

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



An M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle from 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry rumbles over an armored vehicle launched bridge laid by the 16th Mechanized Engineer Battalion. Cpl. Len Butler

## Outlaw engineers keep roads open

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER  
100th MPAD

As the initial phase of redeployment begins, soldiers of Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion, based in Bamberg, Germany sprang into action by laying an armored vehicle launched bridge to allow Company D, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infan-

try safe passage on their way home.

Nicknamed the Outlaw company, the engineers' primary mission is bridge laying.

Their secondary missions include area security and proper marking of roads, tunnels and other bridges in an effort to upgrade main supply routes in Task Force Eagle's area of responsibility.

The AVLB is a 13-ton portable bridge that can be laid over an existing bridge or an open area in a matter of minutes. It is deployed by a 48-ton tracked launcher vehicle that resembles an M-60 tank without the turret.

Its two-man crew uses a class 60

See **OUTLAW**, page 12

### INSIDE

COMMENTARY . . . . .	2
HEATER SAFETY . . . . .	3
WEATHER . . . . .	4
ENGINEERS . . . . .	5
AIRBORNE . . . . .	6-7
SPORTS . . . . .	10
ELECTIONS . . . . .	11

## Military is risky business

By LINDA D. KOZARYN  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Risk is the hazard of the warrior's trade, according to Defense Secretary William Perry.

Simply being in the military is a risky business, he said. Servicemembers are at risk during basic training, routine training exercises and especially during deployments.

"Military personnel understand there are risks inherent in military missions," he said.

"Our job is to minimize those risks."

But according to the defense secretary, commanders cannot simply sacrifice mission for safety. They must make a judgment based on the situation, he said. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and else-

See **RISK**, page 12

## From the top

# Five seconds can change your life

Being part of the multinational force that comprises Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, I often get the opportunity to visit the militaries of the different nations participating in IFOR.

In my conversations with our allies from the United Kingdom, they brought to my attention the similarities between our current mission and their presence in Northern Ireland.

They tell me that over the last two decades, the British Army has learned a lot of hard lessons and gained valuable experience. I would like to relay some of the lessons learned by our transatlantic allies.

Like the Northern Ireland situation, we have troops in a garrison-type environment.



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

We are doing routine, but very important jobs like guard duty, conducting patrols, and quick reaction force drills.

The function of these activities is to provide a shield. It is a secure base from which we can react if necessary. This reaction is our sword. The shield is only as strong as our sword. If we don't use the sword correctly, the shield becomes worthless.

Let me illustrate this concept. Whether it is day one or month nine of the deployment, our readiness must be the same. As Iron Soldiers, we must be prepared to protect ourselves and our comrades at a moment's notice.

We must always guard against complacency. NCOs should continually emphasize to their troops that each day is a new day and that this might be the day something happens.

Vigilance is essential. From the minute you go to your guard post or set out on patrol, it is every soldier's responsibility to

stay alert and provide the support the rest of the team is relying on.

It is very important to understand that if an attack happens, it will happen in a matter of seconds. The first five seconds are vital. Your reaction in that time will often determine your and your team's survival. This reaction should be predicated upon the effective preparation of troops by our leaders.

Rules of engagement, proper convoy procedures and correct troop movement operations should be continually emphasized. Every soldier should take this training to heart. Remember, all the hard work and training will be for naught if you aren't prepared.

If such an unfortunate event occurs, you will have to live with the fact that after years of training, you not only let down yourself but also your fellow troops.

That is something to think about. Remember, Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

## Viewpoint

# Redeployment roads home paved with risk

Here are some things you will encounter as you travel north along the roadways of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary on your way to the Intermediate Staging Base at Tazsar, Hungary.

A few weeks ago, I joined a convoy from the 37th Transportation Company as they moved from Camp Tampa to the ISB. This unit is based out of Tazsar and as of late has been running daily convoys from Camp Tampa to the ISB or vice versa. A one-way trip is 202 miles and takes an average of 8.5 hours.

The soldiers of the 37th operate professionally and have traveled the route north at all times of the day and in all types of weather. This gives them quite an advantage over those



**Capt.  
Todd D. Lyle**  
TFE Safety

of us who haven't experienced these roadways in several months if at all. On the day of our journey, we made our way north in a cold rain that diminished as we crossed over the Brcko Bridge into Croatia. The rain and the subsequent slick surface added to the already poor road conditions that exist along the route.

I found that the grooves worn in the road were slightly smaller than the wheel base of my HMMWV. This caused the vehicle to lurch several times along

the way. Soldiers need to concentrate on road conditions and guard against fatigue.

The transportation unit counters this type of fatigue by using frequent stops along the way to provide an opportunity to stretch, relax, and regroup. These stops, by the way, are mandatory. A scheduled 15-minute break will be taken every two hours under the current road conditions here in theater.

In addition to the poor road conditions, there are multiple obstacles, both moving and stationary, that increase your risk of an accident. The average civilian vehicle is either severely underpowered, i.e. the famous Yugo, or too high-performance for the roads in this region, i.e. the German-

made BMWs and Mercedes.

These civilian vehicles and their drivers keep you on your toes as they block traffic and weave in and out of the convoy.

Children who dot the route are another hazard. They haven't seen such activity since the deployment and do not understand that our large vehicles do not stop on a dime. It is your responsibility as drivers and convoy commanders to ensure you maintain your proper distances, speeds, and vehicle controllability.

Fortunately, as you get into Hungary, overall conditions improve drastically. Let's take time out and do each movement right. Let's be safe on the trip home, take care of our vehicles, stay alert and get home in one piece.

## THE TALON

**THE TALON** is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle, headquartered at Eagle Base. **THE TALON** is an Army-funded newspaper authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas, under the provision of AR 360-81. Contents of **THE TALON** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle, commanded by Maj. Gen. William L. Nash. **THE TALON** is published weekly by the 1st Armored Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230. E-mail: thetalon@tfmain.1ad.army.mil Printed by Print Com Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Circulation: 8,000.

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■ TURNING UP THE HEAT

# Space heaters can kill

There are two types of heaters being used in our area of operations. Below are guidelines for their use.

## Space Heaters

- Establish a field fire alarm system. A fire extinguisher, shovel, and ax must be available at selected fire points in a field environment.
- Soldiers must be trained according to appropriate training manuals and licensed according to AR 600-55 to operate and maintain space heaters safely.
- Do not place sealed water cans on heaters. Boiling water may cause a sealed can to explode.
- Wet clothing must not be placed within 24 inches of stoves.
- Designate a fireguard for each tent when heaters are in use.
- Appoint a roving fire guard to conduct hourly inspections when several tents are erected in the same area.
- Space heaters must be placed on a noncombustible base and must be surrounded by a sandbox no smaller than 36 x 36 x 4 inches when sand and wooden construction materials are available.

When metal-base trays are used, there will be 2 inches between the bottom of the stove and the metal tray.

- Tent stoves with float valves and overflow outlets must be equipped with a hose to drain the overflow.
- The M1941 potbellied stove will be fueled only with JP8. The M1950 Yukon stove will be fueled only with gasoline.
- At least two sheet-metal screws or rivets must be used to secure the ends of each pipe section.
- At least two pipe sections must extend above a tent peak.
- Spark arresters will be installed on model M1941, type I, solid-fuel space heaters.
- A draft diverter must be installed at the top of the exhaust pipes of M1941 type II and M1950 Yukon liquid-fuel space heaters.
- A 2-inch ventilation space must be kept between the exhaust pipe and the tent.

- Three guywires will be used to secure exhaust pipes. These wires should be attached to tent lines.

- Fuel supplies must be located at least 5 feet from the outside wall of a tent. Fuel containers will be diked to prevent fuel from spreading to space heaters. Fuel containers must have pouring spouts.

- The ties for the stovepipe openings must be tied back to avoid contact with hot pipes.

- Space heaters must be turned off and allowed to cool for at least 30 minutes before refueling or relighting.

- Fuel systems will be checked daily for leaks and malfunctions.

## Kerosene Heaters

- Heaters will be used in a ventilated area. If heaters are used in tents, vents will be opened to allow dangerous carbon monoxide fumes to escape.

- Only kerosene will be used to fuel the heaters. The use of any other fuel can cause a "flare-up" and destructive fire will occur.

- Heaters will never be fueled while still ignited. Heaters must be turned off prior to fueling

- Refueling of heaters will be conducted outside the living area.
- Heaters shall be placed at least 3 feet or more from combustible materials such as clothing and furniture. Heaters must be out of high-traffic areas.
- Heaters will not be used where flammable vapors such as gasoline, paints, solvents are present.
- Do not dry clothes or other objects on top of heaters.
- Do not attempt to cook on top of heaters.
- Do not attempt to modify the heaters.
- Do not leave heaters unattended. Ensure grill guard is in place before operating the heater.
- Every tent must have at least two fire extinguishers.
- A fire guard must be used when heaters are in operation.
- Fuel containers will be properly labeled: kerosene

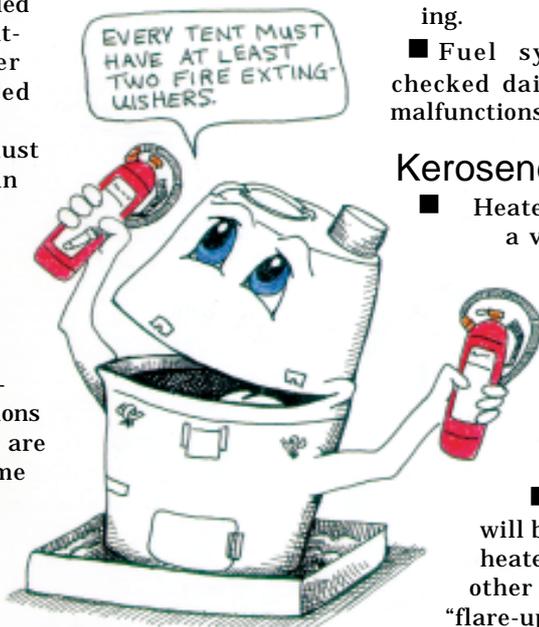


Illustration by Spc. Theresa L. Unger

## Safety Brief

### Carbon monoxide kills

**1. Causes:** Petroleum-powered space heaters and internal-combustion engines present the greatest hazard of carbon-monoxide poisoning.

**2. Risks:** Operating engines without adequate ventilation, placing field generator exhausts near troop areas, sleeping in areas with improperly installed space heaters, sleeping in vehicles while the engine is running or using vehicle exhaust to warm people or equipment are dangerous practices and can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

**3. Symptoms:** Symptoms may include a mild headache, nausea, fatigue and sleepiness. More severe symptoms are throbbing headache; general weakness and dizziness; dimness of vision; nausea and vomiting; lack of coordination; and collapse. Carbon monoxide poisoning symptoms vary, depending on the concentration of the gas and the duration of the exposure. A person may lose consciousness without warning.

**4. Treatment:** Move the individual to fresh air and call for medical aid immediately. Keep the individual warm and quiet. Watch the individual for weak or irregular breathing and apply CPR if necessary.

**5. Prevention:** Prevention is not difficult. Ensure by thorough preventative maintenance checks and services that vehicle exhaust systems are leak free. Don't allow maintenance crews or operators to run vehicles inside without properly venting the exhaust. Don't allow personnel to sleep in vehicles with the engine running. Clean and inspect all stoves and heaters before operating. Be aware that any indication of fumes from a heater or smokestack may be a sign that carbon monoxide is present. Appoint a fire guard when heaters are in operation.

### Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	62/45	Moderate
Sat	65/44	Moderate
Sun	61/41	Moderate
Mon	56/46	Moderate
Tue	62/40	Moderate
Wed	64/42	Moderate
Thur	58/49	Moderate

Provided Sept. 11 by Internet Access Weather

# 41st tells weather you like it or not

Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC  
350th MPAD

CAMP KIME — "How's the weather?"

Say that to one of the soldiers from 41st Brigade Meteorological Section and you're going to get more than "It's hot," or "It's raining."

Met Section provides air weather information for the 1st Brigade Combat Team's artillery units and the Air Force. Meteorological soldiers launch monitoring balloons throughout the day.

As the balloon rises, it measures air temperature, pressure, density, humidity, wind speed direction and altitude. Any of the factors can affect the flight of artillery or aircraft. The balloon sends data back to a computer in the unit's 5-ton operations truck. The data is given to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery and its big guns — the 155mm howitzers. They also send data to the Air Force at Eagle Base for flight information.

Releasing the balloons is not haphazard, but rather a science, said

team chief Sgt. David Martin.

"Different size balloons, ranging from 100 to 1,200 grams, are sent up. The type of information requested determines the size balloon sent up," Martin said. "The bigger the balloon, the higher it goes before it bursts. The 150-gram balloon goes up to about 10,000 meters — about the altitude airplanes fly — and the 1,200-gram will go to about 30,000 meters."

The Williams Bay, Wis., native said they use the 150-gram balloon for fire-support missions.

"Weighing off" the balloon (gauging its weight) is important to their operation, Martin said. "It controls the rate of rise of the balloon. For the 150-gram balloon, the rate of rise is about 400 meters per minute. The radiosondes are expendable and once the balloons burst, they fall back to earth, their descent slowed by a small, attached parachute."

The met team is based in Babenhausen, Germany, and normally supports V Corps. It is one of four met teams currently deployed in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The meteorological crew all received their Advanced Individual Training at a nine-week course at Fort

Sill, Okla. They learned how to measure weather using the most up-to-date equipment available.

Section leader, Sgt. 1st Class Willie Minor, has been in the business his entire Army career, including tracking weather for the space shuttle when he was assigned to the Atmospheric Science Lab in White Sands, N.M.

"Since I came in 19 years ago, the data gathering system has changed radically. We used to use a 1950s-built system," Minor said. "It wasn't digital. Everything was manual — even the plotting. The new computerized system is better. It's more maneuverable, lighter and faster."

Minor said the section is getting the next generation of information gathering equipment. The system is trimming from three 5-ton trucks and trailers and one HMMWV to three HMMWVs and trailers.

"There is little historical weather information for Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Minor, from Memphis, Tenn. "What we gather and transmit will provide future climate

and air movement references for the Air Force."



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Spc. Ronald Letendre, left, and Sgt. David Martin attach a radiosonde to its balloon and parachute prior to its launch.

■ MINE AWARENESS TRAINING

# Engineers put soldiers to test

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING  
100th MPAD

Within the security of the base camps it's easy to forget what a dangerous country Bosnia-Herzegovina is. The safety of barbed wire, guards, and patrols can give soldiers a false sense of security.

"Mine awareness is a skill that is easily perishable, if you don't use it you're gonna lose it," said Capt. Frederic A. Drummond, commander of Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is a country with more than 4,500 known mine belts. That's why soldiers continually train. Every soldier knows that some day they could find themselves between a rock and a PMA-1 anti-personnel mine without a probe.

Fifty Company A soldiers participated in a two-day, squad situational training exercise in the Camp Bedrock quarry recently. The exercise began when the squad received an operation order for a five-hour course.

As a squad headed out on the eight-mile route, the first obstacle they encountered was unexploded ordnance.

"While in Bosnia-Herzegovina, you could run into an old mortar round or a mine laying in the middle of the road. We are trying to replicate the situation in the exercise," Drummond from Hastings, Neb. said.

While conducting a mine sweep, the squad got stuck in a thunder storm.

"The training is realistic and extra challenging. It's pretty difficult to find a mine under two inches of water," 1st Lt. William G. Tennant said.

To make the training more life-like, simulated injuries were introduced during the mine strike.

"We watch to see how well the soldiers react to a casualty incident," Drummond said.

"Do they immediately jump out of the track and into another mine field? Or, knowing that their buddies are out there with their arms and legs blown off, do they do the right thing and stay calm while probing up to them?"

The final challenge for the engineers was bridge identification. Many bridges were damaged during the war.

"Soldiers need to use the

mine data sheet and interpreters during classification. They need to remember to use the former warring factions and assets that are available to them," Drummond said.

"Additional requirements of the operation, have detracted from our primary mission. This course gives soldiers the oppor-

tunity to prepare, rehearse, execute and then go back and re-train on the things they need work on," said 1st Lt. William M. Reding new executive officer of Company A.

"We hope nothing will happen, but with this training we will be prepared for the worst," Drummond said.

**"Mine awareness is a skill that is easily perishable, if you don't use it you're gonna lose it."**

**Capt. Frederic A. Drummond, 16th Engineer Battalion**



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Spc. Vibart V. King (above), A Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, calls for assistance in treating simulated patient Pvt. Brad J. Snedden.

Pfc. Vincent J. Broussard (left) probes for mines during an situational training exercise in the Camp Bedrock quarry.



Photos by Sgt. Andrew Aquino

1) Soldiers from Company E, 51st Long Range Surveillance board a CH-47D Chinook helicopter.

2) Soldiers await the jumpmaster's ready signals.

3) Staff Sgt. Erik Petterson and Spc. Frank A. Gatta hit the drop zone.

# Airborne soldiers drop into Hungary

By Sgt.  
**ANDREW AQUINO**  
350th MPAD

TABORFALVA, Hungary — In the spirit of international cooperation, airborne infantrymen from Company E, 51st Long Range Surveillance Battalion at Steel Castle made history Aug. 24 when they performed a joint military exercise with Hungarian army airborne troops.

This is the first time a conventional U.S. Army airborne unit has jumped with Hungarian soldiers.

As liaison officer, 1st Lt. Robert E. McClintock made the request for the Hungarian team-up.

"It was one of the most rewarding projects I ever had a part of in my military career," he said. "When I asked, they said 'Egan!' which

means yes."

The 26-year-old lieutenant said the training experience was fantastic.

"Everything went without a hitch. We had great weather, no accidents and everyone had a great time. You can't beat that," he said.

It was the finishing touch of Operation Whetstone, a three-week exercise to help the troops hone their airborne soldier skills. The joint effort was memorable for army members of both countries according to Sgt. 1st Class Richard K. Hairston.

"It's one of my highlights while sta-

tioned in Europe," Hairston said. "Very few people can actually say they have jumped with anybody like that."

The Hungarian soldiers attended a pre-jump brief before boarding the CH-47D Chinook helicopters. Their counterparts also compared equipment and discussed the differences in the functionality of their parachute riggings.



“Knowing what their equipment is like lets us know more about what they’re doing once they’re in the air,” Hairston said. “It’s important to know, especially when you’re doing joint jumps out there.”

The Co. E soldiers also gained retraining in surveillance reconnaissance, target acqui-

sition and battle damage assessment during their situational training exercise.

“Those skills are very critical in their military occupational specialty, especially in the environment we are in now.” Hairston said.

Capt. Dennis S. Sullivan, company commander, said the project was an overall great success.

“We had some great officers and NCOs

who picked up their part of the training plan and ran with it,” he said.

“We’ve met all training objectives, which were to refresh our airborne skills, conduct a counterintelligence long range surveillance STX and a live-fire break contact exercise,” Sullivan said.

“It exceeded my own expectations that we got it all done so well,” he said. “It will make retraining easier in Europe because the rust won’t be as thick.”

The troops came away with benefits of greater motivation as well, Sullivan said. “Their eyes are sharper now after getting away and doing this for a week.”

# American political memorabilia displayed in Tuzla

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER  
100th MPAD

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina – A display of American political memorabilia was recently exhibited at the Portrait Gallery downtown.

With the help of Lt. Col. James H. Harrison from the 360th Civil Affairs Detachment, the display included bumper stickers, campaign buttons, signs, photos and other items depicting American campaigns from the past and present.

The memorabilia on display featured campaigns from local to national levels.

Harrison, 45, a state legislator from South Carolina, said the idea for the display came from Susan Sunflower, a core supervisor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Harrison said Sunflower contacted him about the idea.

"Susan Sunflower had met me earlier and was aware that I was a member of the legislature," Harrison said.

Sunflower had contacts with the art gallery in Tuzla and expressed a desire to run an exhibit displaying not only the Bosnian elections, but the American political process as well.

"I called back home to Colombia and asked my staff to call the newspaper there to search the archives for past photographs of election campaigning, political speeches, people voting and counting ballots — anything to show what the American political process is like," Harrison said.

Additional items from the American display were supplied by dozens of political organizations and the private collections of two South Carolina congressmen.

**"I think now the Bosnians can see for themselves what life can be like with peace."**

**Lt. Col. James H. Harrison  
360th Civil Affairs  
Detachment**

"It's not any effort on our part to superimpose our political process on these people," Harrison said.

"If there are parts of our process that they choose to incorporate into their own, that will be their choice," he said.

Harrison said he thinks the Bosnians have no clear idea what the American political system is like.

"The OSCE is a European organization," Harrison said. "The input the Bosnians are getting from OSCE is primarily coming from a European perspective."

"The important thing here is that the Bosnian people do have a choice," Harrison said. "As long as they are free to go to the polls and vote for the person they choose to vote for, then all this will be a success."

Magister Selim Beslagic, mayor of Tuzla, opened the American political display with much fanfare.

Sunflower coordinated cultural events in the area. Entertainment included Bosnian folk music. Local artists exhibited their work.

Leah L. Hanlon was among the many OSCE election supervisors present at the opening. The 35-year-old native of New York

City said she noticed similarities between Bosnian and American styles of politics.

"Posters are everywhere," Hanlon said. "And there is so much enthusiasm with campaigning."

"It is nice to bring a display like this here for the Bosnians to see," Hanlon said.

"They can see that elements that they are using to campaign are present in America as well."

Tuzlans take much pride in the art gallery. It managed to stay open throughout the 4-year war, even during the siege of Tuzla.

"The citizens of Tuzla are very proud that they managed to keep their culture growing even though artillery shells were falling within the city," Hanlon said.

OSCE election supervisor Jerzy Wiatrowski, 38, of Torun, Poland, expressed his interest and enthusiasm in the display, and said it's a good idea to show Bosnians how campaigns are run in other countries.

"The Bosnian people need us to be here, so they can see and learn from us. And we also need to prove to them that we are here to do our best to help them establish a democratic system."

Harrison said he has become optimistic about the Bosnian people and their desire for a good election process.

"I think now the Bosnians can see for themselves what life can be like with peace," Harrison said.

"Democracy is the greatest system in the world. It gives everyone a voice in their government."

"Everyone now has the chance to put the last four years behind them and move forward with peace. Whatever happens, the people will speak."



Digitized rendering of the Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina skyline by Spc. Daniel Paschall and Spc. Theresa L. Unger

# Radios provide lifeline during local elections

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS  
350th MPAD

**R**edundancy is something that leaders try to minimize in their organizations. But for soldier safety, redundancy is a goal for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. During the local elections, radio redundancy increases possibilities of two-way communications between those on the frontline and those in the rear.

Soldiers and IFOR personnel working near the polling stations will have more than one way to call for assistance.

Soldiers of the 141st Battalion, at Comanche Base worked long hours to set up and install radio base stations and hand-held radios at all brigade level tactical operations centers in the Task Force Eagle area of operation. Traditional land lines and over-the-air communications are already operational. The hand-held radios will serve as backup for communication in remote areas.

"The radios were installed to monitor the election process," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Sharp, electronics maintenance shop sergeant. "If the IFOR personnel have problems on election day, they can contact brigade headquarters and a response team will be dispatched to the location."

The radios can then keep in direct communication with the element having trouble. Existing Army systems will be used for routine communications.

During the elections, there will be none of the usual delays between requests and approval, Sacramento, Calif., native, said.

Each TOC received a base station programmed

to scan channels in Task Force Eagle including 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams, 519th Military Police Battalion, 18th MP Bde., Russian, Nord and Turk Brigades, and Task Force Eagle headquarters.

The range is only limited by repeater coverage. Repeaters are satellite dishes that receive radio signals and transmit them further on, extending their range.

"Within minutes of hooking up the radios at Zenica in the Turkish Bde., we heard a radio check from the 18th MPs at Tuzla. Then we picked up the 1st Bde. combat team at Bosanski Samac," Sharp said. "But without repeater coverage you could be standing right next to somebody and not be able to talk to them."

Recently, Sharp visited the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe field office at Vares to check out their radios.

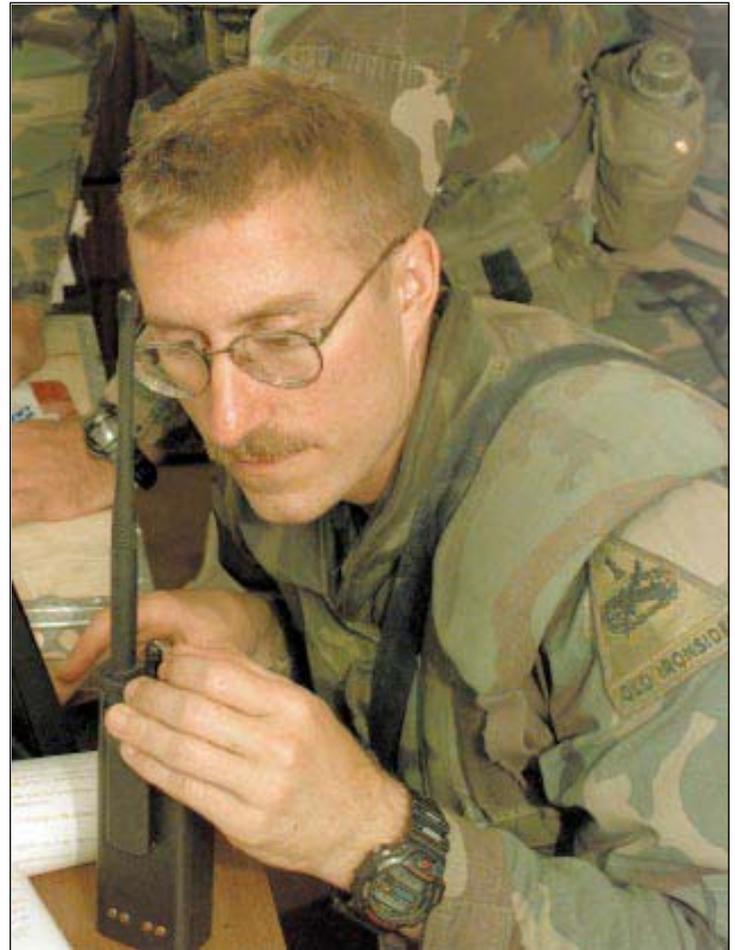
After double-checking the repeater coverage maps and frequencies, Sharp attempted to contact other stations, without any luck. "They're in a hole here," Sharp said. "If you can't see the repeater, you can't talk to it."

Finding these holes in the communications network is just another step in the process which began when the radios arrived at Sarajevo.

"When we picked them up we had no idea what we were getting.

"We were told they were already pre-programmed, but it turned out they weren't in the configuration we needed," Sharp said. "We spent the whole night programming them."

After setting the parameters in



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

**Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Sharp, electronics maintenance shop sergeant for the 141st Battalion, verifies a radio signal on the hand-held radio.**

the software, loading up the radios and installing them, the signal teams thought they had the job figured out.

But the radios would only receive messages and not allow the operators to talk.

"We finally realized the missing piece of the puzzle," Sharp said.

"We needed to match each radio with the repeater. It's like a personal identification number that let's you access the repeater and talk.

"We had to go back to each location and reprogram each one."

"The maintenance shop deserve kudos for what they have accomplished," said 1st Lt. Jeff L. Kirkpatrick, 28, the battalion security officer.

"These guys did incredi-

ble stuff," he said. "Without any guidance they divided into teams. The teams reconnoiter all of the field offices in 1st Armor Division.

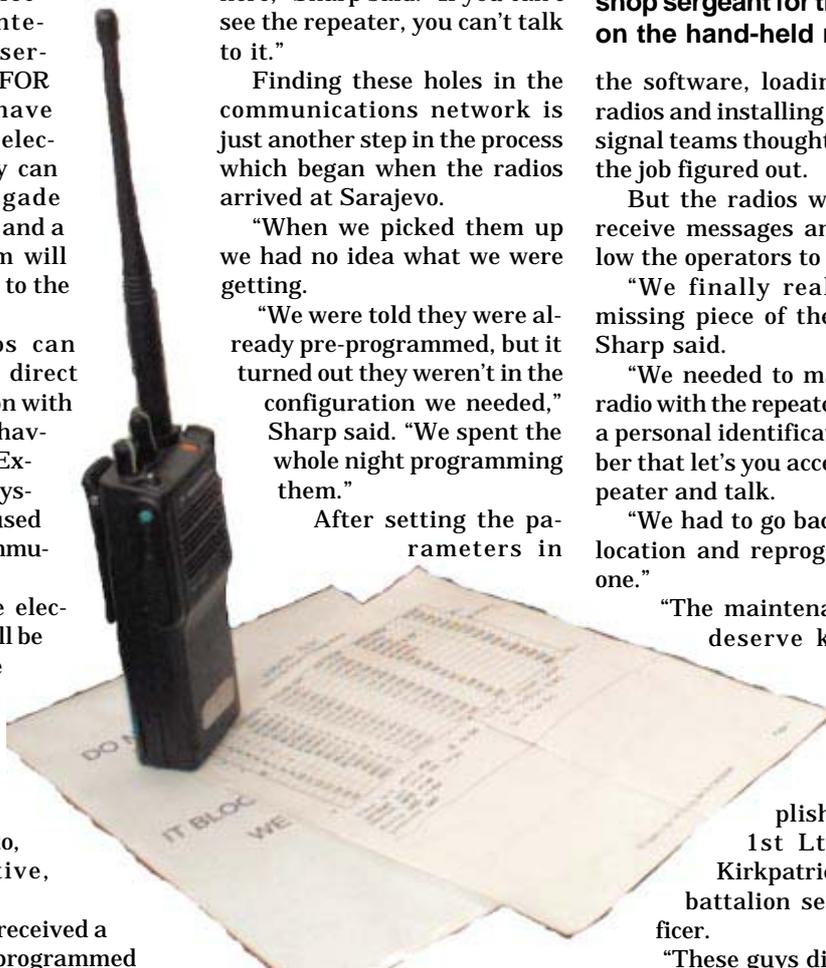
After verifying locations and points of contact, the team published a phone book for all the OSCE offices.

"When the equipment came in to Sarajevo, they went down to pick it up," Kirkpatrick said. "They figured out how to operate and reprogram the radios in a very short time.

"The electronics technicians then delivered the radios and gave classes on their operation. They're doing great things."

The hundreds of election supervisors who will be working at more than 1,000 polling stations in the Tuzla area will no doubt benefit from the enhanced communications as well.

Hugh Stohler, elections' officer at the Vares field office, summed it up in these words — "Communications are our lifeline."



## ■ LABOR DAY OLYMPICS

# Competition rocks Bedrock

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING  
100th MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — It's not the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, but it is close enough for the troops at Camp Bedrock.

Soldiers from Camp Bedrock took an Olympic page out of history to compete a two-day event featuring softball, volleyball, basketball, soccer, powerlifting, horseshoes and a 5K run.

With the first day came the rain; however it did not put a damper on the activities.

"The rain put an extra

twist into the games. It made them even more challenging," said 1st Sgt. Lon M. Davis of 38th Engineer Company, and a player on the winning softball team.

"We usually have to work in the mud, so it's kind of fun to be able to play in it for once."

The second day of activities began with a bang as 111 runners darted across the 5K start line.

Spc. Tony R. Castillo of Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion, led from start to finish.

Only a few feet behind was second place finisher 1st Lt.

Guy Buice of the headquarters section of the 16th Engineers.

"This is the second 5K that they have had out here; the first one was over the 4th of July and I was on rest and recuperation leave," Castillo said.

"The guy who won that race is on R&R this time. So I guess the next race will be the real test."

The 16th Engineers hosted the Labor Day celebration.

They tasked Morale, Welfare and Recreation representative Greg Holzinger of Headquarters, 104th Area Support Group, with setting up and ex-

cuting the Labor Day bash.

Holzinger, a 13-year sports recreation veteran, hit the ground running when he arrived at Camp Bedrock two weeks before the event.

"My job is to provide them with as many recreational activities as possible," Holzinger said.

Soldiers of the 16th Engineers keep busy supporting the Russian and Turkish Brigade, 1st and 2nd Brigade Combat Teams and the Tuzla Valley.

"The soldiers work very hard at their missions," said Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen J. Walls, 16th Engineers.

"They needed a few hours for themselves when they could concentrate on something less critical than personal security, mine clearing and route clearing operations," Walls said.

The troops gathered on Monday evening at the dining facility to wrap up the Labor Day celebration with a closing ceremony and a good old-fashioned barbecue.

Red, white, and blue streamers, flags and a banner with the words "LET FREEDOM RING" livened up the decor in the dining facility.

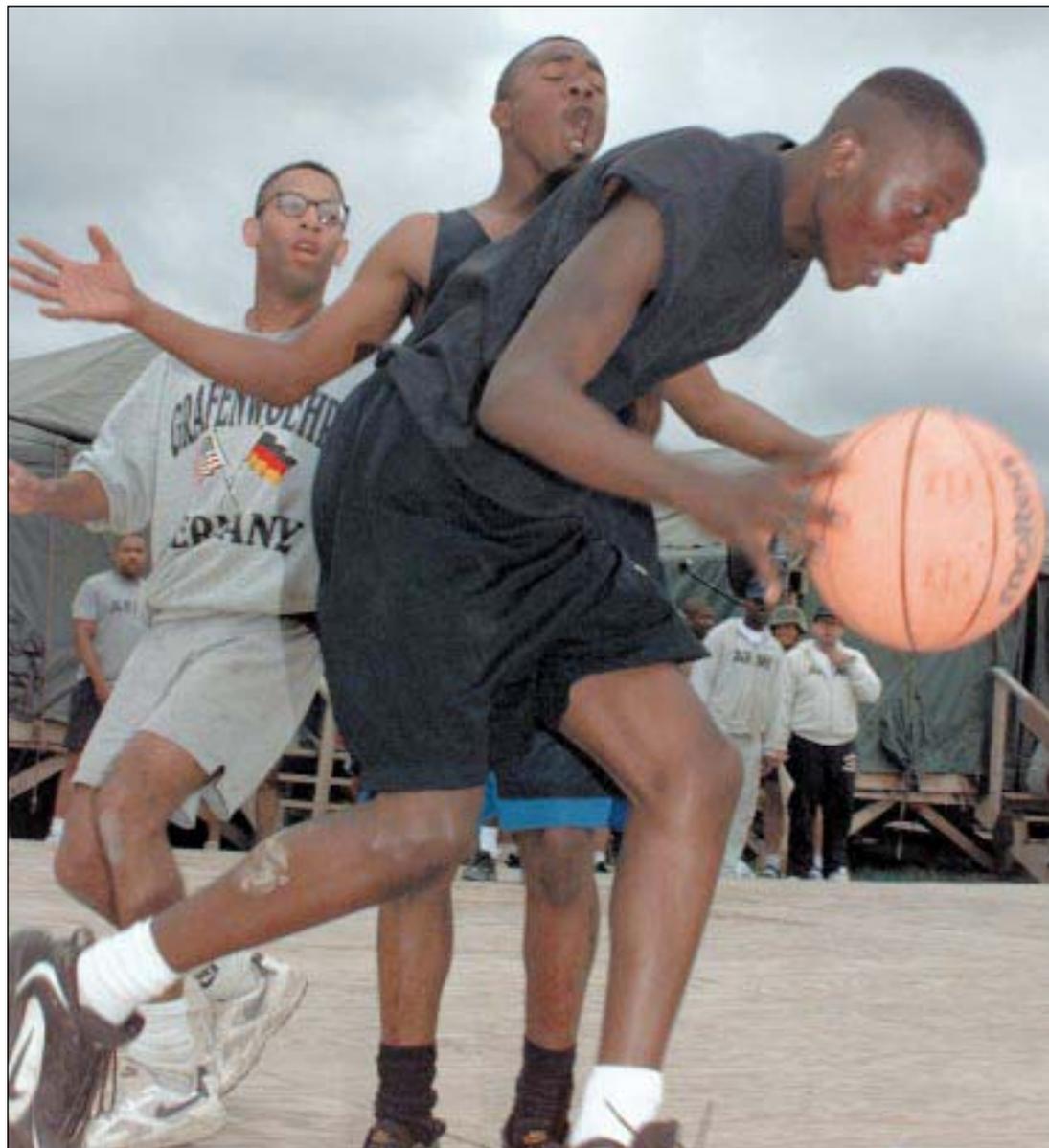
"All the top finishers in all of the events received something," Holzinger said. "T-shirts were given to all of the runners, trophies were presented to the fastest male and female runners and medals were awarded to the tournament winners."

"We are soldiers and most soldiers are competitive by nature.

"So given the opportunity, they want to get out there and do what soldiers like to do best — compete," Walls said.

When it was over, the soldiers departed carrying the day's excitement back to their units.

"This type of event makes life more bearable for the soldiers here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, even though they miss their families and friends at home," Holzinger said.



Spc. Brian K. Sanders, a light wheel vehicle mechanic in the 440th Signal Battalion, blocks his 16th Engineer opponent from making a break toward the basket.

Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

# Elections officer plans for success

By Master Sgt. KATHY D. WRIGHT  
350th MPAD

Local elections may have been postponed, but Capt. Gregory K. Anderson hardly notices a lighter work load. As election project officer for 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, the planning and coordinating he's been a part of the last few months will still be put to use when national, entity and cantonal elections are held in Bosnia-Herzegovina on Sept. 14. Anderson, and the troops assigned to 1st Brigade's Camp McGovern, intend to be prepared for any contingencies which might play out in their area of responsibility on that historic day.

"IFOR's primary focus during the elections is to support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe," Anderson said. "We will do that by ensuring a safe and secure environment for all election participants, as well as providing logistical support, such as setting up tents at polling sites and transporting ballots and other necessary materials."

Although optimistic that things over-

all will go well, Anderson said that monitoring the situation throughout the sector will be crucial and will involve IFOR troops.

"We'll be keeping our finger on the pulse of the election. No one group, to include the OSCE, the International Police Task Force or the local law enforcement authorities, can be everywhere at once. That's why it is important that our soldiers, while performing patrols in the area or manning checkpoints, know what the voting procedures are and what the appropriate courses of action would be if they spot any exceptions or irregularities during the process," he said.

A "train the trainer" class was conducted recently by OSCE personnel to give base unit commanders an idea of what will be involved as people head to the polling sites in the battalion sector. Sessions are now being scheduled to filter the information to soldiers at all levels. Educating the troops on what to expect is an important part of Anderson's plan.

"We need to be prepared to handle just about anything," said the San Jose, Ca-

lif. native. "Everything from how to evacuate a casualty, to reacting to a sniper, to directing a lost ballot bag truck on where to go. Our bottom line is to make sure soldiers will be able to identify a problem and to react in a quick manner."

The 27-year-old infantry officer admits to having no previous experience in how to make sure an election goes smoothly, but he does know something about formulating strategy.

"We're actually war-gaming the elections," Anderson said. "Since I've been in the Army, I've studied and learned the planning process and problem-solving techniques, which I've put to good use for my mission here. These methods are not just specific to military operations, they can be applied to anything — even elections."

The 5-year Army veteran singles out communication as having been his biggest challenge during election pre-planning.

"When you have all these different organizations involved, everyone is going to have distinct ideas about how things should be run," Anderson said. "Fortunately each of us has the same objective and the same destination."



## LEADERS' ELECTION DOZEN TF EAGLE GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

**Focus** - Remove physical obstacles (to include human) that prevent freedom of movement to vote, and protect IFOR, OSCE, IPTF and other special status personnel.

1. Press civil and police authorities to contain violence and support FOM. IFOR involved as a last resort.
2. Deny movement to groups intending to impede FOM or committing violence. No demonstrating or gathering is permitted on voter routes.
3. Take appropriate action to divert voters likely to become victims of violence.
4. Don't interpose troops between two hostile crowds.
5. Only visit Polling Stations in the course of official duties.
6. Right to search vehicles in the zone of separation still exists; outside the ZOS, search if reasonable cause exists.

7. No political paraphernalia or weapons of any type authorized on vehicles crossing the ZOS.
8. Right to regulate traffic flow still applies. Eight-passenger and above vehicles will have priority on voter routes.
9. Appropriate force authorized to protect IFOR, IPTF, OSCE & special status personnel and to prevent serious crimes.  
Principles of self defense and minimum force always apply.
10. Timely, accurate, complete reporting and cross-talk at all levels is essential to successful conflict resolution.
11. Remember: isolate, dominate, situational awareness, multi-echelon/multi-dimensional response.
12. The soldiers and units of Task Force Eagle will display at all times the characteristics of a tough, disciplined, competent and professional military force.

## RISK from page 1

where, commanders must balance mission requirements against force protection, Perry said.

"In Bosnia-Herzegovina, force protection has to be balanced against how many patrols you can conduct and how extensively you can conduct them," Perry said. Force protection is one component of the Bosnia-Herzegovina mission, but it's not the only component. "We could enhance force protection in Bosnia-Herzegovina by simply not going out on patrols, but we would not be able to do the other parts of our mission."

Stringent rules are in place to protect U.S. troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to Perry. "Every day, every hour they are there, they're in a hazardous position," he said. "They're

driving over hazardous roads. They're carrying armed rifles. They're in environments which could turn hostile on them at any moment."

Rules include having platoon sized convoys or four vehicles at a minimum, no alcohol while in theater and being equipped with flak jackets, helmets and weapons when outside secure areas.

"These are strict rules," Perry said, "but they are meant to save lives, and they have been very successful to this point."

Determining how to protect their forces and at the same time carry out the mission is up to the commander, Perry said.

"A good commander will never simply abort the rest of his mission in order to avoid risks," he said.

## OUTLAW from page 1

AVLB, that can accommodate M88 Recovery Vehicles, M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks or M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

Before engineers launch the bridge, they scout the area to assess the feasibility of the mission.

"We take measurements of all the critical dimensions needed to determine which class of vehicles can safely cross the bridge," Sgt. Stephen G. McDonald said.

"Critical dimensions include width and length of the bridge, as well as the structural supports underneath the bridge," said Cpl. John R. Caldwell, 27, of Columbia, Tenn.

"A specific amount of measurements have to be taken to determine the class of the bridge," Staff Sgt. Karl F. Lehnhardt said.

"The platoon sergeant takes all the measurements then uses a mathematical formula to make the proper evaluation," Lehnhardt said.

"We have to make sure the bridge is stable enough to handle traffic," Caldwell said. "Underneath this bridge we found some damage which looked like an explosive was used in an attempt to destroy the bridge."

Caldwell said additional measurements were taken of a large hole in the stringer, which is the lengthwise support beam.

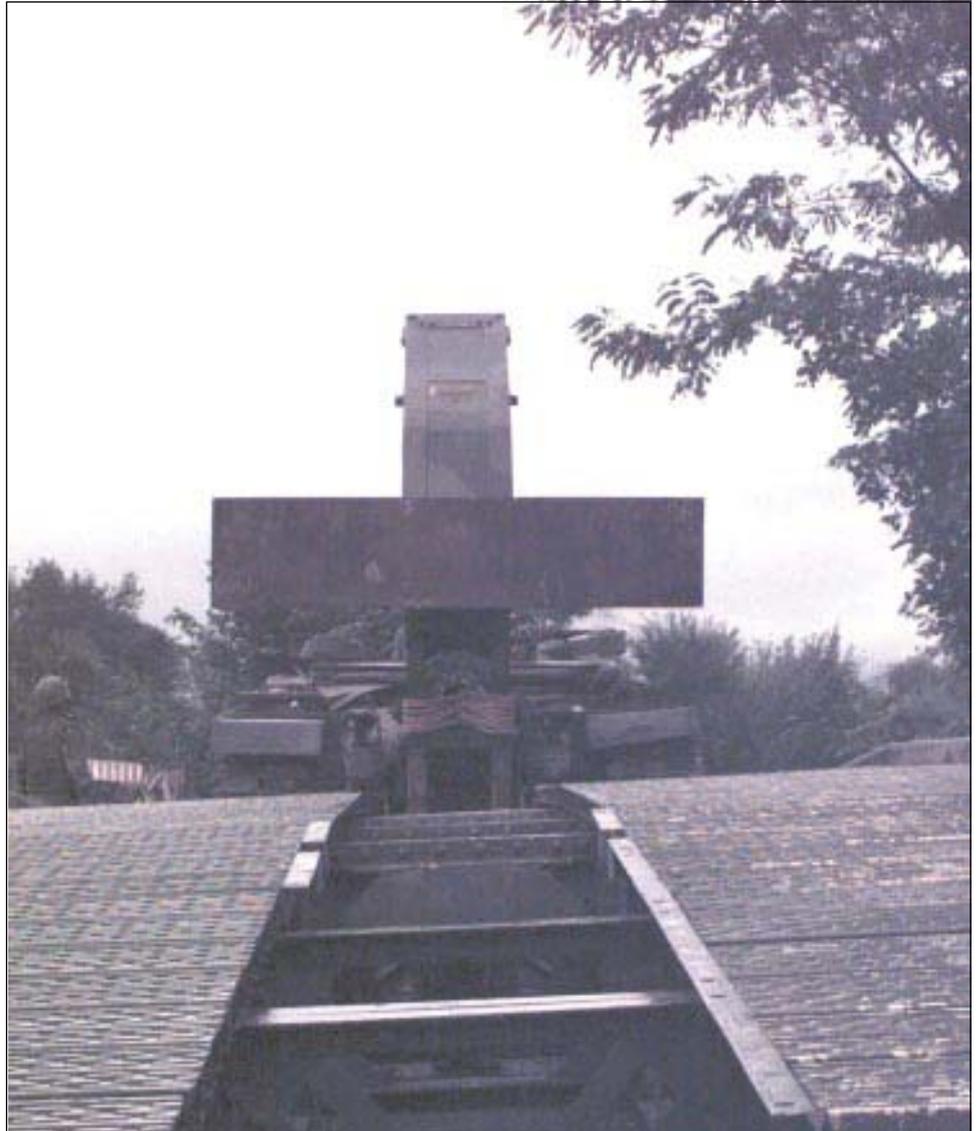
"The combatants of this war didn't have C-4 or other explosives used for demolition," platoon leader 2nd Lt. Jose R. Laguna said.

"So they normally used antitank mines to destroy the bridges."

Laguna said the recent destruction of a bridge near a Danish checkpoint near the Bosna River was possibly the result of antitank mines.

Once the bridge was classified, the decision was made to use the AVLB to ensure safe crossing of the Bradleys from Co. D, 3/12, and other load-carrying cargo vehicles.

"In addition to the six bridges laid throughout the Tuzla Valley, the Outlaw Company assisted the 502nd Engineers with security and traffic control



Cpl. Len Butler

**Engineers lay an armored vehicle launched bridge to reinforce an existing bridge in 2nd Brigade area of operations.**

when the Sava River bridge was being constructed," Sgt. Kenneth J. Stroud, 32, of Dahlonega, Ga., said.

"We have participated in force protection all over the Tuzla area," Stroud said. "We have cleared firing ranges, established fighting positions and assisted in mine clearing."

Just as easily as Company A takes on defensive tasks, it can assume tasks for units on the advance.

"We clear the path for attack forces to get through," Pfc. Jose A. Rosales, 20,

from Kerman, Calif., said. "We clear roads, knock berms down, lay mines, whatever it takes to make sure we keep the offensive moving."

The Outlaw company's symbol is stenciled on everything they have built. It is an image of a person with a big black cowboy hat and a black bandanna pulled up to the eyes.

Laguna said, "Every time you see the Outlaw symbol on a bunker, fighting position, or whatever, that's the mark that shows the best have made the best."