

Honoring
Memorial Day



TALON



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



We have all heard there are three types of people – those who make things happen, the ones that stand by as things happen and those who wonder what happened.

My challenge to leaders is to reflect on how you fit into this adage and the type of measure that you are taking to set the example.

Many times in mentoring soldiers, leaders send messages that seem to convey “don’t do as I do, do as I say.” Many can think of someone doing on-the-spot corrections of the uniform, hair grooming or military bearing. The only problem was, these leaders failed to set the example themselves.

The other day I overheard a senior service member boast that he was going on his 10th day of wearing the same uniform. This person would have a difficult time commenting on the state on someone’s uniform when they themselves are not presentable. Besides the factor of personal hygiene, they failed to set the standards.

It is essential we stay in shape, set and maintain high physical fitness and meet the APFT requirements. If leaders fail to project a good physical image, how can they expect more of their soldiers?

Now, during this deployment, is a good time for all soldiers to take advantage of their time. Take the opportunity to improve your physical fitness, be conscious in the wear of the uniform and uphold a high military bearing.

Set the example and let the soldiers live up to your standards. A person who demonstrates and sets high standards for themselves can speak louder than all the verbal chastisements delivered. Leaders need to reflect on this daily and remember... TODAY IS THE BEST DAY TO BE A SOLDIER.

On the Cover

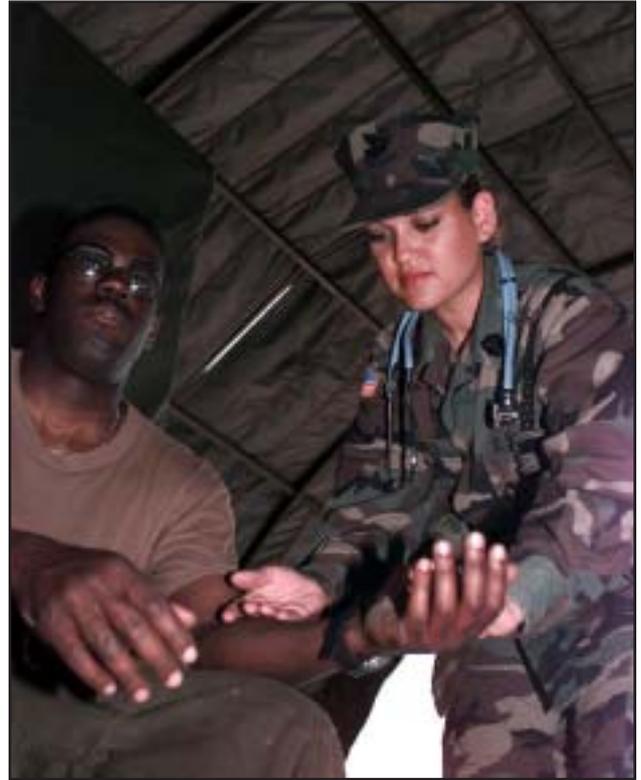
Representing the United States Armed Forces at Eagle Base are (left to right), Private Rene Williams, Army; Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Savage, Navy; Corporal Aaron McKee, Marine; and Staff Sergeant Kathy Weinman, Air Force. (Photo by Sergeant First Class Frank Casares, see page 6 and 7).

The Task Force Eagle Web site is located at 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.

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Medics teach heat casualty prevention



Petty Officer Second Class Blanca Flores gives a class on how to prevent heat casualty's at Camp Bedrock.

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

When most U.S. military service members think of Bosnia, cold weather comes to mind. However, the temperatures have been climbing to the unseasonable high 80's this May. The Stabilization Forces (SFOR) need to keep an eye out for heat related injures.

The staff of the aid station at Camp Bedrock is teaching all the soldiers to recognize the types of heat injury and how to give appropriate first aid.

"The hot weather has brought three heat casualties into the aid station already," stated Petty Officer Second Class Blanca Flores, with the 133rd Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (Seabees), from Gulfport, Miss. "It is very important to educate the U.S. military on how to identify and prevent becoming a heat casualty."

The medic's task isn't a simple one. They must be able to detect the signs and symptoms of heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. This information is vital for the education of more than 800 military personnel on Camp Bedrock. Keeping the soldiers of Task Force Eagle healthy in the heat helps successfully complete the peacekeeping mission here in the Balkans.

"If the soldiers can identify the symptoms of heat injures they can prevent someone from becoming a heat stress victim," said Flores, a Bronx, N.Y., native.

The consumption of water is the key in the prevention of

falling victim to heat injuries. Flores, the 31 year old combat medic said, "The number one substance to prevent heat injures is water."

Heat injuries are an ongoing problem because service members are too busy, or they forget to drink enough water daily. That is why the combat medics are here to remind the troops of the buddy system. Watching your buddy for heat injures is the responsibility of all soldiers here in Bosnia.

Some of the most common symptoms of heat exhaustion are profuse sweating with pale, moist, cool skin, dizziness, weakness, rapid breathing and confusion. A good means of treating a casualty, according to Flores, is move them to a cool or shady area and loosen or remove their clothing. Their body fluids must be replenished.

If the heat casualty is not treated when symptoms are present the possibility of heat stroke can happen, this is when the patient shows signs of red, hot, dry skin, headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, weakness, or loss of consciousness. This is a medical emergency and seeking medical help can save a life.

"Keeping an eye on your fellow troops is important with the rising heat," said Flores. "We hope through the education of all SFOR forces here at Bedrock we will prevent any heat injures."

Every where you look, water is available and the dining facility has ice available to all soldiers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Flores concludes with this advice, "Watch you buddy, and drink lots of water."

Joint civic effort on rebuilding

Story and photo by Sergeant First Frank Casares
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Another milestone was reached toward keeping the peace and rebuilding this once warring nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Through the efforts of the International Community, Stabilization Forces (SFOR) and local leaders, the Economic & Social Council of Semberija-Mejevica Region in BiH has been formed.

Colonel Alexander Iskrenko of the Russian Airborne Brigade at Camp Ugljevic, hosted the local leaders of four opstinas, Mitar Maksimovic, Muhamed Sadic, Milan Vukovic and Taib Muminovic, for this memorable event.

The main goals of the Economic and Social Council consist of reestablishing communications across the IEBL, focusing on infrastructure reconstruction, commerce and resettlement for refugees and displaced people. These goals are vital points on the road of reconstruction and the rebuilding of this nation.

Captain Kelly Broome, a member of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion in Abilene, Texas, and, was instrumental in organizing this notable gathering of key leaders from the opstinas of Ugljevic (RS), Teocak (FED), Lopare (RS) and Celic (FED).

Success of this meeting has not been without arduous precedents. Modest and painstaking steps that have proven successful in the past have lead to this prominent meeting. Broome, assigned to the Russian Airborne Brigade at Camp Ugljevic said, "In the past, I've had six opstinas sign declarations to support freedom of movement between entities." The establishment of ZOS (zone of separation) markets is one declaration that was signed between the opstinas of Celic and Lopare.

When the lines of communication were being reestablished, all entities were kept apart, dealing with each one on their side of the line. "In the beginning, our goal was to keep them apart, but now, we want to reintegrate between each other," explained Broome. From this observation, he developed the idea for an economic and social council to reestablish ties among the entities.

Mitar Maksimovic, Celic mayor was pleased with the meeting and he, like the others, expected positive results. Maksimovic said, "The roads, houses and the infrastructure in general, are destroyed and the people are emotionally hurt. Process of the reconstruction will be very complex."

The four mayors and the other community leaders gave praise and encouragement for the cooperative efforts in what they hope would be, the continuing rebuilding of their communities.

Amidst an audience of international community, all four local leaders signed the document that committed them to work together in this council. Assistant Division Commander (FWD), Brigadier General Anthony R. Jones, of the 1st Armored Division, witnessed their signatures.

Broome, a Humble, Texas native, commented, "I think these folks are ready and willing to start moving forward and start fixing some of the problems."

The success of this council and the accomplishments of its goals are tantamount to this region. If it succeeds, it will serve as a catalyst to other regions in this battered land of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The future appears brighter these days for this country as Teocak's mayor Muminovic reminded the participants, "We should work together, as we use to."



Colonel Alexander Iskrenko, Russian Brigade Commander at Camp Ugljevic, hosts the Economic and Social Council of Semberija-Mejevica Region in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Sitting left to right are Brigadier General Anthony R. Jones, Muhamed Sadic, Mitar Maksimovic, Milan Vukovic and Taib Muminovic.

New tower means better communication

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

When U.S. peacekeepers from this base camp travel throughout their 850-square-mile area of responsibility they rely heavily on the communications provided by the signal officer.

Today, some of that burden has been lifted, according to Captain Mark Jenkins, 33, of Clarksville, Ind., and placed atop a sturdy, new communications tower. Brown & Root construction workers recently completed the mammoth 30-foot-tall and 45-foot-wide, wood-framed structure.

According to Jenkins, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment signal officer, the new tower provides better elevation for increased communication and consolidation.

"First, it will allow us to elevate our communication antennas. Two, it will allow us to move all the antennas closer to the tactical operations center (TOC), thus cutting down on line loss," explained Jenkins, who is commonly referred to as the signal officer (SIGO).

Prior to the consolidation effort, antennas were dispersed throughout Dobol, which is strategically located in the Zone of Separation. "We were using a tremendous amount of cable. That resulted in up to a 30-percent decrease in transmission power," he said.

Plans are also underway to build a permanent TOC at the base of the new communications tower.

"Once the new TOC is built, the land line loss will be minimal. That means better communications throughout our sector," said Jenkins, who compared the broad, rugged Bosnian landscape to the Rocky and Appalachian mountain ranges back in the states.

Such geographical obstacles make it difficult for patrols in Republika Srpska cities of Zvornik, Srebrenica and Bratunac

— three of the most hotly contested regions during the three-year-long civil war.

This communications tower will improve our communication range, assured Jenkins.

And the U.S. spared no expense in the safety of the tower. The 20-foot-wide base is cast in concrete and metal support beams. The primary 8-inch by 8-inch support beams sprout skyward from their metal stilts to support a 10-foot-wide deck complete with lightning rod.



Sergeant Mike Jackson attaches antenna elements to an OE-254 FM antenna atop the new Camp Dobol communications tower.

"It is designed to withstand strong winds. It's built to last," he said as the sounds of hammers pounding and circular saws screeching echo from the tower as Brown & Root workers put the finishing touches on the tower.

A similar tower will be constructed later this summer at Camp Demi, he said.

In the meantime, the Dobol tower will help bring to an end communication frustrations for Operation Joint Guard peacekeepers who operate throughout Captain Jenkins' vast area of responsibility.

Memorial Day 1998 -

Story and photos by
Corporal Martha Louise Reyna
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The bugler's sound echoes in the breeze as the sound of Taps linger in the stillness of the day. Family members place American flags, flowers, wreaths or leave mementos on their beloved's graves, the heroes of our past. Solemn visits are paid to The Vietnam Wall, The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other hallowed memorials. Memorial Day is this and much more to the families that bestow respect and reverence on our country's



CW2 Debra K. Bass,
Sweetwater, Texas,
504th Military
Intelligence Brigade
Fort Hood, Texas

"Remembering the fact that many Americans have given their life to preserve the freedom we usually take for granted. Each year, I resolve to appreciate their sacrifice and visit a cemetery."



Private First Class
Neil Birch,
Durhamville, N.Y.,
208th Finance
Battalion (FWD)

"Coming from a military family, Memorial Day is an opportunity to honor and remember my family's heritage as well as pay tribute today's soldiers as they continue to uphold the standards our founding fathers.



Colonel Jacob M.
McFerren,
Hampton, Va.,
Chief Joint
Military
Commission

"Memorial Day is a day of reflection: reflecting on the sacrifices of all those who have gone before us in all services. This Memorial Day should be particularly special for us all because of our mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Corporal Aaron
McKee,
Simpsonville, S.C.,
2nd Force Service
Support Group 2nd
Landing Support
Battalion, Landing
Support Equipment
Company

"There are only two words that describe the meaning of memorial day - thank you. Memorial Day is the day America should pay tribute and remember the men and women who have sacrificed to keep our country free."



Major Jay Jennings,
Ft. Myers, Fla.,
WarTime Army
Safety Program
(WASP),
Headquarters,
Headquarters
Company, 1st
Armored Division

"In July 1982, my best friend died in a training accident while we were in the Officer Basic Course. On Memorial Day, I honor the memory of my friend Second Lieutenant Chris Bland."



Captain Madalyn S.
Kelly-Hinnant, Ft.
Lewis, Wash.,
593rd Area Support
Group

"Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those service members who have made a great sacrifice to our country."



Private First Class
Amy Rokia Cook,
Norfolk, Va.,
Company C, 141st
Signal Battalion

"Memorial Day is important to me because I come from a military family and it's a day we can pay our respects to all of the soldiers who gave their lives for our country."



First Lieutenant
Mark Aaron Locken,
Sacramento, Calif.,
Battery E, 1/22 Field
Artillery United
States Field Artillery
Training Center

"Memorial Day is a time to catch your breath, a little. Spend time with family and friends. Take a minute to think about the sacrifices made by previous generations."

a day of remembrance

fallen heroes.

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day and the first observance was May 30, 1868, is the day set aside for remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. May 30th remained the official day of observance until recently. It is now observed on the last Monday in May.

On this special day honoring their own, the Task Force Eagle soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines were asked to share in their personal reflections; their meaning of Memorial Day.



Staff Sergeant
Kathy Weinman,
Hastings, Neb.,
7th Expeditionary
Weather Squadron

"Memorial Day means remembering that others sacrificed their lives for our country. Also, this year it's a happy day for me because I'm leaving Bosnia to go home."



Sergeant Alexandre
Souto, Stoughton,
Mass., Company A,
2nd Battalion 22nd
Infantry, 10th
Mountain Division

"Memorial Day is a remembrance day to honor those soldiers who fought and died courageously for the freedom we sometimes take for granted."



Private First Class
Thuong Nyugen,
Buffalo, N.Y.,
Headquarters,
Headquarters
Company, Division
Support Command

"Memorial Day is a day to remember the soldiers that died for our country. It's a real special day for me. My dad served in the U.S. Army and past away a couple of days after the war was over."



First Sergeant
Vincent T. Crosby,
Fayetteville, N.C.,
21st Military Police
Company (Airborne)

"On Memorial Day we pay tribute to those who displayed the courage and duty to lay down their lives, pay the ultimate sacrifice, for our country and way of life. 'Freedom has a special meaning for those who have fought for it that the protected will never know', a quote I heard a long time ago and has left a significant impression on me."



Lieutenant Colonel
Craig H. Morton,
Nacogdoches,
Texas, 4013th
Garrison Support
Unit

"Memorial Day should be a time to pause and reflect on all that we have that was paid for by those who preceded us. It should be a time to appreciate those who died and to pledge our own resolve to never let those ideals be eroded."



Specialist Tyler
VanNoty, San Jacinto,
Calif., Company A, 2nd
Battalion 22nd Infantry,
10th Mountain Division

"Memorial Day is a great day to remember not only the soldiers who died but also the sacrifice made by their families."



Private Rene
Williams, Columbia,
S.C., 21st Military
Police Company
(Airborne)

"Memorial Day is the time that I give my admiration and respect to all the servicemembers who have fallen in all the conflicts around the world."



Petty Officer Second
Class Mark A.
Savage, Hull, Mass.,
Armed Forces
Network, Balkans

"Memorial Day to me is a time to honor our fallen heroes and to remember what they fought and died for. Without their sacrifices, we wouldn't have the rights and freedom many people take for granted."

Rails expedites military equipment

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

Camp McGovern soldiers are getting training and making history in the process, while at the same time, expediting their trips home. Members of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3/2 ACR) on May 16, loaded seventy-five pieces of equipment, consisting of 62 wheeled vehicles and 13 trailers, on rail cars at the Brcko Rail Station. A 20-member load team from the 503rd Maintenance Battalion based at Fort Bragg, N.C., and deployed in Taszar, Hungary, assisted the 3/2 ACR.

The significance of this event is that the rail station is the most direct route home for the troops, thereby eliminating an intermediate staging base for redeployment. Previous to this, returning soldiers had to ship their vehicles and equipment to Taszar before shipping them to Germany. The shipping process has been streamlined by the opening of the Brcko Rail Station to expedite the redeployments.

"The shipping of the pieces from this rail station is important for two reasons. An economic value is accrued to the local economy and to the Republic Srpska. Also, the use of the rail station shows that SFOR is impartial to what faction benefits from this effort," said Lieutenant Colonel Tom Palmer, of De Funiak, Fla., the Task Force Eagle G-4.

Since this operation was the first of its kind at Brcko, experienced load teams guided the operation through its

completion. Awareness to the fact that this operation hinged on the small details, necessary precautions were taken to assure that the soldiers worked safely and efficiently.

"The soldiers were understandably anxious to begin loading up; however, we wanted to be sure that they followed all procedures that would make their job flow smoothly. The soldiers have now come full circle by this loading operation for their return trip home," said Sergeant First Class Gregory Smalls, 35, of Fort Bragg, N.C., the rail boss from the 503rd Maintenance Battalion.

Smalls has supervised over 200 rail missions since his August 1997 deployment to the Bosnia theater of operations. He previously had opened the Lukavac Rail Station.

Minor snags that have the potential to snarl a mission were also closely monitored. The supply of blocking, binding and tie down equipment never became an issue during the three-day loading mission.

"Since this is the first time that this rail station is being used in this capacity, we were mindful of potential glitches that may occur. For the most part, this mission was a success for all involved parties including soldiers and civilians," said Sergeant First Class Crystal Merritt, 34, of Pontiac, Mich., the transportation NCOIC from the 16th Corps Support Group based in Taszar, Hungary.

Things are certainly improving for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and for SFOR soldiers.



Soldiers of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment wash their vehicles prior to inspection and load onto rail cars at the Brcko Rail Station.

Joint Visitor Bureau coordinates VIP visits

Story and photos by Sergeant First Class Frank Casares
345th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

“So who’s visiting today?”

That’s the question most often asked the member of Eagle Base’s Joint Visitor’s Bureau (JVB), the staff agency with the responsibility for arranging the visits of distinguished of guests to Multinational Division (North).

And MND(N) has hosted many distinguished guests. The President of the United States and the First Lady, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Army, Congressmen and representatives, admirals, ambassadors and foreign ministers, are just a few of the dignitaries for whom they have arranged visits. At one time or another, most have seen these guests here or at one of the other camps.

“Just the number of visitors at full Colonel and below is pretty impressive,” said Staff Sergeant Richard Arocho, NCOIC for JVB.

Mr. Troy Griffin, DA civilian protocol officer from Bad Kreuznach, Germany, said visitors play a very important role for MND(N). Everyone who comes here wants to find out more about the division’s mission, how our soldiers are doing and how they can help us. Griffin said, “It isn’t always easy to satisfy the visitor’s needs without totally disrupting a unit’s mission, so negotiation skills are a prerequisite to working in the JVB. But we always do our best to find a compromise so everyone is happy with the results.”

In addition to making detailed arrangements for these visitors, the JVB processes country clearances for all of them. “In April alone, we processed 374 request for country clearances, said Arocho, with the 123rd Main Support Battalion from Dexheim, Germany. And when MND(N) hosted 56 separate parties of distinguished visitors, as they did in April, that makes for one frantic work schedule.

According to JVB Chief, Major Stanley Jasiczek, with the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Field Artillery, from Fort Sill, Okla., “Our goal is to make each visit as nearly perfect as possible and to ensure each visitor gets what they wanted when they decided to come to the division. That isn’t always easy for our small staff, especially when we have several visits on one day. And it would not be possible without the teamwork and support of just about every unit and staff section in the division.”

So who arranges all these VIP visit? The staff of JVB – Just the Very Best.



(Left to right) Staff Sergeant Richard Arocho and First Lieutenant Ryan Whittemore meet visiting dignitaries at Tuzla Air Base and keep 'base' up to date on proceedings.



First Lieutenant Socrates Gusto discusses the logistics of a dignitary visit with the staff of JVB. (Left to right) Staff Richard Arocho, First Lieutenant Mark Aaron Locken and Mr. Troy Griffin.

Swedish soldiers hike the Bosnian hills



Sergeant First Class Nicklas Lindquist a squad leader with the Swedish Battalion, stops while on a social patrol to talk about life in the village.

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

“Battle Rattle” is rarely light or too pleasant to wear, especially while humping throughout the mountainous villages in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But, that is exactly what the Swedish soldiers do on a monthly basis—they call it “social patrol.” “We load several soldiers and an interpreter into a SISU (armored personnel carrier) and travel to a village,” said Sergeant First Class Nicklas Lindquist, Company B squadron leader. “We then go on a foot patrol and meet and talk with the people.”

The Swedish soldiers have been involved in such missions for years and feel that it is a necessary trek to instill a sense of trust in the people of the local communities.

“Social patrols gets the local nationals trusting us,” said Captain Ola Ronnback, Company B liaison officer. “Then, slowly, they begin to talk and we find out where the troubled areas are and target them for added attention.”

According to Ronnback, there are only three “hot spots” in the 107 villages he has personally visited — villages in their area of control which contain 85,000 habitants, 18,000 being displaced people.

“The residents in the troubled areas are upset, most often, because some type of aid was promised to them, but have never received it,” said 33-year-old Ronnback. “So, I find out what the need is, check to see what I can do on this level and then I do it.”

The procedure is for a liaison officer to take the pledging international organization out to the villages and help them

get in contact with the mayor in an effort to get the needed help that was promised.

“I visit different villages four to five times a week, including one of the hot spots, and keep a log on each; noting the number of residents, the percentages of each religion living there, the mayor’s name, what type of assistance each village needs and the dates that each community was visited,” explained Ronnback.

First Lieutenant Lars Wetterskog, Company B mechanized infantry platoon leader, the liaison officer is able to direct the soldiers to a particular village on each social patrol because of the cooperation between Ronnback, the mayors, refugee camps and the schools.

“When we are out, most of the local nationals are happy to see us, especially the children,” said Sergeant Krister Gatvert, 25, a Swedish squad leader with the mechanize infantry. “They know we are friendly and are there to help.”

Lindquist is observant of the fact that the patrol teams enjoy going to the schools to give away books and educational supplies gathered from different organizations, schools, family members and friends from Sweden.

“It feels good to see a child smiling and jumping around in excitement,” said 24-year-old Lindquist, “especially when they receive things they are lacking.”

“The social patrols are part of our mission here,” said the 25-year-old platoon leader, “but it’s a task that we enjoy.”

Ronnback points out that patrolling is not only a mission of fun, but it is also a force protection and intelligence measure.

“The more we get out and make ourselves known throughout the villages,” said Ronnback, “the more the locals will see us as friends and realize that SFOR is good for them.”

Marines – coordinate movement of cargo

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

Landing on a Pacific beachhead in late 1943, the Marines quickly began unloading cargo from their ships in preparation for the ground troops that would soon follow on their heels.

Another landing craft arrived, then another and yet another. Soon the beach was teeming with men in similar uniforms. Extra hands began removing supplies from the Marine's watercraft. Suddenly, members of the Marine platoon were being sent forward with the infantry troops. Confusion abounded – who belonged where? Scenes like this were enacted all over the Pacific theatre during World War II.

Normally, Marines do stand out in a crowd but these were unusual circumstances and something had to be done to distinguish them from the other units on the beaches.

Since that time, all members of the Marine Corps Landing Support Battalions (LSB) wear distinctive red patches on their hats and pants in order that all services involved in operations with them will know immediately who they are and what their

function is.

As Staff Sergeant Sean Patrick Milfs, the 36-year-old, LSB team leader at Tuzla Air Base, puts it, “That red patch tells everyone that we know what’s going on during a deployment and we become the nucleus of all movements on site – they can take their cues from us.”

These specialized units are qualified to do air, beach and rail heads, port operations and helicopter landing zone missions in which they compile and push through men, equipment and supplies during first, second and third waves of assaults.

For the 11 team members from Camp Lejeune, N.C., who arrived here on March 14 to replace the Air Terminal Movement Control Team (ATMCT), this is a whole different world for several reasons.

Working in conjunction with the Air Force, the LSB team has basically two missions. They separate the cargo that the Air Force unloads from aircraft landing at Charlie Ramp, check the Department of Defense Address Code that is assigned to each unit, then contact the units or agencies to come pick up their shipment. The one exception is the mail, which goes directly to the post office from the aircraft.

The second mission is just the reverse. When cargo comes to the Air Base by land, the LSB team fills out a Transportation Control Movement Document – a tracking tool – and the boxes are then palletized and made ready for shipment. The Air Force picks up the pallets, takes them to the aircraft and loads them onboard.

“Most guys here are not used to joint operations – especially of this magnitude,” said Milfs. “We are also an eye-opener for many folks at Eagle Base. They don’t expect the Marines to be in this theatre and we’re not only here, but also we are working actively with the Air Force at the Air Base under the auspices of the Army. The other services have been wonderful to us.”

This particular assignment is also an eye opener for the LSB team members in that they are not used to having some of the amenities provided them during this deployment. Initially quartered in tents with actual floors and kerosene heaters for warmth, the team now lives in Sea huts. They have three hot meals per day and shower/latrine facilities with running water. These are things many of us take for granted but are considered luxuries by the LSB team.

“We’ve already had several guys volunteer to extend their deployment here,” laughed Milfs. “We’re not used to these comforts but we will certainly take advantage of them as long as we can!”

The Marines are here because the Army has depleted their ATMCT units – active, Reserve and National Guard.

So, until the Army begins to recycle the units who have already served a deployment in Bosnia-Herzegovina, we will continue to see that bright red patch on a select few, proud Marines. The LSB team still happens to know what’s going on here at the Tuzla Air Base, just as they did in the Pacific Theatre during WWII over 40 years ago.



Lance Corporal David G. Jauregui checks routing slips on supplies received at Tuzla Main Airfield.

MPs provide checkpoint

Story and photo by Sergeant Craig M. Spencer
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Detaining personnel may sound like a job for the military police, but any soldier may be faced with that responsibility during their military career, especially here in Bosnia.

The 1st Platoon, 630th Military Police Company from Baumberg, Germany, takes their job seriously. They realize that given the right situation, any soldier may be required to perform military police duties.

The military police are training the soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Camp Dobol on how to break down a suspected illegal checkpoint, according to the International Police Task Force checkpoint policy and the Joint Military Commission handbook.

"We are familiar with the techniques required in order to take down an illegal checkpoint and detain personnel,"

said Corporal David Mclean, 23, of South Gate, Mich.

"Our goal is to give them a tool to use to safely break down a checkpoint, minimizing the risks to themselves and maintaining the dignity and respect of the local nationals," explained Sergeant Scott Hadfield, 23, of Tombstone, Ariz.

According to Mclean, the training that they are giving the soldiers is real important. "It can save their life when dealing with people or with weapons they have never had to deal with as a regular soldier," he said.

"If you pull up on an illegal checkpoint, you know they are doing something wrong. You have to take formal steps to take the checkpoint down," said Specialist Justin M. Robbins, 21, of Modesto, Calif.

Robbins emphasizes, "You have to make sure their hands are free of their weapons, and they are not trying to do anything to harm you.

"It is important to know the correct procedure and techniques so that no soldiers get hurt. It is also important for the individual getting detained so they don't get hurt and lose their dignity and respect in the process," commented Robbins.

Tactically positioning the vehicles and personnel is important. Explaining what each soldier's job is during the procedure and the logic behind it, gives soldiers a better understanding of what is expected from them, said Hadfield.

"Basically, all this training is teaching soldiers a safe way to break-down a checkpoint without getting hurt. With the techniques we have shown them, they should be confident in performing these tasks if they are ever required to do so," concluded Robbins.

