

# TALON



# Talon

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### On the Cover

Repairing a sign that was damaged during its deployment is just one of the ways Sergeant First Class James Quirk can use his skills to help out around McGovern Base. (Photo by Staff Sergeant Bryan Smith)

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The Task Force Eagle web site will offer breaking news as it happens on its new web site. Messages to Task Force Eagle soldiers as well as information for soldiers is available. The Talon On-line is updated every Saturday. Webmaster: Sgt. Raum A. Bances. Or contact us at: The Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO, AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5233.

## Up Front

By Command Sergeant Major Carl E. Christian  
*Task Force Eagle CSM*

The Balkan winter is here and it looks as though it will stay for awhile. Even though all of us have been through cold-weather training, it's important to constantly remind each other of the hazards.

Foremost is heater and tent safety. A tent fire is not a pretty sight. The GP medium will burn to the ground in a matter of a few minutes. You owe it to yourself and your tentmates to keep a safe living area. This includes maintaining a three-foot radius around heaters, using drip pans, allowing 30 minutes before refueling a hot heater, refueling outside from properly marked cans, allowing proper ventilation, operating heaters properly and keeping them clean. Never burn

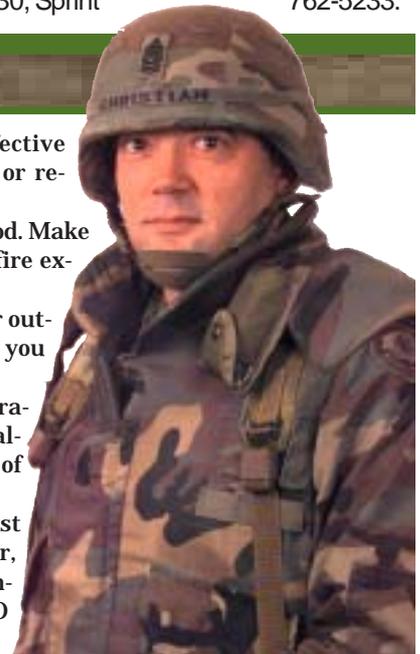
heaters unattended, and turn in defective heaters to Brown and Root for repair or replacement.

Second, no smoking in the tents. Period. Make sure you have the required number of fire extinguishers, two per tent or living area.

Third, plug in only one appliance per outlet and turn electrical items off when you leave.

Fourth, keep your smoke alarms operational, and test them once a week. Finally, keep your living areas clean and free of flammable materials.

Unit safety personnel have the latest fire safety prevention tips. Remember, each of us is a safety officer. And remember, too, TODAY IS THE BEST DAY TO BE A SOLDIER!



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# Turkish brigade hosts U.S. soldiers

Specialist Eric C. Barker  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The Turkish Brigade recently provided some U.S. soldiers with a home away from home for a Muslim holy day. Five US soldiers recently spent the Muslim holiday Bayram with hundreds of other Muslims at the Turkish camp. US soldiers participated in the big celebration, which culminates the month-long fast of Ramadan.

"We have a small amount of Muslims in the Army. Their spiritual needs are important. Bayram is a time of reflection, a time of reconciliation with old friends and family. We have so few Muslims it's kinda like spending Christmas alone," said Chaplain Lt. Col. Jim Goodwill, Division Chaplain.

"When we found out about the Turkish Muslim celebration we wanted our soldiers to participate in it. Since we have a good history with the Turkish. We asked them, as we had asked on previous occasions, could our soldiers participate in their celebration. They agreed. I would like to thank the Turkish Brigade for the hospitality it showed our soldiers," said Goodwill.

The chaplain and his staff put the word out and got about five responses from base camps throughout Task Force Eagle. So the 5 U.S. soldiers spent about a day and a half at the Turkish Brigade. Bayram is a special day in Islam. It was very special for American soldiers who were able to observe it with

the Turks. "It was nice to fellowship with other Muslims. It was one of the refreshing things about the trip to the Turkish Brigade," said First Lieutenant Andre A. Battiste-Bey, postmaster with the 55th Postal Company, a practicing Muslim.

"Soldiers were anxious to erase a lot of misconceptions about each other," he said. "I was more curious than anything to be amongst the Turkish soldiers to see firsthand how they do their thing," said Battiste-Bey.

They also found surprising new things from their visit. "We were given a tour of the base, we also sat down and talked for about 5 hours. I was astounded how well they spoke English," said Battiste-Bey.

During their visit, soldiers came across some differences in the two militaries. "The Turkish military separates the officers from the enlisted more so than we do. I noticed that lower enlisted waited on the officers like hand and foot. They are not really as concerned about the lower enlisted as we are. Other than that I can't really say anything that was negative. They were very cordial and very disciplined," Battiste-Bey said.

Muslims can be easily overlooked in the military, he said. "Because Muslims in the military are such a small number, their needs and concerns are not always addressed. A lot of people may be unaware that they have Muslim soldiers. But when the military is aware that there are Muslim soldiers in their constituency, they generally do their best to accommodate them," said Battiste-Bey.

# Policing the streets of Bosnia by computer

By Specialist Beth Holland  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

After the Bosnian civil war, the police of that country were left with poor equipment, inadequate vehicles, and run-down police stations.

Bosnia is now trying to get its police force back on its feet.

On Feb. 7, or Inauguration Day, the country is enacting laws and reorganizing its police force.

Many people and organizations are lending a helping hand to the police stations, including one soldier from Camp Bedrock, Bosnia.

Recently, a group from Switzerland funded the purchase of nine new computers for Police Station Number One, the model police station for Tuzla. Previously, the 107 officers worked with a few antiquated typewriters and a grimy, green-screened word processor that only a few of them knew how to use.

Although a few officers attended a seminar on the new computers in Sarajevo, they were still unprepared for the technology. So in cooperation with the International Police Task Force and Stabilization Force, Specialist Robert Branch, a military police officer with the

351st Military Police Company, was called in to help the officers.

Branch, 29, of Ocala, Fla., owns a computer company that specializes in network and internet design and systems servicing. He spent a couple of days at the police station teaching two officers how to use the system and set up databases.

"The technology for them is really new, and I'm very familiar with the operating system and all the software. I'm basically giving them an overview of how all of it works. I'm going to come back here and help them employ the software for what they need to do here," said Branch, as he and the officers worked through several complicated programs.

Branch's help was vital to the introduction of the much-needed computers at the station according to Hasanovic Nedzad, station commander.

"We had inadequate equipment before. Today we're having training on nine donated computers," said Nedzad. "Regarding this course with SFOR, we hope that this is not the last time we work together. Our cooperation with IPTF and SFOR has been great." For the individual officers who received the instruction, Branch was a big help with equipment that will bring them into the Informa-

tion Age.

"We can't even make a comparison between these new computers and our older one. The new ones will make it easier for us to use information. For that purpose, this class has been a big help. This is our first experience with this type of equipment, so we welcome the training from SFOR. We want to be trained up to international standards," said Socic Jasenko, one of the officers trained by Branch.

"He was really a great help. We're really ambitious about learning more from him and teaching others," said Husic Almir, who as a part of the overall improvement of the station, spends his evenings with fellow police officers painting and restoring the station.

For Branch this was an opportunity to do the things that he does best.

"I was very happy to be here. This is what I do in civilian life and it gives me the opportunity to get off the base camp and interact with civilians who do my military job. I was quite impressed with their knowledge and their eagerness to learn. I'm certain that they're going to employ the computers and do their job much more efficiently. I'm honored to have worked with them. I had a great time, they're nice guys."

# Don't get scammed on pass

By Staff Sergeant Conrad College  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Unsuspecting soldiers going on pass to Budapest continue to be taken in by a scam and stuck with exorbitant drink tabs.

The scam is a variation of an ages-old barroom rip-off – a soldier is lured into a bar by a pair of comely young ladies and winds up paying \$130 for a bottle of wine.

Women on the Vaci utca, a popular downtown pedestrian shopping area, approach U.S. soldiers or male tourists unaccompanied by women, and appear to be simply friendly and curious. These women work in pairs, and apparently make money from kickbacks from the bars.

"Hi. Do you speak English? Yes? Oh, good. Where are you going?" a lady asked me in clear English to start a conversation. She and her lady friend were well-dressed, like office workers, and had engaging smiles.

As usual in this scam, one of the women was more talkative than the other. The talkative one asked me, "Where are you from?" I told her and she suggested we could continue the conversation and sit down at a nearby pub. As the three of us started to walk towards the

pub, I remembered the warning I had heard during the briefing at Taszar, Hungary.

"Wait a minute!" I said as I stopped in my tracks. "I've heard there's a 'blue-drink scam' here in Budapest."

"A blue what?" the talkative woman asked. I described the scam, which results in a huge bar bill, sometimes as much as \$300. I told the two ladies that I would not buy any blue drinks. They said they didn't know what that was, but a blue drink sounded terrible anyway.

Then I, thinking that a 'blue drink scam' will not work on me, arrived at the bar with the ladies.

I noticed three Hungarian men sitting at a nearby table, not eating or drinking. They were watching me walk in. They looked tough, like street fighters.

I asked the ladies if they would like a drink. They just nodded, "Sure." I asked whether they would like beer or wine. They both said, "Wine." I asked, "Red or white?" They glanced at each other without saying a word, and, like twins, turned to me and said simultaneously, "White."

The waitress could not speak English. The talkative lady placed the order in Hun-

garian, a beer for the man and white wine for the ladies.

I started getting the feeling that this was going to be a very pleasant conversation. I leaned back, relaxed into the chair, started talking with the ladies and was not looking around the restaurant.

The waitress brought the order and started to pour white wine from a bottle into the two wineglasses.

"Wait a minute," I said. "I didn't order a bottle. How much is this going to cost?"

The waitress shrugged her shoulders. Apparently she didn't understand English. She continued to fill the wineglasses. I asked my talkative friend to ask the waitress how much this was going to cost and she did.

The waitress turned, walked away and returned quickly with a menu. She

***I noticed three Hungarian men sitting at a nearby table, not eating or drinking. They were watching me walk in. They looked tough, like street fighters.***

opened it, turned to the wine page and pointed to the item at the bottom of the page. I looked at the price--23,000 forints a bottle, or about \$115.

"No, No, No, that's too much!" I told the waitress. "I'm not paying that much!" The talkative woman asked me, as if she were trying to help me, "What do you mean too much? That's the correct price in the menu."

I thought to myself, "Oh, this is the blue drink scam. I'm in trouble now. If I don't pay this high price, those thugs will beat me up and take all the money and credit cards I have on me."

I said to the talkative lady, "It's a scam, a rip-off. The price is outrageous."

"No," the lady said, "This is good wine. This is Hungarian wine."

The waitress left and came back with my bill. Counting the bottle of wine, the beer and a 10 percent service charge, the total was 26,312 forints, or about \$130.

I had been in the bar only about five minutes and had not tasted even a sip of my beer.

I suddenly realized that I may not even have been carrying that much money. Maybe I could have charged it, but it would be foolish to put my credit card into the hands of an organization that had already scammed me.

I knew I had a little more than 20,000 forints on me, the equivalent of about \$100. I had assumed that this would easily be enough to cover all of my expenditures for the day. I said to the talkative lady, "Look, I don't even have that kind of money."

"Well, how much did you think it should cost?" she asked me, as if trying to help me to understand.

"Not over 5 or 6,000 forints (\$25 or \$30)," I said.

Her eyes opened wide in apparent surprise. "But this is not cheap wine," she said, looking him directly in the eyes.

"Well, wine doesn't cost that much in America!" I blurted out. Meanwhile, the waitress was still standing behind me waiting for the payment and the three thugs in the corner were staring at me.

I had been warned, but got suckered anyway. I was mad at myself.

I was carrying an expensive 35 mm camera. The other woman sitting with me said, "If you don't have the money, perhaps you can leave the camera."

I realized now that everyone in the pub was involved in the scam. I would not give my camera to these crooks. And I would not hand over my credit card. I knew that if I ran, I wouldn't get far.

Next, I realized that I did have 26,000 forints on me. But I certainly did not want to spend it all on one round of drinks. But, after weighing my options, I decided to pay. I pulled out every last piece of currency that I had on me and, reluctantly, handed it to the waitress and showed her my empty wallet. The payment was 300 forints short (about \$1.50). She mumbled something to the effect of, "Well, this will do."

I headed for the door. On the way out I had to pass the table full of thugs. They let me go. As I got to the door I heard the two ladies say, in unison, "Thank you."

I walked a few blocks to the Stabilization Force bus stop and caught the SFOR van back to my hotel. Thankfully, it was a free ride. I couldn't afford a taxi.



An M1-A1 Abrams tank squeezes past a small pickup in Bosnia.

# Tankers make a mighty statement

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Elliott Minor  
124th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Viewing Bosnia from the turret of an M1-A1 tank is sure to arouse the bold spirit in just about anybody.

"I don't think there's any job in the world like it," said Specialist Scott Moore, an M-1 gunner with Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor from Friedberg, Germany. "It's something that most people never get to do, firing the main gun, controlling something this big."

Members of Moore's platoon, based at Camp Dobol, took four M-1's out for spin recently to make sure they were running properly.

With their 1,500-horsepower turbine engines reverberating below and the tracks rattling slightly against the asphalt, the 73-ton behemoths squeaked past cars, trucks and buses on the narrow roads. Pedestrians stopped to gawk as the symbols of U.S. military might in the Balkans rolled through the Zone of Separation dividing the former warring factions and raced into the Bosnian Serb Republic.

As the tanks picked up speed, the snowy countryside streaked by and the cold air and highway grit nipped the faces of the soldiers standing in the turrets beside machine guns.

Some of the tankers described their job thrills as a "testosterone" experience.

Besides the hefty turbine engine that

will propel the tank to about 45 mph, the M-1A1 packs plenty of firepower: a 120mm main gun and four machine guns.

"Knowing you've got the baddest piece of equipment around is a rush, especially driving off-road," said Specialist Daniel Uptagrafft, 20, a tank driver from Russellville, Ark. "It kind of feels like a boat. It glides across everything. You can go anywhere." Most of the young crewmen said they picked the armor field for adventure, and they have not been disappointed.

"When I came in, I told my recruiter I wanted to blow stuff up," said Moore, 25, of Cape May Courthouse, N.J. "He

you feel good. People who see tanks for the first time are amazed. What makes me want to be a tanker is the overall joy of doing it."

During the excursion, the tankers checked out the M1s' computers, hydraulics, thermal sites, radios and everything else they need to operate effectively.

An M-1 has a crew of four — driver, gunner, loader and tank commander. They all have to know each other's jobs, so they can fill in if a buddy is incapacitated.

Their platoon sergeant, Staff Sergeant Robert Kline, 35, of Gerald, Mo., is also the tank commander of one of the tanks.

"Everybody calls me 'Pops,'" said Kline, a veteran of the Persian Gulf war. "I'm the oldest, and maybe it's the gray hair."

"He does what every dad does," said another tank commander, Staff Sgt. Marc Stevenson, 26, of Hudson, N.Y. "He protects his children."

Moore said he enjoys the camaraderie in his crew.

"When we're out, this crew is my family," said Moore. "They'll always be my family. You'll have arguments, but we're all brothers, except Sergeant Kline. He's our daddy."

Specialist Lee Mullen, the loader on Kline's tank, said his M-1A1 has satisfied his hankering for adventure.

"When the rounds are going off and everybody is screaming and working as a team, it makes me feel good — this huge thing that four people can control," said Mullen, of New Meadows, Idaho, while greasing the tracks. "It's awesome to see the rounds fly down range. You smell that round going off and it's like heaven."



A tank passes another in Bosnia with a happy crew.

showed me a bunch of tapes of tankers and I knew that's what I wanted to be."

The tanks, costing \$2.5 million each, scooted past the ruins of homes that had been damaged during Bosnia's civil war and came to a halt about 20 minutes later at a snow-covered rock quarry about 10 miles southeast of Camp Dobol.

"Gunnery is an adrenaline rush," Moore said. "Taking these down the street, people just look at you. It makes

# Working the wood

By Staff Sergeant. Bryan Smith  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

All Sergeant First Class James Quirk needs to keep his peace of mind is a piece of wood. When time and mission permits, Quirk, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the logistics section for McGovern Base, carves that wood into something useful. He channels his hobby of wood working while in Bosnia into camp improvements and toys.

"I like working with my hands and keeping busy," said Quirk, a supply sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. "Working with wood is a good outlet."

Many of his completed projects are visible throughout the base camp. Within the first few weeks of the 3-2 ACR assuming command, he had built shelves, a backstop for the softball field, and even a room for the copier.

"I made a small room for the copier because the dust was getting into the machine and it would break down. Since we built the room we haven't had any problem with the copier, except for running out of paper," he said. He brought his wood-working tools from his Fort Polk, La., home.

"The first sergeant was very supportive of letting me bring my tools," he said. "He let me put them in the back of one of the conexes we were bringing over."

He cleaned out over half of his garage with the tools he brought, Quirk said, adding, "My wife was pretty happy."

He and his wife, Patsy, have hobbies they enjoy together, he said.

"My wife does fabric work," said Quirk. "We work the fair and art shows."

Over the years, he has entered some of his work in contests. "My junior and senior school projects got one first and two second places at a state fair in Sacramento. I won the award for a dining room table and second for a secretary's table." He also creates toys for kids.

"My wife was nice enough to give me a book on toy-making before I left," he said, "I'll work my way from the front to back before I leave. I got into toy-making about two years ago. I'm still learning that there are a lot of little tricks to toy-making," he said, pointing to an unfinished pterodactyl he is making.



(Clockwise from top) The master craftsman uses his talents and tools to repair the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment sign that hangs in the Tactical Operation Center.

Sgt. First Class James P Quirk repairs the Squadron Sign. Quirk replaces screws for the sign to be hung.

The prehistoric bird's wing begins to take shape as Quirk works on one of the toys he plans to give to one of the local children in Bosnia.



The toys will be made completely out of scrap wood and glue, he said. "I cut everything except for the wheels; I brought those from home."

Quirk's work also lessens the amount of garbage at McGovern.

"I like to recycle. I use pallets and scrap wood," he said. "If they are going to throw it away or burn it I would rather make something out of it."

The sturdy pallets are made out of hardwoods such as oak or birch, sometimes even walnut, he said.

"They're great for making toys or anything."

He gets the circular saw and cuts the planks out of the pallets instead of removing the entire board so there will not be any nail holes in the wood, he said.

His attention to detail and pride he takes in his work shows. His toy dinosaurs and cars have caught the eyes of other soldiers, who ask if these toys are for sale, he said.

"I wanted to make some toys for the kids here in Bosnia and give them out," he said.

# Truck stop open 24-hours for your body

By Specialist Eric C. Barker  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Formerly a truck stop on the outskirts of Tuzla, it's now called the Blue Factory and is home for the 396th Combat Support Hospital, an Army Reserve unit from Vancouver, Wash. This hospital has the daunting task of providing 24-hour emergency medical services to the soldiers of the Stabilization Force.

"Normally we would be set up in a configuration of tents, but here we set up in the Blue Factory, a former truck stop whose rooms have been adapted for medical use. It got its nickname from its color. We are a sort of hybrid between a field environment and a regular facility," said Lieutenant Colonel Paul W. Paustian, an emergency room physician, and the 396th CSH executive officer.

Stabilization Force soldiers can turn to the 396th CSH for a variety of medical services. They have the personnel and equipment needed to evaluate, treat and develop therapies for both combat and non-combat patients.

"A combat support hospital's normal mission is basically related to handling large amounts of wounded personnel, operating and stabilizing them quickly, and then evacuating them to a central area as needed," explained Paustian. "Here we're functioning to provide considerable additional basic medical support, including sick call, hospitalization and elective surgical procedures where they are indicated."

The Blue Factory is a 20-50 bed Level 3 hospital, which means it has the capability to stabilize patients, treat wounds, stop bleeding and prepare patients for evacuation, said Paustian. In addition, Blue Factory personnel also fill prescriptions and provide limited dental services.

The 396th CSH can provide anesthesia and pain control, radiology including diagnostic ultrasound and CT scan, and the surgeons can handle general chest and vascular emergencies. The unit staff is trained for emergency management, triage, family practice, internal medicine, orthopedic evaluation and surgery, diagnostic laboratory, and physical therapy. A dietician, combat stress team, and a

medical evacuation helicopter company also support the hospital. The combat stress team is available for on site psychiatric support and counseling.

Colonel Kristine Campbell is commander of the 396th CSH and is the first nurse to deploy overseas to command a field hospital in a hostile area during a peacekeeping operation. She is also only the second nurse to command a hospital unit.

"When I took over I was already chief nurse," she said. "Commanding is lot different, but leadership is leadership. I have a great unit and I haven't had any problems. Everybody has accepted me with open arms."

Because of the quality of soldiers and the new high-tech equipment available to the 396th CSH, they are able to provide services typically not offered at a

reserves is that we pull people from all kinds of different institutions. So we bring a lot of different ideas and ways of doing things together."

Another way in which members of the 396th CSH bring together new ideas and share knowledge with others is by training along side medical personnel from other countries. Since the 396th CSH's arrival, they have trained with medical soldiers from a variety of countries, including Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Russia.

"I enjoy working with them (medical personnel from other countries). I learn a lot from it (the training). They are people just like us. We treat each other like equals, so it works out just fine," said Specialist Michael Bell, combat field medical specialist with the 396th CSH.

New technology has also contributed to the capabilities of the 396th CSH. The hospital staff is using tele-medicine to support medical services. This is new for deployed units.

"The main thing not used in Desert Storm, that we use here is tele-med, a very sophisticated system of monitoring or satellite hookup that allows us to do such things as bounce X-rays from one (remote field) site to another," said Paustian. An expert can read it or a surgeon can view it (the X-rays) while in another part of the hospital or in one of the surrounding stations that doesn't have a doctor. Medics put the problem on the

screen and get an instant evaluation from a doctor, saving the patient a trip to the hospital, which is important especially in the winter months when snow is a problem," explained Paustian.

The hospital offers health care classes for soldiers, too. "Soldiers and commanders can suggest class topics," said Lieutenant Colonel Peter V. Kilburn, professional services chief for the facility.

And while soldiers can learn a lot about health care from the hospital, it's fair exchange.

These Army Reservists learn a lot too. They learn from each other through their exposure to new ideas, procedures and equipment.

Ultimately, all of us benefit.



Staff Sgt. Michelle A. Cardenas, 29, Radiology Tech with the 396th CSH, performs a CAT scan on at patient at the hospital.

combat support hospital.

"Because of the caliber of the nurses, physicians and staff we have, we can go ahead and do some things (for patients) that would normally have to be evacuated out to other places. For example we can take care of things like hernias if there is an indicated need," said Paustian.

The fact that this is an Army Reserve unit has contributed to the success and capability of the 396th CSH.

"One of the strengths of being a reserve hospital is that people with relatively low rank have 20-25 years of experience in their field. We bring a richness of experience and knowledge base," said Campbell. "I think what's also nice about the

# MAKING FRIENDS

teacher, Ekrim Muharemagic. He organized the game and became referee.

The kids, mostly seventh and eighth-graders, knew the game well and were quicker than the soldiers. A couple of the boys wore red Chicago Bulls basketball shirts, and had the support of many other schoolchildren who gathered at both ends of the court to cheer on their team. But it was all for fun and there were plenty of smiles and laughter throughout the game. Two Bosnian girls kept score.

At halftime, the score stood at: SFOR, 11; Pazar 16. During the short break, a few changes were made in the lineup and strategy of each team. The Pazar boys came out with a full-court press and outscored SFOR 24 to 6 in the second half. The cheers of the children echoed off the concrete walls as Pazar won the game 40 to 17.

"Everything went very well. It was very good and fun," said Muharemagic. "The children and the soldiers all seemed to have enjoyed the game very much. Everyone was smiling. The score was not important."

This school covers grades one through eight, according to Judith Rason, an American translator from Los Angeles. "Every child here is required to take education to the eighth grade. At this school, the children start learning English in the fourth-grade," she said. "After graduation (from the eighth-grade), most of them will go to some kind of high school, either vocational or pre-college."

"It was great!" said Private First Class Carolyn Davis of the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, who was one of the soldiers who played basketball. "Other than getting our butts kicked, it was a great time. I wish we could do it more often. It was very interesting to get to meet with some of the local kids."

"It was interesting to see how they live, to see the children's school environment," said Sergeant Edward Pyell, an orderly room noncommissioned officer.

After handing out candy and other small gifts inside the school, Pyell took his turn guarding the bus. He said he talked with some other children while he was outside. "They could speak a little English and I could speak a little Russian, so we were able to commu-

nicate. I just wanted to talk with the kids a little bit and to ask a little more about how they live."

Pyell said it is his understanding that about half of the kids used to study English and about half studied Russian. "But now, I think, they predominately study English."



Making new friends. Private First Class Carolyn Davis, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, shows pictures of her family to children at the Pazar elementary school.

## Soldiers building relationships with local Bosnian children

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Conrad College  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Nineteen soldiers from the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion at Eagle Base served as ambassadors of good will recently when they spent the afternoon with some children and teachers at Pazar Elementary School in Tuzla.

"The purpose of the trip was to build relations between the American soldiers and the local populace," said Second Lieutenant Mimi Dougherty, personnel officer. "Even though there were only children there, if we have a good relationship with them, they'll go home and tell their parents and friends about how good the Americans are. It also gives the soldiers a chance to mingle with the children of Bosnia.

"We're doing peacekeeping operations," she said. "We want to get out and demonstrate to the people that we have good intentions. This goodwill visit put that thought into reality."

Happy, excited and noisy children greeted the soldiers inside the front door of the school. Some of the boys were dressed in basketball clothes, and obviously hoped the Americans would play some basketball.

Regular classes were not in session because the school was observing the 60th anniversary of its founding. But many children, some teachers and staff members came to mingle with the American soldiers and to prepare for a celebration later that day.

When the group arrived at the school, the soldiers split into four informal groups, and went to visit the children and teachers in different parts of the school.

Several soldiers followed a group of children into the school's gym and started shooting basketballs in their battle-dress uniforms and combat boots. After a few minutes of warm-up, someone said, "Let's play a game."

A translator passed the suggestion on to the Bosnian gym



Specialist Jamal Gardley, 501st M.I. Bn., uses a behind-the-back dribble to try to get past a Pazar elementary school player.

# A new kind of training for SFOR

Story and photo by Specialist Eric C. Barker  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers are reviving a more efficient, cost-effective way to transport materiel from a rail station in Lukavac, Bosnia, to Germany, by rail rather than by truck, which saves time and money.

But first, Stabilization Force soldiers had to help Bosnia reconstruct a rail infrastructure that had been destroyed at the start of civil war in 1991, a project that has been ongoing for more than a year.

After reconstruction, U.S. soldiers recently did the first rail movement. With the help of Brown and Root workers, soldiers loaded 12 intermodal containers (mil vans) of Class Nine material (scrap metal) onto rail cars for movement to the Central Region in Germany.

"Today was an experiment, sort of a test run for the railway system here. We are trying to test the feasibility, economics and the time frame involved in moving large quantities for future deployments and redeployments," explained First Lieutenant Lawrence A. Davis, commander of 528th Movement Control Team.

Trains are able to move larger quantities of equipment with less manpower, he said.

"With rail cars we are able to move more equipment, faster and cheaper. For example, today with one steam engine we are able to move four rail cars with 12 containers. It would take 12 drivers to move these to the Central Region. Not to mention the time, having to go to Tazsar, to ISB (intermediate staging base), to the Central Region," explained Master Sergeant Raymond Douyard, of 1st Armored Division's transportation office.

Coordination and planning for the movement was challenging, Lawrence said.

"We had to look at both the technical and tactical aspect. The rail was new for everybody involved. Remember, it had not been done for a while," said Lawrence.

Picking the specific rail station was critical to accomplishing the mission, he said.

"The primary reason we chose the Lukavac Rail Station was it met our requirements," explained Lawrence. "Meaning it is near to the Brown and Root staging area. Guardian Base is in close proximity. It isn't in the middle of a highly populated area, and it is more secure, not a lot of spectators," he said.

Local residents have been receptive to the idea, said Lawrence.

"I believe they are as excited about it as we are, as for us actually using this particular site and the concept of us moving our rail cars," he said. The revival of the railway system is good for the local economy, he said. "It's like a return to normalcy, back to a normal way of living. They have to support their families too."

Guardian Base soldiers also had a role in the day's activities.

"Our mission was transport the 12 mil vans of Class 9 retrograde to the Lukavac rail station, establish a marshaling area



U.S. soldiers check serial numbers of milvans before loading them on rail cars

and a rail head itself," said Second Lieutenant Mark Sisnic, of Headquarters, 1st Regimental Support Squadron, Movement Control, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"I hope the soldiers gained good knowledge of the use of railway as a means of transportation. It's one of the best means of transportation in Europe. It also saves a lot of time and money," he said.

# Writing the history books the Army way

Story and photo by Master Sergeant Terry Brown  
362nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A three-soldier team is helping Army soldiers and their units involved in Operation Joint Guard make history. Sergeant Tamara Brathovde of Ephrata, Wash.; Sergeant First Class Donald Green of Seattle; and Major Sheridan Elliott of Blaine, Wash., are members of the Washington Army National Guard's 141st Military History Detachment. The team is gathering information, interviewing soldiers and recording what 1st Armored Division, 1st Infantry Division, other active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard personnel are doing in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary.

Since the detachment arrived last August, they have interviewed more than 80 commanders, first sergeants and operations sergeants for unit histories, as well as processed more than 20,000 pages of historical documents, said Green.

"The 141st Military History Detachment is one of 23 such detachments in the Army. One detachment is in the active Army; 16 detachments are in the Army Reserve and six are in the National Guard," said Elliott, the detachment commander.

The historians are also collecting documents, such as unit rosters, logs, journals and operation orders for United States Army, Europe, historians. Those historians will write the history of U.S. Army operations in Bosnia as Dayton Peace Accords provisions are being implemented, and former warring factions are kept apart. The 1995 agreement ended a civil war that began in 1992.

"Tons" of information in the form of computer disks, cassette tapes, documents and videos are being sent to a history office at Heidelberg, Germany, said Green.

"A military journalist's job is to get the story today, while an Army historian's job is to record the story - on what soldiers do - for posterity," Elliott, detachment commander, said.

Green says detachment soldiers are collecting documents on what Army's soldiers' roles are in Operation Joint Guard.

"We note the who, what, where, when, why and how of operations," Green said before leaving on a convoy from Eagle Base to Tuzla to observe soldiers doing civil-affairs tasks.

The detachment also shares historical data with the Center for Army Lessons Learned.

"Center for Army Lessons Learned personnel filter the information for useful stuff," Green said. From that data, CALL soldiers can figure out what went right and what went wrong with an operation, according to Green.

"We are looking at what civil affairs, psychological operations, public affairs, engineers, infantry, armored and other soldiers are doing in Joint Guard," Green added. "A lot of our data comes from debriefings following operations. We sort relevant stuff of interest for historical purposes."

After the Gulf War, lots of unit records and history were lost

when units redeployed or demobilized, according to Green. Records, such as operation logs and rosters, were lost, destroyed or improperly stored.

"We can learn from past mistakes as well as from what went right," said Green.

"We're not here to pass judgment. We are observers, recorders and collectors of military history," Green said. "We can help a unit preserve its history and contributions to an operation, such as Joint Guard."

"History is anything that is significant when you look back upon it," Elliott said. "After Action-Reviews are historical documents that can help soldiers."

## Keeping the lessons learned

By Master Sergeant Terry Brown  
362nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Chronicling events that can be used to write military history is not just for historians. Each unit has a responsibility to keep good historical records, according to Sergeant First Class Donald Green of the 141st Military History Detachment.

Unit records of wartime and contingency operations, such as operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard are important sources for documenting Army history, he said.

Daily staff and log journals with entries of significant events as well as after-action reviews are valuable sources of data for archivists, historians and researchers, he added. Documents used by unit leaders to command and control, direct, coordinate and record any operational mission must be maintained and preserved.

Daily grid coordinates should be entered in the staff journals.

"Grid coordinates also can be helpful for possible medical care of soldiers and veterans," Green said, since locations may indicate exposure to hazardous agents.

Record managers can find guidance and procedures in Army Regulations 220-15, "Operations Records Preservation" and 25-400-2, "Modern Army Record Keeping System (MARKS)."

"Record managers need to take the time to read those regs and work with them in their daily routines," said Green.

Green advises record managers to back up their historical records on a computer disk, compact disk or Zip file. Hard copies can be stored in boxes in a dry environment. Unit designation and dates should be labeled on the boxes. For Reserve Component units, the labels should include mobiliza-

tion date and return to home station.

"Unit records should include rosters," he said. "We don't want junk, such as data on a unit barbecue." Units should not delete, burn or throw away important documents, he added.

"When there's doubt regarding what to preserve, call the historian," advises Green.

The history detachment is available to answer questions at (Sprint) 762-7574. Or, contact United States Army Europe, Lessons Learned Branch, ODCSOPS, DSN 370-8092.



Sergeant First Class Donald Green photographs ordnance.

# New AFN studio the reel deal

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Conrad College  
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The main thing that disc jockeys at American Forces Network-Balkans like about their new radio studio on Eagle Base is that they can actually stand up and walk around in it.

For more than two years, since the American forces first arrived in Bosnia, AFN Balkans operated out of a cramped studio mounted on the bed of a truck. The interior was only about 4 feet 8 inches high. Everyone had to stoop over to get into the studio until they could sit down. After sitting down, there

nentially by millions. We can produce a better quality product in the new studio. It's going to sound better to the listener," said Sergeant Cheryl Weller, a broadcast journalist with the 222nd Broadcast Public Affairs Detachment, or BPAD, from Bell, Calif.

"The board we have now is better. The old one was about 30 years old. This one is only about 20 years old," said Weller, grinning and possibly exaggerating just a little. She hosts the Top 40 radio show, which airs from 3 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Weller, who is also the non-commissioned officer in charge of AFN's radio section, said the new studio also features an improved ability to put callers on the air. "When callers call in, it's easier for us to put them on the air," she said. "We could put them on the air before, but the new way is better. We enjoy putting people on the air. You're keeping them happy and they're keeping you happy."

Specialist Cathy Gonzales, another broadcast journalist with the 222nd BPAD, hosts the urban-contemporary music show, 10 p.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday.

"The new studio is more comfortable. It makes you feel like it's the real deal," said Gonzales. "You go in there to work and it takes your mind off of being in a field environment. It's more like being in the States and that makes it more enjoyable."

"The board in the new studio isn't state of the art—it doesn't have the slide pots—but it's better than the one in the truck. Now we can cue up two CDs at a time. Before we could only cue up one CD. And it was pretty tricky, getting the timing just right, making sure we didn't have dead air."

Sergeant James Blaine, another broadcast journalist with the 222nd BPAD, hosts the classic rock show, 5 to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday.

"The new studio is actually a long time in coming. But the truck was appropriate when AFN began operating in this field environment," he said. Blaine said one thing he really wanted to emphasize was a big note of appreciation to the AFN technicians who put the studio together and made sure that everything was working correctly.

"The best thing about the new studio is that when people come in they get a sense of professionalism, because of the way it's put together. It's a good environment. We are proud to show this facility to visiting dignitaries and VIPs. Many AFN personnel from outside of Bosnia have helped in setting up this studio and it gives us all a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment," Blaine said.

He also noted that the disc jockeys's voices come across better, because of the way the area is laid out. He said some listeners may or may not be able to tell the difference, depending on the quality of their receiver. "But there is definitely a difference," he said.

"This is a good studio. I don't have any complaints at all."



Not quite out of control is Sergeant Cheryl Weller, NCOIC and host of the Top 40 show.

was no room to move the chair, except to swivel it around to pick up a compact disc or cartridge.

"There's room to get in there and work and stretch and get up and walk around," said Specialist Scott Hines, one of four AFN announcers. A broadcast journalist with the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from Atlanta, Ga., Hines does the station's country music show, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Friday.

"In the old studio (the truck), I would play a few songs, and my legs would start cramping," he said. "There was nowhere to go unless I would go outside and walk around in the snow or rain. Here, I can get up and walk around and still be in a building. I can get up and make hot chocolate."

"Also, we couldn't interview more than one person at a time in the truck," Hines said. "We would set that person in a chair by the door, so they wouldn't feel so claustrophobic. The new studio has much more room. We even had a brass band in there for an interview, the Army Tuba Quartet."

But, besides having more room, is the new studio actually better?

"It's much better. If I had to put a number on it, I'd say expo-