

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

## Memories of home

See MEMORIES page 12

Spc. Ronnie King, Jr., a dismount team leader with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, monitors traffic at the Brcko bridge from an M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

*Photo by Spc. David Boe*

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**Did you know?**

The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "Its A Wonderful Life."

It was discovered on a space mission that a frog can throw up. The frog throws up its stomach first, so the stomach is dangling out of its mouth. Then the frog uses its forearms to dig out all of the stomach's contents and then swallows the stomach back down again.

'Stewardesses' is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

Sylvia Miles had the shortest performance ever nominated for an Oscar with "Midnight Cowboy." Her entire role lasted only six minutes.

Charles Lindbergh took only four sandwiches with him on his famous transatlantic flight.

Goethe couldn't stand the sound of barking dogs and could only write if he had an apple rotting in the drawer of his desk.

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

Sleeping Beauty, 101 Dalmatians, and Peter Pan (Wendy) are the only three Disney cartoon features with both parents that are present and don't die throughout the movie.

Armored knights raised their visors to identify themselves when riding past their king. This custom has become the modern military salute.

The Baby Ruth candy bar was actually named after Grover Cleveland's baby daughter, Ruth.

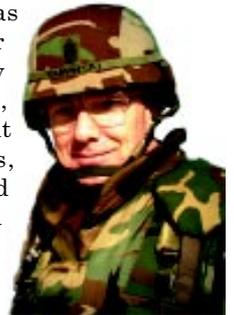
Armadillos have four babies at a time, all of which are the same sex.

**UP FRONT-- WATER, WATER AND MORE WATER**

In extreme heat a soldier may lose more than a quart of water per hour through sweating. To prevent dehydration or heat injury, we must replace lost water. Water should be sipped, not gulped and it should be cool whenever possible. Thirst is not an adequate indicator of the need for water, so soldiers must drink even when they are not thirsty.

Commanders and all leaders should set up hydration (water consumption) standards and make sure they are enforced. Alcohol and soft drinks are not substitutes for water. Alcohol increases the likelihood of dehydration; soft drinks are

not absorbed as rapidly as water into the body tissue. In fact, soft drinks that contain salts, such as bottled or powdered soft drinks, may increase an individual's water requirements. What I'd like to do is share with you the following guide. See you up front!!



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

Recommended water intake, 24 hours		Temperature	
Duty	Activity	< 80	80 <
Light	Indoor, desk duty	5 qts.	8 qts.
Moderate	Combination indoor, outdoor duty	8 qts.	11 qts.
Heavy	Outdoor duty	11 qts.	14 qts.

**SAFETY: A FORCE MULTIPLIER**

We are going to shift our viewpoint of how following safety guidelines and safe procedures can benefit us all. "READY, SHIFT!"

**Situation:** Spc. Jones is under his vehicle replacing the oil filter. His wrench bangs against the vehicle frame and some dirt falls into his eyes. Jones, of course, is not wearing any protective goggles. While trying to clean out the dirt, Jones scratches the cornea of his right eye. He now can't perform his duties as a mechanic.

Adding to the bad news is the fact that the motor pool is now reduced by one man. Jones was an excellent mechanic. His coworkers must now work longer hours to pick up the slack. Problem is, the longer hours are going to put an increased stress on his coworkers -- but the vehicles must be maintained. The task force missions are really putting miles on the vehicles.

Safety goes further than the obvious. Our mission doesn't alter because we lose a couple of vehicles or soldiers. Our mission becomes more difficult because we now have fewer resources. Since those fewer resources are now doing more, they are under greater stress. Can you see a trend developing here?

Reducing risk and following safety guidelines helps maintain the combat effectiveness of any military unit. Making the same mistake twice is never acceptable. Let's stay **FIT TO FIGHT!**

**Maj. Gary R. Spegal, 1st Infantry Division Safety Officer**

**THE TALON**

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

## SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE SHAPE, BELGIUM

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE STABJLJZATJON FORCE (SFOR)

As I depart as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, I want to tell each of you how proud and privileged I was to be your commander. For the past 18 months JFOR and now SFOR has enforced the implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords and provided a stable, secure environment for reconstruction and reconciliation to take place. You have done so as a NATO-led force comprised of 36 nations with a multinational headquarters of 25 nations. You have exceeded all my expectations and restored credibility and purpose to our alliance. You have been magnificent! You have made history!

Because of you the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina have a chance to grow up in a peaceful world. Because of your actions we have demonstrated that Partnership for Peace really works and you have developed mutual trust and confidence between militaries who 10 years ago were enemies. Indeed the superb working relationship between the Russian Brigade in Bosnia and NATO was the basis for the NATO-Russian Founding Act signed in Paris last May that officially ended the Cold War. And finally your interaction with our partners in Bosnia resulted in the historic decision in Madrid to accept Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic for membership in NATO.

How proud I am of you and your commanders! You represent the new Europe and the new NATO. Maintain your focus and your cohesion. Act within a clear chain of command. Demand clarity of mission and purpose from our political authorities. Take care of one another. You must not fail in your mission. The credibility of the Alliance is at stake.

Know that as I leave as SACEUR my final thoughts are of you. I will never forget you. May God keep you safe.

Remember we are ONE TEAM - ONE MISSION, and NATO's mission continues.

Farewell!

GEORGE A. JOULWAN  
SACEUR



Gen. George A. Joulwan, former  
Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Photo by Spc. Terri K. Cook

## Info briefs

### OER Briefing

The new officer evaluation reporting system DA team briefing schedule for Croatia, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina is as follows:

#### 8 August 97

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Club 21 - Eagle Base

#### 9 August 97

9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Clamshell 1 - Comanche Base

1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Recreation Center - Camp Dobol

#### Split schedule

9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. DFAC (T) - Guardian Base

1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Ilidza Compound - Sarajevo

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. 21 Club - Eagle Base

#### 10 August 97

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Lauffer Hall or DFAC - McGovern Base

2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. TF Pershing HQs (T) - Slavovski Brod

#### 11 August 97

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. DFAC (T) - Taszar

OER Fielding DA Team members:  
Lt. Col. George Piccirilli, Capt. John Mikos

TF 38 point of contact - Tuzla: Chief Warrant Officer Hargett, sprint 762-7267 or 7280

NSE point of contact - Taszar: Capt. Haddock, sprint 760-2255 or 2254

### Conserve water

Task Force Eagle must conserve "bulk" water (sinks, showers, bathrooms -- not bottled water, soldiers can drink as much as they want). There is not a shortage or a crisis, but the usage is about four times what it should be. Logistics would like everyone to: 1. Report all leaking fixtures or plumbing to the mayor as soon as possible. 2. Apply the same conservation measures we would normally use in Central Region or the United States. 3. Leaders set the example and help disseminate information on this matter.

# How Swede it is

By Spc. David Boe  
364th MPAD

**M**CGOVERN BASE — Following the spirit of Operation Joint Guard, elements from the Swedish Battalion, NORDPOL Brigade, converged here June 29 to conduct joint patrols and force protection exercises with soldiers of Task Force 1-77.

Over 120 soldiers from B Coy (company) and Headquarters and Logistics platoons, Swedish Bn., arrived at McGovern Base as part of a force assigned to be a ready reaction force for SFOR operational reserve. While some soldiers were airlifted in on UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, the majority of the Swedish contingent rolled into the U.S. base on their SISU armored personnel carriers.

Soon after their arrival, the Swedish soldiers joined their American counterparts in joint patrols within Task Force 1-77's sector. The goal was to acquaint the Swedes with various "hotspots" in the area that they might have to deploy to during crises, said 1st Lt. William G. Jacobs II, executive officer, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, who led one of several joint patrols.

"We showed them all the main routes — where to go, where not to go, minefield, no minefield, who's friendly, and who's not," said Jacobs, 26. "Generally, just a good overview of how this sector is."

Jacobs said that despite the seriousness and importance of the exercise, soldiers from both sides had a fun time working together. For himself, it was a unique experience to meet with fellow infantrymen from another country. "I found out the infantry brotherhood is the same, no matter what country you are from," he said. "We're all a little bit on the crazy side."

And the Swedes? "They had a great time," said Jacobs. "They were hanging out the back of their vehicles singing Swedish songs and morale was pretty high."

The majority of the Swedish vehicles visiting McGovern Base were the six-wheeled SISU's, a Finnish-built Armored Personnel Carrier used by several SFOR contin-



Soldiers from B Coy (company), Swedish Battalion, stand in formation during a convoy briefing held by U.S. soldiers during a visit to McGovern Base.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

gents within Bosnia-Herzegovina. Despite their Nordic origins, many of the APC's sported rather un-Swedish nicknames, such as "Beavis," "Enterprise," and "Motley Crew." Not surprising considering that most of the soldiers spoke English fluently.

"Actually, they spoke better English than I did - more proper English," said Jacobs, a native of Sallisaw, Okla. "Some of them had a little difficulty on the radio though; I talked too fast and my drawl was pretty bad."

After the patrol, Jacobs led a group of Swedes to his own vehicle, an M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Cpl. Jeremiah C. Jorgensen, 22, the Bradley's gunner, said the Swedes seemed impressed with the capabilities of his vehicle and didn't hesitate to ask questions, such how much firepower is needed to knock a Bradley out, what kind of ammunition it uses, and how much damage can a Bradley do to other vehicles.

"Basically, though, they were most enthused about just being able to get in and sit in the Bradley commander's seat and sit in the gunner's seat, crawl around the driver's hatch, and just see what it was like to be in our vehicle," said Jorgensen.

This is the second chance Jorgensen has

had to meet another country's army. His first opportunity was providing force protection for the Russian Brigade near Ugljevk. Both experiences, he said, were beneficial.

"It's pretty interesting," said Jorgensen. "I think it's a great opportunity to interact, see how they work, and for them to see how we work. It would be good for all soldiers to get that type of interaction."

Swedish Pvt. Tomas Andreen, a SISU driver, agreed with Jorgensen, saying joint operations are a good idea. "It's nice to see them (other countries) and compare them with the kind of stuff we have in Sweden," he said. "It's also interesting seeing new faces and soldiers of other nationalities."

Andreen said he thought the American soldiers were more professional than the Swedish soldiers, who must serve for one year in the Swedish military, but volunteer for duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jacobs disagrees. "I would say they (the Swedish soldiers) are a more professional infantry, because they had to volunteer to come to Bosnia. Everybody here wants to be here," he said. "I was also impressed with their discipline, the shape of their equipment. They were ready."

# Fifteen minutes

## OF SHEER TERROR

Sgt. Andrew C. Baker, 121st Signal Battalion, Eagle Air Base, checks equipment in a communication van.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

By Sgt. Steven Collins  
129th MPAD

**E**AGLE BASE — Camp Demi is about 25 miles south of here, as the crow flies. Not very far, but it might as well be in the United States as far as telephone communications are concerned. Calling Demi on the multiple subscriber equipment (MSE) phones requires a “long haul,” a communications link to a satellite 13,800 miles in space.

“We provide the long haul communications to Demi, the Turkish Brigade and the Russian Brigade,” said Sgt. Andrew C. Baker, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 121st Signal Battalion detachment here. “Even though the Turkish Brigade is only about 100 miles away, we need to go through the satellite to talk to them on the MSE.”

The unit members work hard to keep the satellite connection, because communications between Demi, the Turks and the Russians are vital to the Bosnian peacekeeping mission, said Baker.

“The general gets upset if he can’t pick up his phone and contact Demi or the Russian Brigade,” said Baker. “The quick reaction force at Demi needs to be in constant contact with Eagle Base. If they aren’t, it could hurt the mission here.”

Most other communications in Bosnia-Herzegovina don’t require a satellite connection. However, Demi, the Turkish Brigade and the Russian Brigade sit in valleys, surrounded by large hills, so a good link to the camps is by satellite.

“We serve as a hub site here,” said Baker.

Baker and another technician, Spc. Kathleen Quesnell, keep watch over an Eagle Base communication van, which maintains a constant link to the Army satellite. Communications from the base camps are routed through the satellite to the commo van to the communications network at Eagle Base. Communications from Eagle Base route through the commo van to the satellite to the remote sites.

“We are rarely ever down,” said Baker. “The equipment simply works. And when it works we are transparent down here. The communications just go right through us to the different base camps.”

The only real problem encountered is the occasional generator problem or equipment failure, which is rare. Nature cannot block the satellite connection — bad weather simply requires Baker to turn up the transmitter to higher power.

The system is also very secure. There is not really any way to break into the system without Baker noticing the change in satellite connections. He is able to monitor the signal all the time to ensure no stray listeners are on line.

“It is virtually impossible to intercept this signal. We would know about it right away. It is completely secure,” he said.

Although the job requires a knowledge of electronics, satellite technology and communications, it requires more patience than anything else. Baker and Quesnell spend long 12-hour shifts every day, sitting by the equipment, hoping it does not fail.

“It can get boring,” said Baker. “The job is 23 hours, 45 minutes of sheer boredom and perhaps 15 minutes of sheer terror. If something goes wrong, you have to be ready for it. And that is definitely a rush.”

If the system goes down, Baker and his crew are the sudden focus of high-level attention. Colonels and majors from the Task Force Eagle headquarters do not let the system go down for long before starting to find out why.

“When the system works, no one knows we’re here. Which is nice. But when it goes down, everyone wants to know why and starts looking for us,” said Baker.

The job also requires the technicians to readjust their environmental awareness. Once, Baker said he woke up in the middle of the night, jarred to his senses by the complete silence.

“I didn’t hear the generators running,” he said. “I knew something was wrong because I couldn’t hear the generators. Sure enough, the system was down. My alarms didn’t go off because the electricity was gone.”

The constant din of generator noise and transmitter whines are an occupational hazard. But Baker said he does not even notice the noise anymore.

“It’s going to be hard when I go home and don’t hear all the noise. I probably won’t be able to go to sleep,” he said.

Story and Photos by Spc. Paul Hougdaahl  
129th MPAD

**CAMP COLT** — Most soldiers and civilians who deploy to Bosnia-Herzegovina receive training at Hohenfels, Germany before coming “downrange.” Among other things, training includes how to handle the weather, how to use the space heaters and how to handle the media — but one of the focal points of the training regards land mines. Soldiers learn the many different types of mines they might encounter, as well as techniques for avoiding and probing for mines. For some soldiers, dealing with the threat of mines has continued beyond the classroom.

As soldiers from the 82nd Engineer Battalion supervise mine clearing operations conducted in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the former warring factions, they see firsthand that it is extremely hard work and very dangerous — but necessary. Land mines placed during the war are now covered with water, mud and weeds. As the former warring factions search, these obstacles must be dealt with along with rocks, mosquitoes and the heat of summer — a bit different than probing for mines in a sand-pit inside a classroom.

The Dayton Peace Accord requires the former warring factions to remove mines as a vital part of citizens returning to a normal way of life. Although it is the responsibility of the soldiers from the three factions to do the actual search, Stabilization Force soldiers play a large role in the success of the mission.

“Our primary role is to make sure they actually check their records and put in 100 percent effort to ensure the mines are gone and then to destroy the mines they find,” said 2nd Lt. Bill Moen, a platoon leader with Co. B, 82nd Engineer Battalion at Camp Colt. “Anytime we get mines off the ground and ensure the area is free of mines we’ve accomplished something. The civilians in the area are pretty receptive to us; they appreciate us.”

Each month Co. B establishes a mine clearing plan using records of mine placement provided by the factions, Moen said. They coordinate with faction leaders, meet at designated areas each morning and travel to the mine site together. The most important aspect of the job is to provide security for the factions as they probe. As mines are found the data is recorded and a faction representative signs paperwork to verify the data.

In the past month several faction soldiers have been killed during mine clearing operations — proving that mines have no statute of limitations.

“With soldiers dying it keeps our eyes open; you can’t ever become complacent with mines. These soldiers work with mines everyday and it shows that nobody is safe,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kraig Haas, a platoon sergeant for Co. B.

As dangerous as mine probing is for the factions, providing security while the factions work requires patient watching and waiting.

“The soldiers have fun out here sometimes, like when they get to blow up mines, but sometimes it gets a little monotonous sitting out here everyday waiting for the mines to be found,” said Haas. “It’s our job though, and we have to do it. In the long run it’s worth it to make sure the mines are cleared and the citizens can get back to a normal life.”

Ninety percent of the mission for Co. B since coming to Bosnia-Herzegovina has consisted of mine clearing operations, Haas said. Mines are found three or four days out of every 10, and records of mine placements are often inaccurate.

Many times farmers find mines and remove them, or as battlefronts moved forward and backward, mine fields got placed on top of other mine fields. A recent day for the Co. B engineers revealed none of the anti-tank mines listed but an unmarked anti-personnel mine was discovered.

“I don’t know if they can ever say that all of the mines have been removed,” said Haas. “I’d say another two to three years of solid effort will be needed to remove most of these mine fields.”

# Clearing to no



*From top right: soldier with the metal detector for mines in a field at an intersection. The area has been heavily mined. George Thomas and Robert Blake, Co. B, 82nd Engineer Battalion, Camp Colt, are using the wire used to detect explosives. The BiH army is conducting another day of mine clearing operations. Background: The growth of mine clearing operations is time consuming.*

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# "Why are you fat?"

**When the tankers of TF 1-41 went on patrol, they got more than just a nice view of the countryside**

By **Spc. Susanne Aspley**  
364th MPAD

**T**URALICI, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The old Serb man has a deeply grooved face and eyes clouded by cataracts. Politics are like the wind, blowing from all directions, he says as he puffs on his cigarette. But his fields of food are permanent. His neighbor, an equally wrinkled woman, is shrunken but full of life and laughter.

The soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, attached to Company C, Task Force 1-41, spend a great deal of time in direct contact with the native population as they conduct mounted presence patrols throughout their sector, including the aforementioned couple. Assessments of the people and their attitudes is a fundamental part the peacekeeping mission in the Balkans. During a recent patrol near Turalici, the elderly couple nearly insisted they stop and drink some thick, Bosnian coffee.

"The more we know and understand, the more we are prepared to handle any situation and effectively do our job," said Pvt. Jason Hardesty, an M1A1 Abrams tanker from Pinckey, Mich. "Talking face to face gives us a chance to find out the feelings and attitudes of the civilians toward our peacekeeping mission."

The tank platoon is assigned to Co. C. to augment combat power at Camp Demi. "The role of armor changes within a peacekeeping mission," said Sgt. Wayne Dumais. "Just the presence of an Abrams is a deterrent in and of itself. We are just another option that the task force has in case a situation turns sour."

Dumais has also been deployed to Somalia. "That was the first time tanks were deployed in a peacekeeping mission, so it was a learning experience for everyone," he said. In preparation for Operation Joint Guard, along with tank gunnery, training specifically included how to deal with the civilians. "We are trained to fight wars, but now it includes acting as a liaison with people, talking to people and keeping the peace," Dumais said. "We needed to realize that in Bosnia there are differences in our job. Most of the time the patrols just drive by and wave. But when



**Spc. Thomas Boothe, a mechanized infantryman with 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, chats with an old Serbian man from the village of Turalici during a stop in a patrol.**

*Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley*

we stop, it gives them a chance to see that we are regular people underneath this equipment."

Turalici, the town they stopped in, is a Muslim town that was destroyed by the Serbs during the war according to 1st Lt. Paul Olson, 1st Platoon leader. Now they have shifted the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) so that Turalici is on the Federation side. Muslims are slowly trying to improve the roads and hope to eventually rebuild homes.

Working amidst all the destruction isn't always easy to take. "There is nothing easy about being deployed, but our platoon has done a good job representing America and maintained a professional image," said Olson.

Hardesty agrees, and added "We take lots of pride in being professional soldiers. We stay on our toes and don't get complacent."

As 1st Platoon mounted up to continue with their patrol, the old Serb woman asked one soldier, "Why are you fat?" The well-built soldier couldn't come up with an answer so she came up with her own. "Your father is probably fat." She then told the lieutenant he should get married. Apparently grandmotherly advice is universal.

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**"Talking face to face gives us a chance to find out the feelings and attitudes of the civilians toward our peacekeeping missions."**

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— *Pvt. Jason Hardesty*

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# Preaching for peace

By Spc. Paul Hougdaahl  
129 MPAD

**CAMP COLT** — There are large cultural differences between the United States and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Part of the success of the peacekeeping mission here hinges on U.S. troops being able to recognize these differences and to find methods to use this different social structure to maintain peace.

One difference is in the area of religion and how it is represented in society. In the United States, religion and government are separated from each other, but in Bosnia-Herzegovina the religious leaders take an active role in the everyday life of the people including involvement and wide acceptance in public schools and politics.

"They more closely relate religion and nationality than we do — they identify faith with nation," said Chaplain (Capt.) Andrew Gibson, Camp Colt. "The religious leaders here have more of an impact in everyday life. They are pseudo-political leaders and are seen as key elements in getting the peoples' obedience."

At Camp Colt, periodic meetings are held with local religious leaders to take advantage of the influence they have to make peace in this war-torn country. These Inter-Faith Council Meetings are conducted to get the religious leaders from all three factions together to talk to each other and work out any problems they might have.

Chairing these meetings is the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Part of OSCE's

mandate is to look into human rights, a large part of which is religious freedom. This religious freedom is recognized as an asset to the communities and a necessary part of sustaining peace.

"We have these meetings under the framework of confidence building," said Antoine Laham, Deputy Director of OSCE in Tuzla. "We are trying to bring the religious

many religious leaders as possible, providing escorts to the meetings and making sure a place to hold the meeting is ready at Camp Colt.

"The meetings are chaired by OSCE but SFOR provides the neutral ground," said Wylie. "Anytime we get them to meet is good, because the importance of these religious leaders is clearly very high. The interaction during the formal meeting is good, but the informal interaction before and after the meetings is the best."

Many different topics are discussed at the meetings. They discuss visiting and caring for gravesites in areas other factions now control, as well as progress rebuilding destroyed places of worship.

The most important aspect of these meetings is getting these religious leaders back together again and to renew old friendships and acquaintances.

"Most knew each other before the war and were friends," said Gibson. "They see outside forces as a problem more than each other, but war has driven a wedge between them. Just seeing each other as human beings is good, and their followers seeing them get together is a symbolic gesture."

**"We are trying to bring the religious leaders together to create a smooth environment, an environment that will encourage people to return home. It is important to get the people talking and SFOR (Stabilization Force) gives us a safe place to come."**

— Antoine Laham

leaders together to create a smooth environment, an environment that will encourage people to return home. It is important to get the people talking and SFOR (Stabilization Force) gives us a safe place to come."

The job of civil affairs is to be facilitators of the meetings, said Capt. David Wylie, 351st Civil Affairs Battalion, Camp Colt. OSCE chairs the meetings, but they rely on civil affairs for many things, such as announcing upcoming meetings to as

**A religious leader presents his position on a issue at Camp Colt during an Inter-Faith Council meeting while Capt. David Wishart, 351st Civil Affairs Battalion, looks on.**

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdaahl





# Bridging the gap through sports

Spc. Alfred Bustamonte, a member of the 82nd Engineer Battalion and team captain, attempts to evade a Bosnian defender.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

By Sgt. Steven Collins  
129th MPAD

**D**UBRAVE, Bosnia-Herzegovina – The ball flew past goalie 1st Sgt. William Clarkson and the crowd began cheering. Another goal for the local team ensured a victory for the Bosnians and a second defeat for a team fielded by Task Force Eagle.

“We haven’t had the opportunity to practice as much as we like, but the hardest part about the game was the ground,” said Clarkson, 82nd Engineer Battalion. “They play really well.”

“It wasn’t the size of the field as much as the field was uneven,” said Spc. Alfred Bustamonte, a member of the 82nd Engineer Battalion and team captain. “You want to go the left and you fall or stumble around out there. It was hard for everybody.”

Clarkson and Bustamonte were two of 11 American soldiers to participate in two exhibition games at the Nebib Malkic Memorial Soccer Tournament, held outside the gates of Eagle Base July 1-6. The two exhibition games featuring the Americans were held Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6. The Americans lost both games, 3-2 and 3-1.

“Win or lose, it didn’t really matter to me, although I’m sure the players would tell you different,” said Capt. Bill Autrey, 426th Civil Affairs Battalion. “I am really hoping to establish a good relationship with the community and maybe it’s something

we can do on a weekly basis.”

Autrey is the civil affairs officer attached to the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Eagle Base. His contact in Dubrave, the town just north of Eagle Base, told him about the Nebib Malkic Memorial Tournament and asked Autrey to get a team together for exhibition games.

“I had about three days to get a team together and so that was an initial concern,” said Autrey. “But there’s a soccer group that meets every Tuesday and Thursday and so I put the word out. The more people heard about it, the more they were interested in participating. So we got a team together.”

The fact that soccer is a local passion worked against the Americans. Hodzic Hasan, the mayor of Dubrave, said his community loves soccer.

“Soccer is number one here,” he said. “This is the first tournament here after the war. It is a big event for us.”

The tournament commemorates Nesib Malkic, one of 21 locals who died in the war. Malkic was a commander of an artillery unit who died defending his community. He was a local hero who loved soccer, and so the tournament was named in his honor.

“From this year on, we will have this tournament every year from July 1 to July 6,” said Hasan. “The people like to watch and it brings the community together.”

Autrey attended several of the games during the tournament and was surprised

by the demeanor of the people watching.

“It’s pretty much a family affair; they are soccer fanatics, but they are very orderly,” said Autrey. “These people sit and watch the game, they don’t even talk. It’s not like an American sporting event, where people sit with hot dogs or Cokes.”

Beating the Americans – not just once, but twice – was a highlight of the tournament, said Autrey.

“It gave them face, I think. We are here, an all-powerful force, the only country that could stop the war,” said Autrey. “They see us with our weapons and our big vehicles. It is intimidating to them. To beat us on the soccer field showed that we are just human too. It also gave them something to be proud about.”

Although the American team lost, Task Force Eagle came out a winner.

“Anytime we can be seen out in public in less than ‘battle-rattle’ or not in a hummer, it is a good situation,” said Autrey. “I’ve had children over there tell me that this is the first time they’ve seen American soldiers when they weren’t in a convoy or with their weapons. We are building trust and friendship with the community and that is good and will help the SFOR mission.”

Future events between SFOR troops and local citizens may also include volleyball and softball.

“I just want to build the relationship between Task Force Eagle and the Dubrave community,” said Autrey.

# You think you know military?

By Spc. David Boe  
364th MPAD

- Who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in June, 1815?
  - The Duke of Earl
  - The Duke of Wellington
  - Charles of Lorraine
  - Fredrick the Great
- In which war did the most Americans die?
  - Blackhawk War
  - World War II
  - Civil War
  - Revolutionary War
- What was the longest siege in history?
  - Sarajevo, Bosnian Civil War
  - Leningrad, World War II
  - Constantinople, Ottoman Empire conquests
  - Acre, Crusades
- How long was the 100 Years War?
  - 100 years
  - 97 years
  - 116 years
  - 137 years
- The Seven Years War (1756-1763) was started by which country?
  - Great Britain
  - France
  - Austria
  - Prussia
- America entered World War II when ...
  - Japan declared war on America
  - Germany declared war on America
  - America declared war on Japan
  - Japan attacked Pearl Harbor
- The Charge of the Light Brigade occurred in which war?
  - Crimean War
  - Boer War
  - Greek War of Independence
  - War of 1812
- Alexander the Great was king of what ancient country?
  - Greece
  - Sparta
  - Macedonia
  - Thebes
- What war in Europe preceded World War I by one year?
  - Second Balkan War
  - Russo-Japanese War
  - Russo-Finnish War
  - First Ukrainian War



Pfc. Bryan Cox  
0500 - 0900/Mon. - Fri.  
Classic Rock in the morning

By the 364th MPAD

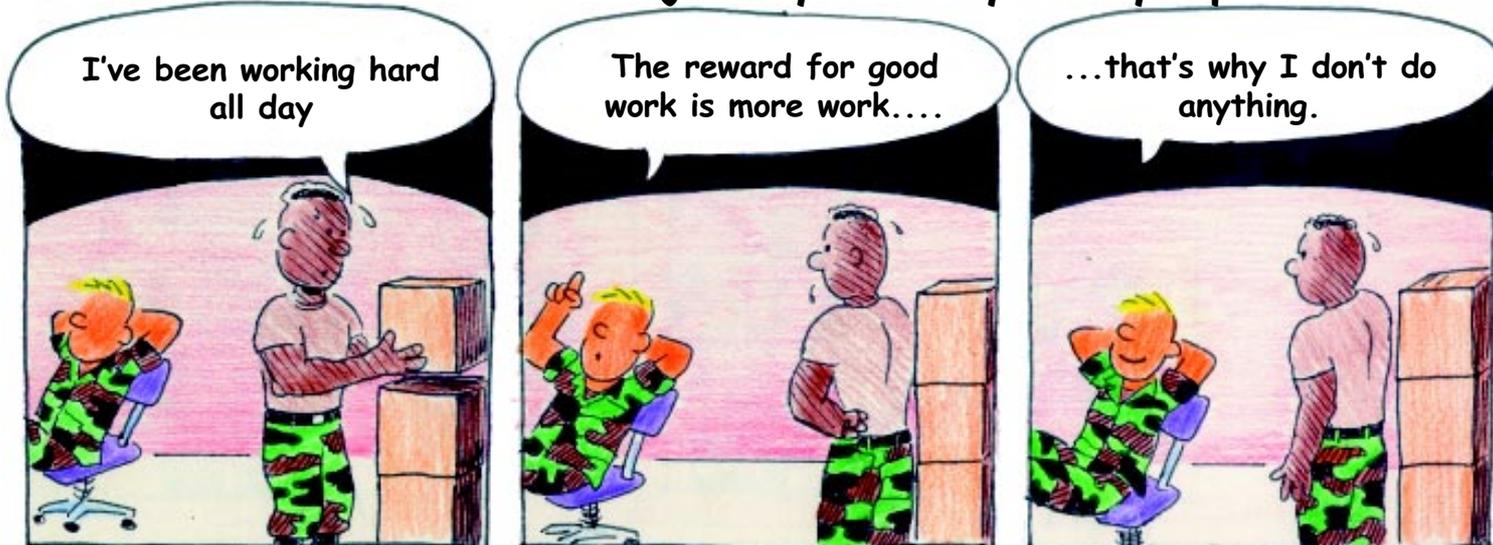
- What was the bloodiest day in American military history?
  - D-Day, World War II
  - Battle of Antietam, Civil War
  - Battle of Bunker Hill, Revolutionary War
  - The Alamo, Texas War of Independence
- The Zulu War was fought in what modern African country?
  - Sudan
  - Uganda
  - Chad
  - South Africa
- The Spanish Armada was defeated by what country in 1588?
  - France
  - Portugal
  - England
  - Norway
- During World War I, Bosnia and Herzegovina was part of what country or empire?
  - Russia
  - Ottoman Empire
  - Austria-Hungary
  - Bulgaria

Answers: 1-b 2-c 3-a 4-c 5-d 6-b 7-a 8-c 9-a 10-b 11-d 12-c 13-c

## Turtles in the Box

featuring Muddy and Dusty

by Capt. P.J. Buotte



# MEMORIES

from page 1

By Spc. David Boe  
364th MPAD

**B**RCKO, Bosnia and Herzegovina – There are a lot of things that Spc. Ronnie King Jr. misses about his hometown of Copperas Cove, Tx. But the fondest memory he has, the one thing that sticks out in his mind, is taking his godson to the local Dairy Queen and getting a butter-scotch dip ice cream cone.

“We did it almost every day,” said King. “It’s something I really miss doing.”

King, 22, hasn’t been to a Dairy Queen for a while. In fact, at his present duty assignment in Brcko, there isn’t a single Dairy Queen in town. But for King, Brcko still bears a similarity to Copperas Cove.

“It would be the same as my hometown in that you have a lot of the same stores,” said King. “They sell the same products, but they have different names on everything. They also have taxi cabs, clubs, grocery stores, everything.”

King and his fellow soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry are headquartered at McGovern, but for all intents and purposes, Brcko is their home. Each soldier in the company spends up to two-thirds of his time in the eastern Bosnian town pulling peacekeeping duties. Life in Brcko, though, isn’t as simple, or as carefree as Copperas Cove, Texas.

Brcko. Most Stabilization Force soldiers are familiar with the name. In one way, it symbolizes all that is wrong with Bosnia-Herzegovina – and all the problems that SFOR is working to resolve in the war-torn country. Nestled along the Sava river in the heart of the tenuous Posavina Corridor that connects the two halves of the Republika Srpska, Brcko is a controversy that can’t be ignored. Once predominantly Muslim in population before the war, the city is now close to 99 percent Bosnian-Serb. The city is important to both sides, but one of the pressing problems are the number of Muslims who want to resettle back to their hometown. All sides – Muslim, Serb, the United Nations and NATO – are working to find a solution for a city who’s ultimate fate has been put on hold for another year.

In the middle of all this sits Co. D, 2-2 Inf.

Since taking up their residence in Brcko almost four months ago, Co. D “Dogs of War” have performed a variety of peacekeeping missions in and around the city. Along with their main duty of overseeing the only bridge that leads into Brcko from Croatia, Co. D also conducts daily patrols through the city and inspects local weapon storage sites. All of these missions combine to make Brcko a little more dangerous than the average American hometown. Because of this, said King, one can’t be too casual.

“You can never let your guard down,” said King, “because as soon as people see you slacking off, that’s when you’re most vulnerable, because you’re not at home.”

“We have to be able to adapt to anything,” said King.

It’s the people of Brcko that remind Spc. Jeffrey H. Kissler of home. “I come from a farming community, so I can relate,” said the 21-year-old Ritzville, Wash., native. “A lot of people here get by with what they have and what they grow. It’s really kind of how my home is back in Washington.”

Kissler said three years ago – before he joined the military – he never would have imagined he’d be living in Bosnia-Herzegovina one day. It’s been, he said, a learning experience.



Sgt. Bobby J. Olson, a team leader with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, pulls security during a warehouse search in Brcko while on a day patrol.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

“It’s really widened my view of the world and how I think about things,” said Kissler. “It’s a lot bigger world than your hometown. It makes you grow up a lot.”

“It also educated me on how different things are, but also how they are still similar to things back home,” he said.

Another thing Kissler has learned since leaving home is that it can be a cruel world, and Brcko is no exception. Because of this, said Kissler, he has a lot on his mind when in Brcko. “UXO’s (Unexploded Ordnance), looking around in buildings, 360-degree security, snipers, and any suspicious movement in the area,” said Kissler, naming off some of the items on a “things-to-think-about list.” “You always need to maintain security no matter what.”

Making sure his soldiers do have their minds on the mission is up to Staff Sgt. Antonio Arrington. “I let them know that anything can happen at any given time,” said the 33-year-old squad leader. “Just because the people here are so nice, you can’t just say, ‘Hey, nothing will happen; nobody will hurt us or shoot at us.’”

Though he grew up in Philadelphia, Arrington said he doesn’t really claim any place as home. “I’m just a traveling man,” he said. Brcko is Arrington’s latest stop in his travels. It was, he said, a surprise for him when he arrived with his fellow “Dogs.”

“It’s hard to believe they had a war here,” said Arrington. “I was expecting some drive-bys, people running down the streets, car accidents, robberies, rapes; I was looking for those types of things.

“It’s a lot more peaceful than Philadelphia.”

Peaceful or not, Arrington is still mindful of force protection. A career soldier, he realizes that for some soldiers, this tour of duty will be their last. After Brcko, the next stop might be Copperas Cove, Ritzville, Waco, or any other hometown in America.

“I tell them,” said Arrington, “Do a good job so you can get back home for good.”