

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

ACAP in Bosnia

The Army Career & Alumni Program Transition Assistance Team is making its first outreach visit to troops supporting Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR during the first three weeks of May.

The five-person team will visit major installations in Hungary and Bosnia to provide transition and job assistance counseling, transition processing and in-service career counseling.

Members of all U.S. Armed Services and Department of Defense civilians are encouraged to take advantage of the two-day pre-separation Briefing/Job Assistance Workshop and individual counseling and self-help computer sessions.

As a reminder, all servicemembers are required to attend a Pre-separation Briefing not later than 90 days before separation from the military.

For soldiers who are separating or retiring in the next six months, now is the time to begin preparation for their transition and next career. For Army personnel, the ACAP Transition Assistance Team will get the information their Transition Center needs to prepare your separation/retirement orders and DD-Form 214.

They will also assist eligible soldiers with transfers or enlistments into the Army National Guard or Army Reserve.

All clients will learn about separation benefits and entitlements and will get a head start on their search for new careers through job assistance workshops and counseling.

The ACAP Counselors will assist clients in developing marketable resumes using ACAP's computers and in searching job and employer data bases.

The ACAP Transition Assistance Team
See ACAP page 12



Spc. George Roache

JCS Chairman Gen. John M. Shalikashvili and Turkish Brigade Commander Col. Ahmet Berberoglu, troop the line during a visit to the Turkish Brigade sector.

GENERAL SHALI

Chairman visits Task Force Eagle

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

ZENICA — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff came to this central Bosnian industrial city April 25 armed with praise for the warm reception given to peace enforcement forces stationed here.

Gen. John M. Shalikashvili met with Mayor Besim Spahic and other municipal officials in downtown Zenica, saying he owed them a great debt of gratitude for their support of the Turkish Brigade headquartered here and for supporting IFOR efforts.

"Whatever we have to accomplish, we cannot do without your help and your assistance," Shalikashvili said. "And therefore your attitude and your assistance is so meaningful and so important to us."

Shalikashvili made the remarks during a quick trip through the Balkans. He arrived at Zenica from Sarajevo, stopping first at the Turkish Brigade headquarters to compliment the commander, Col. Ahmet Berberoglu, for his troops' contribution to IFOR.

"For the longest time, I wanted to come and visit the Turkish Brigade because of the high reputation they have earned in performing their mission," he

"All of us have the same dream — to ensure that peace has an opportunity to return to this area, and that stability and the degree of prosperity can return... ."

Gen. John M. Shalikashvili
JCS Chairman

said after a briefing by Turkish officers.

Downtown, he told Zenica officials he would return home with glowing reports of the support they and their citizens provided to IFOR and the Turkish Brigade. He credited that support for making IFOR's current and future successes possible.

"All of us have the same dream — to ensure that peace has an opportunity to return to this area and that stability and the degree of pros-

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From the top

Top NCO cites soldiers' contributions

This week, I'd like to commend the soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of Task Force Eagle for what they have accomplished so far in the former Yugoslavia.

After most of the task force began arriving in December, the servicemembers quickly went to work on helping to implement the provisions of the Peace Agreement.

Over the months, the 1st Armored Division and the other members of this skilled task force have set about performing various tasks, including separating the former warring factions, marking



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

hundreds of minefields and overseeing the removal of weapons from the zone of separation.

As each new deadline has approached, all the task force members have joined together — along with their multinational

counterparts — to ensure each job has been done with the utmost degree of professionalism.

Now that we are in the sustainment phase of the operation, our peace enforcers continue to help the local population by repairing the heavily-traveled roads we damaged while moving through this country.

Our troops also have performed various humanitarian services, often working through international agencies.

For all your efforts, I'd like to commend each and every one of you. Keep up the good work.

Now that the R&R program is in full swing, I'm happy to report there have been no major problems so far. I believe this is due to the good discipline and training of our young men and women.

However, I'm instructing each first sergeant to sit down and talk with each of your troops before they leave the area.

Emphasize safety concerns to them and remind them the key word is "moderation"

while on leave.

A quick reminder — and you know who you are — many noncommissioned officer evaluation reports are late.

Get them turned in now. Yes, we are in a field environment, but don't put the careers of your NCOs on hold. Every NCO in Task Force Eagle deserves a timely NCOER.

Staff sergeants who are in the zone for promotion to sergeant first class and have not reviewed their promotion packets should do so immediately.

The packets must be at the offices of Department of the Army no later than May 17, which requires us to mail them no later than May 8.

Sergeants make it happen!

Viewpoint

Force protection a necessary hardship for task force soldiers

When American forces arrived in Bosnia to bravely serve in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, they were faced with some force protection issues.

But it did not take long to get security to acceptable standards, to include force protection. Cover and concealment was minimal and definitely not up to American military standards for operations in a potentially hostile environment.

Although force protection tasks (sandbagging, guard duty, fighting positions, four-vehicle convoys, etc.) are not pleasant duties for a soldier,



Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison
29th MPAD

they are vitally important. They also are essential to the mission and to all soldiers here in Bosnia, who are enforcing the Peace Agreement.

In peacetime, we were told "the more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in war."

The same can be said for peace enforcement missions. Increased force protection now means the area is safer and more secure should there be some sort of hostile action against IFOR soldiers.

One additional thought for soldiers performing these needed tasks is once

trouble does start at their check point, camp or base it's simply too late to stack sand bags and dig fighting positions.

As for leaders, we must stress the importance of force protection. It is not just a detail and it's not "hey, you're the next one on the list." There is much more behind force protection.

I was recently at Checkpoint Charlie and the soldiers there were very proud of their area of responsibility and commented they did not want to leave although they will be rotated.

The soldiers of Checkpoint Charlie definitely have the right attitude and sense of pride needed for a successful mission here in Bosnia.

This message can also be applied to the issue of personal force protection gear. Again, if there is trouble, it is too late to run back to the tent to grab your flak jacket, protective mask or weapon.

Our mission here is proving to be successful thanks to NATO forces serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But our job is far from over.

We must continue to upgrade our positions and continue personal and area force protection to ensure an effective and successful mission.

Although the units of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR have had minimal casualties, we must continue to strive for a well-fortified and protected environment.

THE TALON

THE TALON is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle, headquartered at Eagle Base. **THE TALON** is an Army-funded newspaper authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas, under the provision of AR 360-81. Contents of **THE TALON** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle, commanded by Maj. Gen. William L. Nash. **THE TALON** is published weekly by the 1st Armored Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230. E-mail: talonedit@tfmain.1ad.army.mil Printed by Print Com Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Circulation: 6,000.

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Know the confidence of God

It has been said it couldn't be done. Maybe with enough firepower the former warring factions could be intimidated for a while, but in the long term the war would start up again.

That was the kind of talk we chaplains heard quite frequently as we made our rounds visiting with soldiers and checking on morale. It was the same story all the way from Bad Kreuznach, Germany, through Hungary, Croatia and finally into Bosnia.

But, now many are echoing other predictions. The impossible seems to be happening! The war has ended and come to a standstill. The zone of separation has been cleared of forces and weapons, not easily, but cleared nonetheless.

And, amazingly, the armies of the three parties to the Peace Agreement have backed away from the agreed boundary lines and are complying with the stipulation to store their weapons in designated garrison locations.

In one of my favorite books of the Bible, Psalms, chapter 46, King David writes; "Nations are in an uproar, kingdoms fall;



**Chap. (Maj.)
Kenneth
Kolenbrander**
*Deputy Division
Chaplain*

(God) lifts his voice, the earth melts.

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters spear, he burns the shields with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The psalmist describes an ugly scene for us. Nations are in an uproar, and nations are fighting while there are wars and rumors of more wars.

And in the midst of all of this God says to his people; "Be still and know that I am God." How can anyone have that kind of confidence in the middle of absolute chaos?

With an unshakable confidence in God and a faith that he has a larger purpose behind all of human history, we as soldiers of Task Force Eagle can know assuredly that God is using us. He also is using the decisions of the free world's leaders to bring about a sure and lasting peace in this region.

For that, we can give much thanks and praise as we watch for the success only God can provide in his own way and time.

Trash can be dangerous to children

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

Soldiers throwing away trash may not realize they could be discarding something that could injure someone, but that's exactly what happened recently when a heating device from a package of combat rations exploded, injuring a local Bosnian boy.

The boy was admitted to the Norwegian Field Hospital in Tuzla after suffering injuries from an exploding bottle.

He had taken the self-heating device (an allied heat-tab type) from a package of combat rations and placed it in a bottle with some water.

Steam formed, and the bottle exploded, wounding the boy in the foot, hand and face.

"Rather than throwing surplus combat rations away, IFOR troops have often given the rations to needy civilians," said officials with the Task Force Eagle Center for Lessons Learned.

Safety officials say soldiers should be aware of risks involved in throwing these devices away where children may find them.

"We're here as guests of this nation," said Capt. Todd Lyle, Task Force Eagle safety officer. "We need to get the word out to think twice about what we are doing here ... We need to treat the popu-

lace with respect."

Many American soldiers just naturally want to help local people and give them food and other items instead of throwing them away, but a task force policy states that troops will not distribute anything unless they work through an international relief organization to do so.

There are plenty of good reasons for this policy, especially considering young children may be tempted to run over to military convoys if they think soldiers might give them candy or other items.

The policy remains strict so children aren't encouraged to run into traffic when they see military vehicles.

"We need to reiterate the policy," Lyle said. "We understand the desires (of the soldiers to help), but this is why we don't do it."

According to CALL, many useful things can be dangerous in the hands of children or other people who do not understand directions written on packages.

Other examples include fuel tablets, which may be mistaken for food; water purifying tablets, which may be confused for medicine; and silicone crystals, used for removing moisture, which may be mistaken for spices.

Although people may be able to read their own language, they do not necessarily understand instructions in other languages.

NEWS BRIEFS

That annoying buzz

To combat the onslaught of mosquitos brought about by spring rains, the class III supply channel is now stocked with premetherine spray, NSN 6840-01-278-1336, which is used for the temporary treatment of BDUs and mosquito netting, is now available for mass requisition.

The Preventive Medicine Section recommends three cans be ordered per soldier.

For a permanent treatment soldiers may try the Individual Dynamic Application Apparatus, NSN 6840-01-345-0237, is recommended. Each kit is good for the treatment of one uniform and instructions are included.

Mosquito netting, NSN 7210-00-266-9736, is also available. Rods, NSN 7210-00-359-4850, and clamps, NSN 7210-00-300-6950 which completes the system, also are in stock. When initially ordering, all three items must be ordered at once.

Mosquito fogging

The Air Force will be spraying for mosquitoes on the main roads of Eagle Base, Tuzla, every other morning from 5-6 a.m. starting today.

Please limit your outdoor activity during these times, if feasible.

The chemical will not burn skin nor cause irritation, but common sense dictates that if any gets on you, you should wash exposed areas and avoid rubbing your eyes or putting your hands in your mouth until they're washed.

May is Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

May has been proclaimed Asian-Pacific heritage month, according to the Task Force Eagle Equal Opportunity Office.

Asian-Pacific Americans are a diverse group with a rich and widely varied heritage.

"They have made significant contributions to the arts, literature, science, government, industry and architecture of the United States, and have contributed to the nation's quest for freedom and opportunity," said Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, Task Force Eagle commander.

Observers work with multinational brigade

By Staff Sgt.
JOSEPH GARRISON
29th MPAD

To support NATO forces in Bosnia that make up Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, National Guard soldiers from Pennsylvania are answering the call.

These citizen-soldiers are fire support observers from small and large towns throughout the Pennsylvania area, helping other IFOR soldiers from other countries with field artillery support if needed from American field artillery units.

"We do train in the fire support field, but we do much more than that," said 2nd Lt. William G. Start of Exeter, Pa. "We work with some of the local people for information on finding minefields in the area and help with area security, by manning three checkpoints and run patrols in the Polish battalion sector."

Another key part of their mission is observing the zone of separation and ensuring compliance with the Peace Agreement by soldiers and civilians in the former Yugoslavia.

The Keystone State soldiers also are training Polish paratroopers in the fire support mission in their sector, to include medical evacuation procedures and other communication and



Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison

Spc Michael J. Comstock (left), Staff Sgt. Charles D. Keller, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Guardsmen, speak with Polish Warrant Officer Andrzej Biel.

navigation skills during this operation.

"The Polish military treat us great," said Spc. Michael J. Comstock of Scranton, Pa. "At first, they did not know what to expect out of us, but we have a wonderful relationship now."

The number of responsibilities have doubled for the 28th Infantry Division Guardsmen and that is a great challenge. Start said, "We have better

communications now and are able to expand our coverage up the zone of separation."

Staff Sgt. Charles D. Keller of West Wyoming, Pa., enjoys being deployed to Bosnia, working with a small, 10-man element attached to the Polish battalion.

"It's been great. I've enjoyed working with the Polish soldiers since January," Keller adds. "It is hard to come to a land so far away like this but

my family is used to it and has always been associated with deployments like this."

Start said the Guardsmen are training with the laser tracking system Air Force pilots and Army helicopter aviators use.

The National Guard soldiers also are preparing for live fire exercises in southern Bosnia with other field artillery units.

■ BEANS, BULLETS AND FLATBEDS

Providing day-to-day necessities for Task Force Eagle

By Staff Sgt. **CHRISTINA STEINER**
203rd MPAD

When the soldiers of Task Force Eagle reach for a flatware package, water bottle or roll of toilet paper, they probably don't think about where it came from or how it got to them.

We may take for granted the every day products we use in Bosnia will always be available and without delay.

That's where A Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion comes in — to ensure soldiers receive their supplies on time.

Virtually everything from ink pens to fuel, tents, wire and BDUs that are delivered to Task Force Eagle camps, and to other NATO camps, comes first through A Company for processing and redelivery to their respective locations.

That amounts to thousands of tons

of supplies that enter and leave Lukavac daily.

Roughly 140 soldiers are in the company. Most are stationed at Lukavac and a handful work at Eagle Base and other camps.

The Lukavac-based soldiers work around the Silver Dome, a giant warehouse, where they track and store incoming and outgoing supplies.

The company has more than 240 customers from 1st, 2nd and 4th brigades and Eagle Base, said Staff Sgt. Cal Jones, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the supply section.

A Company includes other sections, but the most visible are supply, maintenance and petroleum.

Some of the "hot" or high-demand items now include products such as petroleum products and eating utensils, bubble wrap for packing, load-carrying equipment and combat boots,

said Jones and 1st Lt. Jeff Vancuren, supply section platoon leader.

"Fuel issues are exciting — fuel is always in demand," Vancuren said.

Jones said four conexas of boots were delivered to Task Force Eagle camps recently.

"Some soldiers have been here a while and their clothes are starting to wear out," he said.

Deployment challenges have included lack of adequate storage space and the endless mud.

"Space is a big thing," Vancuren said. "We require a lot but we don't have much. Supplies were sitting on the ground until we got the Silver Dome."

Supplies are delivered on pallets and protected inside cardboard and plastic so they probably would not be ruined from sitting on the ground, he added.

Civil affairs teaches children about IFOR

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE
203rd MPAD

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In a small, one-room schoolhouse, Bosnian children sit wide-eyed and an occasional giggle is heard.

Their teacher tells them politely to be quiet and to pay attention as she turns the class over to a very different looking group of instructors.

A hush falls over the young audience as they begin to listen intently to the guests they have become so interested in since Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR began.

Soldiers of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, from Green Bay, Wis., as well as soldiers from the 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, from Kaiserslautern, Germany, have developed a program to educate the children of Bosnia about their safety around IFOR soldiers and vehicles, as well as the reasons IFOR soldiers are here in Bosnia.

According to Sgt. Chris Lawrence, the program's noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a soldier from the 432nd, the program is the first of its kind.

"The safety campaign in itself actually originated here," said Lawrence, speaking of his unit's mission.

He said the idea came about while he and soldiers from the Steel Castle civil affairs team were out doing work in the local community of Kalesija.

"There were a bunch of kids standing around and we crossed to the elementary school," Lawrence explained. "I asked if it would be OK if we addressed the students on preventive safety issues that were brought up in camp (Steel Castle)."

The 432nd then talked with the commu-



Staff Sgt. Brian Cumper

Sgt. Ted Taala, 20th EOD and Capt. Michael Hinz, 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion, show Bosnian children a mine awareness chart during a recent visit.

nity's director of schools, who thought the program was a good idea for the children.

Although the 432nd understands that the children of Bosnia are no strangers to the mine threat, the team said children need to be informed on issues such as safety around convoys, heavy machinery repairing roads and bridges, unexploded munitions, as well as the reasons soldiers aren't allowed to give out small gifts to the children, such as candy.

"We want to teach some things (the children) can actually do to assist the soldiers so they can avoid injuries," Lawrence said. Along with safety, the issue of the American soldier and why we are here also was discussed.

"We would like to personalize the sol-

dier by teaching the children that we are human beings, instead of 'turtles,' as we are sometimes called," Lawrence added.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also has donated educational gifts, such as books and crayons, which were passed on to the 432nd and are being distributed to the six schools in the Kalesija school district.

The 432nd has received positive feedback from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps on this particular program. Soldiers from Military Civil Relations, EOD, other Civil Affairs teams, as well as officials from the different NATO forces, will be going to various locations through out Bosnia-Herzegovina to teach classes spreading the safety.



Spc. Teresa Hawkins

IRON HORSE

Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, Assistant Division Commander for Support (center), speaks with soldiers from the 102nd Quartermaster Company, as they fill a fuel tanker in preparation for the first run of the Iron Horse project.

Iron Horse is a program to move fuel by train from Camp Kime to Camp Rumbaugh, improving the task force's ability to transport fuel.



Staff Sgt. John Long

Spc. Micholas Emans, 2nd Platoon, B Company, 23rd Engineer Battalion, places explosives during the demolition of the war-damaged Sava River Bridge near Brcko.



A Combat Engineer Veh separation during a bunk

Engineer Brigade

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE
203rd MPAD

The Task Force Eagle Engineer Brigade is one of the driving forces in Task Force Eagle.

The brigade headquarters is located at Steel Castle. More than 2,500 soldiers strong, it is comprised of the 16th, 23rd, 40th and 94th Engineer battalions, as well as several engineering companies and attached units.

Since the brigade arrived in Bosnia, it has been tasked with many key missions that have played important roles in the success of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. A monumental achievement was piecing together the Sava River ribbon bridge, the longest of its kind ever assembled by Army engineers, that allowed the task force's 20,000 soldiers to flow into the country.

Through a combined effort with the Air Force's RED HORSE Engineers, the Navy Seabees and Brown and Root Inc., the Engineer Brigade helped construct several base camps and lodging areas with the soldiers' comfort and safety in mind.

Along with the construction of these base camps, the brigade helped with the construction and reconstruction of Bosnia's roadways and bridges, the clearing of those roadways; and the monitoring of the parties to the Peace Agreement as they cleared minefields. In addition to monitoring the parties, the engineers are responsible for 'proofing' those fields, to ensure IFOR soldiers' safety.



11th PAD

The Sava River Ribbon Bridge at Zupanja, Croatia, was the gateway for most Task Force Eagle soldiers and equipment.



Spc. Delbert Bolesky, B Battalion, prepares strip demolition of the damage



Capt. Rhonda Reasoner

Vehicle (CEV) maneuvers inside the zone of air-busting operation.



Staff Sgt. Brian Cumper

Engineers from B Company, 23rd Engineer Battalion help recover a gravel truck.



Staff Sgt. Brian Cumper

Company, 23rd Engineer Battalion placing charges during the Brcko bridge.



Spc. Rande Anderson

Engineers burn a bunker using an M-14 incendiary grenade near Camp Kime.



Spc. Glenn Suggs

Capt. John Chaput, commander of B Company, 40th Engineer Battalion speaks with Bosnian engineers during minefield-marking operations.



Sgt. 1st Class Jack Lee

Spc. Kory Robers, HSC, 94th Engineer Battalion, cleans a road paver.

OH-58C observation helicopters to retire

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

They served their country well as aero-scout observers in Vietnam, doing reconnaissance for cavalry or attack missions.

But when Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR ends, the OH-58C observation helicopter's scouting days will be over.

"These are the last OH-58Cs left in Europe," said 1st Lt. Bradley Hilton, 28, an Army aviator from Lancaster, Pa., standing on the Eagle Base, Tuzla, flight line. "They are being phased out and replaced by the Delta model with upgraded equipment, advanced avionics and weapons systems, and the capability of reaching out and seeing the bad guys farther away.

"So we're the last of our kind," said Hilton, of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Air Cavalry Brigade.

OH-58s were originally designed to work in lieu of a scout weapons teams with AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters, Hilton said.

In Bosnia, C Company used them for reconnaissance missions over the zone of separation, transporting personnel and equipment, distributing mail and carrying combat photographers.

Their missions will be divided among UH-60 Black Hawk utility helicopters, AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, the armed version of the OH-58D.

As the 58Cs make room for advanced technology aircraft, however, aviators and crew members will remember it fondly as easy to fix and quick to get off the ground.

"Everything on the airframe is very simple, like an old carburetor engine," Hilton said. "The advantage is that it is simple to maintain and has a high operational readiness rate. The pre-flight and engine run-up is shorter and not as complex."



Spc. Rob Bishop

The OH-58C Scout helicopter will be retired from the active duty inventory.

"It's said the OH-58 is going because it really earns its money," said Chief Warrant Officer Bryon McCrary, 33, an aviator from San Diego. "It's a very inexpensive airframe to fly compared to the other systems that are coming in. Our cost per hour is very low. And, generally, it is just the end of an era."

Aerial observers like Staff Sgt. Thomas B. Hamilton III of Seattle will have to find a new job, too.

"I'm only one of three (aerial observers) in Europe and I'm still flying, which is really lucky," he said. "This job is going away."

In addition to everything a pilot does except emergency procedures, AOs do navigation for OH-58 flights, said the former UH-1 Iroquois utility helicopter crew chief.

McCrary and Hilton singled out their crew chiefs for making the missions happen despite not getting the credit they deserve.

"The crew chiefs are our backbone," McCrary said. "Those are the guys doing all the work and don't get a lot of the glory."

Working with his hands as a mechanic gives Spc. Rick Scott of San Diego the job satisfaction he needs.

"Just seeing them fly is motivation enough for me," said Spc. Jason Pedesen, 25, of Seattle.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician moonlights as barber

By Spc. WENDY M. FIRESTONE
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — "Who's next?" asks the barber, as he looks toward several soldiers who are standing in a group, waiting.

Normally, this scene would take place inside a barber shop. However, at Steel Castle, one such "shop" is outdoors and this barber wears a battle dress uniform and combat boots.

Staff Sgt. Gary Stair, 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment from Kaiserslautern, Germany, serves as a team leader for the 20th, but he also has taken on a second job as the unit barber.

Stair doesn't have any formal training or experience in cutting hair, other than what he has done for his unit. "I learned to cut hair by being forced to, basically," Stair said.

It all started when someone in his unit asked who was going to cut hair while they were deployed.

"Nobody else wanted to do it, so I said, 'If you guys trust me, I'll do it for you,'" Stair explained. "It is just something that has to be done while a soldier is in the field."

Despite his lack of experience in barbering, Stair has learned to cut different military styles. He is able to do a low taper, a high and tight or — if a soldier is really brave — completely bald.

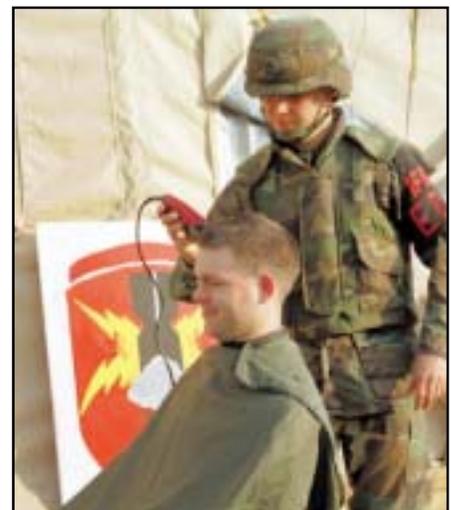
The easiest and most popular cut he does is the high and tight. "They are easier to maintain in the field. Plus, it always makes everybody look hardcore," Stair quipped.

When the barbering begins, Stair will sometimes cut hair for many as 15 soldiers in one sitting. "It depends on how many people walk by," Stair explained. He started out by only cutting hair for his unit's soldiers, but he has taken on a few new clients.

"There have been a couple of people by," Stair said. "I don't know if there are any (barbers) in the other EOD units, but usually when they come back here, I'll cut their hair for them."

Even with barbering services now offered on Steel Castle, the 20th EOD soldiers, as well as a few others, still come to Stair for their haircut.

"I guess they like the conversation, and because I am a nice guy," Stair said with a



Capt. Rhonda Reasoner

Staff Sgt. Gary Stair, 20th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment, trims a fellow soldier's hair.

smile. Besides, Stair's fee is quite reasonable. He only charges "a smile and some good talking," he said. "And maybe I'll get some friendship out of it," he added.

18th MP mechanics keep 'em moving

By Staff Sgt.
EUGENE P. DEFORREST
203rd MPAD

When a HMMWV breaks down in Bosnia, the driver can't call the auto club. But at Comanche Base, mechanics at the consolidated motor pool will repair it.

On one particular day, Spc. Steven L. Letterly, 22, a mechanic with the 536th Military Police Company, carefully examined the engine of a HMMWV.

"We will have to do some work on it before it will run well," he said.

Originally from Westby, Wis., Letterly deployed from Grafenwoehr, Germany, with the 536th MP Company in December.

During the Bosnian winter, the mechanics were exposed to the cold and many vehicles had to be maintained in the snow. They often were unable to use gloves because gloves restrict their ability to grasp tools.

But, regardless of the weather, operations run 24 hours a day at the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade motor pool.



Staff Sgt. Eugene P. DeForrest

Spc. Matthew B. Penhollow (left) and Spc. Steven C. Carey, 630th Military Police Company, work on a HMMWV in the 18th MP Brigade motor pool.

"We do 10 to 15 repairs a week," explained Staff Sgt. Bryant C. Seegars, 31, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the motor pool. "There are between two and three mechanics who work in the motor pool."

Nicknamed "The Outlaws," the HHC group of mechanics recovers broken-down vehicles from the surrounding area using a 2-1/2 ton truck.

"Maintenance is essential during a deployment," Seegars said. "The brigade had 24 vehicles when it deployed. But because we have attached units now, we have a total of 48 vehicles, the majority of which are HMMWVs."

Seegars, who is from Alexandria, Va., deployed from Mannheim, Germany. "There is always something breaking down," he said. "We keep busy."

Spc. Roy H. Jones, 26, a supply clerk with HHC, was in the motor pool to remove a tire from a HMMWV.

As primary driver for the S-4 vehicle, he is required to take care of the vehicle, short of performing functions reserved for mechanics.

"I am replacing some tires on the vehicle," said Jones of Upper Marlboro, Md. "This is all part of the job, but the mechanics help us whenever we need it."

Sgt. Karl H. Champagne, 34, from Hahnville, La., supervises the motor pool for the 212th Military Police Company. "We make sure the vehicles that come to us are well-maintained," he said.

When the 18th MP Brigade arrived at Comanche Base, the motor sergeants moved into jet aircraft hangars that were remnants from the Cold War. "When we first moved in, the hangars were dirty and cold," Seegars said. "They are not designed for vehicle maintenance. We had to improvise. Sometimes with all our equipment and the vehicles, it became pretty crowded. We, however, worked as a team, and we got the job done."

Soldiers in the 18th MP Brigade know what Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services are all about. "I like to mentor young soldiers so they learn the best and safest way to do things," Seegars said. "I also make sure the mechanics explain PMCS to primary drivers."

Transportation is the lifeline of the brigade. We work to keep the vehicles running."

As he spoke, four HMMWVs and a 2-1/2 ton truck were parked outside the consolidated motor pool waiting to be fixed. "This is a job you have to love to do," Seegars said.

Fort Riley engineer company rebuilds Bosnian bridges



55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Spc. Brandon Weliver, 55th Engineer Company, works on a bridge section.

By Sgt. 1st Class JACK LEE
203rd MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — Members of the 55th Engineer Company (Medium Girder Bridge) have hardly had a dull moment in Bosnia.

After leaving Fort Riley, Kan., on Jan. 2, they trained in Hohenfels, Germany, eventually traveled to Zutendahl, Belgium, to draw equipment and arrived in Bosnia on Feb. 15.

Setting up shop at Camp Bedrock, soldiers of the 55th recently finished erecting a 330-foot Bailey bridge outside Lukavac. "This might be the largest built in the Balkan theater," said Staff Sgt. Donald Diehl, bridge site noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"For myself, this is the high point of my military career," Diehl said. "A bridge of this size and complexity — I was very excited about being part of this."

The Swedish battalion on peace enforcement duty in the Balkans also lent

a hand in this project. "They provided personnel and an excavator that was used to lift the panels into place, making the building project much easier," Diehl said.

Besides the normal hazards of any bridge project, there were minefields on all sides of the bridge site.

The crew had only the width of the road, plus about six feet on either side, for constructing the bridge.

"After the opening ceremony, we watched the Bosnians clear anti-personnel mines from the area," Diehl said.

The 55th has also erected two other medium girder bridges recently.

"They are like giant erector sets. All the pieces fit together. Boom it out on rollers and jack it down into place, and you have a bridge," Diehl said.

Now, the 55th has turned to other construction areas. Force protection measures they are now working on include building bunkers, fighting positions, guard towers and hauling gravel.

Troops hone combat skills at gunnery

By Pfc. JODY JOHNSTON
358th MPAD

TABORFALVA, Hungary — Firing ranges are required by the military to train soldiers on weapons, but sometimes ranges are not available, forcing the military to build them.

When the soldiers of the 7th Army Training Command arrived in Taborfalva, to set up weapon ranges for the troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, all they found was an old Hungarian military training ground.

"We were surprised when we got there," said Sgt. 1st Class Duane S. Porter, USAREUR targetry noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "The target lifts were already computerized, which made our job a bit easier.

"The only real problems that we ran into were the differences between our target systems and the Hungarian target systems," Porter said.

"For example, the posts that our targets use are square, whereas the posts for the Hungarian targets are round. We had to change the hookups on their lifters so they would be compatible with our targets. Our targets are also much bigger than theirs, so we had to strengthen the lifters so they could support our targets," Porter said.

"The range that the Hungarians had set up was much larger than what we needed. We had to narrow the range, so it would be much safer for our soldiers to fire on. This was also the first time that we have ever fired tanks and Bradleys on the same range, so we had to account for that as well," Porter said.

"(The Hungarians) were worried about live rounds that didn't explode lying around the range, but after we explained that we were not going to use service ammo — we were only going to be using training ammo — they agreed to let us use the range."

As to what will become of the range when they leave, Porter said, "After they leave, the Hungarians will continue to use the range. The only difference is, it will be a much nicer range."



Pfc. Jody Johnston

M1A1 Abrams tanks from 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, prepare to start a gunnery lane at the Taborfalva, Hungary, range.

Cav puts rounds down range

By Pfc. JODY
JOHNSTON
358th MPAD

TABORFALVA, Hungary — Soldiers from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, have begun training on the ranges in Hungary, practicing their skills by qualifying with their tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

The soldiers of 1-4 Cavalry are the first to train in Hungary, but they soon will be followed by other units who are deployed in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"This training will be standardized throughout the 1st Armored Division, and basically everyone will run the same tasks," said Staff Sgt. Robert E. Anderson, master gunner for C Troop, 1-4 Cavalry.

Firing their weapons for the first time since the start of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, the soldiers have had to face several challenges.

"The biggest problem that we're running into is we're not used to shooting the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and the M1 tank at the same time, so it's kind of an integration of two different types of firing tables," Anderson said.

Because the range is built for both tank and Bradley, it is much bigger than a normal range.

"When you work with Bradleys and tanks, they shoot at different targets.

"This training will be standardized throughout the 1st Armored Division, and basically everyone will run the same tasks."

**Staff Sgt. Robert E. Anderson,
master gunner for C Troop,
1-4 Cavalry**

Say, for example, they shoot at a helicopter target. Tanks don't shoot those, so that calls for an extra target. Basically, you have twice as many targets on this range than you would have on another range," Anderson said.

Even though the range has some differences, it still gives the soldiers an opportunity to hone their skills, along with a well-de-

served break.

"This kind of training brings the soldiers out of Bosnia, and it gives them a less intense, and more relaxing atmosphere, it also gives them a break from their day-to-day jobs in Bosnia.

"They run through a series of tank and Bradley training tables, which gives them a chance to learn to work as a crew again," Anderson said.

After the 1-4 Cavalry finished its training at Taborfalva, the unit's soldiers were treated to two days and one night in a hotel in Budapest.

"It feels pretty good to get out of Bosnia for a while. It gives us a break. I can't wait to go to Budapest. It will be a nice break," said Spc. Thomas L. Blackburn, scout for B Troop, 1-4 Cav.

After all the training, and rest and recuperation, the soldiers returned to Bosnia for a fresh start, and many had clear thoughts to start the remainder of their tour.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Medic takes opportunity of a lifetime

By 1st Lt. AL SWEPSON
358TH MPAD

CAMP KIME — As the medical noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the aid station at 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, Kirch Goens, Germany, Sgt. Peter S. Lucas oversees the operation of the battalion aid station.

But, he also is taking advantage of the many skills he is learning in the U. S. Army to prepare himself for a civilian career once he has finished his military service.

"With the medical section, there are so many different fields that I can branch into," Lucas said. "The Army gives me a lot to do, and that equates to me being able to do a lot once I get out of the Army. It makes me more marketable in the civilian world and it kind of runs in the family.

My sister is a nurse, and my brother-in-law is a paramedic. I guess you could say it runs in my blood," he said, smiling.

Lucas works side-by-side with a physician's assistant to handle possible mass casualties, evacuation and triage procedures, combat life saver training, field sanitation procedures and infestation problems.

He also checks on the general welfare and living conditions of the soldiers in the camps in the 1st Brigade sector.

Before joining the U.S. Army in 1992,

Lucas served in the U.S. Air Force from 1982 through 1986.

"I was a military policeman in the Air Force," Lucas said. "After getting out, I drove armored trucks for awhile. But, I just missed the military life. So, I joined the Army and it gave me the opportunity to be in the medical field. I jumped on it." Lucas hit the ground running, and hasn't stopped since his arrival in Bosnia.

Thankfully, he has not had to treat any patients suffering from life-threatening injuries. "When we first arrived, of course, it was in the middle of the winter season," Lucas said. "So, a lot of the cases that we were having to deal with were environmental sicknesses such as upper-respiratory infections, congestion and diarrhea.

"Now that we are in the spring season, we are going to encounter vector-borne illnesses related to bugs, insects and rodents." Lucas combats these types of illnesses by laying rodent traps, and spraying pesticides in and around the camps.

"Water can be a potential health risk in Bosnia," Lucas said. "Standing water in the camps becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes and bugs. We keep on top of this problem by draining the water, or shocking it to kill the eggs of the insects floating on top," Lucas said. The 31-year-old Phoenix native plans to celebrate his 10-year wed-



1st Lt. Al Swepson

Sgt. Peter S. Lucas, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery, takes a patient's blood pressure.

ding anniversary at home soon. "I plan to take advantage of the leave that's offered to the soldiers serving in Bosnia," Lucas said. "I'm going to make the most of my time spent with my wife and four kids."

Radio IFOR disc jockeys rock 'n' roll for peace

Sgt. 1st Class JACK LEE
203rd MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — Military civil relations is alive and well, and you can find it at 1017 on your local radio dial.

There are four MCR-run AM stations in Bosnia. Two are 400-watt and two are 10,000-watt.

The stations play music that local people like to hear. "In order to keep an audience, we target their kind of music. If we didn't, we would lose them and they would tune us out," said Sgt. 1st Class Elvis Smith, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Steel Castle station.

"We are here to let the local people know why IFOR is here — to get the important messages of peace out.

"It is just coincidental that it's the same music our soldiers listen to. If the survey said (local people) liked Lawrence Welk, that's what we would probably play," he added.

There is usually an MCR message after every third song. "Radio IFOR. News you need to stay informed. Remember, peace is your key to tomorrow," one message says.

The music comes on 45- or 60-minute tapes that are edited in Sarajevo and sent to the stations.

"All of the music is politically correct before it is sent to us," explained Staff Sgt. John Kocsis, 17th Psychological Operation Battalion, Arlington Heights, Ill. "(Profanity) also is bleeped out."

Kocsis said the stations are receiving better quality tapes — "a better blend of music."

Other ways MCR soldiers can get their message across is through a loud speaker — like the old-time political campaign method — and with print teams.

For instance, the MCR print team published notices of the radio stations going on air.

There are no subliminal messages on the tapes, "nor do we talk people out of fighting," said Spc. Richard Rivas, 306th Psychological Operations.

The larger stations have a range of 80 kilometers. According to Sgt. Tina Gonzales, antenna maintenance specialist, the tower is 125 feet tall, and is omnidirection-



Capt. Rhonda Reasoner

Spc. Robert Clark, a Radio IFOR disc jockey, broadcasts messages from the MCR-run studio.

al. "It spreads the signal out in all directions," she said.

With four stations in the region, a person should be able to pick up Radio IFOR from anywhere in Bosnia.

The stations are on the air from 7 a.m. to midnight daily.

"We're like any station at home," Smith said, "except we can change frequency."

The NFL Big 10 picks

By Staff Sgt. JOSEPH GARRISON
29th MPAD

The National Football League's 1996 draft in New York was completed last week with both expected and surprising picks.

The New York Jets, as expected, grabbed receiver Keyshawn Johnson from the University of Southern California, as the first pick to help rebuild their weak offense. The Jets, who have not had a strong quarterback for many years, may need more help than the 220-pound, 6-foot-3 wide receiver.



Jacksonville starts its second NFL year with the number two pick of Kevin Hardy, a linebacker from the University of Illinois, to strengthen the defensive side of the young Jaguars team.

Simeon Rice, another top defensive pick, came from the University of Illinois.

After dropping head coach Buddy Ryan, the Arizona

Cardinals decided to keep the defensive strategy, a key objective, and drafted Rice in the number three spot.

A new name in the NFL this year is the Baltimore Ravens, previously the Cleveland Browns. This franchise picked offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden from UCLA in the number four slot. Ogden, at 6-foot-8, tips the scales at more than 320 pounds.

The sour New York Giants, who wanted Ogden, used their number five pick for University of Oklahoma's Cedric Jones for a defensive end position. Although they were disappointed with the draft, the Giants will be pleased with Jones.

St. Louis had the number six pick — Lawrence Phillips from the University of Nebraska. The Washington Redskins initially had running back Phillips, but shuffled the deck for other prospects. The Rams, with an impressive 1995 defensive start, is working on a stronger offense to balance the table for the upcoming season.

Drew Bledsoe, the New England Patriots future star quarterback, is glad to have Ohio State's wide receiver Terry Glenn as the Pats' seventh pick in the draft. This duo is sure to stack up points and shoot for a playoff spot.

A surprise to many football fans was the Carolina Panthers' inaugural season. They took the number eight pick, running back, Tim Biakabutuka, from Michigan in hopes of another successful season.

The Oakland Raiders have signed veteran quarterback Jeff Hostetler and chose Rickey Dudley, another Ohio State receiver, as their nine pick. The tight end will add to the Raiders' air power that includes wide receiver Tim Brown.

To help Cincinnati's offense, the Bengals chose Willie Anderson in the ten spot. The Auburn tackle was a great pick for a weak Cincinnati offensive line as they try to rebuild and become a contender in this season's playoffs.



Spc. George Roache

Gen. John M. Shalikashvili speaks with Zenica officials.

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perity can return, not just for all of you but mostly for your children," the general said.

"If we can be a small part of bringing this about, we will all be proud, because as soldiers, we seldom have an opportunity to do so much good as we have an opportunity to here."

When asked by Shalikashvili for his frank observations about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, the mayor called his people's experiences with IFOR and the Turkish soldiers stationed in his town "outstanding."

Speaking through an interpreter, U.S. Air Force Capt. Vladimir Petnicki, Spahic said his people saw allied soldiers as bringing life to the idea of peace for his country.

"Without a doubt, without the assistance of American forces, as well as, of course, the forces of the allies, it would not be possible," Spahic said.

"Sir, we see the coming of

your forces as well as your own personal visit as a sign that spring is coming, and spring, of course, is a sign of peace and renewal to these regions."

Shalikashvili later traveled to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team headquarters at Lodgment Area Lisa, and met with brigade commander, Col. John R.F. Batiste.

Soldiers' morale in Bosnia is "magnificent" and the future looks bright, he said.

"It is hard to overestimate how far we have come the last four months because of the professionalism, 'candor' attitude and evenhandedness (in dealing with the Bosnian people), but mostly because of the professionalism," he said.

"None of us know where we are going to be within four to eight months from now (but) we do have reasons to be optimistic.

"Let others wring their hands and worry about the federation falling apart. What we now have is the determination to go on."

ACAP from Page 1

will visit the following locations: Kaposvar, Hungary, May 1-20 (two-day workshops begin May 6, 9, 13, and 17); Tuzla, (a two-day workshop begins May 4); Lukavac, May 8-11 (two-day workshops begin May 8 and 10); Gradacac, May 13-16 (two-day workshops begin May 13 and 15).

Computers will be available at each location throughout the visit except for Kaposvar, where they will only be available May 18-20.

Army participants should bring copies of their DA Form 31 (request for leave) so the transition orders can be properly processed.

All clients should bring any relevant information that could assist in the preparation of resumes and applications.

To enroll in a workshop, please contact your unit S-1 or personnel section or contact ACAP in Germany at DSN 322-8298/8356 (civilian 00-49-6181-88-8298/8356).