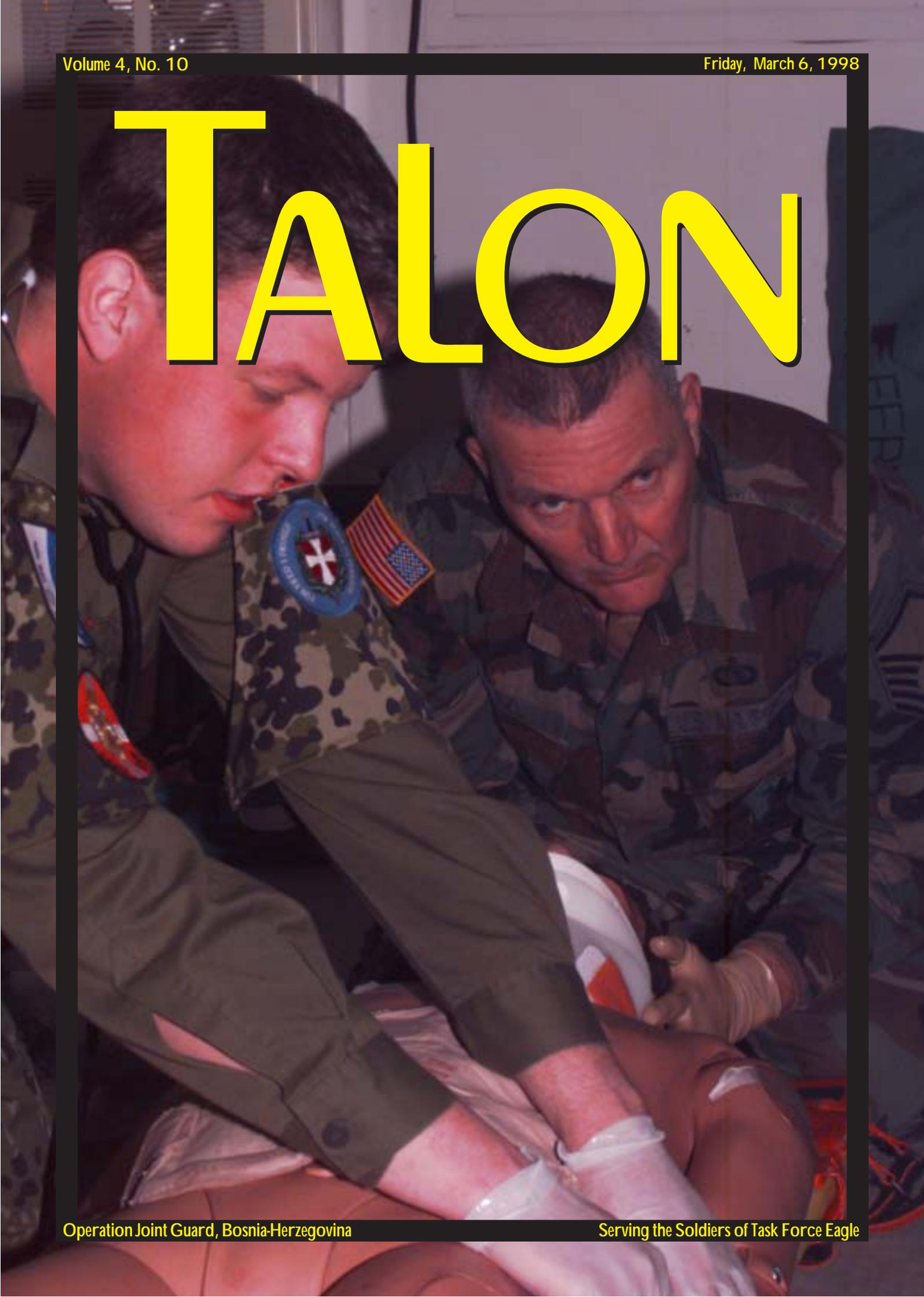


TALON



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On the Cover

Private Rune Follemano of the Danish Battalion at Camp Danne Virk and Master Sergeant Fred Abel of the USAF Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team at Blue Factory prepare to "log roll" a mock victim during BTLS training. (Photo by Sergeant First Class Sherry L. Claus)

The Task Force Eagle Web site is located at www.tfeagle.army.mil

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: Sergeant Robert R. Ramon. Or contact us at: The Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO, AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5233.

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

If you have been keeping up with some of the latest developments in Army doctrine, you may have heard about Information Operations. Like any new concept, your leaders are working to integrate this as another tool for keeping the peace here in Bosnia. Let me tell you what it means to me here at Task Force Eagle.

Information Operations is a combination of disciplines that include Psychological Operations, Civil Affairs, and Public Affairs. Each

of these helps us show the local population that peace and stability is the best way to improve their lives. In this division, we spread that message through the best weapon we have; informed soldiers, proud to be doing their job.

Not a day goes by in our sector that a soldier doesn't make a lasting impression on a citizen of this country. TFE's information operations campaign arms soldiers and junior leaders with the most powerful message of all; we are here to help, and we want to make a difference. By representing yourself as an equitable professional, the impression conveyed is that of guaranteeing peace for all citizens.

Look for your chain of command to provide you with informational themes that local citizens need to hear from people they respect—the soldier. They will be simple themes that stress public safety, mine awareness and a return to peace. It's time to get on with the business of helping this country grow. Each of us can contribute in attaining strategic goals by simply understanding that we are all combat multipliers when we perform our duties in a professional manner.

"Remember, today is the best day to be a soldier."



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Bedrock peacekeepers pass torch

Story and photo by Sergeant Tim Fischer
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The Transfer of Authority (TOA) between the 1st Battalion, 36th Armored Infantry Regiment (Spartans), from Freiburg, Germany, and the 2nd Battalion of the 6th Infantry Regiment from Baumholder, Germany, became official at Camp Bedrock on February 27, 1998.

The replacement process is an ongoing procedure in the Balkans and Bedrock is alive with the sounds of the recent arrival of the 2-6 Inf. Reg. (Gators). The transfer and smooth transition of units is a key factor in the continued success of Task Force Eagle.

Addressing the soldiers of the task force, commander of the 1-36, Lieutenant Colonel Mark J. Esleman said, "You have done great work keeping the peace here in the Balkans, maintaining a secure and stable environment here in Bosnia which has given the people time to rebuild a nation."

The peacekeeping was a combined effort of the Stabilization Force in Bosnia and the impact of Implementation Force and SFOR can be seen across the theater of operation.

The rebuilding process is clearly evident throughout the Bedrock area. For example, during the five months the 1-36 has been here, two new fuel stations were built within five kilometers of the camp. In the Tuzla area, the traffic is once again flowing, and business has increased dramatically due in part to the efforts of the 1-36.

This is the second Bosnian deployment for approximately half of the

2-6, who were here for the IFOR mission.

The uncasing of the flag opens a new chapter in the involvement of the 2-6 SFOR mission. "The security and quality of life here has improved since our last visit. I am pleased with Camp Bedrock," said the 2-6 commander Lieutenant Colonel Michael R. Martinez. "The facilities here are well kept, and my soldiers have plenty of room to carry out their daily missions"

The 2-6 looks forward to working with the people of Bosnia and the local public officials, keeping a safe and stable environment in the Bedrock area of operation.

"This is a real time mission, and a great time to be in command," said Martinez. "The NCOs and first line supervisors are the strength of the battalion, and because of them and the soldiers, we feel confident about our mission here in the Balkans."

Though the transfer of authority is complete, the mission continues and Martinez and his soldiers are prepared to drive on with a safe and productive tour here.



Lieutenant Colonel Michael R. Martinez (left) and Command Sergeant Major George L. Nieves (right), prepare for the uncasing of the colors for 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

MOSTAR scene of assault from air

Story and photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Tension mounts and nerves are on edge as U.S. soldiers attempt to dislodge the entrenched enemy forces in the rolling hills outside Mostar in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The area is thick with enemy soldiers braced for the assault and are determined to drive back or destroy all U.S. forces. As the U.S. assault intensifies a call for backup is requested. The radio crackles with the voice of the commander assuring that aerial artillery was enroute.

Moments later, the thundering sound of rotating blades echoes across the valley as dark, threatening shapes slowly emerge above the hilltops. The feeling of exhilaration and relief is felt by the U.S. ground troops at the sight of olive green metal birds.

AH-64 Apache helicopters suspended in a circular formation, fully armed and ready for attack, surround the enemy occupied area. After many aerial assaults and enemy casualties, the opponents withdraw and the mission is a success.

This scenario is designed to test the U.S. soldiers on all they have been trained to do in a situation like this, and to reinforce the confidence gained through previous similar exercises.

Reedsburg, Wis., native, Major Mike D. Fearing, mission commander of the exercise called Operation Joint Guard V, seems to think so.

"This exercise takes five days to complete and helps prepare us for future contingencies," said Fearing. "It's a multinational exercise involving three MNDs," he said. "The purpose is to establish a universal SOP among the three regions."

He said the exercise relies heavily on communication. "The different languages creates a little problem. An interpreter is needed to successfully complete the mission," said Fearing.

Transmission occurs between the ground crew, the helicopter crew, headquarters and a command or communications aircraft, according to Fearing.

"The exercise provides training for other units also," said Fearing, "like the combat medical team. During the simulated battle, one of the Apaches was hit by ground fire and was forced to land at the airfield," he said.

"Medics were called to the site, triaged the wounded pilots and proceeded to provide emergency treatment," according to a Special Forces staff sergeant overseeing the medical crew, "All of this is simulated to reflect a real-world war. It's a learning process, mistakes will be made, but the soldiers will be better prepared to react in combat," he said.



An AH-64 Apache Helicopter from the 1-501st Aviation Battalion circles the hilltop preparing to fire on the enemy as a part of Operation Joint Guard V.

PSYOPS distributes U.S. donations



Ferida Drjlo (left), president of Aktiv Zena Bosnjakinja - Stari Rasadnik, examines a shirt received as part of clothing and linen donated by U.S. religious and civic organizations and distributed by Sergeant Duane Thomas (center). Interpreter, Snezana Manojlovic (right) looks on.

Story and photo by Specialist James E. Baker
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Tangible, practical aid is reaching the Bosnian community of Stari Rasadnik thanks to the joint effort of proactive community leaders, concerned citizens abroad, and diligent U.S. authorities. Clothes and blankets donated by U.S. churches and civic groups were distributed by members of the 345th psychological operations unit based at Camp McGovern near Brcko.

Ferida Drjlo, the president of Aktiv Zena Bosnjakinja, a woman's organization in the community, gratefully received the items. A survivor of the ravages of war, Drjlo serves as a focal point for her fellow residents.

"I am mostly concerned about the children because they are the innocent victims of this tragedy. And, our children are our life and our future," said Drjlo through an interpreter.

It is not uncommon for her to be approached by children in the street who ask her what she can do for them in terms of items made available by international agencies under the umbrella of the United Nations and the international arm of religious and civic groups.

The Office of the High Representative has been instrumental in steering this aid into the community. The Brcko Supervisor, former U.S. Ambassador Robert Farrand, is in continual communication with the representatives of each of the Zone of Separation communities to address their most

pressing concerns.

Ferida acknowledges that the Ambassador is someone who has proved invaluable to the resettlement process. "We are very thankful for his assistance in helping to move things forward on our behalf," she said.

Ambassador Farrand is currently working to assure that there will be an international presence beyond the March 15 deadline to determine the political control of Brcko, a city that is 97% Serbian but has multiethnic administrative; judicial; and enforcement systems.

The unit commanders have, in many instances, gone beyond the ordinary to address the residents' needs by contacting their own churches back in the states to solicit their help, according to Waco, Texas native Sergeant Duane Thomas of the 345th psychological operations unit. Consequently, when they are re-deployed, it has been hard to see some of them go.

Ferida spoke of one commander who had been a valuable resource for assistance until his recent departure from Bosnia. "We hated to see him leave because he represented his mission above and beyond the call of duty through his tireless effort," she said.

Since the formation of her women's group, Ferida said that her organization has helped to meet some of the immediate needs of her people through advocacy. Namely, she cited the resettlement of the community, the opening of a children's center, and the freedom of movement as some of the causes that have come to fruition.

Blue Factory at Guardian Base –

Story & photos by Sergeant First Class Sherry L. Claus
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Basic first aid. Most military members know how to stop the bleeding, administer CPR, and splint a fractured limb. If you are a medic, your skills are more advanced due to the technical training you've received.

Lessons learned from recent conflicts worldwide prompted the military to conclude that sometimes these more generalized skills just aren't quite enough.

Because of this finding, many medics opt to continue their medical education by climbing yet another rung on the medical ladder.

The Medical Task Force 261 (TF 261) at Blue Factory hospital, Guardian Base, is set to help medics further hone their skills by running the Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) course.

TF 261 Commander Lieutenant Colonel Gary L. Sadlon, 44, from San Antonio, Texas, explained the unusual circumstances of this and other courses run through the Blue Factory.

"Because the current Stabilization Force is a joint operation with participation from many countries, we face a few challenges in the presentation," he said. "However, although doctrines and dialects may vary from country to country, medicine is an international language."

The present military environment and the inherent delays in transportation and definitive care were a few of the prime reasons the Task Force at Blue Factory decided to offer the BTLS course.

Twenty-one students from the United States, Sweden, Norway, Finland, United Kingdom and Denmark reported to the hospital Tuesday, February 24 to begin their four day odyssey into the world of intubation, intravenous procedures and extrication from vehicles.

Staff Sergeant David Robles, the 25-year-old New York City native, is taking his turn among the instructors as BTLS Course Coordinator.

Robles, a Treatment Platoon Sergeant from D Company, TF 261, explained some of the idiosyncrasies of this course as a team of students worked on a manikin unlike any CPR-style Resusci-Annie ever seen.

"Ordinarily, this course is given to Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics in the United States. This is

some specialized training most medics don't already have," said Robles. "As you can see from the mannequin we use, the injuries caused from a mine blast are somewhat different from those most EMTs and Paramedics might normally see. We



Sergeant Christopher Gilliam of Lufkin, TX and Technical Sergeant Frank Pizzo of Channel Islands, CA evaluate a mock mine blast victim during the BTLS course at Blue Factory.

melting pot for medics

adapt the program to the particular environment we're working in here in Bosnia."

If, by chance, a student fails the written exam, there is a two to three week "study period" allotted before a retest is given. Once the retest is passed, the hands-on training is given again and the student is re-tested on that portion, too.

However, if the written test is passed initially but the hands-on is not, the student receives immediate retraining and is re-tested the same day.

The pace is fast, information output is furious but the students gain quite a bit of knowledge from the course.

Sergeant Mads Andersen, a 24-year-old nursing student who is also the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Medical Center, Danish Battalion at Camp Danne Virke, called the BTLS course a good tool. "It was very well organized, the instructors had very good techniques and the certificate we receive is internationally recognized so it will help me with my nursing courses, too," said Anderson.

Even students who have already completed EMT classes in the past agreed the BTLS is very beneficial to them. As Sergeant Steve Miller, 26, from Waynesville, Missouri, said, "I'm a Flight Medic and have gone through several medical trainings. This is one of the most professional courses I've attended and it allowed me to fine tune my skills as a flight medic."

Miller also made a point of how knowledgeable and accessible the instructors were. "You could really ask them in-depth questions and rely on their skills to teach us what we needed most," he said.

Sadlon defines the courses run through Blue Factory. "Through this type of international training, we have hands everywhere – all over the country and back to the hospital," he said. "The better the training the medics get, the better care the patient in the field receives and the less chance for complications later. Everyone, wherever they are from, benefits from this program."

The BTLS course was developed in 1982 as an opportunity for medics and paramedics to continue their education while refreshing their existing skills. This course has quickly become the standard training method for the treatment of critically injured victims, not only in the United States, but also internationally.

The current level of cooperation and participation between the



Sergeants First Class Kerstin Furuhovde and Lotto Ohrn both of Swedish Battalion, check for abdominal injuries during BTLS training at Blue Factory.

international communities and the coalition forces has proven to be an effective educational practicum. The BTLS course at Guardian base will prove to be an invaluable asset to all who contribute to or benefit from this endeavor.

Texan entertains troops with fiddle

Story and photo by Staff Sergeant Jack McNeely
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

In only his first day at Camp Dobol, Specialist Jason B. Montgomery had earned himself a five-day pass to Tuzsar, Hungary.

It wasn't his proficiency as a petroleum supply specialist for the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment that merited the time off; it was his ability as a violinist that captivated those who attended the second Camp Dobol Talent Show held at the dining facility Friday, Feb. 20.

"I just love to play," said the 24-year-old Houston, Texas, native. "I play anything."

Montgomery confidently stroked his string instrument as he teamed up with "The Singing Tanker," Specialist Brandon Davis of Charlie Company, 1-37th Armor Battalion, to play the Garth Brooks mega-hit, "Much Too Young to Feel This Damn Old." The musically inclined duo became an instant crowd favorite.

Davis, an accomplished guitarist and vocalist, had won the first Camp Dobol Talent Show last fall and was therefore ineligible to win again.

Montgomery, a member of Bravo Company, 1-35th Armor Battalion from Baumholder, Germany, continued stroking and plucking his fiddle through such hits as "Orange Blossom Special" and "Cotton Eye Joe." He and Davis ended the evening's festivities with an encore playing of George Strait's country hit, "Amarillo By Morning."

"I never expected to enter the talent show. I had just arrived earlier in the day and after cleaning my living area, had fallen asleep," Montgomery said matter-of-factly. "Then someone came in and told me that I should enter the talent show. So I did."

No one was more pleased with Montgomery's impromptu entry than Chaplain (Captain) Paul Lasley, talent show coordinator and master of ceremony.

"This just goes to show you that we have a lot of talented people here at Camp Dobol. These talent shows are one way we can maintain a high level of morale among the troops here," Lasley explained.

Meanwhile, winning the Dobil Talent Show is just another notch in Montgomery's storied musical career.

He picked up his first violin at the impressionable age of 10. It made such an imprint that he later enrolled in the Performing and Visual Arts prep school in Houston. "I liked playing the violin. It grabbed my attention the first time I picked it up," said the son of Travis and Peggy Montgomery, also of Houston.

After high school, Montgomery quenched his musical thirsts at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he became a trained classical violinist. "At the university, I would practice four to five hours every day. I never really had the ear for it, so I had to become proficient the hard way — by endless hours of practice," said Montgomery, who graduated from Baylor in 1996.

He has since graced the stage of the Grand Ole

Opry in Nashville. But he wanted more, so he enlisted in the U.S. Army! "I wanted the European tour. I figured it would be the easiest way to get over here," said Montgomery, who now frequently plays with Jim Everett & Band while stationed in Germany.

Fourteen months after enlisting, Montgomery's tenacious and dramatic playing style has not only earned him a five-day pass, but also the admiration and respect of the entire camp. Camp Commander Lieutenant Colonel Mark Littel mentioned the talented Montgomery the next morning during the 0730 Battle Update Brief with Task Force Eagle in Tuzla.

"Of course, I'm honored to be recognized and I am looking forward to taking the pass before I leave here in October," said Montgomery, who plans to marry Yasmin Martinez of Los Angeles in July 1999.

In the meantime, Montgomery will be content strumming slices of Americana for the 600 U.S. peacekeepers currently stationed at Dobil.



Specialist James B. Montgomery of Bravo Company, 1-35 Armor Battalion from Baumholder, Germany, confidently strokes a bow against the strings of his violin during the second Camp Dobil Talent Show.

Hidden threat discovered

703rd Ordnance Company removes danger



Staff Sergeant Oakley prepares antipersonnel mines for disposal with Flex-X Demo tape and C-4 plastic explosives.



Staff Sergeant Oakley (right) and Specialist Hagler (left), prepare Flex-X Demo tape for the disposal of antipersonnel mines.

Story and photos by Sergeant Steven Johnson
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina the stability of this once warring country is continually improving, yet the threat of mines is still extremely high. Every day, more of these deadly devices are found, and it becomes the job of the 703rd Ordnance Company Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit at Camp Bedrock, to safely gather and destroy them, before they claim more victims.

A land mine is an explosive charge concealed just below ground surface. Some are small, some are large. Some are made in factories, and others are made in basements. Regardless of where and how these devices are made, the end result is usually deadly.

Staff Sergeant Randal Oakley, from Elgin, S.C., and EOD team Leader, knows all too well the potential danger posed by land mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). He spends a great deal of time studying and then destroying them. The reality of his job makes for an interesting day at the office.

On a recent disposal mission, Oakley and his team were able to safely destroy more than 100 mines and UXOs to

include PMA-4 antipersonnel mines, hand grenades, homemade mortar shells and antitank mines. "Although the mines that we're dealing with are rendered safe, we still have to be cautious and respect what these mines can do," said Oakley.

Using M-186 Demo Roll (Flex-X), C-4 plastic explosives and Thermite grenades, Oakley and his team were able to safely destroy another batch of deadly mines. Dealing with mines and UXOs is about more than cutting the blue wire. "Safety in our unit is paramount to the success of disposal operations," said Oakley.

The real world experiences that EOD team acquires in theater, is the perfect opportunity to learn and train. Oakley says "This environment causes me to become a better trainer because everything here is realistic. We give classes to school children, and we are better able to describe to them the hazards they may face."

After the disposal is complete, Oakley and his team members beam with pride as another mission is completed. The services of the EOD units will continue to be needed throughout this area due to the threat of land mines. We can be assured the men of EOD can safely deal with that threat, wherever it may be.

No trick to flying blind at Tuzla AB



The CEU (Control Electronics Unit) is the heart of the MMLS which controls and transmits the signals.

Story and photo by Specialist Nancy McMillan
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

It is a serious problem when the pilot of an aircraft attempts to land and is unable to see the runway because of a dense, concealing cover of fog. That is where the Mobile Microwave Landing System at Tuzla Air Base comes into play.

The MMLS is a computerized transmitter and antenna system that is placed on the ground at the touchdown site; the area of runway that is distinguished by straight, long, white slashes painted on the pavement.

"The system is a relatively new piece of tactical equipment," said Technical Sergeant Chris Hoover, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Meteorological Navigational (METNAV) system maintenance unit. "It's been in field testing for about four or five years, but has recently come into use. It's been fielded here since about '96," he said.

According to Hoover, the MMLS is an all-weather system that transmits guidance signals to the aircraft; giving the aircraft an extended runway center line for up to 20 miles and an angle of descent to the touchdown point.

"The aircraft has a display monitor on the instrument panel with cross-hairs on it that tells the pilots if they are too far left, right or up or down," Hoover said. "The key is to keep the cross-

hairs centered for a safe landing,"

"The \$600,000 piece of equipment is a very accurate and fail-safe system that is necessary here in Bosnia because of the amount of days the area gets fog," said Hoover.

The system weighs approximately 600 pounds and is powered by diesel fuel. A tank of Diesel lasts about a week before refilling. The antenna on the unit is heated to prevent snow and ice from accumulating, which would cause it to distort the signal and force the system to shut down.

"Should the system fail, the pilots would not be able to make visual runway contact and would have to be diverted to another airfield," said Hoover. "But we are trained on the system, its commands and how to troubleshoot to repair it. If the problem still exists, we send the system to the repair depot," he said.

On the initial setup the system is checked and checked again periodically by the Air Force Flight Standardization Agency with a facility inspection aircraft. "That inspection insures the integrity of the signals," Hoover said.

Hoover stated that the system takes a couple of hours to set up in any type of weather and can be flight-ready in a day. "In nicer climate, the system is used to boost the pilot's proficiency," he said, "but is a necessity in bad weather — being able to hit the runway is good thing."

Mechanical 'soldier' takes command

Story and photos by Sergeant Tim Fischer
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

It looks like Johnny Five from the popular movie "Short Circuit," but this is the U.S. Army's version of the \$100,000 soldier. At Camp Bedrock, Specialist Christopher R. Hagler, 21, refines his skills with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal reconnaissance robot machine known as Andros. The mechanical robot gives the soldiers of the 703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, of Fort Knox, Kentucky, the ability to enter a dangerous situation with the safety of a robot.

"When I first started working with Andros, I was surprised by the sensitive movements he makes. It amazes me every time I work with him," said Hagler. "He can maneuver and extract explosives in small places with about a 3-foot working radius."

The main function of Andros is to recon areas where explosive devices are located. Once they are identified, the robot has various means of dealing with them. It has a video remote feedback where Hagler can command the electronic soldier to perform the functions required to disarm the explosives.

Another feature the Andros has is a twelve gauge shot gun that can be used to detonate explosive devices. It also has the ability to pick up the explosive with a sensitive touch and move it to an area where it can be safely disarmed or detonated.

Staff Sergeant Randal S. Oakley, 31, from Elgin, S.C., said the mobility of the robot allows them to transport it anywhere

a threat of danger exists because it fits easily in the back of most military vehicles.

"The most important thing about the robot is we can accomplish our mission without putting the soldier in harms way," said Oakley. "Plus we can look at the situation without actually being in the kill zone."

Along with the ability to climb most obstacles, Andros has an effective range of 300 meters from the control panel, allowing the controller to maintain a safe distance. Equipped with the aid of two video cameras, the operator has complete control of a dangerous situation with help from Andros.

The machine also has the ability to reach into small places to retrieve explosives with an extendible arm that will reach out from six to eight feet up, around, and under anything. Hagler tunes his skills with the robot often, so when a mission is called in, he will be ready.

"Using the control panel is a delicate procedure which you have to stay on top of," said Hagler. "We get Andros out and perform tasks like we would encounter here in Bosnia, and staying sharp is what makes the difference in a life and death encounter."

Working with the equipment on a regular basis is a vital part of the mission here at Bedrock. The soldiers of the 703rd EOD Company are taking the necessary steps to be ready when called upon to apply their technical skills to alleviate the danger of any explosive device.



Andros the robot shows off its mobility by performing tasks that are sent to it from a remote control panel.

Co. A destroys former fighting positions

Bunkers discovered while marking mine fields

Story and photo by Sergeant Terry L. Welch
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

In the hills near Camp McGovern, reminders of the war that ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina aren't hard to find. Roads flanked by red flags warning of mines are common and the shattered ghosts of houses are spread throughout. But in the hills – *inside* the hills – there are reminders that aren't easy to find – they aren't meant to be.

They're bunkers. Command, battle and supply areas dug into the earth and covered by fortified wood or concrete. Aside from being reminiscent of the war, the bunkers are still dangerous. Like loaded weapons left in the grass, they seem to wait to be used again should the current peace flounder.

By following the trenches left like scars on the fields near Brcko, the soldiers of Company A, 16th Engineer Battalion have found a number of these bunkers.

"Most of the time when we find these bunkers, we'll be out marking mine fields," said Sergeant Wendell Green, 26, from Houlton, Maine, a squad leader with Co. A. "We'll come across them and call up to higher (command) and tell them we've found a bunker we want to destroy."

Green said, the size of the bunker and the distance from the community will determine the amount of C-4 explosive material used.

Staying safe is always the order of the day when dealing with explosives, but the C-4 used by the "Gators" of Co. A isn't the only threat. Many bunkers are booby-trapped. The combat engineers work with Bosnians who assist in preparing the bunkers for destruction.

"Our rule is that factions go into a bunker before us to clear it," said Sergeant Thad Bowman, 24, Port Charlotte, Fla, another Co. A squad leader.

This can lead to some awkward situations, according to Bowman. "I myself have worked with a few (Bosnians) who have fought out of those bunkers. They can actually be pretty emotional about when we blow up their bunker because they fought out of those bunkers for two, three, four years and we go in and take five minutes to destroy it," said Bowman.

Private first class Brian Henrichs, 19, South Shore, S.D., was trained in demolition before coming to Bosnia-Herzegovina. "In training, we got to use every type of demo, but here it's real. You get to see what it does," Henrichs said. "You're not just lighting it off on the ground for practice."

Henrichs and the others said they do feel like they're helping Bosnia's peace process along by destroying bunkers. "Factions can't fight from a bunker that isn't there," said Co. A 2nd Lieutenant Jonathon Burke.

Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion has arrived at McGovern and Co. A will leave Bosnia soon, bound for their homes in Germany. They will leave their own reminders behind. Where once concrete supports and boxes of ammunition lay in darkness, now there are only holes in the ground – Co. B will begin rooting out more bunkers to destroy and Bosnia, as a whole, will continue to heal.

