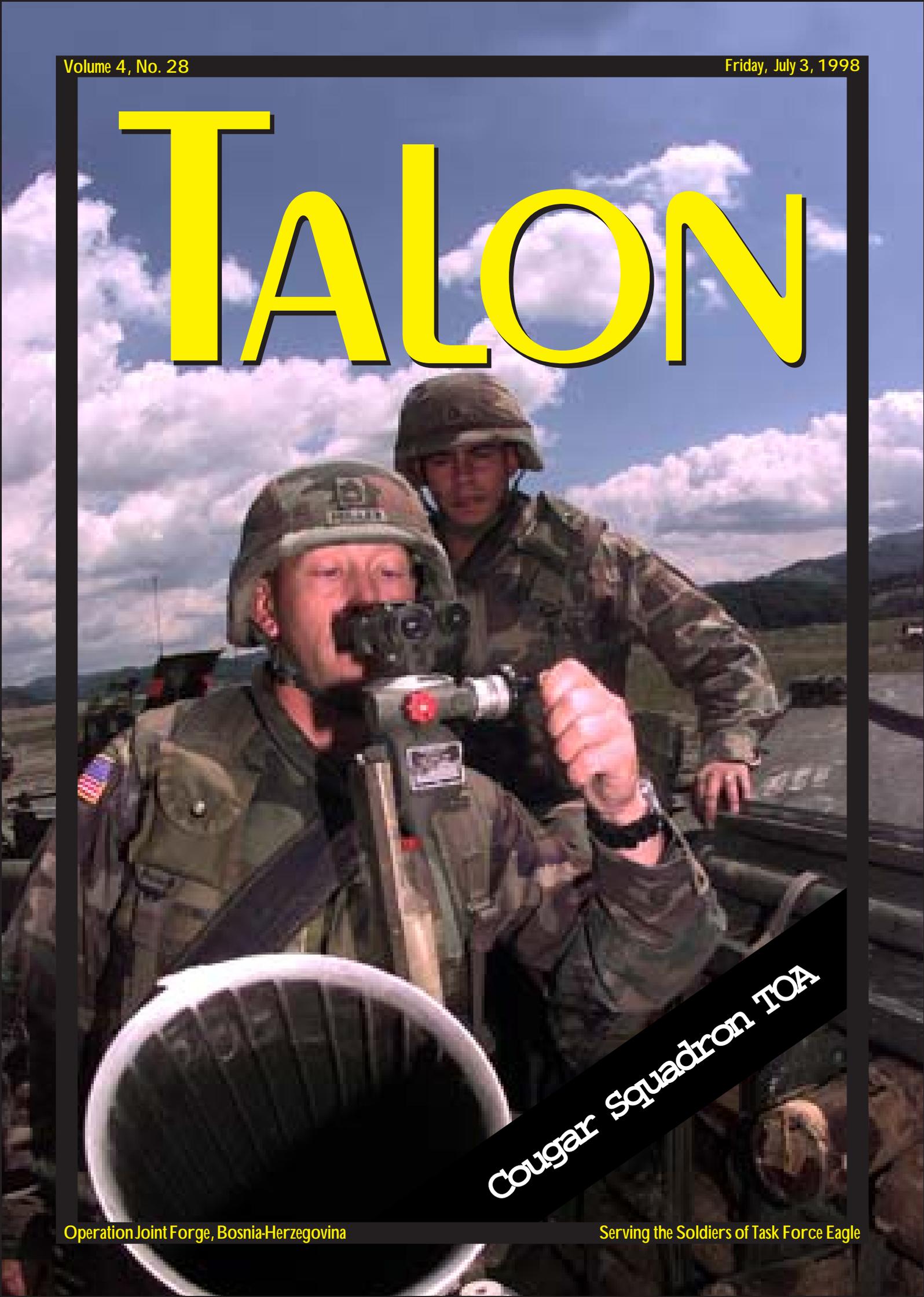


TALON



Cougar Squadron TOA

Talon

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On the Cover

(Left to right) Platoon Sergeant Steven A. Miller and Private First Class Juan A. Morales conduct a dry gunner's exam in preparation for the July live fire exercise at Glamoc. (Photo by Sergeant Tim Fischer, see page 9).

“In the final choice, a soldier’s pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner’s chains.” – General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, Inaugural Address, 29 January 1953

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.

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

Task Force Eagle Troopers, this is my last article for the Talon corner and I just wanted to pass on to you again, how important the job is that you are doing here. Our country is one year older and we all have had a part in that. This year, the 4th of July may have a new meaning to many of you. The first time I was in a different country over this holiday, I saw how much our forefathers gave to me. I know how much I was blessed with the many things I had taken for granted. Little things, like freedom of choice and of religion, the right to vote, and the freedom of expression.



Each camp will celebrate this traditional holiday in different ways. But all of us should remember what the price was to gain these rights I speak of. We are working in a country that is trying to ingrain some of these same values into their daily lives. We can see how difficult the process may have been for our forefathers to make these things come true for us.

The longer I am in the military and the more I learn about my profession by studying the history of the units I serve in, the more I learn of the sacrifices that have allowed our country to grow and be as great as it is today. Our country's birth came from a struggle and the hopes and dreams of many.

Today we are serving that great country in an effort to give another country the chance to be born into a new era of its life. Making a country work is tough business and you all are working very hard to allow that to happen. You are making history that younger soldiers, some not yet born, will read about. You should be proud that you are part of the units that are accomplishing so much for the sake of peace. We have a great nation and a great military. Be proud of our country and of what you are doing for our country and always remember that **“TODAY IS THE BEST DAY TO BE A SOLDIER.”**

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Hospital for Zvornik seen as 'investment for the future'



Mr. Milorad Dodic, Prime Minister of Republika Srpska National Assembly, thanks the United States for the international aid used to renovate the war-shattered Zvornik General Hospital.

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

Deeming it an "investment into the future," top international and local officials in this war-torn country praised the \$640,000 renovation project that turned Zvornik General Hospital from a bombed-out structure to a viable health care facility.

"Not only is this an investment in the future of Zvornik, it is more importantly an investment in the future of your children," said Mr. Richard Kauzlarch, U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, during a turnover ceremony at the front entrance of the hospital, Friday, June 19.

The U.S. AID (Agency for International Development) funds came to this Republika Srpska city via a Municipal Infrastructure Services Project, according to Captain Rozeanne Edrington, a Civil Affairs team leader from nearby Camp Dobol.

"U.S. AID has maintained control of it (the hospital) throughout the rebuilding project," she explained. "The turnover ceremony actually gives control of the facility to the local municipality. Basically, it's a gift from the United States."

Edrington and several other Civil Affairs representatives from the U.S. base camp attended the turnover ceremony even

though they played a small role in the transition of U.S. aid. When talking about this kind of dollar amount, the U.S. AID is the primary player in the international effort, she noted.

Dobol Civil Affairs soldiers were to return to the Zvornik General Hospital on Monday, June 29, to deliver donated wheelchairs provided by Hope Haven International via International Aid of Michigan.

Meanwhile, Mr. Craig Buck, head of U.S. AID in Bosnia, offered his own accolades to the leaders of Zvornik. "This is proof that those who support the Dayton Peace Accord benefit," he said.

The signing of the Dayton Peace Accord in November 1995 officially ended a four-year-long civil war between Bosnians and Serbs earlier this decade. Since then, international aid has been offered to those groups and municipalities that adhere to the strict policies that ultimately provide peace in the Balkan region.

Just this year, 1.5 million Deutsche marks in U.S. AID funds have been earmarked for Zvornik projects, Buck noted. "In fact 33 million Deutsche marks have been spent in the Republika Srpska this year," he added.

In closing, Ambassador Kauzlarch said, "As the sun warms us today, we hope this hospital will be a place of healing long into the future."

Bosnian conducts language classes

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

Ja sam Sabina prevodibc Poducovcm Bosanki' jezik Am ericke vojnike u Bosni. Interpretation: I am Sabina, interpreter. I am teaching the Bosnian language to American soldiers in Bosnia.

One of the first obstacles the Stabilization Forces (SFOR) members encounter in participating in the Operation Joint Forge peacekeeping mission, is the language barrier.

Petty Officer First Class Jeffery R. Green, a 28 year-old Huntsville, Ala., native is doing something to bridge the gap. Green is with the 133rd Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (Seabees), from Gulfport, Miss.

He has initiated the first steps in learning the language here in Bosnia by taking classes offered at Camp Bedrock.

"As part of Seabees Camp Pebbles security platoon, we have constant interactions with the local nationals," said Green. "I thought it would be useful to learn the language, that way it would be easier to communicate with them."

Working directly with the U.S. service members is Sabina Hodza, a 36 year-old Bosnian interpreter, who lives in the town of Lukavac. Mrs. Hodza, has been teaching the language to Task Force members at Bedrock for nine months now. The classes are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays at 18:00 to 19:00 in the library tent J-2, and are available to all the soldiers at Bedrock.

Working directly with the local population without the proper communication skills is a large challenge for U.S. service members.

"Right now we have been using hand signals which is not always an effective way to communicate," said Green. "I thought learning the language would not only help me at my job, it is also a challenge that I am looking forward to tackle."

Mrs. Hodza, along with Bedrocks Morale, Welfare, and Recreation coordinator, established the language classes.

"It is really interesting to watch the Americans learning our language," said Mrs. Hodza. "Once they start learning you can see the excitement in their faces."

Investing the time to acquire a new language has been

enticing to many U.S. service members. The class size fluctuates between 3-9 students each week. The flexible class arrangements are one of the most important features of the class.

"Sometimes I can't make it to the class because of my mission obligations, yet, the way the classes are set up its not a big deal," said Green. "I just pick up were I left off the last time I was in class, and carry on from there."

Green, along with all the military members at Bedrock has a wonderful opportunity to enhance his ability to



Petty officer 1st class Jeffery R. Green receives instructions on the proper way to speak the Bosnian language by Sabina Hodza.

communicate with the local population here in Bosnia. Taking classes to learn the language is the first step in overcoming the culture obstacles.

U.S. church donates school supplies to Srebrenik Child Care Center

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

The Srebrenik Child Care Center that was formerly closed during the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is the recent recipient of school supplies, toys, and other gifts courtesy of Sergeant Dave Rice, 36, of San Antonio, Texas. Rice solicited the support of his father's church – Woodhaven Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Sergeant Rice, a radar operator deployed at Camp McGovern with Battery E, 133rd Field Artillery from San Antonio, Texas, first became interested in donating some much needed supplies when he visited a nearby school at Brka.

"After seeing the children lacking basic supplies to do their schoolwork, I was convinced of the need for charitable help to be provided," said Sergeant Rice.

He said that seeing how the war affected the children was very enlightening. "Their situation gives me an appreciation for the job that the SFOR troops have done to assure the peace. It's hard to imagine what it must be like for a normal existence to cease, but it did. And, the children suffered for it," Rice said.

The childcare center that has 80 students is the only one in the Srebrenik area. Currently, there are nine teachers on the staff.

"This aid is the first of its kind for the daycare center. We are grateful for this generosity that helps meet a need; there is so little money for us to do our mission here," said Senada Kovac, a teacher at the school.



Sergeant Dave Rice helps children unpack boxes of toys at the Srebrenik childcare center.



Children gleefully play with toys donated by the Woodhaven Baptist Church.



Specialist Nichole Anderson, of Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 1/1 Cav, sings the National Anthem during the TOA ceremony.

U.S. Southern S

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Jack McN
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

One of the strongest links of the peace
ing chain of Operation Joint Guard/Fo
been replaced by another proven,
tested rung that actually provided the initi
toward tranquillity here nearly three years ag

The 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry
ment turned over the reigns of this pivotal An
base camp to the 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. C
from Buedingen, Germany, during a Transi
Authority ceremony Tuesday, June 23, at Do

The last of the nearly 1,000 2/2 ACR troop
occupied Dobo1 and its sister facility — Camp
— redeployed to Fort Polk, La., on Sunday, Ju

“When you leave this country, you leave it
better than you found it,” Colonel Dennis Har
ACR commander, told members of
2nd Squadron.

“To Cougar Squadron (2/2 ACR), in March w
able to peacefully get Bosniacs back into Sreb
...Mission complete! Well done!



(Left to right) Colonel Dennis Hardy, Lieutenant General Hew Pike, and Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Smith converse with Major General Larry Ellis.



Lieutenant Colonel Mark Littell, left, and Colonel Major James Green, furl the 2nd Dragoons' color during the TOA ceremony.

Sector transferred to Black Hawk Squadron

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"To the Black Hawks (1/1 Cav), some of you we welcome back. But things have changed. Your goal should also be to make this country better than when you found it this month," Hardy continued.

The 1/1 Cav first deployed to Bosnia shortly after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in November 1995. In fact, the decorated regiment's tanks were the first to rumble across the Sava River and into a war-charred Bosnia on Christmas Eve, 1995.

As evident of its 89 battle-earned streamers that top the Colors of the 1st Dragoons, the 1/1 Cav has proudly displayed its longevity in a kaleidoscope of battles. Its history dates back to 1833, when by an act of Congress, "the Regiment of United States Dragoons" was formed to provide a more perfect defense of the frontiers. The Regiment's first duty was on the frontier pacifying the Plains Indians and, ironically, keeping the peace.

Battles during the Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish American War, World War II, Vietnam War, and the Persian Gulf War are well documented in the history of the 1/1 Cav.

The 2/2 ACR returns home this month after

completing yet another successful mission. The 2nd Dragoons are members of the oldest serving regiment on continuous active duty in the United States Army. The Regiment was established on May 23, 1836 to fight in the Florida Seminole campaigns.

Battles during the war against Mexico, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II and Persian Gulf War followed. The 2/2 ACR initially tested its peacekeeping skills in 1995 in Haiti.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J.J. Smith, 1/1 Cav commander, applauded his predecessor's ability to provide peace in Bosnia. "The 2nd Dragoons have set the standard. You have earned our respect," he said during the TOA ceremony.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Littel, 2/2 ACR commander, also dealt out his own accolades to his successors. "You're more than ready for the mission. Your troops have the eye of the tiger," he said.

It was Littel who polished his troops' glistening link in the lengthening peacekeeping chain of Operation Joint Guard/Forge. On this cloudy, cool summer morning in the heart of the Zone of Separation, Littel so fittingly stated, "The sun's not shining, but it's bright outside."



Command Sergeant
Colors to be cased



Major General Larry Ellis presents members of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment with a plaque in appreciation of their service during Operation Joint Guard/Forge.

Company A, 440 Signal Battalion key to Communications at Bedrock

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

As late as the turn of the century, if a commander needed to communicate with his troops or other commanders on the battlefield, he had to send a messenger on foot or horseback. This was a risky means of communications (commo) and limited the area of operations.

In today's modern world, the Army mission is a global one and commanders, more than ever, rely on communications to accomplish the mission.

Members of Company A, 440th Signal Battalion are helping to accomplish the peacekeeping mission here in Bosnia by providing primary communications for Camp Bedrock.

"Our primary mission is to provide Task Force 2-6 Infantry with secure and non-secure telecommunications," said Specialist Steven C. Atlas, 30, an electronic switching systems operator.

The hub for communications is a Small Extension Node (SEN) switch. A SEN is a system mounted on the back of a Humvee that collects and routes all voice and data transmissions from the camp before being transmitted via Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radio to a node center.

Atlas is a part of a signal support team that provides many different types of commo for soldiers and sailors stationed at "the Rock."

"Besides telephone capabilities we also provide FM to telephone and Internet access," explains Atlas, a six-year veteran, of Chicago, Ill.

"FM to telephone allows a SINCGARS operator to access the SEN on a preset channel. Through a net radio interface, we can connect the radio subscriber to a telephone subscriber."

SINCGARS is an acronym which stands for Single Channel Ground and Airborne Subsystem and is the key link to combined radio and telephone communications.

Finally, according to Atlas, Internet access enables soldiers to access information needed to complete a mission from data bases located in the rear, or communication through email.

Atlas and the other team members play a key role in the peacekeeping mission by maintaining communications that keeps the Army connected and online.



Specialist Steven C. Atlas organizes commo cables that provide Camp Bedrock with primary communications.

Teamwork and mortars a plus side asset in fire support

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

A call for indirect fire support follows: section, one gun, two rounds, deflection 2750, charge 19, elevation 0900,...level, check, level, check,...and the final command is one gun up! The sounds of the four-deuce indirect mortar support are distinct and precise.

Recently the mortar Platoon of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, out of Baumholder, Germany, conducted a dry gunner's exam at Camp Bedrock, in preparation for the July live fire exercise at Glamoc firing range.

"In order for us to carry out our indirect mortar mission here in Bosnia, it takes a total team effort," said Private First Class Thomas A. Folden, an 18-year-old Melvindale, Mich. native. "What most people don't realize is one person alone cannot successfully perform the peacekeeping mission here at Camp Bedrock, it takes the whole team."

Although the weapon has changed with technology through the ages, the need for fire support missions for the infantry line units has not changed. Communication and skill have



Specialist Carl J. Selby of Helena, Montana, conducts his gunners exam on the four-deuce mortar system.



(Left to right) Private First Class Juan A. Morales Jr. and Private First Class Thomas A. Folden conduct gunner exams on the four-deuce mortar weapon system.

established the mortar teams as a lethal weapon for the U.S. military services.

The members of the mortar platoon speak a distinct language of their own. Using terms like, deflection, elevation, traversing crank, aiming circle, and aiming stakes may seem foreign to many of us, however this type of communication is the pivotal link between the men and their mission.

"Without communication we could not accomplish the mission of sending rounds down range," said Folden, an 11 Charlie mortar-man. "Working as a four-man team, it takes communication that is synchronized. It's like we have our own language."

Along with their duties as the indirect fire support for the task force, the mortar platoon is also performing as the Quick Reactionary Force (QRF) here at Bedrock. The QRF mission is a 24-hour a day, seven days a week task.

"We have a dual mission here in the Balkans indirect fire mortar support, and the QRF responsibilities," said Sergeant First Class Steven A. Miller. "The men of the mortar platoon have proven their capabilities here today, most of them scored expert on the gunner's exam." With the sounds of "GUN UP" in the air, the members of the 2/6th Mortar Platoon are looking forward to the live fire exercise in July.

Red Cross provides emergency services for service members and families

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

In good times and in bad, the American Red Cross (ARC) is there—supporting military and civilian personnel deployed around the world.

And for the seven members of the “X-Team,” who arrived here in Tuzla and Tazsar just weeks ago, the four-month, 24-hour, seven-day-a-week assignment is a very important one.

“Our mission is to provide emergency communications between service members and their families back home,” said Mike Stull, Director of Operations and Team Leader on Eagle Base. “We also provide the same service to civilians who are deployed for military support operations.”

ARC services include death and critical illness notifications, birth announcements, child care and family problems assistance.

“We enjoy the child birth messages the most, though we don’t get too many of them,” said Stull, 55, from Wilder, Ky.

The ARC receives messages via email from other ARC offices around the world, according to Stull.

“In the past, the process of emailing was much slower because of problems with the telephone lines,” said Roland Born, 52, an ARC team member from Cleveland, Ohio. “The Internet has improved that process tremendously.”

Another improvement that has come a long way from its original form, that started approximately 10 years ago, is the tracking of a “case” or an individual that has been serviced by the ARC.

“After we arrived here, the CHERS (Chapter Human Environment Resources System) software was loaded into our computer system which allows us to track everything about a person and the services we provided to them,” Stull said.

According to Stull, the team has a specified number of hours, after receiving a message, to reply to the corresponding ARC office.

“Once we get the message, we have to get it to the soldier or civilian, know what action he or she is going to take, have the supervisor’s approval for that action and reply back to the local ARC within 18 hours,” Stull said.

The notification process also runs in reverse—with the individual going to the ARC for more information about the illness or death of a family member the soldier may have heard about while on a morale call or through their personal email.

“We can get the most current information from the local ARC office, along with a doctor’s interpreted statement—such as the condition of the family member, prognosis, life expectancy and recommendation for the service member’s presence, or a statement from the mortuary—and inform the soldier or civilian,” Stull said.

The ARC team member will follow a case through until the situation has worked itself out—at which time, the case will be closed.

“We can always reopen a case if necessary,” Stull said. “We will continue to do all we can to help a soldier in need.”

According to Stull, the ARC does more than just help with

communications; they also provide “comfort kits”, or personal hygiene and toiletries, along with other little things to out-of-the-way units. They also offer free coffee, snacks and books. Videos can be signed out at no charge.

“Plus, we have trivia night every Saturday evening,” Stull said, “and a cookout every second Thursday of the month.”

All of this is just one more way the ARC reaches out to the soldiers and civilians at home and away.



American Red Cross team member, Roland Born, explains all the services offered by the ARC to Private Raymond Carruth, from Bravo Company, 1 Battalion, 6th Infantry.

“Being here and wearing the uniform brings us closer to military members and their civilian counterparts,” Stull said. “We want to show that we are a part of them, participating and supporting them wherever they go.”

When you need them, the ARC is always there.

Fathers-to-be find mutual support

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

After a long day of work at a place called Pebbles there is one more thing the Naval "Seabees" have to do before their day is complete. Camp Bedrock is located roughly a quarter mile away from Pebbles and the Seabees have to endure a journey up a steep, dusty, gravel road to get there.

"I use the long walk back to Bedrock to reflect on the days work, and to pray for the safety of my wife and family during her pregnancy," said Petty Officer Third Class John M. Defelice, a 27-year-old Port Henry, N. Y., native.

"My wife is going to give birth to our third child while I'm here in Bosnia participating in Operation Joint Forge, and her well-being is at the front of my thoughts and concerns every day," said Defelice, with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion out of Gulfport, Miss.

Defelice conducts his daily business as a Machinery Repairman for the Seabees at Pebbles in support of the U.S. military Task Force at Bedrock. Even though he is away from his family, Defelice is not alone. Working out of the same maintenance bays is another soon to be first time father, Petty Officer Second Class Curtis R. Frisby, a 23-year-old Eldorado,

Ariz., native, who's wife is also expecting.

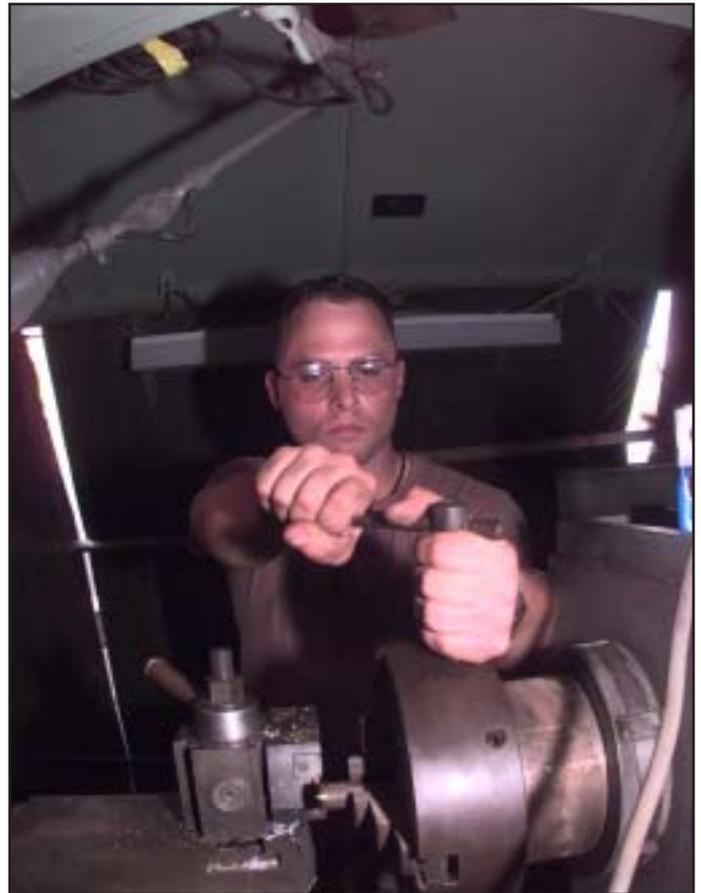
"Working side by side with someone who is experiencing the same difficult time, is helping me to deal with being away from my wife," said Frisby. "Defelice has really been a big help. He has talked to me quite extensively about becoming a new father, and what to expect."

"I have been receiving support from both ends of this difficult time, both here and at home," stated Frisby. "My wife's mother has gone down to Mississippi to stay with her and help out around the house during my absence, and my fellow Seabees have supported me through the hard times here in Bosnia also."

The two Seabees are trying to plan their 14-day R&R time in order to be home during the delivery times.

One of the keys to success with U. S. military involvement here in the Balkans has been teamwork. Frisby and Defelice are an example of the teamwork and personal sacrifice made by the men and women performing their military duties in Bosnia.

On a personal note, both men wanted to say, "Thank you Michelle Defelice and Gale Frisby for being supportive wives and great mothers throughout this hard time, and we love you!"



(Left to right) Petty Officer Second Class Curtis R. Frisby and Petty Officer Third Class John M. Defelice conduct their daily business as mechanic repairmen.

Engineers conduct explosives training

Story and Photo by First Lieutenant Lillian Sydenstricker
196th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

You get an explosive kind of training when two units train together. That's what happened when Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry received demolition training from the 84th Engineers.

"This is part of our battle drills, part of what we do as a rifle platoon. We knock down breaches, destroy obstacles that are in our way," explains 2nd Platoon Leader, First Lieutenant Eric Anderson, 24, of Aurora, Ill.

The Engineers taught four basic classes with a few sub-tasks. In the end, the soldiers got a hands-on exercise where they handled and blew the explosives. The classes ranged from familiarization to demolitions and safety, to field expedient methods for blowing the explosives.

Assistant noncommissioned officer in charge for the 84th Engineers, Sergeant Harry White, 28, of Rock Hill, S.C., explains why the training took place, "This training allows

the infantry soldiers to handle the mission when the engineers weren't available."

The engineers are part of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Fort Polk, La.

Some infantry soldiers have never done this training and for some this is a refresher course. "This is preparing us for our war-time mission. It is giving us the knowledge and the skills to counter obstacles in our way," commented Staff Sergeant Emanuel Spence, 34, of Albany, Ga.

Charlie 2-6 from Baumholder, Germany, usually does this training at least two times a year, but the mission in Bosnia has limited the training.

"This is primary stuff we need to be proficient at our job," Anderson added.

Both units are participating in Operation Joint Forge.

"If these soldiers could walk away with anything from this training, it would be the understanding of demolitions, respect for them, and how to utilize it for their mission," concluded White.

Staff Sergeant Randy McClair checks the electrical wire during demo training.