

THE TALON



Operation Joint Endeavor

Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Spc. Robert M. Critcher, a water treatment specialist at Camp Bedrock, tests water purity every hour to ensure the water is the best in Bosnia.

Water dogs prepare for Balkan cold

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — They are known by most soldiers here as the “water dogs.”

Their mission revolves around water — its purity, temperature, volume and usage rate. With winter on its way, the water dogs will fight the elements to make sure they are not renamed “ice dogs.”

This essential group of water treatment specialists from the 26th Quartermaster Supply Company has treated more than 10 million gallons of pond water since arriving in March.

“We pump the water up from the spring-fed pond at the bottom of the hill and run it through our Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit at a rate of 55 gallons a minute,” Sgt. Kyle J. Arneson said. “That equates to 3,300 gallons an hour.”

Arneson, 25, from Onalaska, Wash., is the water point NCOIC and water authority.

“We supply all of Bedrock’s water — the showers, dining facilities and the

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Telemedicine assists docs

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM
350th MPAD

GRADACAC — High-technology medicine is now available in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which should result in better and more efficient patient treatment.

Using a state-of-the-art computer system, medical personnel at the 501st Forward Support Battalion aid station can communicate with doctors and

medical specialists at Landstuhl Army Hospital, Germany; Walter Reed Army Hospital, Washington; Fort Detrick, Md.; and other locations.

“It enables us to have our consultants come to us, rather than have the patient go to them,” said Capt. Michael S. Friedman, 31, field surgeon.

Friedman was one of three members

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■ FROM THE TOP

Safety first priority for redeploying troops

Iron Soldiers, it is almost time to head home.

As we move toward the redeployment phase of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, it is up to sergeants to make sure their troops are prepared and motivated for the mission that lies ahead.

I expect noncommissioned officers to start compiling their information now for after-action reports. After this historic deployment, it is our goal to compile a complete and thorough record of lessons learned.

Senior leaders should concentrate on documenting the redeployment process and be ready with suggestions on how the 1st Armored Division can become stronger and more efficient in the future.

Also, during this transition time, NCOs should take a proactive approach toward



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

meeting the challenges our soldiers will face as we leave the theater.

Needless to say, it will be quite a change in environment from living in the area of operations to being back at our home bases in the Central Region.

Advise your soldiers to take this readjustment slowly. Make sure families are taken into account and kept informed during the redeployment process.

But also don't forget about the single soldier who might not have family waiting upon our return to Central Region.

Leaders should be aware of their troops' individual situations and help accommodate their return to home station.

In addition to AARs, sergeants need to take care of reenlistment and administration matters upon our return, before soldiers start going on leave.

One final point I'd like to focus on is the tremendous team effort that has made Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR a success.

The troops of Task Force Eagle have made history. We have brought peace to a

country that just one short year ago was ravaged by war. People have been able to return to their jobs and put food on their tables. Children are back in school. Our enforcement of the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Accord has been successful.

Outstanding inter-service and international cooperation has made this happen.

That combined effort — whether airmen helping soldiers or Russians helping Americans — is something we should all be proud of. However, our pride should be tempered with caution. Our mission is not yet over.

Stay focused. Don't get complacent. As we redeploy, there will be many more vehicles and troops on the road. Spirits will be high as soldiers anticipate being reunited with friends and family.

But as the Balkan winter closes in on us, driving conditions will worsen and the potential for disaster increases.

Let's finish this job with the same high degree of professionalism that we have demonstrated throughout the deployment. Iron Soldiers take care of each other.

■ VIEWPOINT

Back home, dangers of drinking, driving still lurk

With just two weeks to go before we graduated from flight school, a classmate was killed when he lost control of his car in an alcohol-related accident.

The accident occurred on a Wednesday night after a majority of the class had been at a local hotel for 10-cent oyster night.

We were there to celebrate the fact that only 'tree' phase stood between us and our wings. (They call it 'tree' phase because there is no flying and we wear BDUs again.)

Those surviving our classmate remembered him at graduation and I am sure most of us think of him whenever we hear of a similar accident.



Capt. Todd D. Lyle
TFE Safety

Obviously I am thinking of him now. I remember that he had a great deal of promise and potential. I also remember him being a wild man. Wild right up to the point where his Corvette plowed through eight pine trees.

It seems that each time there is cause for celebration, someone, for reasons wholly unknown to the survivors, always chooses to ignore his friends' warnings.

How many times does someone have to remind us not to drink and drive? Yet, seemingly intelligent people continue to take to the roadways full of liquid confidence.

In 1991, when troops were returning to Central Region after DESERT STORM, there were 132 privately owned vehicle accidents from April 1 — Sept. 30. Of those accidents 37 were fatal, with 41 soldiers killed.

Eight of those accidents were directly related to alcohol. It is speculated that many of the others were due to operator overconfidence and excessive speed.

Operations DESERT STORM and JOINT ENDEAVOR do not

draw many parallels operationally.

What they do have in common, however, is the obvious fact that soldiers from both operations spent a long period away from driving on improved surfaces with high-performance automobiles.

Additionally, the driving we have been doing has been done without the presence of alcohol.

It is imperative that we all continue to look out for one another upon our return. Don't be the one we remember in the years to come as the one who died from being stupid.

More importantly, remember the innocents! DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE.

THE TALON

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M-249 SQUAD AUTOMATIC WEAPON

Clear it right

1. Point weapon at clearing barrel; place weapon on safe (red ring not visible). Open the feed tray cover assembly and remove the ammunition belt or loose links.



2. Open feed tray. Look into the chamber, ensuring no rounds are present. Close feed tray cover assembly, ensuring it is locked in place. Place weapon on fire, letting the charging handle ride forward.

3. Charge the weapon three more times, watching for rounds to eject.

Editors' note: Last issue, we wrote that, when clearing the M-16A1 and M-16A2 rifles, the charging handle should be locked to the rear. We should have said "lock the bolt to the rear."



■ SAFETY

In crowded motor pool, safety is top priority

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

Mechanics and motor pool supervisors are staying focused on safety as preparations for redeployment fill their shops with vehicles, weapons, generators and communication equipment.

Soldiers from Detachment 1, 77th Maintenance Company continue to meet the challenge of repairing an endless supply of HMMWVs, trucks and armored personnel carriers in a fast-paced, crowded motor pool.

Staff Sgt. Tony C. Stephens, 31, of Ra-

leigh, N.C., is the automotive noncommissioned officer in charge for the detachment.

"Every Monday morning during our safety briefings we remind our mechanics to keep safety a priority. We look out for each other. If anyone sees a dangerous act, they have the right to stop it," Stephens said.

A display in their shop reminds everyone who passes by that safety is the first priority.

"NCOs remind us all the time to be safe," said wheeled vehicle repairer Spc. Howard R. Samis, from Leroy, N.Y. "Horseplay and running in the shop area are not allowed."

"Our safety record is very good. I can attribute this to the NCOs watching out for their soldiers. The majority of them had never deployed before, and it was a concern for us, but they have really proven themselves," Stephens said. "They help keep our soldiers safe."

The detachment currently supports 32 customer units. "The workload is unreal for just 22 people," Stephens said. "Our work has more than doubled compared to our usual mission in Germany."

Spc. Beautiful A. Evans, 22, of Detroit, keeps safety first and foremost in her daily routine.

"This motor pool is very crowded. Some people have a tendency to drive through too fast," Evans said.

"The speed limit is 5 miles per hour, because a mechanic could be under any vehicle, anywhere. Our NCOs bring a lot of situations to our attention that we take for granted. We get caught up in doing our jobs a certain way," Evans said. "Sometimes we're tempted to use a ratchet or a wrench as a hammer to tap on something."

In a work environment filled with potential dangers, it's every soldier's responsibility to make them known.

Track vehicle repairer Pfc. Antonio P. Cruz, 21, of Lancaster, Pa. shares his favorite safety practices.

"I always try to keep the creepers put up out of the way when I'm not laying on them under a vehicle," Cruz said.

"It's very easy to trip over them, and they're dangerous. It's also important to wear safety goggles when underneath something with lots of caked up mud stuck to it," he said.

Spc. Bradley W. Currie, 23, of Vona, Colo. takes pride in the mission his unit has accomplished and is ready to repair anything that comes his way.

"The 77th Maintenance Company has done an excellent job during this deployment," Currie said. "Overall, we've completed well over 1,200 jobs and handled a high volume of parts and supplies. I think it shows great leadership and great dedication by all the soldiers here."

Even though the soldiers of the detachment are working at capacity, they say they will work as long as it takes to get each and every vehicle ready for the journey home.

"If you have a mechanical problem you can't fix at the operator level, don't wait until it gets worse," Samis said. "Bring it in now while the repairs are simple."

"While other units redeploy we will be busy with a lot more jobs, but that's not a reason for us to hurry our work to the point of carelessness," Currie said. "We still have to do quality work as we've always done."



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Spc. Howard R. Samis, a wheeled vehicle repairer with 77th Maintenance Company, replaces a starter on a HMMWV.

Stress need not lead to tragedy

By Maj. SIMON H. PINCUS
and Capt. DAVID M. BENEDEK

There is positive stress and negative stress. A positive stress response can help us perform better during a test or crisis. An act of heroism is often associated with a positive response to stress.

However, when most of us think of stress we think of negative stress.

Any individual, given enough stress, can become a stress casualty. Signs and symptoms of negative stress can affect an individual's behavior, emotions or physical well-being.

Some behavioral changes can include: crying often, withdrawal from activities or friends, risk-taking, lack of motivation or suddenly giving away expensive possessions.

Emotional changes associated with too much stress can include: feeling hopeless and helpless without any power to effect

control over your situation, depression or sadness, loneliness or feeling that "I can't take it anymore." Finally, physical signs of stress is often manifested by sleep and appetite disturbances.

Some individuals may report an increase in aches, pains and minor illnesses as their resistance to stress falls. Leaders and peers may note a decrease in a stressed individual's personal hygiene. The stressed individual may also complain of increased difficulty concentrating.

Who is at risk to become a stress casualty? Individuals experiencing illness or death in their families. A new soldier in the unit who has had little chance to make any friendships or is having difficulty breaking into cliques.

Those with relationship or marital problems back home that are often difficult to solve over the phone. Individuals experiencing work difficulties or loss of job or status. Individuals with a past history of attempting suicide.

Perhaps the most extreme reaction to too much stress is when one finds oneself contemplating suicide. Suicidal thoughts can include a desire to not be around or put an end to the emotional pain by killing one's self. In very serious situations, it can include an actual plan on how to inflict injury to one's self and others.

Usually, the individual feels trapped, as if there is no way out from his problems. It must be stated that suicidal thoughts are often an expression of extreme distress rather than a sign of being crazy or having a mental illness. Many healthy and success-

ful adults have had thoughts of suicide at some point during their lives. The important thing is not to act on these thoughts, but rather to seek help.

Likewise, it is important for leaders and friends to recognize signs of distress in others and to encourage their buddies or their soldiers to get help. Soldiers should understand that getting help is not a sign of weakness and should not adversely affect their careers.

What should you do if a soldier is exhibiting signs of excessive stress? First, let the person talk. Preferably go to a place that is private and quiet to minimize embarrassment and shame. Always ask if he is having thoughts of hurting himself.

Encourage him to seek help.

If you believe that someone is potentially suicidal

or even homicidal put him on one-to-one watch with a responsible individual. At this point, remove weapons or any dangerous items and get

him to mental health, the aid station or a chaplain immediately. Take all threats seriously. The golden rule is that if you are uneasy about going to sleep at night because you are worried about a fellow soldier then you must get that soldier to the proper help.

The good news about suicidal thoughts is that they are very treatable. For most people these thoughts are very temporary and are in direct response to an acute stressor. The most they usually last is from five to seven days. This means that if you can get a fellow soldier into early treatment for suicidal thoughts then you can often prevent an unfortunate tragedy for your unit and that individual's family.

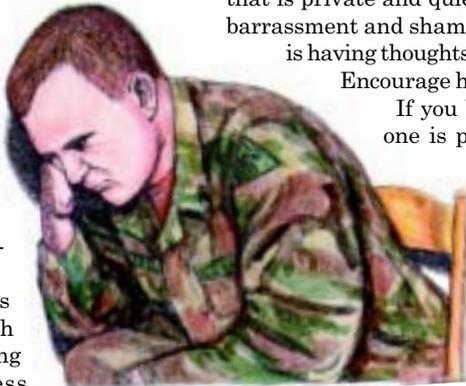
Don't panic. Do not ignore it when someone says they wish they were dead. Don't act shocked. Don't debate the morality of suicide. Don't minimize the problem or challenge the person to do it.

Obviously not everyone who experiences stress will have thoughts of suicide. Most people under stress will benefit from ventilation of their feelings to a leader, friend or peer.

However, extreme stress can result in thoughts of suicide. At this point, an individual needs professional help.

Anyone who wants more information about stress management or suicide prevention may contact:

Division Mental Health Service at 558-5667 or 84th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control) at 558-5607/5608. Stress management and suicide awareness classes are available for interested units.



NEWS BRIEFS

IFOR: Not forgotten

The American Peacekeepers Support Organization which has been in existence since November, 1995, is a support group for families and single members whose loved ones are serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

During the past year, the APSO has sent care packages and organized other demonstrations of support commemorating the efforts of the troops serving here.

For further information, readers may contact:

American Peacekeepers Support Organization (APSO)
Rep. Jerry Madden, President
P.O. Box 830211
Richardson, TX 75083-0211

Soldiers donate bikes

Task Force Eagle soldiers from Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division, distributed bicycles at a refugee center near Kalesija on Oct. 1.

The used bicycles were collected by the families of the DIVARTY soldiers in Baumholder, Germany, where the unit is based. They were shipped to the unit at Steel Castle Base Camp, where the soldiers then repaired and refurbished the bikes to "like new" condition.

Viewpoints wanted

If you are serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR and have an opinion or experience you'd like to share in writing, we just might have space for you.

The Talon welcomes article submissions and will consider them for publication.

Iron medics assist locals

Task Force Eagle medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Medical Platoon, 5th Battalion, 3th Air Defense Artillery visited a health clinic in Vukovije, Oct. 1.

The farming community near the Main East Gate of Eagle Base has one small health clinic, with a local doctor available to visit only twice a week. The visit, which was accompanied by soldiers from the Civil Military Cooperation Center on Eagle Base, promoted good health as well as good will among the residents.

Turkish Brigade soldiers befriend Zenica residents

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

ZENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Citizens here are enjoying a better way of life, thanks in part to the generosity of the Turkish Brigade's soldiers.

"We want to maintain more than just a military presence here," said Lt. Alpasian Cetin, civil affairs plans officer.

"We care about the way the people of Zenica live their lives. And if we can, we want to improve their standard of living."

The Turks are involved in many humanitarian projects in and around the Zenica area.

Projects include medical assistance for the needy, sponsorship of activities, as well as building repair and refurbishing of buildings.

Money for various projects is donated by the Turkish soldiers. A percentage of a soldier's salary, depending on rank, is rerouted into a fund. Cetin said all donations are voluntary.

One area in which the Turkish soldiers have made a big impact is education. To date, more than 20 schools have been repaired in the Zenica area.

The school buildings are painted inside and out. Floors are refinished. All the plumbing and electrical systems are repaired or replaced.

In one elementary school building, class was being held while Turkish soldiers were busy painting, patching walls, and replacing light fixtures.

At another location, the Turks renovated a three-story building. They installed carpet, painted the building through-

out and replaced the lighting. The building is now home to a music school boasting more than 100 students. A newly installed wooden ceiling adorns the concert room.

"Impartiality is very important to the success of our tasks," said Cetin. That's why churches in addition to mosques have been repaired and repainted.

Cetin said it doesn't matter if work is done for Muslims or Christians, the point is that everyone has the opportunity to worship in the best surroundings possible.

The Turks also have repaired a gymnasium, giving young people a warm and dry place to play basketball and volleyball.

A granite plaque depicting the partnership between the Turks and the people of Zenica hangs in every building on which the Turks have worked.

Within the Turkish Brigade compound, the doors of the medical facility are open to citizens who cannot afford quality health care.

"Many of the people here need

some kind of support," Cetin said. "Medicine is very expensive in Bosnia. Many of the medical facilities are inadequate."

As a result, medicine is available from the pharmacy. Turkish doctors and nurses tend to civilian patients on a regular basis.

If a patient needs more care than the doctors at the brigade can provide, a visit can be arranged to the main Turkish hospital in Sarajevo.

Through the Turks' donations, evacuation of needy patients to overseas medical centers is also available.

Cetin said, on average, 150 civilian patients are seen at the Turkish clinic each week. Doctors provide inoculations, perform laboratory testing, dental care, even general surgery.

Infrastructure within the city is very important and the Turks have made use of their engineer battalion to help the city upgrade its assets.

"We want the people of Zenica to enjoy their everyday lives," Chief of Engineers Capt. Cumhuri Durmus said

To make life more comfortable, Turkish engineers have repaired or replaced seven kilometers of water pipeline and eight sewage systems.

The engineers are also responsible for repairing 19 kilometers of city roadway renovating of 16 bridges.

Donations of Turkish soldiers also help sponsor social activities and provide clothing and food.

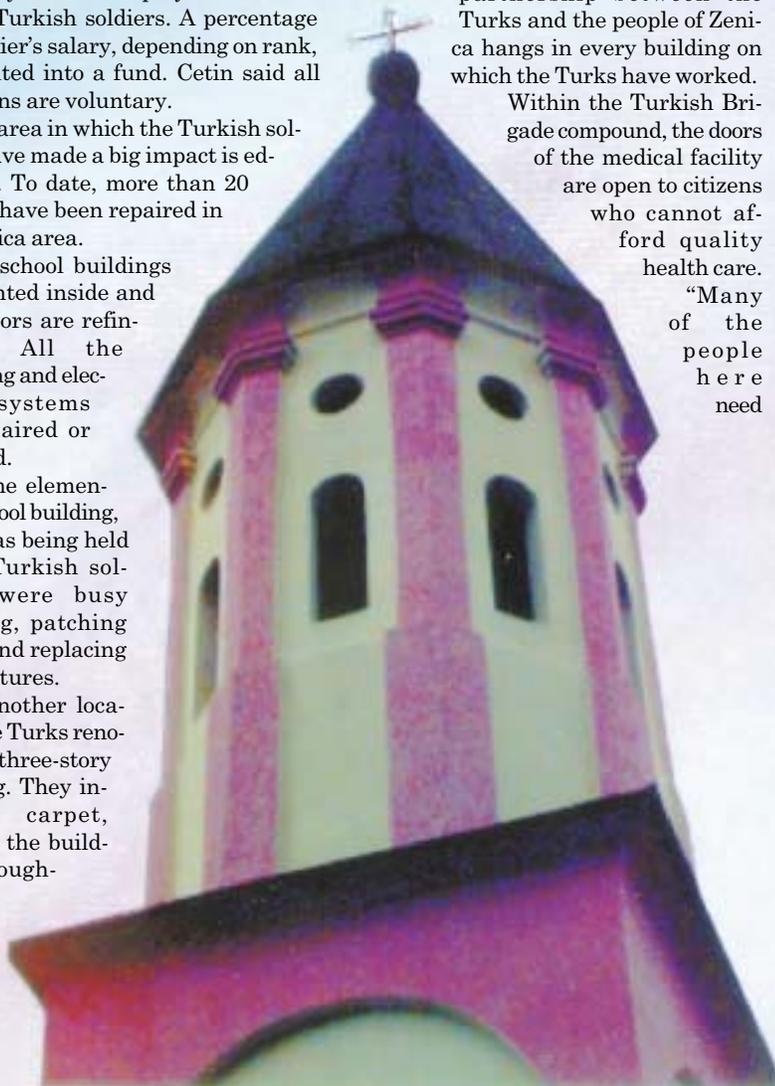
About 32,000 food packages, containing rice, beans and general kitchen items have been distributed to needy families.

"We want to promote a sense of peace and unity within the city," said Cetin.

Cetin said he is proud of the Turkish troops and their efforts in Zenica.

"I hope with the help of the Turkish soldiers, we are making a difference," Cetin said. "There are still problems here stemming from the war. But these people are strong. I am confident they have the will to tackle them."

Turkish Brigade soldiers help wherever they are needed. They rebuilt and repainted this church (left), in addition to repairing mosques in the area.





(Top) Turkish Brigade soldiers have repaired a number of schools in the Zenica area — including this one, in use by Bosnian students. (Bottom) Turkish soldiers maintain their military readiness with regular training despite the amount of time they devote to humanitarian projects in the area. (Photos by Cpl. Len Butler)



Marines keep their guard up at airfield

By Cpl. JEFF HAWK
U.S. Marine Corps

BOYINGTON FIELD — The view from guardpost #2 here is pretty as a picture. Rolling farmland slopes down to a tranquil pond where children squeal happily as

they chase each other around the water's edge. A cow grazes. A woman cuts tall grass with a sickle. It's a scene that could lull the staunchest sentry into complacency.

But in this torn country just now rebuilding from war, Marines guarding this small airfield keep a careful vigil.

"I tell my people not to take things for granted," said 25-year-old Sgt. Lionel Suarez, the airfield's sergeant of the guard. "We're at full readiness."

Suarez, a native of Houston, oversees a group of Marines tasked with guarding the airfield where Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron One (VMU-1) flies unmanned surveillance aircraft for Task Force Eagle.

Guardposts are manned 24 hours a day and roving sentries routinely patrol the perimeter of the football stadium-size airfield.

The "rovers" check for breaks in the airfield's concertina wire perimeter or for places where erosion has created a possible avenue of approach.

At the front gate, IFOR identification cards are religiously checked and civilian vehicles are routinely searched.

"We have two guards on each side of the vehicle being searched while one person looks underneath and inside everything," said Pfc. Jason Lingel, a 20-year-old aviation ordnance technician from Milwaukie, Ore. Although the vehicles searched belong to civilian contractors, Lingle said it's important to consider the possibilities. "Someone else could plant something on a vehicle so that the driver could come in without knowing he has it," said Lingle.

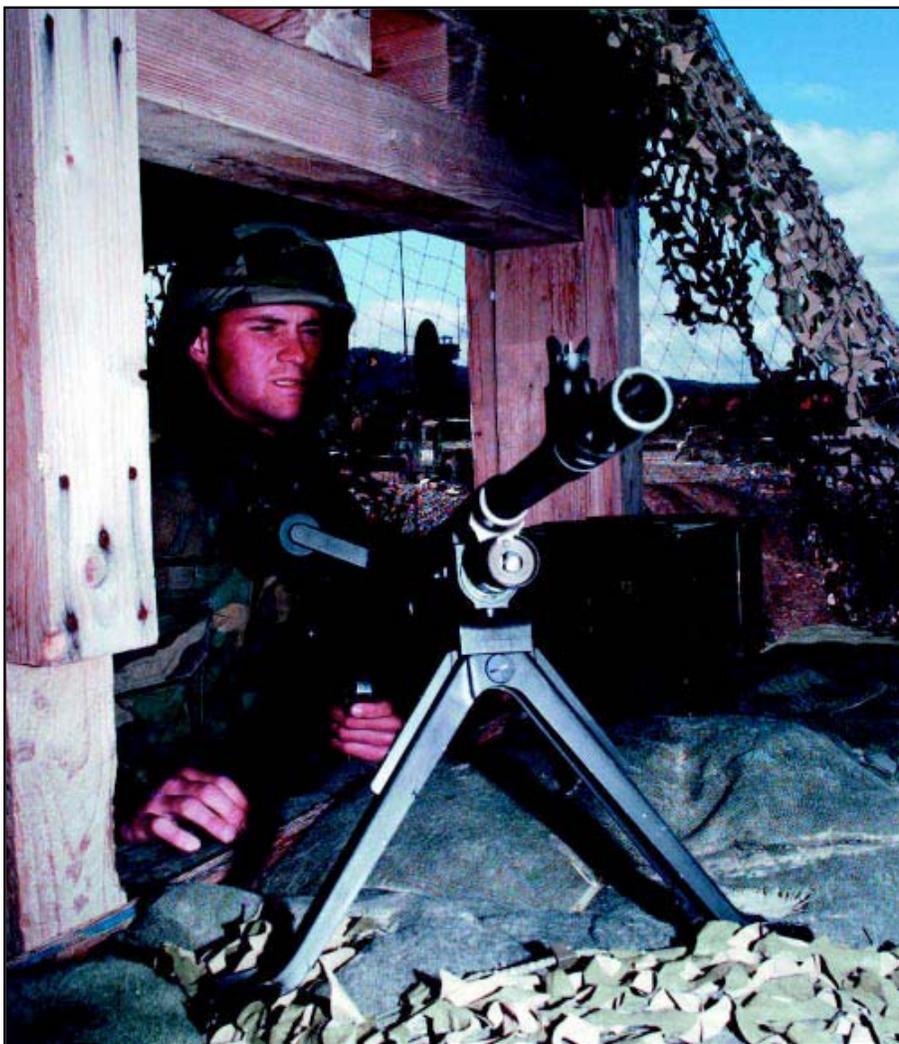
Considering the possibilities is something Suarez uses to keep the guards on their toes. "Guard duty gets tiring, so I'll give the guards scenarios just to get them thinking about what they would do if something were to happen," he said.

In an area where people walk their cows and horse-drawn carts are a common site, it's hard to imagine anything happening.

But 22-year-old Cpl. Maurice Newby, an administration specialist from Norfolk, Va., said there's good reason to be prepared.

"When you don't expect things to break out, that's when they break out," said Newby as he walked the perimeter at dusk.

"Yes, this is a peaceful area" he said, "but if it was that peaceful here, I'd still be back in the United States."



Cpl. Jeff Hawk

Marine Cpl. James Nowell, a motor transport mechanic from Tuscaloosa, Ala., mans an M-240G machine gun in a guard tower at Boyington Field.

Eagle Base soldier retracts allegation of racial attack

EAGLE BASE — The Task Force Eagle soldier who alleged he had been the victim of a racially motivated assault early on the morning of July 31 formally retracted his complaint Oct. 2.

The soldier, who is black, explained that he had fabricated the allegation that he was "jumped" and struck by an unknown number of white assailants on his way to the latrine in Tent City Two.

He also admitted that he tore his own shirt and that he wrote a racial epithet on his own chest.

The soldier stated that he had not foreseen the consequences of making such a false allegation.

An independent judge advocate, not assigned to the 1st Armor Division, questioned the soldier to ensure his retraction was knowing and voluntary.

After reviewing the facts and circumstances of the case and the soldier's otherwise good record, the command administered nonjudicial punishment to the soldier for making a false sworn statement.

Nonjudicial punishment records are protected from release under the Privacy Act, but the punishment, called an Article 15, may include loss of rank, forfeiture of pay, restriction of specified limits, and extra duty.

The soldier said he made the false allegation because he was depressed and lonely and wanted to return to Germany.

The soldier will be retained in the Army, but has been transferred from Eagle Base to another location in the Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR theater.

■ REDEPLOYMENT

TMDE team awaits calibration customers

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

GUARDIAN BASE — With redeployment of 1st Armored Division troops quickly approaching, the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment team, based at Guardian Base, is making sure all calibration equipment is serviced to the specifications needed for redeployment.

Sgt. 1st Class Larry H. Bright Jr., 38, of Charleston W. Va., said the nine-man TMDE's mission is to provide calibration repair and support of all equipment within the division that requires precision measurement.

TMDE services anything from torque wrenches and radiac meters to oscilloscopes and spectrum analyzers.

"Calibration is required for all sensitive items," Bright said. "The Army determines how often and to what level and degree of calibration is needed."

Staff Sgt. Jeffery R. Rudy, 32, of Fridley, Minn., said TMDE is responsible for 10,000 items in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Customers who haven't had equipment calibrated or haven't been to the TMDE facility are welcomed as soon as they arrive. A master list of equipment items and a projected list of service times await the cus-

tomers, within minutes after they arrive.

Bright said it is easy to have equipment calibrated even if an account is delinquent. And units that have fallen behind are the ones most in need of the team's services.

"For unit commanders who want to get their calibration up to date, all they have to do is come in and we do the rest," Bright said. "We can pull up a printout of all deficiencies and make arrangements to get the unit squared away within a couple of days."

Bright, however, warns commanders that falling and staying behind schedule will result in serious consequences. "Commanders would get a visit from the logistics officer, and they're not going to want that," Bright said.

Bright said unit commanders should assign a soldier within the unit to be a calibration coordinator. Commanders would then work with the coordinator to ensure that deadlines for calibration service are being met.

During redeployment, units will be processing through the Intermediate Staging Base at Taszar, Hungary. Bright said proper calibration of equipment will be one part of the criteria required to clear the ISB.

"If a unit gets inspected at the ISB and their calibration isn't up to snuff, there will definitely be delays," Bright said. "Don't wait until you get to Hungary before you try to dig yourself out."

"It's really very simple and easy to get equipment calibrated, even if you are delinquent," Bright said.

"Just come in. Talk with one of our techs. We'll get you a cup of coffee." TMDE can be reached at MSE 559-1795.



Cpl. Len Butler

Spc. Robert G. Smith, a member of 1st AD's TMDE team, adjusts an oscilloscope.

Awards recognize deployment, performance

By Capt. TERRY L. CONDER
100th MPAD

Knowing a reward awaits at the end of a job well done can make all the difference in how soldiers respond to a mission.

Even though commanders can't monetarily reward soldiers for dedicated service, a positive letter or a recommendation for an award can go a long way toward building pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Never underestimate the power of a commendation. Everyone likes to know that the work he or she is doing is appreciated. Commanders need to make sure that good performances are recognized.

Don't think that the blanket medals given to everyone in theater are good enough. They are important. They show the nation's gratitude for the sacrifices everyone here makes and the job being done. But commanders need to reward performance on an individual basis too.

After Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR is over, memories of what servicemembers did here will fade. Documenting dedicated service is the best way to ensure Task Force Eagle's accomplishments are not forgotten.

Lest we forget, the turnover of servicemembers in the military is quite rapid. Many of our soldiers did not serve in the Gulf War, a conflict that took place a mere six years ago. Even

fewer soldiers are veterans of Operations JUST CAUSE or URGENT FURY.

Letting this opportunity to recognize soldiers pass by would be unconscionable.

Everyone here deserves the awards unique to this deployment. Those who do outstanding work deserve a little more.

Below are the medals all servicemembers deployed to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR are eligible to receive:

Dates required for each citation vary.

NATO Medal

Awarded by the Secretary General of NATO. Secretary of Defense William Perry approved the offer of the NATO

Medal for U.S. military and civilian personnel.

Armed Forces Service Medal

This is a new medal that was established Jan. 11, 1996. The AFSM is awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. campaign or service medal is approved, such as peacekeeping operations or operations in direct support of the United Nations or NATO.

The medal should be available through supply channels next March.

Bronze "M"

U.S. military Reserve and Guard members will earn the right to wear the device on the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

■ ELECTION REVIEW

MPs provide reassuring election day presence

By Sgt. LANCE M. KAMISUGI
100th MPAD

GUARDIAN BASE — It was a cold, dark morning in the Tuzla Valley as members of 2nd squad, 2nd platoon, 92nd Military Police Company warmed up their three HMMWV's. It was election day.

The soldiers said they felt honored to be taking part in the historic elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "I joined this unit recently, and being part of the elections is an exciting opportunity," said Pfc. Kent M. Workman of Gillette, Wyo., a military police officer.

Second squad, also known by their call sign, "Regulators," left Guardian Base at 5:30 a.m. as a light mist fell in the Tuzla Valley. The HMMWVs rumbled past farms, disturbing the still of the morning. The mobility of the HMMWVs through the narrow roads in isolated residential areas outside the city reaffirmed that the MPs were the right choice for the mission ahead.

"We are here to enforce freedom of movement, monitor traffic problems, and check the polling stations that are in our area of operations," said Sgt. Edward W. Nelson, a native of Franklin, N.C.

There were seven polling stations assigned to the Regulators, out of the 4,600 stations across the country. Public buildings such as schools, libraries and postal facilities served as temporary stations.

Looking out for any political

rallies endorsing candidates was one reason the MPs kept on the move, traveling from station to station. "If we come across a rally, we'll report it to higher and they'll send a quick reaction force to the polling site if needed," Pfc. Catherine J. Mueller of Niles, Ill., said.

"We are tasked to relay information on each polling station to our operations cell at Guardian base every 30 minutes," Sgt. Dale A. Faulkner, 2nd squad team leader and a native of Madill, Okla., said.

The surveillance data included the number of civilians voting, any disturbances, and

concerns by the group coordinating the elections, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"I'm glad we didn't encounter any traffic jams because driving over seven miles to inspect all the sites in 30-minute intervals doesn't leave any time for delays," Faulkner said.

The road itself caused some slight delays for the Regulators. Some sites required rolling over numerous potholes along the route at 5 miles per hour. It made election day seem longer than the 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. voting period. Workman was not bothered by the long day. "We're here

to help the best we can because this is important," he said. "The elections showed that if everyone works together, things can work out."

At the end of the evening, second squad made one final circle, stopping at each polling station to ensure the ballots were in the hands of representatives of the OSCE before completing their mission.

Once given the approval by the operation cell, the Regulators returned to Guardian base. They said they couldn't help notice the cold, dark base camp was exactly the same as they left it 18 hours ago, peaceful!



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi

Pfc. Kent M. Workman stands ready election day morning with an M-60 machine gun.

Military Police Company celebrates birthday, achievements

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC
350th MPAD

Soldiers of the 501st Military Police Company took time from their schedule Sept. 26 to remember their history and reflect on all they've accomplished here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The celebration marked the date, 55 years ago, that the Military Police Corps became a permanent branch of the U.S. Army.

Before World War II, MPs were soldiers detailed from the ranks to perform police duties. In other instances, they were organized into a provost corps for the duration

of a specific conflict, such as the Civil War.

Decades later, during the Vietnam War, the MPs merited special recognition due to their actions during the Tet Offensive and were redesignated from a combat service support to a combat support branch of the Army.

The celebration at the company's home, Kime Base (Gunner), included a reading of military police history and the 501st's accomplishments during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The company deployed to the former Yugoslavia as part of the Implementation Force Dec. 16, 1995. It has the distinction of having the first military policeman to cross the

Sava River Dec. 21, with the 1st Brigade Combat Team. According to company history, soon after crossing the Sava, two platoons were moving by air with the assault command post to occupy Tuzla Air Base.

During this month's national elections, the company again played a major role. One platoon escorted and provided security for the BELUGA Group as they transported ballots through the 1st Brigade sector.

Maj. Leamon Bratton, 1st Armored Division provost marshal, joined the soldiers for the celebration. He urged the soldiers to keep their history in mind and pass it along to those that follow them into the corps.

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Dedicated NCO gives basketball to trotting troops

By Staff Sgt. PATRICK SUMMERS
100th MPAD

As part of his normal duty assignment, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Harris works as a communication network controller, ensuring that the calls placed by personnel serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR hit their mark.

But for the past two months, Harris, 34, a native of Macon, Ga., has been busy making calls of another sort. He was the sole referee for the Task Force Eagle basketball league that concluded its season last month.

"He made it happen. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have had an organized league in which to play basketball," said Spc. Dean Barton, 20, a Grenada, Miss., native who works with Harris at Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 22nd Signal Brigade.

Harris decided to organize the league at the request of several individuals who wanted an opportunity to play a sport they loved.

He had planned and administered the July 4 basketball tournament at Eagle Base and had become identified by other soldiers as the one guy who could put it all together.

"People kept coming to me, asking when and if I would organize a basketball season.

"So many people were asking, I almost



Cpl. Len Butler

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Harris receives a trophy from Brig. Gen. George W. Casey Jr. in recognition for organizing the Task Force Eagle basketball league.

couldn't refuse," Harris said.

Despite the daunting task, Harris undertook the mission as the dedicated non-commissioned officer he is, said his 1st Sgt., Georgiana Cleverly, 37, from Charlottesville, Va.

"On his own initiative, Sgt. 1st Class Harris organized, publicized, financed, and ran a basketball league for Tuzla Main and Tuzla West," Cleverly said.

Harris made flyers to advertise the league; collected entry fees to help finance the awards and the league; devised, distributed, and coordinated the playing schedules; and officiat-

ed every game. However, he did have help. Harris' wife Annette, back home in Darmstadt, Germany, ordered the trophies and had them engraved.

And, when necessary, understanding supervisors allowed him to rearrange his work schedule so he could set up and prepare for early evening games.

But when it came down to wearing the striped shirt, running the court, blowing the whistle, and making the tough calls, Harris was basically on his own — a responsibility he shouldered without complaint.

"It got tough sometimes, especially on nights when I had to referee three straight games, but I worked through it," he said.

When the regular season ended, Harris seeded the teams for a postseason tournament. In the final, the 94th Engineer Battalion defeated the 141st Signal Battalion 33-12. When the clock ran out on the championship game, the last foul had been whistled, and the last player complaint had been lodged, Harris said, "I'm glad it's over ... but I'd do it again."

"He made it happen. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have an organized league in which to play basketball."

— Spc. Dean Barton

Hungarian visits homeland during airborne exercise

By Sgt. ANDREW AQUINO
350th MPAD

TABORFALVA, Hungary — When Sgt. Gyula Bodnar joined the Army three-and-a-half years ago, he knew he'd get the opportunity to travel, but he had no idea the Army would send him to Hungary one day.

It's the country he and his parents left 10 years before.

As a rigger attached to Company E, 51st Long Range Surveillance Battalion, the 26-year-old quartermaster soldier

spent three weeks supporting Operation WHETSTONE at Taborfalva Training Area.

Bodnar is responsible for ensuring the parachutes the soldiers jump with are packed properly and ready to go.

"The hardest thing about my job is to always be sure," he said. A rigger's signature holds him accountable for each parachute he packs.

"If people are going to jump out of an airplane with one of these 'chutes, they'd better be done up right," he said.

Even though it takes only about 10 minutes to pack a parachute, riggers cannot fold more than 25 per day.

"After that you're liable to get tired and can make mistakes," Bodnar said.

For this exercise, Bodnar helped prepare more than 150 parachutes for each of the three platoons in Echo Company.

Each soldier made three to four jumps during the week's training. When there was time, Bodnar spoke with the Hungarian soldiers involved in the joint

operation and translated for them.

Bodnar said he was excited at the prospect of visiting Budapest during the one-day pass the Operation WHETSTONE mission afforded him. It was the town where he was born. "I had no plans to be here," Bodnar said.

Since his V Corps unit is stationed in Germany, his assignment here was a happy coincidence.

"I might visit some relatives or just take in the sights," he said.

TELEVISED from page 1

of the aid station who received training on the televised medicine system at the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital at Camp Bedrock.

The other two were Pfc. Carmen L. Rodriguez and Spc. Jason Lebrun. After they returned, they trained the other soldiers in the aid station.

Rodriguez, 27, said similar systems have been set up at Camp Linda, Tuzla and Slavonski Brod. The system at Gradacac has been in place for about five weeks.

A video camera mounted on a computer

terminal takes a picture of the doctor and the patient at the aid station. A larger video camera is also available if needed.

The picture is transmitted by satellite to the physician or specialist advising the aid station doctor.

A video camera at the receiving location transmits that doctor's picture back to Gradacac.

"This improves our communication ability," said Friedman. The new system is not a substitute when medevac is required, he said, but it might save the need to evacuate some patients.

Rodriguez said several tools are avail-

able to help the doctors at the aid station, as well as the specialists looking on from afar.

A dermatology scope is used to magnify cuts and other injuries to the skin. The scope projects the injury onto the computer screen, where it can be seen by both parties. Friedman said all the consultations which have been done so far have involved dermatologists.

There are also eye and ear lenses for the scope, said Rodriguez.

In addition, there is a dental scope which is presently at McGovern Base, where it was sent with a medical team in case it was needed during the recent national elections.

The computer system has e-mail capability, said Rodriguez. A fax machine is also part of the system. Coming in the future will be an X-ray machine, which will convert the X-ray film to a digitized image which can be sent through the computer.

Rodriguez pointed out another interesting aspect of the televised medicine system. There is a medical reference library program in the computer which contains 28 medical books.

When information is requested, the computer searches all the books simultaneously to fulfill the request.

"I like helping people," said Rodriguez, explaining why she became a medic. She said she hopes to eventually become a licensed practical nurse.

This is the first duty station for Rodriguez, a Fayetteville, N.C., native who has been in Bosnia since January.

"It's kind of fun to do something and see the end result," said Rodriguez, referring to televised medicine. "What I like about this system is we can treat them right here and send them back to duty."



Sgt. Tim Pinkham

Pfc. Carmen L. Rodriguez uses a dermatology scope to examine a cut on the finger of Sgt. Robert L. Beasley III.

WATER from page 1

hospital. Through our six stages of filtration you can get the best water in Bosnia," Arneson said.

Spc. Robert M. Critcher Jr., 29, of Henderson, N.C., has tested their water against that in bottles.

"Our level of total dissolved solvents, measured in parts per million, is much lower than the bottled water — it tastes purer too," Critcher said.

"It's in the ice and the beverages the dining facility prepares. The hospital uses it for all their needs too," Critcher said. "I've been drinking this water primarily since March without any health problems."

Cold weather presents various challenges for the water treatment specialists. All of the water purification equipment, transport pipes and storage bladders are above ground.

Arneson said the pipes and bladders are more likely to freeze.

"The colder it gets, the less water we can purify. We will have to slow down to 40-45 gallons treated per minute, because cold water is more dense and might tear the membranes during the osmosis process," Arneson said.

They must completely drain all the soft hoses leading to and from the ROWPU any time the system is shut down for more than 15 minutes.

"It takes only 15 minutes or so for a two-inch exposed pipe of water to freeze. Believe me, it gets very cold up here on this hill," Arneson said. Heaters will be kept in the processing units and most of the pipes; both the PVC and fabric types have heat tracings running along underneath them.

Heat tracings are basically wires with electrical currents that produce enough warmth to keep pipes and other containers free of ice buildup.

Even the 25,000 gallon capacity storage

bladders rest on a maze of heat tracings. "Once, when we were in Germany, we had a layer of ice floating inside one of our large bags," Arneson said. "Hopefully we won't have any problems here."

"One advantage to the winter is that the organic contaminants and bacteria levels in the pond water are much lower," Critcher said.

Both Arneson and Critcher agree that direct and indirect water usage will decrease as the mercury falls.

"Right now we are supplying 60,000 - 80,000 gallons of water to other camps on a daily basis. It takes about 20 trucks to distribute all that water," Arneson said. "Bedrock's use averages 50,000 gallons daily."

The water treatment team has no statistical data to project the expected decrease in demand. But, luckily, as their treatment capacity slows, so will the demand for what they proudly call the cleanest water in Bosnia.