

# THE Talon



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

# KISS

See KISS page 12

Spc. Timothy M. Schiffler, 24, a heavy-wheeled mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 1-77, replaces an air cleaner bracket on a 10-ton truck at the motor pool at McGovern Base.

*Photo by Spc. David Boe*

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Order in the court!!!

Recently reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal, the following are questions asked of witnesses by attorneys during trials and, in certain cases, the responses given by insightful witnesses.

“How many times have you committed suicide?”

“Were you present when your picture was taken?”

“How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?”

“Did he kill you?”

“Now doctor, isn’t it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn’t know about it until morning?”

Q: “So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?” A: “Yes.” Q: “And what were you doing at that time?”

Q: “You say the stairs went down to the basement?” A: “Yes.” Q: “And these stairs, did they go up also?”

Q: “How was your first marriage terminated?” A: “By death.” Q: “And by who’s death was it terminated?”

Q: “Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?” A: “No, this is how I dress when I go to work.”

Q: “Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?” A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.”

Q: “All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?” A: “Oral.”

Q: “Do you recall the time that you examined the body?” A: “The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.” Q: “And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?” A: “No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.”

Q: “Are you qualified to give a urine sample?” A: “I have been since early childhood.”

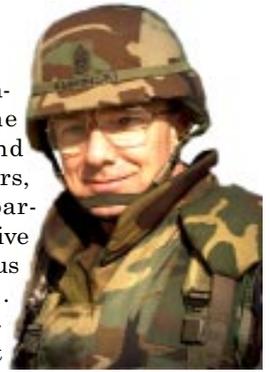
UP FRONT-- RISKY BUSINESS I

We’ve heard a lot about risk lately. In its simplest sense, risk is nothing more than odds; the chance that a particular event will occur. However, when referring to risk, we are usually talking about the odds of having an undesirable event happen.

As human beings, we realize instinctively that virtually everything we do involves some risk of accident or injury. Even taking a bath, for example, carries the small risk of slipping in the tub/shower and getting hurt. A bath mat or wearing shower shoes minimizes that risk. Almost subconsciously, therefore, we practice risk management in an informal way nearly every day. We

avoid or minimize some hazards and accept others, while comparing the relative risk of various activities.

Unfortunately, most of us aren’t very good at it. When asked to rank the accident or injury potential of an activity most of us do not do a very good job. (continued in next issue) See you all up front!



Command Sgt. Maj. S.L. Kaminski  
1st Infantry Division (Forward)

Ass-u-me

Everybody has heard what happens when you use the word “assume.” Making assumptions can make problems. When we see someone operating a piece of equipment, we sometimes assume that they are qualified on that equipment. It is not always the case.

One thing that may be unique to our Task Force Eagle situation is the organization we see at our base camps. Each camp is organized as its own self-sufficient task force. Armor, infantry, military police, civil affairs, etc. share the same real estate, working towards accomplishing the same mission.

On face value this may not seem to be a big deal. However, we often find ourselves working very closely with people whom we may not be very familiar. Consider this situation. A soldier injures himself playing basketball. He is unable to participate in patrol for the next three days. In order to accomplish the mission you borrow someone from another unit. This person shows up for the patrol the next day. How do you know this individual’s qualifications?

Assumptions regarding weapon safety are deadly. Task Force Eagle soldiers are becoming complacent regarding weapons safety. We move about our respective base camps assuming that everybody’s weapon is unloaded, or at the appropriate weapon status. We assume that people are following the proper clearing procedures. With the recent rash of accidental discharges that have occurred throughout the AOR, this is a very wrong assumption.

Avoid assumptions. Train your people to standard. Never relax supervision or leadership. If you are not familiar with a particular individual and the job that they are doing, check their qualifications. Make sure that you are comfortable with the individual and what they are doing. If you fail to supervise, the chain of command may assume that you are responsible.

MAJ GARY R. SPEGAL, 1st Infantry Division Safety Office

THE TALON

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Read and pass along -- a Talon is a terrible thing to waste



Staff Sgt. Derik Thorton hangs up voter registration signs in Tuzla with the help of a translator, Sabina Hodja.

Photo by Spc. Janel R. George

# Get out the vote

By Spc. Janel R. George  
129th MPAD

**CAMP BEDROCK** -- One of the keys to maintaining peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is creating a democratic election process. The United Nations assigned the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to organize and supervise the elections. A member of OSCE will be present at each of the registration sites.

Voter registration is currently the main responsibility of OSCE. They have set up registration sites in most villages and they also have mobile sites that travel to small villages. The 11th Military Civilian Relations Battalion (MCR) is assisting OSCE in informing the local population about voter registration.

"It is important to get the word out to the smaller villages," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Gonzales, non-commissioned officer in charge. "OSCE does not have the man-power to reach all of these places. In some remote places this is the only way to get the word out."

"Our goal is to encourage as many people as possible to register so that they will be able to vote in the September elections," said Gonzales.

The posters are produced by OSCE, and MCR assists with the distribution of the

voter registration posters. The posters provide registration dates, list documentation required to register and encourages the local population to register.

About 100 posters a week are being posted in the Zivinice and Tuzla opstinas. "We stick to high-traffic areas such as market shops and places people visit frequently," said Gonzales.

"Most places are very receptive about putting signs up," said Staff Sgt. Dereck A. Thornton, team chief of the MCR team. "Usually the stores and banks keep the posters up the longest."

"We are always sensitive to the aesthetics of the local village and do not hang the posters in a way that would be unsightly," said Gonzales. "The best place is to have shop owners hang the posters on the insides of their windows. That way they are protected from the elements."

Voter registration spans a six-week period from May 5 to June 16. "We started the first week of May and will continue through the end of voter registration," said Gonzales.

The MCR supplements the voter registration posters with handbills, flyers and radio shows. Because radio reaches a wide range of people, registration information can be distributed quickly and efficiently.

"We want to make sure people are informed so they can take advantage of the democratic process," said Gonzales.

**"Our goal is to encourage as many people as possible to register so that they will be able to vote in the September elections."**

— Sgt. 1st Class Mark Gonzales

## Info briefs

### Planning your Budapest pass

According to Sgt. Edward Garner, 1st Infantry Division personnel office, opportunities for soldiers wanting to take a pass to Budapest, Hungary, are still available, but will take advance planning as the tourist season moves into full swing.

Planning ahead and working with your unit point of contact for the pass program is the key to a successful trip to Budapest.

"Based on the hotel's peak tourist season, and working with USAEUR Forward and the hotel, we are working to obtain extra rooms for soldiers," said Garner.

Each section and task force are assigned room allotments. These rooms are then subdivided as either single or double rooms. The personnel section realizes a need for more single rooms because of married soldiers requests to meet spouses in Budapest, and attempts are being made to secure more hotel room allocations for U.S. troops. However, because the tourist season is at its peak, room allocations in some cases may actually decrease.

"Room usage is determined by the unit, not G-1," said Garner. Married soldiers wanting to meet their families in Budapest have the opportunity to use single rooms, but must work with unit pass program administrators as pass dates become available.

For all soldiers headed on pass: Remember you are a representative of the United States and the U.S. Armed Forces -- be responsible while in Budapest.

### Top 10 ways to blow a successful deployment

10. Play with stray animals.
9. Forget you're still a soldier while on leave.
8. Mail home contraband.
7. Buy items at the PX for unauthorized individuals.
6. Set off fireworks.
5. Discharge a weapon.
4. Turn in a fraudulent TDY voucher.
3. Ignore convoy safety rules.
2. Ignore force protection.
1. Go off the beaten path.



# Doing an outstanding job

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright greets Spc. Henrietta Taylor, 201st Forward Support Battalion, at the dining facility of McGovern Base.

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdaahl

By Spc. Paul Hougdaahl  
129th MPAD

**M**CGOVERN BASE — After ending what she called a “magic week of making Europe undivided and free,” Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spent an afternoon visiting and eating lunch with the soldiers of Task Force 1-77 here.

Albright had spent the previous week with President Clinton in Russia and Portugal to further spread NATO influence throughout Europe. They also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, which united the western European countries after World War II.

She concluded the week by conducting what she said were the most difficult meetings — those with Balkan leaders about the effort to move forward with the agreements made in the Dayton Peace Accord.

Albright said the Clinton administration is dedicated to the efforts being made in the Balkans to provide stability. This includes support for the war criminal tribunals in Hague and support for the organizations that head up reconstruction and civilian implementation portions of the Dayton Peace Accord.

“It was very evident in these meetings that what is missing from making Europe whole, free and democratic is Bosnia,” said Albright during a speech to the soldiers of Task Force 1-77 of McGovern Base and

Camp Colt. “The divisions here make it difficult for Bosnia to join this dynamic force that is going through Europe. What we have to fix now is that one piece that is left.”

She likened the efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Marshall plan, which in President Clinton’s words was “so typically American” because everyone was invited to join. Now that the communist influence is gone in Europe, we can do for central and eastern Europe what the Marshall Plan did for western Europe. She asked for the sol-

ding the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.”

After her speech at McGovern’s dining facility, Albright sat down and had lunch with soldiers. The soldiers experienced firsthand the honesty, dedication and straightforward manner which have won admiration for Albright in the United States, as well as throughout the world.

“She is one of those people who uses her influence for good,” said Sgt. Darnell Jones, Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery,

who shared a table with Albright during lunch. “I admire her for what she has achieved in life. She speaks what she believes and I like that. She said she was proud of us and I could tell that she meant it.”

After lunch, Albright spent time walking among soldiers, shaking hands and posing for photographs. Spc. Henrietta Taylor of the 201st Forward Support Battalion was presented with a Danger Forward coin by Albright.

“She told me that I am doing an outstanding job and thanks for being a strong female and there is always room for females in the Army,” said Taylor. “It was nice because she is really thinking about us and took time from her busy schedule to visit us.”

After meeting with soldiers, Albright made a short trip to officially reopen the Brcko bridge to civilian traffic between the Republic of Srpska and Croatia.

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**“I think we have got a real opportunity for America to be where the United States can make the difference, but as with the Marshall Plan, the United States cannot make the difference if people don’t help themselves.”**

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— Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

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diers’ help in this endeavor.

“You are the ones, representative of the best of America, that are going to help us do this,” said Albright. “I want to work with you and I think we have got a real opportunity for America to be where the United States can make the difference, but as with the Marshall Plan, the United States cannot make the difference if people don’t help themselves. That is what I have been tell-

# Exploring NORDPOL

By Sgt. Steven Collins  
129th MPAD

**D**OBOJ, Bosnia-Herzegovina -- The group was a patchwork quilt of different uniforms, but the soldiers were gathered for one purpose: to learn more about the Nordic Polish (NORDPOL) Brigade, based here. NORDPOL Brigade Day, May 31, was a special opportunity for one of the most unique brigades in Multinational Division-North to show off its soldiers and equipment.

"This is most important, because it gives the brigade an opportunity to show to other multinational units the capabilities of the brigade, the responsibilities of the brigade and the challenges of the brigade," said Capt. Greg Piskell, a member of the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, attached to NORDPOL.

Norwegian Brig. Gen. Gunnar Lundberg, NORDPOL commander, hosted several representatives from the United States, Great Britain, Turkey, Russia and other SFOR nations during the day-long introduction to NORDPOL. The visitors were given tours of the Dobojo area, a briefing on the challenges and responsibilities of the NORDPOL Brigade and a chance to see equipment from members of SFOR.

"The most important part is to share the knowledge and understanding of the magnitude of a multinational brigade like this one," said Lundberg. "It is very important to share the knowledge of our challenges, of how we can solve the missions and the way we are solving the missions."

The visiting soldiers learned how NORDPOL is working hard to prevent violence during the uncertain months ahead. As resettlement issues arise among the local ethnic groups, the threat of violence will require NORDPOL to respond.

"The brigade sees its mission as preventing violence and saving lives," said Piskell. "The fact that this AOR (Area of Responsibility) has been so calm since the brigade showed up is tremendous evidence of the brigade's success."

At a briefing for visiting soldiers, Lundberg outlined possible hot spots in the area around Dobojo. High ground once held by Muslim citizens is located in the Zone of Separation. Serbian factions currently refuse to let the Muslim citizens back into these areas.

"Looking at the terrain, you can understand why (the Serbians) don't want to others to settle there," Lundberg told the visitors. "Dobojo was shelled from these high ground areas and suffered like Sarajevo. The Republic of Srpska is very determined to avoid Muslim resettlement in these areas."

Lundberg led large groups of soldiers on a foot tour of some of the areas, currently quiet and deserted. The ZOS is a dangerous place, littered with mines and unsafe buildings. But as Muslims express a desire to return to their homes, Serbian protests will become louder and possibly deadly.

"Now resettlement is a political question, but if you see forced settlement in these areas, it could very well become a military question. And military questions require a military solution. We want to avoid that situation," said Lundberg.



Danish soldiers inspect a weapons table during NORDPOL Brigade day, May 31.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

Following the briefing and tours of the Dobojo area, soldiers viewed weapons and equipment from participating armies in SFOR. Tanks from Denmark, armored personnel carriers from Finland and artillery from the United States were lined up with displays of weapons and equipment from Norway, Sweden, Russia and other SFOR nations.

"It is vitally important that people get a chance to look at the equipment of other nations and see what they are capable of," said Lundberg. "Many other nations haven't seen this equipment before."

Perhaps the primary goal of the Brigade Day was to create a bond between all the SFOR nations and NORDPOL. "It is good to bring everyone together to share and develop an understanding of how each organization works," said Lundberg.

NORDPOL is a peerless organization, consisting of units from nine nations: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and the United States. Four of the nations (Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) are former members of the Warsaw Pact, the former nemesis of the NATO alliance. Nearly 200 Americans support the missions of the brigade.

Peacekeeping is nothing new for the Scandinavian members of NORDPOL. Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark have been cooperating in United Nations missions for almost 50 years, said Lundberg. As missions, such as Operation Joint Guard, become bigger and more complex, the Scandinavians have come to rely on the expertise of soldiers from other nations.

"In my brigade, I have a self-propelled field artillery battery, a fire support team, a force protection team, PSYOPS and CIMIC teams, all from the United States and I am totally dependent on them," said Lundberg. "But we have a good relationship with them and we work well together."

Piskell agreed. "Working with NORDPOL has been fantastic.

# More alike than different

Story and photos Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt  
129th MPAD

**C**AMP BEDROCK -- Less than a decade ago the Russian bear and the American eagle stood claw to talon, suspicious of one another. The soldiers of both countries trained for the purpose of possible confrontation. Here, May 26-28, these soldiers stood combat boots alongside of combat boots as they performed intensive and extensive training with the purpose of learning from each other how to be more proficient soldiers.

This training concentrated on building individual soldier skills. Classes and drills included first aid methods, air assault exercises, weapons disassembly/assembly, weapons familiarization and firing and a variety of common task training. Instructors set up a "round robin" class schedule with the soldiers going from station to station in three groups.

Russian soldiers with the 2nd Airborne Battalion, based at Simin Han, Bosnia-Herzegovina, east of Tuzla participated in the joint training as well as American soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, based at Camp Bedrock. A great amount of planning went into preparing this joint training.

One of the high points for soldiers of both armies was the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter soldier loading and unloading air assault drills done with personnel and aircraft from the 82nd Aviation Detachment.

"All this type of training is very useful," said Russian Major Igor Posuhou. "Soldiers had weapons, medical and tactical training. We found the helicopter training the most interesting, because we don't have any helicopters in Bosnia." Posuhou said that the loading and unloading helicopter drills were realistic. After drilling how to perform the procedure safely, soldiers got to fly in the helicopter and then, once on the ground, hustle out to set up a defensive position.

"This is the first time many of the Russian soldiers have seen an American helicopter let alone flown in one," said Capt. Ben Higginbotham, Co. B commander.

Many soldiers are interested in weapons, and this joint training exercise afforded ample opportunity for both American and Russian soldiers to experience the feel of each other's weapons. "The Russian soldiers were so enthusiastic about learning about the M-16. They were working on the assembly and disassembly before we'd finish giving instructions," said Staff Sgt. Todd Blatchford, who taught the M-16 class.

After classes on weapon assembly and disassembly, as well as safe operation, soldiers convoyed to a small arms range near Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Soldiers fired the 9 mm and Mackarov pistols, M-16, AK-47 and 74, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW), M-60 machine gun, and the 12.7 mm sniper rifle.

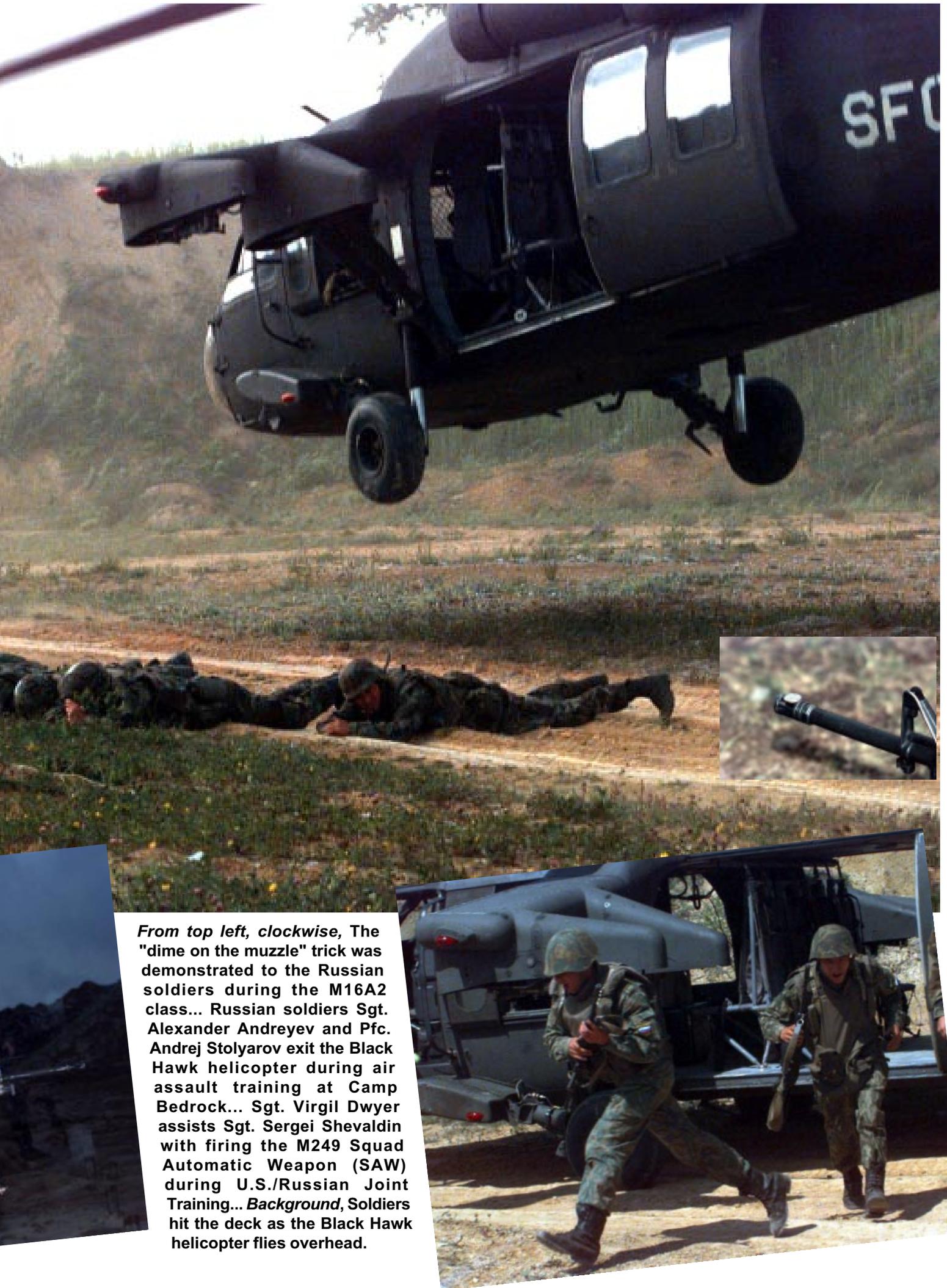
Staff Sgt. Stephen Shrive, Co. B master gunner, was in charge of the range. "We showed the soldiers some basic styles of shooting and some more advanced styles," said Shrive. "They fired from the prone supported and unsupported, kneeling and standing positions. Soldiers got to shoot on both semi-automatic and burst settings."

Russian Staff Sgt. Dima Zaleboed especially enjoyed firing the M-16. "It is an excellent weapon," he said, "and after the instruction we had, it was easy to shoot."

According to Shrive, the extensive training progressed well. "Our company directed the training here at Bedrock," said Shrive. "It's a pretty good, even, schedule utilizing the crawl, walk, run method."

"The great thing about this joint training is we find out how much alike we are," said Higginbotham. "A lot of things the Russians do and we do are the same. They're based on common sense and experience. We found out we're more alike than different."





*From top left, clockwise, The "dime on the muzzle" trick was demonstrated to the Russian soldiers during the M16A2 class... Russian soldiers Sgt. Alexander Andreyev and Pfc. Andrej Stolyarov exit the Black Hawk helicopter during air assault training at Camp Bedrock... Sgt. Virgil Dwyer assists Sgt. Sergei Shevaldin with firing the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) during U.S./Russian Joint Training... Background, Soldiers hit the deck as the Black Hawk helicopter flies overhead.*

# Taking people's court to people

By Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt  
129th MPAD

**S**ARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — During the frontier days in America, judges were rugged individuals who traveled the back roads to the remote villages and isolated farms, taking the law to the people. Here, some areas are accessible only with a four-legged animal or four-wheel-drive vehicle, requiring a modern but no less rugged “judge” to take the law to the people. That is Capt. Sam Nazzaro’s mission.

Nazzaro, 153rd Legal Support Organization, U.S. Army Reserve, Pittsburgh, Pa., is the senior foreign claims commissioner representing Task Force Eagle in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He also works as a staff judge advocate for the 1st Infantry Division, Eagle Base. Attorneys at other base camps can settle claims, but they are limited to certain amounts. His jurisdiction includes anywhere the U.S. military is located or travels in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Foreign Claims Act directs that commissioners “promote goodwill and maintain friendly relations in the prompt settlement of meritorious claims.”

“My mission is to apply those conditions in a balanced way,” said Nazzaro. “I have to be both friendly and fair with claimants. If we’ve damaged something and agreed to fix it, we’re going to fix it, but we’re only going to pay fair market value.”

Nazzaro said that the process begins when a local citizen files a claim against the U.S. military stating that damage occurred to his or her property. “The claimant either becomes aware of how to file a claim through contact with the soldiers who actually damaged the property or through civil affairs personnel,” said Nazzaro.

The claim form goes to his office for recording and processing. Nazzaro said that care is taken to avoid duplication of a claim. Nazzaro may prepare an approval of payment or denial of payment without visiting the damage site. Most often he schedules a trip to inspect the damage, even if this takes him far off the main routes.

“There’s no better way to do it than to see it with your own eyes and hear the person explain it. I find that’s been the most successful way to achieve the fairest results, and that’s really what we’re after,” said Nazzaro, who settles an average of ten claims a week. At any given time approximately 60 claims are pending and awaiting Nazzaro’s attention. He has adjudicated more than 150 claims since he began his deployment in March.

“The greatest number of claims are related to maneuver damage. This is the high season for those claims because of the increase of agricultural activity and the farmers are filing claims on damage to fields and to their roads,” said Nazzaro. Most citizens realize that the U.S. military forces need to move heavy vehicles in the performance of their peacekeeping missions, and sometimes damage inadvertently occurs. “The landowners are sensitive to that,” said Nazzaro. “At the same time we have to realize we’re using private property which is used for income for that family.”

“Most of the claims we process are legitimate,” said Nazzaro. “What I do is ask lots of questions, inspect the damage, and come up with a fair settlement.” He then “closes the case” with a handshake instead of the bang of a gavel.

Finance personnel make up another part of the team. Members of the 266th Finance Battalion assist in on-the-spot payment



Fehma Alic agrees to the claims settlement negotiated by Capt. Sam Nazzaro with the assistance of a translator, Slavica Blazevic.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt

of the claim in German deutschemarks. “Having finance soldiers there allows us to finish the process immediately after my decision,” said Nazzaro. “We’re very conscientious about that.”

Investigation and settlement of claims would be virtually impossible without the help of the translators, Slavica Blazevic and Senad Tosunbegovic. “These people are absolutely essential. They are very capable and make my decisions a lot easier,” said Nazzaro. “Without them, communicating with the folks out there in the villages would be impossible.”

Blazevic said that “taking the law to the people” can be a challenge. Roads may be unimproved and telephone service unpredictable. “Sometimes all we have to find a claimant is the name of a village,” said Blazevic. “We have to ask for directions to the person’s home.”

Nazzaro appreciates the experience he is gaining while on this deployment. “I’ve had the trial experience, but this is a whole new experience I’m never going to get anywhere else but here,” said Nazzaro. “I especially enjoy interacting with the people. The people seem impressed that we go out to see them and work on their claims, and for the most part they are satisfied with our decisions.”

“As a U.S. attorney I have to present my side to a judge who considers the case and makes a decision. In some ways it’s a similar process we do here because we’re searching for the truth as to what happened,” said Nazzaro.

If the claimants don’t agree with Nazzaro’s terms, they can appeal the decision. The SFOR Foreign Claims Commission meets at Zagreb and Sarajevo periodically to consider appealed claims from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“What’s at the heart of the matter is doing what the law requires,” said Nazzaro. “By paying people for damage caused by our forces, we’re demonstrating America’s good faith and fair dealing.”

# "God squad" here to help

By Spc. Susanne Aspley  
364th MPAD

**C**amp Demi -- In Vietnam, he shared a hooch with a friend named Dorman who had just received a 'Dear John' letter from his wife. One hot night, when it was his friend's turn to pull guard duty of the perimeter, there was a gunshot. The platoon immediately thought it was a fire attack and scrambled to their defensive positions. Then someone yelled, 'Dorman has been hit!'

"Turns out Dorman just couldn't take it anymore and had written a note saying he couldn't go on without his wife. He had committed suicide," said Sgt. Cristobal R. Santiago, chaplains assistant at Camp Demi. "It should never come to that and I will never forget it. That is what we are here for."

Santiago wears what he affectionately calls, the 'Puking Buzzards' patch on his right shoulder, that of the 101st Airborne Division he wore in Vietnam. In his pocket back home, he carries a New York detective shield, number 101. Here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he is on the 'God Squad' supporting Task Force 1-41.

A National Guardsman with the 53rd Troop Command, New York, Santiago makes up a Reserve and Guard detachment known as the 'God Squad.' Stationed throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina and Hungary, the squad is made up of soldiers from 12 states and is here to fill in for active duty Army chaplains and chaplains assistants.

At a young age, Santiago joined the Army and was sent

to Vietnam. "I was an infantryman, pounding the bush, involved in hundreds of fire-fights including the Tet Offensive. One day I looked up in the sky and thought to myself, that is where I want to be. I then joined aviation and became a door gunner for a Huey [UH1C] gunship," he said. "I didn't pay much attention to God in the jungle. There was too much death and destruction. I called for the Lord, but it didn't happen."

After Vietnam, Santiago joined the New York National Guard and went to work as a general's aide with the 42nd Infantry Division Command. "The general was leaving, so he said he would set me up with a real nice job," Santiago said. "He talked me into interviewing for a chaplain's assistant position. I wasn't religious in Vietnam, but it came back to me when I returned to the States, so I agreed to the interview. When I walked into the chaplains office for the interview, there was a Jewish rabbi sitting at the desk with a thick, bushy beard. I looked at him and thought I was in the wrong place. I asked him, 'when is the chaplain coming?' He answered that he was the chaplain."

Santiago said that Lt. Col. Jacob Goldstein, 53rd Troop Command chaplain, is the Army's only orthodox Jewish rabbi. Santiago is a practicing Roman Catholic. In the military, chaplains and chaplain's assistants are trained to give a general service of faith.

"At Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during Operation Provide Hope we ministered to the refugees at the camps in Cuba, sometimes holding as many as six services a day."

Born in Puerto Rico, Santiago moved to New York when he was 13. Now 49, he is married to Sonia Rosario with six adult children. His son, Jason, is also in the National Guard as a chaplain's as-

stant. Jason's future plans include a career in law enforcement.

Santiago points to the rolling hills around Camp Demi, dotted with small, tended fields. "We can see that our peace-keeping is working by the fact the people are able to farm and grow," he said. "The land has changed since [the Implementation and Stabilization Forces] have come here. There will always be hard-liners causing trouble, but the majority rules. Most of the people in Bosnia are glad we are here to stop the fighting."

Santiago recalls going to an orphanage near Camp Demi recently and giving a three-year-old girl a toy. The child whispered something to the interpreter, and pointed to his patch of the American flag. "The interpreter translated that the child said 'Look, he's wearing an American flag. He's a good guy.' It felt great that a three year old recognized the colors on my sleeve," he said.

Santiago expressed concern for the junior enlisted soldiers, most of them in Bosnia-Herzegovina as their first deployment. He encourages soldiers to come into the Chaplains Office if they want to talk, watch TV or a video, or make a morale call. "Many

haven't been in the Army even a year. I've been in this job long enough to know when someone needs to talk," he said. "That is why I am here."



Sgt. Cristobal Santiago, chaplain's assistant, 53rd Troop Command, grabs a Bible for an interested customer.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

# Boosting morale

By Spc. Susanne Aspley  
364th MPAD

**C**AMP DEMI — The morale phone tent is lined with soldiers in PT uniforms, backs hunched over, shifting from one foot to the other. “Yes honeybuns, of course I love you,” whispers a sergeant, twirling the telephone cord dreamily around his finger. “What do you mean you put my dog to sleep?” screeches another, nearly ripping the cord from the wall. Good news or bad, morale calls are a necessary link for soldiers deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina to their other set of responsibilities and concerns at home.

Pfc. Ryan Belonga, signal operator, 32nd Signal Battalion (Forward), Task Force 1-41, helps keep the lines up and running at Camp Demi. “We are basically operators, and the morale phone lines are a big part of our mission here,” he said. “The phones allow the soldiers to call their families and stay in contact with whoever they need to.”

(Meanwhile in the phone tent, the lieutenant in the corner booth speaks as quietly as possible, his eyes scanning the room nervously. He cups the receiver with his hand. “No mom, we are not fighting a war here. Yes mom, I change my socks every day. No mom, no one is shooting at me.”)

Belonga, deployed from Darmstadt, Germany, has been at Camp Demi since January. He believes the common theory that



Spc. Brian Johnston, satellite signal operator, 32nd Signal Battalion (Forward), Task Force 1-41, adjusts the satellite dish.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley



Pfc. Ryan Belonga, signal operator, 32nd Signal Battalion (Forward), Task Force 1-41, inspects the lines at Camp Demi.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

when morale goes down, mission performance goes down. “We monitor the equipment and process the phone calls. We also provide the military gateway to the civilian email system and the Internet.”

(Back in the phone tent, an irritated private in full battle rattle punches in a number. “Operator! I want to talk to my recruiter! Now!”)

The signal team consists of soldiers specialized in the SEN (small extension node) vehicle, which holds the base operator switchboards, and soldiers who run the TAC-SAT (tactical satellite) vehicle, which controls the radar dish and keeps it in perfect alignment with the satellite. “The biggest challenge for me here is the long hours, because we need to monitor the lines 24 hours a day,” Belonga explains. “We also relay company-level calls and emergency calls.”

(Back in the phone tent, a soldier covered in tattoos scratches the words ‘Delta Demon Hogs Rule the World’ into the wall as he waits anxiously to get through.)

And if there are problems getting through? “The first thing we do is check the lines to make sure they are connected and functional,” said Belonga, 22, is from Parchment, Mich. “If we are crashed, it could be that we were knocked off the satellite. Sometimes sun spots or sun flares cause

the satellite dish to track the sun, because the dish tracks the biggest source of radiation. So we would realign the dish.”

(Back in the phone tent, a soldier holds a fistful of delinquent credit card bills and late payment notices. “What do you mean you don’t accept Bosnian dinars?” he questions in disbelief.)

“If we weren’t here, no one would have phones,” said Spc. Brian Johnston, satellite signal operator, 32nd Signal Bn. “But we have excellent support, especially from the TF 1-41 mechanics. Whenever we have problems with our generators, they are right here to fix them for us. And we never run out of fuel because they are right on top of that too.”

Site Chief NCOIC, Sgt. Tammy Lewis, says she is proud of her crew. “They work well with little supervision and do an outstanding job.”

(Back in the phone tent, a soldier hangs up after talking to his family of loved one. They miss him terribly, but are doing okay. Reassured, he is able to focus on his mission, here and now.)

*Editor’s note: Comments “overheard” in the phone tent are made-up comments that might be heard in any phone tent in Bosnia-Herzegovina.*

# Black marketing

By Sgt. Steven Collins  
129th MPAD

**E**AGLE BASE — Before you go to the Post Exchange and purchase those 10 pairs of jeans you've been wanting, be aware that someone is watching. In an effort to prevent black-marketing from becoming a problem, authorities are keeping an eye on suspicious purchases.

"There are no instances (of black market activities) that we can talk about specifically, but we've had incidents here in Bosnia," said Capt. Lance Stratton, deputy provost marshal for Task Force Eagle. "It is not a huge problem, but we are doing everything we can to ensure it doesn't become a huge problem."

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between NATO and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina restricts the importation or exportation of duty-free items from NATO personnel to local nationals. "Goods sold (in NATO commissaries or canteens) shall be solely for the use of NATO personnel and not transferable to other parties," states a memorandum on black-marketing recently released by Col. John Wood, Task Force Eagle chief of staff.

The memo defines black-marketing as "the purchasing of AAFES items by any authorized AAFES consumer and the subsequent sale or transfer of these items to anyone not authorized AAFES privileges."

"Black market activities we've seen have run the full gamut, from a small gift to a friend to large profit-making ventures," said Stratton. "Black-marketing runs the whole spectrum, but it hasn't been a big problem."

The SOFA defines NATO personnel as "civilian and military personnel of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with the exception of personnel locally hired." This means that only four categories of personnel are allowed to shop at AAFES facilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina: SFOR personnel (soldiers and civilians); employees of the Department of Defense or subordinate agencies (except local nationals); Brown and Root and BDM employees (except local nationals); and U.S. personnel working for the International Police Task Force.

United Nations personnel, local national employees of Brown and Root, BDM and AAFES and non-SFOR civilians are not allowed to shop at AAFES facilities.

"AAFES does not pay taxes to Bosnian authorities, because AAFES operates solely on base camps, apart from the local economy," said Stratton. If AAFES products were distributed illegally to local nationals, the prices of goods on the Bosnian economy could rise, hurting economic development. This could harm SFOR's peacekeeping mission.

"There are many items in the PX that are hard to find on the local economy," said Stratton. "Blue jeans are a favorite item to be black-marketed. Electronics in the PX are of a higher quality than ones found on the Bosnian economy and are highly sought after."

Personnel with AAFES privileges are often required to show ID to prove their status. AAFES employees are also trained to look at what people are buying and to be suspicious.

MPI and CID authorities make routine spot checks at all AAFES stores to ensure employees are not selling goods to local nationals or that authorized purchasers are not making suspicious buys, said Stratton.

If a U.S. soldier is involved in black-marketing, he or she will be subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Penalties can include dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and confinement of up to two years.

Postal authorities are also keeping aware of possible black market activities, said Stratton. Mailing goods from AAFES to unauthorized personnel is an offense, and postal authorities are doing a great job of catching offenders, said Stratton.

"You are really rolling the dice if you try to mail something illegal out of Bosnia, because those guys in the postal units are great. You're not going to sneak anything past them," said Stratton.



## Turtles in the Box

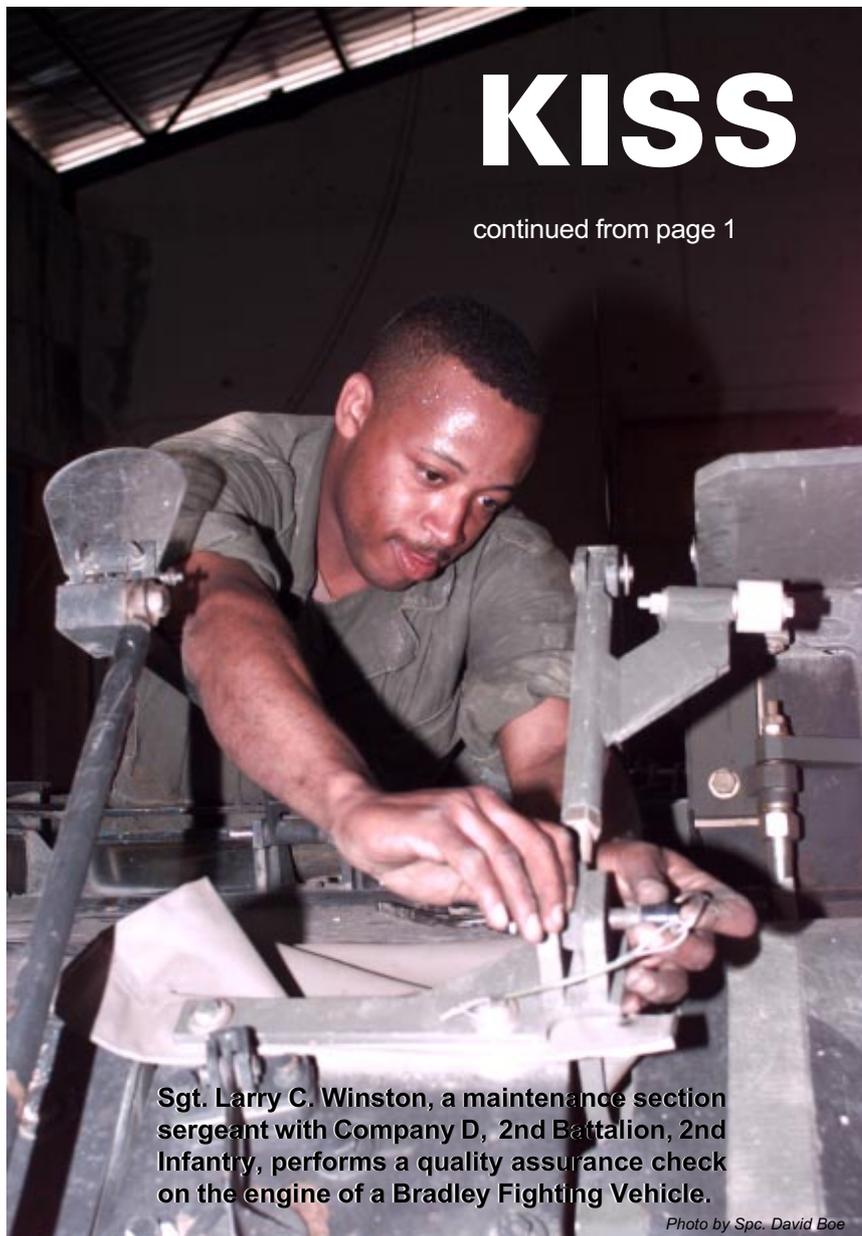
featuring Muddy and Dusty

by Capt. Peter J. Buotte



# KISS

continued from page 1



**Sgt. Larry C. Winston, a maintenance section sergeant with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, performs a quality assurance check on the engine of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.**

*Photo by Spc. David Boe*

**By Spc. David Boe**  
364th MPAD

**M**CGOVERN BASE -- Whenever Spc. Timothy M. Schiffler has a problem at work -- one that just seems to have no solution -- he kisses it.

"We have a little acronym called KISS -- Keep It Simple Stupid," said Schiffler, 24, a heavy wheeled mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 1-77. "If it starts getting too tough, you just have to remember it's something simple, and it usually is."

The Jerome, Idaho native is no stranger to tough mechanical problems. Along with his co-workers at McGovern Base's motor pool, Schiffler is responsible for keeping the task force's vehicles mission ready. It's a dirty and greasy job that keeps his hands full, but that's how Schiffler likes it.

"I like working with my hands," said Schiffler. "It's a real challenge. I had to troubleshoot an airleak on one of the cargo HEMMETs, and it was pretty tough. I did about ten checks on it, replaced probably five parts. I probably had it for three days."

"It's a fun job," he said.

For Schiffler, the long hours and hard work pay off when the deadline report is blank and the task force missions are able to continue. "We're very important," he said. "If trucks don't roll, nothing gets accomplished."

Sgt. Larry C. Winston agrees. The 35-year-old Bradley maintenance section sergeant from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, said the importance of vehicle maintenance is seen every day and everywhere.

"Without the proper maintenance and practices you won't be able to guard the bridge or do different patrols," said Winston, a native of Butler, Ala. "(The vehicles) won't be able to make it without being maintained properly. You'd have vehicles stewn all over the countryside."

Despite this, said Winston, maintenance is often overlooked. "Everybody sees the vehicle in action, but nobody sees what it takes to keep that particular vehicle in action."

Unlike Schiffler who mainly works on wheeled vehicles, Winston's specialty is tracks -- Bradleys in particular. The third section in the task force organizational maintenance is tank maintenance. The three sections, said Winston, are like night and day. Each one has its own peculiarities and differences, but they all agree on one thing -- the work is never easy.

"We're getting greasy, we're working into the wee-wee hours of the night," said Winston. "Then we get a couple of hours of sleep, and get back up next morning and go ahead and start again, same thing, getting down there and getting greasy."

Lately, work has gotten a little more greasy and hard. With the disbanding of many of the observation posts in the U.S. sector of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the use of vehicles has increased, said Staff Sgt. Todd A. Griffith, HHC, 1-77 maintenance team chief and acting battalion motor sergeant.

"For the patrols and everything the mileage has increased a bit and the wear and tear on the vehicles has increased," said Griffith, 29, of Lewistown, Penn. "But we've been maintaining. The HMMWVs and everything have been holding together real well, and we're completing the missions that we have."

With the increase in mileage has come an increase in work hours, said Griffith. In addition to the daily quality assurance inspections, services and general maintenance, the section also has a 24-hour recovery

call. Griffith said he wants the maintenance to become a little more involved. Take the time to check and double check work, he said, and it will ultimately mean less work later on. "It saves a lot of vehicles from breaking down when out on operations," he said.

But it's more than just hard work, said Griffith. A lot of it is attitude -- a sense of responsibility for one's work. It's this attitude that Griffith said he tries to instill into his soldiers. "I tell my soldiers every day what responsibilities they have, because if they don't do their job, the mission gets dropped," he said. "And

they kind of stick their head up a little bit more and are proud of the job they're doing here."

Getting the job done is an award in itself for Winston. Like Schiffler's KISS method, Winston said a lot of times when confronted by a particular mechanical problem he sometimes just has to stop and re-

think the troubleshooting. "And then once you say, 'Hey, I didn't do something right,' you go back and find that point -- that step you didn't do correct, and you go back and do it," said Winston. "And when it works out, it's a rush -- it's just like scoring a touchdown."

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**"I tell my soldiers every day what responsibilities they have, because if they don't do their job, the mission gets dropped -- and they kind of stick their head up a little bit more and are proud of the job they're doing here."**

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— Staff Sgt. Todd A. Griffith

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