

# TALON

# Talon Inside



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**Gearing up for transition**

By Command Sergeant Major  
**Dwight J. Brown**  
*Task Force Eagle CSM*



Redeploying can often times be as stressful as deploying. Many units are in the process of conducting re-integration classes, but I want to emphasize a few points that I'm sure you already heard or will hear soon from your unit leadership. I strongly encourage you not to rush back and jump into your old routines. Gradually work your way back. Life has gone on at home with family and friends just like it has here in Bosnia. Many spouses have become proficient at tending children, household and financial responsibilities alone. Attempting to quickly jump right back into your previous role in that process could potentially create problems. It generally works better if you gradually transition to normal family life and routines.

Many redeploying soldiers make the mistake of concentrating on the reunion with their spouse, and they forget that the children have missed the returning parent just as much.

Although many of you have been driving military vehicles while deployed, I strongly encourage you to take a few days off before cranking up your vehicle and taking off on any trips. The Army Safety Center records case after case of fatal auto accidents involving soldiers who had returned from deployments less than 24 hours before the accident. What should have been a happy occasion for friends and families resulted in tragedy.

For those of you who plan on drinking, know this: alcohol, will have a stronger affect on you now! Your tolerance is lower now and I urge you to use prudence before taking your first drink. Give yourself a chance to adjust. And whatever you do, don't drink and drive.

Remember, the mission is not over until the re-deployment phase is complete. Do not ruin a great deployment because you didn't **"Dare to make a difference."**

### On the Cover

Private First Class Nathaniel P. Harris, a 19-year-old Tacoma, Wa. native, sets his sights on a target during High Intensity Conflict training at Camp Bedrock. (Photo by Sergeant Tim Fischer. See next page.)

"I say we are going to have peace even if we have to fight for it." – Dwight D. Eisenhower

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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.

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# Camp Bedrock soldiers trained, ready for high, low intensity conflicts



Specialist Robert C. Mamaril, a 22-year-old Jacksonville, Fla. native, awaits the next command during High Intensity Conflict training at Camp Bedrock. Mamaril serves with the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

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

**I**nfantry soldiers must always be prepared for an all-out pedal-to-the-metal battle, appropriately called High Intensity Conflict. Infantrymen must also concern themselves with more civil matters such as crowd control and rioting called Low Intensity Conflict. Most infantrymen

are particularly familiar with training for HIC.

Preparing for HIC requires many complex steps, the most important of which is training soldiers to be ready for any life-threatening contingency. Such training involves days and nights of hard work, and is a continuing operation at Camp Bedrock.

The 3rd Platoon of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment from Baumholder, Germany, is ensuring their unit is prepared for battle by training for both LIC as well as HIC.

Performing step by step procedures on how to act in battle, and the right way to react, are priorities for the Bravo Company Infantrymen; if called upon here in the Balkans, training dictates that their automatic and immediate response will seem as natural as brushing their teeth.

"You need to know exactly what each soldier's responsibility is during a hostile situation," said Sergeant Royce Ueoka, a 28-year-old Kahului, Hawaii native. "We rely on each team member in order to successfully accomplish a safe mission."

"When we train for the high intensity conflicts it already comes to us easily," said Private First Class Nathaniel P. Harris, an M-249 squad automatic weapon gunner for 3rd Platoon. "I think this type of training gives us a sound feeling that if we had to react to a conflict here in Bosnia, we would do it without even thinking."

Although Harris and his fellow infantrymen have not used either conflict method during their participation in Operation Joint Forge, they are taking the right

steps to ensure that if the need arises, they will know exactly how to respond.

"We are taking the time to practice our techniques on both procedures here at Camp Bedrock," Harris stated. "We have some new soldiers in our platoon and this gives us time together as a team."

Teamwork is the backbone of an infantry unit, and the 3rd Platoon of Bravo Company is working to build a strong team ready for any conflict a would-be enemy could muster.

# Aviation Brigade takes Comanche

Story and by Specialist Robert B. Valentine

Photo by Specialist Natalie D. Haslem

319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**A**fter four months at Comanche Base, members of Task Force 11 (Talons), from Illesheim, Germany will transfer control to the Warriors of the 4th Aviation Brigade, 1st Cavalry from Ft. Hood, Texas, in what promises to be a smooth transition.

This is the first Bosnia-Herzegovina rotation for the 4th Brigade Warriors.

Colonel Reed C. Kowalczyk, 4th Brigade Commander from Old Lyme, Conn., is geared up for the task. "Our mission is to provide visible resolve and make certain that peace is maintained. Our Apache helicopters are an unmistakable deterrent against outbreaks of hostility."

Kowalczyk also said that while the brigade is in Bosnia, it will focus on completing unit training and preparing for the arrival next spring of the Longbow helicopter, the latest version of the Apache.

"The living conditions remind me a lot of Korea," said Specialist Damian V. Reinhold, from Edmond, Okla. "I am looking forward to working with soldiers from different countries," said the communications specialist attached to 4th Brigade.

While the Warriors are eager to start their mission, the Talons are looking forward to applying their new experiences back in Germany.

Specialist Louis T. Nash, from Alexandria, La., is a flight operation specialist for Task Force 11. He is responsible for the flow of information during this changeover, including tracking different missions and aircraft, as well as personnel movements from Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Bragg, N.C.

"While in Germany, we were just training. This is the real world over here," Kowalczyk said. "You constantly have to pay attention to details — every action has an effect."

Despite the ever-changing structure of units at Comanche, the peacekeeping mission focus endures thanks to successful transitions between units like the Talons of Task Force 11 and the Warriors of 4th Brigade.



# Clearing weapons important to ensure that complacency doesn't kill

Story and Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon  
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**A**s a vehicle rolled through the gate and stopped at the clearing barrel, soldiers jumped out, cleared their weapons and rolled away to begin another mission. This process is repeated thousands of times each day in Multinational Division (North) to ensure soldier safety.

Clearing weapons is a part of entering any base camp in Bosnia. Making sure this process is done correctly is vital for the safety of all soldiers. Although negligent discharges are rarely heard of, they do happen.

Command Sergeant Major Sherman L. Fuller of Camp Bedrock and Task Force 2-6 Infantry, said soldiers should treat all weapons as if they are loaded. "Soldiers need to make sure they are focused and conscious of what they are doing at all times," said the Compton, Calif. native. One of the Force Protection levels, each soldier loads a magazine into their weapon before leaving camp, but it's necessary to clear them properly once he or she returns.

Fuller said there are clearing barrels at every base camp, and information signs next to each one. The signs contain the step-by-step process for clearing weapons. For example, to clear an M16A2; point the weapon at the clearing barrel, place the selector switch on safe, remove the magazine, lock the bolt to the rear, inspect the receiver and chamber to ensure it contains no ammo, and then allow the bolt to go forward.

Captain Matthew A. Dimmick, Task Force 2-6 assistant S-3, said not only could these simple steps save the life of a soldier, but could also save the life of that soldier's friend. "Soldiers need to be very careful walking around with a loaded weapon," the Phoenix, Ariz. native said.

"An accidental fall from slipping on rocks or ice could

result in an accidental discharge, and could cause someone to be killed or severely injured." Dimmick also said soldiers should keep their weapons on safe and never pull the trigger when clearing.

Clearing a weapon is and has been not only a priority, but also a way of life while in Bosnia. Properly clearing a weapon is just one step to getting soldiers back home safe. So as the instructional signs next to the clearing barrels read, "Pay attention, because complacency kills."



Sergeant Doreen Adorno, 353 Civil Affairs Brigade, aims into a clearing barrel at Camp Bedrock as she prepares to clear her weapon.

# Apaches shoot 'em up



Ammunition supply specialist, Specialist William S. Berry, of Pensacola, Fla. and a fellow crewman ready an Apache's armament with a Hellfire missile.

Story by Sergeant First Class Robert L. Dunn  
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Photos by Specialist Robert B. Valentine  
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**T**he name "Six-Shooters" sounds like a gang of gunmen, or a posse in search of an outlaw, but this bunch has firepower that can penetrate the armor of any known main battle tank.

Recently, the 6th Cavalry Squadron, 11th Aviation

Regiment, "Six-Shooters," from Comanche Base conducted a live fire exercise at Glamoc Firing Range using AH-64 Apache helicopters with artillery support from the British Light Dragoons, the 14th Dutch Mortar Company, and the 4th Canadian Mortar Platoon. These forces provided suppressive fire that helped protect the Apaches as they approached their target area.

"These Apaches will use the most Hellfire missiles ever fired (96) in a military exercise to date," said 6th Squadron's executive officer, Major David M. Constantine of Chicopee, Mass. "This is also the only place in Europe we can perform this exercise," he added.

# at live fire exercise



Two Apache helicopters fly into position, ready to provide cover for strikes by Airforce FA-18s.

As the Apache helicopters approached each target, a guided laser designation team came low and fast into each target area. The attacking Apache pilots zeroed in on the targets picked out by the laser teams and fired. Hellfire missiles homed in on their targets as the laser designation team continued to lase the designated objectives. Constant navigational corrections from the laser targeting system kept the missiles on track as they sped with deadly accuracy toward their final destinations. Following their assault, the Apaches provided covering fire in support of air strikes by FA-18 fighters, simulating combined arms combat.

Sergeant Darrell K. Sutton of Clinton, N.C., said, "This is a multipurpose mission and all this has to happen at the same time for it to be successful, and everyone's job is important."

"This is a very important mission. It shows our strength and mobility in Bosnia," said ammo supply specialist Private First Class Jose A. Terga, of Miami, Fla.

Along with the Hellfire missiles, the Apache helicopters for this exercise used 2.75 inch rockets (700 rounds) and 30mm ammunition (5000 rounds).

# Mission first, convoy safety always

Story and Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove Jr.  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**S**afety is a high priority in the military — in fact, it's the highest after mission accomplishment. There are many ways soldiers in Bosnia can get hurt, especially in convoys. But thanks to safety precautions, the number of Camp McGovern convoy accidents is minimal.

"Safety is important in convoys," said Second Lieutenant Randolph S. Harrison, a Lakeland, Fla. native and the medical platoon leader for 1st Battalion, 35th Armor and the safety officer for McGovern. More accidents in Bosnia occur on convoys than in any other operational environment. He said there is no way to eliminate the risk, but taking certain precautions can reduce it.

According to the First Armored Division Safety office checklist, there are certain precautions soldiers must follow on convoys. Some examples of guidelines include following vehicles at the proper interval, and performing preventive maintenance checks and services before the convoy.

Staff Sergeant Peter J. Rogers, the Camp McGovern noncommissioned officer in charge of safety, said regulations for convoy safety are set by the provost marshal, and updated depending on the security risk and frequency of accidents. The convoy commander, or the highest-ranking person in a convoy, conducts risk assessment throughout the operation.

Rogers said that before leaving a camp, the convoy must fill out an Army risk assessment sheet. This sheet is then given to S-3 Operations for approval.

Personnel in the convoy must be briefed about the risks and safety precautions taken by the convoy commander, continued the Buffalo, N.Y., native.

So what could go wrong on a convoy? A number of factors apply, Harrison said. One is the threat of local drivers. Local drivers tend to drive faster and be more daring than drivers from the United States. "On the way up here from Germany, we had a local driver try to pass us on the sidewalk," Harrison said.

"Speed is also a factor commanders should consider in their evaluation," Rogers said. For example, if the speed limit is 30 mph and the commander decides the probability of an accident is high, he can lower the convoy speed.

According to Rogers, the best way to prevent an accident lies in the hands of the soldiers driving. It's up to each individual to do a risk assessment. They can do that by saying, "I only had an hour sleep last night," or, "I've never driven on roads this narrow before. I need to tell somebody." It's the commander's responsibility to say, "That's an acceptable risk, go ahead and do it," or, "That's an unacceptable risk, let's find another way." In any case, safety should be uppermost in everyone's minds when conducting convoy operations. It's better to arrive safe but late, than not to arrive at all.



Sergeant Douglas D. Klein, a gunner for Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, performs a functions check on an M-249 squad automatic weapon in preparation for a convoy.

# Dobol's Mayor Cell puts soldiers first



Corporal Ashanti Simpson with Headquarters, Headquarter's Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry assembles a cot for use in a temporary tent. Temporary tents are utilized by incoming troops.

Story and photo by Specialist Kimminda Collins  
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**T**he mission priority at Camp Dobol's Mayor Cell is the welfare of transient soldiers. The Mayor Cell controls everything "inside the wire:" Force Protection, guard towers, and camp information management.

The cell consists of cadre members who each have an area of expertise. Captain Dave Willis, Mayor of Dobol said, "It's the cadre who work for the cell that deserve the credit because they do all the work. I'm more the coordinating person within the cell."

Each soldier's request flows straight to the cadre member in charge of that particular area of concern. Every soldier's request is taken into consideration and fulfilled to the best of the cell's ability.

"If a soldier has any problems with their living quarters, or any equipment that has been issued to them, they are afforded the opportunity to turn in a work or service order stating what needs to be amended or replaced," said Staff Sergeant Donald Seymore, Mayor Cell noncommissioned officer in charge. "The

Mayor Cell handles all base camp issues. As of right now, the base camp is undergoing SEA huts construction, so the living quarters will be more comfortable for all the soldiers, especially the soldiers whose tours last from nine to 11 months at a time," Seymore said. "My main objective is to make sure each soldier has a place to stay."

During the transfer of authority, the size of the base camp will be doubled for at least three weeks. As new soldiers enter a rotation and others depart, the cell will be one of the busiest organizations on base. With the number of soldiers double normal, the cell must have complete accountability of the number of soldiers occupying each tent and connex on base. With this information, the cell can gather units together to maximize space for incoming soldiers. "It gets pretty crowded around here, but after the TOA is complete, things are back to normal," Seymore said.

Likewise, the cell coordinates directly with the Brown and Root workers, who perform the repairs needed to improve the camp. "We are basically the facilitators for all the base camp operations. I guess you could consider the Mayor Cell the nerve center of Camp Dobol," Willis said.

## Behind the lines with Charlie 74



Sergeant Jarod C. Dixon, 25, team chief of Charlie 74, Small Extension Node, checks the junction box for bad connections.

Story and photo by Private First Class  
Phillip E. Breedlove Jr.  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**T**hey're located behind the Rose Garden Café and across from the mini-mall. Most Camp McGovern soldiers pass within 25 feet of them at least once a day and don't realize it. They're always there, manning their fortress 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Who are they?

They're the soldiers who provide you with morale calls, also known as Small Extensions Node Charlie 74.

Sergeant Jarod C. Dixon, 25, the Charlie 74 team chief said, "The mission of my team is to provide communications to Camp McGovern." They do this by monitoring and maintaining a SEN, or a switchboard in a Humvee shelter.

"Charlie 74's mission goes far beyond providing morale calls and internet access," said Dixon, a Downer's Grove, Ill., native. "They maintain all tactical wire communications on McGovern with the exception of Sprint lines."

"Let's say there was a big power surge that fried all my equipment," Dixon conjectured. "Could Camp McGovern work? Yes. Would it work as well? No."

Because they do their job well, things usually don't go wrong, Dixon continued. As a result, they often get overlooked until they are needed. "People don't even realize we're here. As long as their phones are hooked up, they have no problem. They have no reason to knock on our door and say, 'Hey Sergeant Dixon. Good morning.'"

When a phone does go down, the first priority is to identify the problem, Dixon said. They can do that by disconnecting the line leading to the problem phone and hooking their phone to that line. "Basically, we make their phone our phone." This determines if the problem is between the SEN and the phone, the phone itself, or somewhere else. Usually the problem can be fixed by "pushing a few buttons, pulling a few levers and making a few phone calls."

The unit is good at anticipating problems and preparing for them. Like the rest of the base, the shelter runs on commercial power. If the power fails, it has its own generator. If the generator fails, it can run on power from the Humvee. If that fails, it can run on batteries in the shelter.

Dixon recalls one disaster that caused a setback: A storm in late July took out

two trees in the middle of their area. One tree was so large its branches cut off almost all sunlight to the site. "This was literally the coolest spot in McGovern. People actually came down here to get out of the sun."

The tree came down next to the shelter and took out a few wires. As a result, a handful of phones on McGovern were temporarily down. Because the wires were strategically placed, however, the outage only affected a few phones instead of all of McGovern.

Charlie 74 is efficient. So efficient, in fact, that most soldiers don't even know they're there.

# Force Protection: security, safety



Specialist Quinn R. Clairmont of Task Force 2-6, ensures that the driver leaving camp has the correct paperwork needed to complete a safe and secure convoy.

Photo and story by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon  
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**F**rom watching over each base camp to checking soldiers for Stabilization Force cards, Force Protection is in full swing, ensuring the troops are safe and secure at Camp Bedrock.

With a rise in terrorist activity over the past months, Force Protection has become an integral part of soldiers' lives while deployed to Bosnia. Although each base camp is considered secure, there are many other ways Force Protection is "holding down the fort."

First Lieutenant Jourden K. Johnson, of Westport Miss., the officer in charge of Force Protection at Bedrock, said Force Protection is an assessment of hazards, risks and concerns that will affect mission accomplishment. "Our main concern here is the safety of personnel and equipment at Bedrock," said Johnson. "There are guards posted at different locations, and we perform local presence patrols in the area. These are just some of the tasks that make up Force Protection."

Johnson said Force Protection consists of such things as checking civilian and military vehicles, ensuring convoys

consist of two or more vehicles, and making sure soldiers do not leave camp without their protective masks. "It is a division and Task Force 2-6 regulation that each soldier be able to reach their protective mask in a timely manner if need be, so for their own protection, if they leave camp, they must have their mask with them," Johnson said.

Another form of Force Protection involves checking the local civilian personnel. "We check them to make sure they aren't carrying any contraband or explosives," said Sergeant Chris G. Shelton, noncommissioned officer in charge of the front guard post at Bedrock. "We also use dogs to detect things we cannot, and we check everyone for proper identification, like SFOR badges," Shelton said. "Our first priority is the security of this base camp."

Johnson said soldiers could aid in Force Protection by being aware of their environment. "Soldiers need to pay close attention to suspicious people and vehicles and be careful of what they say around the local nationals," Johnson said.

With the current threats of terrorism and land mines, Force Protection helps ensure soldiers return home from Bosnia safe and secure.

# Making the grade for maintenance

Story and photo by Private Louis Sardinha  
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

**T**his is a report card for maintenance. We get an 'A' if we did things right, and we get an 'F' if we did things wrong," said Sergeant James W. Coffell, 27, of Biloxi, Miss., a heavy wheel vehicle mechanic with Headquarters, Headquarter's Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, stationed out of Baumholder, Germany.

The brigade inspection team from Task Force Eagle inspected various units to see whether or not they conducted preventive maintenance checks and services properly, according to Coffell.

The PMCS should be done before, during and after the mission is completed, Coffell stated. Coffell is a recovery vehicle operator in charge of an M-984 wrecker. He is the only task force recovery asset at Camp McGovern. He is on call to recover any military or civilian vehicle affiliated with the Stabilization Force.

The command inspection team checked to ensure all task force equipment was operational and ready for turnover to the new units.

"The brigade inspection team came and checked both aspects of the PMCS, 20-level and 10-level, and made sure that everybody was doing their job," said Private First Class David J. Gonzales, 28, of Narco, Calif., a Bradley mechanic with HHC. "The operator has 75 checks to go through on a regular Humvee and that's all 10-level checks."

"The 10-level consists of operator's checks and services. Everything from making sure the windshield wipers work, the tires properly inflated, and the oil levels are correct," Coffell said.

Gonzales said that everything above the 10-level checks consists of "all the other components on the vehicles," and that these 20-level maintenance checks are done by maintenance mechanics.

According to Coffell, the brigade inspection is primarily done on a quarterly basis, or when the brigade feels they need a sense of combat mission or maintenance capabilities. In this case, a command inspection was conducted in conjunction with a Table of Allowances.

"Usually, the best time to inspect somebody on an all honesty basis is when they don't expect it," Gonzales added.

The command inspection's main purpose was to double-check that the operators and mechanics conducted and performed proper 10-level maintenance on military vehicles, and conducted their mission without any hang-ups, Coffell said.

"We perform our maintenance on a day-to-day basis," Gonzales said. "We try our best to do it to standard. I think that we did fairly well. I don't think they found too many things wrong."

"Basically, this is one of the big things that we dread, and look forward to, because it tells us if we're doing our jobs or not," Coffell said. "And from what I've seen, we look pretty good."

