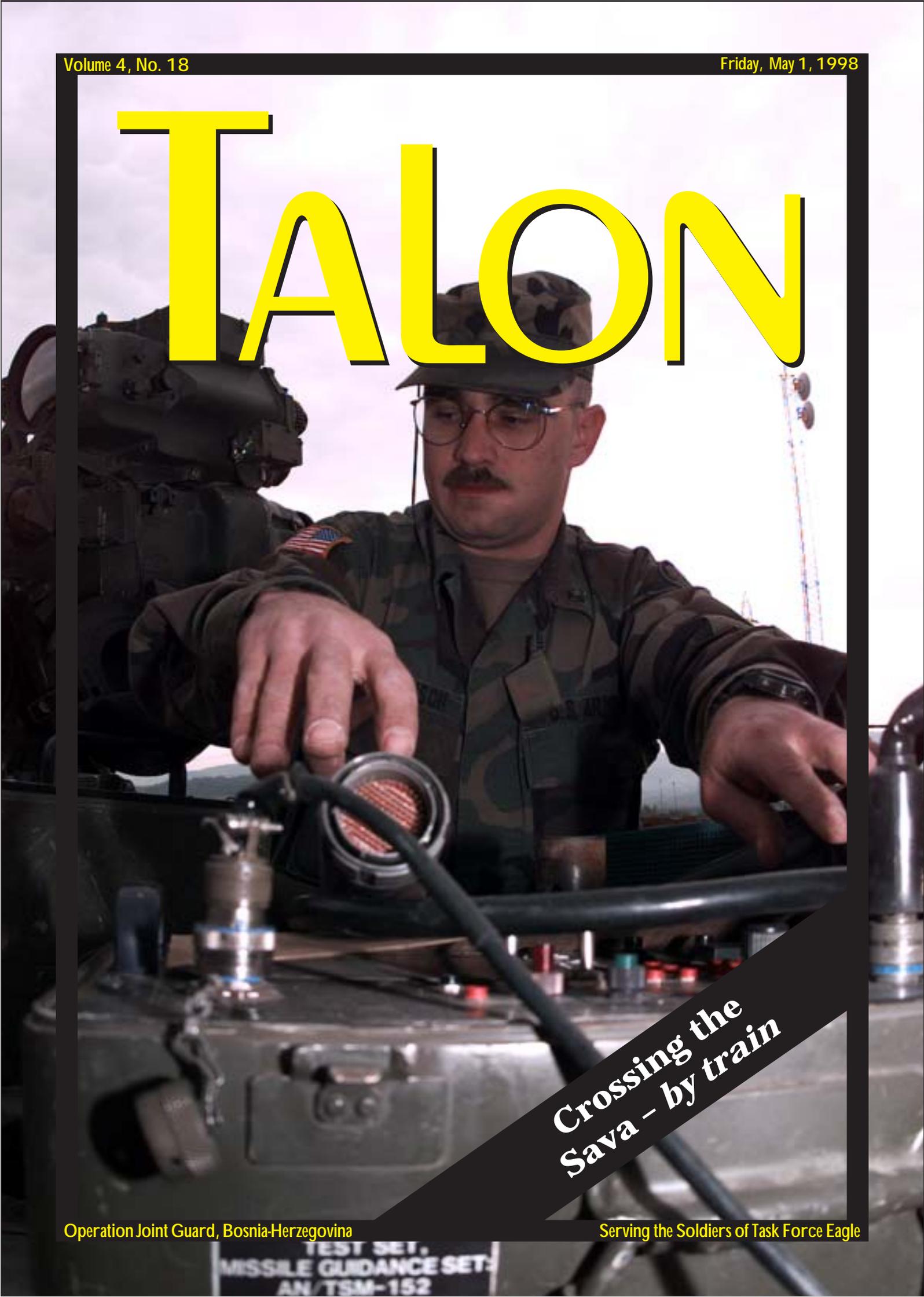


# TALON



**Crossing the  
Sava – by train**

# Talon Inside



**Mentoring The NCO..... 5**   **Antitank Missile System ..... 8**   **ADA Platoon ..... 11**  
**Bosnia is good environment**   **TOW gets fine-tuned**   **Volunteers form unit**

## Contents

## Up Front

**Up Front ..... 2**  
**Stay focused**

**Engineer Art ..... 3**  
**Dobol engineer one man art show**

**MPADs On The Line ..... 4**  
**Mobile Public affairs stars troops**

**Crossing The Sava ..... 6-7**  
**Train departs for Central Region**

**SFOR Amnesty Program Ended ..... 9**  
**National amnesty program begins**

**Through The Lens ..... 10**  
**Combat camera focuses on soldiers**

**Engineer Detachment On Course ..... 12**  
**518/526 Engineers put Bosnia on map**

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



Franklin D. Roosevelt's words of World War II reminds us today of the price to maintain peace. "Peace, like war, can succeed only where there is a will to enforce it, and where there is available power to enforce it." With these same words, I remind you, the soldiers serving in Bosnia, that we are here to do our duty for our country, as peacekeepers.

It is your responsibility to carry out your duties to the best of your ability because you represent something greater than you as individuals do – your country. Your actions, deeds and appearance speak louder than words.

As my travels take me to the different camps throughout this theater, I am pleased to say that the troops I see are the greatest examples of fine soldiering as I have ever seen. From the dusty, tired guard on patrol duty to the neatly dressed soldiers at garrison, the standards of military hearing are evident.

As the day to day routines become weeks, then months, it is easy to stray from the focus of the mission. This is where leadership, teamwork, pride, values and training will pull you through and put you above the rest.

Your duty that you are performing for your country here is both honorable and worthy. Allowing this country the opportunity to live in peace and giving them hope for a better tomorrow is a noble service to perform.

You, the Task Force Eagle soldiers are an inspiration to me and anyone else who has the opportunity to meet you.

Remember three things: one, keep your mind on the mission at hand and stay focused on force protection; two, we are a team, and it takes all of us to succeed; and three,... "TODAY IS THE BEST DAY TO BE A SOLDIER."

### On the Cover

Specialist David R. Stephenson performs a verifications check on the tube-launched, Optical-sighted, Wire-guided (TOW) antitank missile system at Camp Dobol, Bosnia. (Photo by Sergeant Tim Fischer, see page 8).

### The Task Force Eagle Web site is located at [www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)

The Task Force Eagle web site offers breaking news and photos on its web site. The Web site provides information concerning the Turk, Russian, and NORDPOL Brigade assigned to Task Force Eagle, as well as U.S. soldiers stationed in Bosnia. The Talon On-line is updated every Saturday.

<small>THE TALON is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle. THE TALON is an Army-funded newspaper authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas, under the provision of AR 360-81. Contents of THE TALON are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle.</small>	<b>Task Force Eagle Commander</b> ..... Major General Larry R. Ellis
<small>THE TALON is published weekly by the 1st Armored Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5233. E-mail: talon@email-4c3.5sigcmd.army.mil. Visit the Talon and other Bosnia-Herzegovina related items from the TFE homepage: www.tfeagle.army.mil Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 5,500.</small>	<b>Editor in Chief</b> ..... Major Jim Yonts
	<b>OIC</b> ..... First Lieutenant Jacqueline E. Abbar
	<b>Managing Editor</b> ..... Sergeant First Class Frank Casares
	<b>NCOIC</b> ..... Sergeant First Class Buddy Ferguson
	<b>Layout and Design Editor</b> ..... Corporal Martha Louise Reyna
	<b>Assistant Editor, Photo Editor and Webmaster</b> ..... Sergeant Robert R. Ramon

# Engineer designer brings Mountain State scenes to Dobol

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

When he isn't designing a practice repelling tower at Camp Dobol, this U.S. Army engineer is bridging the cultural gap between soldiers and local civilians who work daily in the Dining Facility (DFAC).

Sergeant Robert Bond doesn't use typical engineering devices in his unique humanitarian role, however. Instead, he manipulates a piece of canvas with his kaleidoscope of pastel coloring sticks. His art brings a smile to the faces of the local laborers, who were caught in the midst of a civil conflict in this war-torn Balkan region just three years ago.

"It's relaxing," the 28-year-old Cass, W. Va., native said as he stroked a worn, brown pastel stick carefully across one of his many landscape pictures just to add depth to an isolated fence shadow. "This is a creative way to occupy my time."

Once he completes enough pieces of pastel art, he plans to give them to the D-FAC staff. "They all know me well here. I come here frequently and sit in front of this window to gain the advantage of the sunlight," said Bond, a member of the 84th Engineer Company from Fort Polk, La.

The engineers are members of the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which currently occupies Camp Dobol, a pivotal link in the peacekeeping chain of Operation Joint Guard.

Bond said he would allow D-FAC workers to peruse his pastel collection and select their favorite canvass drawing. The remaining pictures will be displayed in the D-FAC.

Bond said he would allow D-FAC workers to peruse his pastel collection and select their favorite canvas drawing. The remaining pictures will be displayed in the D-FAC.

"I don't sell my work," said the modest Bond, a 1988 graduate of Buckhannon Upshure Christian School in Buckhannon, W. Va. The 11-year reserve and active Army veteran plans to wrap up a bachelor's degree in Theology from the Piedmont Bible College in Winston-Salem, N.C., when he separates from the service.

Despite his selfless attributes, Bond takes great pride in his work. After completing each painstakingly tedious drawing, he gingerly carves his signature and date discretely into a lower corner.

Bond has been etching some type of artwork onto paper and canvass since the age of five. He picked up his first pastel coloring stick at the age of 15. He estimates that he has completed more than 2,000 pictures, which vary in size, shape, color and mood.

But it wasn't until last month when his parents — Arnold and Patricia Bond of Virginia Beach, Va., — sent him his pastels that this self-taught artist first tried his hand at a portrait. Although his first portrait took on the same characteristics as the small, framed picture he used as a guide, he quickly realized that creating landscapes was his niche in the world of art.

"I once did a pen-and-ink of my grandmother's cabin back in West Virginia. I drew it from memory," said Bond, who carries a couple of volumes of his favorite

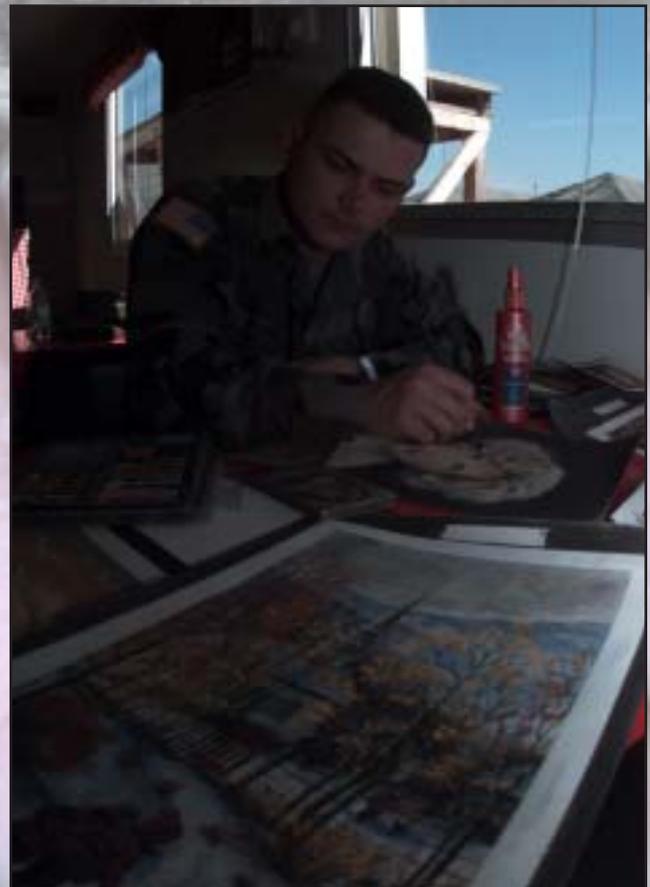
pen-and-ink drawings and is quick to display them for interested passersby.

The vast medleys of Mountain State landscapes seem to spark most of his canvas ideas. In fact, he has been working on his largest (24-inch by 16-inch) and favorite pastel drawing for nearly two years now.

"It's a fall, sunset view of the Greenbrier River in front of the Cass Company Store," explained Bond, who tries to return to the home of the Cass Scenic Railroad at least twice a year, perhaps to refuel the exhausted supply of landscape pictures in his mind.

"I've been finishing one every other night since my pastels arrived. It's about the only thing I can find time to do," added Bond, who spends the rest of his off time thinking about his four-year-old daughter, Jacqueline Elizabeth, who resides with her mother in Bryan, Ohio.

In an instant, his thoughts turn from artwork to design as fellow engineers interrupt his drawing session in the D-FAC. They seek his critical input concerning Dobol's 15-foot familiarization repelling tower. He clears the cluttered table of artwork, tears a piece of plain, white paper from his pen-and-ink book and begins to draw....



Sergeant Robert Bond studies a small framed picture as he puts the finishing touches on a pastel portrait in the Camp Dobol Dining Facility.

# Public Affairs... telling the soldiers story

Story & photos by Staff Sergeant Jack McNeely  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.



Sergeant Tim Fischer, a photojournalist with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, scans the area for a possible photo opportunity during an American-Russian physical training day at Camp Bedrock.



Sergeant Tim Fischer burns the midnight oil as he and U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Charles Holbrook select the best photograph to send to Holbrook's hometown of Iowa City, Iowa.

Two quick knocks on the wooden door sends echoes throughout the small public affairs office here. U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Charles W. Holbrook peeks through the doorway. "Hey Sergeant Fischer, I talked to my mother today and she said my picture ran on the cover of the Easter Sunday edition," exclaimed a smiling, wide-eyed Holbrook.

Similar acknowledgments can be heard throughout the war-torn Balkan region during Operation Joint Guard thanks to such dedicated U.S. Army photojournalists as Sergeant Tim Fischer. He is a member of the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, which has strategically placed its seasoned journalists and broadcasters throughout the Tuzla Valley and the Task Force Eagle area of responsibility.

"I'm not here for myself or Uncle Sam," said the 33-year-old matter-of-factly. "I'm here for them – the soldiers, airmen and seamen who risk their lives every day to provide peace and stability in Bosnia."

Such is the mission of the 196th MPAD, a National Guard unit based in Columbus, Ohio. The unit is comprised primarily of citizen-soldiers from Ohio and West Virginia. While in Bosnia, they will be working with the 345th MPAD from San Antonio, acquiring the soldier's story, for publication in the *Talon* and in their respective hometown newspapers.

Fischer, a St. Albans, W. Va., native, joined the Guard 10 years ago after spending the first four years of his military career with the elite 82nd Airborne Division.

"I wanted to utilize the military for a career field which I wanted to pursue as a civilian. I like graphic art and design, so I thought public affairs and magazine layout were more appetizing than being an 11-Charlie (Infantryman) in the Guard," Fischer explained.

Little did he know back then that today he would be wearing Army green daily and lugging around nearly 50 pounds of photography and recording equipment. He can't help but think of his days as a paratrooper.

"A lot of people may not realize just how much we hustle around here. When we do a story on a patrol, we don't just interview the soldiers when they return from an exhaustive, daylong mission. We're right there with them every step of the way," said Fischer, who would have it no other way.

"How could you expect these troops to respect you as a journalist if you didn't experience what they experience. It's a thrill to me to get out with the young soldiers who I write about," added Fischer, a unit service technician at Charleston (W. Va.) Area Medical Center as a civilian.

But more importantly, it's a thrill to the U.S. Peacekeepers that see their names in print. Just ask Technical Sergeant Holbrook.

"Of course it was a thrill to hear that my mom enjoyed the picture. My mom was pumped up. And, in turn, that pumps me up," said a delighted Holbrook, 35, of Iowa City, Iowa. "I now have a new appreciation for public affairs."

# Train the trainer – Bosnian style



Sergeant First Class Darryl Chapman points out a location where Staff Sergeant Keven Duncan can shoot a back azimuth with an aiming circle.

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

When he enlisted in the U.S. Army fresh out of high school in 1989, Keven Duncan had one goal in mind — to become a seasoned noncommissioned officer. Today, Staff Sergeant Duncan has set his sights on a much higher plateau.

“When I first came in I wanted to make E-7. Then I saw what a first sergeant was and thought it would be great to acquire that much experience. Now, I can see myself as a sergeant major one day,” said the 28-year-old Tyler, Texas, native.

And with the U.S. Army’s informal NCO mentoring program, Duncan’s long-term goal could become reality. Since arriving in Bosnia in October 1997, Duncan has been tutored by his NCO mentor, Sergeant First Class Darryl Chapman. Both are members of Howitzer Battery, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The 2-2 ACR currently occupies Camp Dobol, which is strategically located in the heart of the Zone of Separation — a pivotal link in the peacekeeping chain of Operation Joint Guard.

According to Chapman, Bosnia provides an excellent backdrop for such mentoring within the NCO ranks.

“To be a well-rounded soldier in today’s Army, you just don’t focus on your job. You must be ready for the next level; you must be able to teach, mentor and educate your subordinates; and you must continue your civilian education,” explained 33-year-old Chapman of Grove Hill, Ala.

Apparently, Duncan fits Chapman’s mold of an exceptional

NCO with unlimited potential. “Basically, I look for someone interested in making the Army a career. They must know their job, be willing to be trained and be seeking the added responsibility that senior NCOs must shoulder,” explained Chapman, as he instructed Duncan on how to measure the elevation of an aiming circle.

Meanwhile, back in the Mayor’s Office of this 800-troop base camp, First Sergeant Gary Williams spends a few moments of quality training with his protégé, Sergeant Derick Crooms. Both are members of Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2-2 ACR. And both have taken advantage of this field experience in Bosnia to utilize the mentoring program.

“I call it training the trainer,” said Williams, 42, of Springfield, Tenn. “It’s our responsibility to make sure only the best NCOs are here to replace us. I look for those junior NCOs who stand out beyond the crowd — those with the attitude; esprit de corps. Back in the old Army we used to call them a sharp soldier.”

Crooms, a 27-year-old Beaufort, N.C., native, is appreciative of the tutoring he receives from his first sergeant. “Since we’ve been here, I’ve been able to see the different sides of being a first sergeant. To be able to digest that experience is invaluable,” said a grateful Crooms, who wants to become a staff sergeant by the year 2000.

Although the NCO mentoring program has nurtured countless of exceptional leaders into the very fiber that strengthens the “backbone of the Army,” members of the 2-2 ACR perhaps take it more to heart. They live by one motto — “Always Ready! Second to None!”

# Railroad opens door to Europe



The cars holding equipment from the 2nd ACR wait at the Brcko railroad depot for the arrival of the engine that will take them across the Sava River.

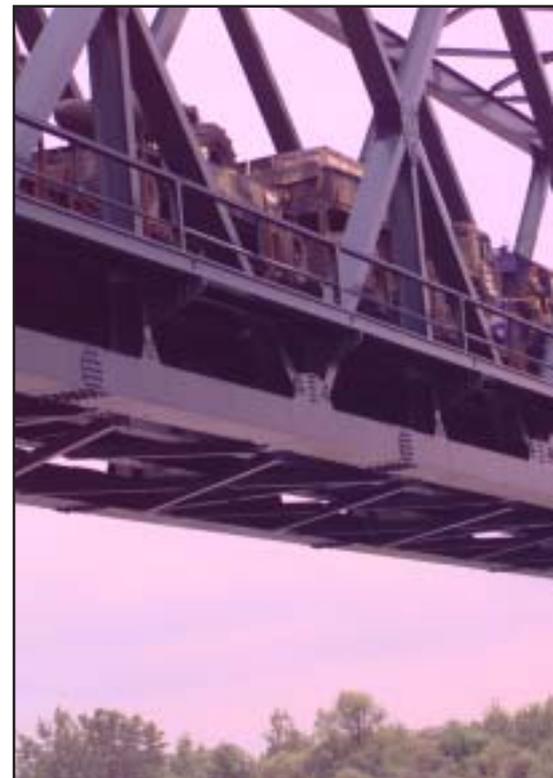
Story and photos by Sergeant Terry L. Welch  
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The rails, rusted a deep red from lying so long idle, appeared as nothing more than slowly healing wounds among the weeds at the Brcko railroad depot. A U.S. soldier stepped from the gravel between them as the engine eased up to the flat car on which sat a HEMTT, its windshield covered with paper for travel. As the engine gently nudged the car, first in a line of eighteen, a railroad worker clambered down from the locomotive, wedged himself between the iron behemoths and began to connect them with a twist of a large bolt. He worked quickly; seemingly unaware of the historic significance of this simple act, and in moments the engine was ready to begin its journey across the Brcko Rail Bridge, rolling over the Sava River, out of Bosnia-Herzegovina through Croatia and into Central Region.

It was the first time a train had made this trip since the before the end of the war in Bosnia Herzegovina. It was April 22, 1998.

A small group of soldiers stood by – officers from Germany, Britain and the U.S., as well as Department of Defense civilians and members of Troop I (Iron Troop), 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Specialist Craig Hobbs was one of the Iron Troop soldiers watching as the train, loaded with excess equipment from the 2nd ACR and 4th AVN Bde., was prepared for its noteworthy journey. He and the other soldiers of his platoon were assigned as a security detail for the event. Hobbs said he considered the task something of an honor; an event that he was glad to witness.



The train crossed the bridge and the Sava Destination.

“It  
happ  
train  
back  
doing  
Al  
Brow  
Brck  
comm  
to con  
pass  
obvio  
be ev  
Croat  
Acco  
Buda  
aroun  
He  
he w  
Bosn  
visit  
Or  
in B  
Comp  
ago v  
as th  
previ  
artill  
river

# and home station

It's kind of exciting. It's one of the first new things that has been repaired," he said. Nodding toward the rail crew checking the bridge, he added, "You see some of the guys and they're getting ready to work and they're pretty happy to be doing what they're doing. It feels pretty good."

Along with the railroad personnel, British Major Richard Brown was onboard the engine as it traveled from Zagreb to Brcko to pick up its cars. As the man responsible for promoting commercial traffic in Bosnia, he saw the train as a sign of things to come for the country. "I've already seen happy people as we moved through Brcko just now, people waving to us. They're obviously pleased to see trains moving again and I think they'll be even more pleased to see trains going back and forth into Croatia," he said. "This train is a very important first step." According to Brown, a commercial passenger train from Budapest to Sarajevo is scheduled to make its first passage on May 24th.

Abbott said someday in the hopefully not-too-distant-future, he would like to take one of those trains and return to see Bosnia's progress in getting back to normal. "It would be nice to see this place outside of an SFOR status," he said.

One man present was already seeing the fruits of his labors in Bosnia. Captain John Buck, company commander of Company B, 16th Engineering Battalion, was here two years ago with the 23rd Engineering Battalion (which was reflagged as the 16th). His soldiers were responsible for clearing out the old rail bridge at Brcko, which had been damaged by a fire. "The first span of the bridge was actually in the process of being destroyed," Buck said. "We essentially completed the destruction of

it by (cutting it) and dropping the rest of it off the end of the pier." After that, civilian aid agencies repaired the bridge.

After watching the train connect to the engine, Buck described the way it had been to Brigadier General Barbara Doornink, Deputy Commanding General for SFOR Support Command, and Lieutenant Colonel Mark Corda, Squadron Commander, 3/2 ACR, as they stood at the bridge, waiting for the train's passage.

The train neared and passed with a roar and a pull at its whistle. The group of soldiers watched it move onto the bridge – some from trackside, some from below the bridge itself – and a small cheer went up as the engineer blew the whistle again, signaling the train's entry into Croatia. There were smiles and handshakes all around.

As the crowd dispersed, a thin line of shining steel could be seen along the track, where the train's weight had sliced through the rust. Given time and traffic, it appeared the rails would regain their luster and be one less wound on the healing Bosnian countryside.



Sava River, venturing into Croatia, towards its Germany



Sergeant First Class Joseph Wolf, "Iron" (I) Troop, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, chats with a Brcko police officer during a security detail, protecting the first train to cross from Bosnia into Croatia since the war.

# ***TOW system requires verification process for safety***



**(Left to right) Specialist David R. Stephenson shows first Lieutenant Lorenzo P. Rios how to do a verifications check on the Tube-launched, Optical-sighted, wire-guided (TOW) antitank missile system.**

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

**W**ith a maximum effective range of 3,750 meters, safety is of the utmost importance when it comes to the U.S. Army's state-of-the-art Tube-launched, Optical-sighted, Wire-guided (TOW) antitank missile system.

That's exactly why members of Maintenance Troop, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Detachment from neighboring Camp Demi and Guardian Base gathered here Wednesday, April 22. The TOW system requires a complete diagnostic check-up every six months to make sure it is battle-ready.

"We are here to ensure the workability of the system," said Specialist David Stephenson, a 28-year-old Plainview, Texas, native. Knowing the weapon is ready to fire gives the troops confidence that they can accomplish their mission if called upon here in Bosnia.

Working throughout the Multinational Division (North) area, the maintenance troops have performed the vital testing procedure on all Humvee-mounted TOW missile systems in Task Force Eagle.

The exhaustive verification process takes up to three hours to complete for each sophisticated weapon. During the tedious process, the technician hooks up a test set to the missile guidance system, which in turn calibrates the guidance sight to the round.

"Verification on the TOW system is essential to the safety of not only the missile team, but also to the troops that might be near by when the weapon is fired," said Stephenson.

"Making sure that it performs flawlessly is what I do; and I enjoy the fact that when I have done my job correctly there is no doubt in any one's mind the round will hit the target without any flaws."

Stephenson's confidence boils over to his supervisor, Staff Sergeant Robert Burton. "It's easy to be confident when you have men like Stephenson performing maintenance on these technical weapon systems," said the 33-year-old Burton.

Meanwhile, Burton reiterates the importance of the safety aspect to the biannual verification process. "Of course, the verification process helps prevent any malfunctions. And the accuracy of the TOW, considering its maximum effective range, is a must. You can never underestimate the importance of maintenance," he concluded.



**Staff Sergeant Robert E. Burton documents verifications check on the Tube-launched, Optical-sighted, Wire-guided (TOW) antitank missile system at Camp Dobol, Bosnia.**

# National Amnesty Program promotes live ordnance disposal

Story and photos by Sergeant Gary Hicks  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**S**FORs National Ordnance and Amnesty Program, a plan in which citizens could turn in Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and weapons without fear of repercussion, officially ended April 15.

However, due to the significant success of the program, local authorities, along with MND(N) officials, have extended the plan here in this sector.

In MND(N) that program has collected over 1,686 land mines, 1,284 weapons, 48 bombs, and 855 kilograms of explosives, 10,925 fuses, 6,756 grenades, 429 mortar rounds, 1,394 projectiles, 4,393 rocket propelled grenade rounds and 308,487 rounds of ammunition to date.

In some cases, with all the ordnance being turned in, the local authorities don't have the resources to dispose of it safely, according to Staff Sergeant John Treida a member of 703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

Company from Fort Knox, Ky.

"When the International Police Task Force (IPTF) requests EOD support, we go to the collection points and gather the ordnance for disposal," explains Treida, 27, an eight year EOD technician from Lafayette, Ind.

"Most of the ordnance we pick up from the local collection points has been stock piled or kept in people's houses. The majority of it is in a like-new condition, making it a lot safer to handle than the ordnance we pick up in the field," explained Treida.

Once the EOD team collects the ordnance, they take it to a demolition range where it is destroyed.

Local authorities and MND (N) Engineers work closely together to ensure that this successful program maintains its momentum and support.

Through the efforts of the local authorities dangerous materials are being removed from public areas and destroyed, creating a safer environment for all citizens and soldiers here in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Engineman Second Class Richard Phillips and Staff Sergeant John Treida prepare to place symtex explosives on top of ordnance. Sergeant Lundy (back ground) strings det-cord over the berm.

Engineman Richard Phillips and Staff Sergeant John Treida prepare C-4 explosives to place on top of a landmine.

# Combat Camera records soldier history as it happens

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

Click. Click. Click.

The soldier was doing something. It could have been any thing, really. He might have been loading a howitzer's breech, or walking a patrol or even taking fire. Whatever he was doing, Specialist John Jackson or Private First Class Joel Miller watched him through the viewfinder of a camera and then – click – the soldier's image was captured digitally.

Jackson and Miller are members of the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera) assigned to Camp McGovern. As such, it is their mission to visually document the Stabilization Force mission and how it proceeds at the camp. Their photos will be sent to the 55th team at Eagle Base, in Tuzla, on to the Joint Combat Camera Commission in Washington, D.C., and then on to the Pentagon for review. Often, the photos are used in briefings to allow people in the Department of Defense to understand visually what the event looked like.

Jackson said that trying to give someone an idea of what it's like to experience a moment in time is what being a Combat Camera soldier is all about. "I want to capture the moment," he said. "I want people to get a true feeling of what's going on."

For what is essentially a cut-and-dried mission of documentation, an eye for the artistic is not required, but Miller and Jackson said they endeavor to make each photo something more than just, "here's what

happened." Sometimes that's not possible. "If you've got bullets zipping by your head," Miller said, "then you get what you can."

Having bullets fly around them isn't an implausible situation for Combat Camera. They are, after all Combat Camera. In fact, video image gathering is another part of the Combat Camera mission and during a battle, that video can be sent live back to the Pentagon. "Our leaders who aren't deployed can still be on the scene because we're there," Miller said. "We call the 55th the 'Eyes of the Army' and that's what we are."

It seems the Army has a lot that it needs to see. The combat documentation specialists and production specialists of the 55th are, according to Jackson, some of the most frequently deployed soldiers in the Army.

He would know. He's beginning his third deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina. He's seen many different sides of the IFOR/SFOR mission here. He was kicked and hit by a mob while trying to photograph the instigators of a riot in Caparde and used his video camcorder as an aerial reconnaissance tool to assist a group of soldiers stuck in a particularly dangerous minefield.

Favorite among the photos he's taken during the three years he's been in the Army, however, is one that reflects the human side of the mission in Bosnia.

During a patrol, a Humvee went off the road and a soldier inside was injured. The convoy continued on for



Private First Class Joel Miller, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera) replaces a lens cover after switching lenses on his digital camera.

some distance before someone realized the loss and it turned around to assist the soldier. Returning to the site of the crash, the soldiers of the unit went to their wounded friend while Jackson began documenting the accident. "This was back when a lot of Bosnians didn't like us being here," Jackson said. "But when we first got back to the crash, a local civilian was giving (the injured soldier) first aid. He didn't want us here, but he threw that all out the window and treated the soldier just as a person who needed help."

Click.

Moment captured.



Specialist John Jackson, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera), documents the preparations of the first train to cross from Bosnia into Croatia.

# New ADA platoon for Bosnia filled by volunteer soldiers from deactivated unit

Story and photo by Sergeant First Class Sherry L. Claus  
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

When Sergeant First Class Frank Calderon discovered that the Army needed an Air Defense Artillery platoon in Bosnia, he and a select group of fellow soldiers from his deactivating unit at Fort Bliss, Texas, volunteered.

As compensation for deactivation, assignments to other military installations were offered, but there was no question for the members of the 1st Battalion, 2nd ADA, when Calderon began contacting them about the new mission. His phone didn't stop ringing until there were 75 men asking for the chance to fill one of the 14 allotted slots.

Calderon, a 35-year-old Los Angeles native, met with the Brigade Sergeant Major who told him of the Army-wide request for an ADA platoon.

"I looked at his list and saw a slot for a Sergeant First Class. I told him I would take it and asked him if he could give me a few hours to work this issue," said Calderon. "I called my old platoon and talked to a couple of NCOs and explained the situation. They committed themselves right away and began contacting the rest of our unit."

"There were some guys who only wanted to come because of the financial benefits and they were the first to be crossed off the list. Then there were some who had already gained a good deal of overseas experience and they were next off," explained Calderon. "I wanted to take the best with me, but I also wanted to give some of the younger, more inexperienced soldiers a great learning opportunity."

There doesn't seem to be any regrets among the men of the 1st Platoon, ADA Btry, 2nd ACR. Private First Class Benjamin E. Holt, a 19-year-old Santa Maria, Calif. native, is grateful for the experience.

"This deployment has given me the opportunity to learn skills I probably wouldn't have been able to back in the states," said Holt.

Sergeant Leroy Cook, a 26-year-old from Walterboro, S.C., was one of a handful of soldiers just back from six months in Saudi.

"I'd just come back from Saudi - I had no choice in that deployment. This was different because 75 people volunteered and only 14 got to come," said Cook. "It's great to be here with people who want to be here."

Specialist Edward E. Stahl gave up an assignment close to home. "I was to go to Fort Carson, Colo. but I wanted to come here for the experience," said the 21-year-old from Craig, Colo. "Most people will never get to come to a place like this."

After the platoon arrived in Bosnia, the requirements were changed from 14 to 19 men. Fill-ins came from outside the original unit.

All in all, this has been a very positive experience for this unusual platoon of active duty volunteer soldiers, and Calderon has nothing but praise for his men.

"I see them overcoming things, like learning to use equipment they had never before used since our old unit's equipment was already gone when this came up," said Calderon. "I also see a big difference in their attitudes versus other soldiers who were required to come here. They're just great guys and they deserve a little recognition."

In this age of the "Volunteer Army", these men of the 1st Platoon, ADA Btry, 2nd ACR, are living, breathing examples of the lengths dedicated volunteers will go out of loyalty.



Private First Class Benjamin Holt (sitting) operates the Avenger Air Defense Artillery by remote control as Sergeant Leroy Cook gives directions for missile fire during a practice training session.

# Mapping the terrain with technology

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

The old stereotype that “women don’t know how to read a map and men won’t even look at one” is farther from the truth here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Soldiers here, male and female, proficiently use terrain maps to accomplish their missions in this mountainous country.

So, how are maps made and how does a unit obtain one for their particular need? Those were questions posed to Sergeant John Tatum, the production noncommissioned officer for the 518th/526th Engineering Terrain Detachment.

“First, a unit puts in a request to the Collection Management Dissemination (CMD),” said Tatum, 22, from Captiva Island, Fla. “Then, CMD hands it down to us and I review it to determine whether or not the job can be done.”



(Left to right) Specialist Randy Johnson and Sergeant John Tatum use a map and PLGR (Precision Lightweight Global positioning system Receiver) to gather information and coordinates that will assist them in building a terrain map

Once the job has been approved, the terrain personnel start from the bottom up to build IPB (Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield) information — with products such as computerized image maps, graphical elevation representation tints and route specials.

“The purpose of any of these maps is to help a commander better visualize the terrain for the operation he/she may be planning for a particular scenario,” Tatum said, “such as ground, airborne, light infantry and armor.”

The task starts with a blank canvas and upon it, placing a backdrop obtained from compact discs supplied by the Topographic Engineer Command in Alexandria, Va., and the National Imagery & Mapping Association at Fort Belvoir, Va. The discs contain important tactical information for the area of operation for that project.

“Next, we overlay a satellite picture of the area of interest, and if requested, add a perspective view — which is like a pilot or tanker’s view of the terrain he or she would be focusing on,” said Tatum.

Sometimes those pictures are enhanced with digital photos taken by the team while manually surveying the area by foot or by flight.

“We then rectify or ‘add a grid’ to the canvas by computer means,” Tatum said. “This allows the end user to accurately find any point on the map with an accuracy of up to 10 meters. Once that is done, we make annotations on the map, using the mouse and key board, for preciseness and clarification.”

Some of the maps needing added attention are rail, firing range, route status, fly zone and engineering types.

“Annotating is the longest and largest part of putting a map together,” Tatum said. “It takes anywhere from five days to four weeks to complete one.”

The terrain office is open from 0700 to midnight, with the team working long hours, printing approximately 200 maps a month.

According to Tatum, the terrain team is not just “the map people” who plug away at a computer all day drawing cities, roads and mountain tops.

“We’re actually an intelligence asset,” Tatum said. “We go out and gather information for the commander in order for him or her to successfully negotiate any geographical obstacles that may impede their operation,” he said.

According to Specialist Randy Johnson, a team member with the 518th, terrain mapping is important because it provides graphical logistical support, whether it is in the planning or the actual movement phase.

“We provide the information that tells commanders where they can and cannot go,” said Johnson, 29, from Manitou Springs, Colo.

“The map is just a vehicle for us to convey that information to our customers — without it, achieving the mission would be difficult,” Tatum said.