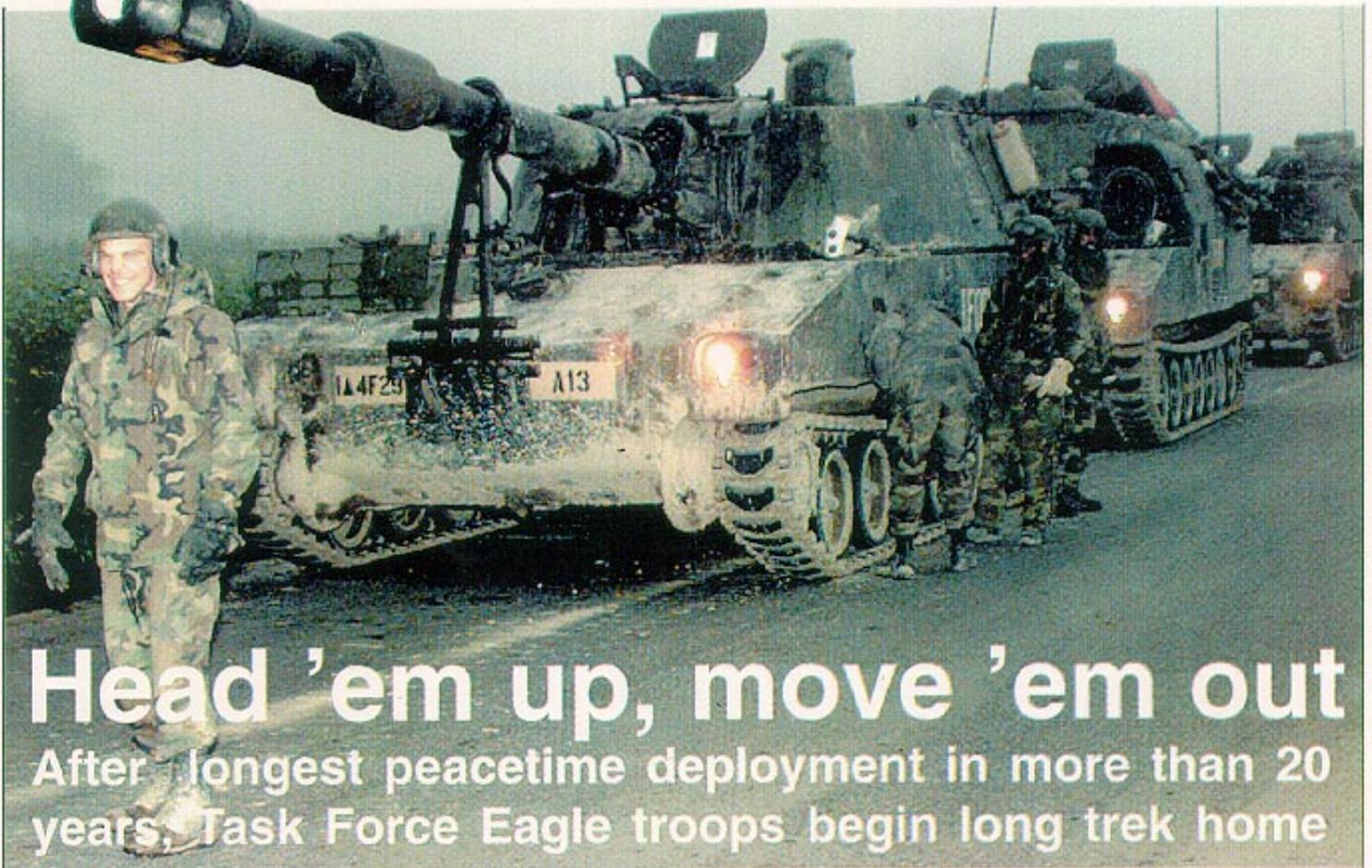


THE TALON



Operation Joint Endeavor, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Serving the soldiers of Task Force Eagle



Head 'em up, move 'em out

After longest peacetime deployment in more than 20 years, Task Force Eagle troops begin long trek home

Spc. Craig Pickett

Soldiers of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery perform maintenance on an M109A3 Self-Propelled Howitzer at a scheduled stop enroute to the redeployment staging base at Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

By **Spc. CRAIG PICKETT**
350th MPAD

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia — For ten months, members of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery have been helping keep the peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina; now it's time to go home.

"The mission has been a success. We, as IFOR, have given this country hope," said Staff Sgt. Eric G. Daye, 35, from Brooklyn, N.Y.

Daye and the rest of the battery were escorted by the 411th Military Police Company to Slavonski Brod, the artillerymen's initial stop on their journey home. Before

crossing the Sava River into Croatia, vehicles were refueled and received a quick rinse-off at the wash rack. Slavonski Brod is the staging base for all units redeploying home.

The next few days were spent cleaning

See **HOME**, page 12

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MPs put soldiers on road north

By **Spc. CRAIG PICKETT**
350th MPAD

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia — Soldiers of the 411th Military Police Company are operating an escort service — for redeploying troops.

Their mission: to provide security for convoys headed to Slavonski Brod, the staging base for soldiers redeploying home.

"We provide force protection," said Staff Sgt. Dexter H. McMichael, 37, the noncommissioned officer in charge.

"I get the squad ready and get them to where they can live out of their truck."

McMichael's squad is on the road for many days at a time, going to wherever the redeploying unit is based.

See **ESCORT**, page 12

FROM THE TOP

Bosnia-based NCO beats birthday blues

As we near the end of this deployment, I'd like to take time to look back on our experience here. My friend Staff Sgt. Jim Thacker shared this letter that was published in his hometown newspaper last summer. I feel it captures the essence of our experience here:



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

On July 12, I turned 33 years old. Being deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, I thought my birthday would be uneventful, however, the soldiers I serve with wouldn't let that happen.

0400: Woke up. Sat on the edge of my cot, and pondered that I was, in fact, 33 years old. That's one-third of a century. Wow. Tried to recall where I was 32, 31, 30, 23, and 13. Decided that coffee was in order, so I took my camping stove and camping coffee pot, and made some in the tent.

0530: Walked down the wooden sidewalk

to the latrine to take a shower. Water was ice cold. Oh well, I still took one. After ripping my face to shreds while shaving, I returned to the tent. Decided more coffee was in order. Made another pot.

0615: Chow time. Walked to the chow hall in "full battle rattle" with my M-16 in hand. Feel like Rambo. Thinking I can talk the Bosnian cook out of an extra order of scrambled eggs, but he has other ideas. I get less instead of more, and no bacon. Coffee definitely in order now.

0700: Report for work. The night shift begins singing "Happy Birthday" to me as soon as I enter the area. They sound like a cross between a dying buffalo and Ella Fitzgerald. The thought, however, touches me. I thank them, to which they all reply that they have decided to leave extra work for me, so I wouldn't have time to think about how old I am. Nice guys.

1230: The section wants to have a pizza party for me. Great! The pizza place just opened, I've been dying to try it out. I send for the pizza, which I pay for. Something

definitely not right about that.

1930: Completed handover to the night shift. Everyone asking how I spent my birthday. Told them I forgot it was my birthday. They laugh. I go back to my tent, where a few soldiers decide a party is in order. As they drink "near beer", I slam a couple of Dr. Peppers and, as the party really cranks up, I lay on my cot, exhausted, and drift off to sleep.

2330: Wake up. Everyone is asleep. I decide coffee is in order, so I make a pot. Think back on my day. I've spent 33 birthdays in 16 different places. Some depressing, some exciting, some I actually did forget about. This one, however, was special. People from home sent cards, my soldiers made me laugh, and no one was hurt in the entire Task Force.

Well, quite a few of us have celebrated a birthday over here. Thank you, Iron Soldiers for your dedication, spirit, and good humor. The covering force is on its way. Continue to guard against complacency and take care of each other.

VIEWPOINT

New routes will challenge redeploying soldiers

Everyone is aware of the dangerous roads in his own area of operation. After a while, we have all come to appreciate that certain curve in the road bordered by a five-foot washout, just waiting for a vehicle to veer too close to the edge. Today I want to bring to your attention road-risks that exist outside your area of familiarity.



Capt. Todd D. Lyle
TFE Safety

Capt. David Hill, division engineers, informed me that from October to March, every route in Task Force Eagle is susceptible to mudslides and washouts. Elevation and water flow conditions in the northern half of TFE cause washouts. Roadways in the southern half of TFE may experience mudslides. To make

because they sweep away large portions of earth, while washouts can be more deceiving. They erode earth from under bridge supports and roadways leaving a weakened structure.

Road construction is another hazard throughout TFE, Croatia, and Hungary. Road construction will have the great-

est impact on travel in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly around the Tuzla Valley, where construction is likely to continue through October into early November.

est impact on travel in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly around the Tuzla Valley, where construction is likely to continue through October into early November.

Ongoing projects in the Tuzla Valley include repaving the entire length of Route Ostrich, and repaving sections of Skoda between the Skoda-Ostrich and the Skoda-Hawk intersections. Units should expect delays when traveling on these routes, especially early in the deployment/redeployment phase.

Using common sense at this critical time could mean everything to you in the long run. Have a safe journey home.

As I close out my writing ca-

reer with *The Talon*, I want to thank you all. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to have served you as a TFE safety officer. The Safety Office wants nothing more than your safety.

Our goal has always been and will continue to be that each and every soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine of all nationalities returns home safely.

Never once did we go after a command, unit, or individual with a "you've done something wrong" mentality. When an accident was described as a lesson learned, it was done with the purpose of educating others to avoid similar incidents. No unit's reputation was ever intentionally besmirched.

THE TALON

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REDEPLOYMENT

Playing market, taking trophies sure way to end military career

During redeployment, there will be increased opportunities for black-marketing, taking war trophies and giving tax-free items to non-Department of Defense personnel.

Soldiers have had limited time on the local economy and limited contacts with local nationals during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. However, conditions will change with redeployment, and soldiers must be aware of their environment.

It could be something as simple as a needy civilian asking for help — a blanket, some food, a carton of cigarettes. By giving tax-free merchandise to non-DOD personnel, you have just made an illegal transfer.

Or, perhaps you have found a small relic that's easy to stash in your gear and bring back with you. National, local or religious items are considered war trophies. So are unregistered firearms, swords, knives, illegal or other unauthorized weapons. War trophies — whether purchased or not — are another type of illegal transfer.

Don't try to mail these trophies home to beat the system. Postal regulations prohibit mailing any item that is considered dangerous. This includes war souvenirs such as rifles, hand grenades, mines and ammunition — or any parts of these items.

Additional items prohibited by postal regulations include alcohol, narcotics, drugs, radioactive materials, or any other item which is considered hazardous to humans or animals.

Mailing prohibited items from Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR can jeopardize your Army career. If there is any doubt whether an item is mailable or not, consult your local military postal clerk or Military Police customs inspector.

And then there is black-marketing itself; the illegal sale or exchange of issued or tax-free items to non-DOD personnel. Soldiers have property that others want — military clothing, POL, food, repair parts, tools, medical supplies, PX items, even the excess lumber from the base camp you're leaving.

But any black marketing or illegal transfer — no matter how small — is a risk to your military career.

Punishment can range from an administrative reprimand to a full court-martial — it's up to your commander. Under the status of forces agreement (SOFA), a soldier can also be fined or taxed by a civilian authority.

So be smart. Don't risk your future for a little extra cash or a souvenir. Remember, ignorance of the law is no excuse. Bring home what you brought, and leave the rest behind.



Army decides every medal has its place

By Sgt. 1st Class STEPHEN M. LUM
100th MPAD



Armed Forces Service Medal

A recent message from the Department of the Army clarifies the order of precedence for medals awarded to U.S. troops serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR and other operations

The new Armed Forces Service Medal shall take precedence immediately after the Southwest Asia Service Medal. The medal will be available through the regular supply system in March 1997.

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device ranks im-

mediately after the Humanitarian Service Medal.

The medal is normally given after a reserve servicemember has 10 years good service in the reserves, but is now being awarded to members who also served in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The "M" device, for mobilized, goes after the hourglass device for members with more than 20 years of service.

The NATO Medal will have the same precedence as the United Nations Medal, but will rank immediately below the United Nations Medal when worn together. The UN and NATO Medals are worn immediately after the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

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>

Property claims

If you placed property in storage when you deployed, there are some important measures you must take when you accept delivery of your property to ensure maximum payment in the event you have to file a claim for lost or damaged property.

First you must ensure that you receive all of your cartons.

If not, note it immediately on the DD Form 1840, Joint Statement of Loss or Damage at Delivery, before the delivery crew departs.

Second, if there is any evidence of tampering, immediately inventory the property in the presence of the delivery crew and note missing or damaged property on the DD Form 1840.

The delivery crew must remain present until the soldier completes the inspection and releases the crew by signing the receipt documents.

All other damage discovered after the carrier has left can be noted on the back side of DD Form 1840R, Notice of Loss or Damage. Turn-in DD Form 1840 and 1840R and the pickup inventory listing within 10 calendar days of delivery to the claims office.

Further instructions will be provided by the claims office once you have turned in the 1840 and 1840R.

Viewpoints wanted

The Talon welcomes viewpoint articles from soldiers in the field. Please send us your viewpoint via e-mail or on disk, or drop off a hard copy at our office on the 2nd floor of the White House, Eagle Base.

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	63/48	Moderate
Sat	65/44	Moderate
Sun	68/49	Low
Mon	67/47	Low
Tue	65/45	Moderate
Wed	66/46	Moderate
Thur	68/49	Low

Provided Oct. 16 by Internet Access Weather



Old Ironsides DTAC heads north

Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Nearly 50 soldiers from HHC, 1st Armored Division; Division Engineers; and Division Artillery begin their journey to Camp Stevens near the Sava River.

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

CAMP ANGELA — The ground rumbles with the roar of diesel engines as the drivers eagerly wait for the green flag to drop. At 1000 hours, the race begins as the convoy of HMMWVs, trucks, and tracked vehicles moves north; signaling the start of the long awaited redeployment.

As the 1st Infantry Division rolls into Eagle Base, HHC, 1st Armored Division is gladly giving the new arrivals the room they need to take over operations.

Nearly 50 1st AD soldiers headed for the Sava River last week to set up the Divisional Tactical Center at Camp Stevens.

Sgt. Maj. Johnnie R. Lightsey, 41, of Winter Haven, Fla., is the NCOIC of the

DTAC. His job is to ensure that everything is fully operational at the DTAC before the arrival of 1st AD's command and control personnel from Eagle Base.

The DTAC is a small armored command post," Lightsey said. "It serves as a second CP so we can tear the main one down, and still continue to have command and control as we redeploy."

All the high-tech components that constitute the voice, eyes and ears of Task Force Eagle will be in place, waiting for soldiers from the Eagle Base CP.

Intelligence analyst Sgt. 1st. Class Tim W. Bary, 38, of Irving, Texas, welcomed the change of pace and the challenge ahead.

"Once on site, the DTAC is a high speed, fast moving operation," Bary said. "We have to be on our toes and know what we

are doing. It's important to be flexible. I'm proud to say that the most competent soldiers in the unit are usually chosen for the DTAC set up."

No one knows exactly how long the DTAC will remain at Camp Stevens, but everyone agrees they will be some of the last 1st AD soldiers to leave Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"It all depends on the tempo of the redeployment," Lightsey said. "It won't be easy; this is another winter movement."

Although this mission involves a small number of soldiers, it should be a cause for celebration for every 1st AD soldier.

"The most interesting thing to the average soldier regarding this DTAC movement is that this is one of the steps required before we go home," Lightsey said.

Perry speaks out on good and bad leadership

By LINDA D. KOZARYN
Armed Forces Press Service

It's a climate or an environment. It means make no mistakes, don't question decisions and, at all costs, don't be the bearer of bad news. According to a 1995 Army survey of 24,000 soldiers, when a zero defects mentality exists in a command, telling the truth ends careers quicker than making stupid mistakes or getting caught do-

ing something wrong.

Defense Secretary William J. Perry said this type of command climate should not exist in the military. "A successful military leader will have a certain amount of daring in his character," Perry said during a recent interview. "We should find ways of encouraging that daring instead of stomping on a person every time his daring has led him to a mistake."

Fortunately, the military

continues to attract bold people, Perry said, and "it's that boldness which leads to the most successful war fighters that we have."

Perry said when he evaluates commanders, he looks at their leadership, character, courage and confidence, not whether they've made any errors. Good leaders learn from mistakes and incorporate what they've learned in their training, Perry said.

Stifled initiative, microman-

agement, lack of trust in subordinates — these are the symptoms of a zero defects climate.

Perry said these symptoms are the exact opposite of effective leadership skills.

"A good commander will use all of the resources available to carry out his mission," he said. "We judge how good a commander is by his ingenuity and his tenacity in overcoming obstacles ... We place a very high premium on initiative."

Medics' work in Croatia brings Red Cross recognition

By Sgt. LANCE M. KAMISUGI
100th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH, Croatia—A married medical couple serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR was recognized for their goodwill efforts in Croatia recently.

Sgt. Brett and Spc. Bonnet Baker received the American Red Cross Humanitarian Leadership Award for gathering donations for children at Bencevic Hospital in Slavonski Brod.

Spc. Bonnet Baker accepted the special recognition certificate from Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, 1st Armored Division assistant commander for support.

Her spouse, Sgt. Brett Bak-

er was at a Basic Non-Commissioned Officers course, and could not attend the ceremony.

The Bakers work together as medics with Company E, 123rd Main Support Battalion in Dexeheim, Germany.

"The project involved from a visit to Bencevic Hospital," Spc. Baker said.

"While on a routine trip to Bencevic, where Task Force Eagle soldiers' lab work is analyzed, I asked to see the pediatric ward. I was surprised when the hospital administrator obliged."

The administrator said I was the first American servicemem-

ber to make such a request.

"After seeing the 20 children in the ward, from infants to pre-teen," Baker said, "it reminded me of growing up in Cambodia. I remember when the Red Cross would bring American goods for me and others at the refugee camp."

That reflection of her past initiated letters home to family and friends asking for things the couple could give children at Slavonski Brod hospital.

"The first box, from my mother-in-law, was filled with toys, books and clothes that nieces and nephews had outgrown,"

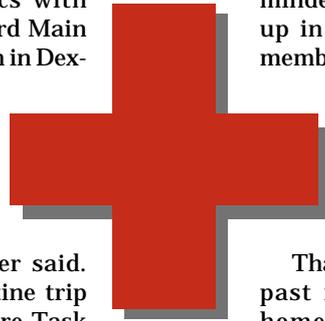
Baker said. "My unit also contributed with similar items mailed from Germany and the states.

The Bakers brought the gifts to the hospital on their next scheduled visit to the lab. Sparkling eyes and wide open smiles greeted soldiers who distributed presents to the children.

"They say a picture is worth a thousand words," said Spc. Eraina V. Andes, a broadcast journalist with the 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

"It was definitely worth the 250-word essay I wrote nominating the Bakers for the certificate."

"The donated items may not have any value to the previous owner," Spc. Baker said, "but I it's like gold these children."



Abizaid joins Task Force Eagle, takes over ADCM position

Brig. Gen. John P. Abizaid was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in June 1973.

He has served in a wide variety of command and staff positions starting his career with the 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He went on to command companies in both the 2nd and 1st Ranger Battalions, leading a Ranger Rifle Company during the invasion of Grenada.

Subsequent assignments included assignment to the U.N. as operations officer for Observer Group Lebanon and a tour in the Office of the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

Abizaid commanded the 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Battalion Combat Team in Vicenza, Italy and the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. Staff tours include assignments in both SETAF and Headquarters USAREUR.

Most recently, Abizaid served as Execu-

tive Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Abizaid's military education includes Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Armed Forces Staff College, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Army War College Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

He earned an M.A. in Area Studies at Harvard University, and was an Olmsted Scholar at the University of Jordan. He speaks Arabic, German, and Italian.

Abizaid's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Bronze Star. He also earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with Gold Star, Ranger Tab, and an Expert Infantry Badge.

Abizaid is a native of Coleville, Calif. and is married to the former Kathleen Denton. They have three children, Sharon, Christine and David.



Brig. Gen. John P. Abizaid

Brig. Gen. O'Neal honored by 1st AD during farewell ceremony

By Sgt. ANDREW AQUINO
350th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Soldiers of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR recently said goodbye to a soldier whose leadership was critical to the successful deployment of U.S. troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Brig. Gen. James P. O'Neal, 1st Armored Division's outgoing Assistant Division Commander, Support, was honored with a farewell ceremony. Oct. 11.

Maj. Gen. William L. Nash presented O'Neal with the Legion of Merit, awarded by Gen. William L. Crouch, Commander in Chief for U.S. Army - Europe.

The award cited O'Neal for enabling the Task Force Eagle to be thoroughly integrated in its efforts and its focus.

It also noted his understanding of Joint and Combined Arms and the ability to ensure that all participating nations' interests were included in all aspects of the planning.

He was also awarded the North At-

lantic Treaty Organization's service medal for his efforts in working with the NATO countries supporting Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

O'Neal's next assignment is to Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Ga., where his wife, Lynn, and their son, Scott, will accompany him.

O'Neal was replaced as Assistant Division Commander, Support, by Brig. Gen. George W. Casey, who moved from Assistant Division Commander, Maneuver.

redeployment

Grizzly tactical operation center first stop

By Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi
100th MPAD

Task Force Eagle soldiers will follow a four-day preparation cycle at the Grizzly TOC before heading to the Intermediate Staging Base in Taszar, Hungary.

Day one starts on the Bosnia-Herzegovina side of the Sava River. Unit leaders will attend a briefing on the four-day process while their soldiers wash and fuel vehicles.

Power spray washers that produce 180 pounds per square inch will be set up to

remove dirt and debris. Crews will be responsible for their own vehicles. Soldiers from the Redeployment Staging Base will be on hand to ensure the job is done to standard.

After being fueled and cleaned, wheeled vehicles will cross the Sava River over a fixed bridge east of the TOC. Heavy tracked vehicles will float across the river on ribbon rafts.

Immediately after reaching Croatia, vehicles will line up below the levee road to inventory and process ammunition. The 811th Ordnance Company will count, inspect, categorize and reorganize rounds and prepare them for shipment. Units will complete a DD Form 581.

Once ammunition is inventoried, vehicles will be secured in a guarded marshaling area overnight. Buses will transport soldiers from the marshaling area to the RSB life support area.

The second day is reserved for vehicle maintenance. Soldiers will do thorough preventative maintenance checks and services. Representatives from the 123rd Main Support Battalion will be available to help solve maintenance problems.

On day three, heavy tracked vehicles will be ferried from the assembly area on ribbon rafts north along the Croatian shore to an egress ramp, and from there convoy to the

5

Day three: Heavy tracked vehicles will travel from the Egress ramp (4), and other vehicles from the assembly area (3) to the HET staging site (5). Troops are bused to and from RSB LSA.
Day four: Convoys will head north to the ISB for outprocessing.

4

Route Tyler

e n t

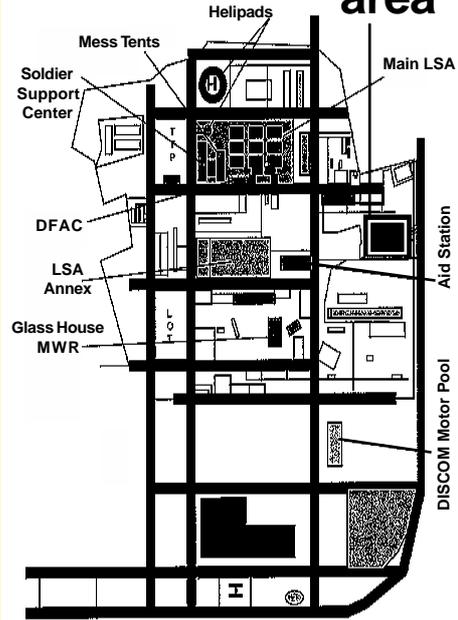
on route home

heavy equipment transport site. Ferrying tracked vehicles will spare the river levee road from any possible damage. Military Police and civilian police will monitor the road route that convoys will follow to the HET site. Children may swarm to roadsides as convoys pass. Soldiers are urged not to throw candy or reach out to slaps hands. This is a major safety issue. The day will end with vehicles lined up in the HET staging site.

In the early morning of the fourth day convoys will head north to the ISB. Outprocessing there will take about seven days, and will include medical and dental screening, finance and other personnel actions.

6 Slavonski Brod

RSB life support area



Croatia

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Day one: Heavy tracked vehicles will cross the Sava at the TOC (1) on ribbon rafts while wheeled vehicles cross the fixed bridge (2). Vehicles will inventory Lift Class V ammo and stage at the assembly area for cleaning and maintenance. Troops bused to the RSB LSA (6) at end of day.
 Day two: Maintenance and cleaning of vehicles continues.

■ REDEPLOYMENT

Battery charged, ready to go home

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

STEEL CASTLE — Packed and ready to go, Sgt. Corey P. Williams, a wire systems installer for Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 1st Armored Division, says he's counting down the days.

"Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR is the second deployment I've been involved in. The first was Desert Storm. Saudi was a six month tour, and this one's a year," said Williams from West Memphis, Ark. "A year is a pretty long time to be away from my family; I'm really anxious about going home."

Seventy-eight members of the battery, moved their vehicles on line for redeployment.

"We were supposed to leave on the first of October, but the move was canceled less than 24 hours before we were to pull out," Spc. Amy S. Kronen, unit supply specialist said. "We didn't know if the postponement was going to be

two days or two months, so when we received the word that we were finally leaving we were overjoyed."

It will take the battery eleven days to reach their final destination, Baumholder, Germany. "We've been planning the logistics of this move for about a month," said Capt. William A. Geiger, battery commander. "The main party has already departed, and we leave in the morning."

"However, not all of us are going. Twenty soldiers are staying behind to operate a tactical operations center until the covering force gets here."

In preparation for reuniting soldiers with their family and friends, the unit briefs its members on what to expect during the "getting reacquainted with their loved ones phase."

"It's only normal to have to make an adjustment to being with your spouse and children when you've been gone for so long," Williams said. "My solution to that is to take it real slow and deal

with the changes that were made during my absence."



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Pfc. Amy S. Kronen, a supply specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Armored Division, checks tie downs on the vehicles.

Preparation key to quick journey home

By Sgt. LANCE M. KAMISUGI
100th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH, Croatia — Preparation is key to preventing delays in the redeployment process.

"Units need to complete the technical inspections of their equipment to 10/20 standards before reaching the Redeployment Staging Base," said Maj. Tony V. Healy, Officer in Charge of the Redeployment Operations Center. "They must also accurately inventory all equipment for shortages and excess."

Unit movement officers are key to the redeployment process. They can call Sgt. Bryant K. Matheis or 1st Lt. Clyde S. Cochrane at the ROC, 558-5528 for help and information.

"We should be in contact with the unit about six weeks prior to their departure for the RSB," Cochrane said. "Units need to be flexible because of changes in the weather, logistical or tactical situation."

Movement officers should also contact the 15th Movement Control Team. "Units must concentrate on their initial submission of transportation requirements," Healy said.

The 15th MCT plays a major role in coordinating those requirements. "We want an accurate equipment list for any transportation need. The unit should have a DD 1384-2 filled out for every piece of equipment that they want to ship," said 1st Lt. Josh W. McCain, freight and container OIC for the 15th MCT.

"Units should also make an appointment with the Transportation Coordinated — Automated Command Control Information System cell at 553-9358," McCain said.

TC-ACCIS is a system that updates everything that needs a military shipping label. "Changes can be made at the RSB, but it's always better to make adjustment as early as possible," Farrah said.

The Division Transportation Officer will also be working with the 15th MCT to support redeploying units. "We will coordinate the assets needed to move containers with the pallet loading system using commercial trucks," said Capt. Riley J. Cheramie, assistant division transportation officer.

The DTO also arranges commercial bus transportation to the RSB. Units may call Staff Sgt. Tijuana A. Morris, 551-3543 for information.

Twelve days not Christmas, but just as welcome

By Spc. AARON R. REED
100th MPAD

Just 12 days. That's how long it will take a redeploying unit to get home, from the time the advance party heads for the redeployment staging base at Slavonski Brod, Croatia, until the last soldier gets off the bus in Central Region.

This is what soldiers can expect:

Day One: Unit advance party (company executive officer, 1st Sgt., and supply representative) depart for the RSB. There, they coordinate with the Grizzly tactical operations center for billets, maintenance and supply support. The unit movement officer advises Grizzly TOC of how many vehicles and soldiers to expect and when they will arrive. The UMO also coordinates with 15th Movement Control Team for transportation.

Day Two: Unit arrives at RSB (Sava South). Unit processes through the wash-rack and refueling areas. Ammunition (Lift Class V) is downloaded, and vehicles are staged in the marshaling/maintenance area, also known as the assembly area. Mil-

vans continue to Slavonski Brod, where they are handed-off to the 515th Transportation Company. Soldiers are bused to the life support area.

Day Three: Unit returns to the assembly area to perform maintenance on vehicles. The unit movement officer makes arrangements for forward movement and march credits with 15th MCT. The vehicles remain staged at the assembly area while soldiers are bused back to the LSA.

Day Four: Unit returns to the assembly area. Vehicles are driven to the heavy equipment transporter upload area and staged. Soldiers are bused back to the LSA and prepare to leave.

Day Five: Unit receives march credits, milvans are rejoined with the convoy, and the unit proceeds to the Intermediate Staging Base at Kapsovar, Hungary.

Day Six: Unit arrives at the ISB and links-up with unit liaison officer. Soldiers turn-in ammunition. Leaders receive briefing. After the unit conducts a sensitive items inventory and an inventory and reconciliation of its property book, the unit

will receive conex, tent and key hole assignments. Soldiers will then wash equipment and assign equipment guards. All other personnel will then move to the LSA.

Day Seven: Troops turn in laundry, submit requests to purge tankers and move to the maintenance and administration areas. Soldiers wash and conduct technical inspections of equipment and submit direct support work orders. Unit conducts TA-50 and organizational clothing and individual equipment layout, submits OCIE requests and undergoes a customs inspection.

Day Eight: Soldiers re-wash equipment, if necessary. Technical inspections are verified and unit clears Army Oil Analysis Program lab. Sets, kits, and outfits are inventoried and unit orders expendable supplies not at direct support unit. Unit submits direct support work orders, refuels/defuels vehicles, inventories prescribed load list and authorized storage list, turns-in excess equipment, and orders supplies.

Day Nine: Fuel tankers are purged and turn-in of excess equipment continues. Soldiers conduct vehicle maintenance, technical inspections are verified. After commander's time, OCIE is issued and load plans are reviewed. Equipment guards conduct servicemember readiness program.

Day 10: Unit SRP is conducted. Vehicle maintenance continues, and unit submits movement request (rail, highway, bus, barge or air). Unit identifies blocking and bracing materials.

Day 11: Unit convoys vehicles to barge site and configures vehicles for movement. Secondary loads are secured and load plans completed. Unit finalizes all movement documentation and soldiers pick up laundry. Vehicle maintenance is concluded, a final customs inspection is conducted, and direct support work orders are closed. Unit conducts awards ceremony for soldiers.

Day 12: Unit's equipment is rail loaded, and the unit clears the container holding area. Unit clears the LSA, completes the passenger manifest and departs ISB with all documentation. Unit arrives home to Central Region.



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi

A soldier from 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry uses a pressure washer to clean his vehicle at the assembly area near Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

Commanding General supplements General Order No.1

1. General Order #1 prohibits "possessing, touching, using, or knowingly approaching without legal authority any unexploded munitions or ordnance, of any kind or description whatever."

2. For TF Eagle soldiers, I hereby supplement the above order to prohibit the possession, transfer and mailing of any munition, ordnance, or any part thereof, regardless of whether the item is inert, rendered harmless, or exploded. Examples of items which

are prohibited include, but are not limited to, inert or harmless mortar rounds (regardless of size, condition, or any other factor), parts from any type of munition regardless of its current condition (this includes parts of expended munition rounds of any type), and any part, whether real or fake, of a mine of any type.

3. Requests for exception to this policy will be forwarded through command channels for my approval. The request must include a picture of the munition

and the justification for keeping it.

4. This order is punitive. Persons subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice may be punished under Article 92, UCMJ, for violating a lawful general order. Civilians accompanying the U.S. Armed Forces force may face adverse administrative action.

5. This is a safety issue!! Don't take chances.

Maj. Gen. William L. Nash
Commander 1st Armored Division

Soldiers bid Lisa farewell

By Spc. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

CAMP LISA — The music pumps out a rhythm and the hammers pound in tune as the 40th Engineer Battalion and other tenant units tear down Lodgment Area Lisa.

"Planning is essential," said Master Sgt. Ruben Haro from Hollister, Calif. He is the noncommissioned officer in charge of coordinating and planning with Brown and Root. "Force protection remains our number one priority, followed closely by quality of life," he said.

Haro, 40, began planning two months in advance to ensure that when soldiers made the transition from conexes to tents they would have hot showers and hot meals.

He also phased power take down, bunker reduction and wire recovery to assure force protection until final closure.

The tear-down has actually lifted spirits. "I'm glad we're tearing it down; it's a step closer to home," said Spc. David B. Paulk, 25, from Thorndale, Texas.

"Base camp tear-down is not a glamorous job; it's dirty," said Lt. Col. William J. Seymour, 40th Engineers commander. His troops are following a three-week model developed during the tear down of LA Pat to complete the mission in an orderly manner.

During week one, troops turned in linen and moved out of the conexes. A mobile kitchen was set up to replace the cozy dining facility that had air conditioning, heating and TV.

During week two buildings were moved. Brown and Root transported the conexes, disassembled the generators and removed the septic systems; while soldiers took down hardstand tents and removed interior concertina wire.

"We've decentralized the process so every soldier is involved, not just the engineers," Seymour said. "Everyone can help while the engineers to dismantle wooden structures."

The hard work is for the soldiers involved because as much of the material as



Spc. Craig Pickett

Soldiers from the 40th Engineer Battalion denail lumber as part of the deconstruction process at Camp Lisa.

possible is being salvaged. That means concertina wire has to have the weeds stripped from it and nails must be removed from all the lumber so it can be sorted according to type and size. The wire and wood is then bundled and sent to Slavovski Brod.

"It's going pretty smooth, but we've got a lot more to do," said Sgt. Chris A. Jacinto, 35, from San Diego, Calif.

The plan also involves landscaping ar-

reas dug up or otherwise marked by the daily activity of soldiers. "We want to leave the hill as we found it, leaving improvements where we can," Haro said. Lisa brought many improvements to the area, including new roads, drainage systems and culverts. A local dump was relocated to a better spot away from town.

In the final week towers will come down and everyone will move out. Soldiers will leave behind only the sounds of nature.

Video conference links British royalty to troops

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE TUZLA — Princess Anne visited her troops here via satellite recently. Her Royal Highness sent greetings and support for those deployed to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"With the use of the video telecommunications confer-

encing, Princess Anne, chief of the Royal Corps Signals, was able to speak to soldiers as well as see them," said Sgt. China Cooper, secondary access node site commander of the United Kingdom's 7th Signal Regiment.

"It's a benefit to be able to see the person you are talking to," Signaler Lucy E. Kyle said.

"Someone's mannerisms

and body language tell a lot, and you can interpret it through the video."

The regiment keeps the American systems interfaced with the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. The team mission also includes maintaining links for e-mail, multinational division conference calling, data and faxes.

"The connection between

us and ARRC is actually a recent addition," said Col. John M. Brown III, 1st Armored Division chief of staff.

"However, we've been conducting VTCs everyday out of this headquarters not only to higher headquarters, but also to U.S. brigades.

"Video conferencing clearly plays a vital role," Brown said."

■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

German computer know-how helps Task Force

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Three soldiers here proudly wear flags of black, red, and gold amid a sea of red, white, and blue.

Eagle Base is temporarily home to a trio of German soldiers sent to help the 22nd Signal Brigade, and virtually every IFOR soldier, communicate with the rest of the world.

Cpl. Bjorn Tkotz, 24, Sgt. Markus "Bernie" Muench, 25, and Sgt. 1st Class Dirk Mueller, 27, are attached to the 22nd. The trio work with U.S. soldiers to cut through the jungle of high-tech communications.

"The Germans are super workers," said Capt. Thomas W. Wells, 30, brigade engineering officer. "They work on the Integrated Digital Network Exchange (IDNX) system and the switchboard. This provides all data service to higher headquarters. Sometimes they help us plan cable runs and maintain some of our own systems.

All three of them are smart communicators and willing to make the extra effort," Wells, of Bainbridge Island, Wash. said.

Mueller, Muench, and Tkotz reprogram the switches, test all the circuits, and monitor voice and data cards. If all is not 100 percent perfect, they are capable of troubleshooting the system to find the glitch.

"Occasionally we change the frequencies in order to test the entire system," Tkotz said. "There is always something for us to do with the computers."

Systems control sergeant, Master Sgt. Terrence Valenti, 42, from Darien, Conn., is delighted with their teamwork and dedication.

"They hooked up tactical sig-

nal cables along and underneath the sidewalks, and helped us fix generators," Valenti said. "They get right out in the mud with us. Not only are they a great bunch of guys, but they're technically proficient."

Besides his regular duties, Muench volunteers his free time to share a bit of German

culture with American soldiers.

"I'm teaching German language class at the chapel once a week. As a German sergeant I teach military lessons, but this is the first time I've taught a German language class," Muench said.

In addition to teaching German vocabulary, Muench shares his knowledge of German traditions, food and history.

Living with nearly 2,000

U.S. soldiers has been an interesting and enjoyable experience.

In Germany, Mueller has worked with soldiers from many different nations, but this is his first time joining other soldiers away from his own country.

"At the beginning it was more difficult, but now we are accustomed to the differences," Mueller said.

"Everybody is different," Muench said. "America is very large, there are soldiers from the North, South, ... all over. We can now pick up on the language differences and a few slang terms."

The Germans agree that their assignment with Task Force Eagle is a rewarding experience.

They've formed many friendships and continue to meet new people daily.

"I enjoy my time with the American guys because I like the people we work with," Mueller said. "Everyone has been very kind to us."

HOME from page 1

vehicles, downloading ammunition and performing maintenance. This was all done to ensure there are no breakdowns on the way to the intermediate staging base at Taszar, Hungary.

"We began vehicle maintenance 60 days out and conducted risk assessments to ensure every soldier came back safely. When I took command in December, I said it would be a success if everyone came back safely. So far it has been," Capt. Robert G. Gotzmann, Bty. A commander, said.

Once they reach the ISB the soldiers will continue with their cleaning and maintenance schedule. The commander will go over the property books and the soldiers will receive any medical or dental care they need before returning home. After the sixth day, they will be ready to roll to Baumholder and be reunited with their families.

The family support group is planning a big welcome home celebration. "They've worked hard for the ten months we've been here. They helped hold the unit together by making sure the soldiers know everything was taken care of back home," Gotzmann said.

Many soldiers have special plans. "My wife and I are going to the Spanish island Sardinia. The reservations are already made," Sgt. Kenneth Malone, 32, from Chicago, Ill., said. Other soldiers just plan to relax and spend time with their loved ones.

While many are looking forward, some are looking back. "We did an excellent job,

we had good times and bad times. I'm gonna miss the soldiers I've met," said Spc. Marvin K. Ricketts, 24, from Seaford, Del.

Working in teams, the unit provided fire support for the 2nd BCT at lodgment area Steel Castle, while one of its platoons provided support from LA Alicia.

"If we did it again, I'd want the same

crew. I couldn't ask for better," Malone said.

Gotzmann agreed. "It's all about teamwork. Alpha battery is one big team," he said.

And that's how they're going home — as a team — across the Sava, through the RSB and ISB, all the way to Baumholder. Many more units will follow in their tracks.

ESCORT from page 1

from Waco, Texas, drives an up-armored HMMWV.

The MPs make the run to Slavonski Brod about every other day, making that last show of force on the road home.

They ensure the convoy stays on the approved main supply route.

The MPs also direct traffic in case of any breakdowns.

With the help of a global positioning system, they are always aware of their exact location.

Once the convoy reaches the RSB, the escort mission is complete. The MPs take the remainder of the day to pull maintenance on their vehicles before they relax.

The next day they are on the road again back into Bosnia-Herzegovina — back to pick up another unit headed home.

"I'm more than happy to help these guys go home," Spc. Chris J. Ritchie said.

"Many of them have been here ten months and have put their time in," he said.

Ritchie a 21-year-old MP

Soldiers of Company A, 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery, wash their vehicles at the redeployment staging base in Slavonski Brod.

Spc. Craig Pickett

Soldiers from the 411th Military Police Company stop traffic during a scheduled maintenance stop for the howitzers of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery MPs escort units to the redeployment staging base.

Spc. Craig Pickett