

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Neither snow nor rain nor dark of night keeps Staff Sgt. Samuel T. Ngaropo from patrolling the Eagle Base internal perimeter with his scouts.

High speed NCO credits early mentor

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS
350th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Thanks to *Crocodile Dundee* the United States Army has another top-notch noncommissioned officer in its ranks.

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, Staff Sgt. Samuel T. Ngaropo of 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, spent his childhood on a dairy ranch doing chores and playing rugby with his friends and brothers. Graduating high school at 15, the young athlete from “down under” got the chance to go to America.

“I came to the states on a school rugby team when I was 16,” Ngaropo said. “When I got to California, the *Crocodile Dundee* movie had just come out and people were fascinated with my accent. I decided to stay.”

Ngaropo began working for an irrigation company and eight months later met his wife Clarita. In 1990 the 19-year-old Ngaropo joined the U.S. Navy to see the world. He spent the next three years in Panama, the Persian Gulf and Somalia as an avionics technician.

“I decided that I had seen enough of the world and not enough of my family, so I decided to apply to the California Highway Patrol,” Ngaropo said. “I was accepted, but the academy date was 11 months

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“Dawg Thunder” keeps factions at bay

By Spc. J. CRAIG PICKETT
350th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL — With a fresh blanket of snow covering the ground, members of Team Delta, Task Force 1-26 did what they do best — drive tanks.

Four M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks, led by 1st Lt. Carlos A. Rivera, rolled down the road, squeezing by oncoming cars and buses.

The roads were slick, and at times, it was slow going, but once the crews became familiar with the conditions, it was smooth sailing.

Delta Team soldiers said the “Dawg Thunder” run shows people that, no matter the weather conditions, American soldiers are ready to roll.

“Going out on tanks is the best

See *DAWGS*, page 12

What they're saying

“Partner nations have proven themselves in Bosnia, and NATO should welcome their help in future operations.”

— *William Perry, Secretary of Defense*

“There are times when only America can make the difference between war and peace, between freedom and repression, between hope and fear.”

— *President Bill Clinton*

“If somebody were to try to launch a military offensive, we would know about it way ahead of time.”

— *Brett Boudreau, IFOR spokesman*

“We have invested a lot in the peace process in Bosnia. To walk away from that would be stupid.”

— *Carl Bildt, top international civilian envoy overseeing implementation of the peace agreement in Bosnia*

“If we are to master events rather than be mastered by them, we must be forward-looking in our thinking and flexible in our tactics.”

— *Madeleine Albright, nominee for U.S. Secretary of State*

“Sooner or later, the parties in Bosnia are going to have to make their own way.”

— *Samuel Berger, Clinton's national security advisor*

LAYING DOWN THE LAWS

Teamwork, cooperation, and respect should be the cornerstones of our military mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Recently, I have been made aware that some soldiers have been criticizing the jobs of others as not being as essential to the mission as their own.

I can most assuredly tell you that is not the case. I have been in this Army an awful long time and my experiences have demonstrated to me that every soldier is important.

The organization of the military is predicated upon each individual bringing his unique talents and skills to make us strong as a whole.

Yet on that same token, the Army goes to great lengths to ensure that we are all trained to the same standards. No matter what the military occupational specialty, each soldier must meet height and weight requirements, pass physical fitness tests and succeed at weapons qualification.

These are no small accomplishments. Often times, we might take



Command Sgt. Maj. James W. Laws
1st Infantry Division

such standards for granted, but look around you. You are part of an elite group of individuals who all possess the skills and knowledge that qualifies you as a United States soldier.

We are the strongest, most successful military in the world. Such a distinction has come about by design, not accident. We are powerful because we work hard and respect each other. We don't tear each other down. We bring each other up.

Like a continuous circle, we must continually rely on each other to get the mission done. If that circle is broken, we all lose. It all boils down to teamwork, cooperation, and respect. For when you respect your fellow soldier, you respect yourself.

SAFETY

By Robert Mente
TFE Safety Office

Vehicle accidents are a major hazard in the IFOR's area of operations. From Nov. 20 to Dec. 5 IFOR recorded over 72 incidents. Major factors include unfamiliarity with civilian traffic behavior, road conditions, individual carelessness, and weather.

Leaders need to know USAREUR Pamphlet 385-15, Safety - Leaders Force Protection Guide.

Tactical vehicle drivers must have a valid and current 346.

Drivers must be trained to drive in adverse weather, including ice, snow, fog and rain.

Convoy drivers must get 8 hours of rest for every 10 hours they drive a tactical vehicle within a 24 hour period. Leaders need to develop a

warfighter management plan.

Convoy commanders must brief all drivers, assistant drivers, and senior occupants on hazardous areas and conditions.

TCs must understand their role. They are not there to nap.

All drivers should have a strip map. Vehicles must be properly dispatched. Check form 5988E. Drivers should know traffic control signs and know their meanings.

Every vehicle should have basic issue items, to include pioneer tools, highway warning devices and fire extinguishers.

- Clean all drive lights, turn signals, windshields between PMCS checks.
- Use service lights at all times.
- Secure baggage.
- Use ground guides.
- Wear seatbelts!

THE TALON

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Pfc. Shawn A. M. Hayden, a fuel and electrical systems repairer with Company B, 123rd Main Support Battalion, installs a Euro-tracs into a vehicle.

Satellite keeps convoys on track

By Staff Sgt. ANNA M. PRUSAITIS
100th MPAD

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia — Communicating while on a road trip or convoy, goes beyond the technology of cellular phones. As units process through the Camp Wolverine Redeployment Staging Base, they are picking up the Euro-tracking system (Euro-tracs). This system enables them to stay in constant communication with division rear as they move out of the area of operations enroute to the Intermediate Staging Base in Tazsar, Hungary.

The system, which consists of a receiver/transmitter set on a magnetic base, is mounted on top of the selected vehicle while the computer keyboard is set up inside near the assigned operator. Personnel assigned to operate the system are given instructions on how to use the system and where to turn the system in at the ISB. The Euro-tracking systems will be transported back to the RSB, and used again by the next units moving out.

Although the Navy has been using the system, also known as the Defense Transportation Tracking System for some time, it is now being implemented by Task Force Eagle to track units as they leave the area of operations.

"The operations section at division rear is able to track convoys by pulling up route maps on the computer," said Sgt. Peggy J. Anderson, 15th Movement Control, 27th Transportation Battalion, III Corps Support Command, noncommissioned officer in charge of Euro-tracking. "If the unit convoy runs into a problem we'll know about it almost immediately," Anderson, a resident of Avoca, Neb., said.

"An advantage to this system is that, not only do we get information quickly, we also

know exactly where the convoys are located," Anderson said.

Spc. Steve P. Seegers, a cavalry scout assigned to operations at division rear is tasked with relaying communications to the personnel in the convoys using Euro-tracs.

"As soon as the convoy moves out on the road they let me know and I log the time, and follow them on the computer," Seegers said.

The convoys have pre-designated routes they travel. "I basically just watch over them like big brother does," said Seegers, a member of the 280th Support Command.

Some of the data he acquires from the convoys includes road construction, and traffic information that can be passed on to the next convoy. An FM radio can be used to relay this information as well, although in some situations the terrain becomes a factor. "In this area of operation there are a lot of hills, valleys and some mountains which disturb the signal," Seegers said. "Over satellite, it's not disturbed."

In many cases the units are large with many vehicles and have to convoy in smaller segments, or "serials" as they're referred to by movement control. A commander must get all of his unit to its final destination and having the serial spread out along a route presents a challenge that Euro-tracs is proving able to overcome.

One of the officers redeploying sent the following message to Seegers in reference to Euro-tracs. "The system is outstanding," said Capt. John E. Burgess, commander, Headquarters Support Company, 94th Engineer Battalion (Combat), 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps. "I would not be able to communicate with my other two convoy elements without it, given the distance. Satellite is the wave of the future," said Burgess, of Powhatan Point, Ohio.

News briefs

MARS patches home

Free MARS radio "patches" back to your home are being offered to the troops this holiday season starting Dec. 19, 1996 and lasting until Jan. 4, 1997. MARS, the U.S. Army Military Affiliate Radio System, is a DOD sponsored program managed and operated separately by the Army, Navy and Air Force. It is made up of volunteer licensed amateur radio operators interested in military communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. The Heidelberg Community MARS Station and Amateur Radio Club is providing this service. Call 373-9082 or 06221-179082 between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. to take advantage of this offer.

Operation M.A.L.E.

Operation Make a Life Enriched will try to do what they can to help soldiers' stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina. OM is a support organization which wants to ensure that soldiers who want mail, receive mail.

The point of contact for OM is Pat Dwigans.

The following information is needed to get your mail started:

- Rank, name, address in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Hometown
- Birth date
- Marital status
- Religion and race, if you wish (not necessary)
- Something about you, family, hobbies, etc..
- E-mail address (if you have one)

This information should be sent to: Patricia "Pat" Dwigans

5088 Old Smith Valley Road
Greenwood, IN 46143

<http://pages.prodigy.com/ompage/home.htm>

E-mail: XZLU15A@prodigy.com

Weekly weather forecast

	HIGH/LOW	CHANCE RAIN
Today	28/41	High
Sat	30/42	High
Sun	29/40	High
Mon	28/42	Moderate
Tue	29/41	Moderate
Wed	29/43	Moderate
Thur	27/41	Moderate

Provided Nov. 20 by Internet Access Weather

■ STEEL ON TARGET

Saint honored in December ceremony

St. Barbara's Day tradition alive and well for deployed field artillerymen

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment celebrated Saint Barbara's Day recently.

The dining-in honored the patron saint of Artillery and four Redlegs were awarded the prestigious Order of St. Barbara.

According to legend, St. Barbara lived around 300 AD and was the daughter of Dioscorus, a wealthy pagan who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor.

A very jealous man, Dioscorus locked his daughter in a tower, fearing her hand would be demanded in marriage because of her exquisite beauty.

Shortly before leaving on a journey, Dioscorus commissioned a bathhouse to be built for his daughter, approving the design before he departed. Meanwhile, Barbara was listening to stories about the Christian faith.

Looking out over the countryside from her tower windows, Barbara decided to shun her parents idols of wood and stone, and accept Christianity.

In her father's absence, Barbara had her bathhouse redesigned, adding a third window to symbolize the Holy Trinity.

When Dioscorus returned, he asked Barbara why there were three

windows instead of two. When Barbara professed her new-found faith in Christ, Dioscorus became very angry and ordered her to renounce Christianity.

When she refused, he dragged her to the Roman magistrate, who mercilessly tortured her. Barbara still refused to renounce her faith, and she was sentenced to die. Frustrated by her resolve, Dioscorus volunteered to carry out the sentence himself. He beheaded her.

After killing Barbara, Dioscorus was on his way home when an unexpected storm approached. Lightning struck Dioscorus, consuming his body.

The legend of the lightning bolt caused St. Barbara to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

When gunpowder was first introduced to the Western world, artillery pieces often blew up. Saint Barbara was invoked to guard artillerymen from explosions, becoming the patroness of artillery.

Throughout American histo-

ry, St. Barbara's Day has been celebrated with a feast and the award of the Order of St. Barbara to soldiers exhibiting excellence in field artillery.

The day is a way of establishing a brotherhood of artillerymen, past and present. The award is a reflection of selfless service, commitment and sacrifice.

Receiving the award at the 1/7 FA ceremony were Staff Sgt. Carroll W. Arnette, 34, of Lakeview, S.C.; Capt. Robert W. Rooker, 30, of Starkville, Miss.; 1st Sgt. Frederick J. Tobey, 41, of Murray, Ky. and Capt. Tim J. Daugherty, 31, of Anniston Ala.

Presenting the award were Brig. Gen. Reginal G. Clemmons, assistant division commander, maneuver, Col. Robert L. Smith, commander of 1st Infantry Division Artillery and Lt. Col. Ken J. Bergner, commander of 1/7 Field Artillery Battalion.

"It's an outstanding award," Arnette said. "I hope this will help me pick up sergeant first class soon."

Rooker said the award is what many artillerymen strive for. "It is a great capstone for all field artillerymen," Rooker said. "It is most appropriate for me to receive this award here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. That makes it a lot more special."

"It is most appropriate for me to receive this award here in Bosnia. That makes it a lot more special."

—Capt. Robert W. Rooker



An M-109 155mm Howitzer from 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery stands at the ready during a recent weapons inspection near Han-Pijesak. The Order of St. Barbara recognizes excellence in the branch. Cpl. Len Butler

Seabees build clam shell on land

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Beam by beam, panel by panel, the newest clamshell shelter at Tuzla Air Base is painstakingly built by the land-bound sailors of Company D, 40th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion.

Unfortunately, most of their days are dominated by fog, drizzle, and a chilling wind as they build their first clamshell from scratch.

This project will be their last before they return to their original deployment site at Rota, Spain.

"It's nice to build something instead of always tearing things down," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Steve R. Widger, 22, of Portland, Maine.

"This puts us in a different mind set; now we can be constructive instead of destructive."

Clamshell shelters, often used for aircraft protection and maintenance sites, are relatively new. They have only been used since Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher L. Kidwell, 25, an electrician, believes this experience is beneficial, despite the cold daily working conditions.

"None of us Seabees have ever been around these clam-

shells before," said Kidwell, of Las Vegas, Nev. "It's tedious work, but as long as we know where all the pieces go, then it's not too bad. We have to take our time and be very careful when we're raising it up. Everyone has to have their timing together because if a board slips, then the whole set will fall down."

Many different tasks have won the award for most tedious. Kidwell dreads the installation of the doors, while Petty Officer 3rd Class Don L. Carroll, 25, of Parkersburg, W. Va., nominates the beam structures themselves as the most time consuming.

"Each beam has eleven pieces of arches, and each piece requires a lot of pins that we must pound into them," Carroll said. "That's a lot of pins, since there's seventeen beams to this shelter."

These construction expert sailors, well immersed into day four of an anticipated five-day project, put in long, physically demanding days as they jackhammer anchors into the ground, connect hurricane cables and haul the 250-300 pound canvas panels around the mud bogged sides of the shelter.

"It's a slower process when we are cold," Widger said. "All



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher L. Kidwell, an electrician, drives in an anchor for attaching cables.

the guys have been soaking wet and cold at some time or another. We realize it could easily be worse."

"The cold won't win," Carroll said. "As long as we keep busy and keep moving, we'll be all right."

Big guns keep watch over site inspections

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER
100th MPAD

CAMP DEMI — Elements of 2nd Platoon, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery were called upon to assist Implementation Forces in a weapons storage and communications site inspection recently by training their 155mm Howitzers on the sites.

Based at Camp Demi, two guns of 2nd Platoon rolled onto a hilltop where Camp Lisa stood only weeks before.

In spite of rain and cold temperatures, the guns were in position hours before the weapons and communications inspections located at Han-Pijesak and Mount Zep took place.

First Lt. Stephen M. Smith, a "damn

Aggie" from Beaumont, Texas said the platoon sometimes has to be split in order to stay consistent with artillery's overall mission.

"To maintain effective fire mission capability, we will sometimes have to move out half of our platoon and keep our other half at Camp Demi to ensure our other objectives and responsibilities associated with the 1st Infantry Division," Smith said.

Staff Sgt. Anthony J. Tablazon, 29, from Orchard, Wash. said the concept of two guns, instead of the normal battery strength is also more practical when speed is key to success.

Smith said that while the weapons inspection was taking place, constant communication was maintained with 1/26 Infantry as well as the 720th Military Police Battalion and 2nd Platoon's Fire Direction Cen-

ter.

"Our FDC needs to know what's going on with the site inspections.

"We need to monitor the actual inspections so we can compute data that may be needed to respond to a fire mission," Smith said.

Information about the inspection was also passed on to the gun crews.

Smith said it was important that everyone from the commander to the crewman were briefed to the latest news in the event that if a situation arose, a response would have been made quickly.

With the morning drawing into the afternoon, weather conditions didn't get any better, as rain kept falling, and temperatures remained cold.

"This is definitely artillery weather," said Staff Sgt. Charles R. Bazy, 37, of Detroit.

What a difference a year makes

By LINDA D. KOZARYN
Armed Forces Press Service

The U.S. 1st Armored Division arrived here 20,000-strong in late December last year as part of NATO's peace implementation forces. With the help of U.S. Air Force Red Horse engineers, they quickly turned a former Yugoslavian air base into Task Force Eagle headquarters, bustling with troops, vehicles, equipment and supplies. Base camps sprouted throughout the American

sector of northern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Setting up was the first step. Second was implementing the military aspects of the Dayton peace agreement. Working with military counterparts from 32 nations, including Russia, the American troops separated warring factions, divided disputed territory and sent warring troops and heavy equipment to cantonment areas.

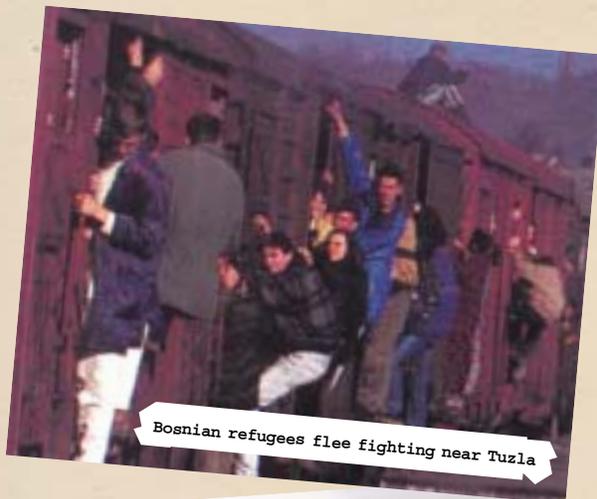
They helped the struggling nation hold a national election. NATO's peace implementation force, known as IFOR, gave Bosnia its first year of peace since civil war erupted in 1991.

Today, all of the initial 20,000 1st Armored Division soldiers who crossed the flooded Sava River on a pontoon bridge have rotated back to their base in Germany. IFOR's job is nearly finished.

On Dec. 20, NATO's peace implementation force can officially say "mission complete." U.S. Defense Secretary William J. Perry said IFOR did a spectacular job. "Every military task outlined in the Dayton peace accords [was done] effectively and on schedule," he said. "You've exceeded everyone's expectations of the effectiveness and efficiency of your mission ... What a difference a year makes."



Gorazde in flames



Bosnian refugees flee fighting near Tuzla



A destroyed building in Mimici

Dayton paves the road to peace

- Feb. 29, 1992 — Bosnia-Herzegovina declares independence from Yugoslavia
- April 1992 — Bosnian Serbs lay siege to Sarajevo
- May 24, 1995 — 71 people die in a mortar attack on Tuzla, a U.N.-declared safe haven
- July 11, 1995 — Bosnian Serb army overruns Srebrenica, a U.N.-declared safe haven
- Aug. 30, 1995 — U.S. leads NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs
- Nov. 1, 1995 — Dayton peace talks open
 - Nov. 21, 1995 — Parties sign Dayton Peace Agreement
 - Dec. 14, 1995 — Parties sign General Framework Agreement for Peace in Paris
 - Dec. 20, 1995 — United Nations Protection Force transfers authority to IFOR
 - Dec. 24, 1995 — 1st U.S. tank crosses the flooded Sava River into Bosnia-Herzegovina
 - Jan. 19, 1996 — Parties to the agreement withdraw from zone of separation
 - Sept. 14 — OSCE, with IFOR assistance, sponsors successful nationwide elections
 - Nov. 10 — 1st Armored Division transfers authority to Big Red One covering force



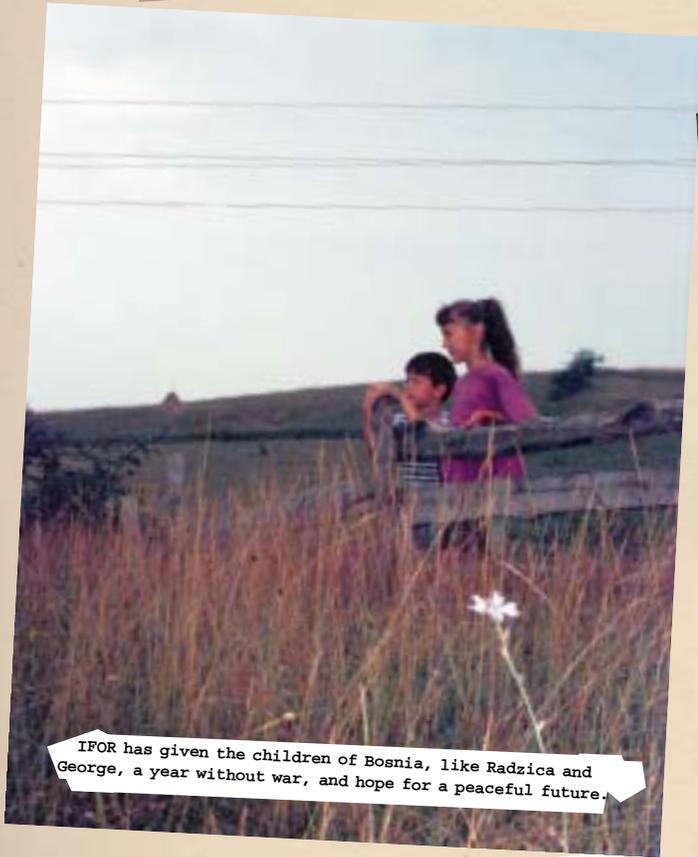
U.S. F-16s lead NATO airstrikes



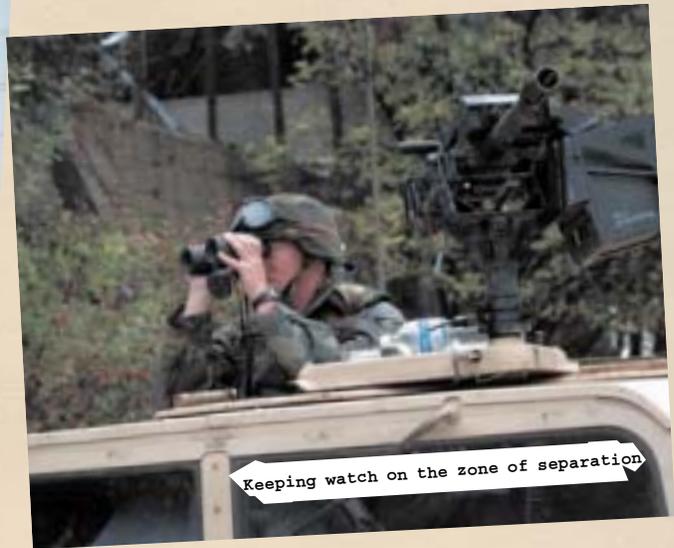
1st Infantry Division crosses the Sava



A Bradley stands guard in rugged Republika Srpska terrain



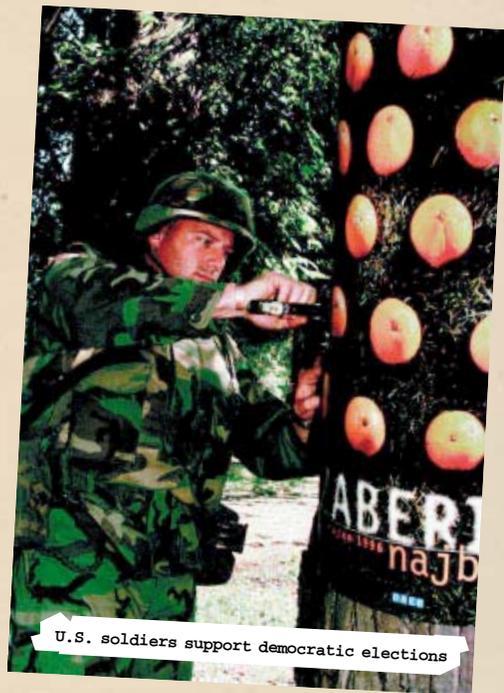
IFOR has given the children of Bosnia, like Radzica and George, a year without war, and hope for a peaceful future.



Keeping watch on the zone of separation



First U.S. tank crosses the Sava



U.S. soldiers support democratic elections

Post ceremony starts Hanukkah

By Sgt. GREGORY W. BINFORD
1st ID PAO

The lighting of the first candle of the Menorah marked the official beginning of the Hanukkah holiday. This observance officially commences on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. For Task Force Eagle soldiers and civilians supporting Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR on Eagle Base, the lighting of the first candle of the Menorah occurred in a special ceremony at the Post Chapel Dec. 5.

Hanukkah is the eight day Jewish festival of lights which recalls one of the first fights for religious freedom in history. Although the holiday is most commonly shared with family members, the ceremony drew an impromptu "family" together. The family, although not related by blood, grew tightly knit through their common bond in faith and shared personal experiences from their previous Hanukkah celebrations.

The origin of the holiday dates back to the second century BCE (Before Common Era, the time in the Jewish faith before the calendar year 0, and all time references after the year 0 are referred to as during Common Era, or CE). When the Jews rejected King Antiochus' claim of being God, the king retaliated by invading Jerusalem on the day of the Sabbath. He burned the Books of the Law, desecrated the altar of the Temple with idol-worship and slaughtered and enslaved many Jews.

The priest Mattathias led a revolt against Antiochus and the Jewish Hellenists who were trying to spread Greek culture and religion. Upon his death in 166 BCE, Mattathias' son, Judah the Maccabee, followed him in leading the revolt.

Judah and his forces recaptured Jerusalem and purified the Temple and rededicated it to their faith.

The celebration that occurred after this victory lasted eight days because the pure oil which was found in the Temple, enough to burn for only one day, miraculously burned for eight.

The Menorah is placed in the window of homes to advertise the miracle. All family members take part in the lighting, accompanied by blessings and the singing of *Maoz tzur* ("Rock of Ages").

The ceremony at the Eagle Base Chapel was organized by the combined efforts of the 1st Infantry Division Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donna C. Weddle and Lt. Col. Kenneth J. Tannen. Tannen, from San Antonio, Texas is a Jewish lay leader at Fort Sam Houston who is currently working for the Center for Army Lessons Learned. He led the gathering in prayer and stories from his Hanukkah experiences. "Hanukkah means dedication. Actually it refers to the rededication of the



Sgt. Gregory W. Binford

Communications officer Michael J. Passar, a DOD civilian, lights candles on the third night of Hanukkah. He uses a servant candle to light the others.

Temple in Jerusalem. During the observance of the holiday it is customary to eat oily type foods like potato pancakes or donuts which have been cooked in oil. This symbolizes the miraculous oil in the Temple," Tannen said.

The ceremony drew a gathering of nine people who made plans to return each night for the lighting of the additional candles on the Menorah. Pfc. Aaron B. Grimes, Headquarters and Headquarters Team, 2nd Battalion, 6th Cavalry said, "To me this means a lot, I haven't done this in a while and tonight when the Menorah was lit it helped bring back tradition. I really appreciate the fact that the Army offers programs which help people to identify with their religion.

Another of the members of this family-in-faith, communications officer Michael J. Passar, a DOD civilian said, "I've been very impressed with the type of people I've been working with and to have this opportunity to share a religious holiday here on the base is really heart felt to me. It really brings

back some memories for me. Even though it has been tough with the weather and the environment, we are all survivors and we're pitching in and making the best of it. I think it is a privilege being here at this time of year. This is really a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'm glad to be a part of the mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Weddle also wanted to extend an invitation for others to join in the celebration of their faith. "Every Friday at 7 p.m. we have a Jewish congregation in the chapel on Eagle Base and we also have regularly scheduled services for the Christian and Muslim religions.

"We encourage as many participants as possible to attend. Each chapel in Bosnia has a complete schedule posted for all its services. For the soldiers at other base camps, please contact the chaplains who can certainly inform you of the specific times. During the holiday season it is more important than ever to maintain our strength through faith."

Red Cross changes stripe but not mission

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — They were there with American fighting forces during the World Wars, Vietnam, and Operation DESERT STORM.

Now they're here. Over the last century, they've worn everything from blue pinstripes and sneakers to fatigues and combat boots.

The American Red Cross has transformed in ways far more important than changing uniforms.

The mission of the Red Cross has remained the same since the organization evolved in 1881.

One of their purposes is to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of the Armed Forces in time of war.

Robert W. Greenslade Jr., assistant station manager said their intent for this operation is to provide 24-hour emergency communications between servicemembers and their families back home.

"Our network is the official link. We have chapters all over the world. Wherever there are soldiers, you will find the Red Cross," said Greenslade, 57, from Pensacola, Fla.

In addition to performing their customary mission, their services are vastly expanding on a daily basis.

"We are leaning toward doing more personal things to fill the voids in the lives of soldiers," Greenslade said.

At Eagle Base, the hub of their operations, they have established the traditional personnel office where they handle all of the personal affairs of the troops.

However, they have added a new upbeat twist to their curriculum.

In Building 16, soldiers can enjoy a little extension of home in what has become known as the Canteen.

Once an office, it is now a cozy hangout area where soldiers gather to nibble on snacks and sip hot apple cider.

Savoring the taste of refreshments, troops can browse through a selection of over 750 videos and socialize.

All of these things are appreciated



immense-ly by the soldiers, but their true gratitude is revealed when a representative offers them care packages sent from people all over the world — proving to them that the service-members of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR have not been forgotten.

Through this generous donation of the American people, troops are experiencing a little touch of home away from home.

"Every day, we receive an overwhelming amount of gifts and cards wishing the troops happy holidays," Mrs. Rita A. Bonamego, team leader, said.

"We encourage everyone to stop by and pick something up — after all, the gifts are for them."

Although the American Red Cross is a civilian organization, its role in today's military is essential.

It is their goal to give American servicemembers and their families peace of mind.

"Whether the bearer of good news or bad news — I have heard more than once, 'It's reassuring knowing the Red Cross is there with my son and daughter because if something happens, I know I can reach them through you,'" said Bonamego, 53, from Vicenza, Italy.

Giving people this peace is where the representatives find their fulfillment.

"Even though sometimes our job is sad if a soldier can turn to us and find comfort, it's well worth it," Bonamego said.

Big red One website collecting hits on net

Access the new Big Red One website at:

<http://www.1id.army.mil>

The P.O.C. for questions or comments about the page is Chief Warrant Officer Kathleen Grote at G-6 AMO. MSE 552-1107.

Standards of conduct

Regardless of your rank or duty position, you may be faced with an ethical dilemma. Gifts from local nationals, particularly in a country like Bosnia-Herzegovina where there is a strong tradition of hospitality, present special ethical problems.

The standards of ethical conduct for employees require soldiers and DOD civilians to avoid even the appearance of unethical or illegal conduct. When offered a gift, ask yourself two questions: Would accepting the gift cause someone who didn't know me to question my integrity? Can I refuse the gift without giving offense?

For example, if a patrol assists a Bosnian farmer by getting his cart out of the mud, and he thanks them by offering the soldiers home-baked goods, the soldiers may accept. On the other hand, a base camp mayor who is offered gifts by a contractor seeking access to the camp for his business should refuse. Even though refusing the gift might cause offense, giving the appearance the US officials might accept favors for their services presents an even greater risk.

Ethics counselors are available to advise soldiers about the requirements of the Joint Ethics Regulations. When in doubt, ask if you follow the advice of an ethics counselor, you are protected from adverse consequences. Remember, an ethical violation may be as hazardous to your career as a minefield could be to you.

Viewpoints wanted

The Talon welcomes viewpoint articles from soldiers in the field. Please drop off a hard copy at our office on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 17, Eagle Base, or send us your viewpoint to:

The Talon
100th MPAD-JIB
APO AE 09789

Team assesses force protection

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — Equipped with laser range finders, night vision goggles, and tape measures, a specialized team of soldiers examines the general layout of base camps and the overall approach to day and night operations.

Since their first mission Aug. 2, the Force Protection Assessment Task Force has evaluated 81 major locations from Hungary to Macedonia; including base camps, observation posts, hills and many other sites.

The task force formulates assessments and provides advice

to the command and individual units within the Balkan region.

This multifaceted team consists of six members representing specialties such as military police, intelligence, engineers and special forces.

"We have an approach which begins from the inside out, and from the ground up," said Staff Sgt. Lance T. Hinds, the Special Forces engineer sergeant. Hinds, 36, of San Antonio, concentrates on vulnerabilities regarding mortar fire, artillery, sniping, explosives and terrorist activities.

"We look at the basic layout of the camps, how they are guarded and where assets are positioned within the camp," Hinds

said. "Riding with the convoys also allows us to check security practices along the movement routes, on the buses and at the entrance gates."

Maj. Fausto A. Natal, the task force officer in charge, is impressed with the precautionary measures taken across the theater.

"I've observed that all the base camps have a high emphasis on force protection; from the command level to the individual soldiers," Natal said. "Everyone is conscientious, alert and prepared for any possible adverse incident."

As the latest member to join the task force, Capt. Christella

J. Chavez, 29, of Santa Fe, N.M., utilizes her training as a military police officer to evaluate physical security. She determines the effectiveness of entry gate security procedures, looks for possible avenues of approach into the perimeter, and reviews controls on sensitive items.

U.S. forces have an excellent force protection record considering the enormous scope of operations and the large number of troops involved.

With new forces in place, time continues to separate years of war from today's fragile peace.

"I'd like to see more leaders spend more time talking to the soldiers out on the line," Hinds said. "The most important observations come from those walking the perimeters and standing at the gates. They see and hear everything. They know what is normal and what is not. These soldiers have a sixth sense and recognize when they're in a vulnerable situation."

Any location containing U.S. servicemembers is repeatedly checked to ensure safety is at a maximum level at all times.

"As long as we have U.S. soldiers here, there will be periodic reassessments of all areas," Natal said. "Each division has its own teams. It's important to have a fresh set of eyes and ears on every evaluation."

"It's a necessary redundancy," Chavez said. Our teams reinforce each other. Different teams have a different mix of skills and specialties involved to make sure we cover as much as possible. We look over previous assessments and reevaluate camps to see how suggested improvements have helped."



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

Capt. Christella J. Chavez, specializing in military police security matters, measures stake distances as part of her force protection assessment. Chavez is from the 607th Military Police Battalion, Fort Worth, Texas.

Continuing education key to self improvement

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM
350th MPAD

McGOVERN BASE — "I hear this is where you come to get smart."

That statement from a soldier in Task Force 1-18 brought joy to the heart of Susan C. Prengel, the guidance counselor at McGovern Base. She yearns to see soldiers better themselves, whether through civilian or military education.

Prengel, 56, is a DOD civilian employee from Kirch-Goens, Germany, who volun-

teered to come to Bosnia for three months.

Three colleges offer courses to military personnel stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prengel said.

The University of Maryland provides two- and four-year degrees in general studies, with an emphasis on business and academic subjects.

City Colleges of Chicago offers a two-year program entirely on video with a business concentration.

Central Texas College offers a two-year technical degree, with law enforcement

courses the focus for troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Some professors travel between base camps to teach different classes. Military personnel with master's degrees who wish to teach classes can apply to become an instructor.

Although she'll be leaving Bosnia-Herzegovina in mid-December, Prengel said she probably will return sometime since the peacekeeping mission has been extended until mid-1998. "I've always been impressed with the Army," Prengel said.

Steel assists supply train

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING
100th MPAD

GUARDIAN BASE — Roaring like thunder, 120,000 pounds of steel shakes the earth as it penetrates the perimeters of the American base camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Since 1st Infantry Division has taken command, this is a recurring incident for the soldiers of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Until recently units were burdened with having to launch convoys out to a central supply point to meet their logistical demands. However, since the arrival of 1st ID troops of Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery have reversed that process and are now rolling into the camps with their palletized loading systems, carrying nearly every class of supply required in this theater.

A PLS is equipped with a crane that can pick up approximately 45,000 pounds and as a rough terrain vehicle, it has a central tire placement system with 10-wheel drive. "There's no way you can get stuck. It can go just about anywhere," said Sgt. Robert A. McNeely, ammunition specialist.

The PLS convoys move seven days a week from Guardian Base, the hub of logistical operations, run by the 299th Forward Support Battalion.



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

Pfc. Abel C. Melendrez, a cannon crew member of Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, prepares his log book before his convoy departs.

"We transport everything for them. If you want it, we've got it," McNeely said.

Second Lt. Charles A. Gentes, transportation platoon leader, said the battery has driven over 60,000 miles in one month. "That's more than we drive during an entire year back in garrison," said Gentes, 23, from Wilton, N.H.

One of the most difficult challenges the drivers face while on the road is to avoid pedestrians. "I don't think they realize how much room the PLS needs. They walk right on the edge of the pavement and when we drive by they don't even move," said Pfc. Abel C. Melendrez,

a 20-year-old cannon crewman from Sunny Side, Wash.

For reasons such as fatigue, blind spots, and congested traffic, an alert assistant driver is mandatory and extremely important. "An AD is the driver's second pair of eyes. If you don't have a good assistant, you're hanging with Elvis," said McNeely, 28, from Ashburry Park, N.J.

The soldiers of service battery find fulfillment in their mission from knowing they are providing a service that the soldiers appreciate and depend on. "We bring them all of their food, fuel and water. We're their life line," McNeely said.

Soldiers learn first hand why we're here

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS
350th MPAD

"Why are we here?" Many soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina struggle with that question, but not two members of the Tuzla Main aid station.

2nd Lt. Sean M. Hermick, 35, and Pfc. Shawna E. Eshenbaugh, 19, each found their answer as they traveled into Tuzla to give a first aid class at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. At Eagle Base their mission is to take care of soldiers and IFOR personnel with everything from applying a bandage to putting in a chest tube. Hermick and Eshenbaugh got their chance to get out of the office and share their knowledge with the Bosnian people, Dec. 2

The class was requested by representatives from non-governmental and private, volunteer organizations that meet every week at the UNHCR for an IFOR security brief given by Maj. Dave W. Schimsa of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade. As operations officer for the Civil Military Cooperation Center at Eagle Base, Schimsa updates the NGO's and PVO's on security, road and bridge conditions and mine strikes.

"The security briefs are very well received and attended," Schimsa said. "I usually read them the commander's weekly messages and press releases from Task Force Eagle. Because of a recent rise in vehicle and mine accidents, they requested a class on first aid procedures."

Hermick, a physician's assistant with 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, and Eshenbaugh, a medic with 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, volunteered for this job.

"This was nice for us," Hermick said. "We've been at Tuzla Main for five weeks and this was our first chance to get out and do something meaningful to help the Bosnian people. They seem to trust us, but we can't treat them unless there is a threat to life, limb or eyesight. That is frustrating for us, so this was our chance to take care of the Bosnian people indirectly."

Hermick and Eshenbaugh taught basic life support techniques patterned after the Red Cross and American Heart Association.

"We weren't certifying any-

one, but hopefully gave them the basic medical skills they would need to sustain a life until medical help can arrive," Hermick said.

Eshenbaugh demonstrated CPR and rescue breathing with Inge Laernoes of Red Barnet Danmark — the "Save the Children" of Denmark.

Since many of the international and local staff at UNHCR lack formal training, Schimsa feels that the classes are not only helpful but cost effective.

"These kinds of classes will not only save lives but save IFOR resources," he said. "It's better to teach about a mine than have to send a medevac helicopter out."

DAWGS from page 1

part," said Pfc. Jason K. Moore, 19, from Cullman, Ala.

"We're showing them we mean business; we're not here to mess around."

Even when they're not rolling down Bosnia-Herzegovina's roads in their powerful M1 tanks, the soldiers don't have much time to mess around.

Rivera, 30, from Dublin, Calif., said the soldiers are kept busy with a variety of missions — at least a few of which are more traditionally associated with other combat specialties. Although they are tankers, the soldiers have conducted wheeled vehicle patrols, checkpoints and weapon storage site inspections.

"We have adapted well to these additional duties. It takes flexibility and teamwork," Rivera said. "It helps the soldiers realize what the other soldiers go through."

Spc. Jeff B. Address, 22, said, "I enjoy the route recons. It gives me a chance to see blown up buildings."

The Fort Wayne, Ind., native normally has only a narrow view of the road when driving his 72 ton M1.

Address said he likes to keep busy, and between the various missions and guard duty, that has not been a problem for him or the other soldiers of 1st Platoon.

"We hit the ground running several weeks ago and have not stopped," he said.

"There's a million places I'd rather be, but I know a million people who want me here," Rivera said.

The 1st Platoon troopers are carrying out their mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, ensuring the Dayton Peace Agreement is followed by all parties.

In the process, they're also giving hope to people who have seen much of their country destroyed by four years of war. Sometimes it's as simple as making a show of force in four tanks.

NCO from page 1

later. One day I was popping past the Army recruiting office and they pulled me in. They told me they had the same radar job that I had in the Navy."

So, in 1994 Ngaropo went to Army basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., where he was an honor graduate. From there he went to Fort Bliss, Texas to train as an early warning systems operator. In October that same year he was assigned to his current unit and moved his wife and three young daughters to Kitzingen, Germany.

It was during his first combat maneuver training rotation at Hohenfels that Ngaropo received his first Army award — a certificate of achievement. This was

followed by Soldier of the Month for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 4th- Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, Air Defense Association Soldier of the Year for 1995, NCO of the Quarter for the first quarter of 1996, and a promotion to sergeant.

In May of this year Ngaropo went to the staff sergeant promotion board with a Department of the Army promotion system maximum of 800 points. He was promoted to staff sergeant in October and selected as NCO of the Year for 4-3 ADA. Soon after, the 26-year-old soldier was inducted into the elite Sgt. Morales Club. Ngaropo credits his success to the superb example shown him by a fellow NCO.

"When I first got in the Army,

I didn't know what to expect," Ngaropo said. "1st Sgt. Bobby J. Brown was a total professional and I tried to emulate him. He laid a foundation for me and a path for me to follow. He's the one who pointed me in the direction of the Sgt. Morales Club."

Members of the elite club strive to take care of their soldiers and lead them in the right direction. Here in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the "Force Hawkeye Scout Platoon," Ngaropo does internal and external patrols on the perimeter of Eagle Base. During the 12-hour shifts he provides opportunity training for his soldiers.

After Ngaropo was presented with his NCO of the year award by Lt. Col. Roger F. Mathews, several of his soldiers

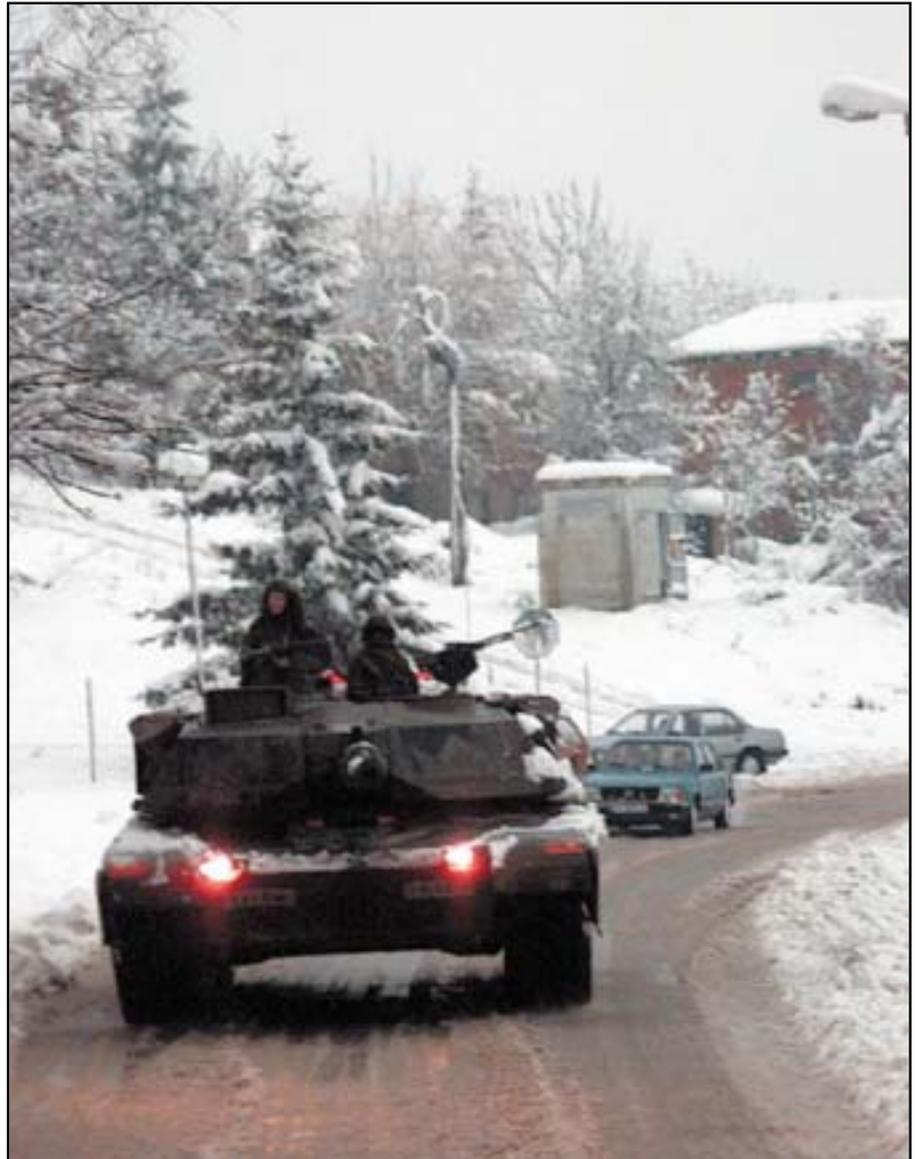
also received recognition.

"It's more important for me as a member of the NCO corps, to see three soldiers that I mentored receive recognition for their accomplishments on the same day I did," Ngaropo said. "It's more rewarding than any medal."

His first sergeant believes Ngaropo has shown all the qualities of a Sgt. Morales.

"I can't say enough about the example Staff Sgt. Ngaropo is for soldiers," Brown said. "He earned promotions, a bachelor's degree, and all those awards while taking care of his soldiers.

"As a Sgt. Morales club member myself, I know that he [Ngaropo] is what the program is all about. He is everything the Army looks for in an NCO."



Spc. J. Craig Pickett

An M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank rolls down the road with three other tanks giving Team Delta, Task Force 1-26, a chance to drive their vehicles and provide a show of force.