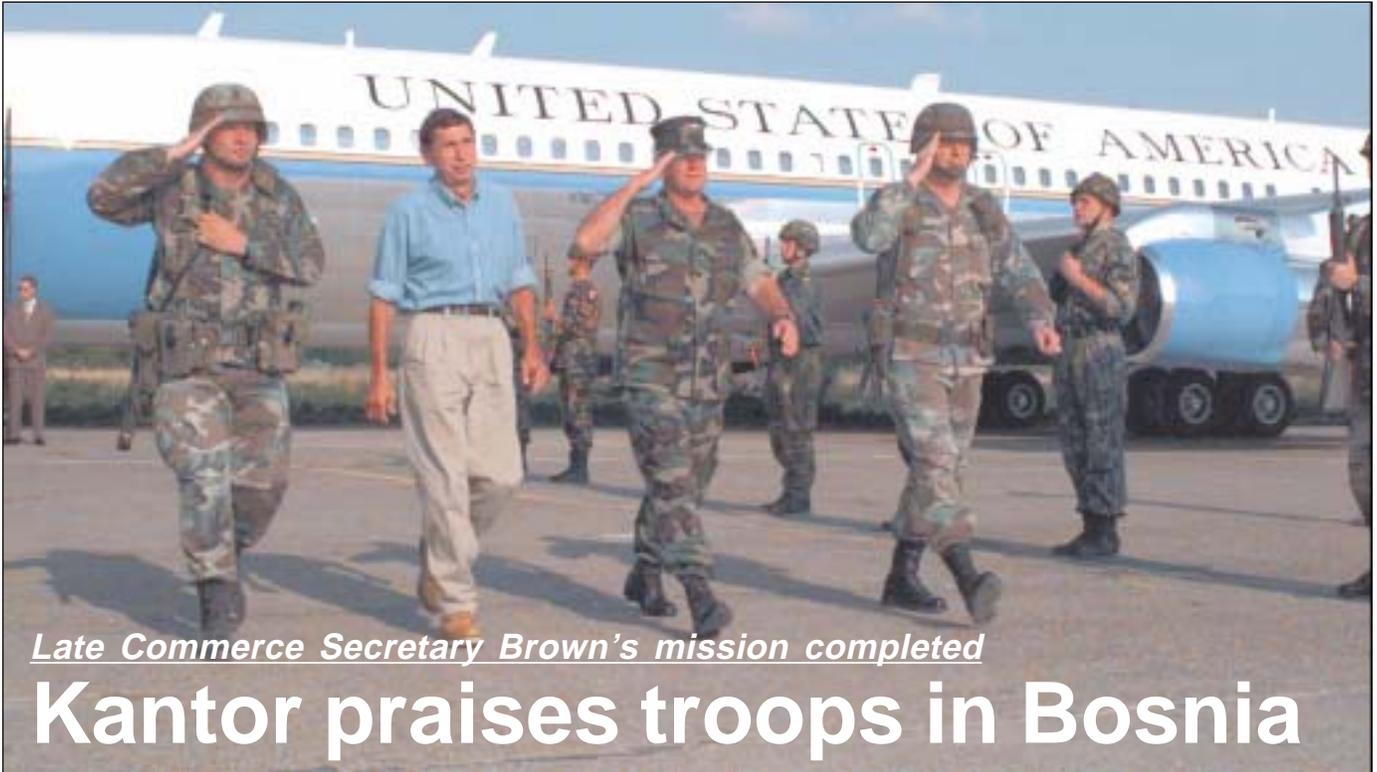


THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Late Commerce Secretary Brown's mission completed

Kantor praises troops in Bosnia

Spc. Christopher R. Salazar

(From the left) Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley, task force sergeant major; Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor; Vice Admiral Leighton Smith, IFOR commander; and Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, task force commander, recognize the troops gathered to welcome the secretary's arrival.

By Spc. AARON REED
100th MPAD

During a visit to Eagle Base last week, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor told Task Force Eagle troops he came to thank them for their service. "I know it's lonely. I know it's hard. But I hope you'll remember the extraordinary implications of your presence here," he said.

The Commerce Secretary's four-day trip to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was

about more than simply paying tribute to U.S. troops participating in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

It was also a final tribute to the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who perished when his plane crashed outside Dubrovnik, Croatia, April 3.

More than anything, though, Kantor's visit validated the past seven months of blood, sweat, toil and tears on the part of the men and women of Task Force Eagle.

Kantor brought with him a delegation of American business executives and engineering experts whose companies can help spur the economic revitalization of the region.

"By bringing American business people here to explore trade and investment opportunities," said Kantor, "we are ensuring that . . . your courageous work doesn't go for naught."

Chicago businessman Dick Meagher said, "Because American forces are implementing and enforcing the peace, companies like mine can come in and begin making life better for the Bos-

nian people."

Meagher is the president of a company that specializes in rebuilding roads and power and water systems.

He said that being a part of Kantor's delegation would allow his company to begin helping the Bosnian people in the very near future.

The Commerce Secretary stressed that Task Force Eagle has played an important role - a role that makes a real difference in the lives of ordinary people.

"The impact of this mission will still be felt here in 100 years," Kantor said. "Perhaps nothing else you do in your life will have as profound an effect on the lives of as many people."

Keith M. Curtis, a high-ranking Kantor aide and the U.S. Commercial Service deputy director for Europe, agreed: "Task Force Eagle has been absolutely critical to making this trip possible . . . you've freed people of the most basic fear, their fear for their lives. Now we can begin to dispense with their fear for their livelihoods and start creating an atmosphere of hope."

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■ From the top

Good soldiers take care of each other

“Iron soldiers take care of each other.”

That is the credo of the 1st Armored Division. This statement is perhaps never more true than when it comes to safety.

In the past couple of weeks, there have been several accidents in which soldiers could have been seriously injured or killed.

These accidents were caused by lapses in safety precautions on behalf of the individuals involved.

It is the NCO's duty and responsibility to supervise and maintain proper safety measures at all times.

We have several new units rotating into the theater of operations. Safety should always be at the forefront of our minds.

A lot of us have been here since the beginning of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR and have been performing the same task



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

daily. No matter how proficient people become in performing these duties, there is always the danger of complacency. Once that occurs, an erosion of standards begins.

Within a week's span, there were six serious accidents that could have had devastating consequences.

One individual sustained a potentially serious injury when the bungee cord he was working with snapped back and hit him near his eye. He was not wearing eye protection and was fortunate it did not cause permanent damage. The next soldier might not be so lucky.

NCOs must enforce the safety standards. They are there for a reason.

At this crucial time when we have new troops arriving for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR every week, NCOs must set the tone for a safe work environment.

Capt. Todd D. Lyle, one of Task Force Eagle's safety officers, tells me that 80 percent of all Army accidents are due to human error. In other words, accidents can be prevented.

Another incident occurred when an indi-

vidual was injured while placing a trip flare. He suffered phosphorous burns. Thankfully, he was not seriously injured, but once again safety measures need to be followed. NCOs are responsible for seeing that their soldiers wear and utilize Personal Protective Equipment when conducting dangerous tasks.

One final area in which I want to emphasize safety is in the area of vehicle operations. Once we are poised for redeployment, there will be a great deal of movement. With this increase in activity, there is increased exposure to potentially unsafe situations.

Troops and their supervisors need to be vigilant in their enforcement of safety standards. Proper convoy procedures must be followed. Ground guides should always be used. When getting on and off vehicles and equipment, three-points of contact must be observed. These are just a few of the precautions that NCOs should continuously enforce.

Safety regulations are in place for a reason. We must keep our fighting force safe and protected. Be safe!

■ Viewpoint

Remembering a husband, father, son and brother

Nirkic Rasim. That was the name meticulously hand-embroidered on the orange square of cloth hanging from the rail of the Tuzla Sports Center.

Thousands of similar rainbow-colored pillowcases lined the walls and seats of the packed stadium during the rally commemorating the fall of Srebrenica, each one bearing the name of a man or boy believed to be killed by the Bosnian Serb army.

This particular piece caught my attention as the second line of stitching noted Nirkic's year of birth – the same as mine.

I wondered how much more we had in common.

Was he a parent? Did he have a lovable 10-year-old daughter?



Master Sgt. Kathy J. Wright
350th MPAD

Someone who he had watched being born and then provided a gentle but firm hand in raising?

Maybe he enjoyed

taking her to the movies or tickling her until she squealed for mercy.

He might have played soccer with her and coached the team's winning season.

Then as each day ended, he could have read her a chapter from a favorite book and then succumbed to her plea to hear

just a few more pages before going to bed.

Was he a husband? Did he have a wife who had grown to appreciate his virtuous qualities and overlook his faults? Someone who he had built a house with and helped to fill its rooms with memories and clutter?

Was he a son? Did his mother brag to all who would listen what a good boy she was fortunate to have?

Someone who he had fashioned handmade masterpieces that only a child and mother would treasure?

They could have shared the same dreams and same goals for the future that all people hope for.

Was he a brother? Did his younger sister turn to him for advice when confronted with a tough test at school?

Someone who he had pestered and annoyed as youngsters but then exchanged life's deepest secrets and dreams with.

Maybe he would invite his brother to join him and his family for a picnic and go swimming in the lake they found refuge from the summer heat in as kids.

They could have had the type of bond that each knew what strategy the other would use when matching wits in a game of chess.

Nirkic Rasim. I, with your daughter, wife, mother and brother, mourn your loss.

THE TALON

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M1A1 Abrams tank driver Pfc. Jeremy L. Welker
Editor-in-Chief Maj. John E. Suttle
OIC Capt. Terry Conder
NCOIC Staff Sgt. Patrick Summers
Editor Spc. Bryan Driver
Production Staff 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
Design Editor Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum
Photo Editor Spc. Daniel Paschall
Staff Writer Spc. Aaron Reed
Staff Arijana Sabanovic
Contributors . . . 100th, 350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachments



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Sgt. 1st Class Arletta J. Brown, Capt. Lori Weaver, Pvt. Layana Scott, and Spc. Rachel Edward of the 22nd Signal Brigade, gaze at a wall covered with embroidered pillow cases bearing the names of men still missing after the fall of Srebrenica last July.

Srebrenica women share experiences

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS
350th MPAD

Her head was bowed in sorrow as she dabbed at the silent tears falling to her lap.

The IFOR soldiers watched as the woman wept for her dead husband and their hearts went out to her because they also are wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters.

That is why they had come to the commemoration at the Tuzla Sports Center — to let the women of Bosnia know, “mi nismo same” or “we are not alone.”

A little over a year ago Srebrenica was an obscure town bustling with activity as men and women worked and children played.

On July 11, 1995, the UN-protected enclave was attacked by Bosnian Serbs.

Srebrenica's women, children, and elderly were taken away in buses, leaving behind their husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons.

Now living as refugees in Tuzla, the women of Srebrenica are desperate to know the fate of their men as they struggle to rebuild their lives.

On the anniversary of that fateful day, the women of Bosnia gathered to commemorate the fall of Srebrenica and to remember their dead, not with hatred or vengeance, but with empathy and hope.

The event was supported by some of the most powerful and influential women of the world, including co-chairs Swanee Hunt, the U.S. ambassador to Austria; Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, and European Union Commissioner Emma Bonino.

Over 100 women serving in NATO's Implementation Force attended at the ambassador's invitation.

“I got to meet Ambassador Hunt at a dining-in recently,” said Airman Jamie M. Alldredge of the 4100th Group Security Police, Eagle Base.

“She told us about what she was trying to do to help the women of Bosnia, and I wanted to come to support her work.

“I feel very bad for them. I can't imagine how hard it was to leave their husbands behind and to not know where they are now.”

A mother of a 3-year-old son, Sgt. Gloria Mays, HHC, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation, Tuzla West, said, “I wanted to meet these women and try to understand what life has been like for them and what they've gone through.

“I'd like to try and help them make a better life. It's time to mend.”

The healing process has been difficult for the women of Srebrenica as they attempt to find homes, feed and educate their children, and begin new lives as the breadwinners and heads of their families.

At the assembly, approximately 7,000 men, women and children viewed a film of Srebrenica and its fall, heard inspiring talks by the honored delegation, and learned how concerned citizens from all over the world plan to fill their personal, political, and practical needs through the “Bosnian Women's Initiative” spearheaded by Ambassador Hunt.

“Even though they have experienced extreme hardship in their lives, the women of Bosnia have been able to see hope and have shown great initiative in gaining power over their lives,” said Capt. Jackie Hayes.

“Bringing the women together, sharing experiences, and looking at what they can do, they are empowering themselves to bring something positive out of this, keep peace, and turn the country around.”

News briefs

Hazardous waste is everyone's responsibility

Every soldier working around hazardous wastes should be aware of a few basic handling and disposal procedures.

These wastes include fuels, oils, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, acids, even cooking oil.

In sufficient quantities they are hazardous to plant, animal and human life, so no spill should be ignored.

Spill response is primarily a unit responsibility. Anyone working with hazardous liquids should know how to react in the event of a spill.

Initial reaction is simply notifying a designated spill response team and knowing how to contain a spill.

The Base Camp Coordination Agency (BCCA) is the military unit ensuring this process happens promptly, smoothly, and efficiently.

BCCA is frequently on the go, visiting different camps, advising mayors, ensure teams are formed and that they have the proper equipment.

BCCA is to be notified anytime a spill of over 25 gallons occurs.

It is their task to record such spills and to monitor whatever process is used to render the soil not hazardous.

Mosquito bite protection

Combat the onslaught of mosquitoes. Preventive supplies are available through supply channels

- Permethrine spray, NSN 6840-01-278-1336, temporary treatment of BDUs and mosquito netting
- Individual Dynamic Application Apparatus, NSN 6840-01-345-0237, long-term treatment. Each kit is good for the treatment of one uniform.

Additional protection can be provided by using the following:

- Mosquito netting, NSN 7210-00-266-9736
- Rods, NSN 7210-00-359-4850
- Clamps, NSN 7210-00-300-6950.

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	82/54	Low
Sat	79/52	Moderate
Sun	75/50	Moderate
Mon	78/52	Low
Tue	80/54	Low
Wed	81/55	Low
Thur	80/53	Low

Prepared July 17 by the 617th Weather Squadron

IFOR soldiers get joint wrecker training

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

HAMPTON BASE — Pride and envy were present as soldiers with the NORDPOL brigade and the 501st Forward Support Battalion joined together for hands-on training with one another's recovery vehicles.

In an open field on a sweltering day at Hampton Base, U.S. and Norwegian soldiers gathered around three wrecking and recovery vehicles. There was an M88 A1 Medium Full Track Recovery Vehicle, an M984 HEMTT wrecker, and a HEMTT-like wrecking vehicle owned by the Nordic brigade.

"The HEMTT wrecker is used to provide lifting capabilities for maintenance operations and recovery capabilities for wheeled vehicle recovery," said

Chief Warrant Officer Daniel F. Greenwalt, director

support maintenance technician with Company B, 501st FSB, who organized the training. The M88 has the same capabilities as the HEMTT wrecker but can recover tracked vehicles.

With so many convoys on the road each day in Bosnia, there are bound to be breakdowns, accidents and vehicles getting stuck in the mud.

The Army has recovery vehicles designed to deal with these incidents, and the more soldiers who are trained to use them, the better. And, because of the size and power of these recovery vehicles, soldiers need to be able to use the equipment properly and safely, said 501st FSB commander

Lt. Col. Tony W. Young.

"It is follow-up training for some, and some of the soldiers may be learning about the vehicles for the first time, but most are mechanics or operators just getting additional training," Young said.

While the training was not meant to make each soldier a licensed operator, it was intended to familiarize the soldiers enough to be able to assist in their use. Soldiers were given an overall introduction to the mechanics, maintenance and abilities of the vehicles and a chance for hands-on learning.

Wheeled vehicle mechanic Spc. Harry F. Ward, 23, from Belfast, Maine, introduced the soldiers to M88 operation and maintenance. In Bosnia, Ward has recovered a 5-ton truck, a HEMTT, and five ACES (M9) vehicles with the M88.

Soldiers ducked into the cramped crew compartment for a look at the operating controls of the M88. They also had a chance to take a supervised drive.

During one test drive, a

pivot turn in loose dirt resulted in a thrown track. It was a lesson in the importance of proper track tension, and soldiers got an impromptu class in the use of chock blocks for putting a track back on.

The inconvenient and time-consuming process confirmed the NORDPOL Brigade recovery platoon commander, 1st Lt. Rune Fuglem's preference for wheeled/recovery vehicles.

U.S. Army soldiers were impressed with the Nordic brigade's recovery vehicle.

They thought it was slick and clean looking. Fuglem opened up a side storage compartment and brought out a hot pink fiber-filled lifting strap.

This two-to-three pound strap performed the job of the U.S. Army's 30 to 40 pound chains. "Don't look," said 2nd Lt. Brenda V. Adams, 33, from Boulder, Colo., as she feigned theft of the strap.

The air-conditioning was a plus too, especially on this hot day. Tracked vehicle mechanic Staff Sgt. Denise V. Thompson, 37, from Seneca, S.C., climbed into the cab and got a dose of it.

"It's pretty awesome," said Thompson. "It has great access for working on, and you don't have to get into the cab to operate it. Basically, it takes one person to operate, where ours takes two people."

When Fuglem finished his introduction to the Norwegian vehicle, he asked if there were any questions. "Yeah, can we trade you for one of our HEMTTs?" asked 1st Sgt. James D. Stone, Company B.



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Curious American soldiers admire a Norwegian recovery vehicle during a recent training event at Hampton Base, in northern Bosnia.

Germany news

Two Baumholder dining facilities scheduled for renovation

By IGNACIO RUBALCAVA
222nd BSB

If an Army marches on its stomach then Baumholder will have a well-fed marching force once the renovation of the two dining facilities is complete. Baumholder's Directorate of Engineering and Housing is busy drawing up design plans for the complete renovation of buildings 8544 and 8311 — two dining facilities currently closed.

"We are into the middle stages of design," said Charlie Hubner, assistant director. He explained that once the soldiers return from their peacekeeping mission, they will have three dining facilities. Once

the renovation is complete, those dining facilities will go into operation immediately and only two of the three currently serving the soldiers will remain open for a while.

Eventually, Baumholder will have two fully renovated dining facilities in service and one as a backup.

The project is part of an overall Facilities Improvement Program, or FIP, which will provide for minor and major repairs of facilities at Baumholder and throughout the 53rd Area Support Group.

Renovation of these dining facilities is just the tip of the FIP iceberg.

Baumholder has received FIP funding for approximately 33 additional projects.

Some have been completed, others are in progress, and some are still on the drawing board.

Other key FIP projects include renovation of the youth center and Iron Club and major repairs to Smith and Strassburg Child Development Centers.

The intent of FIP is to improve the overall quality of life for soldiers and family members.

DEH officials report the Army has allocated \$2.8 million for the renovation of each dining facility, bringing the total cost of the project to around \$5.6 million.

Construction is expected to begin in October, according to DEH officials.

Calling for fire: Poland, U.S. team up

By JO1 Scott A. Fleming
ARRC Public Affairs Office

Whether the call is "Drop five-zero or fire for effect," the meaning is invariably the same: Launch a precision artillery attack with enough explosive impact to demolish the contact down range. In the Bosnian theater of operations IFOR troops have not needed to punctuate any orders with the decisive exclamation point that accompanies a *fire for effect*.

Despite the dearth of artillery missions, the calls for fire support keep occupying the radio airwaves in the Teslic area, where the 16th Polish Airborne Battalion (POLBAT) is receiving a course in the exact NATO science of putting steel on target.

Actually, the education for this elite Polish paratrooper unit from Krakow is far more extensive than a few lessons on ordering artillery rounds. It is an abbreviated, intense, advanced-degree program in all aspects of the call for fire curriculum, which includes airborne medical evacuation, close air support, and helicopter operations.

The on-site teaching staff for their tutorial is a U.S. Combat Observing Liaison Team and members of Detachment 1, U.S. 28th Field Artillery. These 14 American troops have taken on the job of teaching the Polish Battalion NATO call for fire standards and procedures.

Under the command of Polish Lt. Col. Marek Zerdecki, the 16th moved into theater in January, taking the conventional overland approach to Bosnia instead of making their trademark, high-altitude entrance.

The battalion conducts standard military operations such as manning checkpoints and running patrols in their large area of operations; territory that includes both mountain and urban settings. With each of the former warring factions present

"It's definitely a challenge to train with the Poles. It makes us learn the subject thoroughly and improves our communication."

*Capt. Lawrence M. Grega
battalion fire support officer
16th Polish Airborne Battalion*

in their domain, POLBAT remains keenly vigilant. The 16th divides its 625 personnel among camps at Zepce, Jelah, and Banja Vrucica. Each of the three sites has, on location, U.S. Army fire support representation tasked with providing artillery defense, fire planning, and liaison with the U.S. 4th Aviation Brigade: Training the Polish soldiers is technically a second role.

"In each company there is one team from the U.S. fire support element," said Polish Army Capt. Pawlik Dariusz, operations officer for the Polish Battalion.

"They are adjoined to our companies. Everyday, each one of our companies sends out at least one patrol in their area of responsibility.

The leader from the fire support element joins together with the our patrol leader to support us in keeping communication, indicating if we need help from the helicopters, or getting other support from the American contingent."

Ten of the U.S. Army call for fire experts assigned to POLBAT belong to the

Pennsylvania National Guard's 109th Field Artillery located in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Several U.S. Army National Guard units from that state have prior experience training former Eastern Bloc nations for interoperable environments. According to Capt. Lawrence M. Grega, battalion fire support officer for the 16th Polish Airborne, and a member of the 109th Field Artillery, Guard members have unique insight into the training process.

"Business acumen comes first in training," Grega said. "A lot of people in the Guard have civilian experience and professional careers that are invaluable to achieving success in this type of situation.

Where active duty Army soldiers are accustomed to getting things done immediately, the exact way they want them, the Guard is very good at negotiating because a lot of us have to do it when we're performing our regular job.

Negotiating skills help with this training because you need patience and an understanding of where the other guy's coming from.

"We (the Guard) also tend to be open-minded about things, and that helps. It's definitely a challenge to train with the Poles. It makes us learn the subject thoroughly and improves our communication."

For the most part, these Polish soldiers have learned about NATO call for fire protocol the same way junior American troops learn when they enter the service – with planned lesson phases, gradual exposure to equipment, and on the job training.

The only real difference has been the pace, understandably slower because of a language barrier.

Instructional artillery cards are printed in both English and Polish to ease the process.

Nearly six months of side-by-side living and working conditions has, in addition to bridging language gaps, inspired a cross-cultural exchange among the two nationalities.



Turkish and Polish soldiers patrol countryside

Turkish and Polish soldiers move throughout the city of Zepce, located in the southwest corner of the U.S. Multinational Division sector, during a combined patrol. More than 50 soldiers took part in the patrol July 11.

Just for kicks

Soccer tourney provides international co

By Spc. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

The Eagle Base soccer team attended a tournament at Dobo in the Nordic-Polish Brigade sector Sunday.

By the time darkness interrupted play, the Danish team "Bathing Animals" captured the overall tournament victory with the Eagle Base team making an impressive showing.

Led by Engelbert F. Indo's three goals the Eagle Base team was never out of contention throughout the tournament.

According to Morale Welfare and Recreation specialist Kitty Brown, the tournament was the first of future soccer tournaments planned to involve many more teams throughout the U.S. Multinational Division sector.

"Soccer for these guys is a great morale booster," said Brown. "They get to relieve the stress and the tension associated with being here."

Not all of the Eagle Base players are American.

In this particular tournament, Martin J. Bagshaw of the United Kingdom and Benjamin Roed of Denmark were part of the Eagle Base squad.

Eagle Base coach Carol Thompson said, "Our guys are good, but with European players, they get to see a style of soccer they might not have seen.

This in turn makes them better soccer players

Eric B. Munoz of the Eagle Base team agreed. "They beat us pretty good

the last time we saw them. But once we saw how they play and their weaknesses, we took advantage of them."

Fellow teammate Sergio A. Diaz added, "I have no doubt that if we play our game, we can beat anybody."

Most importantly however, is the morale benefit that soccer has given the players.

Thompson said, "Not everyone is a basketball or softball player.

So it affords them something different.

These guys know what they're doing, and it's a pleasure being their coach."

Eagle Base goaltender Kristopher R. Fleury ex-

pressed his enthusiasm to about his team.

"This is the one thing I look forward to more than anything else.

"It's great playing different people and having something to take my mind off the pressure of being here."

Brown insisted that the tournaments will continue.

"There are possibilities down the road. And we will get these soldiers out. And we can boost their morale." Brown said considerations are being made regarding a grass field.

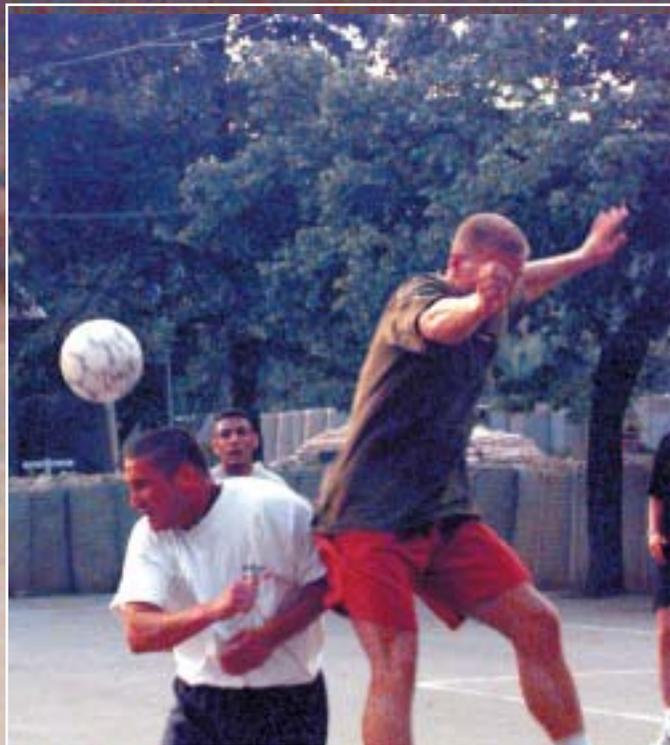
The field across from the dining facility may be renovated after the B.B. King concert to accommodate soccer as well as other activities.

The hosts of the tournament, the Danes, were equally excited about the possibility of future



Spc. Len Butler

Englebert F. Indo (foreground) takes a pass from Eric B. Monoz and attempts to score.



Spc. Len Butler

Benjamin Roed fights for control of the ball against a Dane defender as Francisco J. Madrigal looks on.



Dane goal block a pe

Competition

urnaments.
 Tournament organizer
 emming Ramoe said
 at even though he will
 rotating back to Den-
 ar, his replacement will
 made aware of further
 urnaments in the
 eeks and months ahead.
 In Sunday's tourna-
 ment, the teams were re-
 duced to five-man instead
 11 to accomodate the
 ortened asphalt playing
 eld.

Team Eagle Base split
 to Eagle 1 and Eagle 2.
 The Danes fielded three
 teams: Bathing Animals,
 TACP (Tactical Air Control
 Platoon), and KCT (Danish Sig-
 nal Platoon).

Each team played four
 games. The time limit was
 10 minutes, with a sudden
 death of two minutes in
 the event of a tie.

If sudden death re-
 mained a tie, the game
 went to penalty kicks.

Final standings

	Won	Loss
Bathing Animals	3	1
Eagle 2	2	2
TACP	2	2
KCT	2	2
Eagle 1	1	3

Leading scores'

Scoring three goals:

- Emil Gottlieb (KCT)
- Engelbert Ingo (E2)
- Kennet Lacour (KCT)
- Michael Stoksbjerg (BA)
- Jan Trampedach (BA)

Scoring two goals:

- Sergio Dias (E1/2)
- Kristopher Fleury (E2)
- Ole Hansen (BA)

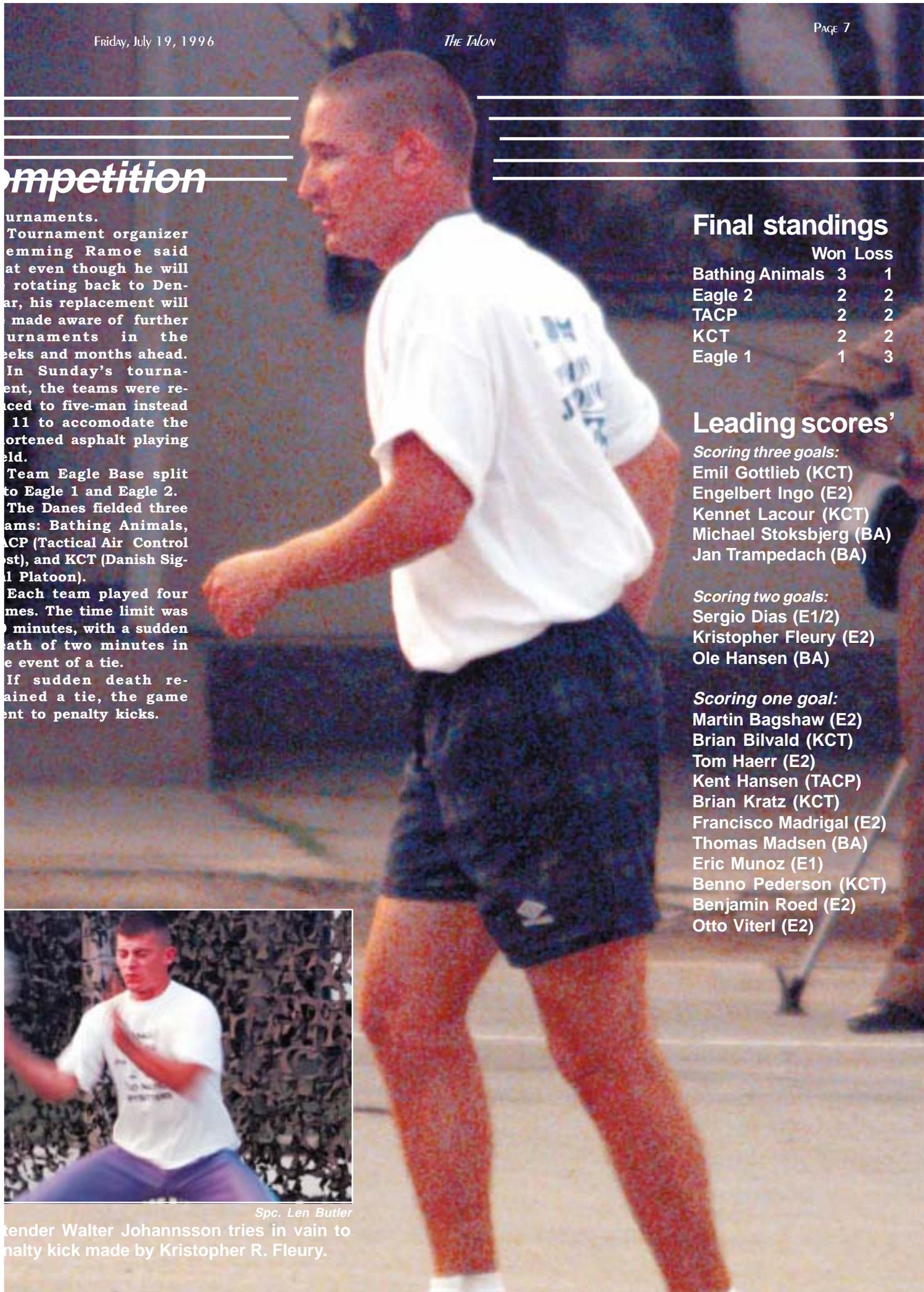
Scoring one goal:

- Martin Bagshaw (E2)
- Brian Bilvald (KCT)
- Tom Haerr (E2)
- Kent Hansen (TACP)
- Brian Kratz (KCT)
- Francisco Madrigal (E2)
- Thomas Madsen (BA)
- Eric Munoz (E1)
- Benno Pederson (KCT)
- Benjamin Roed (E2)
- Otto Viterl (E2)



Spc. Len Butler

Defender Walter Johannsson tries in vain to block a penalty kick made by Kristopher R. Fleury.



Key to staying healthy: Medical readiness

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS and
Spc. ROB BISHOP
350th MPAD and 29th MPAD

They are the Army's "Or-kin men" and their goal is to protect the soldiers — not with rifles or tanks, but with rat traps, heat index calculators and water testing kits. Members of the 255th Medical Detachment based at Camp Rumbaugh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, teach soldiers how to stay healthy while serving during Operation Joint Endeavor.

Sixty-four soldiers from Task Force Eagle were given the opportunity recently to undergo field sanitation team training offered by the 255th at Comanche Base. Unit member Cpl. Kerry Turner manned the rodent control station.

"It's important for all field members to be knowledgeable about rodents because of the diseases they carry," Turner said. "Tuzla West had a confirmed case of hanta virus, which can be lethal. Infected rodent feces, urine, or hair gets in the dust; soldiers kick up the dust, inhale it, and contract the disease. We want to eliminate any more possibility of that happening."

While the medic displayed various rat traps and cages to his group of students, other members of the 255th taught others how to use pesticides, test water, treat clothing for insects, and clean and sanitize a water trailer.

At his station, Capt. William Bettin dem-

onstrated how to assemble and operate a heat index device.

By knowing the heat category, unit lead-



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Capt. William Bettin teaches Spc. Martha Zuniga, HHC, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, how to assemble and operate a heat index device during Field Sanitation Team certification training at Comanche Base.

ers can determine what level of work or training their soldiers can accomplish safely, he said.

"Preventive medicine is important at all levels of command and that's indicated by the big turnout we had here," Bettin said.

"Everyone is aware and we're very interested in keeping the soldiers as healthy as possible.

Once the participants complete the training they are certified to serve as members of field sanitation teams. One of their responsibilities will be making sure their units have sanitary water to drink by being able to disinfect large quantities.

"The thing I learned that surprised me the most was that anything with a water source can be purified," said Pfc. Alicia Mercer of HHC, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation.

The soldiers, as field sanitation team members, will also make sure their units have safe food to eat by helping food service personnel prevent and eliminate food service deficiencies.

They will also be making sure there are proper places for garbage and latrines.

Other soldiers will benefit from the team members' knowledge by learning about personal hygiene and proper washing.

Their duties will include using pesticides and conducting inspections of living and work areas to make sure there is nothing for rodents to eat and nowhere for them to live.



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Cpl. Kerry Turner of Gaylord, Mich. shows his arsenal of rat traps to a group of soldiers during field sanitation teams certification training at Comanche Base. Turner is a member of the 255th Medical Detachment based at Camp Rumbaugh.

Good personal hygiene keeps troops healthy

By Capt. TIMOTHY ASHLEY
Public Health Officer

Historically, 50 to 80 percent of hospital admissions during military operations were due to diseases caused by things other than battle.

In the past, battles and wars have been lost because of trench foot, diarrhea and plague.

Because these disease conditions are caused by generally poor sanitation and hygiene, they usually affect a large number of people.

The good news is that these conditions can be prevented.

The most common maladies being seen at Eagle Base Tuzla are respiratory conditions such as colds and flu.

Ways to prevent becoming a victim include:

- Staying dry by changing boots, T-shirts and socks often.
- Sleeping in the opposite direction of the person next to you (i.e. sleeping head-to-toe).
- Allow for adequate ventilation when using MRE heaters and personal stoves. This will also prevent build-up of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

The second-most common maladies seen during military operations are diarrhea and vomiting.

These are usually caused by poor food and water sanitation. Ways to prevent these are:

- Drink and eat only from sources approved by Army or Air Force preventive medicine personnel.

T-rations and MREs may not be the best cuisine, but they may save you from lying in the clinic with an intravenous needle in your arm.

- Wash your hands before eating and after using the latrine. The MREs come with a handi-wipe. Use it.

Eagle Base is becoming very crowded. With

crowd-
ing,
comes
trash.

With trash,
come rodents.

With rodents, come diseases such as hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome and plague.

Over a year ago at Eagle Base, 140 U.N. military personnel came down with HFRS, a serious disease causing bleeding and kidney failure.

Currently, preventive medicine personnel are assessing and prioritizing problem areas.

There is a limited supply of mouse traps and poisons, so these can't be our only solutions.

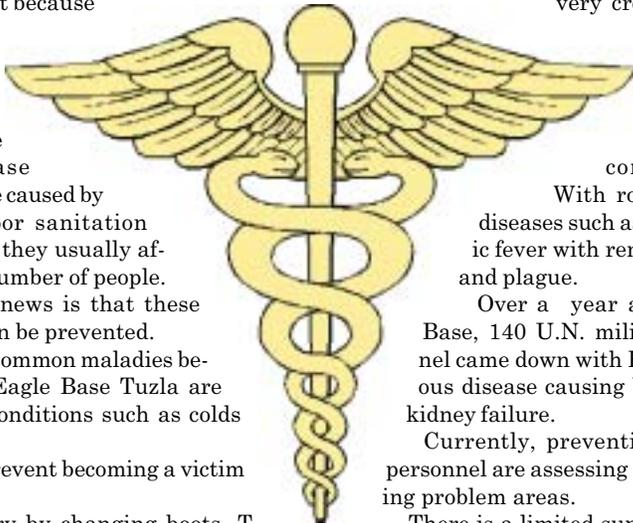
There are ways to prevent these diseases are: Keep your living areas, latrine areas and eating areas clean and free of food and trash. Form cleaning details if needed.

If you do trap a rodent, avoid touching it by using gloves and a shovel.

Dispose of it by putting it in a bag, sealing it and throwing it in the dumpster.

Your health is your own responsibility. There are medical personnel available to care for you if you do get sick.

The better answer though is to prevent illness by following preventive medicine guidelines. The field is not a comfortable place to be sick.



Heat exhaustion, stroke preventable

With temperatures on the rise, Task Force Eagle soldiers should take steps to prevent heat injuries.

Drink at least two quarts of water an hour when temperatures break 90 degrees.

This advisory pertains especially to soldiers working in armored tactical vehicles and on hot surfaces such as airfields and motor pools.

Soldiers should also know the three levels of

heat-injury. They are: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

The symptoms of heat cramps are cramps accompanied by excessive sweating.

Treatment is to move the soldier into a shaded area, loosen clothes and slowly drink water.

Heat exhaustion is more serious.

Besides cramps, sweating is more profuse and leaves cool, moist skin.

Victims suffer headaches, nausea, chills and a loss of appetite.

Heat stroke victims usually have hot, dry skin.

They have stopped sweating and have other symptoms.

In severe cases, victims have seizures, lose consciousness and experience breathing problems.

For heat exhaustion and heat stroke cases, seek medical attention immediately.

Stray pets threaten troops health, safety

By Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO
29th MPAD

They're cute, cuddly and sometimes follow troops to the dining facility with big puppy-dog eyes.

But no matter how much they meow or howl, Task Force Eagle troops are reminded that dogs — or any other animals — are not allowed.

1st Armored Division policy states that servicemembers may not have pets or mascots.

All around the theater, dozens of stray cats and dogs that are searching for scraps of food.

"Because of the public health hazard, having a pet could be detrimental to yourself and others," said Lt. Col. William S. Besser, division surgeon.

"There are three main problems with pets," he said.

"First, they are not immunized.

"So if someone gets bit by a stray dog, they have to go through a rabies treatment series.

"Second, they carry fleas and ticks that transmit disease.

"Third, they nestle all over the place and so their feces might contain worms."

Lt. Col. Dale Williamson, 30th Medical Brigade staff veterinarian, said "If you see a stray animal, don't feed it.

"Don't pet it so it won't follow you."

Currently, there is no Humane Society-type organization that takes in stray animals.

"The best thing to do if someone has been feeding an animal is give it away to a local Bosnian," said Spc. Dawn Walz, a veterinarian specialist.

"Unfortunately, there are a lot of us out there with soft hearts."

Remember, no matter how loveable stray pets look, it's better to leave them alone.

■ *Eagle Scout project:* Operation SUPPORT THE PEACE

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — What does Task Force Eagle, Eagle Base Tuzla and an Eagle Scout have in common? Each of them support the peace in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A project known as "Operation SUPPORT THE PEACE" was designed by Jeremy C. Mancke a 16-year-old Parkland High School student from Orefield, Pa. "As a Boy Scout working toward my Eagle, I have elected to create this project of sending 250 care packages to random American soldiers stationed in the Balkans," he said.

Capt. William A. Bartoul, a chaplain from the 4100th Group (Provisional/Chapel), is the coordinator at the Task Force Eagle end of the project. "It's overwhelming to see a young man invest his time and put together a project with a value of several thousand dollars. We are extremely appreciative and plan on drafting a letter endorsed by Maj. Gen. William L. Nash and sending it to the Eagle Scout."

Each box contains Mancke's cover letter and a thank you card from the school-age child who assembled the package. The care packages consist of such items as: disposable cameras, word puzzle books, cards, magazines, personal hygiene products, coffee and a wide variety of snacks.

"Often Tuzla Main receives all of the goodies and the soldiers at the other camps miss out; therefore, Mancke requests that the packages be distributed throughout the Bosnia area," said Master Sgt. Gregory C. Deeter, Air Force chaplain support person from the 4100th Group (Provisional/Chapel).

"On the 25th, all of the chaplains in the Bosnia area are meeting here and will be

given boxes to distribute to the soldiers at their base camps," said Deeter.

The care packages are available at the chapel daily for pick up. Deeter requests that soldiers receiving the packages take the time to send a thank you letter.

According to Maj. James A. Martinez, Air Force Protestant pastor of the 4100th Group (Provisional/Chapel), Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable for a Boy Scout. The Scout is responsible for doing a large number of personal advancement skills and in addition he has to complete a service project in which he designs, plans, implements and manages. If he completes the job successfully he then completes the responsibilities for that rank.

"I think it is a very impressive project for a young man of his age. Often the chaplain becomes the focal point for letter writing and gift donations during the holidays, but rarely do we have something like this just drop out of the sky where one youngster back in the states organizes something of this magnitude," Martinez said.

"Even though it has been over 180 days into the deployment, we are still receiving

the outpouring of goodwill from back home. It is a real tribute to the troops over here to know that the people in the states are still thinking about them and the ongoing mission over here," Deeter said.

In the letter enclosed in each box, Mancke wrote, "It was through the efforts of local and national corporations, my family, friends and neighbors that you received this package. These packages are a token of our appreciation for your dedicated efforts."



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Master Sgt. Gregory C. Deeter, chaplain support person from the 4100th Group distributes a care package from a Boy Scout who heads Operation SUPPORT THE PEACE to Pfc. Edwin Caban of the 5th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery.



Spc. Teresa H. Hawkins

Queen of Jordan visits Eagle Base, Tuzla

Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan is greeted by Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley, task force sergeant major, (foreground) as Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, task force commander, (second from right) looks on.

Queen Noor flew into the airfield at Eagle Base, Tuzla, on her way to join several thousand Bosnian women who were gathered at the Tuzla Sports Center to commemorate the one year anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica.

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Civil affairs officer opens lines of communication between republics

By Spc.

CHERYL A. KRANING
100TH MPAD

Capt. Joseph A. D'Addario is definitely a "can-do" kind of guy.

When he arrived in Bosnia last December, he began taking hilltops for Task Force Eagle.

Lacking an interpreter, he picked up his trusty Serbo-Croatian language book and hit the road for two months.

"Once I located a hilltop, I worked with the engineers to get the mine fields cleared and lay the roads," said D'Addario, the civil affairs officer for the 22nd Signal Brigade.

"In addition, I found out who owned the land and then conducted negotiations with the mayor's office and the owners and contractors so that lease agreements could be made for the use of the land."

But perhaps D'Addario's

most difficult mission was the one he was handed back in March, when he was tasked with arranging for the reconnection of the Post Telephone and Telegraph system across the interentity boundaryline.

He started by making assessments of the major switch locations between the three former republics of Yugoslavia.

According to D'Addario, the technical problems were surmountable.

"The problem was, political-ly the people in charge didn't want to do it ... to them it is a question of freedom of movement," D'Addario said.

"What it boiled down to is this: PTT is an electronic highway, a highway which they cannot put a check point on. That's the level of resistance we were up against."

In early April the decision was made to attempt negotiations.

D'Addario supervised and attended the negotiations with PTT officials in Pale, Sarajevo and Mostar.

Agreements were made to tie the major hubs of Tuzla and Orasje — a critical step toward tying in the Republic of Srpska.

Orasje is also connected by fiber optic cable to Zupanja which connects to the major international links of the region.

D'Addario orchestrated the financing for the project.

"I couldn't be happier with the outcome; this will dramatically increase the international connections for Bosnia," he said.

D'Addario said that in an Army career spanning 12 years as an enlisted combat engineer, drill sergeant and then infantry officer, he's ignored the words "this isn't possible."



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Capt. Joseph A. D'Addario seals negotiations with Kasaklic Asmil, Bosnian chief executive of transmitting systems.

Colt's 3-5 Cavalry rides the dusty range

By Staff Sgt.

BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

Camp Colt's dusty roads come alive as Bradley Fighting Vehicles and armored personnel carriers move out on their next mission.

The mechanized infantrymen of 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, can be found routinely performing maintenance checks on their vehicles one moment and perhaps rolling down the backroads of northern Bosnia-Herze-



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Spc. Patrick L. Murphy

govina the very next.

Spc. Patrick L. Murphy, 22, of Lexington Park, Md., explained

that as a mechanized infantryman with Company C, he keeps busy with the various roles he per-

forms.

"We pull security during mine clearing missions and bunker destructions," he said. "It's not as bad here as I thought, but I miss my wife, Nicole, back in Germany."

Although the soldiers have trained for war, their skills are now extremely important during this peace mission.

They keep a watchful eye over the former warring factions' stored military equipment.

As a condition of the

Dayton Peace Accord, the three factions must keep their arsenals in NATO approved containment areas.

The soldiers perform what they call "validations," which means conducting 100 percent inventories at these locations to ensure that no heavy equipment or supplies are moved about.

Murphy says that he often goes out for validations two to three times a week, equipped with a fist full of pens and paper.

Bandits say farewell to fallen comrade

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

CAMP COLT — More than 200 soldiers gathered Friday, to remember and say good-bye to one of their own.

Camp Colt, home of the Bandits of the 4th Battalion, 67th Armor, hosted a memorial service for Staff Sgt. Edwin L. Valenzuela, who died July 8 of an apparent heart attack.

Valenzuela, 37, was a tank commander in 1st Platoon, Company D and had been with the company since February 1995.

The service, attended by his division and

brigade commanders and command sergeants major, as well as scores of rank-and-file soldiers, centered on the theme of his selflessness. Speakers, ranging from his tank gunner, Sgt. Howard W. Baker, to his battalion commander, Lt. Col. Walter N. Anderson, related their personal impressions of Valenzuela.

Described as a man who “set the standard,” who could “make the most of bad situations” and who could “smile and take a positive outlook on life,” Valenzuela left a deep impression on all those whose path he crossed. A master fitness trainer, his unit

Equal Opportunity representative and a noncommissioned officer who took on whatever challenge was presented him, he embodied all the characteristics of a model soldier.

“How many soldiers are better men because they served with Sergeant Valenzuela?” asked the battalion chaplain, Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph J. Deponai during a brief reflection. He also related the comment of a soldier he talked to Monday evening, “I lost a brother and a friend,” the soldier said.

The bright sun filtered through the plastic sheeting of the roof at the converted motor pool that serves as the morale, welfare and recreation area for the battalion and hosted the service. It is now named Staff Sgt. Valenzuela Hall and will remain as such after the battalion redeploy.

In addition, Anderson announced the creation of an award, named after Valenzuela, that will be given semiannually to the NCO who best typifies those same ideals the sergeant personified.

The wide hall was silent except for the whirring of fans and the voices of the Camp Colt Gospel Choir during its rendition of “Amazing Grace.”

The service concluded with a roll call by Delta Company’s 1st Sgt. Joseph E. Vargo, a rifle salute and the playing of “Taps” by the 1st Armored Division Band.

Then, one by one, soldiers filed by the crossed flags, boots, helmet and M-16 that stood at the front of the hall. Some paused to say a silent good-bye, some left flowers and all stopped to salute their friend.



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

1st Sgt. Joseph E. Vargo, D Company, 4th Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, 1st Armor Brigade, reads the roll call during a memorial service for Staff Sgt. Edwin L. Valenzuela, Friday at Camp Colt.

Russian paratroopers receive NATO medals

By Spc. DANIEL PASCHALL
100th MPAD

It was a clear sunny day making everything just right. They stood proud on the tarmac as a blizzard of soldiers and cameras engulfed them. The sun created a spotlight in the crowd for the first-ever Russian paratroopers to receive the NATO medal.

July 13, Maj. Gen. William L. Nash made a trip to the Tuzla Air Field to pin NATO medals on a select 10 of the 674 departing troops receiving NATO medals in the first scheduled Russian rotation. A mix of officer and enlisted personnel recommended by the brigade were chosen to stand and represent all the Russian soldiers departing.

The first rotation lasted approximately six months and the soldiers rotating in will be taking over the same duties as those leaving, said Marine Capt. Matt J. Ans, from Wilmington, Del, U.S. liaison officer to the Russian support brigade.

“Now the Russians are focusing on bringing troops up to speed to build on the achievements of the last six months,” Ans said.



Spc. Daniel Paschall

Departing Russian paratroopers receive NATO medal from Maj. Gen. William L. Nash. Task Force Eagle commander.