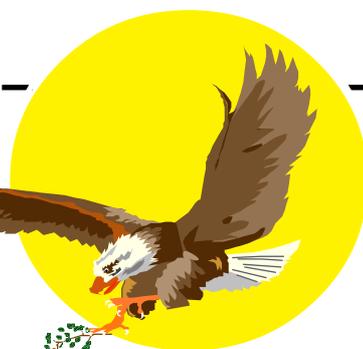


THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Sgt. Andrew Aquino

Spc. John P. Ring, of the 630th Military Police Company stands at the ready with his M-60 machine gun at a checkpoint.

■ EAGLE BASE HIT

Lightning storms into Tuzla Valley

By Senior Airman Phillip Ulmer
4100th Group Provisional Public Affairs

EAGLE BASE — One of the worst storms of the year rolled over the mountains and poured into the Tuzla valley recently hammering Eagle Base with lightning.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Giuliano, 4100th Group Provisional fire chief, watched lightning hit the ground all around as he drove his truck by an observation post.

"I was about 15 feet from the observation post, when it struck," Giuliano said. "Then I heard two people screaming from inside the tower."

Lightning had struck the leg of the observation post charging the entire tower. Two soldiers were inside.

"I was on the radio with someone from another observation post," said Cpl. Joseph Jurcsak, from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry. "They were telling me not to use the radio, unless I absolutely needed to, because of the lightning. I was getting ready to say 'Roger out' when ... POW!"

"It blew us both backwards into the air, seven or eight feet," said Pfc. Robert Schumacher, of Headquarters Allied Mobile Forces Land, attached to Company C.

"It was the loudest thing I'd ever heard, and the next thing I know, I'm lying on my back screaming," said Schu-

See **LIGHTNING**, page 12

Checkpoint enforces peace

By Spc. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

CHECKPOINT 55 — At a place where three roads come together in the zone of separation between the former warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor, stand guard 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"In some ways, it's better to be out here because you're on your own," said company commander Capt. Timothy D. Showers, from Jerome, Idaho.

There's not much time to relax though. Checkpoint 55 is on one of the main supply routes through the ZOS.

Soldiers pull 12-hour shifts guarding the

roads. Most of the time the only activity they see is the coming and going of logging trucks. Occasionally a car passes by.

But the soldiers from Co. C treat each vehicle with the same amount of caution, conducting a search and running a metal detector over every driver.

"It's what we get paid for," said Sgt. Jennings D. Lambert, from Harrisburg, Va.

With tanks scattered around the perimeter, the checkpoint has an intimidating look, but facilities at the post are sparse. Soldiers convoy to Camp Linda for showers and PX runs every couple of days.

Not much has happened at Checkpoint 55 over the past seven months and that's just fine with the soldiers.

Positive action avoids negative results

By Mr. Ed Hoffman, TFE Safety Manager

The safest place to be in a lightning storm is in a building. If shelter is not available, keep these safety tips in mind:

- Ground all metal equipment and move a safe distance away
 - Minimize radio communications
 - Stay away from tall isolated objects like trees, flagpoles or posts
 - Avoid open areas where you are the tallest object
 - Do not use showers or sinks
 - Avoid the use of equipment connected to building electrical systems
- Use common sense and remember lightning strikes can KILL!

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From the top

Prevent terrorist attacks with vigilance

This week I would like to focus on a concern that should be preeminent in the minds of most soldiers — the possibility of a terrorist attack.

As the bombing at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia earlier this summer shows, U.S. servicemembers, no matter where they are deployed, are always a potential target for terrorists who seek to harm the U.S. government.

However, even though terrorism seems at times a random and destructive act, soldiers should remember that it can be prevented.

Terrorists are not supermen and they can be stopped. One of the keys to doing this is understanding their background.

Terrorist groups are structured organizations. Before they pick a potential target, everything is planned and thought out.



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

A keen understanding of this process goes a long way toward thwarting terrorism's awful effects.

Sergeants should make sure their troops are on the lookout for potential danger signs.

First, be aware of your surroundings. Look and be alert.

By constantly acting in a professional manner and being obviously security conscious, you are sending a message to terrorists that you are a hard target and a force to be reckoned with.

Take note of individuals "hanging around" for no apparent reason, vehicles that cruise by slowly and repeatedly, individuals filming or sketching your area and individuals who seem to be taking notes about the area.

If you see any of these activities:

- Take note of vehicle descriptions, license plates, and the individuals themselves.

- Immediately contact your unit S-2 or local Force Protection Team.

Another method that can be used to dis-

suade terrorism is to change your "look" or routine frequently.

Terrorists rely on consistency from their targets. If you consistently vary your procedures, terrorists, not wanting to deviate from their well-devised plans, will usually abort a potential attack.

Finally, if you think a terrorist attack might be imminent, whether it be through a suspicious or abandoned vehicle or strange packages that have been left unattended, notify the MPs immediately. If you feel the situation warrants, start evacuating the area.

If you find yourself in a rapidly developing situation such as an ambush, remember your training and get out of the kill zone as soon as possible.

The threat of terrorism is an all too unfortunate reality for troops deployed in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

However, by staying vigilant and being cautious, we can prevent that threat from becoming a reality.

Remember, on this important issue, Task Force Eagle troops take care of each other.

Chaplain's corner

Changing the world, one person at a time

I would like to share a true story with you. It reminds me of how I wish this world would be if we just worked a little harder in how we treat each other. See for yourself.

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash.

At the gun they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight



**Chap. (Maj.)
Ray Bailey**

heard the boy cry. They slowed down and paused. Then they all turned around and went

back. Every one of them.

One girl with Downs syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for 10 minutes.

I think I know how that crowd felt. The race they thought they came to see took second next the real race that was won.

I'm sure that crowd felt exhilaration in seeing such a wonderful act of kindness and care.

The race won was the human spirit of true greatness dominating the field of selfishness and cruelty.

For a brief moment, people forgot about the past week of fighting and scratching for a living and facing another week of stress.

They were the victors walking with those children toward the finish line. I'm sure when they left that stadium and head-

ed home, there were smiles and hope on every face.

Maybe we can't change the whole world by ourselves. But we can change part of it. The part I'm talking about is us.

How we treat our friends, team members and our family can be the beginning of our part of bringing peace into this world.

We see the children along the road in our travels in this country. We smile and wave at them.

They see us as their hope for peace. Let's give hope to each other.

Let's not leave anyone behind in our race.

THE TALON

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Task Force Eagle responds to heightened terrorist threats

EAGLE BASE – Task Force Eagle bases are increasing force protection levels in a continuing effort to take all appropriate actions to protect U.S. troops deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

People working in and around Task Force Eagle bases may notice some physical changes, such as heightened security at gates and enhanced lighting in some locations.

Additionally, some camps may adjust standoff distances for their perimeters to increase safety for soldiers living and working there.

These measures are unrelated to Saturday's standoff with Bosnian Serbs

and were in effect before that incident occurred.

U.S. forces were already on high alert because of evidence of planned attacks on American facilities.

"We have seen people attempting to survey camps," said Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon.

In light of current world events and the increased risk of terrorist attacks against Americans at home and abroad, Task Force Eagle leadership directed commanders in the task force area of operations to increase force protection levels.

Commanders continually assess the environment in which their soldiers operate and tailor the force protection level as they deem necessary. Professional soldiers know there is a need for force protection.

Operational security is essential to a successful force protection plan. The task force policy is not to discuss the specifics of force protection measures with reporters, local national employees or anyone outside the chain of command. Additionally, soldiers should be especially aware of civilians posing as journalists.

Journalists are not allowed on base camps without a military escort. Any civilian photographing or filming installations or personnel should be asked for their credentials. Soldiers encountering civilians posing as media should report the incident to the chain of command.

Task Force Eagle intelligence and operations officers say maintaining a high level of force protection sends a very clear signal to anyone considering an attack. Being consistently professional lowers the probability of attack.

See related story, Page 10



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Troops await the all-clear signal from a bunker during an operational preparedness exercise.

NEWS BRIEFS

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 Mail: Staff Sgt. Patrick Summers
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Are you an artist?

We are looking for an artist. Your work will be published in *The Talon* and seen by thousands on the World-Wide Web. Contact Capt. Terry Conder, MSE 551-5130 or Staff Sgt. Patrick Summers.

Viewpoints welcomed

The Talon welcomes viewpoints from the field. All submissions are subject to editing and review.

Anti-terrorist intelligence concept being developed

A new concept for combining tactical and strategic intelligence should make US forces safer from terrorist attack.

The "fusion cell," developed here, provides intelligence to forces most threatened in a timely way by pulling together information from Washington and in the theater. "This allows us to quickly fuse together the global picture with the regional picture to help us see patterns," Defense Secretary William Perry said.



Terrorism Awareness for Troops

The United States and its citizens are at risk world-wide from terrorist attacks. As American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, we are at even more risk because we represent the United States government.

Terrorist attacks are deadly, and, although they appear senseless to the American mind, well-planned. The truck bomb at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut are constant reminders of the viciousness of terrorist attacks.

Terrorists are not supermen. You can make the difference between success and failure of a terrorist attack by being aware of your surroundings and knowing your enemy.

Be Alert for...

- Individuals taking notes, sketching or photographing your facilities.
- Vehicles cruising by your area slowly or repeatedly.
- Unattended or abandoned vehicles near your facilities.
- Unattended or abandoned packages, crates, or bags.
- Convoy route "danger areas"

- such as chokepoints, bridges, areas where turnarounds are limited. Remember, if you would consider it a good ambush site so would a terrorist.
- Unscheduled deliveries.
- Identification cards that aren't quite right.



Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	85/58	Moderate
Sat	71/55	High
Sun	75/58	Moderate
Mon	82/56	Low
Tue	82/58	High
Wed	78/59	High
Thur	85/61	Moderate

Prepared Aug. 14 by the 617th Weather Squadron



Capt. Terry L. Conder

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Phillips greets guests arriving on board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Landing Zone Ugly, the American support base for Russian Brigade headquarters near Ugljevik, Republika Srpska.

Ugly, a nice place to live

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

They call it Landing Zone Ugly, but the 26 Americans who live there love the place.

"Every VIP who comes to Bosnia comes here," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Phillips, the base camp first sergeant. "We get five or six helicopters loaded with media or high-ranking officers every week. This is a place everyone wants to see."

LZ Ugly is the American camp that supports the Russian Brigade. The camp gets its name from a nearby town, Ugljevik. "We link the Russians to rest of the Task Force," Phillips said.

Although it's the Russian headquarters that attracts visitors, the Americans like life at their small base just fine.

"The atmosphere here is pretty relaxed," Phillips said, looking across the river at the large Russian camp. "My soldiers are in great physical condition, and the comfort level is very good. We get AFN, and every tent has a TV and a VCR."

The attitude of the Russian Brigade adds to the relaxed atmosphere. Russian soldiers walk around in soft caps and rolled-up sleeves. It's not unusual to see Russians sunbathing by the river that runs between the two camps. Americans visitors are invited to "ground" their gear after they cross the spindly foot bridge that connects LZ Ugly and the Russian Brigade.

Despite the calm atmosphere, both sides know the seriousness of the mission

in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We think about force protection all the time," Phillips said. "It's something we work on everyday." LZ Ugly is surrounded by concertina wire, sand bags and gravel-filled blast barriers.

Many of the Russians are veterans of the fighting in Chechnya. Some saw action in Afghanistan.

Phillips, from Chesapeake, Va. is the leader of the fire support element. "Any Russian request for fire would go through us," he said.

Over a third of the Americans at LZ Ugly work on the tactical communication satellite system. "That's really our main mission here," said Capt. Stephen Starr, from Colorado Springs, Colo.

The combat observation liaison team posts markers identifying the Inter-Entity Boundary Line separating Federation and Republika Srpska territory.

"I hop on a BTR and spend all day riding around with five or six Russians," said Sgt. Andrew Rutsch, from Virginia Beach, Va.

"The Russians use maps and local guides to get us close, then I pull out a GPS and show them exactly where to put the marker."

The COLT team also accompanies Russian inspections of Bosnian Serb weapons storage sites.

The two-man military intelligence team operates "Warlord," a computer terminal that receives IFOR intelligence reports. The Americans then share the information with the Russian Brigade.

LZ Ugly has two medics. "We're a small post, and everyone here is really healthy, so we spend as much time as we can with the Russians," said Spc. Catherine Wiik. The American medics cross the river at least once a week to help out with sick call. Language is a barrier, but communication between the two sides improves daily.

"I know this is a historic thing, with the Russians and us cooperating, but the big story

**... a historic thing
... the Russians
and us
cooperating ...
but the big story
here is the
interaction
between enlisted
soldiers.**

Spc. Catherine Wiik

here is the interaction between enlisted soldiers. The relationships we are developing are probably more important than the visits by people who come here for an hour or two," Wiik said.

Almost everyone at LZ Ugly has a high-profile job. Everyone except Pfc. Michelle Kelso. The spotlight on the small American base seldom shines on her. "But for us, she might be the most important person here," said Phillips. "She's our only cook."

Russian soldiers get golden treatment

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

UGLJEVIK, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Russian doctors here may be impressed by American medical technology and resources, but they say nothing beats good old fashioned expertise.

"It is surprising," said Lt. Col. Ivan Sayapin, a doctor with the Russian Brigade. "With all the equipment I've seen at the hospitals here, I have the impression that (Americans) have too much equipment."

On numerous occasions during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, Russian and American doctors have worked side by side. Senior Lt. Sergei Grigoriev recalled a Russian officer being injured by a land mine. Although Russian doctors performed the operation to try to save the officer's leg, American doctors were on hand to assist with the surgery.

"Even though our medical facilities are simple, our surgeons have golden hands," said Grigoriev.

Sayapin said Russians place more faith in the quality of their surgeons' hands and knowledge than medical equipment.

But Sayapin is quick to point out that technology and expertise should always go hand in hand.

"One cannot divide the technical possibilities, and the hands of good doctors. They should always be meshed together for total effectiveness."

Col. Robert D. Toon, of the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, said Russian doctors work hard. "They are a very dedicated group, very intelligent in what they do," Toon said.

Toon, a native of Chicago, worked with



Cpl. Len Butler

Russian army nurse Tanya Donsova treats Pvt. Igor Petrov during sick call at the Russian Brigade medical facility.

Russian doctors before Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. He spent time in Russia on three different occasions, working at county and veteran hospitals there.

Toon said there is enormous camaraderie and teamwork among the surgeons here. "It's really nice to interact with them. They understand field medicine really well," he said.

Toon also noted differences between the type of equipment used by American and Russian doctors. "They have every bit as much expertise," he said. "The differences

in facilities are more an aspect of our economies." Toon said as Russia's economy improves, he expects technology and resources to become more readily available. "But you can bet the patients Russian doctors see are well taken care of," Toon said.

Grigoriev said doctors in the Russian Brigade gained much expertise from their experiences in Chechnya. He said it strengthened their expertise in handling situations in the face of difficult circumstances.

In addition to treating soldiers within their own ranks, Russian doctors have also been treating the local civilian population in Bosnia.

"Civilians turn to us for help all the time, and we give them help. Our language is very close to that of the Serbians. So they feel attracted to us," Sayapin said.

But Sayapin said his doctors treat anyone in need. "We don't refuse either side. Our checkpoints are located on the Muslim side as well as the Serbian side. So we give help to everyone who seeks treatment. A doctor first of all is a doctor."

Sayapin, a member of the Russian airborne since 1981, said he joined the Russian military after four years of civilian medical study. Sayapin said that civilians have to attend an additional two years at the military medical academy.

After students complete the course, they sign a contract to serve at least five years in the Russian military. Sayapin said that while some doctors elect to return to civilian life to set up private practice, most decide to remain in the military.

"As a rule, most of the doctors stay in the military long enough to be eligible for a pension," Sayapin said.

Engineers open way to landmark cemetery

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

CAMP McGOVERN — The engineers of Company B, 23rd Engineer Battalion, recently took on a two-day mission to reopen a road. Those two days held special meaning for the people of Dubravice Gornje.

A small village, it lies on the fringe of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry's sector in the Russian Brigade.

That road, closed for four years because of mines, leads to the village cemetery, a 600-year-old landmark which holds a dear place in the peoples' hearts.

While they had originally approached the Americans in January about clearing the road,

said Capt. Tim Wallace, Co. B commander, it took until just last week to get all the necessary records together.

Once the engineers get mine data from the former warring factions, they use a mine overlay map and verify that information. This particular road turned out to be minefield 977. Company B's archive of over 1,500 mine data sheets did not contain information about this one since it was in the Russian sector.

After contacting the Mine Action Center at Eagle Base in Tuzla, they were sent the data sheet for 977.

Coordinating with Company D, 3-5 Cav. for security, Co. B's assault and obstacle platoon headed out. With them went a

Bosnian Serb infantryman who had been there when the mines were emplaced. While not an engineer, he volunteered to remove them to help the village.

Wallace explained even though the U.S. Army provides detectors, probes and protective suits, it is up to the former warring factions to physically locate the mines and remove them. The Serbian soldier found the 10 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines reported to be there. Co. B then monitored their destruction.

The next step involved "proofing." For this, Co. B used a new addition to the Army inventory, the "Panther." Wallace said this is actually a remote-controlled M-60 tank

chassis with its turret removed.

In addition, video cameras are mounted front and rear and mine rollers are also attached to the front.

From a safe distance, the operator, in this case Spc. Gabriel M. Wells, can maneuver the Panther across the terrain in question. The captain added that this deployment is the first time the Panther has been put to use in the field.

Making three passes over the 15-foot-wide, 500 meters of road cleared in the operation, the Panther ensured any unfound mines would be detonated instead of left to cause a tragedy.

Usually the operator can keep the vehicle in view as it

See **CEMETERY**, page 12

Danger in a quiet place

By Spc. AARON R. REED
100th MPAD

Imagine. Imagine a place that is as much vertical as horizontal; a place kissed by the sky and caressed by clean mountain breezes.

In this place, apple trees heavy with fruit bow in homage to the rich earth and blackberry bushes line the country lanes. Plum and cherry orchards stretch up to pastures where sheep graze, and quaint farmhouses dot the meadows.

Imagine, for just a moment, that you have entered the Garden of Eden.

Imagine that, and you could die.

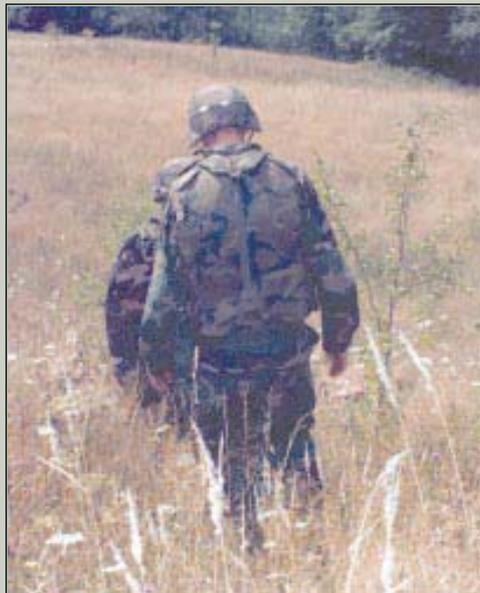
The deceptively beautiful alpine meadows and forests above the Republika Srpska town of Sekovici are bursting with nature's bounty, but they also harbor some of the cruelest weapons ever devised by man.

Here, those weapons collectively go by the name of IFOR minefield #2622-28. It's the job of Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion, to make sure that name is wiped from the map.

Proofing minefields is white-knuckle, sweat-drenching business; business Co. B's "Iron Sappers" undertake three times a week.

Since they arrived in Bosnia-Herzegovina last January, the combat engineers have monitored the clearing of more than 150 minefields in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's sector — the last 50 while working in conjunction with Bosnian Serb army engineers.

On a Friday in mid-August, it was 2nd Platoon's turn. Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hornbach, the new platoon sergeant, started the day with a 7:30 a.m. operation order. He gave



Spc. Aaron R. Reed

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hornbach (front) and his interpreter, Vedad Dzaferagic, make their way down to the treeline which harbors IFOR minefield #2622-28.

his soldiers medevac and fire support frequencies, rally points and an overview of the mission.

"I want these guys to have all the information they need to stay safe out there," said Hornbach, a Camden, N.J. native.

The platoon sergeant had an added incentive to keep his soldiers up to speed: he was the one who would actually walk through the minefield with the Bosnian Serbs, verifying the locations and types of mines they had found.

This was the platoon's second trip to the area, and they were after the remaining 16 PMA-3 and PMR-2A mines, which had been placed in the minefield back in 1993.

"The Bosnian Serb army placed mines on the downhill sides of trees and rocks to guard the approaches to their defensive fighting positions uphill," said Hornbach, pointing to a tree line below the bunker where his medic, radio-telephone operator and demolition team would wait.

"Anyone attacking the Bosnian Serbs would naturally seek cover. They'd be in for a nasty surprise when they got there."

Once the Bosnian Serb engineers verified a safe path into the woods, Hornbach and his interpreter, 18-year-old Vedad Dzaferagic, followed in their footsteps. At the edge of the minefield, Hornbach paused and observed from a safe distance as the engineers began searching for the mines.

"They have their own way of doing things," said Hornbach as he watched the engineers cross a deep ravine, kneel, and begin rapidly sweeping away a three-year-old layer of leaves and dirt before jabbing the ground with their metal probes.

After the Bosnian Serb soldiers cleared the areas noted on their records, they led Hornbach to the sites.

There, he was faced with one of four scenarios: mines which had blown in place, active PMA-3 mines which the Bosnian Serb engineers had removed from the ground, PMR-2A mines which the engineers had defused, or no mines where there should have been some.

Whatever the engineers found, Hornbach's job was the same: using a hand-held GPS "plugger" he established a 10-digit grid coordinate for the location and verified that the number and types of mines on the ground matched the Bosnian Serbs' minefield record.

On this particular trip the minefield record, a three-year-old sketch, didn't always match what Hornbach saw. At the last site, Hornbach noticed only two of the hockey puck-size PMA-3 mines where there should have been three.

"Vinny, ask them where the other mine is," Hornbach said to the interpreter. After a moment's conversation with the Bosnian



Spc. Aaron R. Reed

Before heading into the minefield, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hornbach reads off a 10-digit grid coordinate and Sgt. Donald D. Bryant, a 2nd Platoon squad leader, calls it back in case one of the soldiers needs to be evacuated.

Serb engineers, Dzaferagic answered. "They say they've searched the entire area, and they can't find it. They think it washed down the hill during the rains. Probably it detonated in the creek below us."

Hornbach made a note on the mine record: not found. "Okay, let's retrace our steps very carefully," he said.

"We've developed a good professional relationship with the Bosnian Serb soldiers," Hornbach said later. "But even so, you can't be too careful." Hornbach said that, on the previous Monday, the engineers found two mines that weren't even on the mine record. "Even if they tell me it's safe, I don't step anywhere they don't step first," he said.

Once Hornbach accounted for every mine on the record, he returned to the edge of the minefield and shouted a status report to the team waiting in the bunker. That was the



After the Bosnian Serb engineers removed mines from the ground, they placed hockey puck-size mines to the side until it was time to



Spc. Aaron R. Reed

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hornbach, platoon sergeant of Co. B, 40th Engineer Battalion's 2nd Platoon, notes that the location of a PMR-2A mine found and defused by Bosnian Serb engineers matches the sketch on his mine record.

signal for Sgt. Alex J. Siner, a 2nd Platoon squad leader and the day's designated demolition man, to follow the interpreter down the hill.

At the edge of the minefield, Siner watched as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Bosnian Serbs placed two-and-a-half pounds of C-4 explosive on top of the recovered mines.

"We're used to placing the C-4 on the side," said Siner, a Lafayette, La. native. "Working with the Bosnian Serbs, we see a different way of doing things. If they are here with us, we figure it must be safe. If they're not here, we don't do it."

Once Siner verified that the charge was set, the team made their way back to a trench line 300 meters away and waited for the explosion.

As the sound of the detonation faded away, the members of 2nd Platoon began to relax: another mission completed. Safely.

Because two of the mines were missing, Hornbach marked the area "unsafe." Still, the Bosnian Serbs

found and destroyed eight PMA-3s and four PMR-2As, and residue and small craters marked the locations where four other PMR-2As had detonated in place. "I'd call the mission a success," said Hornbach. "We'll keep coming back until we find the two missing mines or we go home, whichever comes first."

"This is a great job," said a tired Pfc. Rocky V. Perez after the team returned to their base. "It's nice to feel like you're actually doing something to make this country safer, that you're part of the solution." Perez, a Phoenix native and 2nd Platoon squad automatic weapon gunner, served on the demolition team.

Capt. John S. Chaput, Co. B commander, agreed that the mission was a winner. "Every time our guys come back safe, we call it a success," said the Andover, Mass. native.

Chaput added that the Bosnian Serb soldiers were a pleasure to work with.

"We've developed a very good relationship with the Bosnian Serbs," he said. "They are very professional and thorough in their work, and the soldiers we worked with today have, over the past three or four months, been the most dependable mine-clearers in the 2nd Brigade area of operations."

That sentiment was reciprocated by the Bosnian Serbs. "Working with the Americans is a good cooperation," said a Bosnian Serb staff sergeant, who wished to be known

only as Savo. "The Dayton Peace Accords stopped the fighting, and I hope there will never be any more war here. I don't want any more people to die."



Spc. Aaron R. Reed

Sgt. Alex J. Siner prepares a block of C-4 explosive which a Bosnian Serb staff sergeant, who wished to be known only as Savo, would use to detonate the cleared mines.



Spc. Aaron R. Reed
**moved the PMA-3
 the hockey puck-
 to detonate them.**



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Spc. Jason Hansen, Spc. Charles George and Spc. James Peters, Company A, 501st Forward Support Battalion, empty a hose after a "refuel on the move" mission is complete to ensure no spillage happens.

Mobile refuelers hone skills at Gentry

By Sgt JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

CAMP GENTRY — Putting fuel where it's needed, when it's needed, with a minimum of delay.

That is the goal of a refuel on the move, or ROM. For the soldiers of Company A, 501st Forward Support Battalion, a recent training exercise helped them hone those necessary ROM skills to a razor-sharp edge.

ROMs bring tanker trucks forward so that vehicles on the move during an operation don't have to waste time and their own fuel going back to refill their tanks.

By bringing fuel up to where they are and moving with them, supply people such as those in Co. A help units maximize their combat effectiveness.

For this exercise, the forward support unit coordinated with 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry. The cavalry unit would supply the vehicles for refueling and perform the security mission. That day they sent an advance party, secured the site and provided an Apache helicopter for air support and route surveillance.

A short time later, Co. A rolled into the site with two tanker trucks and support vehicles. Going to the stopwatch to time their set-up operation, they aimed to perform to the USAREUR standard of 15 minutes to get their trucks and hoses up and running.

It was the first ROM, a regular training activity for the unit, since November 1995

and the unit had run rehearsals to get themselves back in synch with each other.

The refueling unit pulled out all the stops in their own personal Olympics and came up with a time of 8:44, beating the standard by over six minutes. Even at that, it was 13 seconds off the USAREUR record, which they also hold.

Spc. Jason J. Hansen is a veteran of ROMs. He said this was his 12th.

"It's all training and working as a team. You're racing against time. You're not worried about security, you leave it to someone else.

"One person in this whole thing isn't good enough. We all have set jobs and it takes teamwork to make it happen. "Stuff like this really builds up morale for us," he said.

Hooking four hoses to each truck, the soldiers operated an eight-point refuel site for the day. As the cavalry rolled through in six serials, or groups, which varied from four to eight vehicles each, the refuelers manning the hoses would ground guide them into position. Once stopped, the Co. A soldiers refueled the wheeled vehicles themselves, or gave their hoses to the track vehicle loaders. On a signal that all were hooked up, another soldier stationed at the tanker truck opened the lines and the HM-MWVs, HEMTTs and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles received a quick burst of fuel. With that they were sent on their way. From when the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry vehicles rolled into the site to

when they rolled on down the road again took about five minutes per serial.

"In a tactical situation, you need these operations," said Maj. Randy Barfield, executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 1st Cavalry.

"You depend on timing and synchronization. You go over how much you need and how much they can give. It's all a matter of prior coordination and rehearsal," he added.

Capt. Herman K. Miller, Co. A commander, said the training exercise's 30-second burst pushed about 18-20 gallons of fuel into the trucks' tanks. He said in an actual operation, the cavalry leaders would coordinate with the unit how much fuel they needed and his people would respond.

For perspective, the pumps on the trucks can be adjusted up a maximum output of 65 gallons per minute and an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank can hold about 505 gallons of fuel.

Environmental concerns are part of the planning and the company had absorbent pads, dry sweep, shovels and brooms on site to guard against accidents.

While ROMs get the troops out to practice wartime skills, the company's everyday mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina has rolled up some impressive statistics. Doing tank-to-tank transfers of fuel and transporting it to units throughout the 1st Brigade, Co. A has logged over 120,000 miles driven since leaving Germany, delivering over 2.4 million gallons of fuel.



Spc. Craig Pickett

M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks from 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor patrol the Republika Srpska in the vicinity of Camp Pat.

Tankers provide security

By Spc. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

CAMP PAT — Many times, driving a tank comes down to inches — inches from a car, the side of a mountain or the edge of a cliff.

Tanks with 1st Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor, wouldn't have it any other way.

"When you're on a tank doing tanker things, it's awesome," said Spc. James P. Zook, a tank driver from Newport News, Va.

High above the road in the turret of the world's most powerful tank — the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank — sits tank commander, Sgt. Rick D. Powers.

With the cool morning air blowing in his face, Powers gives instructions to his driver, Spc. John W. Kenefick, from Dingman's Ferry, Pa.

"A little to the left, a little to the left — now go — that's how to drive a tank!" said the Old Saybrook, Conn. native. "The biggest challenge is not running over things."

Zook agreed, "Seventy-ton tanks weren't made for these roads. Tanks and cars can't share the road without a lot of give and take — usually the car gives and the tank takes."

After making their way to Camp Pat, the platoon members laid out their basic issue items for a show-down inspection by their new platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Jovanovich K. Lytch.

His goal for the platoon is to make

them the best they can be and try to help them move to a higher level, he said

"The platoon is working me in, just like one of the family," said Lytch, from Dillon, S.C.

The platoon has moved from one-month rotations at the beginning of the deployment to one-week rotations now.

One week they clean and maintain the tanks and the next they monitor checkpoints in the zone of separation. The third week they provide lodgment area security at Camp Lisa.

"The rotation is better because we are moving around and you get to see more," said Pfc. Chris L. Staffa, from Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Sometimes however, a tanker's life can become monotonous and boredom can set in, especially when pulling guard duty.

Zook said that to fight the boredom they try to keep each other in good spirits. "You have to keep a lighthearted attitude or you'll get depressed," he said.

To fight complacency, the unit continually trains on battle drills.

Lytch said he is looking forward to a live-fire gunnery exercise coming up very soon.

"So, even in slow times, being a tanker is well worth it," Powers said. "I couldn't see myself doing anything else. I love it."

With that kind of attitude, it's easy to see how the tankers of the 68th Armor stay motivated, one inch at a time.

Bosnia briefs

■ **Injured soldiers treated, released in tank accident:** Two U.S. soldiers were slightly injured on Aug. 6 when their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank slid off the road and rolled into a nearby creek south of Camp Linda.

The injured were treated at Camp Linda for minor wounds. One soldier was held under observation overnight.

■ **Back on track:** The first train to leave Sarajevo since May 2, 1992 pulled out of the rail station Aug. 6 headed to Mostar, Croatia. About 300 onlookers clapped and cheered as the "Bosnia Ekspres" carried off government officials and 250 additional passengers.

■ **Train-and-equip:** Germany is the first European country providing training to the Bosnian Federation's army. The German government announced it will offer non-combat training, in areas such as land-mine detection and clearing, medicine, and rescue operations.

■ **Arrests made:** Two Bosnian Muslims were arrested by NATO troops after they fired at IFOR on a routine patrol near Visoko, about 18 miles north of Sarajevo. About 30 weapons and 1,000 rounds of ammunition were later seized by French troops.

■ **Election controversy resolved:** Bosnian Croats signed an agreement recognizing results of the June 30 election in which Muslim-led coalition scored a narrow victory.

Croats argued the election was invalid because of irregularities at a polling station for refugees. The European Union ruled that the alleged irregularities were too small to have changed the outcome.

■ **Weapons cache discovered:** Last week, Italian IFOR troops discovered more than 2,000 tons of undeclared Bosnian Serb ammunition and equipment hidden near Sarajevo.

IFOR officials say they still have not decided what to do with the ordnance. They are reviewing a Bosnian Serb request to approve 20 new heavy weapons storage sites; the deadline to declare such sites was April 20.

Force protection increased for IFOR personnel

EAGLE BASE — After a recent incident with Bosnian Serb forces, IFOR personnel went on an increased state of alert.

Force protection measures were enhanced for base camps, checkpoints and convoys on the Republika Srpska side of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line. This alert was unrelated to the overall increase in protection measures instituted to prevent terrorist attacks.

These most recent measures were instituted after the Republika Srpska Army (VRS) refused to allow an IFOR team access to a site that is part of a staff headquarters complex near Han Pijesak. Han Pijesak is in the 2nd Brigade's area of operation.

This site inspection refusal was a major violation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

Negotiations with Republika Srpska leadership defused the tense situation and resulted in an invitation for IFOR to complete the inspection.

The GFAP requires every place used for a military purpose be declared and available for IFOR inspection.

Army engineers bridge gap between Tuzla, Bijeljina

By Capt. JOHN STRAHAN
100th MPAD

The gunners who pounded the mountain bridge on the road that connects Tuzla and Bijeljina probably didn't take long to finish their work.

Their artillery rounds demolished the bridge and made gaping craters in the road, leaving it impassable for five years.

Then IFOR came to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Rebuilding bridges became a high priority. But some early construction didn't measure up to the job of handling heavy equipment and military vehicles, and the road between Tuzla and Bijeljina became the main supply route for Russian Brigade headquarters and Eagle Base.

So the 16th Engineer Battalion upgraded the bridge by installing an armored vehicle launched bridge to increase load capacity. They also laid a Bailey bridge over a crater in the road that was large enough to swallow a 5-ton truck.

While the repairs made it

possible for military traffic to flow through the region, some civilian vehicles had trouble clearing the access ramps at the ends of the bridges.

"Some of the locals weren't happy with the AVLB, but it was necessary for the Russians and us," said 1st Lt. Jay J. Shiningert, of Delta, Ohio, engineering officer for

Company C.

Ry Ryan, public information officer for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, offered to make improvements himself so that buses could use the bridges. He didn't have to.

American engineers received an operation order at 6:30 p.m. last week to make improvements on the ramps at both



A bus uses the newly installed armored vehicle launched bridge built by the 16th Engineer Battalion to reconnect the road between Tuzla and Bijeljina, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner



Spc. Aaron R. Reed

Sgt. Chad S. Goodner of Mena, Ark., a Bradley gunner with Co. A, 4th Bn., 12th Infantry, pulls security at the entrance to Camp Pat. Pat, soon to be dismantled, is in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's sector in Republika Srpska.

There are no exceptions to the inspection rule, and the faction armies are aware of this. IFOR sets the conditions for the inspections. IFOR can inspect these sites anywhere, anytime.

As part of NATO's response to the incident, IFOR withdrew its liaison team from Pale, capital of Republika Srpska.

"Our break in contact was part of a graduated response," Brig. Gen. James P.

O'Neal, assistant division commander, support said. "It was a result of VRS noncompliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace."

Although negotiations defused the situation in Hans Pijesak, force protection remains a major concern for Task Force Eagle leadership. Heightened awareness of terrorist activity continues to be a high priority.

bridges. Within two and a half hours Shiningert's soldiers were on the move.

They reached the site at 11 p.m. and worked all night. They finished the project at 4:30 a.m.

"We brought in 15 truckloads of rock from several quarries to complete the job," said Sgt. Floyd M. Matthews, bridge crew chief from Denver with the 38th Bridge Company.

The built-up approaches allow civilian vehicles to cross the bridges without having to stop and creep up on the ramps. "Cars cross a lot faster now. People seem a lot happier," Shiningert said.

Last Monday a UNHCR bus carrying Bosniaks and Bosnian Serbs crossed the bridge for the first time.

"Now four times as many people can make the trip than before. It's a big help to have the bridge fixed," Ryan said as he watched the 50-passenger bus rumble over the bridge for the first time.

American engineers eventually plan to return to this site one more time to replace the AVLB.

REDEPLOYMENT

Tanks start journey home to Germany

By Master Sgt. KATHY J. WRIGHT
350th MPAD

Like a conscientious driver preparing his vehicle for a road trip, Staff Sgt. Xavier E. Scott and his crew labored the better part of a hot, sweltering day at Camp McGovern recently getting their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank ready for the first leg of their return to Germany.

They are taking their 68-ton tank home to Friedberg next month. It's a journey members of the 1st Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 67th Armor, have been working for since their arrival in Bosnia-Herzegovina eight months ago.

Temperatures soared into the 90s, and the dust was so thick everything turned a light shade of brown, but the soldiers hardly noticed as they strained to change the 312 track pads that will cushion the M1A1's 90-kilometer ride to Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

Scott's tank is one of 14 scheduled to leave at the end of August. That date will mark the eight-month anniversary of the group's arrival to "Desolation Boulevard" where Scott spent one of the most tense nights of his life.

As part of the first IFOR group to deploy to the former front lines of the fighting factions, the Kansas City, Mo. native still recalls the fear that hung in the cold December air.

"We could see men carrying AK-47s and no one was sure they wouldn't use them," Scott said. "But once we moved our tanks in, they saw what they were up against and they quickly backed off."

The 1st Armored Division tanks continued to roll, averaging 1,500 miles over the next four months. Scott said the massive



Spc. Craig Pickett

M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank patrol stands watch over Tuzla Valley, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

vehicles would hardly move 50 miles during that time frame in Germany.

Chalking up driving time on local roads, Scott and his men also left a little boot leather on the streets of Brcko and other nearby foot-patrolled areas. Members of the platoon cross-trained and worked side-by-side with infantry soldiers early on in the operation.

"I enlisted as an armor crewman because I like riding better than walking," said Spc. Jon A. Schneider with

a smile. "But it was interesting to work with those guys."

"We were called out when seven tanks were spotted on the move," Schneider said.

"Our crew was really pumped about confronting these guys and I think we all were a little terrified not knowing what their intentions were."

The tank crew soon discovered coordination for the tank movement had not been properly made, and in fact an attack was not imminent.

Scott is totally relieved he will be taking back his soldiers and tank in as good as shape as he brought them.

"Completing the job and making sure no one got hurt doing it was my goal," said the father of three. "It's a good feeling to know we accomplished what we set out to do."

Both Scott and Schneider agreed they learned a great deal, not all of it relating to armor.

"I discovered that as Americans we make a big impression on others," Schneider said. "The flag we wear on our uniform carries a lot of respect as well as responsibility."

German forces help Americans convoy home

By Staff Sgt. ANNA M. PRUSAITIS
100TH MPAD

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia — The reshaping of NATO's Implementation Force is evident as a detachment of the German Contingent, IFOR Transportation Battalion, begins to convoy American equipment out of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Maj. David A. Holst, liaison officer from the German Contingent of IFOR said, "Normally we move (equipment) within the Bosnia-Herzegovina area. This is the first time we have left Bosnia-Herzegovina, gone through Croatia all the way to Hungary." The equipment will be taken to the intermediate staging base at Tazsar, Hungary.

When the German contingent is not on the road moving equipment around they are based in Lukavac, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Holst, said that the members of the German contingent are really enjoying this assignment, "This is a real adventure for my men."



Staff Sgt. Anna M. Prusaitis

A convoy of vehicles crosses the Sava River separating Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina with the assistance of the German Contingent IFOR Transportation Battalion.

1st Armored Division commander, Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, praised the success of 40 years of cooperation between both the active-duty and reserve forces of the American and German Armies.

"Here we are trying to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina and once again our German allies are right beside us, carrying out this important mission."

Outgoing convoys may become more frequent as IFOR begins to reshape its forces, replacing heavy armored units with lighter, more mobile units.

Nash saluted the job well done by the allied forces in carrying out the assigned mission, "(We) couldn't do it without them, I am proud to serve with them," he said of the cooperation of the German army.



Sgt. 1st Class Brian L. Kappmeyer

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior flies over Spc. Milton Bowman Jr. keeping watch in an M992 Ammunition Carrier at a checkpoint, while the sun sets on another day in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

LIGHTNING from page 1

macher. "I couldn't move and it hurt like hell."

"I didn't know anyone was in the tower until I heard them screaming," said Giuliano. With lightning still striking throughout the area, he sprang up the ladder into the tower. "First I checked to make sure they were OK. Then I looked at their radio — it was fried, so I called the tower for help using my radio."

Senior Airman Barry Reigstad took the call. "I notified the battalion aid station and called the commander to let him know what was going on," Reigstad said. "Then I started coordinating and passing information to the Army's battle staff."

Meanwhile, a second vehicle arrived on the scene. Senior Airman Charles Winters and Airman 1st Class Zachary McCabe, also from the 4100th Fire Protection Flight, knew what to do.

CEMETERY

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makes its sweeps across open ground. Wallace said this mission held special problems for the Panther because the winding road, long overgrown by

"I could see lightning hitting the ground everywhere," Winters said. "I shoved the thought to the back of my head and ran up the ladder."

Once in the tower Winters started to assess the situation. "I checked to see if they were breathing," he said. "Then I checked to see how well their pupils responded to light and took their pulse."

"As the sharp, piercing pain slowly subsided, a painful, prickly-tingly, pins-and-needles sensation quickly took over," Jurcsak said.

Moments later an Army ambulance arrived on the scene.

"We helped them both walk down from the tower into the waiting ambulance," Giuliano said.

They were treated at the base aid station and released. Neither suffered more than minor injuries.

"We were both pretty sore the next day though," Schumacher said while rubbing the

side of his neck. "They say the current came in through the radio handset, into one side of my neck, out the other and into Jurcsak."

"Our ears were ringing a couple days afterward, and the hair was singed off of my leg, but we're OK," Jurcsak said.

"I don't know if it was fate, coincidence or divine intervention that we were right there," Giuliano said. "Since their radio was destroyed and there was no way for them to call for help, there is no telling how long they could have been there before someone found them."

"Thank God the fire department guys were there," Jurcsak said. "They were awesome. They took good care of us."

When asked if he thought he was lucky, Schumacher said yes.

"You know, you always hear people say that you've got a better chance of getting hit by lightning than you do of winning the lottery," he said. "Well, when I get home, I'm going to buy some lottery tickets."

small trees, left Wells depending solely on the video cameras for his maneuvering.

Fortunately, all the information the soldiers had about the minefield was true and complete. The Bosnian Serb infantryman had found all the mines. "That gives the soldiers more

faith in the factions," explained Wallace. "There's a certain amount of trust involved (with mine proofing)."

As the operation continued, villagers began gathering, carrying picnic baskets and scythes to walk the road and begin caring for graves left unattended

for four years.

"Before we'd even finished, people started following us to go clean up the cemetery," Wallace said.

"It made us feel good we really were doing something good for the people. They really appreciated it."