

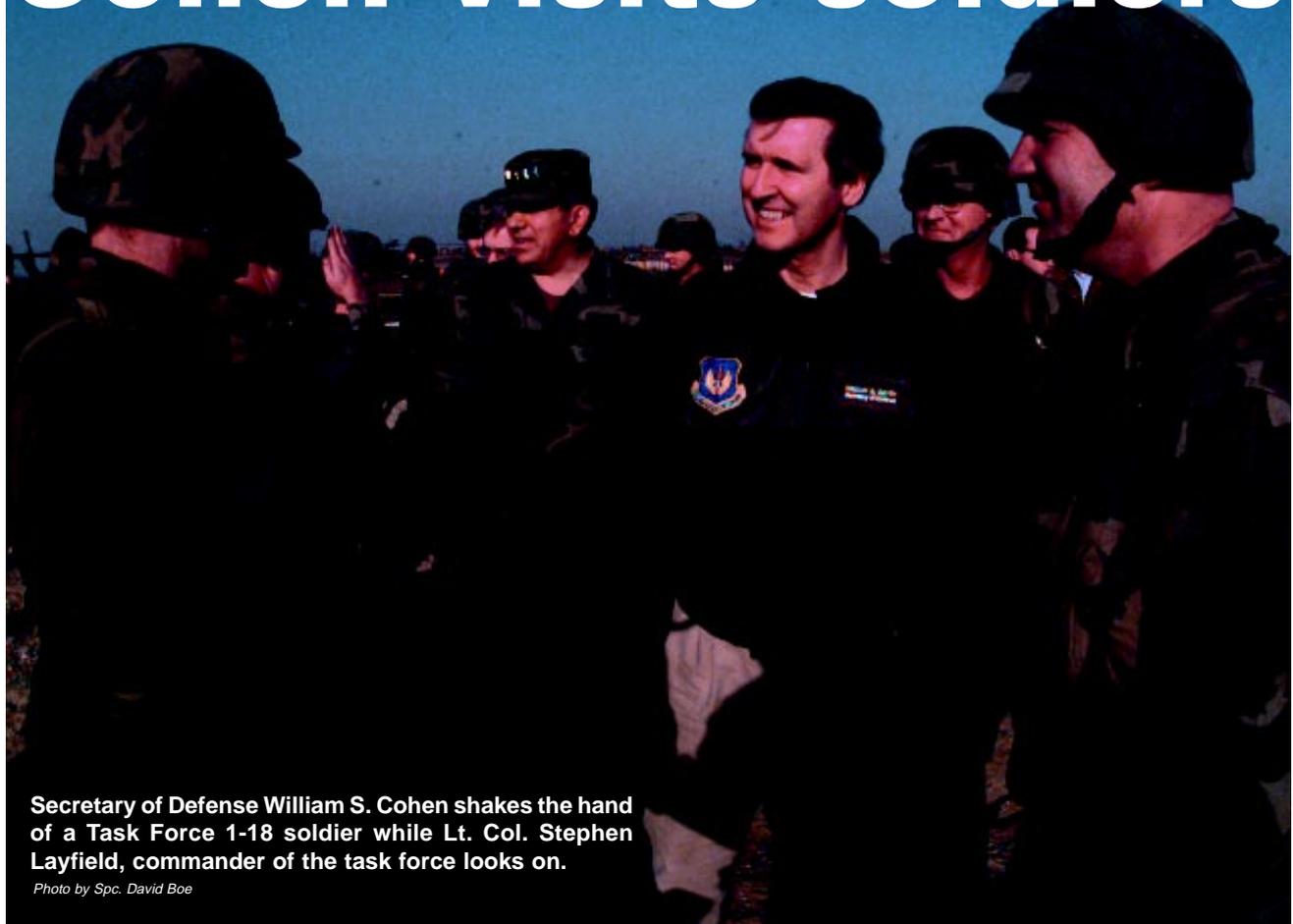
THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

Cohen visits soldiers



Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen shakes the hand of a Task Force 1-18 soldier while Lt. Col. Stephen Layfield, commander of the task force looks on.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

By Spc. Susanne Aspley, Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

U.S. forces have accomplished their implementation mission and will be out of Bosnia by June, 1998, said Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen

March 6 during a visit with troops both at Camp Dobol and McGovern Base on.

Cohen said U.S. forces are staying in Bosnia for another year to help the peace process become self-sustaining.

"I think the time has been long enough to allow the people to decide for themselves as to whether or not the benefits of peace outweigh the agonies of war," said Cohen.

Cohen visited soldiers of Task Force 1-26 at Camp Dobol and Task Force 1-18 at McGovern Base on his first trip abroad as secretary of defense.

The secretary of defense praised the soldiers of Task Force Eagle and said he appreciated the tense and dan-

gerous situation they faced in the Brcko area.

"We followed it (the Brcko situation) every day in Washington, but it's nothing quite like getting out here and seeing the kind of tests that you have to meet every day," he said. "I want you to know what a great contribution you are making. It's a tremendous sacrifice for you, for your families, for your loved ones, and I know you're anxious to get back and rejoin them."

Cohen also praised all soldiers serving in Bosnia. "The more individual soldiers I meet, the more inspired I am. They are bright, they are dedicated, and they are high-

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Beware computer newbies...

Compaq may change the command which reads "Press Any Key" to "Press Return Key" because of the flood of calls asking where the "Any" key is.

AST technical support had a caller complain that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. Turned out, the "dust cover" was the plastic bag the mouse came in.

A man called complaining that the system wouldn't read files from his old 5-inch diskettes. After trouble-shooting, it was found that the customer had labeled the diskettes and then rolled them into a typewriter to make the labels.

A customer was asked to send a copy of her defective diskettes. A few days later, a letter arrived from the customer along with Xeroxed copies of the floppies.

A technician advised his customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to wait and was heard putting the phone down, crossing the room, and closing his office door.

Another customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the tech found that the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "Send" key.

A technician received a call from a customer who was enraged because his computer had told him he was "bad and invalid." The tech explained he shouldn't take the responses personally.

A caller couldn't get her new computer turned on. When asked what happened when the power button was pushed, she said, "I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happens." The "foot pedal" turned out to be the computer's mouse.

LAYING DOWN THE LAWS

The visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen last week to Bosnia was great. He thanked the American troops here and reaffirmed how important we are to the nation's security. My congratulations and thanks to everyone who made preparations for the visit and coordinated the event.

However, his visit was short and he was not able to visit all of the base camps. To all of the soldiers he did not visit, don't feel slighted, you are equally important. He wanted to see as many of the troops as possible, but due to his schedule and the amount of time allowed for his trip here, he was not able to visit everyone.

Cohen flew in and out of Tuzla but did not spend any time here. He



traveled to Camp Dobol, spoke there and had lunch with soldiers in their dining facility. Then he flew over the village of Gajevi and visited Camp McGovern.

For the soldiers in those areas, it was convenient to see him and hear him speak.

Mr. Cohen was scheduled to visit soldiers in Vilseek, Germany, but had to cancel because of poor weather conditions in the area.

Many soldiers worked hard to make his visit here a good one, whether it was directing traffic, providing security, driving the vehicles or setting up the areas where he spoke. Even if you did not see him, your work here is very important. Our peacekeeping mission here is a joint one, so thanks to all.

By Command Sgt. Maj. James W. Laws
1st Infantry Division (Forward)

Redeployment II

Before conducting any operation, conduct operational risk assessments. Minimize risks to the lowest possible level.

Phase two of the redeployment process consists of convoy movement from Base Camp to RSB & ISB and convoy movement from Railroad to Home Station.

During the planning stage the following must be accomplished.

- Conduct risk assessment of convoy for specific route.
- Identify hazards, and apply appropriate countermeasures.
- Mark strip maps with hazards from route reconnaissance.
- Mark rest stops on strip maps.
- Identify properly trained and licensed drivers.
- Conduct detailed convoy briefing prior to movement.

During the convoy stage the following must be accomplished.

- Ensure all vehicles are in working order prior to movement.
- Post convoy signs front, rear, and as necessary.
- Equip vehicles with emergency equipment.
- Ensure assigned drivers do not operate any vehicle for more than eight continuous hours. Nor will the combined duty period of a driving team exceed 12 hours in any 24-hour period without at least eight consecutive hours of rest.
- Wear available seatbelts and kevlar helmets. Conduct preventative maintenance checks and services at rest stops.

By Lt. Col. Troy Vincent, Division Safety Office

THE TALON

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Villagers visit gravesite

Spc. Paul Houg Dahl
129th MPAD

March 1 marked the traditional Day of the Dead for Serbians of the Orthodox Christian faith. It also marked a day of cooperation between Serbs in the Brcko municipality and the Federation of Bosnian-Herzegovina residents of Orasje.

The village of Vucilovac was a Serbian area before the war and is now on the Federation side of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. What remains are skeletons of former homes, a pile of bricks which was once their church and a small graveyard with toppled headstones and covered by weeds and brush.

According to the Dayton Peace Accord, an application to visit a grave site must be given seven days in advance of the visit. In this case only 24 hours notice was given of the desire of the former residents to visit their grave sites.

"There is a rather ironclad seven day notification process which in this case, for whatever reason, did not occur. But through cooperation from both Brcko authorities and the Orasje authorities, this cross-IEBL grave site visit was able to take place," said Maj. John Czarnecki, 478th Civil Affairs Battalion of Miami, Fla. "This is the third attempt in this area to visit grave sites and the only one to actually happen. It's the largest gathering to take

place in this area in over a year and it posed no problems."

"This grave site visit was a first because the Croatian police from the area actually provided security for the Serbs when they entered the area," said Thomas Felgate of the International Police Task Force in Orasje. "The 120 people who showed up just needed to provide us with a list of who is here with personal information."

"It was a positive gesture from our side," said Marijan Pejic, Croatian chief of police, Orasje.

The 293rd Military Police Company from Camp Colt provided perimeter security for the event. Capt. John Perron, 293rd commander, said that the Croatian and IPTF police were the first line of defense and that the 293rd was a backup for a worst case scenario which might have been protests, the throwing of sticks and rocks and even the possibility of firearms. Fortunately, nothing happened.

"It was a beautiful day, a successful mission and everyone worked the plan well. It showed a lot of cooperation between the entities, which is difficult to get them to do, but it makes them work together," said Perron. "It is good for the Serbs because they haven't seen this site for four to five years and they are very traditional about keeping up gravesites of family members."

NEWS BRIEFS

Bosnia Deadline

BONN, GERMANY--U.S., British and German defense officials are committed to pulling out of Bosnia at the end of NATO's 18-month stabilization force mission. "The president said the mission will end in June 1998, and I intend to see to it that directive is carried out," U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen said.

DFAS answers

WASHINGTON--More than 175,000 Defense Finance and Accounting Service Customers a month are finding answers to their pay questions and other DFAS-related questions right at their fingertips. In January 1996, the DFAS Lane (www.dfas.mil) was launched.

Eagle website

Visit the official Task Force Eagle website where you can download THE TALON: www.1id.army.mil



Staff Sgt. Steve Burkette, 413th CA Bn, Lubbock, Texas, stationed at Camp Colt, watches as Serbians return to the gravesites of deceased family members. The gravesite visit was allowed by Federation leaders who now occupy the area for the Day of the Dead observance.

Photo by Spc. Paul Houg Dahl

Bread "for the troops"



By Sgt. Steven S. Collins
129th MPAD

UGLJEVIK, Bosnia – Every day, thousands of bread loaves are produced by five bakeries in northern Bosnia. These loaves are then shipped to SFOR mess halls and consumed by hungry soldiers at every meal.

To ensure the bread is safe for consumption, members of the 72nd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) at Tuzla Eagle Base inspect the bakeries periodically.

"Because of the war, the infrastructure of this country has been damaged, so the environment is sometimes unsafe for food preparation," said Warrant Officer Roman I. Chyla, a food specialist for the 72nd. "We look at the facilities, how the food is handled, how clean the trucks are that move the food and several other factors which determine whether the food is safe."

A team of specialists from the 72nd recently convoyed to the Zlatni Klas bakery in Ugljevik, northeast of Eagle Base. The bakery, operated by Vasilic Milovan, produces bread for American and Russian troops at nearby base camps. It employs seven people, which includes three bakers. It is the only bakery in the Ugljevic area.

"This bakery was not bad at all," said Capt. Robin K. King, veterinarian for the unit. "We were not there during production hours, though. Most of the bakeries operate during the evening hours and then ship the bread in the morning."

One problem facing the team is the lack of established quality standards in the bakery, said King, a native of Rhinebeck, N.Y. In the United States or Western European countries, bakers follow strict procedures for baking temperatures and times. In Bosnia, however, bakers "bake until it is done, or bake it until it is hot. Not very scientific and potentially very unsafe," she said.

"Food inspection is only one mission for the 72nd, said King. As the only veterinarian in Bosnia, King provides medical care to medical working dogs at all base camps, including those of other SFOR nations. She also educates soldiers on avoiding the dangers of local stray dogs and cats. Food inspection gives her and her teammates the opportunity to get out and meet locals.



Above, Warrant Officer Roman I. Chyla, a food inspection technician conducts an inspection. Soldiers sample fresh baked bread in front of the Zlatni Klas bakery in Ugljevik, Bosnia. The soldiers are (from left): Spc. Matthew P. Knetchel, an MP of the 53rd Area Support Group; Spc. Jay A. Braun, of the 72nd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services); Cpl. Aaron E. Michaelian, also a member of the 72nd; and Sgt. 1st Class Don J. Lamprecht, a member of the 26th Area Support Group.

Photos by Pfc. Wendy Tokach

CID armed with toys not guns

By Spc. Gary Bailey
129th MPAD

The imposing figure silhouetted by the sun looks around through sunglass-shielded eyes. In the place where rank should be, sits the emblem "SA." The soldiers from CID are usually intimidating, but not when their arms are full of toys.

Most people aren't especially excited when CID (now known as the criminal investigation command, formally known as criminal investigating division) visits, but that wasn't the case for the Bosnians living at the women and children's home in Visca, near Camp Bedrock, when they brought them toys and school supplies.

The 286th Military Police Detachment, CID, delivered ten boxes, full of toys such as dolls, Lincoln logs, trucks, pencils and more in the name of good will.

"I think a lot of Americans take things for granted. You come down here and see what these people have and the little things make them happy. We didn't give stuff that costs a lot, we gave them donations, but they were very pleased with what we gave," said Special Agent, Joey Y. McGee.

The previous commander, Lt. Col. Dorothy Doyle, now deputy commander of 2nd Region CID, which includes all of Europe, sent donations from Europe to the 286th and asked them to distribute them. Doyle was the commander of the 286th before her current assignment. She saw first hand what conditions were like here, and when she went home she asked her kids what they thought about sending some of their stuff to kids down here. They thought it was a great idea.



A young girl from the Widow's and Children's home enjoys her new toy.

Photo by Spc. Gary Bailey



Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pierce, commander of the 286 Military Police Detachment, hands a toy to a child at the Widow's and Children's home in Visca.

Photo by Spc. Gary Bailey

Doyle and her children, Catherine, age 6, and Michael, age 3, collected toys from their house to be sent to children in Bosnia.

"They went through their toys and picked which ones would be sent. They deliberately picked some of their favorite toys. They felt good knowing that their toys would go to other children who didn't have much," said Doyle.

Catherine sent some her favorite Barbie dolls knowing that some children may not have even seen a Barbie before.

"The kids felt good, and understood what they were doing. They know that there are a lot of children who do without," said Doyle.

The current commander of the 286th, Chief Warrant Officer Paul Pierce, contacted CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) who in turn contacted Civil Affairs looking for a good place for the toys and supplies to go.

"CID contacted Sgt. Tim Banker at CIMIC. He knew that we dealt with this kind of thing and asked us if we knew of a good place for the toys to go. I knew there were a lot of small children at this home. There weren't enough gifts to go to one of the larger refugee centers. This center was about the right size," said Major Michael O'Neal, Civil Affairs, Camp Bedrock.

"CID gets all the credit though. They did all the work. All I did was make a few phone calls," said O'Neal.

Special Agent in Charge, Chief Warrant Officer, Gregory Gransback said that it's nice to be the good guys once in a while.

"We deal with a lot of dark stuff. It seems like every day, day in and day out, we're dealing with the bad side of life. When we're interviewing a subject or a victim or a witness, it's always about something bad; a larceny, a theft, a death, a crime. It's nice for us to get out and do something nice for a change, something that brings a smile to someone's face," Gransback said.

According to O'Neal, the home that received the toys and supplies houses 18 widows and 31 orphans, ages two to fifteen, and they enjoyed the gifts they received.

"We've been out there two or three times since the toys were delivered and they are playing with them, smiling and laughing," said O'Neal.

"I think it's a very good deed. Doing this makes a difference, helping people out and promoting good will between the people here and the U.S. Army," said McGee.

O'Neal said that demonstrations like this, show that Americans are willing to help.

"It shows that we're not just a bunch of heartless soldiers coming in here. We care about what we're doing. American soldiers, for the majority, love children. If they have something to give, they'll give it. They want to do nice things for the children," said O'Neal.

When needed, M

Story and Photos by Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

The 984th Military Police Company is a sturdy, pillar of support within Task Force 1-26. Their missions are synchronized with hot issues and significant events throughout Bosnia. After upholding peace and security for nearly nine months, the soldiers will be home in April.

The Colorado MPs are wherever the action may be. Recently, they provided 24 hour presence in the villages of Gajevi and Mahala during the introduction of Serbian Police. Joint patrols with the Russians near Jusici were also successful. As the unpredictable Brcko Arbitration unfolded, the MPs were assigned to observe, detect, and detour any mass movement headed toward the city.

"The atmosphere now is definitely less hostile and tense than it was when we first arrived. Originally, the Serbs did not like us. Then we proved to them that we are here to help," said Staff Sgt. Marko J. Hakama, 2nd squad leader, 4th Platoon. Hakama, 30, is from Boynton Beach, Fla.

Initially, the MPs were tasked to assist, set up and monitor the national elections in Srebrenica, RS. They patrolled mass grave sites to ensure the Serbs abided by the Dayton Peace Agreement. Also accomplished were numerous storage site inspections, security patrols near Sarajevo and gate duty at Tuzla Main.

Pfc. Jeanene DeMarc, MP, 4th Plt., now usually participates in three patrols daily near Camp Dobol. Her squad stays alert for unusual movement or activities. Reflecting on the validity of U.S. involvement in Bosnia, she said, "I'm glad we are here. God forbid, there may be a time when we may be in a similar situation, in need of help. Someone else might have to step in for us."

DeMarc mentally prepared for the devastating sights she sees from the turret before she came to Bosnia. "I believe the real casualties are the children. No one deserves this. I can't image what it was like here when these houses were blown up...the screaming, crying, no where to run." DeMarc said. "But the biggest thrill is seeing the children wave and smile, lining the road as our trucks roll past." DeMarc, 30, is from Syracuse New York.

"Pfc. DeMarc never complains and does exactly what is expected of her. In fact, I'm astounded at the great attitude and high morale of everyone in 4th Platoon," Hakama said.



Above, Pfc. Jeanene DeMarc a member of the 984th Military Police Company on convoy duty. A 984th MP Co. convoy rolls through the backroads near the village of Mahala. Above right, Spc. Jonathan Hickman consults a map while on patrol near Mahala.

MPs are ready



Daveys: Working together

By Pfc. Wendy R. Tokach
129th MPAD

For most soldiers, leaving their loved ones behind is the hardest part of deployment. However, being apart is no problem for one couple at Eagle Base, since they came to Bosnia together.

Specialists Susan M. and Clifton D. Davey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division, have worked together since 1994 in Wurezburg, Germany, where they met and married June 25, 1995. Last October, the couple was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina to work in the company motor pool at Eagle Base. Clifton is a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic and Susan works in utilities equipment repair.

"I'm glad we came at the same time," Clifton said. "At least we have got each other here."

When a married couple works together there is bound to be some tension between not only each other but also between co-workers. However, the Daveys keep it all on a professional level.

"Everybody does give us a hard time, but we all get along pretty good," Susan said.

If and when problems arise the Davey's often turn to their supervisor, Staff Sgt. Charles E. McIver.

"His wife is also in the military so he knows how we feel," Susan said. "If we have a fight we talk it out. He helps us out a lot."

"We usually will work it out," Clifton said. "We are like best friends. We do everything together."

These battle buddies are also study partners while taking classes through the University of Maryland and Central Texas College. In addition, both studied together for the recent promotion board. Both scored high on the board.

The Daveys are also looking forward to redeployment. They can get back into their routine, where their lives are like many married couples. "She pretty much takes care of the house and I take care of the car," Clifton said. "And he cleans the refrigerator. I hate cleaning that and I take care of our plants," Susan said.

Private space at Eagle Base is a premium, because the Daveys share their tent with other members in their unit. Susan, being the only female in the tent, sleeps behind a small divider.

Both agree its hard to find anytime alone together, although they say that others are usually respectful when the two have time off.

"As long as we have our Sundays together, we're OK," Clifton said. "We go to the cappuccino shop and talk about how things are going."



Spc. Clifton D. Davey and Spc. Susan M. Davey, both with Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division, prepare for the promotion board above and check for leaks on a HMMWV.

Photos by Pfc. Wendy R. Tokach





Light wheeled mechanic Spc. Steven B. Glasscock, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Inf. Div., from Barrackville, W. Va. repairs a HMMWV at the Eagle Base motor pool.

New dispatch procedures at Eagle Base

By Pfc. Wendy R. Tokach
129th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Tuzla — Soldiers going to the motor pool to dispatch vehicles may have noticed a few changes in the procedure recently.

Due to an increase in incidents of poor maintenance and improper Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services on vehicles, soldiers will no longer get a quick approval for a dispatch.

"When the operator signs the dispatch he is saying, 'Yes, I performed all the safety checks properly.' We used to let the NCOIC take responsibility," said Staff Sgt. Charles E. McIver, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division motor sergeant. "After a while, we did a few random checks on those vehicles that were signed off as mission capable and we would go out and find a deadline on all of them."

Now the system has changed.

Before a soldier is allowed to sign off on a dispatch, he or she must have the mechanic do a quick check on the vehicle to ensure that the vehicle was fully and properly serviced. Although there are faults mechanics find because of their knowledge, McIver said too many faults found by the mechanics are listed in the PMCS manual.

"In order for us to do our job, we had to start doing the checks," McIver said. "I wanted to make sure that when people go out on dispatches that their trucks are fully mission capable."

"PMCS is an operator and supervisor responsibility, that's all it is," said Sgt. Mark A. Valdez, dispatch sergeant for HHC 11D. "We are finding discrepancies that they overlooked. I know that there is a lack of manuals for those trucks and that some people just don't know what they are looking for when they PMCS without them. But supervisors need to get more involved in the procedure."

With only two light-wheeled mechanics in the motor pool, the workload is becoming overwhelming for those soldiers. It is difficult to schedule maintenance with only two mechanics, said McIver.

"If the supervisor would teach a soldier to do a correct PMCS it would cut my problems in half."

-Staff Sgt. Charles E. McIver, HHC Company, 1st Inf. Div.

"If the supervisor would teach a soldier to do a correct PMCS, it would cut my problems in half," McIver said. "They should not just assume that the soldier did a correct check and sign it off."

Doing correct PMCS will solve many problems before they occur.

"It's good that we are preventing things with these checks. This system is working," Valdez said. "We should have been doing this from the start."



Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Fletcher visits with Zineta Focic and Amira Fehric, two local Bosnians that work at the Eagle Base chapel.

Photo by Spc. Todd Surdez

Teaching more than the Gospel

By Spc Todd Surdez
129th MPAD

Being in a foreign country, simple things like saying "Thank You" to a food service worker or asking one of the cleaning personnel for more paper towels, creates a problem for many. For soldiers and civilians on Eagle Base, or anyone just passing through, all that is needed is one hour a week.

Once a week for the past three months Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick J. Fletcher, 4100 Group Chapel, U.S. Air Force, has been instructing a Bosnian language class in the Base Chapel, Building 14. "I felt the interest and the need from the start," said Fletcher.

Teaching a foreign language is nothing new to Fletcher. He has certificates in twelve languages and has studied numerous others. "The most difficult one (foreign language) to learn is the first one. Once you break the language barrier the first time you are not as constrained," said Fletcher. "If you can dream in a different language you have broken that barrier."

Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. the Chapel comes alive with the sounds of native Bosnian music and dialect. According to Fletcher you may even get to

witness or participate in a festive dance. This sets the tone for the rest of the class, an easy going enjoyable learning experience.

"This is only my second class. I have learned the basic stuff. I find myself practicing at the chow hall, laundry and with the cleaning ladies," said Staff Sgt. Luis Rodriguez of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery. "Father (Fletcher) is very knowledgeable."

Staff Sgt. Rodriguez rides the shuttle bus from West Tuzla each week to attend the classes.

"If you can only attend one class it can be beneficial," said Fletcher. "I have had a few students that were only on Tuzla main for one night and then had to return to their base camp."

An eight year veteran of the Air Force, Fletcher has been teaching foreign tongue for more than 19 years, 16 of those in Europe. "I once had a student that taught me a lot more than I taught him. His name was Cardinal Karol Wojtyla. He later changed his name to Pope John Paul II," said Fletcher, who is also a Priest for the Diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

"In 1978 he told me that one day he would ordain me as a priest, seven years later he did," said Fletcher. "He knew I

would be ordained before I did."

One thing Fletcher has learned is a great respect for someone else's homeland. "I am a guest in their country, I want to know their language and culture. You can see a lot of Bosnia just in the language," said Fletcher.

"I also want to help the soldiers be good ambassadors of America," said Fletcher. "Taking the time to learn how to say 'Good Morning' to one of the workers in the dining facility is easy, and it will mean a great deal to that worker."

"I was blessed in that I was able to speak Bosnian to one of the Chapels janitorial staff, French to one of the French soldiers on post and English and Spanish to U.S. troops today," said Fletcher when asked how often he uses his dossier of languages. "On occasion, at Midnight Mass, I have been able to address Russian soldiers in Russian. You can tell by their response that it touches their heart."

The Bosnian language classes are open to all and Fletcher invites any interpreters that would like to help instruct the course. "The more the merrier. If we can have a few interpreters present, we can break up into groups according to the individuals knowledge of the language. Maybe we can even have a little more dancing," said Fletcher.

Marriage Minefields

From the Chaplain's Office

For those re-deploying, it will be a joyous time of reuniting with families and loved ones. Our chaplains are conducting many reunion classes. These classes are designed to assist everyone in establishing happy reunions. May God richly bless all who will be leaving us in the coming days.

While in Bosnia, the number one rule has been: **STAY ON THE ROAD!** This has been the best way to avoid the misfortune of finding something we did not want - land mines. Let us identify a few marital mines which are placed around redeployments. These mines can blow up in our faces and destroy marriages, if given the opportunity. However, anticipating them will allow us to negotiate around them. Watch for these mines!

Mine #1 - Romanticism. This is a natural coping mechanism which accompanies deployment. When couples are separated for a long while, we tend to highlight the positive and minimize the negative memories. This is good, because it helps us to stay focused and enables us to hold the hope that things will be even better after the deployment. Those annoying habits of your spouse are "out of sight, out of mind". The truth is, sooner or later, the "old problems" will return. Things left unresolved in the past will creep up again.

Solution: Keep the communication channels open and arrive at a win/win resolution of the problem. If you need a neutral counselor to facilitate your problem-solving efforts, do not let pride get in the way.

Mine #2 - Change. Life is like a flowing river. You can not put your feet in at the same spot where you put them six months ago. Your spouse back at home

has shouldered the responsibilities of running the household. They have discovered that they can do those things, which formerly you have done. The children have adjusted to having only one parent to respond to, answer to, and keep informed. For social outlet, your spouse may have discovered the support of new friends. All of this brings change to your former routine. While deployed you have also adjust-



ed to not having your spouse around. All these changes could breed more independence. Sometimes the readjustment will bring some friction and misunderstandings. **Solution:** Reunion will be a slow process of forming a new routine. The mark of emotional maturity is our ability to understand these changes, incorporate them into our lives, and become stronger

for the experiences. Take the time to retell your story of "Life During Deployment." Be sure to take the time to listen to your partner's story (chapter by chapter). Grow together in mutual respect for each other. With patience the feelings of being in sync will return.

Mine #3 - Finances. You have earned extra money during our stay here. Unexpected surprises about how the money has been spent may unsettle that perfectly planned grand reunion. The \$800 car repair, the \$500 phone bill, and the \$300 dress may spawn financial concerns. **Solution:** Be understanding when your spouse explains how the budget may have gotten stretched or bent. Approach all financial talk with an open mind set; it is far better to speak of "our money," rather than "my money." Possessive talk about common finances will likely produce feelings of resentment.

Remember, that debts are temporary and marriages are for keeps. For couples who have financial problems, it is wise to set aside a designated night and time for discussion over the bills. This could be done in a calm fashion around a table (perhaps after a nice dinner). This is to be preferred over the free-fire complaining throughout the week. Remember also, that the Army Community Services have a financial counselor who can assist you.

When we return home, we will close out this chapter here in our military lives. We will celebrate the reunion, and write a new chapter.

Remember to, "STAY ON THE ROAD!" You can build healthy marriages and families by avoiding the marriage mines. May God bless us all!

Reed This

By Sgt. Corwin L. Reed



American Forces Network

SFOR NEWS

0630 Hrs.

0805 Hrs.

1005 Hrs.

1505 Hrs.

"The Geezer"

InfoGraph by the 300th MPAD

SECDEF Visit

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ly trained. Obviously those who have been here five months are eager to go home. But they are doing so with a sense of great personal success and accomplishment. They are very proud of what they have done," Cohen said during a press conference.

"In the last 14 months, the United States and allied troops have overcome many challenges. They stopped the killing and turned despair into hope. They have created a secure environment to allow economic and political reforms to take hold," he said. "As secretary of defense, I am extremely proud of the professionalism and success of our forces. Peacekeeping, as we all know, is not an easy job. But they have performed this extremely well."

Cohen emphasized that despite the military accomplishments, many challenges remain before the mission ends in June 1998.

"There is still much to be done... including having an adequate police force, elec-

tions, having the economic infrastructure built, and also a change of heart. We cannot mandate or impose that. All we can do is give those individuals here and parties involved an opportunity to do that," he said. "But we will have completed our mission and will be leaving at that time."

Regarding the extension of U.S. involvement in Bosnia, Cohen made it very clear that the military mission was accomplished and the military did its job.

I'm proud of you, and I'm proud to be your Secretary of Defense."

-Secretary of Defense William Cohen

However, he said "it was determined by the NATO countries that more time was needed to allow the civilian authorities to complete their mission. Under the circumstances, I supported that decision. But I have also indicated that this is the last extension that I think is warranted. I do not believe that the American people will support nor will the Congress support an extension beyond 1998."

Cohen agreed that the recent postponement on municipal elections indicates a slow change of civilian reform. This is due to a lack of resources and commitment on the part of civilian authorities to carry out what they are obligated to do.

"The mission of SFOR is not to serve as a police force. I believe we need a more active local police force that is able to carry out those functions," he said.

What will happen after the U.S. departs Bosnia, "is on the parties (former warring factions) themselves. They need to understand that we are leaving at the end of June 1998,said Cohen."

During his visit, the secretary of defense promoted soldiers from Camp Dobol, McGovern Base, Camp Colt and Tuzla Main.

"You've made all of us proud, America proud, Europe proud, and, I would say, the world proud," said Cohen. "I'm proud of you, and I'm proud to be your secretary of defense."

This was Cohen's first visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina since becoming Secretary of Defense on Jan. 24.



Secretary William Cohen is welcomed to the Tuzla Airbase.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Geiger