

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



The initial blast of a Serbian T55 tank was done using C-4 explosives detonated by the explosive ordnance detachment attached to Task Force 1-26.

SFOR demilitarizes tank

Photo by Sgt. Angel Clemons

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By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL -- A Serbian tank recently confiscated from a weapons storage site near Brcko in the Russian sector was successfully demilitarized at Camp Dobol under the supervision of Lt. Col. Robin Swan, Task Force 1-26 commander and Col. Anatoli Sazan-ski, chief Russian liaison officer.

The Russian built T-55, seized after a violation of the Dayton Peace

Accord, was neutralized with dignity.

"We demilitarized the tank as environmentally safe as possible while keeping the outside looking as good as possible. The Serbs can have it back or put it in a museum," said 1st Lt. Rob McCarthy, executive officer for Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, Task Force 1-26.

In order to demilitarize the vehicle, all items that could be replaced or used in other tanks needed to be destroyed.

See Blast page 12

And the sign on the wall said...

In an Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all water here.

In a Bucharest hotel lobby: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

On a Moscow hotel room door: If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

In a Zurich hotel: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested the lobby be used for this purpose.

In a Paris hotel elevator: Please leave your values at the front desk.

In a hotel in Athens: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m. daily

In a Yugoslavian hotel: The flattening of underwear with pleasure is job of the chambermaid.

In a Japanese hotel:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

On the menu of a Swiss restaurant: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.

In a Bangkok dry cleaners: Drop your trousers here for best results.

Outside a Paris dress shop: Dresses for street walking.

In a Norwegian cocktail lounge: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.

In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today -- no ice cream.

Advertisement for donkey rides in Thailand: Would you like to ride on your own ass?

LAYING DOWN THE LAWS

Recently there have been individuals writing bad checks at the finance office and post exchange. The number of incidents may be small but the lessons learned apply to all.



Recovery of these funds is not the entire issue -- finance will deduct the negative amount from your paycheck. However, you are placed on the bad check roster -- which restricts you from cashing checks anywhere on base and in the AAFES system. I consider this an issue of integrity. When individuals knowingly write or pass bad paper they are not upholding the standards to which soldiers aspire.

Writing a check with non-sufficient funds will also place your spouse in a difficult situation, especially if you share an account. The spouse may be surprised to find out the account does not have funds to cover all of their checks as well. This puts them in a very uncomfortable position.

Everyone is responsible to balance their own accounts. Keep track of de-

posits and withdrawals and keep check books up to date. Know how much you have in your account to spend. Plan ahead.

Honest mistakes are made, such as forgetting to record a check then writing another one when the balance will not cover it. How-

ever, many bad checks are not honest mistakes. They are done to defraud the U.S. government. These actions are punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Leadership gets involved when a soldier has attempted to defraud the government.

There are always exceptions to the monthly maximum amounts that can be written. Your finance office has these figures. There are provisions for advances for money needed for passes and leaves. But contact your finance office rather than write a bad check.

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

Redeployment III

PHASE 3, Rail Operations and Loading & Unloading Equipment should accomplish the following:

- Commanders, supervise and coordinate unit movement.
• Commanders, brief personnel on mandatory safety messages.

The train commander must accomplish the following:

- Ensure orderly operations conduct and personnel safety.
• Establish liaison with railway officials, identify hazards.
• Obtain and stage in a controlled area all required blocking, bracing, chocking, and lashing materials.
• Accompany the yard master to inspect the railcars to ensure their suitability for the intended loads.
• Ensure flatcar floors and sides are intact and free of debris.
• Confirm electrical power to overhead power lines has been cut off and lines are "LOCKED AND TAGGED OUT".
• Conduct a safety briefing to all personnel on the rail car loading and unloading hazards and safety requirements.
• Stress patience at critical points, i.e. unloading at home.
• Designate a staging area for vehicles after unloading. No ground guide, no vehicle movement.

Keep up Task Force Eagle's excellent safety record to the end.

By Lt. Col. Troy Vincent, Division Safety Office

THE TALON

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299th gives warmth

By Sgt. Steven S. Collins
129th MPAD

KARAULA REFUGEE CAMP, Bosnia-Herzegovina – The children surrounded the U.S. military vehicles as they arrived, startling drivers who worried about the children's safety. Despite warnings, the children drew closer, waiting with anticipation for the delivery of more American generosity in the form of school supplies and warm clothes.

"The children love us. They are all very friendly," said Capt. Roy Flock, chaplain for the 299th Forward Support Battalion, Guardian Base. "These trips give our soldiers a chance to see the people they are in Bosnia to protect."

The 299th has been delivering donated goods to the people of Karaula since last October, when the unit arrived in Bosnia. The soldiers of the 299th have taken more than 500 boxes of clothing, personal hygiene items and school supplies to the camp of 950 refugees, located 5 kilometers east of Guardian Base in the city of Zivinice.

The refugees live in 41 apartment houses, with 23 individuals sharing a small apartment room and bathroom. Nearly all of their food is donated by relief organizations. The houses have electricity but have wood/coal burning stoves for heat. No medical care is available.

"If not for our involvement, these refugees probably would not have had as warm and as comfortable a winter as they did with the clothing we've given them," said Maj. Richard Rivera of the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve. Rivera, of Cherry Hill, N.J., and his unit organize the convoys to Karaula once Flock gets enough donations.

The donations pour into Guardian Base from a number of sources, most of them in the United States. Individuals and relief

organizations gather the clothing, hygiene products and school supplies and ship them to Flock, who has 299th soldiers organize and pack them for distribution.

"We try to visit the camp once every two or three weeks," said Rivera. "The refugees are always excited to see us and really like the products we've been able to deliver."

The camp survives on the products donated by relief organizations and on the money raised by the sale of products made by the refugees, such as sweaters and wood crafts, said Rivera. The camp has even established a school for the nearly 400 children in the camp. Yet, painful memories of the war linger and the conditions at the camp only amplify the sadness.

"It is difficult for us to understand, because we don't speak their language," said Flock. "But if we did, we'd probably learn a lot of painful things."

However, Asif Anđelic, the refugee leader, is hopeful for the future. "Many lives were lost during the war," he said through a translator. "Now we are growing vegetables. We are teaching our children to grow into complete and healthy people. If the economy would function better, it will connect all factions together in unity."

The children are learning English, thanks to the school supplies and books given to the refugees.

"We teach English, because we don't know where the (orphaned) children will go tomorrow," said Anđelic. It is possible that orphaned children will leave the camp eventually to find homes in other parts of the country or even in other countries.

For all the soldiers, whether they are donating goods or actually delivering them, the Karaula experience will be a pleasant reminder of why they were deployed to Bosnia. "We have seen directly what our involvement here in Bosnia has meant to these people," said Rivera.



Col. Claude V. Christianson, commander of the 1st Infantry Division support command, speaks to some of the refugee children

Photo by Sgt. Steven S. Collins

NEWS BRIEFS

Mines cleared

SFOR Russian Brigade engineers conducted an engineering reconnaissance of the terrain in the areas of Dugi Dio and Sapna this week. They found and obliterated more than 30 mines and other explosive ordnance.

New Webmaster

Soldier with knowledge of HTML language sought for maintaining 1ID home page (www.1id.army.mil). Contact PAO Maj. W. DuPont at 551-3351 or IPN 7167.

Everywhere a Sign

As redeployment nears, take time to refresh your memory on European road signs. Since an above-average percentage of redeploying personnel have been involved in accidents on return, the time will be well spent.

Autobahn



Cars only

Bike crossing



Drawbridge ahead

Children in area



Bumpy road ahead

Safe passage home

By Staff Sgt. Jerry A. Weber
129th MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK – For some, it's time to go home. The route is mapped and, thanks to the 1st Infantry Division units which supplied soldiers to check out the routes, there is a safe passage to Slavonski Brod, the first leg of the voyage home.

These soldiers were responsible for checking road widths, bridges, rest areas and traffic control areas of the route. The route has been traveled and patrolled many times since October, but still needs to be reinspected for safety.

"These routes are familiar to almost everyone. These are major routes that just needed to be rechecked for large pot holes and as to whether the bridges and roads can handle the size of vehicles that will be using them," said Staff Sgt. Michael O'Rourke, operation sergeant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion.

Several of the bridges on the routes were installed by SFOR personnel, replacing bridges that were destroyed during the fighting.

"We just need to make sure that these

"We've had very few accidents and injuries so far... we need to make sure we get everyone home safely."

— Capt. Patrick Budjenska

bridges are still supported correctly and that the pins and joints are holding together under the stress they have been put under since the units deployed," said

O'Rourke, a native of Olympia, Wash.

During the inspection, the Provost Marshall's Office determined the areas that needed traffic control points. These points should account for the convoys and direct the vehicles through difficult intersections to ensure the convoys move smoothly.

"We basically know where the traffic control points are going to be, but we need to verify the information and locate any other intersection that might need someone to direct the convoy or signs that show the route," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven M. Gray, operation sergeant for 1st Infantry Division Provost Marshall's Office.

"The convoys deploying and redeploying will be scheduled at different times to help prevent one of the convoys from having to pull over to let the other one through," said Capt. Patrick "Bud" Budjenska, of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. "This will reduce the risk of an accident and civilian traffic congestion due to the convoys."

"During the day, when the locals are on the road, it is going to be dangerous," said Judson, native of Cushing, Maine. "These roads are already too narrow for many of the military vehicles when there's two-way traffic, but then adding people walking on the sides of the road just adds to the difficulty. Every driver will need to be alert."

The local adults are aware of the danger but have concerns for children who walk back and forth to school or accompany friends to markets, said Muminovic Mirzet, 24, a resident of Zivinice.

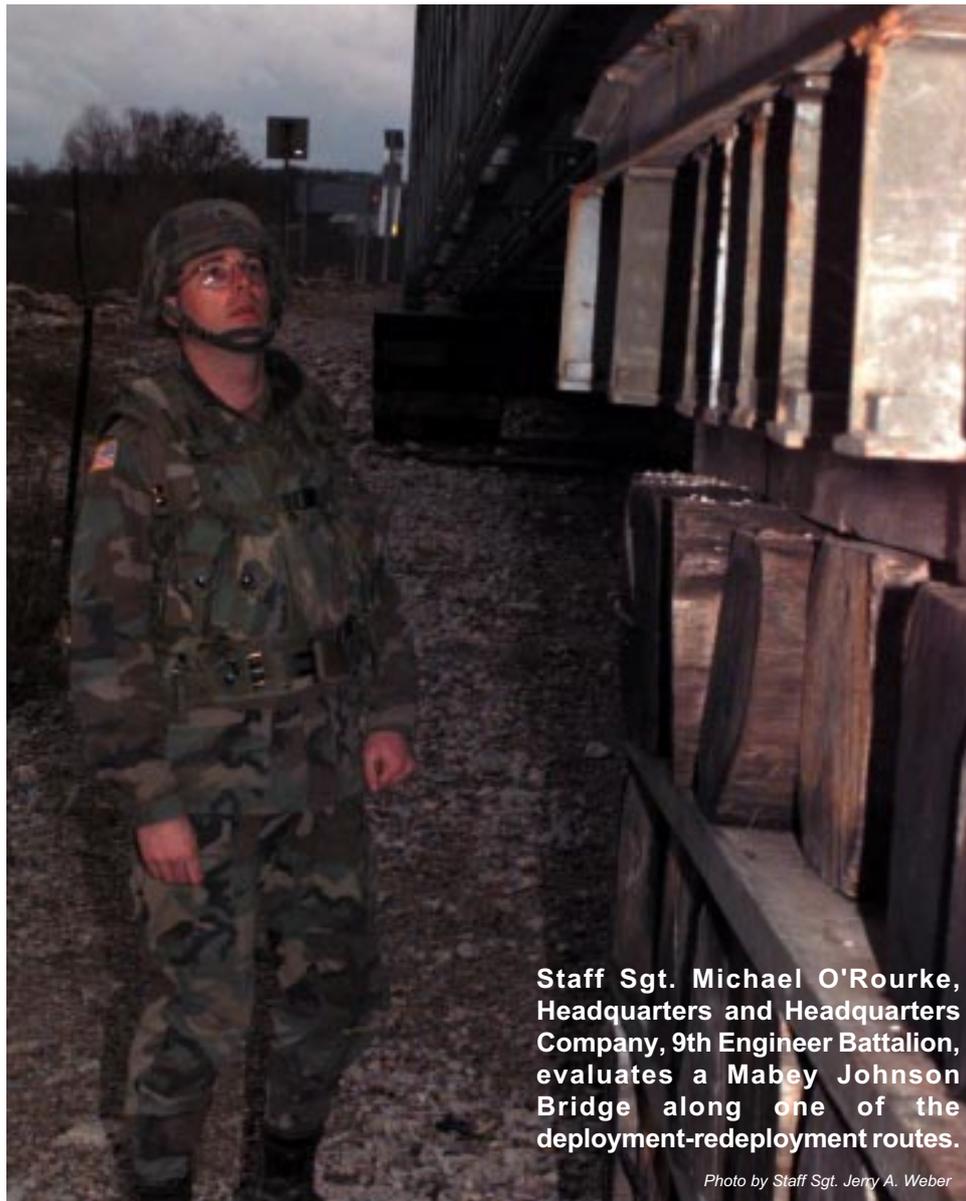
Fahira Habibovic, 35, also of Zivinice said that a radio announcement would help parent warn their children to be more cautious of SFOR convoys.

Even with the route cleared, contingency plans for crossing the Sava River into Croatia need to be considered. If needed, the 74th Engineer Company will install a ribbon assault floatation bridge.

"We can have the bridge installed and ready for use soon after the first boat is placed in the water," said Staff Sgt. Kevin R. Burrell, 1st Platoon sergeant. "All of our equipment is ready and on standby. As soon as we get the call we can roll."

With the clearing and checking of the route to Slavonski Brod completed, and so many safety precautions taken to prevent accidents or mishaps, it is now up to the soldiers to make that first leg a safe one.

"The trip to Slavonski Brod is going to be a long day for the soldiers, especially with them excited about leaving," said Budjenska, from Richardson, Texas. "The soldiers need to take their time and pay attention to what they are doing. We've had very few accidents and injuries so far considering the road conditions and we need to make sure we get everyone home safely."



Staff Sgt. Michael O'Rourke, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, evaluates a Mabey Johnson Bridge along one of the deployment-redeployment routes.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jerry A. Weber

Weapon of peace



Spc. Scott A. Aldridge (left) and Private Frank W. Kasica, both of A Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor, pull guard duty atop their M1A2 Abrams tank at the north gate of McGovern Base.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

By Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

MCGOVERN BASE -- It's a 68-ton behemoth that has the speed and agility of a Jaguar. Its 120-mm gun can slice through enemy armor like a hot knife through butter, while its thick hide makes other weapon systems seem like pea shooters. Nothing is safe from its eyes, which can pierce the night, rain and fog to find its prey.

This is the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank -- a weapon of peace. A weapon of peace?

"We've got the guns and the systems, and the fighting capability in order to keep the peace in Bosnia," said Sgt. Jeremy J.E. Schweigert, 23, an Abrams gunner with Company A, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor. "It's a show of force. We're here to keep the peace."

Schweiger, a native of St. Clair Shores, Mich., said the "Warlords," with their Abrams tanks, provide the high-caliber muscle for Task Force 1-18, based at McGovern Base.

Schweigert's tank, Alpha-18, like a tiger staring out from its lair, sits behind a wall of sandbags and concertina wire, silently watching military and civilian vehicles approach the base's north gate. The stillness is broken only by the flapping of a small American flag above the turret, or when a crewmember jumps aboard the tank and Alpha-18 awakens with a turbine-driven growl. The long barrel of the main gun slides left and right with a menacing whir. It's a reminder of the M1's potential deterrence and power.

"That's one of the reasons why they (the commanders) brought down tanks on the SFOR mission ... they needed the power," said Schweigert. "The Bradley (M2 Fighting Vehicle) is an awesome fighting vehicle, but it can be taken out by enemy tanks -- the

enemy cannot take out the Abrams tanks."

Schweigert and his unit have been in Bosnia since October, performing a variety of missions. In addition to guard duty at McGovern, the unit performs checkpoint procedures and weapon storage site inspections. Some of the missions, said Schweigert, are a new experience for the tankers.

"We're doing a lot of non-armor duties," said Schweigert. "We're used to sneaking through the wood line, or taking out heavy armor. It's a learning experience for us."

The main mission of Co. A, 1-77 Armor is Checkpoint Alpha-2 on Route Arizona, south of Brcko. Schweigert said that while his tank may just sit at the checkpoint, its sheer presence is enough to make people with mischief on their minds to think twice.

"Everybody notices the M1 when it goes by or is just sitting out there on the road at the checkpoint," said Schweigert.

Schweigert, and the rest of the crew of A-18 have seen their share of excitement too.

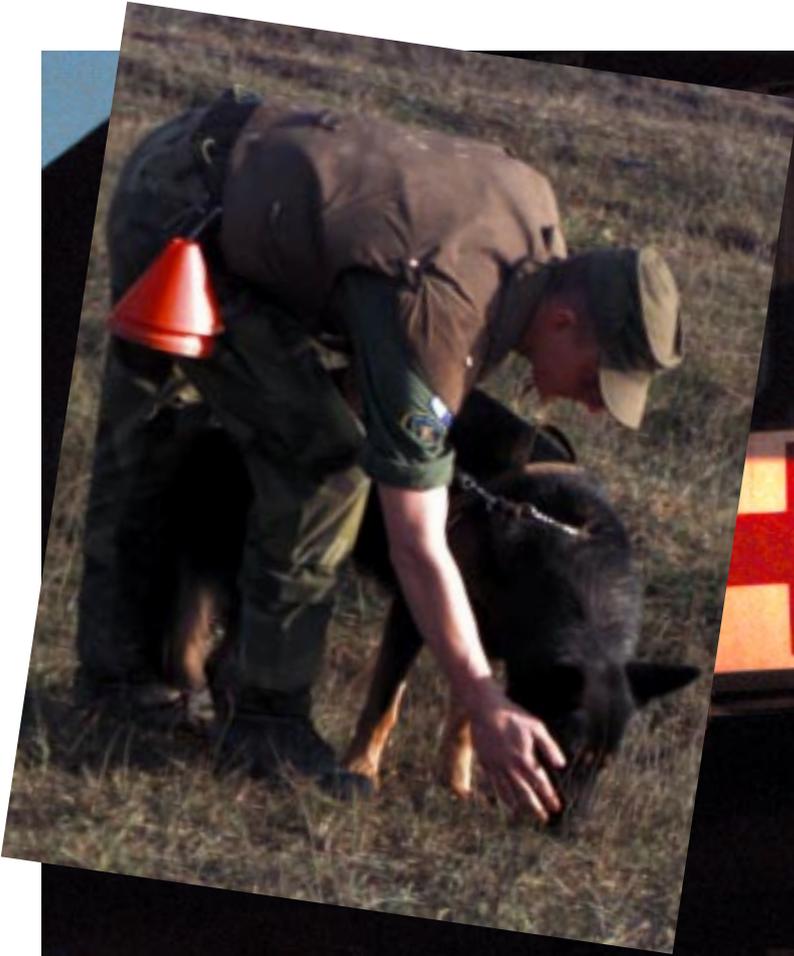
"At the checkpoint we've had belligerence -- people wanting to test us as far as they can," said Schweigert. "I've found C-4 in someone's car once, and we've also found weapons."

"On the checkpoint one night a drunk was driving a van and didn't see the stop sign and ran right into the guard shack while two guys were in there," said Spc. Scott A Aldridge, 21, A-18's driver. "They got out alright - they jumped over the sandbags."

Aldridge, who hails from Seattle, said despite any potential threats at the isolated checkpoint, he feels safe when seated within the iron walls of his Abrams tank.

"Because I have the turret above me and steel in front of me

See PEACE page 12



From top left, clockwise, A Swedish dog handler leads the dog the path to clear... A sweeper for the S-100 clears and marks a safe area for the rescue. Sgt. Michael A. Bowie, 45th Medical Company, adjusts the harness in preparation for a combined train/practice hoist operations for possible minefield

Man's best friend

Photos and story by Spc. Matt Johnson
129th MPAD

Dogs have been called man's best friend, but how many of us would place our lives in the hands, or more accurately, in the nose of a dog on a daily basis? The 26 members of the Swedish Explosive Ordnance Platoon ultimately place their lives and the lives of minefield casualties in their dogs' abilities. And they do so with the utmost confidence, especially since they just acquired the dogs in the unit.

As members of the stabilization force supporting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Swedes, set up at Camp Oden, readily and willingly respond to unexploded ordnance and minefield contingencies on a regular basis.

"For me, this is a completely new experience. I've never worked with dogs before," said Capt. Johan Eklöf, Swedish EOD commander. "I've learned a lot about how dogs behave, and I completely trust them. I'll walk behind them (in a minefield)."

Speed necessitates the use of the dogs, especially in emergency-rescue situations. "If someone is wounded, bleeding and possibly in shock, we need to get to them as fast as possible," Eklöf said. "A mine detector picks up all metal, so you have to stop and check it and either avoid it or remove it. The dog just sniffs out the explosives.

"It's like a formula one car and the dog is the engine," he said. "You can push the car, but not very fast. With the dog (engine), you can go very, very fast."

As important as belief in the dogs, is trust in your teammates.

"Everyone in the unit is skilled at their work, so we trust each other," Eklöf said.

"Most important is confidence in our abilities and the other guys' abilities," said Spc. Lars Persson, sweeper. "I trust any of these guys."

When approaching an accident site, the team first stops to access the situation and gather information.

See SWEDES page 11



Staff Sgt. Matt Johnson puts the dog's nose to the ground to show the Swedish EOD platoon out of Camp Oden near Tuzla how to start its evacuation from a minefield... Staff Sgt. Johnson helps a Swedish EOD specialist strap on a "monkey" during an exercise. Background, U.S. and Swedish Forces conduct minefield extractions using a dog trained to detect explosives.

Air Force -- Talking the talk

By Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

McGOVERN BASE--Once, when flying home, Senior Airman Richard L. Larson encountered a problem of mistaken identity.

"When I went home on leave, I took a hop to Dover and I was talking to some Air Force people," said the 26-year-old Oxford, Wis., native. "And they thought I was Army because of the way I talked. Instead of saying 'BX', I'd say 'PX' or, 'going to the field.'"

After seven years in the Air Force, Larson had become accustomed to the confusion. As a tactical air command and control specialist, Larson has spent his entire career working with the Army.

His current assignment is no different. For two months, he has been attached to McGovern Base along with other Air Force personnel to support operations of Task Force 1-18. While only a few of them have worked consistently with the Army, all of them have picked up the task force's peculiar speech patterns.

"We have ended up saying 'hooah' a lot more than our Air Force counterparts," said Larson.

"Yes, we've gotten a lot of their habits," said Senior Airman Jeremy R. Kozee of Lenore, W.Va., who is also a TACCS. "We're trying to break ourselves of the 'hooah' thing and 'roger.' We say that a lot, too."

It is important that Larson, Kozee, and their co-workers "talk the talk" -- it's part of the job. The Air Force team has a direct link to the day-to-day operations at McGovern.

The mission of the tactical air control party at McGovern, said Kozee, is to advise the ground commander on the use of air power in his theater of operations.

"We have to know the capabilities of the aircraft, what type of munitions they carry, and we also go out and control the missions," said Kozee. "We go out and get our eyes on the target that he wants taken out and we call in the air strike to neutralize it."

"We go to a control point -- hopefully a safe distance away -- and basically talk their (the pilots) eyes onto the target," said

Larson. "We make sure they're hitting the target and confirm who they say they are."

The team trains with aircraft from different NATO countries, from American A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, to British Jaguars, to Spanish F-18s. While English is the official language in the air, Larson said they still have to be careful giving instructions to pilots.

"You might tell them to look for a dirt road, and they don't know what 'dirt road' means," said Larson.

Being a TACCP is a unique Air Force job. Not only are all duty assignments with Army units, but the TACCPs must perform the Army Physical Fitness Test as well as the Air Force's. This appeals to Airman 1st Class Ryan L. Barton.

"I like working with the Army," said Barton, a 20-year-old native of Klamath Falls, Ore. "You do more physical activity. I thought it would be better than sitting in an office."

All of the TACCP's said that while they like their job, there are times when they regret not having a normal Air Force job.

Larson said weather plays a factor in how many training missions they can do in a day.

"One day the weather was great and I had ten missions in one day," said Larson.

When Larson wants to know how the weather will be that day, he turns and talks to the two Air Force weather observers sharing his office in the task force's tactical operating center.

"I can give them a weather brief for their missions, and brief them on winds," said Airman 1st Class Petina L. Allen, 23, of Lenoir, N.C.

This is Allen's first deployment since enlisting over a year ago.

"It's been a great experience," said Allen, who was reassigned from her squadron in Fort Carson, Colo. for duty in Bosnia. "This is my first real interaction with the Army as far as an infantry unit goes, but they're very helpful and supportive."

At the simplest level, Allen's job involves going outside once an hour and taking a visual check of the current weather.

"I take visibility, wind direction and speed, sky conditions, with the different type of clouds and ceiling height, and the amount of coverage," said Allen. "I have a tactical barometer to report the altimeter settings -- I report these observations to Tuzla, and that helps them."

Simple or not, Allen's work can directly effect operations at McGovern Base. "The S-3 shop and the liaison officers use my observations for incoming flights and operations like that, especially with all of the patrols, or night guard duty," she said. "I can give them an idea if it's going to freeze overnight."

"Hooah" notwithstanding, the Air Force personnel at McGovern still have a recognition problem with the Army.

"A few of the infantry guys actually know who we are, but other than that most wonder what we do here," said Larson.

Of course Army soldiers know Air Force when they see them: "When we're around the Army," said Kozee, "it's 'Hey Air Force!' or 'Hey Air Force guy!'"



Airman 1st Class Ryan L. Barton, 1st Air Support Operations Squadron, positions a portable satellite antenna.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

A different sort of vehicle

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

NICE TRY—During a routine Serbian weapons storage site inspection near the town of Zvornik, 2nd Lt. Keith L. Jensen, fire support officer for Company C, Task Force 1-26, noticed a locked door behind a three-foot stack of cinder blocks. Capt. Brian K. Coppersmith, Co. C commander, asked the Republic of Srpska site commander to open the door. He was told entry could be gained from the opposite end of the building.

As they approached the area from the other side, Sgt. David L. Yeoman, Co. C medic, instantly noticed that the room was half as wide as it should be. They returned to the hidden door, removed the cinder blocks and requested the key.

THE MASTER KEY—The RS site commander dispatched a soldier to go get the key. The soldier returned empty handed. The site commander said he could break the door if they wanted him to, but there were only old beds and useless equipment inside. Coppersmith answered that this would be unnecessary. He had a way to open the door without damaging either the frame or the door. He reassured the site commander not to fret about the key -- on weapons storage site inspections, the Blue Spaders (Task Force 1-26) always carry a "master". He told Pfc. Andre Danielly to retrieve Jensen's bolt cutters out of their HM-MWV.

ONLY SPARE PARTS—The liaison officer asked that Coppersmith wait for the tank battalion commander to bring the key.



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

Spc. John P Shields Sr. and Sgt. David L. Yeoman, both of Charlie Company, examine the Dutch YPR armored personnel carrier confiscated from the Serbs during a routine weapons storage inspection recently near Zvornik. The fire support vehicle was towed to Camp Dobol and was returned.

The commander arrived about fifteen minutes later. As he slowly opened the door, he explained that there was a vehicle inside. It was different than the other vehicles. They just use it for spare parts.

READ YOUR BOSNIA HANDBOOK—After opening the door, the vehicle inside was indeed different than most other Serbian vehicles. Coppersmith noticed that the vehicle seemed new. He also remem-

bered seeing it before in the Bosnia Handbook — listed as an SFOR vehicle. It was painted with high-quality, olive-drab paint, but there seemed to be more than one coat. Scratching off a bit of the top layer, he realized there was an underlayer of white paint. The soldiers consulted the handbook and the

“We notified Task Force 1-26 Battalion Headquarters and a M88 recovery vehicle was immediately put on alert.”

—2nd Lt. Keith L. Jensen



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

The Dutch YPR, a command and control fire support vehicle, confiscated from a Serbian weapons storage site by Company C, Task Force 1-26.

vehicle matched the description of a Dutch YPR-765 (a command and control fire support vehicle, similar to a U.S. armored personnel carrier), although mounted with a .50 caliber machine gun and armored cupola on the turret.

NO STONE UNTURNED—“We notified Task Force 1-26 Battalion Headquarters and a M88 recovery vehicle was immediately put on alert.” Jensen said. Lt. Col. Robin Swan, TF 1-26 Commander, issued the order to “leave no stone unturned.” The Dutch YPR was then moved without incident to the Camp Dobol impound lot where it was returned to its rightful owner on March 15.

Bunkers

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL--Protection using available resources (dirt) has been used since people first began hurling rocks and bones at each other. One might think that with today's high speed technology, an easily-erected, prefabricated bunker would be developed. But dirt and sand, a free and abundant building material, is everywhere the Army goes.

Bunker detail means thousands of sandbags and hours of back-breaking work. Tear the whole thing down and put it back together again. A perfect time to practice your escape and evasion tactics? Not so for the "Blue Spaders" of Task Force 1-26 where everyone digs in to help.

Named the "Adopt-a-Bunker" program, each company at Camp Dobol is assigned a bunker to restore.

Weather causes bunkers to lean, or the sandbags to disintegrate, which means frequent rebuilding must be done.

"By everyone in the Tactical Operation Center participating in the reconstruction of our bunker, to include officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted soldiers, the bunker will be completed sooner than expected. Everyone had the opportunity to work as a team, which made it almost enjoyable," said Staff Sgt. Juan A. Garcia, battalion master gunner for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF 1-26.



Sgt. Kevin W. Johnson with Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, Task Force 1-26, hammers down sandbags to level them out during the recent bunker reconstruction at Camp Dobol.

Photo by 1st Lt. Tyrone Kindle

One bunker that holds approximately 40 people takes roughly 7,300 sandbags. They are especially effective against indirect fire, as the dirt absorbs and disperses the shock. With two or three full bags, a direct M-16 round can be stopped. Bunkers can also be used as a shelter in extreme weather and storms.

Starting from the roof, new bags are stacked six layers high. The wooden framework is kept in place, but all the old sandbags are removed and emptied. After the roof, the sides are tore down. The ground must be leveled out before the walls are built up. Like Lego toys, each row of bags must overlap in different directions.

One row is laid down and tamped (pounded), then a board is placed across and tamped down again.

1st Sgt. John P. Wyche, Co. D, 1st Bn, 77th Armor, TF 1-26, explains the essential role of bunkers in Force Protection.

"For Delta Company, we would take our defensive fighting positions in our tanks if we were to come under attack," Wyche said. "The bunkers are actually for soldiers working in the field of support, service support or for the interpreters."

Other force protection measures include Hesco bastions (large, gray baskets filled with sand), guard duty at all gates, checkpoints, triple strands of concertina wire surrounding the camp and look out towers.

Company D worked in shifts to complete the bunkers, finishing them on March 17.

"I have some of the best soldiers in the Task Force," said Wyche. "They have worked hard since we have been here and should be proud of what they have accomplished."

Funneling sand into hundreds of sandbags is just one part of the bunker building process.



Photo by 1st Lt. Tyrone Kindle

SWEDES

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"We want to stop before the accident site so we're not in the middle of the minefield,

survey the area and form a plan of action," Eklöf said. "We then draw a zero line back from the mine line where only explosive ordnance disposal personnel are allowed. This is a (shaky) 'safe' zone."

After using a mine detector, if time permits, the dog and handler begin the process of sniffing out a safe trail to the victim.

"We clear an area for the stretcher and take the victim away," Eklöf said. "First we help the injured people, then healthy people, then dead people and finally the equipment.

"If we're in a rush, we send in the medic with mine shoes (wide, air filled shoes that distribute a person's weight) to stabilize the patient," he said. "It's more dangerous, and he isn't required to go, but he hasn't refused yet."

In addition to mine removal and disposal missions, the platoon conducted training with the 45th Medical Company at Guardian Base on hoist operations from a Blackhawk helicopter, training for scenarios where the technique might be necessary.

"Hoist missions are more challenging. On a hoist mission, everyone has to be on the same sheet of music," said Staff Sgt. Kimberly K. Baker, 45th Med. Co. "If not, everyone can get tangled up. It's very crowded up there (in the helicopter)."

"Normal hoist missions extract patients out of ravines, ground operations, rolled over vehicles or what have you," said Staff Sgt. Michael A. Bowie, flight medical instructor for the 45th. "Here the idea is to hoist the team down to a safe area where they can go into a minefield and extract patients out as fast as possible.

Both the Swedish and the U.S. soldiers agreed more of this training would be beneficial.

"In this type of theater with multi-national forces, the more we work together the more proficient we become," Bowie said. "We have to rely on each other and we should rely on each other because we're in this together."

"We worked very well together. We just seemed to click," Baker said.

Watch pigs, they're trichi

By Spc. Paul Hougdaahl
129 MPAD

A truckload of meat infected with trichinosis was found by inspectors from the veterinary station Novi Travnik at the Arizona market, which is located in Northern Bosnia on the Zone of Separation.

Citizens from the area often purchase their meat from this marketplace but are advised to buy meat from veterinarian stations which examine meat and vaccinate animals.

In the civilian population of Banja Luca, over 100 cases of trichinosis have occurred that have required hospitalization. There were also cases reported in the Teslic and Doboj areas.

Trichinosis is a roundworm infestation that comes from eating raw or undercooked pork. It is a common infection in many parts of the world. It is rarely seen in the United States because of strict regulations in the feeding of domestic animals and meat processing inspections.

"All the meat and dairy products we eat comes from the Central Region. The people who need to worry about it are those people who have to eat on the economy," said Lt. Col. James Gelling, 1st Infantry Division Surgeon. "Avoid pork and make sure meats are fried or cooked very thoroughly."

The disease is transferred when a human ingests pork muscle tissue that contains cysts, which hatch into roundworms in the human intestinal tract. The adult roundworms produce larvae that pass through the stomach into the bloodstream and then to muscle tissue where cysts are formed.

Early symptoms are gastrointestinal cramping and diarrhea. When the larvae migrate to the muscle they cause an inflammatory reaction producing pain, especially in muscles constantly in use such as rib muscles used in breathing. During larval migration, swelling in the face and around the eyes often occurs.

There is an oral medication available to treat the disease once the larvae have invaded the muscles, but it may leave cysts which have already developed. The pain can be alleviated with analgesics.

The severity of trichinosis depends on how heavily the infestation has occurred. While a light infestation may not even be noticeable, heavy infestations cause severe symptoms and in some extreme cases may cause heart failure.

The disease can only be obtained from infected meat and cannot be transferred from human to human. Meat can also be made safe by freezing it at sub-zero temperatures for three to four weeks.

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Blast

from page 1

Two mechanics with the 9th Eng. Bn., Sgt. Gilbert Steckline and Spc. Micheal Nirk, along with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal [EOD] team, were first on site. The EOD team conducted a thorough search of the tank for unexploded ordinance and loose rounds. They found one fuse for a round and a .50-caliber round. Also, for safety's sake, the mechanics drained all fuel and oil from the tank to ensure no secondary explosion or significant environmental damage would occur.

The final drives on the tank were also disconnected. "This eliminates the use of the gear box. But the tracks can still roll if and when it needs to be towed," said Streckline, 29, of Reading, Pa. "I've done this before in Saudi Arabia, but this is the first time for us in Bosnia."

The turret ring, where the turret sits on the chassis and enables it to spin, was rendered powerless. During the demolition of the turret ring, the engineers ignited some residual oil, as well as the inside lining of tank. This burned the driver's compartment, destroying all gauges and electronics.

After the fire went out, McCarthy said, the team used thermite grenades (incendiary grenades that burn at 2000degrees fahrenheit.)

PEACE

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and on my sides," said Aldridge, "I feel that nothing can hurt me down here and if something does happen, the crew up in the turret, they'll be on it."

Aldridge said such firepower can easily take care of any threat directed at the tank. "They can keep sending stuff at us and we'll just keep taking them out," he said. "They have *nothing* that can hurt us."

The power of the Abrams came in handy when 1st Platoon was tasked as

hite.) "They will melt just about any piece of metal," he said.

One grenade in the gun tube turns into liquid plasma. This slides down the tube, scoring the inside, destroying the rifling.

TF 1-26 and the Serbians decide the fate of the tank from here.



The thermite hand grenades, placed in the turret, engine, transmission and barrel of the T55 Russian tank were ignited simultaneously using a remote hand-held blasting machine.

Photo by Sgt. Angel Clemons



Private Frank W. Kasica, loader for A18, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor, loads a training round into the 120-mm main gun on his M1A2 Abrams tank.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

part of a weapons confiscation mission in Celic a few months ago. Schweiger said the unit was pumped up and ready to go, prepared for the worst, but hoping for the best.

Unfortunately, the worst almost happened when a crowd gathered to keep the U.S. soldiers from confiscating weapons from the site.

Schweiger credits the M1A1 Abrams with diffusing the confrontation and allowing successful mission completion.

"The convoy was slowed up and they were causing some problems," said Schweiger. "We just moved up our M1's and they dispersed and took off."

The weapons confiscation at Celic was the result of an earlier inspection of the storage site — another "Warlords" mission.

"Operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard are definitely not conventional missions for armor forces," said Warlords commander, Capt. Michael C. Johnson, 29. "It's something we never expected to do, but we adapted well."

"All of these soldiers are well trained," he said. "Being deployed has real good effects on team building, on unit cohesion, and on just learning. We're ready for anything."