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THE TALON

Operation Joint Endeavor, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle

Art McQueen/USAREUR PAO

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division load an M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle at Conn Barracks railhead in Schweinfurt, Germany, during preparation for their deployment to cover 1st Armored Division's withdrawal.

Big Red One moves downrange

Redeployment starts as 1st ID heads south to cover Old Ironsides' withdrawal.

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Redeployment. It's starting. Now.

Task Force Eagle has issued execution orders, and these are the facts about this critical period:

Fact: 1st Armored Division and selected corps units have already started to withdraw, and the redeployment will continue through the municipal elections.

Fact: Transfer of authority from 1st Armored Division to 1st Infantry Division will take place in the first part of November.

Fact: Municipal elections for Bosnia-Herzegovina are scheduled for Nov. 22-24.

Fact: 1st Infantry Division will likely command Task Force Eagle during the elections.

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Municipal elections to proceed

By Ambassador ROBERT H. FROWICK
Head of OSCE Mission

The Provisional Election Commission met recently to review and make a final decision of the feasibility of adhering to the previously announced November timeframe for holding municipal elections.

After a lengthy discussion centering on major administrative as well as substantive challenges that must be met, I made a Chairman's decision to proceed with these elections.

This decision, ultimately supported by each of the three members representing the Parties but opposed by one of the three international members,

See ***ELECTIONS***, page 12

■ FROM THE TOP

Action needed on board results, safety

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

This week, I would like to talk about something that is on the minds of many Task Force Eagle soldiers — promotion.

Last month, the results of the promotion board for E-7, Sgt. 1st Class were announced.

Here are some statistical comparisons between the Department of Army selection rates and the Task Force Eagle and 1st Armored Division selection rates.

For the entire DA, there were 33,998 personnel considered, and 3,730 selected for a 11 percent selection rate.

For Task Force Eagle's staff sergeants, 967 were considered and 77 were selected, for a rate of eight percent.

For 1st AD, 642 were considered and 46 were selected, for a rate of 7.2 percent.

First, I would like to congratulate all those individuals who were selected for promotion. Your selection is testimony to your commitment to excellence and a recognition of your fine performance and potential for continued professional development.

However, I would like to specifically address those staff sergeants who did not get selected this time around. Don't get discouraged. As the aforementioned numbers indicate, the process for selection was very competitive. Iron NCOs who weren't selected should not give up.

Make sure you go over your promotion packets with your supervisors to try and discuss areas in which you might currently be deficient.

Selection boards consider the entire Official Military Personnel File and Personnel Qualification Record. Information such as Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports, variety of assignments, performance of duty in leadership positions, military education, and physical fitness are also important considerations during board deliberations.

Supervisors, when counseling your soldiers concerning nonselection, you should also consider that sometimes it is a result of the limited opportunity for selection in a MOS due to an overstrength status.

One final note on this. If there is any soldier who was not selected this time around and would like me to go over their packets with them, I will make myself available for that purpose.

Another item I'd like to focus on this week is vehicle safety. NCOs, remind your soldiers that canvas should not be left flapping; it should be tied down. Another standard that I want to make sure sergeants are enforcing concerns driving visibility. Ensure that all vehicle lights are wiped off and especially guarantee that windows are kept clean and clear.

Another driving topic I'd like to mention is common courtesy. Be respectful of civilians. Slow down when passing and try not to get too close or splash mud on them. Remember, we are guests in their country.

Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

■ VIEWPOINT

Fifteen million miles later, task force still safe

Capt. Todd D. Lyle
TFE Safety

Each time you get into your car and decide to put on your seat belt, you have made the decision to reduce a hazard through a passive countermeasure.

Somewhere in your driving career, you realized the benefits of wearing your seat belt outweighed the risks of not wearing it. You performed a risk assessment and with that you managed a risk that is incurred each time you ride in a car.

The example above shows a thought process that is used every day. Yet when some individuals are asked to use it in a tactical environment it is met with reluctance and excuses. I know this because I have heard them ad nauseam during this deployment. The Task Force Eagle safety office wants nothing other than to ensure your safety. Our intentions here are to help ensure that each and every soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine of every nationality returns home safe and sound.

Let's take a look at some of the safety successes achieved by Task Force Eagle. Are you aware that there have been in excess of 23,000 personnel who have served with Task Force Eagle? Furthermore, did you know that over 15 million wheeled vehicle miles have been driven to date?

If you divide the two you will find that roughly 652 miles were driven for each of us. With all those miles driven we have suffered only one vehicle-related fatality. Let's keep it that way as we near the end of this historic deployment.

Although many of the force protection measures that were enacted here were met with some grumbling, they were followed and we kept each other safe. Last winter, as the Task Force deployed under extremely harsh conditions, there were only four cold weather injuries and throughout the whole deployment there have been only seven cases of dehydration. In all, the only high numbers reported were personal injuries: slips, trips, and falls.

With all these statistics in mind, remember this: You are the reason that this deployment has been such as success, both operationally and organizationally.

Take your time when performing tasks; give them the same careful consideration that you have given them in the past. You are a part of history and deserve to live to tell your grandchildren about your experiences here. Good luck to you all.

The Talon

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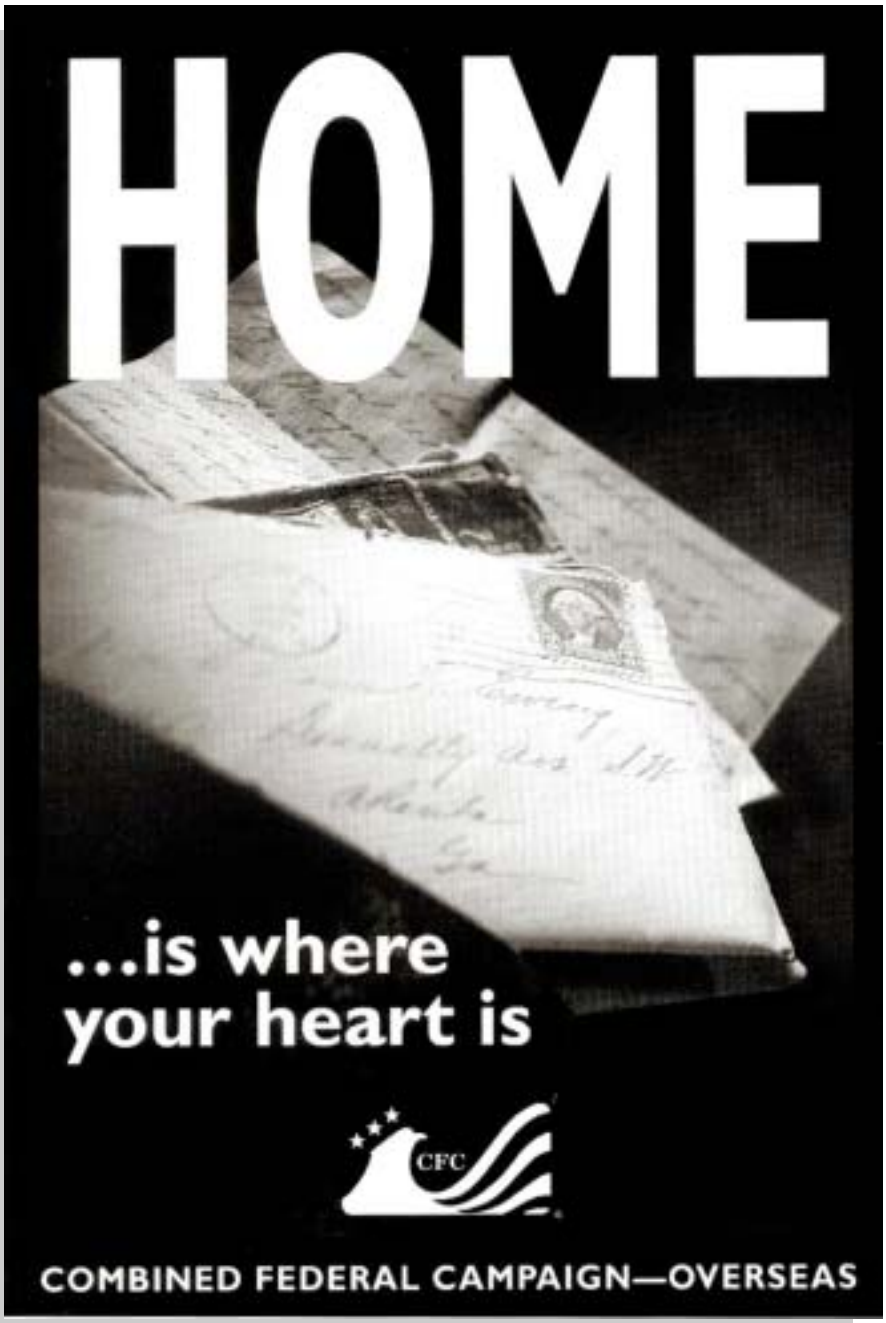

The Combined Federal Campaign, the U.S. military and federal employees annual charity drive, kicked off Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 22.

The campaign's theme for 1996 is "Home is Where Your Heart Is," a reminder that no matter how far away they are stationed, America's men and women serving overseas are close to home — in their hearts.

Those who wish to contribute may choose from more than 1,100 CFC qualified agencies this year, and may also make direct contributions to their community's family support and youth activity programs.

The CFC World Wide Web site (http://www.cfcoa.org) offers a search database of qualified agencies. A search using the keyword "Bosnia," for instance, yields information about three charities engaged in humanitarian work here.

Whether one chooses to donate to a charity in the United States, a community program in Central Region, or an international relief agency, the money is well-spent.

"The members of Task Force Eagle have already proven just by being here they have a lot of heart," 1st Armored Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley said recently. "I'm sure that any charitable contributions they would like to make through CFC-Overseas would be greatly appreciated."

Maj. Eileen Chao, Task Force Eagle CFC coordinator, said soldiers interested in giving can get more information from their unit CFC representative or through the chain of command. Chao called the campaign a painless way to make a charitable donation. "The money comes right out of your check, and it is tax-deductible," she said.

Anyone who would like to receive additional CFC information for a unit or section may contact Chao at DSN 551-3511.

News briefs

1st AD website

The 1st Armored Division is on line. Read *The Talon* without having to download. Find maps, news releases, biographies and facts about 1AD.
http://www.tfeagle.1ad.army.mil

Talon archive

Get every issue of *The Talon* ever published on the World Wide Web. Our URL is: http://www.dtic.mil/bosnia/talon/index.html.

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Task Force reshaping

The reshaping of Task Force Eagle concluded with the departure of the 25th Chemical Company from the task force area of operations, enroute to the Intermediate Staging Base at Taszar, Hungary.

Now at the ISB, the unit is conducting maintenance and supply activities so as to return to Central Region combat-ready.

The company, part of the 1st Armored Division, will return to Budingen, Germany and continue recovery operations after its extended deployment in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. Arriving in Bosnia in December, the unit conducted operations from Camp Rumbaugh.

It supported the operation by providing environmental, nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance and warning to Task Force Eagle soldiers. The movement completes the plan to restructure the force given the situation and mission at hand.

Task Force Eagle remains an effective force with the flexibility to respond quickly to changing situations on the ground anywhere in the Multinational Division — North area of operations.

Weekly weather forecast

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

Provided Oct. 9 by Internet Access Weather

■ SAFETY

Weapon safety priority in extreme cold

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Jack lurks around the corner waiting to attack unprepared soldiers. Sometimes he is well hidden, but his presence is unmistakable — as the chills run down your spine, you know he's there.

With winter right around the corner soldiers are turning up the heat and piling on the layers to protect themselves from Old Jack Frost — but what are they doing to preserve the weapons they're carrying? Extreme cold weather can wreak havoc by causing firearm malfunctions and breakages.

Spc. Kristina M. Conte, a small arms repairer from Detachment 1, 77th Maintenance Company, said weapons need to be gauged every six months to make sure they are still operational.

"And with the cold weather arriving, troops need to perform extra maintenance on their weapons," she said.

Heaters keep work places and sleeping areas toasty warm; however, condensation forms on weapons that are taken from extreme cold into heated shelters.

When the pistols and rifles are taken back outside, the "sweat" freezes on and in the weapon. Removal of the condensation by disassembling, cleaning and re-oiling is of the utmost importance.

"Don't over-lube it," Conte said. "The lubricant will freeze. This causes the trigger and sights to be immovable, or when fired, the recoil jams and the firing pin snaps."

The tempered steel on weapons becomes brittle in the extreme cold and when it's warmed up too quickly, breakage can result. Rapid firing of the weapon can weaken the steel by suddenly heating the cold barrel and gun to temperatures up to 750 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold weapons should first be fired at a slow rate until the parts have warmed.

Conte said snow is a big reason for malfunctions. It can get into the working parts, sights, and barrel of the weapon. She warned soldiers to always check for snow-clogs before firing.

"If a round can't get out of the barrel because of clogging, a cook-off occurs. When this happens the round gets so hot that it explodes in the soldier's face," Conte said.

Sgt. 1st Class Vicente S. Marziano, detachment supervisor, said it's all about safety. "In a mission like this where weapons are a high priority, the soldiers need to repair and properly maintain their firearms; otherwise, when it comes time to use them they won't work."

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Spc. Kristina M. Conte, 20, of Warwick, N.Y., checks the barrel of an M-16A2 rifle. Her unit, Detachment 1, 77th Maintenance Company, provides small arms weapons repair support to 32 units in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Snow chain safety

Sgt. Alan L. Henrichson, supply sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, demonstrates how to attach snow chains to a HMMWV tire. Cold weather classes offered during safety days taught helpful hints to beat the elements.

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

■ COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS

Keeping warm no sweat if procedures followed

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

Cool autumn days, unfortunately, are followed by a dreary, cold winter here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Some soldiers will be spending their second winter here, but for many it's their first time in a winter climate.

During winter safety classes, Sgt. Duane M. Myers, a communications noncommissioned officer with 1st Armored Division, shared his firsthand knowledge of beating the cold.

"Wearing several layers is recommended over one thick, bulky layer. You can always take a layer off if you get hot, but if you don't have extra layers with you when you need them, that's worse," Myers, of Wisconsin, said.

The Army supplies everyone with the extended cold weather clothing system that is designed to pull moisture away from your skin to keep you dry and warm.

It includes layering items for the body, head, hands and feet.

"Lots of times we wear the wrong layers together, such as wearing the polypropylene undergarments under our BDUs instead of the Gore-tex suit," Myers said. "It doesn't hold in body heat as well."

"Soldiers should avoid wearing a t-shirt beneath the polypro undershirt because it will retain moisture caused by sweat," Myers said. "Especially if they are physically active."

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Spc. Jeremy J. Kriner, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, demonstrates proper layering of exterme cold weather clothing wear for a safety class.

Sgt. 1st Class William A. Torres, noncommissioned officer in charge of Tuzla Main's medical clinic, had several cold injury prevention tips he believes soldiers don't fully understand.

"Trench foot can start within 24 hours if soldiers don't change their socks when moisture sets in," Torres said. "The moisture starts to freeze and the skin becomes soft. These areas can lead to infections."

Wearing the insulated, intermediate cold weather boots will not automatically keep your feet safe, Torres said.

Soldiers must adhere to proper feet protection measures such as changing socks twice daily if necessary, and avoiding long periods of inactivity.

"Tight boots allow sweat buildup," Torres said. "It's important to have room for an insulating layer of air. Don't wear two pairs of socks at once."

"Everyone thinks the number one cause for trench foot is getting their boots and feet wet by submersion in water or slush, but it's not true," he said. "It happens under normal conditions when exposed to cold weather."

Torres also warned soldiers to avoid barehanded contact against wet surfaces or metals. Exposed skin can't maintain warmth, especially if the wind is blowing.

"It's possible to get frostbite at just 27 degrees Fahrenheit; it doesn't have to be below zero," Torres said.

Torres said cold weather can also be indirectly responsible for injuries due to slips and falls on icy surfaces.

"It's quite easy to injure arms and hands while attempting to break falls," he said. "Head injuries are also a possibility, so keep those chin straps fastened."

Soldiers help Bosnians prepare for Balkan winter

By Master Sgt.
KATHY D. WRIGHT
350th MPAD

McGOVERN BASE — Sulejman Hadzic couldn't suppress his relief when an Implementation Force military truck pulled up in front of what's left of his home recently and soldiers unloaded a stove, blankets, and other cold weather items.

"Everything is fine," said the elderly man as a broad smile spread across his face. "Now I have heat. I have everything I need."

Six homes in a war-torn section of the zone of separation will be equipped with some of the basics necessary to sustain life during a cold Balkan winter. The thanks for that go to the combined efforts of personnel from Company D, 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry; 65th Military Police Company (Airborne); and 401st Civil Affairs Battalion. The much-welcomed assistance came after the McGovern Base soldiers saw the locals' plight while performing one of their regular missions.

"Our troops patrol here every day and they've come to know the handful of residents who have returned to live in their homes in this area," said Capt. Lee A. Rysewyk, commander of Co. D. "It was obvious these families are surviving under very harsh conditions. They don't even have running water or electricity. Several of them have only a dirt floor and plastic sheeting for windows. No one wants to see people live like that if something can be done about it."

The Fallbrook, Calif., native decided to see if he could find a way to make life a little better for area residents.

After having only limited success in obtaining the critically-needed items, he linked up with civil affairs officer Maj. Paul V. Ciminelli.

"These people, most of them senior citizens, were clearly in immediate need of basic life support, especially with the cold weather moving in," said the U.S. Army reservist from New York. "They were living among the ruins."

After finding out how desperate the situation was, Ciminelli wasted no time contacting local municipal officials. He discovered some aid was available, but delivery would have to be arranged. His next call was to the military police company to secure a truck and a group to help load and unload the supplies.

"The bottom line is that the process of delivering materials donated through the international relief system had to be expedited," said Ciminelli. "We just offered our assistance in an effort to make it happen."

When armed Muslim refugees returned to their war-torn homes, now in Republika Srpska territory, the ensuing ordeal tested provisions of the General Framework Agreement for Peace. Those provisions held. By the time the villagers left their homes again, this time so they could return legally, one more thing was clear: IFOR troops here are doing a tough job well.

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

JUSICI, Bosnia- Herzegovina — Muslim villagers in this remote mountain region agreed late last week to temporarily leave their war-torn village. The agreement ended an emotional 13-day ordeal involving United Nations High Commission for Refugees and Implementation Force soldiers from the Russian Brigade. The villagers left to await proper approval from UN and Srpskan officials, granted Sunday, before returning to their homes.

The agreement called for a 72-hour waiting period for processing applications to verify ownership of homes in the village. Under the agreement, only three of the 101 villagers were to remain in the village around the clock, while Maj. Gil Gilbertson of the International Police Task Force and Russian soldiers provided security. Other villagers were allowed to return during daylight hours to continue work on their war-damaged houses.

Returning for the first time since Bosnian Serbs overran the village in 1992, the refugees were mostly elderly women and men. Accompanying the refugees were Bosnian Federation soldiers wearing civilian clothes and posing as refugees. They were carrying weapons, including AK-47 assault rifles, a Scorpion machine gun, and grenades. Bringing weapons into the Inter-Entity Boundary Line is a direct violation of the General Framework Agreement for

Spc. Alejandro Cabello

Cpl. Len Butler

Peace. The weapons were immediately confiscated by Russian soldiers, who were dispatched to the area to avert a possible confrontation between the villagers and nearby Bosnian Serbs.

The villagers also failed to file for ownership of their village homes before returning, a violation of a UN mandate made in early September.

In that agreement, refugees returning to Srpska must submit applications to verify ownership of homes and eliminate potential squatters.

In a move IFOR officials said showed welcome restraint and confidence in established procedures, Bosnian Serb police merely set up an observation post on a nearby hill while Russian troops moved in.

When Russian troops ordered the villagers to leave, the villagers defied the orders and began work rebuilding their homes.

"There are certain procedures that must be followed," Rosana San of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said. "We cannot allow the people of Jusici to derail the process we implemented in September."

San said Bosnian Serb officials are not trying to keep the refugees from returning to their homes. "All the Bosnian Serb government wants is for the refugees to follow the procedures established," San said.

Maj. John Kershaw, Task Force Eagle's liaison officer to the Russians, was on-site to assist the Russian soldiers.

(Left) An angry villager shouts as the mayor of Jusici tells the refugees they will have to leave. (Right) A refugee begins the trek out of Jusici to a tent city set up by the UNHCR. (Above right) Operation DOBRO DONUT, in which refugees returning after the 72-hour waiting period were treated to fresh donuts and coffee, marked the successful resolution of the ordeal.

"We cannot allow the people of Jusici to derail the process we implemented in September."

— Rosana San, UNHCR

Kershaw made it clear IFOR had no intention of getting involved in the negotiations. "IFOR's primary role is that of a facilitator. The agreement was reached with the leader of this village, the canton leader, and in conjunction with the UNHCR," Kershaw said. The Jusici incident reached crisis proportions when a preliminary agreement was reached between Jusici villagers and UN and IFOR representatives. Jusici mayor Nekir Islamovic addressed the villagers about the agreement, in which the villagers were to leave the village as dictated under the September mandate. However, a man who was later idientified by Task Force Eagle authorities as an officer in the Bosnian Federation Army was observed inciting villagers to protest the agreement.

A Task Force Eagle spokesman said the crisis was little more than a propaganda effort and the incident was clearly orchestrated and incited by the Bosnian Muslim government.

After the war, Jusici was within Federation Territory; however, under the terms of the GFAP, the village was returned to Bosnian Serb control after the IEBL was redrawn.

When the final agreement was reached between the villagers and authorities, there were no protests. Saddened people, once again carrying belongings on their backs, walked away from their homes down a muddy road back toward the IEBL.

Izet Hadzic, governor of the Tuzla-Podrinje Canton that includes Jusici, thanked Brig. Gen. George W. Casey and Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, as well as the Russian forces for the handling of the situation.

"Because of the efforts of the Russians, and the efforts of Gen. Casey and Gen. Nash, we have reached a solution that will help everyone," Hadzic said.

Casey, who was present at the signing of the agreement, said he was very pleased with the outcome of the agreement.

"In order to get this situation resolved peacefully, it took a lot of effort from many people from all the international organizations, the Republika Srpska, and the governor's office all working together. I think it is important that the first instance of conflict here since the September elections has been resolved peacefully. That is a big step forward for everybody," Casey said.

Casey expressed appreciation of the professionalism the Russians exhibited. "The determination and perseverance of the Russian Brigade soldiers kept control of the situation here. I think we wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the great job the Russian Brigade soldiers did."

Spc. Alejandro Cabello

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

By Sgt. NICOLE SMITH
135th MPAD

Imagine: During the upcoming Bosnian elections one of the former warring factions decides they will not allow freedom of movement. They block one of the main voting routes with barbed wire and an array of mines, attempting to defeat one of IFOR's roles in the Bosnian elections.

Fortunately this hasn't happened, but that was the training scenario on Sept. 26-27 in the British sector at Glamoc. Combat engineers from Companies A and C, 16th Engineer Battalion; two squads from the 40th and 23rd Engineer Battalions; and 12 soldiers from the Danish Army practiced one of their war-time missions.

Capt. Frederic A. Drummond, commander of Co. A, 16th Engineers., also known as "The Outlaws," brainstormed the idea to give his soldiers and other combat engineers real-life training that will enhance their skills down the line.

"I don't want them to lose sight of real war-type combat engineer tasks," Drummond said.

"We're here helping to keep the peace, but that is not always going to be our mission."

The training exercise provided each combat engineer platoon with the most realistic live-fire training possible using the mine clearing line charge and the .50 caliber machine gun.

Most of the focus was on the synchronization and integration of combat engineer drills at platoon level and .50 caliber machine gun.

To contribute to the real world scenario, the 20th Explosive Ordinance Disposal team from the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade added battlefield simulations enhancing the realism of the assault.

"This is a great opportunity for our soldiers to train hands on with this equipment," Drummond said. "Some of my soldiers haven't been able to fire a live Mine-Clearing Line Charge, although they have had training on it."

"The MICLIC contains 1,840 pounds of C-4 explosives," said Sgt. Randolph S. Spohn, combat engineer and MICLIC expert of Co. A. "A strand of detonation chord runs through all 100 meters of the C-4. A fuse is connected to the end, which is detonated by the 4-J power source in the armored personnel carrier. Once the charge is detonated it blows a path through the obstacle. The path is 100 meters long by 14 meters wide. The explosion normally clears surface-laid mines, and almost always uncovers buried ones."

Spohn said that the MICLIC is not used for mine clearing operations. "It is used by the task force to breach the obstacle and assault the objective."

"Our job as combat engineers in the Army is to provide mobility, countermobility and survivability," said Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Fritts, 2nd squad leader of 1st platoon, Co. A. "When the task force is conducting a deliberate attack, the maneuver commander will bring the maximum amount of combat power to bear on the enemy at a decisive point on the battlefield. If an obstacle is emplaced to stop us, we do what we've been trained to do, breach the obstacle."

"This entire operation is like clockwork," Fritts said. "The first team goes out and lays suppressive fire, the area is breached using the MICLIC, the lanes are proofed and marked, and finally the assault team moves through."

Each of the three platoons got a chance to go through the exercise and run the show, testing their combat engineer skills.

"This is a good training tool for us," said Drummond. "It tells us where our platoons lie in combat operations. This is also quite unique because it is the first time the MICLIC has ever been fired in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

To add to the novelty of the exercise, soldiers from the Danish army took part. Pvt. Thomas E. Christiansen an engineer and EOD specialist, was one of the 12 Danes involved in the training. "I was the gunner on the .50 Cal.," Christiansen said. "My job was to destroy the targets and I did just that. I can prove it to you," he said with a grin. He proudly pulled out an expended .50 cal. round from his pocket. "You see this? The commander pulled this out of my target. I knew I was hitting it."

"We were able to see how Americans do things and learn something from them," Christiansen said.

"I've realized the Americans' planning is more detailed than ours. I am not necessarily saying their training is better, just a bit different," he said.

A month of preparation proceeded the operation. A blocked route, a checkpoint and strategically placed bunkers were just part of the props built by engineers for Operation OUTLAW THUNDER.

The exercise was in addition to their normal peace keeping missions.

"It was a huge success," Drummond said. "We got a lot of feedback from the soldiers saying it was the best training they had received in the Army."

UNRESTRICTED

■ RUSSIAN BRIGADE

Russians host NBC show-and-tell

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

UGLJEVIK, Bosnia-Herzegovina — American soldiers lined up here to see and touch Soviet-made equipment they had only read about in books. At last, this was the real thing.

It isn't often that soldiers from two former enemy armies allow one another the chance to personally examine their military equipment.

The end of the Cold War has brought soldiers from Russia and the U.S. together, working side by side in a climate of mutual respect and budding friendships.

Russian nuclear, biological and chemical specialists last week invited 1st Armored Division's Nuclear Biological Chemical specialists to Russian Brigade Headquarters for a presentation of Soviet-made protection gear and instruments.

Maj. Victor Kudryashov, chief of chemical services for the Russian Brigade, gave Division Chemical soldiers their first tour inside a NBC reconnaissance vehicle.

"The BTR-80 is a special NBC vehicle, not all Russian units have one," Kudryashov said. "It can launch alarm flare rockets and shoot contamination marker flags while in motion."

Russian soldiers presented various detection instruments, alarms, protective suits, and offered demonstrations of their vehicle mounted decontamination capabilities.

"I showed the American soldiers how we use the chemical detection kit," said Senior Lt. Oleg Spechilov. "We only have to break the tubes and pump air into them. It is very easy."

Logistics NCO, Sgt. 1st. Class Tad D. Olson, 30, from Houston, enjoyed his first "show-and-tell" and hopes he will have a second opportunity to see more equipment demonstrations.

"Their protective suits are made of rubber and therefore can withstand more chemical contact than ours, but they are very exhausting to work in," Olson said. "Russian protective masks look similar to the M-40s we have now."

Division chemical Sgt. Maj. James H. Keck, of Covington, Ky., enjoyed the opportunity to meet his Russian NBC counterparts and view their chemical detection instruments.

"This is the first time that I've been able to actually put my hands on their equipment," Keck said.

"We've always had photographs and drawings, but its different when we get to touch and observe Russian-made items. I find it very exciting."

Some of the Russian soldiers viewed U.S. equipment months ago and recall their experiences.

"What we find most interesting in the American equipment is the computers in the reconnaissance vehicles," Spechilov said.

"We don't rely on many computers because they cause problems in tough field conditions.

"Most important is that even though our two nations' vehicles are different in exact capabilities, they protect our personnel from NBC dangers and violent artillery attacks," Kudryashov said.

In between demonstration periods most of the soldiers compared uniforms and personal gear.

They communicated through translators or resorted to hand gestures when necessary.

All of them enjoyed each other's company, although it was short lived.

"The bottom line," said Keck, "is that we had soldiers from both countries out there together. There wasn't a division between us, we were just one big group of GIs. A soldier is a soldier, and a person is a person above all else."

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

(Left to right) Sgt. 1st. Class Tad D. Olson, Staff Sgt. Fred L. Workman, and Russian NBC platoon leader Senior Lt. Oleg Spechilov examine detection glass tubes.

Wedding heralds return to normalcy

By Capt.
TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

Spc. Daniel Paschall

Newlyweds Arijana and Almir Salihbasic greet family and friends at their Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegonvina wedding held in September.

Arijana Salihbasic learned to snow ski when she was four years old. Every summer she vacationed on the warm Croatian coast. She studied music for 11 years, hoping someday to find a career as a performing artist. Life was good, and she had great expectations for a happy and prosperous future.

All of that changed when war broke out in her homeland, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Until the last day, my friends and I couldn't believe that war would really start. Then when the fighting began, the worst thing was now knowing when the war would finish," Arijana said.

Born in Tuzla, the 21 year-old was raised by a Bosnian Muslim father and a Bosnian Croat mother. Until 1991, however, ethnicity was "not an issue."

"Before the war we had everything, but the fighting ruined our lives and our country," Arijana said.

Two months before the shooting started, Arijana's father sent his daughter away to live with friends in safety. But when Arijana saw Tuzla burning on television, she decided to return to her native city.

"The night I arrived, the city was empty. It was like a horror story. My father told me to never go outside. I spent the next 10 months in our building or in the basement."

For the next two years sirens heralded incoming shells from Bosnian Serb artillery and mortars surrounding Tuzla. The attacks forced the closure of the airport, and at times the city was completely blockaded.

"We lost electricity and other services," Arijana said. "We had no money, or anything."

Tuzla's worst day came May 25, 1995 when a single mortar shell exploded in a heavily congested downtown market. The blast killed 71 people. Arijana lost one of her best friends.

When politicians met in Dayton, Ohio to discuss the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Arijana didn't have much hope for a meaningful agreement.

"I was only hoping for peace. Those leaders could meet a million times, and I didn't care. I only wanted to live like before," she said.

But unlike previously brokered peace agreements, Dayton worked. "I remember watching TV and seeing a HMMWV drive out of an airplane. My God, they are ugly, I thought." Then I saw an American tank and I thought, it is huge."

Unlike the United Nations Protection Force, IFOR showed up with high-powered weapons, and lots of them. The show of force coupled with a commitment to peace by the parties to the agreement have given the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina an opportunity to hold elections and work toward a lasting peace.

That's what Arijana is counting on. Lasting peace.

Last week she married her "high school sweetheart," Almir. Arijana has given up dreams of a music career, but she hasn't lost hope of "living happily ever after."

"We want to get good jobs, and live the life we want," Arijana said. "Almir has a good talent for languages, and I have studied economics."

Asked to compare life to year ago, Arijana responded quickly and bluntly. "It is much better now. You can't even compare then and now. IFOR helped make peace. No one else did anything, and that's the truth."

The joy and burden of command

May God bless our outgoing commander, Captain Apicella, to continue in excellence, contending, always, for the valor, strength and courage that has made our country great.

May God bless our incoming commander, Captain Miller, and give him the wisdom and understanding to be the portrait of infallible leadership that you have so graciously blessed us with in the past. For with wisdom you founded the earth, and with understanding you established the heavens. Please grant him these tools of success.

May both of these outstanding officers seek your guidance, oh Lord and may their ways be ways of pleasantness and their paths be of peace.

- Spc. Michelle A. Wright, at the 501st Military Police Company change of command ceremony in September.

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

WOODEN IT BE NICE TO RECYCLE?

By Staff Sgt.
ANNA M. PRUSAITIS
100th MPAD

Staff Sgt. Anna M. Prusaitis

Spc. Kevin E. Hanley, multichannel systems operator with the 440th Signal Battalion, makes signs out of recycled, broken pallet boards. Hanley uses a scroll saw to carefully cut the letters out of the recycled wood.

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia — In just about any field environment making something "crude but effective" seems to be the standard method for overcoming logistics shortages.

Rare indeed is the opportunity to see a craftsman take the normal "crude but effective" method and create something smooth and refined, especially in a field environment.

But that is exactly what a few soldiers at Camp Sava North have done. They have skillfully taken tattered and broken wood pallets and created smooth and refined signs to hang over the unit's office doors.

Spc. Kevin E. Hanley, multichannel systems operator, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 440th Signal Battalion, had some help from his wife, Lori, in acquiring some of the tools needed. " I told her what I needed, she got it and mailed it to me. I couldn't have done this with out her," Hanley said.

Hanley, who has 12 years of woodworking experience is the assigned driver for the battalion commander and when he does not have to be on the road he works on signs.

Additional assistance with sanding and staining the office name signs was provided by Spc. Aurelio C. Vargas, signal support systems specialist, also with the 440th and a resident of Laton, Calif.

"I had some experience in woodworking from high school and college," Vargas said. "When I heard they needed some help in making tables, chairs and signs, I volunteered to help."

The broken pallets used in creating the signs were taken apart and the letters were freehanded onto the boards.

Hanley carefully cut the letters out using a scroll saw then the signs were sanded smooth by Vargas and prepared for staining.

Originally the signs were to be temporary, made to identify offices.

After seeing the caliber of craftsmanship used in making the signs the battalion staff decided they would be taken back to Darmstadt, where the unit is based.

"It's good to know these signs are not just being used for the deployment," Hanley said. "I'm glad they're going to be taken back to the battalion, it makes them even more special."

Hanley, his wife and children, Mark, 3, Dersire, 11, and Kenneth 5, reside in Darmstadt, Germany.

Reserve Affairs' Deborah Lee visits

By Capt. JOHN V. STRAHAN
100TH MPAD

EAGLE BASE, TUZLA, Bosnia and Herzegovina — Reserve component members of Task Force Eagle were visited by the Honorable Deborah Lee, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. Secretary Lee's recent informal lunch meeting with reservists gave attendees a chance to speak directly with the distinguished visitor.

The secretary abandoned her place at the head table and moved around the room asking questions about living conditions, duty assignments, hometowns, and civilian employment. Lee brought with her encouraging words from Washington, "Dr. Perry is very proud of the Guard and Reserve and their role in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR," Lee said.

Lee entertained questions from reservists about pay, redeployment, and the length of an active duty tour. During the Gulf War reservists were generally called up for 180 days. Subsequent legislation has increased that number to 270. "We learned that 180 days was not enough time, considering mobilization and training. It's my guess that 270 is here to stay," Lee said.

Addressing a question about repeated call-ups Lee said a key to retention is to spread the work around.

As a group of reservists lined up to be photographed with Lee, she ended her visit with praise for the "total force" concept. "Reservists in IFOR fill a variety of roles, and they are a very important part. We cannot do a major military operation without the Guard and Reserve."

REDEPLOY from page 1

Fact: During the municipal elections, redeployment will slow.

Fact: Full flow to Central Region will resume immediately after the election.

Fact: The goal of redeployment is to get every soldier home before 365 days.

Fact: Not all units will be out of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Dec. 20.

IFOR's mandate ends Dec. 20 and NATO commander Gen. George A. Joulwan has made it clear that IFOR will maintain a fully capable force in theater up to that date.

He said that sufficient forces will be in place until the mission ends.

That means some units will not leave Bosnia-Herzegovina until after Dec. 20.

The rate of redeployment will depend on the security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina after the municipal elections. No decision has been made concerning a possible post-IFOR follow-on force.

After IFOR's mandate ends, American military forces will follow prescribed operational doctrine for withdrawal and redeployment.

Elements of the 1st ID, known as the Big Red One, will provide a covering force to overwatch 1st AD's withdrawal.

Currently deploying from Central Region, the Big Red One will assist in maintaining a safe and secure environment for municipal elections in November.

The 1st ID will also maintain force protection and security for the withdrawal of 1st AD and its supporting units.

By doctrine, a covering force conducts overwatch and security operations for a withdrawing force. The transfer of authority to 1st ID will allow 1st AD to focus on withdrawal.

The 2nd Brigade of the Big Red One will form the basic component of the covering force.

The 11th Aviation Regiment; 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry and the 3rd Brigade headquarters will add to the force.

Both the 720th and the 519th military police battalions that deployed as part of the force reshaping this summer will round out the covering force.

Defense Secretary William J. Perry said current plans call for up to 7,000 American soldiers to remain in Bosnia-Herzegovina through Feb. 1.

The number will drop to 3,000 by March 1, and zero-out by the middle of the month.

Russian troops aid Predator recovery

When the Predator, a U.S. Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle, went down in the ZOS last week, Russian and American soldiers rushed to the scene. Their cooperation exemplified the success of their IFOR partnership.

By Capt. STEVEN E. METZE
100th MPAD

KRSTAC, Bosnia-Herzegovina — When the Predator, an Air Force unmanned aerial vehicle went down in the zone of separation recently, American and Russian troops rushed to the location to support recovery operations.

First, engineers moved into the heavily mined ZOS, sweeping fields surrounding the recovery site for land mines. Then they used sticks, metal detectors, and dogs to proof the location.

Once the area was declared mine-free, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry arrived via helicopter.

"We got off the birds, pulled security, and started setting up OPs" said Spc. Quentin V. Fenderson, a resident of Demopolis, Ala. Fenderson said his company was training in the area when the UAV went down.

Col. Evgeniy Shamilin, deputy commander of the Russian Brigade, and Col. Alan W. Thrasher, division artillery commander, supervised the sensitive operation. Russian and American soldiers swept through the area recovering parts and loading them on Russian trucks for transport to Eagle Base.

Once the job was done, loadmasters from Co. A, 7th Battalion, 227th Aviation laid out slings and nets, and in a group effort, soldiers joined together to roll the two thousand pound aircraft into place.

After carefully wrapping the UAV fuselage in ropes and chains, a UH-60 Black Hawk transported the Predator safely out of the area.

Capt. Steven E. Metze

Col. Evgeniy Shamilin, deputy commander of the Russian Brigade, and Capt. Charles J. Mclaughlin, liaison officer to the Russians, discuss recovery operations in the ZOS.

ELECTIONS from page 1

was taken in full knowledge that we will be engaged in a high-risk operation program.

There is very little time to restore personnel requirements at full strength, ensure higher standards than prevailed in the six levels of elections on Sept. 14, funding and so on.

But the international community, as represented at the Peace implementation Council Steering Board here in Sarajevo on Oct. 2 and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe Permanent Council in Vienna, has pledged full support for a Provisional Election Commission decision to go ahead.

The reorganized OSCE Mission elections cadre is under the leadership of Mr. Patrick Bradley.

They believe that, provided the promised international support is forthcoming, it will be technically possible to supervise preparation of the elections in an acceptable manner.

My principal reason for staying on track with municipal elections before the end of the year is to take full advantage of the strength of the international community's presence, in both its civil and military dimensions, before that international presence is significantly diminished in 1997.

It is essential to continue to overcome pernicious effects of the centrifugal political forces across the country through the electoral process while the international community retains the strength to do so.