

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle

■ GOING FOR GOLD

Task force vet carries Olympic torch in D.C.

WASHINGTON — On the evening of June 20, former Task Force Eagle soldier Spc. Marty Begosh crutched his way to the White House gates, Olympic torch proudly flickering over his head.



Begosh, the first U.S. soldier injured in the former Yugoslavia during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, was one of 2,500 people across the country selected by Coca Cola for its "Share the Spirit" program. The effort honors those who have given greatly to their communities and country.

"It was unreal," Begosh said of his experience. "I was standing on the road waiting to light the torch, and people were cheering,

waving flags and taking picture after picture."



Once he reached forward to light the torch, cheers grew louder as a chorus of

U-S-A! ... U-S-A! shadowed him down the road. The chanting continued as he lit the flame of the runner entering the White House grounds.

"After I passed the flame I was swamped for autographs," Begosh said.

Most of the people did not know who he was, or why he was selected.

He told them how he had injured his leg, but emphasized, "I was representing every military member who has ever been injured, or died, for their country."

More than 10,000 will carry the flame

see *Torch*, page 12



Master Sgt. Rich Glynn

Army Sgt. Maj. Gene C. McKinney promotes Pvt. Alexis Casby to private first class with Casby's platoon leader, 1st Lt. Annah M. Castellini, Company C, 440th Signal Battalion, during the visit of the Army's top NCO to Hill 722.

Army Sgt. Maj. visits with Task Force Eagle troops

By Sgt. 1st Class
BETTINA E. TILSON
29th MPAD

The Army's top NCO made his first visit to Task Force Eagle this week.

Army Sgt. Maj. Gene C. McKinney hopped his way across Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to visit with troops.

McKinney, the 10th Sergeant Major of the Army, was welcomed Monday at Eagle Base by Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley, Task Force Eagle command sergeant major.

"It's nice that the Army's top enlisted soldier takes time out of his busy schedule to visit us," Tilley said. "It's important for him to get a pulse of the soldiers."

On Monday, McKinney visited with troops representing several units at Eagle and Comanche Base.

During his stay, he was scheduled to visit several base camps, including Kime, McGovern, Lisa, Angela and Linda, to name a few.

Throughout his stay, McKinney met with troops and was enthusiastic about what he saw.

"I'm extremely impressed by these soldiers and by their attitudes," he said. "They espouse the values of America."

McKinney found in the soldiers he met many values, including commitment to duty.

"They will tell you they are here for the long haul," he said. "They will stay as long as we ask them to."

The troops are fully competent in their jobs and can articulate precisely what their duties entail, he said.

They also have courage as they serve far from home in what can be a hostile environment.

Finally, they have compassion — for people, for children and for each other.

U.S. soldiers are working well, not only with the Army's sister services, but with foreign troops serving in the task force.

"We have a seamless Army," McKinney said, referring to the varied force of active-duty, reserve and Guard soldiers. "It is one Army."

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From the top

Prepare newcomers for challenges ahead

With a wave of new soldiers coming in, it's time for leaders to once again focus on the basics.

I have been talking for months about how noncommissioned officers must guard against complacency. As each new soldier arrives, NCOs should brief them on basic guidelines they should remember while serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

To avoid accidental discharges (we've had several throughout the deployment), NCOs should train their sol-



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley
1st Armored Division

diers on how to properly clear their weapons.

We've had a few close calls. During one incident, a soldier's M-16A2 discharged in a HM-MWV and the round ripped through the soft top.

If that weapon had been pointed in another direction, it could have seriously injured or killed a soldier.

I personally hold every NCO responsible for taking care of our troops. Their lives are in your hands. Constantly think, "safety, safety, safety."

On a long deployment, it's

easy to get complacent about routine tasks such as cleaning weapons. That's where the NCO Corps comes in. Every weapon should receive a thorough cleaning at least once a week. NCOs should check their soldiers' weapons daily or when necessary.

Convoy operations is another subject I often emphasize because I see violations as I travel throughout the Task Force Eagle area of operations.

One of my pet peeves is seeing soldiers who are not wearing their Kevlar helmets on convoy, which is a sure indication that they have become complacent.

Leaders should remember

that soldiers perform better on deployment if their families are being taken care of. Frequently contact your unit's Family Support Group to make sure the chain of concern is fully functional.

Also remember to counsel your soldiers on a regular basis.

Thoroughly brief them on safety measures and other topics they need to know.

Help them set achievable goals during deployment

You can help encourage your troops to make this operation one of the most professionally rewarding in their careers.

They will follow your lead, so take care of them and be a good example for them.

Remember — Sergeants make it happen!

Viewpoint

My thanks to patriotic artists who entertain soldiers

It's a small world.

I was eating lunch in the Eagle Base Dining Facility the other day when a long-haired guy wearing several earrings strolled up to my table. I picked up on his Southern accent and asked where he was from.

"Atlanta," he said. "Whereabouts?" I asked and he replied, "Marietta."

I spent much of my childhood in Marietta before moving to Alabama just prior to entering high school.

After more chitchat, we figured out we had gone to the same junior high school — Floyd Junior High in Mableton, Ga. — at the same time. He's 37 years old and I just turned 38.



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson
29th MPAD

I soon learned he was JB Walker, a musician who performed here last week with his group, "The Cheap Whiskey Band."

Floyd Junior High was fairly large and neither of us remembered the other, but I still felt

like I had been reunited with a long lost cousin. Back in those days, I wore braces and played clarinet in the Symphonic Band. JB — then known as "Jerald Blinkhorn" — played baritone in the Concert Band.

Later that day, I ran into JB again and he gave me his latest CD, "Iron Horses and Wild Women." His band is dubbed "The World's Most Famous Biker Band."

He told me two of his three brothers are senior NCOs in the Army. We also talked about his biker lifestyle and how bikers "are some of the most patriotic people you'll ever meet."

At their concert that night, they played an incredible variety of music — everything from Johnny Cash to Led Zeppelin.

Although I enjoyed their renditions of other people's music, I especially liked their original tunes, including "Brothers," a song about a friend of JB's who was killed in Vietnam.

At the "21 Club," I sat next to a couple of infantrymen from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, who had seen the band last summer in Macedonia.

"His show was very uplifting," said Spc. Michael T. Mc-

Cardel, 23, from Follansbee, W.V. "I would go see him again and again."

Spc. Gary S. Wier Jr., 23, from Altmar, N.Y., agreed with his friend, as he tapped his feet to the music.

The band dedicates four weeks a year — two at New Year's and two around the Fourth of July — to play for members of the military.

They have entertained troops during Operation DESERT STORM, Somalia and Haiti, as well as here in the former Yugoslavia.

I don't know why guys like JB Walker and the Cheap Whiskey Band like to come here, but I think it has to do with their patriotism.

The concert was a wonderful way to relax on a Saturday night. Thanks for the memories, JB.

THE TALON

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Detention cards distributed

Info guides give procedures for holding suspected war criminals

By Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO
29th MPAD

Military Civil Relations soldiers recently distributed command information cards to Implementation Force soldiers on procedures for dealing with Persons Indicted For War Crimes.

Earlier this year, IFOR distributed posters bearing the names, photographs and descriptions of suspected war criminals.

Though IFOR's mission does not include searching for PIFWCs, IFOR soldiers are authorized to detain such people encountered during regular duties.

"IFOR's mission has not changed," said Maj. Brian Stackhouse of Company B, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion.

"We are not looking for war criminals. But if we encounter indicted war criminals in the normal course of our duties (and if the on-scene commander determines that the tactical situation permits), we will detain them and turn them over to the appropriate authorities."

Responsibility for apprehending war criminals rests with the parties to the Peace Agreement, Stackhouse said.

"The blue cards we printed are nothing more than a guide to assist soldiers in understanding the procedures in dealing with indicted persons," Stackhouse said.

Once detained, PIFWCs are transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. To date, four PIFWCs have been apprehended and one has been found guilty of crimes against humanity.

The cards contain rules and regulations on detaining PIFWCs. In addition, the cards include a statement to be read to detained persons. The statement — written in the local languages in Latin and Cyrillic characters — notifies the suspects of their rights.

Upon detaining a suspected PIFWC, soldiers are to follow the following procedures:

- Detained personnel are to be disarmed. An inventory of all confiscated equipment is to be made. All such equipment is to accompany the subject on transfer.

- Detainees should be searched as soon as practical in the presence of at least two members of the supervising staff. No person should be searched in the presence of a person of the opposite sex other than a medical officer.

- Do not attempt to question or interrogate the subject. On no account should their eyes or mouth be covered.

- The senior soldier present is to hand over the detainee to the military police as soon as possible.

- Soldiers are to record the name, date, time, place and circumstances of detention, details of any items confiscated and the time of hand over or release.

NEWS BRIEFS

Talon available on Internet

The Talon is now available to anyone with a computer and Internet access.

Task Force Eagle's official newspaper is on BosniaLINK, the Department of Defense's World Wide Web site on the Internet.

The site allows people around the world to access news and information on Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

BosniaLINK's Internet address is <http://www.dtic.dla.mil/bosnia/talon>.

In addition to the latest edition of The Talon, back issues can also be downloaded.

BosniaLINK can also be accessed through DoD's DefenseLINK (<http://www.dtic.dla.mil/defense>) and the Department of the Army's home page (<http://www.army.mil>).

Postal regulations update

The Postal Operations Directorate reminds soldiers that an 11-ounce weight restriction applies to all personal correspondence sent via free mail back to the continental United States.

Personal correspondence can include letters, videotapes, CDs, audio cassettes and undeveloped film.

Soldiers must write the word "Free" in the upper right-hand corner for mail sent to CONUS.

Mail that is not personal in nature requires postage. Additionally, merchandise such as souvenir T-shirts — though they may weigh less than 11 ounces — must have postage.

Mail sent to APO addresses in Europe is also free. Soldiers must write "MPS" in the upper right-hand corner of such letters.

However, mail sent to APO addresses in the Pacific theater requires postage.

As of July 1, base camp post offices now accept personal checks for postage only.

For more information, soldiers may call Staff Sgt. Patricia Johnston, 90th Postal Company, at MSE 551-9051.

Trooping the line



Sgt. Rick Roth

Outgoing Nord-Pol Brigade commander Danish Brig. Gen. Finn Saermark-Thomsen bids farewell to his troops at Nord-Pol Brigade Headquarters near Dobo. He is returning to Denmark to take command of the Danish Reaction Brigade. Saermark-Thomsen was succeeded by Swedish Brig. Gen. Jan Bergstrom.

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	75+/55	Low
Sat	65/50s	Low
Sun	65/55	High
Mon	65+/55	Low
Tue	70s/50s	Low
Wed	75/55	Moderate
Thur	65/55	High

Prepared July 2 by the 617th Weather Squadron

Cavalry unit guards strategic bridge

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

The Brcko bridge may be the most important 2,000 feet of pavement in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The span connects the cities of Brcko on its southern end and Gunja, Croatia, to the north. It's the only permanent bridge now in service across the Sava River. It's also a vital stretch along one of Task Force Eagle's most traveled routes.

The job of guarding the vital structure belongs to soldiers with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

"The important thing is to make sure that nobody interferes with the bridge," said platoon leader 1st Lt. Tyler R. Thomas, 25, from Tampa, Fla.

With the 92nd Military Police Company staffing the checkpoint entrance and two fully-manned M3 Bradley Cavalry Fighting Vehicles blocking at each end, the U.S. soldiers have complete control of the bridge.

Only IFOR vehicles are now allowed to cross the span that U.S. Army and Hungarian engineers rebuilt in March. Like every other bridge over the Sava, it was heavily damaged and rendered impassable during the war.

"We make sure that no non-IFOR vehicles cross the bridge and we try to make sure that no one targets the bridge," said Sgt. Brian K. Hawkins, 24, from West Palm Beach, Fla.

Hawkins helps keep a watchful eye on the southern end of span from the perch of his Bradley nicknamed "Double Trouble."

Company A also conducts daily patrols in Brcko.

"It's basically a reconnaissance patrol," said Staff Sgt. Volda A. O'Connor, 26, from Phoenix, a 2nd Platoon squad leader.

"Anything that is important like military houses or buildings, or if we see any military activities going on, we call it up (to our higher headquarters)."

The patrols also serve as a show of presence.

"A lot of people are scared of us," O'Connor said. "They see us in uniform where war has been going on for the last four years. What would be your perception of the military if you went through that? Bad. We try to show them that we are not bad people."

Brcko was hotly contested during the war because of its strategic value. Not only is the city along the Sava River, it also lies at the opening of the narrow Posavina corridor that connects the two major land masses that comprise the Republika Srpska.

Currently on the Republika Srpska side of the zone of separation, it was predominantly Muslim before the war. Both sides now claim Brcko.

The parties to the Peace Agreement could not agree on who should control the city. Arbitration of the matter began last month.

Soldiers said the local populace is beginning to warm to the IFOR presence.

"People? They're real friendly," said Spc. Kenneth L. Robertson, 29, of Little Rock, Ark., and a Bradley driver.

But he doesn't have much time for small talk time while on patrol.

"I'm too busy noticing my surroundings, pulling security and looking for anything that hasn't

been reported."

The patrols provide an opportunity to sharpen skills.

"It helps out with the training," Thomas said. "We have to plan the indirect (artillery) fire. We have to do the pre-combat inspection. It keeps us in marching shape. It helps with our map reading. We also navigate, practice radio procedures and hand and arm signals — the whole nine yards."

Company A's three platoons rotate through seven, 12-hour days and seven, 12-hour nights at the bridge and seven days back at the battalion rear area as a quick reaction force.

The QRF platoon is available for security missions.

They have been called upon, for example, to make sure no one inter-

feres when Bosnian Muslims cross the ZOS to visit family graves in the currently Bosnian Serb-populated Brcko.

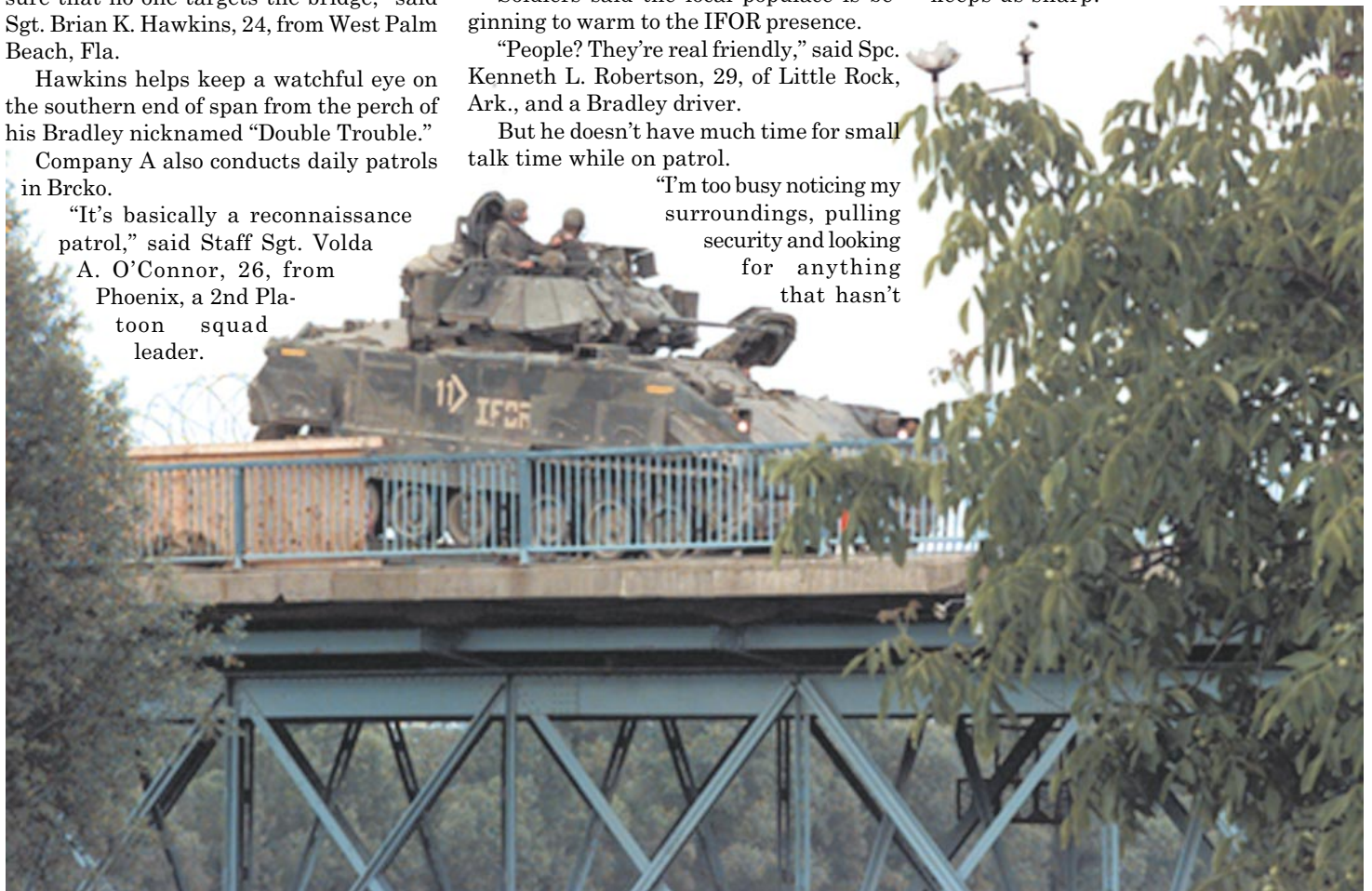
In between missions, the soldiers try to find time to perform individual training.

"We do little training exercises when we get the time," said Hawkins.

"Normally during the 12-hour day, you really can't get into a lot of training. So, we just do simple small classes. It keeps us sharp."

"The important thing is to make sure that nobody interferes with the bridge."

— 1st Lt. Tyler R. Thomas



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, in an M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, control the Brcko Bridge.

SECURITY BLANKETS



New floor mats give vehicles extra mine protection

Spc. George Roache

Pfc. Alicia Ramsey and Sgt. Patrick Frost install a ballistic blanket in a HMMWV at the Comanche Base motor park.

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

A new force protection measure against mine blasts has soldiers feeling well covered.

Units throughout the task force recently received ballistic protection blankets for non-armed vehicles.

Designed to protect passengers against anti-personnel mine strikes, the covers fit over vehicle seat backs and floorboards.

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, got an early start Monday at the Comanche Base motor park, tolerating the hot July sun to install the devices.

"I'm glad to have this little extra protection," said Sgt. Norman T. Stollberg, 29, an assistant supply sergeant from Phenix City, Ala. "We would have liked to have had them before we deployed from Hungary, but I'm glad we have them now."

Stollberg and Pvt. Darcy J. Serbu, 19, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic from Las Vegas, attended a Guardian Base class on how to properly install the ballistic seat and floor covers. They, in turn, instructed the rest of HHC, 2nd Battalion.

The blankets are designed to fit on HMMWVs, 2 1/2-ton and 5-ton trucks and HEMTTs that will not be getting new armor kits, said Timothy Dunn of Dimensions International, a private firm contracted to field force-modernization measures.

The kits, which weigh more than 300 pounds, come in four, 6-foot long pieces that wrap from the top of each seat down onto the floorboard.

Velcro strips glued to the

floorboard keep the covers from slipping, while web straps secure to seat backs.

The covers were designed to withstand a 12-cubic centimeter blast, Stollberg said.

"When the blast hits, it goes up," he said. "It will probably lift the vehicle and turn it over, but it (the covers) will keep all your body parts intact."

"Generally, it'll save your life," he said.

Soldiers should use them whenever leaving the Task Force Eagle area of operations, going off prescribed routes and at the commander's discretion in areas where soldiers feel unsafe, Stollberg said.

Serbu found the blankets easy to install except for their weight.

"No tools used, just my two hands," she said.

And it was well worth the effort, said Sgt. Patrick Frost, 31, a mechanic from Holly Hill, S.C.

"It's great to have them," he said. "This is an extra measure to ensure the safety of each and every soldier. Anything that can lower casualties is a good measure."

EOD troops drop from skies for medevac training

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

HAMPTON BASE — If a casualty needs to be evacuated from a minefield, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team traditionally clears the way for the medic.

EOD specialists do that on the ground, so why not from the air?

Members of the 236th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) recently worked with the 41st Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team leaders to examine that technique.

The idea is to lower EOD personnel from a medical evacuation helicopter to the casualty and clear a space for the medic to treat and evacuate the injured soldier.

This technique would be particularly useful if the casualty were in a large mined area where clearing a path to the victim might consume precious time.

Medics said they feel better following EOD soldiers, who have more mine training.

"It'll be nice to have them there," said Sgt. Kenneth E. Whited, flight medic, 30, from Bucyrus, Ohio.

Most EOD soldiers are also combat life savers and could perform any immediate medical tasks needed.

The air ambulance unit recently gathered the EOD NCOs at the Hampton Base airfield so they could learn about and eval-

uate the proposed evacuation method.

Capt. Dean A. Meinert, company commander, asked that the leaders "be critical" in their evaluation and ask themselves, "How can we do this with minimum risk and the greatest safety?"

"We came here to get training," said Staff Sgt. Jake Holland, 28, from Hattiesburg, Miss. "We'll go back tonight, put our heads together and say, 'OK, what's good about it? What's bad about it?'"

Much of the training concentrated on the rescue hoist, or "force penetrator," — the cable-connected seat in which rescuers are lowered.

The medics took their UH-60 Black Hawk medevac helicopter into the air to show how the hoist would be lowered and raised.

While they watched the helicopter, the EOD soldiers discovered some potential problems with the new technique.

One was rotor wash.

The amount of wind created by the helicopter could easily set off a trip wire. The helicopter might have to drop them from higher than the planned 50 feet.

But the added height would also mean less target accuracy due to a larger swing



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Flight medic Sgt. Kenneth E. Whited (right) helps Spc. Craig K. Ward into a rescue hoist.

radius, they said.

Staff Sgt. Tracy L. Oliver said his biggest concern is just getting on the ground.

If a soldier does not hit his mark right on, he may end up landing on an anti-personnel mine, Oliver said.

EOD leaders will have to decide if leading the way for an air ambulance is a feasible and safe alternative.

Despite the dangers of being lowered to a casualty in a minefield, the EOD specialists said they realized the possible benefits.

"If it's going to keep someone from dying or laying in a mine field for a couple days, that's what I'll do," Holland said.



Clockwise from right: The nightly Battle Update Briefing from the "Battlestar"; with a portrait of his children close by, 18th Military Police Brigade Liaison Capt. John Bogdan takes notes on his laptop computer during the BUB; Task Force Eagle Commander Maj. Gen. William L. Nash poses a question during the BUB; Spc. Richard J. Morgan, a radio/telephone operator with 1st Armored Division G-3 operations, has his hands and ears full while on duty in the Battlestar; a blueprint shows the Battlestar seating chart.

Photos by Sgt. Rick Roth.





BATTLESTAR

A view from the command bridge

By Capt. JOHN GOHEEN
29th MPAD

Maj. Tom O'Sullivan knows what it must be like to be a news-caster or a standup comic.

Every night, the 1st Armored Division G-3 operations officer must explain the day's events — good and bad, with detail and accuracy — to a tough crowd.

The drill is the nightly Battle Update Briefing. And his audience is the Task Force Eagle senior staff and several brigade commanders.

"The challenge is getting everything right," said the Albany, N.Y., native. "Somebody in the audience always knows a lot more about an event than I do.

"It helps that I've spent most of my career in positions where I'm constantly giving briefings," O'Sullivan added. "I can see where this group could be overwhelming to some people, not because of its size but because of its prominence. These are the movers and shakers of the task force."

O'Sullivan said part of his job is not to be overwhelmed.

"I have an obligation to portray an air of confidence and competence," he said, "because people need to be able to look to us — the intelligence and operations staff — to solve the problems and crises they encounter every day in the field."

The BUB is famous for its range of subjects — and its level of detail.

Task force staff directorates share information ranging from the implications of local political events to the number of non-mission capable armored personnel carriers.

Earlier in the deployment, Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, task force commander, even used the BUB as a way to track the delivery of exercise equipment and the reach of AFN radio and television programming.

"We tell the general what's going on and give the information he needs to make decisions," said Sgt. Sergio A. Diaz, a G-3 operations noncommissioned officer born in

Santiago, Chile.

Diaz coordinates the multi-color, computer-generated briefing slides that provide the majority of the details. He also helps keep the daily log of reporting from the 14 brigade tactical operations centers.

Task force operations staff have organized the BUB similar to a local television newscast — sans the ball scores.

First up is the weather with a special emphasis on the next day's helicopter flying conditions. Capt. Rhonda Cook from the division G-2 section follows with intelligence summaries and analysis. Then O'Sullivan gives his synopsis of the tactical situation.

Later, representatives of the Division Rear Area in Slavovski Brod, Croatia, provide the latest supply, maintenance and personnel information via a live, satellite-transmitted video teleconference.

The BUB is the daily highpoint of around-the-clock operations at the Battle Command Center, or "Battlestar," on Eagle Base.

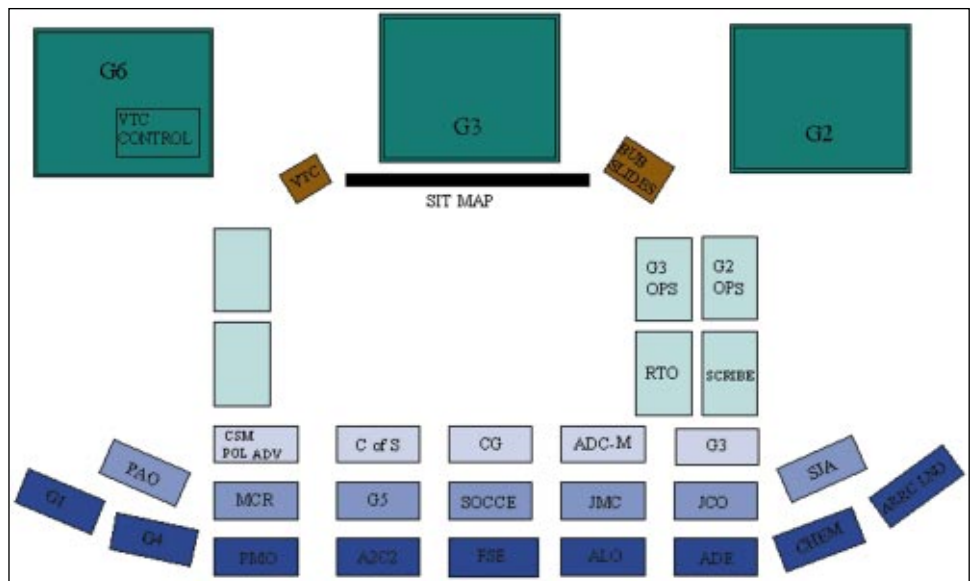
The facility — housed in a large tent about half the size of a football field — is a radical departure from a standard division command post and reflects the unique nature of the operation.

Where maneuver, artillery and close air support were once the weapons of choice, now public affairs officers, lawyers and civil affairs experts have moved to the forefront of operations.

These soft assets sit on the front row of the three-tiered command post, immediately accessible to decision makers, allowing for the rapid sharing of information.

The tiered-seating, briefing pit and big-screen monitors are a big reason for its moniker, said Maj. John E. Suttle, division public affairs officer.

"It looks like space between the bridge of the spaceship on the old TV series 'Battlestar Galactica' and the New York stock exchange," he said.





Spc. Wendy M. Firestone

Sgt. Phillip Padgett sends a message via Military Affiliated Radio System.

MARS provides morale calls

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — Soldiers tired of dialing home 50 times on Mobile Subscriber Equipment before finally reaching anyone are offered a different and cheaper alternative of communication here.

Soldiers desiring a "quick call" to loved ones back home may use the Military Affiliated Radio System service, located in the 94th Engineer Battalion Communication tent.

"Basically, it works like a telegram," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cantin, acting battalion signal officer and communication chief for the 94th Engineers.

The messages are typed from a printed form into a computer and are sent through the computer to the Hohenfels or Vilseck, Germany MARS stations. From there, they are sent to what is called the "Gateway" in Heidelberg, which acts as a relay station for messages being sent overseas.

The messages are then filtered to the various MARS stations throughout the world.

Cantin and his staff operate the only MARS station in the former Yugoslavia.

"There are several in Bosnia, but we are the only one up and running," Cantin said.

The station in Vilseck loaned the 94th commo section its MARS equipment. Two weeks before the unit's deployment, the station asked if they would like to take the equipment for morale purposes.

Cantin thought it at least would give the soldiers the opportunity to send messages home.

"When I was deployed with (1st Battalion, 6th Infantry) it was a good way to keep in touch with loved ones," Cantin said. "(This) started out just wanting to give the battalion a little extra morale. We didn't think we would have the MSE capabilities that we do now."

After the system was set up in early

March, they started to receive messages for the soldiers here in Task Force Eagle, he said.

They have even received messages for soldiers who are currently stationed in Saudi Arabia, but are unable to deliver those messages because of the MSE system they use to distribute them.

"We can only distribute messages for soldiers stationed in Bosnia," said Sgt. Phillip Padgett, 94th Engineer Battalion commo team chief. "Outgoing messages, however, can be sent anywhere."

All MARS system operators are considered community service volunteers. Padgett operates the MARS system at Steel Castle as an additional duty.

MARS operators do MARS work as somewhat of a hobby.

"As a noncommissioned officer, you do what you can to help out the soldiers. The MARS system is good for morale, emergency contact and it's something the soldier also can learn," Padgett said.

All 94th commo section soldiers are now learning how to operate the MARS system.

When the equipment was first loaned to the commo section, Padgett received a crash course on how to operate it. He said it is difficult to learn.

"A switchboard I can teach anyone in about five minutes, but there are so many (different things to learn about) the MARS," Padgett said.

The 94th Commo section is sending an average of 15 to 20 messages per week from the Steel Castle station. The MARS service is open to anyone who is interested in using it. Forms for messages may be picked up in the library, theater tent or from the 94th commo section in Tent 61.

Soldiers may send up to 50-word messages anywhere in the world and are allowed to send up to five messages per day. Completed message forms may be dropped off in Tent 61 between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Messages are sent daily from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Flies threaten troops' health and morale

By Capt. MUSTAPHA DEBBOUN
255th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine)

House flies and filth flies have affected mankind for thousands of years. They are found everywhere.

When they are so abundant, soldiers' morale and operational capabilities can be degraded by their irritating behavior.

More importantly, flies can be a menace to health because they carry diseases including typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera, diarrhea, trachoma, conjunctivitis and salmonellosis, to name a few.

Fly management is crucial in controlling fly annoyance and in disease prevention.

Flies pick up disease-causing organisms from garbage, sewage and other filth, and transfer them from their body parts to human food.

House flies and filth flies have a high rate of reproduction. They can complete a life cycle from an egg to the adult stage in about a week. During the summer months, two or more generations may be completed in a month.

Fly numbers can be reduced during the dry hot summer season with the combination of good sanitation practices, fly swatters, screens and application of fly poison bait and sticky fly traps.

Remove food sources and breeding sites for flies. Garbage should be placed in trash cans with close-fitting lids. Trash cans should be kept on racks and washed thoroughly after each collection.

Sticky fly traps should be placed near doorways, trash cans or dumpsters but never over food preparation or serving areas.

Fly bait, 1 percent Methomyl, should be used outdoors only. The bait should be scattered over specified fly feeding areas daily or as needed according to label directions.

Soldiers who are members of the Field Sanitation Teams can also help in the management of flies by applying approved pesticides such as Dursban or d-Phenothrin 2 percent Aerosol with a hand-held sprayer to manage house and filth flies.

Engineer crew surveys Eagle Base artery

Construction Management Section team examines road for possible reconstruction

By Capt. RHONDA M. REASONER
203rd MPAD

Engineers recently spent several days surveying Route Ostrich which stretches nine miles near Tuzla between Routes Hawk and Skoda.

The road is the main artery in and out of Eagle Base.

The constant traffic and four years of war have caused major wear and tear along the route.

The Task Force Eagle Engineer Brigade's Construction Management Section, along with 94th Engineer Battalion and 362nd Engineer Company soldiers, surveyed the route for a possible upgrade.

They worked in three teams at separate locations along the route. One team finished where another team began, until the road was completely surveyed.

Roads are measured for "everything that will be affected by a new road," said Sgt. Scott Cole, a CMS technical engineering sergeant.

"Every driveway, sidewalk, ditch, fence and culvert has to be measured."

A geodimeter was used to measure the route. It determines distance, all elevation and angles.

A high-frequency wave is shot to a prism pole, held by soldiers at each critical location along the road. The meter records everything shot, then at the end of the day the job file is transferred to the computer which prints a blueprint of the road.

"All points draw a map and contour line," Cole said. "It will show us all that's here and help us design the new road."

"It shows us what cut and fill work (earthwork) needs to be done and where the new drainage needs to be," he added.



Clockwise from top: Sgt. Scott W. Cole, technical engineer supervisor, surveys a bridge along Route Ostrich; Sgt. Jeffery A. Rhoades, the surveyor NCOIC with the 362nd Engineer Company, takes measurements with a geodimeter; Spc. Melissa A. Dennis, a technical engineer specialist, holds a prism pole during surveying. *Photos by Capt. Rhonda M. Reasoner.*

Gospel singers praise the Lord with music

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

To paraphrase lyrics from the popular gospel song "(The Reason) Why I Sing," members of the Comanche Base Choir do it because it makes them happy.

Whether it's at Sunday services, a Black History Month celebration, an Easter program or Thursday night practice, choir members lift their voices with an upbeat energy that fills the base chapel.

"Singing to the Lord allows you to open up and let others hear the joy and love and happiness that you feel," said Spc. Hope Vanhorn, 31, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., one of three soldiers who helped form the group.

"For me, it's like being outside on a sunny day, closing my eyes and feeling free as a bird," said Vanhorn, serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the 793rd Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Brigade from Bamberg, Germany.

The choir grew out of a suggestion made in January by then-793rd Battalion Chap. (Capt.) Mel Valdez on the Tuz-



Spc. George Roache

Sgt. Robert H. Davis (left) and Staff Sgt. Charles Johnson clap their hands during a recent choir practice at Comanche Base.

la West flightline, where he conducted his first deployment worship service.

He asked Spc. Teresa Law, 37, a 793rd Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment soldier from Greensboro, N.C., to organize the group.

She then turned to 2nd Lt. Jamal Jenkins, 23, of Detroit to be choirmaster. Jenkins was a member of the West Point Gospel Choir at the U.S. Military Academy New York.

It was a job the 630th MP

Company platoon leader accepted gladly.

"Gospel music sounds the best because it has the most meaning," Jenkins said. "Singing in the choir and participating in church is in service to the Lord. I do things for the military, for myself and my family. It was time to do something for the Lord."

Membership has grown from three to about 20.

One who originally joined the choir was Pfc. Alicia Ramsey,

20, of York, Pa.

"Being in church, around the other people and singing praises to the Lord just relieves a lot of stress for me," said Ramsey, a logistics and supply clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Aviation Brigade from Hanau, Germany.

"Singing to God is the best thing I can do in a day," said Spc. Kevin Simpson, 25, of Apalachin, N.Y. "He's given me a voice and I will praise Him."

Choir members hope those who hear their singing will become interested in joining them.

"If we can sing a song the words of which strike even just one member of the congregation and brings that one member to Christ, then our efforts as a choir are worthwhile," Jenkins said.

It worked for Sgt. Travis Trotter, 25, of Batesburg, S.C., who previously did not attend church.

"The Lord working through the choir let me see what He wanted me to do. I turned my life over to Christ that day ... Ever since then, I have tried to live my life the way He would want me to."

For combat engineers, the mission can be a real blast

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

Ask a combat engineer why he selected his job, and you are likely to get an odd confession.

"Most engineers like to destroy things," said combat engineer Sgt. Mark D. Sonstein, 25, a member of the 23rd Engineer Battalion and Geneva, Ohio, native. "A prerequisite to being a combat engineer is you have to be a pyromaniac and extremely destructive."

But individually, engineers don't get to destroy too many things.

Much of their time during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR has been spent on the less glamorous but important duties of base camp construction and force protection.

So, it was a good day for the soldiers of Company B, 23rd Engineer Battalion, when their mission called for them to destroy two land mines in the 1st Brigade Combat Team's area of operation.

The engineers met along former confron-

tation line with their Bosnian Croat army counterparts for the mine recovery and destruction.

As required by the Peace Agreement, the Bosnian Croat engineers locate and remove the mines and IFOR destroys them.

As the Bosnian Croat engineers disappeared down a thickly wooded trail with their mine probes and a mine detector, the U.S. engineers waited and prepared.

Combat engineers Sgt. John S. Carro, 26, from Clemens, Mich., and Pfc. Charles D. Allan, 21, from Hendersonville, N.C. worked together.

They wrapped a demolition knot with detonation cord around two blocks of C4 explosive.

As the engineers began to take the explosives to the blasting site, the Bosnian Croat soldiers returned, but they had no mines. Where the mines were supposed to be were only empty holes left in the ground. One mine had already been exploded in



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Pfc. Charles D. Allan (left) and Sgt. John S. Carro wrap detonation cord around C-4.

place; the other had been removed.

So it is with the previously imprecise method of land mine record keeping.

"That's the first time I've gone out to blow something up and didn't," Carro said. "Telling an engineer he can't blow something up is like telling a kid there is no Christmas."

The U.S. soldiers made plans to meet with the Bosnian Croat again the next day.

The combat engineers hoped to have better luck next time.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Test pilot keeps helicopters airborne

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

An important link in the Army aviation chain is the job of the maintenance test pilot. After large-scale maintenance is performed on a helicopter, the test pilot flies the aircraft to ensure it is operating properly.

Attached to Company A, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Aviation Brigade while in Bosnia, Chief Warrant Officer Andrea Hurford, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, and member of the 82nd Airborne Division, was picked to fill a test pilot position.

While at Fort Bragg, N.C., with the 82nd, Hurford, a South Lake Tahoe, Calif., native, said she didn't see Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR as a mission for the 82nd.

"I had no clue I'd ever be coming to Bosnia," she said.

Also responsible for coordinating aircraft maintenance,

Hurford works closely with crew chiefs and maintenance crews and credits the mechanics for their hard work.

"The up tempo that our aircraft are flying these days; the amount of flight hours we're putting on each airframe takes quite a bit of maintenance support to allow us to do the NATO mission," Hurford said.

"For the most part, it's the guys turning the wrenches," she said.

A pilot with seven years of experience, Hurford said she is often asked if she plans on eventually leaving the Army in pursuit of a career as a civilian helicopter pilot.

"It's really hard to beat the type of mission that we do," Hurford said in reference to the air assault and airborne missions she carries out with the 82nd.

"To say that there'd be anything on the outside that would compare to that would be difficult," she said.



Sgt. Rick Roth

CWO Andrea Hurford suits up for another flight mission.

Artist gives her time to redrawing Steel Castle

By Sgt. 1st Class JACK LEE
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — There are areas here that don't look quite so bare now, thanks to the efforts of a soldier who is also an artist.

Spc. Theresa L. Unger, Company B, 94th Engineer Battalion, from Vilseck, Germany is a carpenter who has passed her time building guard towers and erecting base camps. She spends her spare time creating art.

Recently, Unger, from Grand Rapids, Mich., was seen adding the final touches to the Steel Castle Chapel door.

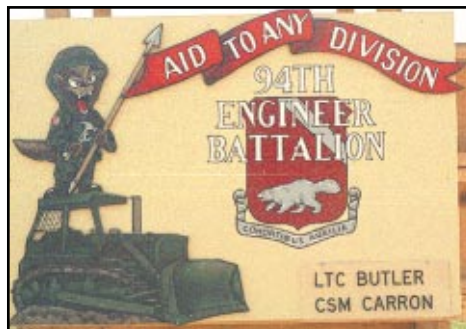
"I don't know how I got the letters so straight. That's usually where I have the most trouble," Unger said, as she mixed paint and added a color here, then there.

She likes to paint, but her favorite art medium is pen and ink.

"I think it is great that I have these jobs to do," Unger said, taking a step back from the chapel door, looking this way and that, touching up a spot with a brush stroke. "It's a stress reliever for me."

Her unit knows she likes her art and is able to let her practice her hobby. They are not selfish, either.

"We don't mind giving her the work to do," said 1st. Sgt. James H. Cheney. "We have even loaned her to Steel Castle Base



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee

One of the many signs painted by Spc. Theresa Unger of 94th Engineer Battalion graces Steel Castle.

Camp to make the camp sign at the front gate."

To make the front sign, Unger first drew the individual designs on plywood, cut them out with a jig saw, sanded, then painted and finally pieced them together. That front gate sign was about 40 hours of work.

Unger used to practice her additional duty full time.

A prior-service soldier, Unger's first term was spent as an Army illustrator, which is now her secondary military occupational specialty.

One of Unger's proudest accomplishments was when she worked for the Center of Military History in Washington. There,

she painted six of a series of 18 paintings depicting the NCO rank throughout the Army history.

Then something unusual happened.

"I was checking into the unit, my platoon sergeant was in-briefing me and I pointed to the framed poster that was behind his desk and said, 'I painted that,'" Unger said.

That is one of the private thrills for her and her art work; she sees it all over the Army.

"People must like it if they have it framed," she said.

That in-briefing is where she also received the additional duty as unit painter.

After putting a little of herself into her works of art, she gains much personal satisfaction as she sees soldiers having a photo taken of themselves with her signs, and when soldiers come up to her and say, "I had my picture taken with your sign today."

In addition to the front gate sign, Unger painted the 94th battalion sign that is tacked up to a scaled down guard tower in the battalion area.

"I had a lot of fun designing the critter in that sign," she said. The sign depicts a Wolverine, the battalion's mascot.

"I feel the signs represent the whole camp," Unger added. "They add to the soldiers' pride of Steel Castle."

My turn

Tuzla residents muse over U.S. soldiers

While walking along the streets of Tuzla, I noticed that people have strange reactions when they see U.S. soldiers and their vehicles.

I wondered what some of the people thought about America's soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Arijana Sabanovic
Tuzla

soldiers.

I also think that it is amazing how well the Americans and the Russians are working together. I know not long ago that they were adversaries. There still must be some misunderstandings, but they are acting like

they are in a good relationship. They have brought peace and I am grateful to them.

Tabucic Amir, 28

Americans have a very nice country with a lot of opportunity for living well, which many of us would like to see here.

But we don't have that chance to visit America because of the (former) war here and our economic situation.

I think that America is a very good nation, but it seems to me that Americans have more equipment than the other IFOR

Trutovic Namik, 33

The Americans are always welcome. They came from a big, developed country far away from here and we should respect that. And we Bosnians have a proud tradition and culture I hope Americans will try to learn and appreciate.

I must admit that the Americans have very good politicians

who know how to speak with the people from these areas, regardless of their nationality.

I hope the Americans will leave this country when they are sure that it is in favorable condition for us and there is no chance for a new war. But that can take years.

The Americans have done the right thing. They brought peace here and I appreciate that.

Amer Mujagic, 21

The Americans have done a very good job here and they are welcome here.

Their country is very nice but much too far away from here. But still I don't understand why they need four vehicles when they want to go out from their bases.

If we have the same persons on our political stage as we had before, we have the possibility

of another war. So, all depends on the Americans and the Dayton Accord.

The Americans stay here not only because of us but because of the strategic position here; we are in the middle of Europe.

But the Americans did something that no one did before. They brought peace to our country and they are heroes.

I think we can not judge American soldiers by what they are wearing or how they are acting, but by what they did for our county. I can sleep now without fear in a free county.

The American Army is a professional army and its soldiers behave professionally. I know my country respects what Americans have done for us.

Arijana Sabanovic is a translator for the Task Force Eagle public affairs office at Eagle Base.

Torch

from page 1

across the United States before it arrives in Atlanta for the official opening of the Olympic games July 19.

Six months earlier, the Olympic flame was the last thing on Begosh's mind.

While assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion last December, Begosh, an MP, was on a reconnaissance mission 15 miles south of the Sava River when his HM-MWV struck an anti-tank mine.

The explosion destroyed the front end of his vehicle and nearly took Begosh's right foot with it.

The 24-year-old Rockville, Md., native has undergone several operations since then and is currently on a two-year outpatient rehabilitation program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington.

Army doctors and the military policeman forecast a successful recuperation, but to varying degrees.

"They say I will be able to walk, but I will walk a little funny," Begosh said about his recovery. "They say I probably won't be able to run but I plan to prove them wrong."

On June 24, four days after the Olympic event, Begosh was back at Walter Reed having the cast removed from his right leg.

Months in the cast have caused his leg muscles to dwindle, but his doctors say his muscles will rebuild quickly as he begins using them again.

Doctors plan to reconstruct his right foot and ankle over the coming months and will try and realign the bones in his leg.

Begosh admits his military future depends on how well his foot recovers.

He says his recovery will determine whether or not he will be able to stay in the Army.

Army News Service

Force to be adjusted

Armor and mech infantry units to rotate to central region

Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 67th Armor, the 4th Battalion, 67th Armor, the 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor, the 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry will soon rotate to their home stations in Germany as part of an effort to reshape the force in Task Force Eagle.

With the addition of Military Police deploying from the United States, the task force will become a lighter, more mobile force with an increased ability to ensure compliance with the Peace Agreement and to support civilian implementation efforts and security and patroling activities.

The new force mix will provide more flexibility for

upcoming tasks which include aiding in preparation for the elections to be held in September.

The units rotating in were selected to tailor the force to the mission. They are a lighter, more mobile force.

This rotation does not signal the beginning of the redeployment. It is an adjustment which provides a force with the right tools for the job.

The Task Force Eagle armor elements rotating to home station have completed their mission.

The Military Police units are scheduled to arrive later this month.

All of the force movements associated with this action are expected to be completed by the end of September.

— From a Task Force Eagle Joint Information Bureau release