

TALON

Inside

- Transfer complete for medical platoons
- Deployment provides soldiers extra pay
- Soldiers exchange knowledge and skills





Building friendships..... 5
Soldier talks with locals



QRF means readiness..... 8
Soldiers keep night safe



Soldiers' pay.....11
Invest in your future

Contents

UpFront

Up Front 2
Making the best of free time

EOD water operations..... 3
Divers train to keep proficient

Civil Affairs help schools 4
Children receive supplies

Italians provide security 6-7
Keeping the peace

Medical platoons mission complete 9
A successful transition

Applying lessons learned.....10
Soldiers share ideas

Infantry unit says goodbye 12
A job well done

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



As the Transfer of Authority process settles, and you become more accustomed to your new duties, you're going to have time to work on self-improvement. By managing your time and making a few sacrifices it 's a great opportunity for you to accomplish goals and establish new ones.

There're programs here to help improve your military and civilian goals. There're college and educational courses at the Education Center for military and civilian educational advancements. You can give more attention to your correspondence courses to increase your promotion points. The tuition assistance here is 90 percent for E5 to E9 with less than 15 years active duty. It's 75 percent for warrant officers and E4 and below. The educational counselors are there to help you with any problem and get you started.

While you're here you can start a fitness program to improve your physical fitness score. You can aim for the maximum with a score of 300. If you aren't at 300 yet, keep working. Practing on push-ups, sit-ups and the two-mile run will get you wearing the Physical Fitness patch in no time.

There's also a smoking cessation class offered at the clinic for soldiers who want to work on their health. With a little effort and dedication you can advance to a higher level of expertise while you are deployed.

The programs are here for you. I want to emphasize that you utilize your time constructively and take advantage of the opportunities available here for you. It's a step toward making you a better professional. **"Dare to make a difference."**

On the Cover

Members of EOD Mobile Unit Eight get ready to make a dive at Lake Modracko. (Photo by Specialist Robert E. Valentine. See next page.)

"There must be, not a balance of power, but a community of power; not organized rivalries but an organized common peace."

- Woodrow Wilson

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The Task Force Eagle web site offers breaking news and photos on the web. The web site provides information concerning the Turk, Russian, and NORDPOL Brigades assigned to Task Force Eagle, as well as U.S. soldiers stationed in Bosnia.

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EOD divers take plunge underwater

Story by Specialist Natalie D. Haslem
 Photo by Specialist Robert B. Valentine
 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Rushing the waters, this squad has one mission at hand. Wearing black suits and black face masks, this six man team is prepared to overtake any obstacle. Their canisters are loaded with oxygen. Their knives are strapped to their left ankles within easy arm's reach ready at a moment's pull. They are prepared to overcome, disarm and destroy the target if necessary.

The 764th Ordnance Company Explosive Ordnance Disposal's mission, here at Eagle Base, is to ensure that all unexploded ordnance or hazardous munitions are properly disarmed or destroyed. In order to perform this duty, the EOD team must be prepared to locate and get to any threatening unexploded ordnance by all means. This includes taking the plunge down under.

In order to accomplish this high intensity mission, the EOD team must practice their dives. Training to dive is essential. Divers must successfully complete a minimum of four dives in six months to maintain their skills according to standard regulations. The EOD team successfully completed a dive at Lake Modracko in Lukavac.

"It is important that divers stay proficient to be able to work with underwater ordnance should a mission require it," said Petty Officer First Class Joey A. O'Toole, of Pompano Beach, Fla., a diving supervisor and boat-swains mate handler with EOD Mobile Unit Eight of Sigonella, Sicily.

Before conducting a dive to qualify, the diving area must be assessed. The team must anticipate any hazards to the mission including explosives, marine life, weather and water traffic. They must also gauge the water's depth.

After assessing possible dangers, the diving supervisor

then plans the diving mission. Planning includes inventorying the equipment and personnel, going over the dive procedure and alerting local medical facilities and evacuation units to be on call in case of emergency.

"As diving supervisor, I must be prepared to deal with a diving casualty. The first 10 minutes following the diver's resurfacing is the most critical time," O'Toole said.

As qualified diving supervisors, O'Toole and other members of the EOD team know that a diving casualty will show neurological signs of incoherence, irritability, loss of motor skills or vision. If any of these symptoms are noticed, the soldier risks arterial gas embolism, a fatal condition caused by an overflow of gas into the bloodstream.

Divers risk several hazards and therefore procedure and safety checks could make the difference between a life and death decision. "Safety is our number one priority. It is our biggest concern," O'Toole said.

As the officer in charge, Navy Lieutenant Jeff M. Scott, a Tallahassee Fla. native, EOD Mobile Unit Eight, Sigonella, Sicily, makes sure the team has the training and equipment necessary to safely conduct the mission.

"Our mission is to protect personnel and property from unexploded ordnance," Scott said. It is important that such training is conducted. Diving is simply a "tool we use to get to an ordnance," Scott said.

The primary mission is to render the area safe from explosive devices. For O'Toole, this means being able to see kids safe and smiling. The EOD team is trained to disarm, extract or destroy all unexploded ordnance whether on land or water.

Even though the years of fighting are over, sporadic findings of unexploded ordnance are constant reminders of the turmoil that plagued Bosnian soil. This dedicated EOD team aims to make the threat of unexploded ordnance a thing of the past.



Civil Affairs gives supplies to schools



Students attending Petkovci primary school in Zvornik, open bags of school supplies donated by Civil Affairs soldiers.

Story and Photos by Specialist Kimmanda Collins
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The Civil Affairs team here on Camp Dobol play an active role in the Bosnian community. Every mission is a new adventure for the team because convoy is a part of their everyday vocabulary. Civil Affairs operations are many opportunities to get up close and personal with the locals here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and with the help of interpreters, they are able to communicate with little or no trouble.

The team was tasked with the mission of distributing school supplies to Petkovci Primary School in Zvornik, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The school, consisting of 163 students divided among 12 teachers, had very few supplies. "We're donating supplies because the parents don't have the money to provide little things like paper to the children," said Marine Corporal Lynne Blanke, a civil affairs specialist from the 4th Civil Affairs Group. "We donated paper, pencils, glue, scissors, notebooks, and crayons, basically your everyday school supplies," the Washington, D.C. native said.

News about the war torn school was passed by word of mouth before becoming a big issue by some local newspapers. As a result, supplies were donated to the Civil Affairs team from hundreds of people across the United States. The team tasked to distribute them received 2,000 pounds of materials, and more is still pouring in.

"If we can help make the burden on the parents a little bit lighter, then I feel that we are doing our job," said Blanke.

Specialist Jack Kinnaman, a Georgia National Guardsman whose tour in Bosnia ended in February 1998 originally took on the project. He visited a school where the children had been out for at least two years as a result of the war. He asked people in the United States to send supplies. He began to distribute supplies to classrooms throughout the Bosnian Province of Srpska. Due to Kinnaman's unrelenting efforts to help the school get back on its feet, the National Education Association's Retired Advisory Council heard about the project from others who were endorsing it and decided to become an active member.

Still today, hundreds of people are continuing to show their support and concern by sending supplies to the Civil Affairs at Dobol. "Nothing makes me happier than bringing smiles to the children's face's that we help, but my true joy comes from watching the Marines

and soldiers who work under me enjoy what they're doing for the children," said Captain Steven Amrom from Philadelphia, Pa. with the 358th Civil Affairs Unit.



Chief Warrant Officer Darrell Smith from HHT, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Safety Office helps unload the bags of supplies.

Interpreter builds friendship with locals



Specialist Russell Callahan of the 743rd M.I. Battalion, takes a moment to speak to a local friend in the Serbo-Croatian language at Camp McGovern.

Story and Photo by Sergeant Jim Guzior
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

A hulking soldier steps out of a HMMWV and ambles toward a group of young children. They look up wide-eyed as if being approached by a tyrannosaurus. As he draws near, they hear his soft-spoken voice say, "Zrdvo ... kako ste?" (Hello ... how are you?). The children smile, shake the friendly giant's hand and start chatting with this benevolent character.

His name is Specialist Russell Callahan from the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo., a linguist working for Camp McGovern's Force Protection Unit. According to Callahan, Force Protection's job is to go out among the locals, find out their concerns and provide this information to the commander at McGovern.

"We get to go out there and talk to all the local people," Callahan said. "They tell us how they think implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord is going, how they like SFOR and the soldiers in general."

In Callahan's view, interpreters are having a positive effect on the mission in Bosnia.

"I think we have a good impact here," Callahan said. "We show the people that we have actually studied the language from them, and that shows they are important to us."

When the mission here began, the Army searched for Serbo-Croatian interpreters, but Callahan was a Russian interpreter.

"The Russian and Serbo-Croatian language are very

similar," Callahan explained. "The army asked for volunteers for the mission, and I was off to a specialized language school."

That was three years ago. Now finishing his second tour in Bosnia, he recalled the way things used to be in both the environment and population and how they've changed.

"The first time I was here, everything was destroyed and now they're beginning to fix things like houses and streets and everything like that," Callahan said. "Also the people had some fear of us, because they didn't know us. Now they're used to us; they're not afraid."

Walking through a town near McGovern, Callahan stops to shake hands with a local carpenter and asks him how the cut is doing on his finger. Callahan is a recognized face among the locals. He is a part of their community.

"In general, they love that I'm an American interpreter," Callahan said. "As soon as they read the name on my uniform they realize I'm not from here, and also realize I had to study to speak their language. They are usually impressed I can speak their language so well."

Local children impress Callahan the most. They run from their homes waving at his convoy as it makes its way through town. When the vehicle stops, children come to study Callahan and the Force Protection unit. Callahan soon has them smiling or giggling as he speaks to them in their native tongue.

"In general, I love kids," Callahan said. "But especially here, because these kids have gone through a war, and they *still* find it within themselves to smile every day."

Italian Carabinieri provide security

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

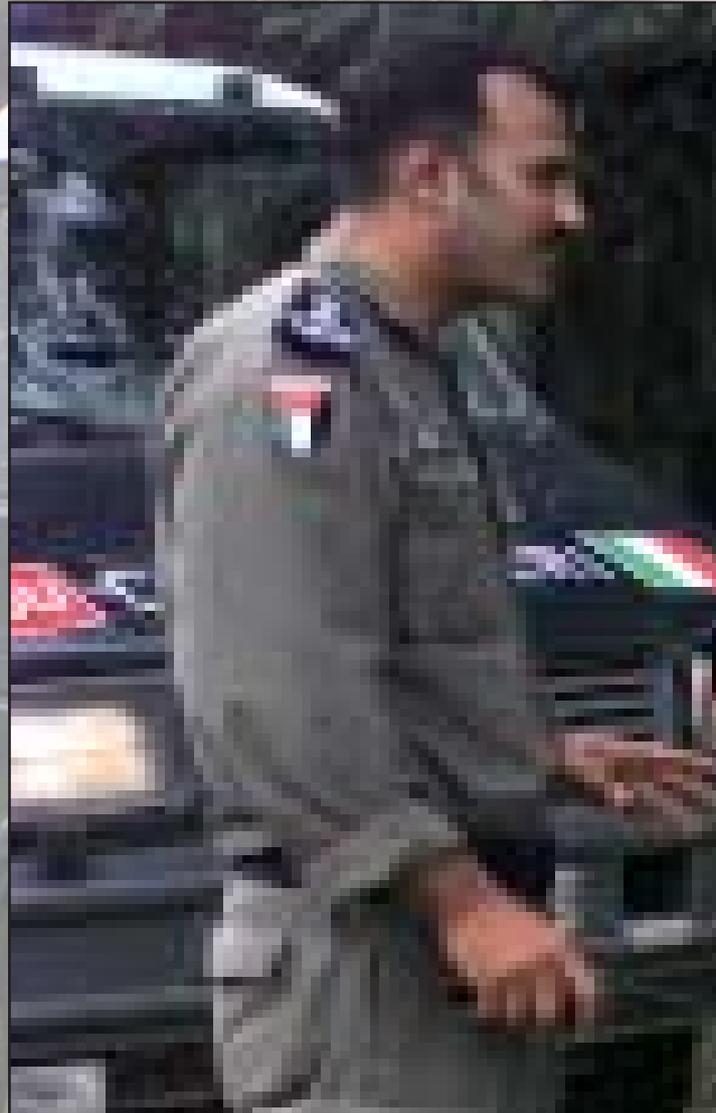
Americans are curious about us," said Aulino Giuseppe, a police officer for the Italian Carabinieri military police second platoon, Company B. "They say, 'Who are these guys? Who are the men in blue?'"

They are the Multinational Specialized Unit, an international police force made up of Italian Carabinieri military police, Argentinean and Romanian soldiers, said Maresciallo Ordinario Francesco Corbo, a squad leader also from second platoon, and the equivalent of a U.S. Army Warrant Officer.

Two platoons from Company B, Carabinieri Italian military police, were sent to Camp McGovern to patrol the nearby polling sites for the recent elections and prevent crowds from getting out of control.

Giuseppe said the Stabilization Force chose the Carabinieri because of their training and experience. The Carabinieri enlisted soldier's basic training is one year and, unlike the U.S. Army basic training, includes crowd control and riot training.

The Carabinieri also has real experience with crowd



First Lieutenant Guenlula Trombetti, second platoon leader, asks a member from the international police task force if

control in Italy. During Italian football games, crowds tend to get a little crazy. The Carabinieri patrols the games in case a situation arises.

The preferred method to deal with riots is keep them

ity,riot control atMcGovern



ader for the Multinational Specialized Unit, Company B,
anything has happened at a nearby polling site that day.

from happening, especially in Bosnia, Giuseppe said. "Our first target is to prevent. Last is to eliminate problems." One prevention method used by the Carabinieri in Bosnia is to go into local areas where citizens frequent and talk

with locals to find out what issues are most likely to have crowd and riot problems. The Carabinieri then patrols these sites more often. Prevention is the key.

"It is not a beautiful thing to (use force)," said Giuseppe. "I ... prefer to speak with people and enjoy my time."

Although McGovern soldiers don't directly aid them in their mission, they do provide support where it is needed, said Giuseppe. They know the area better than the Carabinieri, so they help by mapping the routes, and in some cases, actually going on the patrols and pointing out the correct path.

Giuseppe said the American soldiers' help was appreciated. "I'll remember people the most ... I don't think they (U.S. soldiers) could do more for us."

Giuseppe said the best part of McGovern is the dining facility. He enjoys trying new types of food. He also enjoyed the Rose Garden Café, which he said had a relaxing atmosphere and good coffee.

Corbo and Giuseppe said they enjoyed their stay at McGovern. They were curious about American culture, and, from their perspective, U.S. soldiers represented their country by setting good examples. Both said McGovern made a great impression.

QRF keeps sol dier safe day, night



The Quick Reaction Force, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-8 Cavalry, prepare to roll out and patrol areas throughout Camp Bedrock.

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

While darkness falls over Camp Bedrock and the soldiers lay their heads down from a hard day's work, the Quick Reaction Force prepares to head out into the night to keep a watchful eye over 'The Rock!'

The QRF team, the mortar platoon, at Bedrock is run by Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas.

First Lieutenant Scott J. Bailey of Baltimore, Md., mortar platoon leader, said the QRF team makes sure the base camp is secure every night. "The QRF is a mounted patrol that makes sure there is nothing unsecure going on around the camp at night or in the day," Bailey said. "Sometimes it's hard for the guards in the towers to see what's going on out there at night because of the limited visibility, so we send out the patrols. They become like a second pair of eyes for them."

The QRF team helps to keep a buffer zone between the U.S. forces here and the local nationals, who could be trying to survey the area or breach the perimeter. Bailey said going out at night lets the locals know the area is being patrolled. "When the platoon goes out they look for suspicious things like abandoned vehicles, or vehicles parked with people sitting in them for long periods of time."

Bailey said that although they just took over the platoon, the operations have been going smooth. "The guys on the team learned the routes and area fast," Bailey said. "They are ready to go at any given time if needed and so far they have been doing very well on the night patrols."

Sergeant Lee A. Wright of Columbus, Ga., noncommissioned

officer in charge of mortar platoon, HHC 2-8 Cavalry, said they basically want their presence to be known by the locals at night. "We go out at various times of night to let the people roaming around know that we are here and watching the area," Wright said. "We have different areas we check. We look for suspicious people hanging around them and anyone taking pictures around the perimeter."

Wright said they are the only QRF team located on Bedrock. "There's a lot to know about this job so we did a right seat ride with 2-6 Infantry," Wright said. "They taught us how to provide security for convoys going to weapon storage sights, how to do night patrols and how to pull security for any other missions that may come up."

Sergeant Jeffrey E. Leigh of Lancaster, motor platoon N.H., HHC 2-8 Cavalry, said working with the QRF team at night is very exciting. "You never know what you're going to run into out there," Leigh said. "It's pretty good to get out and see some different things. You get to see parts of the country you probably wouldn't see if you didn't have this job."

Bailey said soldiers could help the QRF team at night by staying aware of their surroundings. "Soldiers should be alert at all times," Bailey said. "When going to guard duty or to the latrine, soldiers should keep their eyes open for anything out of the ordinary. Soldiers shouldn't be afraid to walk up to a civilian and ask them for their Stabilization Force (identification) card if they think that person is acting or seems strange."

When night falls, Bailey said every soldier's security becomes a part of the security plan at Bedrock. He said all soldiers should alert someone if they see something suspicious in the area at night or in the day, but, he says, don't worry, because the QRF is close by.

Mission complete for medical platoons

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

The medics of Medical Platoon, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor, have completed their goal of transferring authority to the medics of Medical Platoon, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry.

"It went relatively smoothly," commented Corporal Ryan D. Hildreth, of Monroe, N.C., a medical specialist with the outgoing Medical Platoon, 1-35 Armor. The 1-8 Cavalry Medical Platoon was one of the first units fully operational.

"The first thing we had to do was change over command of the aid station," said Specialist James M. Davis of Paris, Texas, a medical specialist with Task Force 1-35 Medical Platoon. "They've already taken control of almost everything."

"We don't work at the aid station anymore, except as advisors," Davis said. "The 1-8 Cav. medics often come to us for answers to any questions they might have, and we guide them in the right direction."

"Our main mission here was to support the troops with medical care for any accidents that may occur," Davis said. Now TF 1-8 medics have to take on all the responsibility.

According to Davis, the outgoing medics were given the task of instructing the 1-8 Cavalry medics on how to run day-to-day operations, such as how reports are done, sick call hours and the procedures for a medical evacuation. They were also taught the policy for treating local nationals in case of an emergency.

"We are continuing to pack our things and assist the new unit coming in," said Sergeant Barry B. Bell of Atlanta, a medical specialist also with Medical Platoon, 1-35 Armor. "That way they can better understand what needs to happen, so they'll be able to do the operation when we're not here," Bell said.

"They're doing well in their mission," Hildreth said. "They're doing well with what they have to work with down here."

According to Bell, one of the difficulties in being deployed here is that it's harder to come by high-tech emergency equipment; however, they do have the capability to treat most of the injuries they come in contact with. Another challenge they face here is their supplies don't last as long as



Sergeant Barry B. Bell inserts an IV into a patient during a training demonstration for the incoming 1-8 Cavalry Medical Platoon.

they'd like, whereas back in the rear they maintain a larger supply.

"The operation worked out well because we received a lot of training down here as far as real world situations," Bell said.

"It's the first deployment for a lot of the newer guys, and if they decide to make the Army a career, the experience should help them in the long run as far as future deployments."

The training they get here is on a daily basis, according to Hildreth. "We get to use everything we learned in school and from our peers. You can't get any closer to hands on around here."

"Overall, the mission went well," Bell continued. "We accomplished our mission."

Things are hard in the beginning, Davis said. But the everyday routine gets easier. It just takes some time.

Soldiers share what they know to edge

Story and Photo by Private First Class

Phillip E. Breedlove Jr.

22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

After seven months, the soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor transferred their mission to their replacement, Companies B and C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, and are now homeward bound. Before they left, they passed on lessons they've learned and experiences they've shared to their successors.

Private First Class Andrew J. Eichelberger of Grosse Pointe, Mich., and Private First Class Douglas L. Bassette of Lancaster, Pa., 3rd platoon tankers from Task Force 1-35, have been friends through the deployment. They said stories and advice can be applied to soldiers who have never been to Bosnia.

Both said Camp McGovern was intimidating at first because it was their first deployment. "We were tense and didn't know what to expect," Eichelberger said.

Like most soldiers here for the first time, neither expected the destruction and devastation of the Bosnian cities. "I was amazed. I expected a lot, but not that much," Bassette said.

Their first few patrols raised their spirits, Eichelberger continued. Before they were deployed, they were under the impression the Stabilization Force wasn't wanted by the Bosnian people. Then, they saw how Bosnians reacted to patrols.

"When we're out driving around, people are constantly coming out to the street and waving at us," he continued. "It makes you feel appreciated. It makes it worthwhile."

After a few days of patrols, things started getting easier, Eichelberger said. They started to learn the routes and got adjusted to new sleep patterns. After a month, they had everything worked down to a system. Then, the time moved incredibly fast.

Bassette recalled one experience that occurred three days after he was trained to be part of the Medical Quick Reaction Force, a group of soldiers that can be called at any time to aid combat medics with casualties.

A Naval construction worker cut his hand and needed medical evacuation. When Bassette was called from his room, he thought the situation was a drill. He was instructed to prepare a vehicle to drive to the Blue Factory, the closest military hospital to McGovern. When the casualty was brought to the vehicle, Bassette discovered it was not a drill. He did as he was trained and the casualty made it safely to the Blue Factory.

"I would like to tell people to take things seriously, even if they are drills," Bassette suggested. "If you don't, you could make a fatal mistake."

Eichelberger said the most important thing he learned from his deployment is to be safe. Mirror strikes — when the HMMWV mirror hits a wall or other objects — are major safety risks because they occur more than any other accident. He said it's a good idea to drive slow and keep your window up to avoid being showered with shattered glass in case an accident occurs.

Bosnian locals drive more aggressively than American drivers do, and soldiers should look out for drivers as they swerve to avoid potholes, he said.

Both said friendship is essential to getting soldiers through deployments. Talking to someone helps get people through problems. "When you get put in a deployment situation,

it is good to have people you can be friends with. Friends help you get through just about everything," Eichelberger said.



Private First Class Gary R. Christie (right), a tanker with 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor, ensures that incoming soldiers know how to assemble an M-2 .50 caliber machine gun during left and right seat training. Making sure new soldiers know their job is a vital part of this training.

Extradollars work for your future

Story by soldiers of the
208th Finance Battalion

(FWD) and Specialist

Robert B. Valentine

Photo by Specialist Robert

B. Valentine

319th Mobile Public

Affairs Det.

Hostile fire pay, combat zone exclusion, foreign duty pay, family separation allowance, and for some, separate rations add up to sweet paychecks for soldiers deployed to Bosnia.

On average, a Private First Class earns over \$550 a month more while in theater compared to home station, and a Sergeant with dependents earns an extra \$650. Over a six-month deployment, that is \$3,300 extra for the Private First Class and \$3,900 extra for the Sergeant. While in "The Box," soldiers soon find there are not many places to spread their newfound wealth.

Most soldiers let their pay add up in a checking or savings account earning an average of only 3.3 percent interest. With the annual inflation rate at 1.7 percent, this method of saving really is not generating much additional income. After considering inflation, soldiers are only earning 1.6 percent of their money that is sitting in a bank.

The key to getting soldiers' money to work for them is to first pay off high interest debts. For most soldiers, that means credit cards. When paying 6 percent on a credit card (using the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act) and only putting money away in a savings account at 3.3 percent, soldiers are still falling behind. Once those high interest bills are paid off, the solution is investing.

In today's financial environment, there are many ways to invest money: stocks, bonds, mutual funds and real estate. By investing wisely, soldiers can have their money working for them.

After being in country for 30 days, a soldier can start the Savings Deposit Program. This program allows a soldier to deposit up to an amount equal to or less than his monthly unallotted pay, for a maximum of \$10,000. It pays 10 percent annual interest, accrued quarterly. When a soldier leaves Bosnia, the account will continue to draw interest for 90 days. After that time the money must be withdrawn. The SDP program can be started at the nearest finance detachment or forward support team.

Another option is U.S. savings bonds. Savings bonds can be purchased through an allotment from a soldier's pay. Bonds are not the most lucrative investment, but they are very safe and grow over time.



Private First Class Scott E. Simmons (right), Company B, 94th ECB(H) receives information on the Savings Deposit Program from Sergeant Kimberly F. Ratcliffe, NCOIC of Customer Service, Detachment C, 208th Finance Battalion.

For soldiers who are too busy to follow the stock market, a mutual fund is a good place to start their investment portfolio. Mutual funds are managed by a professional money manager and take money from a lot of investors and spread the investment over several different stocks. If certain stocks do not perform that are owned by the mutual fund, the other stocks will balance it. Even so, some funds have a higher risk than others. The risk assessed is what the fund holds and the objective of the fund. A good rule for starting out is to pick a fund that invests in many different stocks, and that has a goal of growth.

Although some mutual funds require a start-up investment of a \$1,000 or more, there are many that will allow you to start the fund with a monthly allotment and no money down. With an initial investment of only \$3,300 in a mutual fund that earns 10 percent, a Private First Class can accumulate over \$5,400 in five years. By adding \$100 a month to the same fund, it would grow to over \$13,000 in five years. Top mutual funds today can earn an average well over 20 percent over a five and ten-year period.

"I am investing for my dream home. I recently started two mutual funds. Everyone should try to invest, no matter how much you make. Even if you can only invest \$50 a month," said Private First Class Karisia Cole, a finance specialist for the 208th Finance Battalion Headquarters. "The most important thing is to pick something you feel comfortable with. You can't get scared and pull out when your stocks go down a few points. You have to weather the storm," explained the Los Angeles native. "I try to make it a habit to save money and pay myself first," Cole said.

“Gators” case colors



Photo by Staff Sergeant Patricia A. Johnston, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry case their colors during a transfer of authority ceremony with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment on Sept. 17 at Camp Bedrock. Command Sergeant Major Sherman Fuller (left) and Lieutenant Colonel Michael R. Martinez closed this chapter of their successful mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The soldiers of this battalion executed the Quick Reaction Force mission (QRF) at Camp Bedrock and other base camps in the area of operation. The 2-5 Cavalry now has the responsibility of the mission.