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THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Honored and privileged

See HONORED page 12

Cover, Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, holding flag on left, the outgoing Task Force Eagle commander, relinquishes command of MND-North to Gen. William W. Crouch, Stabilization Force commander, moments before Crouch entrusts TF Eagle to Maj. Gen. David L. Grange, far right, as 1st Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Harold Montgomery, far left, looks on. Photo by Sgt. Chris Fletcher *Right*, Chief Warrant Officer Robert A. Nixon, 1st Infantry Division bandmaster signals the end of the national anthem during a rehearsal of the Task Force Eagle Transfer of Authority ceremony...*below*, a multinational flag detail looks on as the transfer of authority takes place.



Photo by Sgt. Chris Fletcher



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

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

Peacekeepers



Photo by Pfc. Wendy Tokach

By James Robert Lyons
International Police Task Force

*Prepare us o' Lord the peace to keep
Ready to carry the honor of our land
With enemies too many never knowing just who
Freedom held high for the world to see...*



Photo by Spc. David Boe



Photo by 1st Lt. Tyrone Kindle



Photo by Spc. Tracy L. Hall-Leahy



Photo by Spc. T.B. Winston

*...My uncle's strong voice saying I want you
Vigilant in the light of day and night
so deep
Strength and courage given to my
country...*



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

*...Through the politics of others into which I
am drawn
The Stars and Stripes so proudly waving
In each setting sun and every morning's
dawn*



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley



Photo by Spc. David Boe

*...Should any of us die before we wake
The hopes of a nation borne by so few
With a constitution so strong in which we abide
The bell of liberty rings for all so clear
Pledging our allegiance and trembling with pride...*



Photo by Sgt. Chris Fletcher



Photo by Sgt. Chris Fletcher



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt

*...Dear God we pray our souls to take
The Star Spangled Banner for all to sing
Mine eyes have seen the glory and we are driven
With drums pounding lockstep for all
For our country to be proud should our lives be given.*



Photo by Aiutante Giuseppe Melillo



Photo by Spc. J. Craig Pickett



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

A Child's Playground

By Spc. Christa McMahon
HHC, 1ID, SGS

*My eyes have been opened
to the cruelties of the world.*

*A gut-wrenching picture created
by a war-torn country.*

*The streets are barren
with the exception of a few vendors.
What were once beautiful structures
now stand riddled by bullets.*

*Homes with no glass windows
yet lace curtains garnish the holes.*

An emptiness seeps through one's heart...



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley



Photo by Spc. Janel George

...as you gaze upon the scarred houses.
 People who lost all possessions
 build anew with what is left.
 In the distance, beyond city limits,
 a child's laughter rings out.
 A brilliant sound to a battered country;
 time stands still...

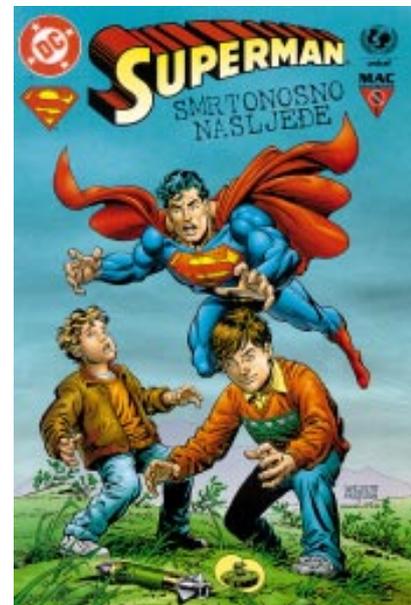


Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

...He climbs a tree to jump the
fence.

The yard is small, no room for
play.

The backdrop is a sight to behold,
marked by the results of the lost.

One marker stands out,
the ending date 1994.

A cemetery, holding loved ones,
lives lost in battle to keep a
homeland.

This is the setting for death,
yet has become an everyday
event.

The laughter ceases, a cry breaks
out.

This is the child's playground.



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins



Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

HONORED

from page 1



Maj. Gen. David L. Grange, Task Force Eagle commander, gives his remarks as Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs looks on.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

By Sgt. Steven Collins
129th MPAD

EAGLE BASE – Maj. Gen. David L. Grange assumed command of Task Force Eagle during a special ceremony Wednesday, replacing Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, who will soon be commanding general at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

“I am honored and I am privileged to be a member of SFOR and to contribute to the international peace effort in Bosnia,” said Grange, accepting the 1st Infantry Division colors during the transfer of authority ceremony. “To take command of Task Force Eagle...is a leadership commitment, a high standard I will meet.”

General William W. Crouch, commander of the Stabilization Force and U.S. Army

Europe, attended the ceremony, congratulating Meigs for his leadership of Task Force Eagle since last November.

“An officer with 30 years of experience, (Meigs) is a proven leader. He knows coalition formation and operation. (He’s) an accomplished historian and scholar, a published author. More importantly, he is a consummate professional soldier who’s orchestrated the task necessary to enable MND-North to accomplish its mission,” said Crouch.

Meigs, who has been nominated for a third star, spoke briefly on his experiences in Bosnia-Herzegovina and thanked all the soldiers of Task Force Eagle for a successful mission. He also wished the American forces good luck in the coming months.

“To (Maj. Gen.) Grange...good luck in this most difficult mission. I am glad to have such an experienced leader of character taking over my old outfit,” said Meigs.

Grange comes to Bosnia-Herzegovina from the Pentagon, where he has served as director of Army Operations, Readiness and Mobilization. Grange is a twice-wounded combat veteran who received his commission in 1969. He served two tours in Vietnam, first as a rifle platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division and then as a reconnaissance advisor to the 81st Airborne Ranger Group.

A graduate of the flight school, Grange also served in the 101st Airborne Division and the 75th Rangers. After a tour of duty as a battalion commander in Korea, Grange was the deputy commander of the 1st Special Applications Group at Fort Bragg, where he commanded a Special Operations Task Force during Operation Desert Storm. From 1991-93, he was the commander of the 75th Rangers. He has also served as assistant divisional commander for the 3rd Infantry Division.

“The friendship and mentorship that Gen. Meigs has provided gives me the required confidence and drive I will need in this command. With all my heart I truly thank his efforts,” said Grange.

Despite the good work completed by SFOR under Meigs’ command, Grange said American forces still have a long way to go before leaving Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“Task Force Eagle will continue to execute its responsibilities as directed to standard within the general framework agreement for peace,” he said.

Meigs’ new command will be a challenge but he is ready, he said, because of his experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“On taking on this mission in Bosnia, our division’s command team had the unprecedented opportunity to design from scratch, then form, train, deploy and employ the covering force, and now the current forces you see today in this area of operation. This kind of opportunity, to build a force from the ground up, and then to use it, almost never happens in military affairs. For a leader like myself, this work presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Meigs said.

Meigs leaves Bosnia-Herzegovina marking his 30th year of service in the U.S. Army. He is a Vietnam veteran and has served as commander of the 3rd Infantry Division (re-designated as the 1st Infantry Division in 1996) since 1995. He expressed sadness at leaving, but was confident in the professionalism of the soldiers, not only of the 1st Infantry Division, but of the entire SFOR.

“To all of you from the other nations...I want you to know how important it has been to me to soldier with you and to learn from you. To all the American troopers present...thanks for being the terrific, disciplined, spirited soldiers that you are. You serve our nation in the best way imaginable,” said Meigs.