller tent nearby contains the weightlifting equipment. The stationary bikes and Stairmasters are in the gym, which also has a basketball goal.

The back side of the main MWR tent contains shelves of paperback books, plus the morale phone for calls back to Germany or the United States. When the phone line is operating, there is a someone using it to call home virtually around the clock.

There are 14 Stairmasters and eight life cycles, plus a variety of weight lifting apparatus.

Wasche said she plans to meet with representatives from each unit every week to get their input into what soldiers

want in the MWR program. She says she looks forward to getting there ideas about programs and activities.

Because of the different work schedules soldiers have, you can find someone in the MWR tent almost any time of the day or night.

"I like being a customer service person," Wasche said. "I'm a teacher at heart. It's personally and professionally satisfying to run a successful program. I'm very confident I can do it."

Supplies are hard to come by, said Wasche, but she expects the situation to soon improve. She said MWR only budgeted for one year in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but now that the peacekeeping mandate has been extended for 18 months, a budget is being prepared for the coming year.

Several tournaments have already been planned and more will be as Wasche works on her calendar for the upcoming months. She wants to film a generic videotape of the living area at McGovern, then make multiple copies of the tape. She would then let soldiers add their own individual greetings to their loved ones at the end and have them send it home to their families. Other ideas include starting Kareoke and bingo, planning a McGovern "Fun Mud Run," and having a soda guzzling contest and staring contest.

Regulations prohibit any MWR programs in Bosnia-Herzegovina to involve money, but Wasche said, "It's a relief here not to have to worry about money." However, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, along with some businesses, have offered to provide prizes for those who win tournaments and other contests.

ACAP lends a hand

The Army Career Alumni Program designed a program to assist soldiers deployed to Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina in preparing for their transition to civilian life while they are still deployed. Family members and single soldiers are encouraged to participate. The ACAP offices stand ready to assist soldiers in their transition. There are five ACAP offices to contact for assistance:

Bamberg

Michelle Pierce, ACAP Counselor (469-7887)

Edgar Stitt, ACAP Counselor (469-7887)

Kermit Powers, TC Specialist (469-7966)

Hazel Cooper, TC Specialist (469-7966)

John Baczynski, ISCC (469-8461/7458)

Schweinfurt

Janice Scott-Blanton, ACAP Counselor (353-8545)

Marcia Stamm, ACAP Counselor (353-8019)

Kim Joyner, ACAP Administrative Ass. (353-8545)

Bill Santangelo, ISCC (353-8647)
Veronica Knox, TC Specialist (354-6947/6948)

Phyllis McElroy-Golson, TC Specialist (354-6947/6948)

Ansbach/Illesheim

Edgar Stitt, ACAP Counselor (467-2382)

Jim McLemore, TC Specialist (468-7779/7780)

John Baczynski, ISCC (468-7668)
Kitzingen

Angela Bancroft, ACAP Counselor (355-2462)

John Marruffo, ACAP Counselor (355-2462)

Maria Shircel, ACAP Counselor (355-2462)

Melissa Middlecamp, ACAP Administrative Assistant (355-2462)

Therese Richards, ACAP Administrative Assistant (355-2462)

Andrea Monroe, TC Specialist (355-2568/2826)

Sandra Dixon, TC Specialist (355-2568/2826)

Jerry Anderson, TC Specialist (355-2568/2826)

Vilseck

Ernie Maddox, ISCC (476-2073)



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Pfc. Denny L. Cox applies the name "Hammer of the Gods" to the inside of his HMMWV's windshield. Also pictured: other Army vehicle names – from HMMWVs and Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles around Eagle Base.

Name game reflects tradition, pride

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

What's in a name? To some it's a favorite rock group. To others it's a special memory. For a majority of people, a name is a way to personalize something and give it an identity. Throughout history, soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have named their horses, vehicles, ships and aircraft. The soldiers of Task Force Eagle are no different.

One only has to drive around any base camp to see both wheeled and tracked vehicles sporting such names as *Lazarus*, *Demo Man*, *Easy Money*, *Betty Boop* and many others.

There is no accurate date to

pinpoint the beginning of this tradition. "You could probably go back as far as the 1700's when the military named their horses. It's a long standing tradition," said 2nd Lt. David M. Dudas. The 32-year-old platoon leader for Battery B, 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, proudly displays *Deerslayer* on his M2 Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle. Dudas, from Buffalo, N.Y., named his vehicle after a mishap at a gunnery exercise.

Roots of individual vehicle names can often only be explained by the driver. Pfc. Denny L. Cox smiles as he talks about his HMMWV, *Hammer of the Gods*. Cox, a driver for the 62nd Engineer Battalion, traces this name to several ori-

gins. "Our battalion is the hammer," said Cox, a 23 year old from Rome, Pa. "*Hammer of the Gods* is the name of a book about Led Zeppelin. I like Led Zeppelin. We listen to a lot of their music as we drive around this country," Cox said. "This has a lot to do with my feelings of the Army in general, being somewhat like the Greek gods in mythology — kind of petty, yet powerful; just, but unfair." Cox also considered his boss' personality when choosing this name.

Spc. Eric A. Hines named his truck *Doctor Deadline* to make a point about his job. "I named it that because I like to deadline a lot of trucks. I do fix them after I deadline them," said Hines, a light wheeled vehicle mechanic from Cincinnati. Clad

in a set of well-worn coveralls this 24-year-old member of Btry. B, 4-3 ADA said by naming his truck he treats it more like a personal vehicle. "I know my truck better than anyone else," Hines said.

Leaders know the positive side to this tradition. Master Sgt. Bobby S. Boggs, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, supports this practice. "It improves the morale and gives them a sense of ownership of the vehicle," said Boggs, of Arlington, Va. The 38-year-old brigade communications sergeant sees this as a way for soldiers to add a personal touch. This leads to better care and maintenance. "They will treat it more like their own vehicle," Boggs said.

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Female aviator is one of a kind

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

BLUE FACTORY — "I just don't understand why more women don't do it," said Chief Warrant Officer Michele R. Pannell, the only female helicopter pilot deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina. "It's a lot of fun being an aviator."

Pannell, 32, from Clarksville, Tenn., is with the 159th Aviation Group at Fort Bragg, N.C. but is currently attached to the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance).

Flying a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter is now a familiar experience for this six-year aviation veteran. "I don't feel it's any worse than the dangers of being in a car,"

Pannell said. "It's really safer up in the air than on congested roads."

Once an enlisted soldier, Pannell originally worked in personnel until a helicopter flight with a friend changed her mind about flying and changed the direction of her Army career.

"I did it just to see what it was like. It wasn't at all what I expected. I thought if he could do it, so could I."

Since arriving at the Blue Factory during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, most of Pannell's flights have involved routine air support missions such as ferrying doctors and VIPs to other hospitals, or delivering blood and medical supplies all across the former Yugoslavia.

"Sometimes we fly the mail when ground transportation is not an option," Pannell said.

Continuous attention to detail is necessary for all pilots. When a medevac call comes in and someone's life is in the balance, pilots have to be perfect.

"When I get a call, I concentrate on getting there safely. I must have everything I need for that mission. We can't afford any mistakes. The most important thing is to get to the patient quickly yet safely."

The difficulty of Pannell's job lies in the constant training and certifications, not the actual flying.

"The most difficult portion of flight school was understanding how the aircraft's instrument package works," Pannell said. "The navigational section of the training was completely new to me. Believe it or not, the actual hands-on flying was the easiest part."

Pilots often prepare for worst-case scenarios. Their reactions must be instinctive.

"I have to know all the emergency procedures for any situation. We practice a lot of emergency procedures — roll-on landings, autorotations, and water surface landings," Pannell said.

Still, she knows that being airborne is safer for her than any road trip. She is often surprised by the attitudes of others.

"Most people tell me that they could never be an aviator. But anyone who puts their mind to it can do it."



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Chief Warrant Officer Michele R. Pannell, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot, completes rotor blade deicing checks. Pannell is assigned to the 45th Medical Company (Air Ambulance).

Speed, quality care key to air evacuations

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Creeping across the runway, it consumes everything in its path. The airfield is at its mercy. Knowing that the fog will eventually lift, a handful of patients lay on litters as others huddle around a nearby heater anticipating the moment they can depart.

Members of the 23rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, attached to the 4100th Group Provisional, are responsible for evacuating injured Operation

JOINT GUARD soldiers.

"Once a soldier is categorized as needing a higher echelon of medical care that's unattainable in the theater of operations, our liaison unit based at the Blue Factory notifies the command and control center at Ramstein," said Senior Airmen Agustin Ortiz Jr., aeromedical evacuation technician.

Outgoing patients are held at the mobile aeromedical staging facility at Eagle Base where they are processed and prepared for flight to Germany. "We can handle up to 50 pa-

tients at a time, although if a massive casualty situation occurs, we can surge up to 200," said Capt. Mona P. Mayrose, a flight nurse.

Once the aircraft hits the ground, an aeromedical evacuation flight crew consisting of two flight nurses and three medical technicians loads the patients. "There is a maximum ground turnaround time of 30 minutes," Ortiz said.

If the patients are stabilized the AEF crew from Eagle Base handles the medical treatment during flight. "If they're not

hemorrhaging, their fractures are splintered, and they have some type of airway, we take them," said Mayrose, 35, from Freehold, N.J. "However, if a patient is unstable, we request a critical care transfer team from Ramstein to come and augment our crew."

In addition to being trained in medical care, the AEF is also trained in aircraft emergencies. "We know how to handle situations such as rapid decompression, fire, and a crash on land or in the water," Mayrose said.

Wolfpack stands tall at spartan post

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM
350th MPAD

The cry echoes across the snow-covered cluster of tents at Observation Post 9 and throughout the bombed-out remnants of the surrounding town of Omerbegovaca, near the city of Brcko in northeast Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"WOLFPACK!" Every soldier who is awake answers back from wherever he might be at OP9. It is a tradition for the soldiers of 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry.

The platoon members call themselves Wolfpack and their motto is "No one walks alone." The platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Chase A. Freeman, said the motto is indicative of the teamwork which is required to successfully perform the missions required of soldiers at OP9.

The platoons in Company C rotate through OP9 every few weeks, where they live in tents.

Another tent is used to serve chow, which is brought out every night from McGovern Base, where the company is headquartered. Breakfast is also shuttled out to the troops.

The latrine consists of two portable toilets. In the back of the camp, the remains of a building serves as a shower point, with an adjoining room used as a small gym.

There is no morale telephone to call home at OP9, no AFN television, no PX. If soldiers want their laundry done, or need something from the PX, they request help from soldiers back at McGovern.

Despite the spartan conditions, almost every soldier said he prefers life at OP9.

"This is the only place to be in Bosnia," said Sgt. John D. Mazurek, 27, a dismount squad leader from Grand Rapids, Mich. "Our platoon runs OP9; it's our own little base. Our mission is just this."

Although the majority share the same point of view, it's not unanimous.

A dissenting opinion was given by Pfc. Gary R. Vogt, 22, a Bradley driver from Rochester, N.Y. "I'd rather be at McGovern than here," Vogt said. "From a driver's point of view, it's a lot easier back there because the mechanics are there ... But nobody said this deployment would be easy."

"It's not as dull as back at McGovern," said Pfc. Justin D. Miller, a squad automatic weapon gunner from Aurora, Ill. "Time goes by a lot quicker out here."

"The best part of being here is we became a closer unit," said Pvt. David A. Thrailkill, from Los Angeles who is attached to the platoon for fire support from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery. "We have to live and work together. I've made a lot of new

friends here."

Sgt. 1st Class Lorenzo D. Farrow, 31, from Dallas is the platoon sergeant at OP9. "Our teamwork — that's our biggest strength," Farrow said. "I kind of look at us as a family. We may fight among ourselves, but we won't let anyone else come in."



Sgt. Tim Pinkham

Spc. Corey G. Ivey overlooks the town of Omerbegovaca from his guard tower at OP9.

History detachment writing record play by play

By Spc. DANIEL PASCHALL
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — One of the most satisfying jobs in Operation JOINT GUARD has to be that of a military historian.

"The American civil war was recorded from the jour-

nals of

soldiers.

We used

to be a

well-

written

society,"

said Maj.

Michael

V. Pacheco,

com-

mander of the 126th Military

History Detachment. "Today

people don't write as much, so

we are tasked to find out what

is going on out there."

The 126th has collected more than 15,000 operational documents and maps and conducted more than 215 oral interviews with soldiers.

In the past seven months the historians have seen many significant events unfold in

front of them.

"When

we were

traveling

with the

258th

Military

Police

Company

in November, we witnessed

the confrontation in Celic. To

be that close to what was happen-

ing was special. It's not

often a historian gets to be where the action is taking place," Pacheco said.

Pacheco has also seen firsthand how far American/Russian relations have come.

"Soldiers of 1st Brigade 26th Infantry and soldiers of the Russian brigade conduct joint patrols weekly," Pacheco said. "During a dismounted patrol, the soldiers met the mayor of Dugi Dio to gather intelligence on reports of explosions. The mayor said he was happy to see American troops but felt he couldn't trust Russian officers. First Lt. Nathan Wagner, leading the dismounted patrol, told the mayor that Russian soldiers are his partners in SFOR. Wagner told the mayor that when he insulted Russian soldiers he insulted

American soldiers too. Wagner said although the U.S. and Russia have a history of not getting along, in this mission we stand together. It was a great moment to be involved in."

The way historians conduct business has also changed over the years.

"We see the troops a lot more. We do a lot more one-on-one interviews with soldiers in the field and more key leader interviews," said Capt. Jerry E. Brooks, executive officer for the 126th MHD.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Moriarity, the 126th's journalist, said the mission is far from over.

"The next major hurdle is the local elections. The mayors in this country have a lot of power, so these elections are very important," he said.

"It's not often an historian gets to be where the action is taking place."

— Maj. Michael V. Pacheco