

THE TALON

OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Sea mines grounded

See SEA MINES page 12

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Staff Sgt. Scott Wood, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team leader with the 754th Ordnance Company (EOD), guides a Soviet-built sea mine into a crater at a demo site near McGovern Base where it will be destroyed.

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdahl

Did you know?

The longest word in the English language, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis. The only other word with the same amount of letters is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconioses, its plural. Hydroxydesoxycorticosterone and hydroxydeoxycorticosterones are the largest anagrams.

The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel it burns.

Maine is the only state that borders on only one state.

The word 'byte' is a contraction of 'by eight.'

The average ear of corn has eight-hundred kernels arranged in sixteen rows.

The famous split-fingered Vulcan salute is actually intended to represent the first letter ("shin," pronounced "sheen") of the word "shalom." As a small boy, Leonard Nimoy observed his rabbi using it in a benediction and never forgot it; eventually he was able to add it to "Star Trek" lore.

The term "the whole nine yards" came from World War II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole nine yards."

The term the "Boogey Man will get you" comes from the Boogey people, who still inhabit an area of Indonesia. These people still act as pirates today and attack ships that pass. Thus the term spread "if you don't watch out, the Boogey man will get you."

The longest U.S. highway is Route 6 starting in Cape Cod, Mass., going through 14 states, and ending in Bishop, Calif.

"Underground" is the only word in the English language that begins and ends with the letters "und."

UP FRONT -- RISK MANAGEMENT CONT'D

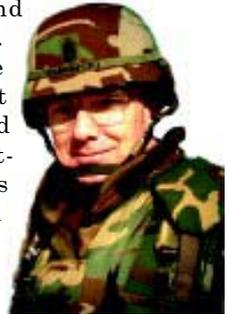
We're still talking about risk management.

What can go wrong in this leg of the convoy? Rain is rolling in. Wind-ing, hilly roads. It's worse out here than we figured. What are my options?

Anticipating problems. That's risk management; that's thinking on the go. It's the hazards and controls. What can go wrong? What can I do about it? You need risk management so you can anticipate the hazards, and if they develop, you're ready to deal with them. You take a different route. Slow

your speed and gear down.

Turn on the lights. You put out ground guides. Adjusting your actions to stay well within the "band of safety" is what should be your goal. More next week. See you up front!



Command Sgt. Maj. S. L. Kaminski 1st Infantry Division (Forward)

Threat of peace

The peace we've stabilized has increased the road hazards in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The condition of the roads was enough to deal with! We could deal with the narrow roads, no berms, the poor drainage, the pot-holes, the lack of road signs, the lack of lines on the road, the bridges and don't forget the mines. Let's throw in weather for a little excitement. We had it made, but peace has resulted in the onslaught of everything that Bosnia could pull, push, drag, or move to join our oversized vehicles. It gets worse. It's harvest season, probably the first time in years that some fields can be worked. No, I didn't forget the horses and cattle, nor the pedestrians (both sides of the road). This isn't Germany. This isn't anything we've ever seen before!

To combat (that's what we get combat pay for, right?) this circus, you now must become a professional road warrior. We know how to deal with an offensive driver? We drive defensively!

Let's deal with our own personal protection first. Our vehicles have seatbelts, you've got your Kevlar with chin strap tightened, and your body armor on.

Next let's deal with operations. How about speed? I know there have been a lot of FRAGO's but how about FRAGO 28 which says, "Max speed on Main Supply Routes 30 mph." Or FRAGO 2948 on convoy operations. Dust them off and read them.

How about leadership and supervision? In 1970 when I was a private (yeah, I'm that old) I knew I had to train to standard, and when I did that there was always leadership and supervision that let me know when I had done it right and corrected me when I did it wrong. Sometimes the corrective process was noteworthy, but it made me remember.

Today in Bosnia-Herzegovina we are challenged by a peaceful threat -- ourselves! Let's do it right and protect the force.

Lt. Col. A. Wm. Ramer, 1st Infantry Division (Forward) Safety Office

THE TALON

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Read and pass along -- a Talon is a terrible thing to waste

Camp connection



Sgt. Robert Panico, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 1-41, doublechecks his itinerary before leaving Camp Dobil.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DEMI — The morning sun is breaking over the mountain ridge that surrounds Camp Demi. The soldiers are gathered at the corner of the boardwalk, duffel bags packed and rucksacks filled. Some are going on leave or to appointments in Tuzla, others have meetings at Camp Dobil.

Reliable and on time, the LOGPAC (logistical package) convoy, organized and carried out by members of TF 1-41 Support Platoon, loads up the waiting soldiers and gets them where they need to go. "We are one of those things that everyone depends on," said Sgt. Robert Panico Sr., heavy vehicle operator. "Our LOGPAC is the connection between the base camps."

The task force is split between the two camps of Demi and Dobil, so people and distribution are constantly moving back and forth, with many stops in Tuzla. This schedule can add up to 160 miles per day, according to Sgt. Troy Cottle, Support Platoon. "It's a big job but we have it down to a science," said Cottle, a Danville, Ill. resident.

Aside from driving the roads of Bosnia-Herzegovina and ensuring personnel and cargo are delivered, the coordination to keep the wheels turning sometimes goes late into the night in preparation for the next morning. A nightly convoy briefing is held to organize the mission for the upcoming day. On average, there are five to eight vehicles lined up with at least 20 people.

A vital part of their mission also includes reporting unusual activities that they may spot during their convoys through the countryside, said Panico. "We know the road so well that if there is something strange, we are the first to pick it out," said Panico. "Our trips vary in both route and SP (start point) times, because we don't like to be predictable." The Gulf War vet gained much of his experience in Saudi, where he participated in LOGPAC missions "except on a much larger scale," he said. And Panico's experience, and that of his coworkers, is valued.

"My soldiers will go out of their way to accommodate people as long as they coordinate with us," said Sgt. 1st Class Felix Quinones, Support Platoon. "I'm proud of their hard work and appreciate the long hours that they put in."

Info BRIEFS

Wash your hands

Why are you sick? It may be due to your own personal hygiene. Ever pass the hand washing facilities in the dining hall without washing your hands? Remember your mother asking if you had washed your hands before coming to the dinner table? Well, as usual mom was right. The spread of infectious disease can be greatly reduced with proper personal hygiene, to include washing hands prior to eating. This is especially important while in a deployed environment such as Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Multinational Division (North) soldiers have had low rates of gastrointestinal disease to this point. These low rates did not come about by accident. Soldiers received universal vaccination for hepatitis A and Typhoid prior to arriving in theater. Soldiers are restricted from eating unapproved food sources, and the approved sources are inspected regularly to ensure food safety. In addition, soldiers are provided bottled water and Preventive Medicine works in concert with Brown and Root Services Corp. to ensure the soldiers have water supplies which meet U.S. Army and E.P.A. standards, are chlorinated appropriately, and tested regularly.

While deployed, soldiers can play an active roll in preventing the spread of gastrointestinal disease as well. The hand washing stations next to the dining facilities are there for a reason. Use them. Soldiers should wash their hands after using the latrine, prior to eating, after contact with others, and before and after smoking. Studies have shown that many diseases are spread when we touch our fingers to our eyes, nose, and mouth. Not only does hand washing prevent the spread of diarrheal disease, but it can also help prevent the spread of respiratory disease, an important factor as the cold and flu season arrives. Take an active roll in preserving your health, protecting those around you and preventing the spread of disease. **Keep fingers away from your nose, mouth, and eyes and WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY, ESPECIALLY BEFORE YOU EAT!**

Maj. Mark Kortepeter, Preventive Medicine, Task Force 61

Lt. Col. David Krieger, 1st Infantry Division Surgeon

Eagle's Nest



Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

Spc. Mathew McGalliard, Company D, Task Force 1-41, chops a tree in half to clear the road to Eagle's Nest.

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

HILL 1326, Bosnia-Herzegovina – Getting there is one wild trip. The crowd of trees nearly push the tiny road off the mountain. The convoy from Camp Dobol climbs up the rocky path as wind and hail hammer down. The 5-ton truck rims the edge of the cliff, and chunks of the road break off and fall into the forest far below. Hilltop 1326, otherwise known as the Eagle's Nest, stands at the end of the journey, a valuable retransmission site for Task Force Eagle.

Platoons from Company D, Task Force 1-41 rotate up to the Eagle's Nest to staff the remote site poking through the clouds. They provide security for the elements working at the location and the multitude of antennas that keep communications flowing throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Spc. John Lewis, mechanized infantryman, 3rd Platoon, Co. D, said that although it is nice to get away from the grind at Camp Dobol, they stay more than busy on the remote hilltop. "After three weeks, we were ready to come back down."

In addition to being the guard force on the mountain, which means constant guard

duty in moody weather and heaps -o-mud, the soldiers from Fort Riley, Kan. focused on upgrading the site. "We added more defensive positions, widened the roads, and were out there everyday clearing the woodline with chainsaws," said Lewis, 22, a San Bernadino, Calif. resident. "My platoon always manages to have a good time. If you give us the worst mission in the world, we will make good of it somehow."

Even getting up there can be a challenge. On a recent trip to the remote camp,

"Our guys worked nonstop for three weeks to improve the place. Then the BCAT returned and we got all greens on everything they check for."

— 1st Lt. Steven Bower

the "Delta Dawgs" of Co. D were stopped momentarily by a large tree which had fallen across the road. Refusing to say die, the "Dawgs" leapt out of their vehicle, chopped the tree in half, and were on their way in record time. The work didn't stop there.

"We walked into a difficult situation,"

said 1st Lt. Steven Bower, 3rd Platoon leader. "On the third day we were there, the Base Camp Assessment Team (BCAT) came and assessed the camp and gave us poor ratings. Our guys worked nonstop for three weeks to improve the place. Then the BCAT returned and we got all greens on everything they check for."

The Bosnia-Herzegovina army has its own retransmission site just down the road from the American camp. Mines can be seen nudging out of the ground around their perimeter. The Americans have little contact with them however — They spend most of their time confined to the camp.

Despite an impressive view of the forest below and the swirls of clouds, Bower said, it is the confinement to the camp that offers the biggest challenge for the troops. The soldiers stay within the wire, unlike the countless dismounted patrols conducted out of the other small base camp staffed by the Delta Dawgs, location Sierra Ten. But they don't let that get them down.

"My platoon has walked a lot of miles together and will walk a lot more," said Sgt. Richard Ross, 3rd Platoon team leader from Kingman, Kansas. "Despite some of the missions we are tasked to do, we do our best."

Mission continues



Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, patrol down a side street in Brcko.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

Photos and story by Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

MCGOVERN BASE -- It's early. The sun, an orange disk outlined against a gray sky, is poking out of an eastern horizon still hazy from morning fog. McGovern Base is still silent, still asleep - except for a group of soldiers and vehicles lined up just inside the rear gate.

Nothing special about the soldiers. There are about a dozen of them, all dressed in battle-dress uniforms and clad in their "battlerattle." They stand casually in a semi-circle, listening to their platoon leader give a briefing. Some are young, some not so young, but all are veterans of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They're members of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry - the "Double Deuce" platoon.

Today is no different than yesterday, or the day before that. Morning patrol - roll out in the morning, return in the afternoon. It's all part of the 24-hour-a-day operations that Task Force 1-77 has been doing for the past five weeks. Today, the mission continues.

"We'll go and set up temporary observation points at different places, then run dismounted patrols from them," said the platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Damon M. McDonald, 24. A graduate of the University of Alabama, McDonald was a National Guardsman for a

few years before getting his commission and joining the active duty Army in December 1995. After a stint at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga., the New Market, Ala. native joined the Double Deuce in Bosnia-Herzegovina three months ago.

"It's good stuff," said McDonald. "I'd much rather be deployed with an infantry unit than be back at home station. We get to do a lot of things down here that we've never been able to do before."

The briefing finished, the soldiers climb into the Bradleys and HMMWVs and roll out the gate. They're on their way.

Not quite.

About a kilometer down the road, the trail vehicle, a Bradley develops a problem. Burning oil in the engine. Not a deadline problem, says McDonald, but he isn't going to take any chances with a Bradley losing its transmission somewhere down the road. The patrol returned to McGovern and replaced the Bradley with the platoon's two-seater HMMWV. "The El Camino," said McDonald.

"Twenty-four-hour operations kind of hurt our maintenance, because we always have our Bradleys out in sector," said McDonald. "We don't really have a lot of down time to work on them. Right now we have another track that's burning oil pretty bad, and another track that's waiting on a new transmission."

With a Bradley leading the

way, the patrol started back down the muddy road.

The mission continues.

Brcko

First stop, a temporary observation point just outside of Brcko, at a crossroads in the suburb of Dizdarsusa.

Sgt. Dennis H. Karns, 25, the dismount squad leader, leads a patrol into Brcko. After crossing several tracks lined with rusty and abandoned train cars and partially hidden by overgrown weeds, the patrol enters the south side of the Bosnian city in a standard staggered formation. A native of the small town of Scio, N.Y., Karns is suspicious of the pock-marked high-rise buildings that towers around them.

"Keep an eye on those windows up there," says Karns. A half a dozen pair of eyes look upward.

"I think that when we're in Brcko, the major threat - with all the high-rises around - would be contact from a sniper," says Karns. "And when we're walking down the street it doesn't take much for someone to toss a grenade out a building. I don't want my guys getting complacent."

As a noncommissioned officer, Karns takes his responsibilities seriously. It's his job, he says, to make sure his men are ready for whatever comes up. "We're in a real-world mission," he says.

See MISSION page 6

"It's peacekeeping, but if something does happen, they need to know how to maneuver and fight as a team. I owe that to them as a sergeant in the United States Army."

In a way, says Karns, he and his soldiers are a family. They live together, eat together and work together, day in and day out. It helps, he says, when separated from his wife and newly-born daughter.

"My wife and I, we just had our first baby, and she's two-months old now," says Karns. "And I've been down here for the two months she's been alive, and I think everyday about my life, and getting back to my wife and child."

"So, it always sits in your mind when you go out on a mission," he says. "You never know what's going to happen. Every time you talk to your family, it might be the last time. It goes through your mind; it's a pretty touchy situation."

After reaching the Office of the High Representative headquarters, the patrol turns around and retraces its steps back through the city and over the train tracks. Pointing to an overhead pedestrian bridge, Karns says that on night patrols they would bring Bradleys and check out the bridge and other spots with thermal sights for force protection. That's how the secret of the bridge was inadvertently discovered.

"Local hangout for nighttime pleasures," he says, without elaborating.

Dizdasusa

Pfc. Adam D. Johnson didn't go on the patrol into Brcko. Sitting atop the platoon leader's HMMWV, the 20-year-old soldier mans a Squad Assault Weapon and monitors traffic at the

MISSION

from page 5



From top right, clockwise, Pfc. Adam Johnson mans a Squad Assault Weapon from an observation point in Dizdasusa during a day patrol...Stickers supporting indicted criminal Radovan Karadzic have appeared in the area...2nd Lt. Damon McDonald (foreground) and Sgt. Dennis Karns, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, check out a soccer field during a patrol through the outskirts of Brcko...Background, Two Bradleys from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry stand guard at an observation post

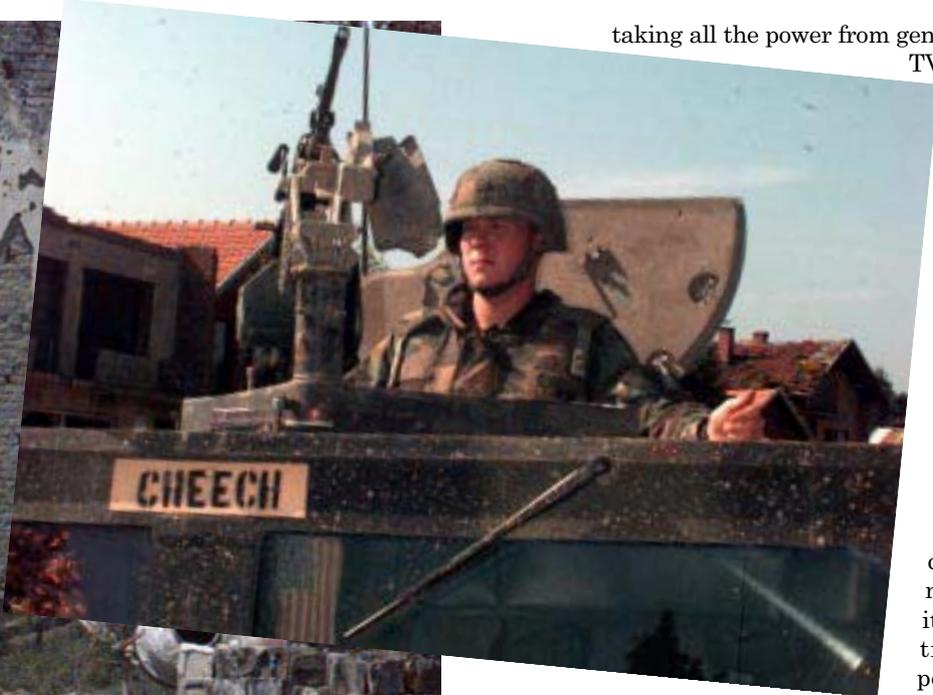


crossroads. "Just guarding these areas of high speed approaches," he says.

A native of Fairport, N.Y., Johnson enlisted in the Army right out of high school. "Actually, I graduated on the 24th (May 1996) and I came into the Army on the 25th," he says. "It's the first time in Europe for Johnson, who says the worst thing so far about Bosnia-Herzegovina is probably the weather.

"It's hot, and it's cold, and it's wet; it just doesn't want to make up its mind," says Johnson. "But everyone said it (Bosnia) would be harder, but it isn't. Actually, it's kind of relaxing."

To Johnson, Bosnia-Herzegovina is dangerous only to people who don't know what they're doing. His unit, he says, knows what it's doing. "Roger. In the combat mount squad we have classes all t



taking all the power from generator and he can't watch TV. Go tell it to the mayor, says McDonald.

Another man comes up and says there is a land mine down the road. McDonald and several soldiers go down and investigate. No mine. After questioning some people, the soldiers head back to the observation point. Sitting down in the front seat of his HMMWV, McDonald grabs a ham sandwich and unwraps it.

"It's good experience coming down here to Bosnia," says McDonald. "But it's not exactly what you trained for." McDonald points to his driver, Pvt. Ricardo Perez Jr. "I bet

when Perez went to basic training, he envisioned hordes of Iraqis charging across the desert at him, not his biggest threat being some dog in Dizdarsusa trying to attack us, or land mines, or drunk drivers, or accidental discharges."

"...or celebratory fire," says Perez, a 22-year-old Houston native.

"Yeah, celebratory fire," says McDonald.

Omerbegovaca, afternoon

A message comes over the radio. The Bradley that broke down in the morning is fixed. "We give our mechanics a lot of crap," says McDonald, "but they do work miracles." The patrol heads back to McGovern Base, picks up the repaired Bradley, and continues on toward Ulice, a town west of McGovern Base, and the last stop on their patrol.

The mission continues.

Ulice

"Stop!" yells McDonald. "That was a mine back there in a ditch, I think." The four vehicles stop and the soldiers get out. False alarm. All it was, says Karns, is an old gas mask filter. They pile back into their vehicles and head into town.

Ulice is a sharp contrast to the bustling scenes of rebuilding in Omerbegovaca. No one is in sight. The blasted skeletons of buildings line the streets in silence.

"Ulice is a pocket that has been approved for Croatian resettlement," says McDonald. "They think there could be some violence toward resettlement, but as of yet, people have only come out here to look at their houses. There are no solid plans to resettle them out here."

The town, says McDonald, had a lot of money before the war. Most of the people were rich, or at least upper-middle class.

"The Croatians from here are not like the Muslims," says McDonald. "The Muslims will resettle without creature comforts - electricity and running water, and things like that. That's the main thing keeping the Croatians from resettling here; there's no electricity. There's not even a water point out in this area."

Brod

McGovern Base is in sight. It is 10 hours since the patrol rolled out of the base at 5:30 a.m. When they arrive the patrol will split up. McDonald will go to the security office and give a situation report. The squad will wash their dust-covered vehicles, conduct preventive maintenance checks, clean their weapons, and do an after-action review with Karns. Afterwards they'll conduct PT.

A few hours later the sun will settle into the west and another day will be done. The men of Double Deuce will hit the sack, snag a few hours of sleep, then get up tomorrow for another patrol. The mission continues.



time," he says. "We do walk-through and run-through rehearsals all the time, to keep ourselves trained."

Over the radio, the platoon leader orders the squad to prepare for movement to the village of Omerbegovaca.

"This is probably about as close to combat as we're ever going to see," says Johnson.

The mission continues.

Omerbegovaca

The patrol drives into Omerbegovaca. Passing a wrecked house, McDonald points to a man and woman camped out in what was probably the house's living room.

"He was a big cattle farmer before the war," says McDonald. "Had like, about 300 head of cattle. Now he has nothing. Evidently he had a lot of money before the war."

The patrol sets up a temporary observation point in town. Around them, Bosniacs are busy repairing homes gutted during the war — throwing up roofs, patching holes. An old man comes up to McDonald and complains that the people rebuilding the homes are

Open wide

By Spc. Janel R. George and Sgt. Ann Knudson
129th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH – The office appears to be a display at a local museum. The patient's chair is simple looking, almost archaic. The one portable light is basic, and difficult to bend. A small container houses all the supplies. The remaining area is open, creating an image of miniature equipment.

The equipment here is not as high-tech as that found in the United States, but that is not stopping the two-person dental team here.

"We can treat any problem that the soldiers have, just like in the States," said Maj. Jennifer E. Ellefson, the dentist for the 61st Area Support Medical Battalion from Fort Hood, Texas.

Emergency dental sick call is the main responsibility of the dental clinic. Sick call includes cracked fillings, toothaches, cavities, sore wisdom teeth and gum disease. The clinic usually treats 20 to 25 patients every week.

"Our equipment here is a little different, so we are doing basic, routine care," said Ellefson, an Edina, Minn. resident.

For more extensive dental care, such as crowns, finished root canals and elective oral surgeries, soldiers must wait to be treated until they return to their home station, said Ellefson.

"We will stabilize the individual, and then finish the procedure when we get back," said Ellefson, a graduate of the University of Minnesota.

"Common problems are fillings falling out, soldiers with cavities, a few root canals," said Sgt. Ozzie Smith, Ellefson's dental assistant. "To prevent problems is partly the soldiers' job and partly the duty stations'. Soldiers need to take more time cleaning their teeth - brushing, flossing, and rinsing. The duty stations need to put more effort into preventing the problem by making sure soldiers' teeth are in good shape before deployment."

Ellefson agreed. "The best thing (for soldiers) to do is to get things taken care of before they go on deployment," she said. "Get their cavities filled, their teeth cleaned, broken fillings repaired - they're supposed to have a checkup before they come over. Have their third molars removed before deployment if their dentist has advised them that the molars will need to come out."

"We have a dental kit that we hand out whenever anyone comes to the dental clinic. On the back it has instructions on angles of brushing, and so on," said Smith.

The kit contains a toothbrush, a small tube of toothpaste with fluoride, and a small container of dental floss.

And using the kit may help prevent problems. "During deployment, the best thing to do is to keep teeth clean," said Ellefson. "Brush three times a day. They (soldiers) can help prevent future decay and gum problems. They can watch their diet - cut back on sugar sodas they're drinking. Some drink Coke or Mountain Dew with every meal and don't brush, which leads to decay and sore teeth. If they find they have a problem, a toothache, a cracked tooth, get to the dentist right away rather than wait until it gets real bad.



Sgt. Ozzie S. Smith, a dental assistant with 61st Area Support Medical Company, cleans Spc. Javon R. River's, 61st ASMC, teeth.

Photo by Spc. Janel R. George

If playing sports, wear mouth protectors if they can get them."

Not using the kits may cause problems — but the team hasn't seen anything too unusual yet.

"To me they've (patients' problems) all been the same - pretty routine - you see a lot of the stuff here that you'll see in the States," said Smith. "We probably do tooth extractions once a week. We do simple extractions - if it's something serious we'll send them to the Blue Factory."

Treating the patients isn't the only job the team has. Every two weeks, Ellefson and Smith must pack up all the dental equipment and move to Camp Colt.

It takes about a half of a day just to disassemble the equipment, said Smith. Then a convoy must escort the team to the new location. Within 24 hours of their arrival at the new location, the clinic is operational, said Smith.

"It is nice to be in the two different places," said Ellefson. "I have the opportunity to see different people and live in different places."

And the different people she comes in contact with appreciate the opportunity to meet her as well.

"I had a tooth that cracked and she completely rebuilt the tooth," said Sgt. Ronald TenEyck, 36, of Laurel, Md., movement control sergeant for the 804th Transportation Detachment, Tacoma, Wash. "Man, I didn't feel a thing. She's probably the best dentist I ever had. Shame I can't use her all the time."

All soldiers; different countries



Pvt. Mike Lindgren, tail gunner with the Swedish Battalion, and Spc. Michael Lindsey, Company D, Task Force 1-41, checks out the machine gun on the Swedish SISU.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MAD

CAMP DOBOL — On his birthday, Pvt. Mike Lindgren, tail gunner with the Swedish Battalion, received an unusual present from Company D, Task Force 1-41. First he got a brief block of instruction on the M60 machine gun from Sgt. Alan Eslinger. Then, the young Swede was put in the turret of Eslinger's HMMWV to man the machine gun on a joint patrol near Camp Dobol.

Joint patrols between SFOR countries builds confidence between the international collection of soldiers. The mechanized infantrymen from Fort Riley, Kan. showed the Swedes significant areas in the eastern part of their sector. They pointed out several weapon storage sites, the resettlement progress in Mahala and location Sierra Ten, a former checkpoint now staffed by the "Delta Dawgs" of Co. D.

Eslinger said the biggest difference he saw during the joint patrol with his Swedish counterparts was that "although we (the U.S. Army) are an all-volunteer force, people are not necessarily volunteering to come over to Bosnia. The unit receives the orders and we come. American soldiers don't have a problem with that, but with the Swedes, they all volunteered to specifically come to Bosnia for six months."

The Swedes who volunteer are hand-

picked to participate in Operation Joint Guard as part of the NORDPOL Brigade, said Pvt. Bjorn Citron, Swedish Bn. Since 1992, eight Swedish battalions have rotated in to Bosnia-Herzegovina for six-month deployments. "We finish one year of mandatory service to our country, then we go into the reserves. We have no standing (active) army," Citron said. "After our one year, we then have duty maybe one or two months every few years. One advantage is that many people bring their civilian skills into the army, like their electrician or carpentry knowledge."

"We are a versatile unit, and do many of the same missions as the Americans -- mobile checkpoints, quick reaction drills, and many dismounted patrols."

— Pvt. Bjorn Citron

The ranking structure in the Swedish military is also set up a bit differently said 2nd Lt. Nathaniel Edwards, fire support officer with Co. D. "The company commander I met was a major, and the platoon leaders were either lieutenants or captains,"

said Edwards. "I also had a chance to meet a female Swedish soldier who was a squad leader in the infantry unit. They were very disciplined and focused on their job. I hope we have the chance to go up to their sector and see what they do."

Although Russian troops occasionally pass through TF 1-41's area of responsibility, this is the first time the Americans had the opportunity to meet the Swedes face to face.

Citron, a machine gunner from Vaxjo in southern Sweden, explains his mission here in the Balkans. "We are a versatile unit, and do much the same missions as the Americans — mobile checkpoints, quick reaction drills, and many dismounted patrols — because in our sector (near McGovern Base), many of the villages are out of the way in the mountains. We are always impressed with the American soldiers."

The benefit of SFOR allies seeing where each other lives, trains and operates is the simple understanding that maintaining peace is the common goal in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said 1st Lt. Sean Hunter, Co. D. executive officer. "We are all soldiers, just from different countries."

Basketball ambassadors

By Spc. Janel R. George
129th MPAD

CAMP SAVA NORTH—Within hours of Michael Jordan's assist to Steve Kerr, who made the last-second, game-winning basket, almost the whole world knew that the Chicago Bulls won the World Championship for the fifth time in the last seven years.

The city of Nasice, Croatia was no exception. "We love basketball here," said Tihomir Ljiljak, a resident of Nasice. "We will get up at all hours of the night, just to watch the NBA."

Most of the residents of Nasice will never have the opportunity to meet an NBA player or see a game live. However, they feel watching a U.S. Stabilization Force (SFOR) team play is close enough, said Ljiljak.

The Task Force Pershing Gatekeepers were invited to play in the Nasice City Day Basketball Tournament June 15.

Eight teams competed in the tournament. They included four Croatian teams, two Hungarian teams, a Command Support SFOR team from Zagreb and the Gatekeepers.

The Croatian Noncommissioned Officer Military Academy cadre team, which handed the Gatekeepers their only loss, won the tournament. The Gatekeepers took home the third place trophy.

"More important than winning every game is the morale building for the troops and the camaraderie we share with the locals," said Spc. Terry B. Winston, 82nd Rear Tactical Operations Center (RTOC).

Building camaraderie is an important link to the affiliation between the locals and SFOR said Col. Dennis C. Merrill, TF Pershing commander.

"My intent is to foster improved relationships with Croatia and the city of Nasice," he said.

According to Ljiljak, the relationship is off to a good start. "We have good cooperation with the Americans, and that is why we wanted to invite them."

TF Pershing is hoping to meet two goals, said Command Sgt. Maj. Mike R. Kalberg, TF Pershing sergeant major. "We want to show the people in our area of operations that we are here as people and are trying to improve relationships," he said. "The games also give soldiers and locals the opportunity to participate in activities that are subject to common rules, enabling us to cross cultural barriers that would otherwise divide us."

"We want to show that we all think in the same way. We all love basketball," said Ljiljak.

"The only time the locals see us is when we're sporting full "battle rattle", guarding the bridge or supporting convoys," said Winston, the Gatekeepers coach. "When they see us playing basketball they realize that we want the same things they want; a better way of life."

"We are being ambassadors for all Americans and the U.S. Army,"

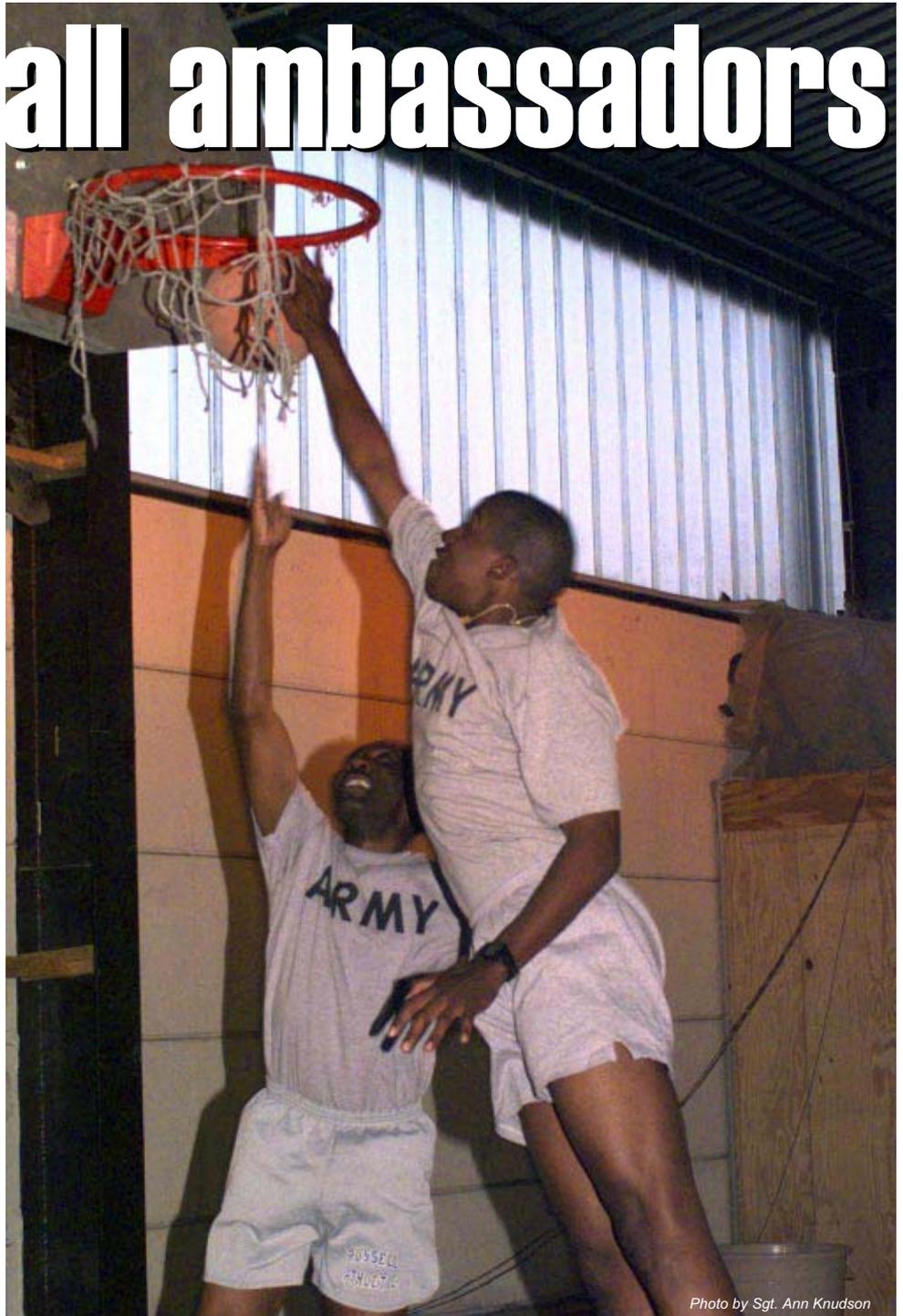


Photo by Sgt. Ann Knudson

Sgt. Richard Baker, right, blocks a shot by Sgt. Eddie Jackson during practice.

said Winston. "The players enjoy the fact they are able to play off post and happy to display our sportsmanship to the community."

The Gatekeepers' first shoot-out was in early May when they played the Croatian National Team, falling 152 - 113.

The team was very good, said Sgt. Richard H. Baker, a player assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment. "They had all kinds of plays drawn up, and they even had some Americans on the team."

"When I saw the way their point guard was floating above the rim in warm-ups, I knew we had a big challenge in front of us," said Winston.

"The Nasice tournament helped us realize there is still room for improvement," said Baker. "We need to play together more, develop plays, press, and be able to play both man-to-man and zone."

With practice and experience, the Gatekeepers will be prepared for future games.

"We have been invited to play more basketball," said Kalberg. "We are even trying to put together a tournament here in Slavon-ski Brod."

How much do you know?

Compiled from American Forces Press Information

- 1) What state is known as the Empire State?
- 2) In Internet documents and e-mail, what do the initials HHOK usually mean?
- 3) Lenny Wilkins, Phil Jackson and Del Harris have all won what National Basketball Association honor?
- 4) In what arena did Winston Churchill win a 1953 Nobel Peace Prize?
- 5) What is the average cost of a year of college — tuition, fees, room and board — at a private U.S. institution?
- 6) Tallinn is the capital of what country?
- 7) The 1819 McCullough vs. Maryland Supreme Court decision ruled Congress has what authority?
- 8) Blanca Peak (14,345 feet), Grays Peak (14,270 feet) and Longs Peak (14,255 feet) are located in what state?
- 9) What is the largest city in Ecuador?
- 10) How often is the World Lacrosse championship held?
- 11) Which Great Lake is the longest?
- 12) Who won the first James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy honoring amateur athletes in 1930?
- 13) What state is known for having "over 10,000 lakes?"
- 14) Each team in an outdoor soccer game normally has how many players on the field

(1) New York (2) Ha, ha — only kidding (3) Coach of the Year (4) Literature (5) \$15,880 (6) Every (7) To charter a national bank (8) Colorado (9) Guayacul (2 million) (10) Every four years (11) Lake Superior (350 miles) (12) Bobby Jones (golfer) (13) Minnesota (14) 11

SFOR News on 101.1 FM

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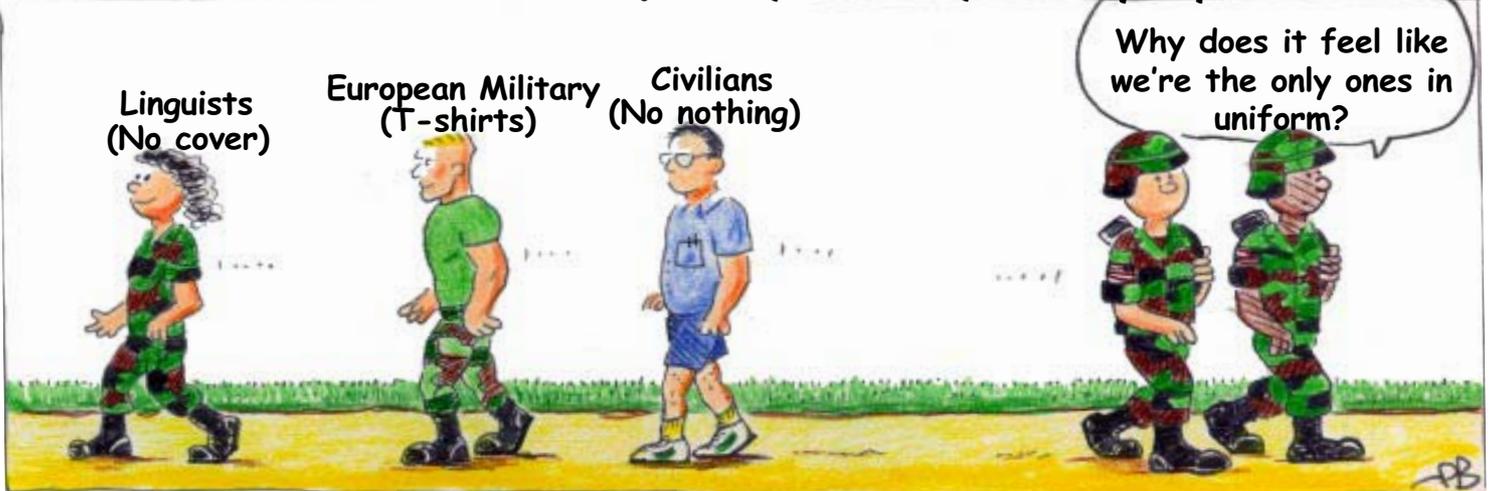
Monday - Friday
 6:30 a.m.
 8:05 a.m.
 10:05 a.m.
 3:05 p.m.
 9:00 p.m.

Saturday week in review
 8:04 a.m.
 10:05 a.m.

With Spc. Lloyd Phelps

By the 364th MPAD

Turtles in the Box featuring Muddy and Dusty by Capt. P. J. Buotte





SEA MINES

from page 1

Sgt. John Ravanelli, 1st Military Police Company, and Staff Sgt. Scott Wood, 754th Ordnance Company (EOD), attach a sea mine to a wrecker.

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdaht

By Spc. Paul Hougdaht
129th MPAD

CAMP COLT — Stabilization Force soldiers performing missions involving the destruction of unexploded mines and ordnance see many different types of weapons. Most of the time these weapons are recognizable to those trained to deal with them and are employed in typical fashions.

But sometimes, because the factions were short of weapons or were lacking advanced technology, they were forced to improvise and come up with homemade weapons or employ traditional weapons in innovative fashions.

A common weapon used in an uncommon fashion was the case on Route Cody, near Camp Colt recently. Some sea mines were put in place by Federation soldiers and used as anti-tank mines to keep the advancing Serb army from using Route Cody to travel further east into federation territory.

These mines are normally anchored to the bottom of a body of water by a cable, and float just below the surface waiting for an unsuspecting ship.

"I have never seen or heard of using sea mines for this, but a lack of technology and weapons breeds ingenuity," said Navy Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Steven Schaper, an explosive ordnance specialist with the 754th Ordnance Company (EOD). "It's an old type of weapon, but it's practical, so it is still used today. An anti-tank mine weighs around 14 pounds and the ex-

plosives in these weigh 250 pounds — I can only imagine what they would take out."

"When we first got there I was thinking it would be a typical mine rigged for water, and then I saw it was the stereotypical sea mine, a round ball with rods sticking out of it," said Sgt. Tom Hewitt, an EOD specialist with the 754th Ord. Co. "I can understand why they did it, but I never thought I'd see it. They approached it the same way we would a bunker full of explosives. They had them sitting there, and they probably said 'how could we use these things'."

The three-man EOD team that travels to different base camps to lend their expertise in explosives worked side by side with soldiers from the 11th Military Civil Relations Battalion out of Camp Colt to discover who had placed the mines. They traveled the area talking to people, trying to find anyone with information regarding the mines and how to safely remove them.

After much searching, they located the soldier who had placed the mines, and he helped them by explaining the site and how the two mines could be removed.

"We talked to members of the International Police Task Force, various local leaders and local civilians," said Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Willingham, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 11th MCR Bn. Military Information Support Team at Camp Colt. "Our mission was to notify the people that we were going to take the mines, and to stay away from them. We'll also let them know when the mines were going to be destroyed, because it will be a loud explosion."

One of the mines removed was next to the road, lying in a ditch, partially covered by dirt and brush. The other was in a clearing between homes and near a playground. Using information obtained from the soldier who had placed the mine, as well as information gathered by EOD soldiers using remote techniques, it was determined the mines were not armed or boobytrapped in any way, and had been left in position for future use by Federation soldiers.

Schaper said he learned that the area has a lot of history and was the site of some heavy fighting because of the strategic location. The other eight mines that remain are in a field between the road and a levee along the Sava River. The mines are fused and are surrounded by hundreds of anti-personnel mines, and will be removed in the future by the faction that put them there.

Staff Sgt. Scott Wood, the EOD team leader, said that the mines were taken to prevent them from being used again in the future, and to make Route Cody safer for possible use by SFOR convoys. The mines will be destroyed by a controlled explosion at a heavy detonation area near McGovern Base when approval is given by SFOR leaders. The mines could not be blown in place because of their size and close proximity to homes and other buildings.

"We were not only helping SFOR to gain a new route, we were helping the local civilians," said Wood. "You could see by the looks on their faces they were happy and it was satisfying to see how much they appreciated it."