

# THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



## Quick start

From his M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank, Sgt. Timothy Napier, Company D, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor, counts cars passing through Checkpoint Alpha Two.

Soldiers at Checkpoint Alpha Two hit the ground running and haven't stopped since.

By Sgt. JACK SIEMIENIEC  
350th MPAD

*Sgt. Jack Siemieniec*

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It's been a crazy week out at Checkpoint Alpha Two. The soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor, have kept busy jumping from one incident to another.

It started the first day of their rotation at the checkpoint. "I was in the market when the bomb went off," Sgt. Timothy L. Napier said.

It was Thanksgiving Day and two explosions, within minutes of each other, sent the platoon's quick

reaction force scrambling to the market. Two vendors' booths, standing side by side, were destroyed in the blasts and three people were injured. The civilian marketplace is an open-air bazaar, bustling with shoppers.

Napier spoke from the turret of an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank as he kept a count of vehicles crossing Alpha Two. The tank's barrel

See **ALPHA TWO**, page 12

**What they're saying**

**"I understand it's tough to be away from home during the holidays. When I count my blessings, I count you first."**

— *William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense*

**"Our aim is to prevent war, but we have to be trained and ready."**

— *Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, Army Chief of Staff*

**"Fifty years ago during the Second World War, Russian and American**

**soldiers, shoulder by shoulder carried out combat missions in order to give peace to this land. The peace we have currently given to this land is pretty fragile, but it's still peace."**

— *Vladimir Toporov, Russian Deputy Defense Minister*

**"I always feel right at home visiting troops deployed overseas. Everywhere I see troops, I see the same qualities — intelligence, expertise, dedication and just plain grit."**

— *William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense*

**"So as we light this wonderful Christmas tree let us remember today our brave men and women in uniform who are helping other people in other lands to make their peace."**

— *President William J. Clinton*

**LAYING DOWN THE LAWS**

**F**orce protection is not just a cliché. It is an issue that must be taken seriously.

I would like senior leaders to re-dedicate themselves to the principles that underlie force protection.

This is especially important to consider when performing cold weather operations. The harsh Balkan winter is almost upon us and we should be adequately prepared to meet the challenge.

NCOs, make sure that your troops are wearing the right uniforms and wearing them properly. Proper nutrition and rest are also important.

Safety should be everyone's concern. Don't let this lapse.

Fire prevention measures fall under this category.

Task Force Eagle has experienced accidents in which soldiers have tried to fill kerosene heaters while they were still on. Soldiers have been burned and property damage has resulted. This is unacceptable. Follow proper proce-



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

dures when fueling and lighting heaters.

Another safety issue I would like to emphasize is the need to exercise caution when working with vehicles.

Recently, a soldier was filling a tire with air without the use of a tire gauge and the tire exploded.

Leaders, ensure that proper equipment like a tire gauge and safety goggles are used when performing maintenance on machinery or equipment.

If we follow proper procedures and look out for each other, then total force protection will not be just a tired and worn-out cliché but a strong part of the successful carrying out of our mission here.

**SAFETY TIPS**

By **ROBERT MENTE**  
*1st ID Safety Manager*

Changing and inflating tires of an army motor vehicle is a serious business.

Not following the proper procedures is a hazard to your health. Serious bodily injury, to include a fatality has been recorded in Germany in the past year.

Take notes on the basic rules when conducting tire inflating operations.

Get the training on how to operate the equipment correctly and safely. Ask your unit's maintenance technician, motor officer, or motor NCO for this training. They are experts. Don't be afraid to ask.

The following is important infor-

mation extracted from TM 2610-200-14, TB 43-PS-469 (PS Magazine, Dec. 91) and OSHA 1910.177.

Always inflate a demounted tire inside a tire cage. Improperly seated side ring flanges or lockrings may fly off during inflation.

Never attempt to seat side ring flanges or lockrings during inflation. Never inflate tires over 40 psi to seat tire beads.

Keep all other personnel a minimum of 10 feet away from the tire being inflated.

When inflating tire in a tire cage, always use an extension air hose and a tire gauge.

When inflating tires in a positive wheel lock device, always use a pneumatic tire inflator gauge.

More to come next week!

**THE TALON**

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# Dayton mayor visits troops

By **ARIJANA SALIHASIC**  
*Talon Translator*

**B**efore war broke out in May 1992, Tuzla had a population of 131,600. The city had a reputation as a university center with well-developed mining, energy and chemical industries. Tuzla also had a long tradition of being a multiethnic city.

War devastated Tuzla's heritage, economy and infrastructure. At the height of the fighting, refugees flooded into this United Nations-declared safe haven by the thousands. Some estimates suggest the city's population ballooned to 900,000. Under the weight of a swelling population and frequent artillery barrages, Tuzla's economy collapsed.

On the other side of the world, located in the heartland of America, is Dayton, Ohio with a population of 850,000. In this city known for bowling tournaments and industrial technology, leaders representing the warring factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina hammered out a peace agreement.

Whether the deal that brought American ground troops to the Balkans brings a permanent solution or ends in failure, Dayton's name will forever be associated with the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Last week Dayton's mayor, Mike Turner, visited Bosnia-Herzegovina. I interviewed him for *The Talon*.

**Q:** Tell me about your travels through Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Turner:** This has been an excellent trip. We have 35 people from our city who wanted to come to Bosnia-Herzegovina to establish personal relationships as a result of our shared history because of the Dayton Peace Accord.

**Q:** What role did city officials play in the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement?

**Turner:** We did not participate in the substance of the agreement. No one knew when the negotiations would end. City officials attended the initialing of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

**Q:** How did you feel about your city being chosen as the site for the peace talks?

**Turner:** I think the people of Dayton are very aware of the horrors of the war that occurred here and the atrocities. The citizens of Dayton have genuine feelings for Bosnia, and they hope for continued peace. Thousands of people in Dayton prayed daily for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It has been a very personal and spiritual connection between the peo-

ple of Dayton and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina that pulls on the hearts of Daytonians.

**Q:** Why was Dayton chosen to host the peace talks?

**Turner:** Dayton has Wright Patterson Air Force Base which is the largest air force base in the world. Dayton is located very near Washington D.C. by flight.

Wright Patterson is very secure. This allowed the representatives to be safe and to work without interference during the negotiations.

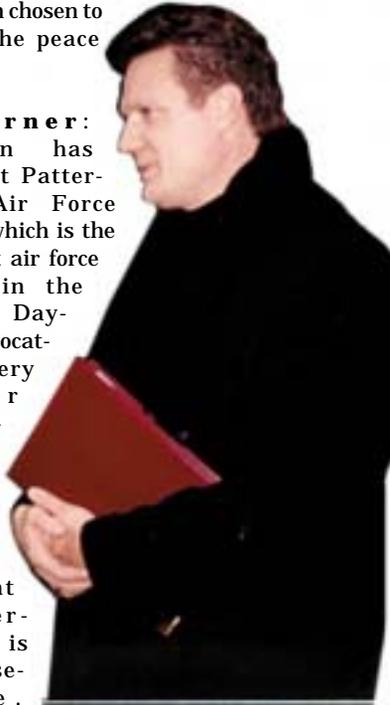
**Q:** What are your impressions of the American troops enforcing the peace accord?

**Turner:** I first visited U.S. troops in July. Back then and now they seem to be very positive. They seem to believe that they are making a real difference and that they are having an impact. It's nice to see a normalization of operations and see soldiers going about their work implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement.

**Q:** Do you think the Dayton Agreement will bring lasting peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina?

**Turner:** I think the people of Dayton are more optimistic than most about the peace holding. When your name is on a peace agreement, I think you are more optimistic than perhaps world diplomats. From what we've seen on this trip there certainly is a spirit of people wanting to get back to normalization of life.

There seems to be an effort by the governments to reconstruct the basic necessities of life and bring back the industries of Bosnia-Herzegovina so that people can have jobs. I think these future visions are very hopeful for the prospects of peace.



## Viewpoint

By Capt. **TERRY L. CONDER**  
*100TH MPAD*

The army could use more soldiers like Sgt. Jeffrey Maddox.

Here's the story.

Seven months ago when I was on my way to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Army loaded me down with enough gear to outfit a platoon. Among the items tossed my way were three sets of polypropylene long underwear. I live in Las Vegas. I have never worn long underwear in my life. What the heck was I going to do with three sets of long underwear?

The polypro stayed stuffed in the bottom of a duffel bag for the first 6 months of my deployment. Then snow hit and temperatures dropped.

Ah, ha! Time to pull out the polypro! Like a burrowing gopher I dug to the bottom of my duffel and pulled out the still plastic-wrapped underwear. That night I put them on before jumping into my extreme-cold-weather sleeping bag.

Mistake!

I think I woke up with second and third degree burns. Okay, so I'm exaggerating. But I certainly never tried to sleep in my polypro again.

Then one day while I was freezing during my early-morning run, an idea hit me like an Evander Holyfield punch. "I'll run in my polypro!" Finally, I had figured out a good use for those funny looking pants. Or so I thought.

Enter Sgt. Maddox, an MP.

After finishing a recent early-morning run I started stretching and looked up to find Sgt. Maddox heading my way.

I don't remember his first words, but he was professional and respectful. Maddox told me that I really needed to be in a PT uniform, or at least cover the polypro with sweats. I wasn't ready to cave in so fast. After all I had finally found a use for these goofy pants!

But Maddox was persistent, and after a "decent interval," I conceded his point.

Maddox could have invoked his police authority when I argued with him. He didn't. He could have copped an attitude. He didn't. He could have lost his cool and said something that would have caused us both a lot of grief later on. He didn't.

He did the right thing, and he did it the right way. That's why the Army could use more soldiers like him.

## ■ SLAVONSKI BROD

# Engineers keep bridge floating, secure

By Sgt. LANCE M. KAMISUGI  
100th MPAD

SLAVONSKI BROD, Croatia—The 74th Engineer Company (Assault Float Bridge, Ribbon), 62nd Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy), 13th Corps Support Command, trains at Fort Hood, Texas, assembling and breaking down pontoon bridges.

After deploying in October and performing their normal mission of establishing the float bridge used by the covering force to cross the Sava River at Zupanja, Croatia, 2nd platoon of the 74th Eng. Co. set up camp under the fixed bridge connecting Slavonki Brod to Bosnia-Herzegovina. "There was a constant flow of traffic while IFOR used this bridge to redeploy units back to central region," 2nd Lt. Nakizito N. Kazigo of Somers, N.Y., said.

The present mission of the 74th Eng. Co. is to display a presence on the bridge and protect it against any acts of sabotage according to Kazigo, 2nd platoon leader.

"We guard against snipers or unauthorized vehicles from gaining access to the bridge and possibly placing explosives on the bridge," Kazigo said. "The combination of roadblocks and patrols walking along the bridge helps create a deterrent against the threats."

Vehicles and security forces are positioned at both ends of the bridge. Five-ton trucks, loaded with bridge bays, serve as moveable roadblocks. "Being an engineer unit, we've had to modify our assets to fulfill the requirement," Kazigo said.

The day shift is relatively quiet compared to the random gunshots heard at night. "The soldiers hear many close shots while on patrol during the evening," Staff Sgt. Wilberto Gonzalez, of Carolina, Puerto Rico, said. "The soldiers need to be careful because what goes up, must come down."

For the three teams, a daily routine of six hours on guard duty, followed by a couple of hours of detail for force protection improvements, leaves just enough time to eat and sleep before starting over. "The soldiers are motivated, considering they are performing duties brand new to them," Gonzalez said.

Second platoon lives under the bridge in what is commonly known as Troll Base. The life support area consists of three living tents, a mess tent, an MWR tent, and a shower unit.

"We are armed differently than a cavalry troop so the company has been increasing the force protection level around the perimeter," Capt. James P.

Sutton, of Ironton, Ohio, said.

The duties of providing security instead of erecting a bridge, is a minor, temporary change says Pvt. Rupert Casillas, of Lancaster, Calif.

Casillas recently experienced a permanent change in his life when he became a father. "It's hard and I didn't want it to happen this way, but God has a reason for putting us here and helping others," Casillas said. "The most important thing is that my wife and baby are healthy," he said.

The soldiers attached from the 814th Eng. Co. (AFB,R), 46th Eng. Bn., in Fort Polk, La., are reminded of the war while on patrol amidst a background of abandoned, demolished structures in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Seeing what the people here went through makes me appreciate what I have back in the states," Pvt. Shelton R. Nolan, of Gainesville, Fla., said.

Help is on its way as 1st platoon will soon rotate and assume bridge security duties.

"We plan to do a 100 percent inspection of all equipment and take care of maintenance while on leave from Troll Base," Kazigo said. "We understand and realize that it's going to be our mission for awhile, so we'll be back."

## Romanian engineer observes, praises task force NCOs

CAMP BEDROCK — Col. Mureson, the chief engineer officer of the Romanian Army in Bosnia-Herzegovina visited Task Force Dirt's tactical operations center at Camp Bedrock, Nov. 30.

Now that the Cold War is over, Mureson is taking the opportunity to observe and learn about the noncommissioned officer corps of the U.S. Army.

Mureson was briefed on construction, bridge campaign and mine clearing operations as well as the staff section's duties and responsibilities in both high intensity and peacekeeping roles.

After viewing the NCO Corps at the Dirt TOC at Camp Bedrock, Mureson commented that the U.S. Army NCO Corps should serve as a role model for the armies of the former Warsaw Pact who wish to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

## Four-star applause

Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with Gen. William W. Crouch, IFOR commander, applaud an *ad hoc* choir of 1st Infantry Division soldiers who sang Christmas carols during a ceremony at Eagle Base last week. Shalikashvili thanked the soldiers and their families for their sacrifice and for giving Bosnia-Herzegovina the gift of peace.



Spc. Aaron Reed

# Weapons training continues in cold weather

By Staff Sgt. BRENDA BENNER  
100th MPAD

TUZLA VALLEY — Although the ground is reduced to icy slush and mud, the soldiers have no choice but to lie in it.

The cold penetrates through all their clothing layers as they remain in the prone position, awaiting the signal to fire.

Donning the NBC masks at least gives their face, ears, and necks temporary shelter from the cold wind.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, are braving the winter conditions as they complete cold weather weapons training.

1st Lt. David S. Pierce, 26, of Temple Hills, Md., the executive officer of the battery, believes that this winter training is essential.

"Before we deployed, we qualified at Graffenwoehr and Hohenfels," Pierce said. "We usually qualify twice a year, once during the summer, once in winter, so this is a normally scheduled range firing exercise."

Their deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina is not seen as an excuse to let previous training objectives slide.

"It helps to train in all types of climates, and due to the nature of this deployment, the possibilities of our soldiers needing to return fire are certainly greater here than in Germany," Pierce said.

Sgt 1st Class Paul A. Maxwell, 34, of



Staff Sgt. Brenda Benner

**Cannon crew member Spc. Clint W. Pechacek, of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, qualifies during the NBC phase of cold weather operations.**

Pennsacola, Fla., agrees that cold weather training activities are beneficial.

"It's good training," said Maxwell, the battalion's communications NCOIC. "This hones our basic soldiering skills. Weapons qualification is a fundamental skill."

Firing weapons while decked out in

numerous bulky layers is certainly more difficult than in a summer uniform. And no two field environments are exactly the same.

"The snow all over the ground affects judgement of distances," Pierce said. "The only way to get better is to practice, practice, practice."

## Special operations team small but effective

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER  
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — They've been involved in so many operations within the American sector that others had sworn they are the size of a company.

Thanks to Hollywood, many think of the special forces as heavily-armed men with faces painted in camouflage, quietly paddling a raft to a secret objective, or dropping out of the sky, deep behind enemy lines.

"What a lot of people think is that we are some kind of ninja warriors," said Capt. Roy Weidanz of Company B, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group. "But we use our brains more than our muscles," said Weidanz, 36, of Fayetteville, N.C.

Weidanz, the outgoing commander of the Special Operation Command Control Ele-

ment, or SOCCE, said the versatility of special forces is what makes it a successful organization.

"Every SF soldier has had some type of schooling in a foreign language," Weidanz said. "Most of our guys here know Russian, which has helped us in the Russian sector, as well as in the local population."

As a result, much interaction has been attained with the Russian Brigade. Special forces troops have gone on joint patrols and rifle range exercises with their Russian counterparts. Special forces and Russian troops have assisted each other in monitoring Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Serb observation posts.

At the Thanksgiving Day visit by Defense Secretary William J. Perry, four special forces soldiers were used as interpreters for Russian generals attending the ceremony.

"With language capabilities come liaison capabilities," Staff Sgt. Joseph R. Betz, 31, of Glastonbury, Conn. said. "When you speak another language you may think a little differently of people, because you may get a better idea of how they may feel about something."

Betz said that although Serbo-Croatian is somewhat different from Russian, the two languages have similar words and phrases, which can be understood.

Civil affairs and special forces have worked together to achieve and maintain good relations with the local civilian population.

Working with civil affairs has also allowed special forces to integrate with the local population.

"We just basically sit in and listen to what they have to say," Betz said. "We interact

with them, drink coffee, and ask how they are feeling."

A primary goal of every special forces team is to teach and train future teachers.

Recently, the U.S. State Department sponsored a program in which four demining teams were dispatched to the Croat, Muslim and Serb areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The objective was to teach, train and assist local citizens with demining techniques. The citizens can in turn become trainers themselves to teach other citizens.

With the high degree of training and advanced equipment special forces create an illusion of a larger force.

Although seldom seen, and often shrouded in a perception of secrecy, special forces soldiers working in Task Force Eagle continue to live up to their nickname, "the quiet professionals."



By Master Sgt. PAUL DYRSTAD  
TFE CPIC

EMIR I JA NISMO VIDJELI  
NIJEDNU MINUTU SAMO TU  
MINOBACAČKU GRANATU!

MNOGA IH  
DJECA SKUPLJAJU.  
TO SU SAMO GRANAT  
KOJE NISU  
EKSPLODIRALE!

ZNAM DA  
IZGLEDAJU ZANIMLJNO,  
ALI ČAK IAKO NISU



Soldiers of 346th Military Civil Relations Company hand out newspapers, comic books and calendars to people of all ages during a recent visit to Tuzla. Since IFOR's arrival in Bosnia, over a million pieces of printed product have been distributed throughout the American sector. In addition to the Superman comic book and the 1997 IFOR calendar; the *Herald of Peace* newspaper has provided Bosnians with country, world and IFOR news.  
*Photos by Aiutante Giuseppe Melillo*



# Print Power



“**Superman!** Superman! Superman!” the small Bosnian boy yelled as he ran frantically towards the small group of U.S. soldiers just exiting their vehicles in Tuzla.

The soldiers smiled warmly as they recognized the child from a previous visit. The boy was looking for the Superman mine awareness comic book that has been so popular throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The soldiers were a team from the 346th Military Civil Relations Company, part of the Division Psyop Support Element 20, assigned to the Multi-national Division-North theater of operations.

On this day, their mission was to disseminate material or “product” to the residents of Tuzla. The product being the Superman comic book “Deadly Legacy”, the *Herald of Peace* weekly newspaper and 1997 IFOR calendars.

The comic books are printed in English and Bosnian (using both the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets).

The team’s stops this day included the marketplace, a shopping village and a school in Tuzla. In some parts of town, the soldiers were literally mobbed by young and old alike for the handouts.

Smiles and responses of “Hvala,” and “Thank You” were abundant.

Sgt. Anthony Church, a nine year army veteran, headed the mission. His responsibility is to coordinate the weekly distribution of the printed product not only to Tuzla, but also to the cities of Zivinice, Purcic, Lukavac and surrounding villages.

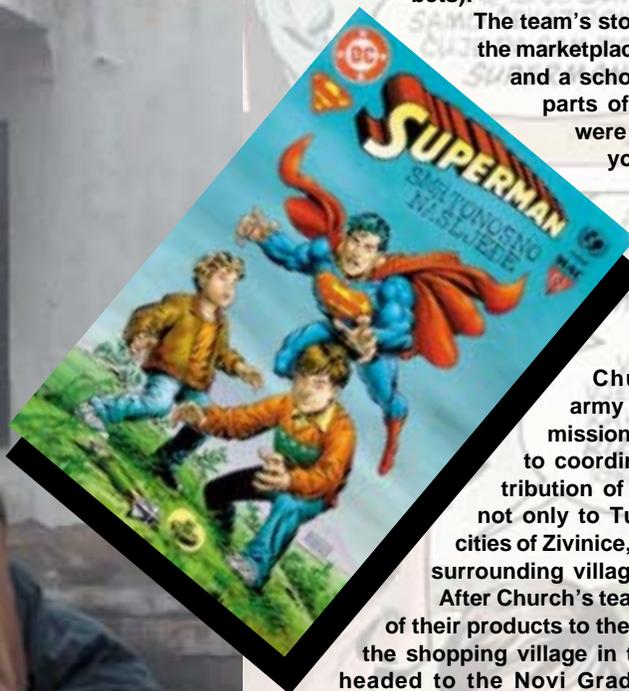
After Church’s team had distributed all of their products to the open air market and the shopping village in the city center, they headed to the Novi Grad School (New City School).

Since IFOR’s arrival, psychological operations personnel have provided additional material to the Novi Grad School and other area schools in the form of pencils, pens, paper, soccer balls, toothbrushes and other school supplies. All of the supplies were donated by individuals and organizations back in the United States.

Novi Grad principal Hurbegovic Haris thanked IFOR for their support and assistance with providing these materials and products to Tuzla schools. Principal Haris’ 17 year- old daughter was killed in the Tuzla Kapija Massacre that took 71 lives and injured 185 others when a mortar round hit a crowded market in the city center on May 25, 1995.

Students at the Novi Grad School were very enthusiastic about Superman, and according to Church, they understand the superhero’s message.

The ethnic makeup of the Novi Grad School included Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats. Principal Haris emphasized that all nationalities live together in Tuzla and will need to work together for a brighter future for all.





Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Cpl. Jamie M. Staten, 23 (left); Spc. John R. Neel, 21; and Chief Warrant Officer Terry L. Dinsmoor, 37, all of 1st Infantry Division logistics section, unload boxes of donated items for Task Force Eagle soldiers.

## Secret Santa: Soldiers pack donations for Task Force distribution



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Spc. Emmett Yeung, 23, of the 54th Quartermaster Detachment, folds an Olympic vest, part of a large shipment of donations which arrived at Eagle Base.

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS  
350th MPAD

**T**is the season to be giving and as donations pour into Task Force Eagle, it is apparent that the American public takes their giving seriously.

On the afternoon of Dec. 7, volunteers from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, 1st Infantry Division Support Command (Forward), 54th Quartermaster Detachment, and the 529th Ordnance Company sorted and boxed nearly 4,000 clothing items, care packages and assorted gifts sent for soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was no small task to organize the mounds of donated items for distribution to each of the base camps in theater.

"This is just the start of the Christmas season," said Lt. Col. David Saffold, Discom commander. "We've received donated gifts from industry, any-soldier-mail and anonymous well-wishers. Judging by past holidays in this theater, we expect a large volume of donations."

For such a large amount of items, the MWR staff needed help.

"I knew we would have a heavy volume of donations coming in," said Greg Holzinger, MWR chief for Task Force Eagle. "In order to get them

out to the camps we had to find a good system. I went to Lt. Col. Saffold and he set this up. He's been a blessing, and the assistance of these soldiers has been tremendous."

Saffold suggested using the current distribution system for normal supplies to get the private donations out to the soldiers.

"We didn't have to invent anything so it saves on transportation and manpower," Saffold said. "These donations will be in the hands of the soldiers within 48 hours."

"The unsung heroes are the members of the 299th Forward Support Battalion. They'll put these large boxes onto their daily supply runs and from there, the mayors or MWR representatives will make distribution. We even have boxes set aside for the remote sites."

As project leader, Holzinger is grateful for the assistance since his staff has a limited amount of people. But as MWR chief, he also sees future value.

"We can use this same system for future donations and new games and equipment for the other camps," Holzinger said.

"This is definitely an improvement to the way we did it before. The support is great and this is just the beginning."



Sgt. Janet S. Peters

Soldiers shop for gifts at a recent bazaar sponsored by the Eagle Base morale, welfare and recreation office.

# Events, entertainment planned for holiday

By Sgt. JANET S. PETERS  
350th MPAD

**MWR** stands for Morale, Welfare and Recreation but it means fun for the soldiers, thanks to the efforts of Julie Hawkins, MWR coordinator, and her team at Eagle Base.

Since her arrival in September, Hawkins has coordinated movies at the dining facility, a weight lifting contest, magic and spades tournaments, a Thanksgiving Turkey Trot and a Halloween party.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, the MWR staff brought a craft bazaar to Building 21.

"My job is to provide programs and activities for the soldiers such as dances, contests and live bands," Hawkins said. "I wanted to have a bazaar so we could bring things on base that the soldiers can't get here. It would also bring the Bosnian culture on base and allow the soldiers to put a face with the country."

Local vendors proudly displayed their wares which included chess sets, crocheted doilies and handmade rugs.

AAFES provided door prizes and a discount table loaded with clothing items.

AAFES employees sold bratwurst sandwiches and hamburgers to eager customers.

"It was a wonderful success," Hawkins said. "The soldiers have all expressed gratitude for us having it and the vendors were pleased and want to come back. We have plans for future bazaars."

Other planned events include a "Soldier-to-Soldier" holiday musical presentation Dec. 21, the Jingle Bell Jog Dec. 22, a talent show Dec. 28 and a New Year's Eve Party Dec. 31.

The 1st Infantry Division Christmas Carol Band is scheduled to perform Dec. 25 and a USO/DOD show will be coming this month. All times will be announced.

"If I hadn't had the support of 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery and their civil affairs office, the bazaar would never have happened," Hawkins said.

"Events like this can't be successful unless you have support from a lot of different organizations, and that's what we had here."

## NEWS BRIEFS

### MWR "holiday" events

The following is a Base Camp schedule for MWR entertainment activities currently planned for Dec. 22 - Jan. 5.

#### Tuzla Main

- Dec. 22: Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders
- Dec. 23: Cains Clever Capers
- Dec. 24: USA Express
- Dec. 25: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 27: Eddie May Murder Mystery
- Jan. 1: Liberty Misses
- Jan. 2: 1st ID Rock Band
- Jan. 5: Magic AI

#### Commanche Base

- Dec. 22: Cains Clever Capers
- Dec. 24: Liberty Misses
- Dec. 24: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 30: Magic AI
- Dec. 31: 1st ID Rock Band

#### Guardian Base

- Dec. 23: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 24: Cains Clever Capers
- Dec. 29: Eddie May Murder Mystery
- Dec. 30: Magic AI
- Dec. 31: Liberty Misses
- Jan. 1: 1st ID Rock Band

#### Camp Demi

- Dec. 23: Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders
- Dec. 23: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 25: USA Express
- Dec. 28: Eddie May Murder Mystery
- Dec. 30: Liberty Misses
- Jan. 4: Magic AI

#### Camp Dobil

- Dec. 23: Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders
- Dec. 24: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 29: Magic AI
- Dec. 30: Eddie May Murder Mystery
- Jan. 1: 1st ID Jazz Band

#### Camp Bedrock

- Dec. 24: Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders
- Dec. 25: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 26: Liberty Misses
- Dec. 27: Magic AI
- Jan. 2: 1st ID Jazz Band

#### Camp Colt

- Dec. 23: Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders
- Dec. 25: 1st ID Caroling
- Dec. 28: Cains Clever Capers
- Jan. 2: Eddie May Murder Mystery
- Jan. 3: 1st ID Jazz Band

## Just what the doctor ordered

# Nordic prescription to good health

By Cpl. LEN BUTLER  
100th MPAD

GRAB POTOK, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Life is getting better for the more than 300 refugees who inhabit this former logging camp, due to the generosity and dedication of a Nordic doctor who envisions the absolute value of life itself.

"I do not believe in the politics that drive men to kill each other," Maj. Kjell Nordlie said. "I only believe in the value of humankind."

The 58-year-old doctor of the Nordic Medical Company based at the Blue Factory at Guardian Base has been helping people here for more than two years.

"Conditions here were horrible when I first arrived," Nordlie said. "I came here only a few days after the refugees got here."

Nordlie said there were no lights or heat in the buildings which housed the refugees. The windows were all broken. People were lying on bare floors wrapped in a few blankets, because there was no furniture.

"My first time here I had to use a



Cpl. Len Butler

**Nordic Dr. (Maj.) Kjell Nordlie (left) writes a medical prescription, while interpreter, Azra Hasanovic, waits for the next patient.**

torch to see as I walked through the buildings," Nordlie said.

Many refugees lacked proper clothing. Children walked barefoot in the snow, and few wore coats.

With little to guard against the cold winter days, many children were stricken with pneumonia, as well as a variety of other diseases. Wounds caused by bullets and grenades were a reminder of an ongoing war.

Nordlie said the refugees were not initially a Nordic responsibility. A doctor from the nearby town of Banovici had supposedly arranged to care for the refugees. However, the doctor never came.

"The towns and cities had enormous problems of their own," Nordlie said. "When I saw the conditions here, I didn't care about whose responsibility these people were. I just wanted to help them."

Nordlie said in the early days medicine was very hard to get, and sometimes he had to receive it by unconventional means.

The darkness of the early days have become history. Now, the refugees are sponsored by the Norwegian People's Aid.

Nordlie's goodwill has spread into other refugee camps. He now visits eight camps, on average, with about one visit a month for each camp.

"I wish I could make more visits than one a month," Nordlie

said. "But I have so many patients to see, and so little time to do it."

On a recent December day, winding their way up the narrow and worn logging road, Nordlie, his assistant, Pvt. Kathrine Nilssen and interpreter Azra Hasanovic crossed a rickety wooden bridge, and arrived for their latest visit here.

Adults and children gathered around Nordlie's vehicle to greet him.

Elderly men and women, small children being held by their mothers waited their turn to see the only doctor they have known for over two years.

With the help of two young men living at the camp, an old woman, stooped and frail, walked slowly with her cane into the room. As she sat in a chair at the table across from Nordlie, Nilssen took the woman's blood pressure.

"Tell me. How are you feeling today?" Nordlie asked. Through the interpreter, Nordlie learned that the woman's cough would not go away.

Nordlie examined the woman, listened with his stethoscope and asked her questions as he worked. When he gave her medicine, Nordlie assured her that her pulse was strong, and she had gotten better since last month.

The next patient was a child held by her mother. Nordlie examined the little girl, and when finished, gave her a big smile and a piece of candy for being such a good patient.

Nordlie stayed until every patient was seen and every medical need was addressed.

"I think I have an important job to do here," Nordlie said. "I like to help people, and I hope I can help end their suffering."



Cpl. Len Butler

**An elderly patient waits her turn to see Nordic Dr. (Maj.) Kjell Nordlie.**

## ■ PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

# Specialist wonders, why me?

By Spc. CHERYL A. KRANING  
100th MPAD

EAGLE BASE — She was confined to a remote location, her pay frozen. She was charged 115 days of leave, and declared AWOL. To make matters worse, she watched her dog die a violent death — all during the first few months of her tour in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. Yet, she still has a “Go get ‘em” attitude.

It all began when she left her unit, the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion based out of Fort Hood, Texas, and departed for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Once in theater, she was sent directly to Hill 1326 where she spent the first 180 days of her tour. Month after month, living in an area approximately 100 meters by 25 meters, she watched her comrades rotate out approximately every 14 days.

Problems began in June when Purks received an LES that read: No Pay Due. “I just let it ride for a while, because you always hear about TCS soldiers and their pay errors, so I just attributed it to that,” said Purks, 27, from Weirton, W.Va.

However, when she was able to leave the hill to inquire about the situation she was shocked at the outcome. “I was being charged with an excess of 100 days of leave and considered AWOL.”

It was very frustrating for her, but through it all she kept an upbeat attitude. “We made a lot of jokes about it. My first sergeant on the hill said he was going to give me an Article 15 and extra duty, but



Spc. Cheryl A. Kraning

**Spc. Trudy L. Purks, translates local news papers into English for publication in the *Night Owl*.**

since we were already on a remote site and everything we did was hard, he couldn't figure out what type of extra duty to give me,” Purks said.

Then things got even worse.

“Next to our camp is a Bosnian army camp where they have watch dogs. We tried to keep the pups from coming into our camp because there are mine fields between both camps, but they always came,” Purks said.

“One day, they were playing in the mine field and one of them triggered a trip wire attached to an antipersonnel mine. The puppy was thrown in the air, and he got tangled up in concertina wire. The medics untangled and treated him, but he died five hours later,” Purks said.

Now released from the hill, she is presently attached to the open source intelligence section, 1st Infantry Division, at Eagle Base. Purks' mission is to translate civilian newspapers, radio and television

broadcasts into English for publication in the *Night Owl*.

“The information is useful because it lets the troops know the general atmosphere in the area. For example, if you're driving along a route and you see protesters, the information in the *Night Owl* will give you a heads up as to why they are mad,” said Purks, who holds a degree in psychology.

Purks enjoys her job. However, it is an office job. “I'm from a tactical unit and I'm used to being in the field a lot, so it's hard sitting behind a desk all day.”

Through the experiences Purks encountered over the last several months, she has learned patience. “Nothing happens quickly when you are deployed.” Through thick and thin she has always been positive. “It's just my personality. I try not to let things get me down and I always keep my chin up. There is usually some good in every situation.”

## It pays to work at McGovern Base finance

By Sgt. TIM PINKHAM  
350th MPAD

McGOVERN BASE — Whether it's cashing checks, starting allotments or resolving pay problems, all financial matters for soldiers in Task Force 1-18 can be handled at the McGovern Base finance office. The staff also serves soldiers stationed at Camp Colt and Camp Stevens. Five soldiers from E Detachment, 106th Finance Battalion,

Wuerzburg, Germany, man the finance office.

Spc. George A. Cortes works as a cashier. Cortes, 22, from Chino, Calif., said the cashiers handle about \$20,000 in cash every day.

“After a while it just feels like paper,” he said. “It doesn't feel like money any more; however, it's expensive paper if I lose it.”

Sgt. Paul M. Kemp is the noncommissioned officer in charge of cus-

tomers service.

“I like to help people,” said Kemp, who has spent the past five years in finance, after four years working in supply while in the Army Reserve.

“In this job you get to help a lot of people and make an impact on their lives.”

Kemp, 26, who hails from Morristown, N.J., said he volunteered to come to Bosnia, then asked to come to McGovern rather than stay at Tuzla.



Sgt. Jack Siemieniec

Cpl. Christopher W. Rushing watches as his partner, Pfc. Timothy L. Fletcher, searches a vehicle at Checkpoint Alpha Two before the soldiers let the driver continue.

## ALPHA TWO from page 1

was pointed down the road. From his perch at the south end of the checkpoint, he could see the market entrance clearly. Actually a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, Napier and his platoon are cross-attached to Co. A, 1-77 Armor to help them carry out their mission.

The mission is to operate the checkpoint, which straddles Route Arizona, just north of Dubrave in the Zone of Separation.

The checkpoint, in place since late last winter, monitors movement between Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Soldiers have kept a daily count of vehicles traversing Alpha Two and have seen the number grow from 30 or 40 cars a day in the beginning to several thousand on recent weekends.

Traffic entering and exiting the popular market is a continuing problem for the soldiers at Alpha Two, as it snarls and stops the flow of cars and trucks, civilian and military alike.

"I was about 30 yards away, helping clear traffic," Napier said. "It happened right at the end of my shift, so I had to go on QRF and we went in and helped the people."

Napier said one man had his leg and part of an ear blown off in the blasts.

The explosions are under investigation by civilian law enforcement agencies.

Napier, from Kirbyville, Texas, likes his duty. Speaking from an infantryman's perspective, life is good with the tankers, he said. "There's hot chow, it's warm and there are hot showers," Napier said.

The platoon demonstrated some ingenuity hooking up their shower, taking the heating element from an old water heater and placing it in a 55-gallon drum.

The soldiers live at the checkpoint and work on an 18-hour cycle of shifts that means six hours on duty, six hours on QRF

and six hours off before they start all over again. There's a daily delivery from their home at McGovern Base with mail and a hot dinner. While off, there's sleep, movies, computer games, dominoes and cards to keep them occupied.

"It gets kind of old, but a lot of guys would rather be on the checkpoint than back at the base. You see more action out here," said Cpl. Christopher W. Rushing, of Co. A, 1-77 Armor.

A few days after the blasts at the market, a drunk driver plowed through their gate and dragon's teeth and stopped only after ramming one of the

concrete barriers that sits directly in front of the guard shack where Rushing stood.

"Those things (the barriers) weigh about 3,000 pounds and he moved it about six inches. If it wasn't there, he would have taken out that shack," the corporal said.

Rushing stood at the opposite end of the roughly 200-meter long checkpoint from where Napier sat and watched as cars and trucks snaked their way through the maze of Abrams, Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and concrete barriers that help control traffic flow at their operation.

With radios at each end, soldiers monitor traffic, sending it one way at a time. This allows each side to check licenses and passports and inspect vehicles as they see fit. During those inspections, they have found and confiscated C-4 explosive, ammunition and bayonets.

He said travelers occasionally offer them food and cigarettes as a way of expressing thanks for their presence and

sometimes even wave American flags as they drive past.

But, Rushing said, not all travelers are friendly. He said one soldier had a car door slammed on his arm as he tried to return a license to the driver.

And again, just that morning, a car pulled up to his shack and the passenger got out, bleeding from his head. He

was a car-jacking and robbery victim and was dropped off with the soldiers by a passing motorist.

"About seven or seven-thirty this morning, he came up and got out of the vehicle. He had blood on his face and nose," Rushing, of Clayton, N.C., said.

"He was trying to tell us he got hijacked. I called up to my boss to let him know, and he called the translator. Then we took him back to get looked at and they called the IPTF (International Police Task Force)."

With explosions, drunk drivers and car-jacking victims all within their first week back on duty at Alpha Two, the platoon couldn't be faulted if they hoped things would slow down a little.

But, as Rushing said while telling about the soldier who had a door slammed on his arm, "We're just trying to do our job."

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**"He was trying to tell us he got hijacked ... then we took him back to get looked at, and they called the IPTF."**

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— Cpl. Christopher W. Rushing