

TALON

Inside

- Camp Colt closes for business
- K9 MPs, asset to force protection
- 1st AD artillery watches skies

Talon

Inside



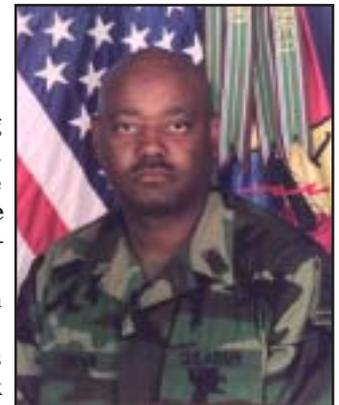
Task Force Dagger 5 **Storytelling without words 9** **Sekovici bridge 11**
501st transfers authority **G-4 Artist paints a picture** **Engineers make repairs**

Contents

UpFront

Up Front 2
Soldier discipline
Pioneers move out 3
47th FSB moves to Comanche
Nero, the crime dog..... 4
K9 police dog sniffs-out contraban
Jobs well done!6-7
“Blackhawks” and “Conquerors” depart
Firefinder radar..... 8
Technology at work
Camp Colt closes10
Tasks Force Eagle consolidates
“Road Runners” mission complete 12
Signal unit transfers authority

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



As a leader of soldiers, setting the example takes discipline and dedication. It also takes initiative and candor. Leaders reflect these qualities in their military bearing, confidence and competence.

As new troops arrive, this is an opportunity for soldiers to excel, and lead by example. Little things like: putting rank on your flak vest, helmet and gortex; fastening your chin strap when wearing your helmet; tucking in your PT shirt and carrying your weapon correctly, all display a message to outside observers. The first impression you give reflects the pride you take in wearing your uniform and your unit, whether it's your PT or battle dress uniform.

Accountability of all sensitive items is crucial to our TFE mission. It is also your responsibility to keep your weapon within arms reach at all times. You should never leave your weapon unguarded. There is no excuse for a negligent discharge or a misplaced weapon. I want to emphasize the importance of following the proper weapon clearing procedures at all times. As with weapons accountability, you should always have your identification cards on your person. These are disciplinary's actions that have high priority and should be passed on to the new soldiers arriving.

Attention to all details such as staying awake on guard duty, proper accountability of sensitive items and proper wear and appearance of your uniform, are examples where you have the opportunity to surpass standards.

Your discipline as a soldier serves to send a message about unit. You don't want to become complacent or lackadaisical. I encourage you to use this opportunity to convey your competence and skills and pride in yourself and your unit. **“Dare to make a difference.”**

On the Cover

Private First Class Timothy B. Shampoe, a radar operator with Section Four and a White Salmon, Wash., native, checks the power connection on the transportable phase quasar to ensure it is tight. (Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove, Jr. See page 8.)

“War should belong to the tragic past, to history: it should find no place on humanity's agenda for the future.” – Pope John Paul II

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 is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle. THE TALON is an Army-funded newspaper authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas, under the provision of AR 360-81. Contents of THE TALON are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle.

THE TALON is published weekly by the 1st Armored Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina APO AE 09789, Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5233.

E-mail: talon@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. Visit the Talon and other Bosnia-Herzegovina related items from the TFE homepage: www.tfeagle.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 5,500.

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"ModernPioneers" breakcamp



Story and photo by Specialist Robert B. Valentine
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

After a few days on the trail, pioneers of the Old West would settle into a well-defined daily routine. They would wake up before sunrise, cook breakfast, yoke the oxen, and hit the trail.

The 47th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, from Braumholder, Germany, known as the "Modern Pioneers," is almost ready to break camp and drive on from Guardian Base.

Up until Sept. 7, Guardian was the Theater Distribution Center controlled by the 47th FSB.

"Our battalion was responsible for receiving supplies from Germany and distributing them throughout the theater and providing supply support," said Major Jeffrey K. Young, 47th FSB executive officer from Albany, Ga.

The base is closing for two primary reasons. First, the number of troops is being reduced in Multinational Division (North), he said. By reducing the number of base camps, this puts more assets in one place. This reduces guard requirements and frees combat soldiers to do patrols and weapons inspections at local civilian sites. The second reason is monetary. By consolidating two combat service support battalions, efficiency will increase, Young said. The new TDC will be transferred to Comanche Base, a more central location.

"(Operation Joint Forge) gave us the unique and unusual opportunity to exercise all facets of the battalion at one place at one time," Young stated. Company A ran supply services, Company B controlled maintenance support, and Company C provided direct medical support. Although managing the Container Handling and Storage Area is not a doctrinal mission for the 47th FSB, the unit fulfilled the requirement. The 47th FSB soldiers were taught how to do bulk fuel distribution from members of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and then passed their knowledge to soldiers of 1st Cavalry that will replace them at Comanche.

"Learning the MOS took a lot of hours, but we were able to improve accountability to 100 percent," said Sergeant James N. Kimball, an ammunition supply noncommissioned officer with Company A, 47th FSB from Seattle, Wash. "Our replacements are (ammunition specialists) too, so we could relate to them easily and teach them how to do the job," he said. Kimball felt his time at Guardian was well spent. "We accomplished much in a short period of time."

In the near future, the land that once encompassed Guardian will revert back to the original landowners with little or no trace of the peacekeeping mission. Memories of what they achieved will carry on as soldiers of the "Modern Pioneers" continue to hit the trail.

K9 MPs, asset to force protection

Story and Photo by Private First Class
Giovanni Lorente
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

When Sergeant Robert L. Thomas, from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., joined the Army, he knew what he wanted to be. Thomas wanted to be a military policeman.

As his story goes, he was out one day training and happened to observe other MP soldiers working with dogs. Thomas looked into it and soon became part of a canine unit.

Thomas is assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 100th Area Support Group, from Grafenwoehr, Germany, as a military police working dog handler. His partner, Nero, is a 2-year-old German Shepherd trained to detect all kinds of explosives and to attack if he interprets any signs of aggression toward him or his handler.

The K9 mission at Camp Dobol was to inspect all personal baggage of soldiers going back home to ensure that no one was attempting to smuggle any explosives back home with them, according to Thomas. The task was simple: Nero followed Thomas' commands either by signal or sound around all the bags until they had all been checked.

"It's what he's been trained for," Thomas explained. "He is still a little young and sometimes thinks this is a game,

but as he grows up he will get better."

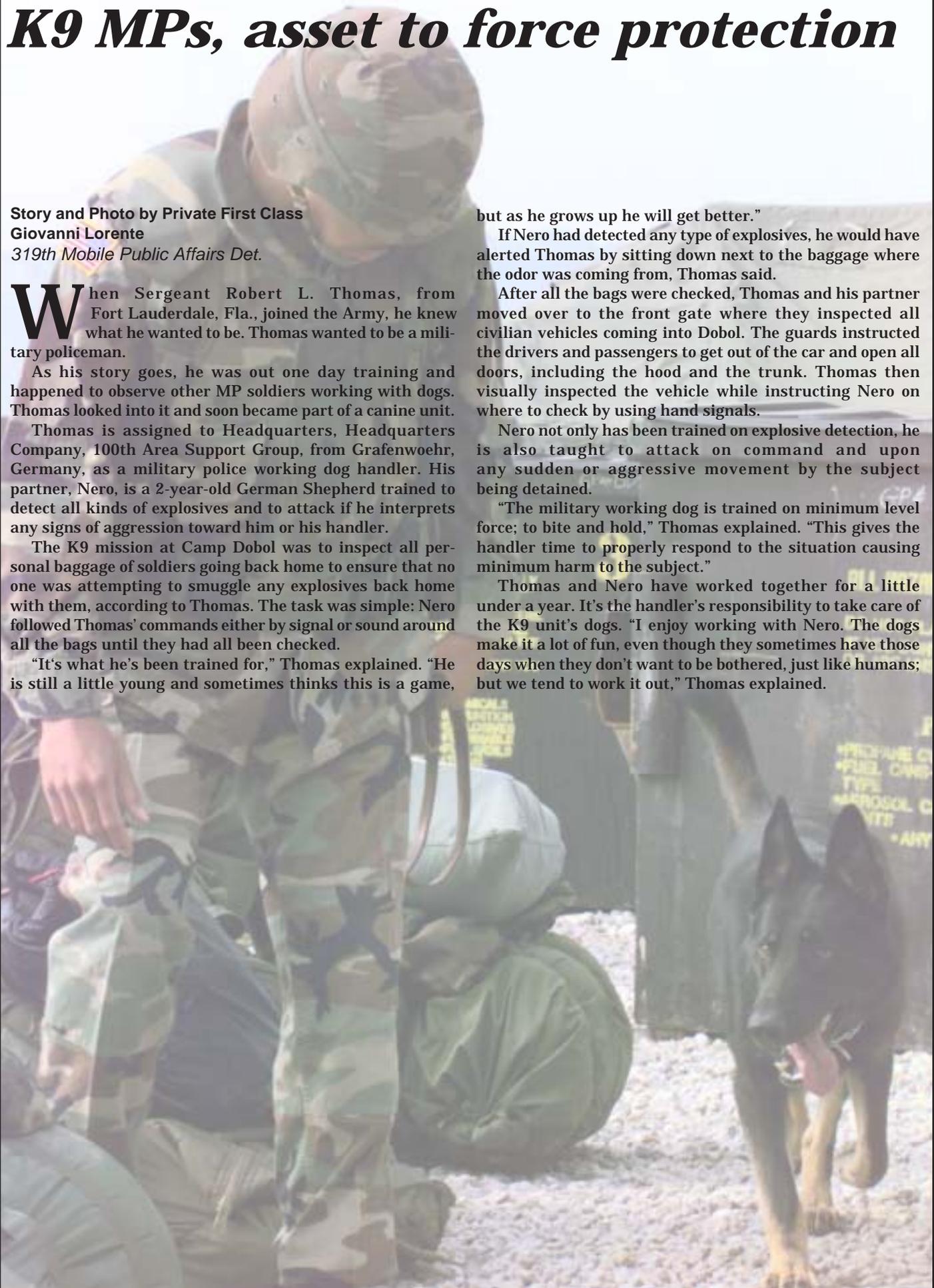
If Nero had detected any type of explosives, he would have alerted Thomas by sitting down next to the baggage where the odor was coming from, Thomas said.

After all the bags were checked, Thomas and his partner moved over to the front gate where they inspected all civilian vehicles coming into Dobol. The guards instructed the drivers and passengers to get out of the car and open all doors, including the hood and the trunk. Thomas then visually inspected the vehicle while instructing Nero on where to check by using hand signals.

Nero not only has been trained on explosive detection, he is also taught to attack on command and upon any sudden or aggressive movement by the subject being detained.

"The military working dog is trained on minimum level force; to bite and hold," Thomas explained. "This gives the handler time to properly respond to the situation causing minimum harm to the subject."

Thomas and Nero have worked together for a little under a year. It's the handler's responsibility to take care of the K9 unit's dogs. "I enjoy working with Nero. The dogs make it a lot of fun, even though they sometimes have those days when they don't want to be bothered, just like humans; but we tend to work it out," Thomas explained.



Task Force Dagger transitions

Story and Photo by Specialist Robert B. Valentine
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The 501st Military Intelligence Battalion also known as Task Force Dagger, relinquished the driver's seat last week and let the 312th MI Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, take the wheel in the second phase of the "left seat, right seat" transition training program.

The "Wranglers" of the 312th MI Battalion were ready to prove their ability with hands-on activity after two weeks of "left seat" instruction, which demonstrated how TF Dagger conducted operations.

Sergeant Ryan T. Caldwell, the 501st MI Battalion communications noncommissioned officer in charge, said that the "left seat, right seat" training concept takes teamwork. "It's very effective when people from both units work together to accomplish a smooth change over," the Olympia, Wash. native said. "When the 312th soldiers got here, they already knew their job," said Specialist Joseph A. Scott, a communications specialist for the 501st MI Battalion. "It's our job to show them how things flow. Every duty assignment has a different rhythm," the Creswell, Ore. native explained.

"I showed my replacement where the different equipment is located, how to fill out forms, and how to turn in equipment during the 'right seat' phase," Scott said. "Now that I am in the 'right seat,' I observe mostly. I only intervene when she comes across a particular problem or she asks a question. This is a time when the finer points are worked out."

Private Shelley R. Mitchell, an incoming communications specialist from the 312th MI Battalion from Blacksburg, Va., is Scott's replacement. "The 501st showed us procedures on how to get the overall mission done. We will form it into our own routine," she said.

Mitchell is responsible for maintaining different forms of communication for the MI Battalion. If something goes wrong with the telephones, computers, radios or satellites, a team attempts to repair it on site; if it's more complicated then it is brought to their shop to be fixed, she said. Their section works on all types of telephone systems used in theater, such as Multiple Subscriber Equipment, International Phone Networks, Post Telegraph Telephone and Sprint lines.

Maintaining retransmission sites is one of their most important mission requirements in the northern regions. Radio signals have limited range due to terrain and distance. "Retransmit" sites accept radio transmissions and forward the signals further out to reach the targeted receiver.

"Everyday we learn something new. As new units come in, processes are bound to change. By learning their system, it gives us a framework to do business," said Sergeant Kathy J. Cook, a com-



Private First Class Luis Pineda and Specialist Daniel Moyer of the 501st Military Intelligence, 1st Armored Division, verify medals and awards for departing "TF Dagger" soldiers.

munications specialist team leader for 312th MI Battalion. "An important aspect of the 'left seat, right seat' idea is showing how the job is done, not explaining the job itself," said the Killeen, Texas native.

Making certain that a smooth changeover between an incoming unit and the outgoing unit is important when it comes to communications for soldiers in the field.

"When something unexpected happens and get stuck out there, you are going to need help. You need to know what is going on with your people, especially in a convoy," Cook said. "Good communications can mean the difference between waiting for someone to pick you up, or walking back home."

Redeployment to Dexheim, Germany is a priority for 501st MI Battalion soldiers, but not until they have completed the "left seat, right seat" training with their replacements. Ensuring that the Wranglers are ready to take up their part in the peacekeeping mission without skipping a beat, remains paramount.

1st AD “Conquerors” and “Blackhawks”



Photo by Stephanie F. Thomas, 55th Signal Company, (Combat Camera)

1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment transferred authority to 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas on Sept. 20. Lieutenant Colonel Dallas C. Brown (right) and Command Sergeant Major Richard L. Colangelo (left) case their colors as a symbol of turning over command during the Transfer of Authority ceremony held in the Maintenance Bay in Camp McGovern. The “conquerors” assumed control of Camp McGovern in June of 1998 and were responsible for the northern portion of the United States sector of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

” case colors after successful mission



Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove/ 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry transferred authority to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas on Sept. 21. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Smith (left) and Command Sergeant Major Peter Pacyao stand in front of their soldiers during the Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Camp Dabol. “The Blackhawks” were responsible for enforcing peace, deterring violence and promoting the stability of the southeast portion of MND (N).

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Story by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove, Jr.
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.
Photo by First Lieutenant Jeffrey R. Roth
Company C, 2-6 Field Artillery

Like hawks, they carefully observe the sky. If anything, even a bird moves, they know. But what they are searching for is artillery, or any other devices that can take a human life, said Sergeant Michael C. Cooksan, the Radar Section Four chief with Battery C, 25th Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division.

The Army and Navy Firefinder Radar, a radar system that detects artillery, is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by Section Four, a seven-person team located at Camp McGovern. The mission is to find the source of indirect fire that violates the Dayton Peace Accord by using the radar. It is a treaty violation to fire mortars, artillery and rockets.

Private First Class Timothy B. Shampoe, a radar operator with section four and a White Salmon, Wash., native said, "(Bosnians) know what the radar is and what it does ... they know the radar is watching so it keeps a little tension on them and they realize if they (violate the treaty, the Stabilization Force) is here."

When the radar detects something, it collects mathematical data, such as possible origin of the device and the location it may land. It then transfers the information to a computer, said Shampoe. The computer analyzes the data to see if it meets the criteria of indirect fire. If it does, the computer beeps, alerting the operators. The operators then send the data to Eagle Base, where a command decision can be made on how to handle the situation. All this happens in a matter of seconds.

Fortunately, there hasn't been a treaty violation since SFOR has been here, said Shampoe.

Shampoe recalled one false alarm that scared him. He was operating the TPQ 37 when he heard a loud bang. A second later, the radar beeped. It detected a device that met the criteria of indirect fire. Following correct procedure, he sent the information to Eagle Base. A convoy sent to the origin of the device discovered a local had discharged his weapon into the air as part of a celebration.

Both Cooksan and Shampoe said they are proud to be a part of the force that prevents destruction from occurring. The role the unit plays in preserving the peace in Bosnia is critical, said Shampoe, so they continue to observe the sky, waiting.



Telling stories without words



First Lieutenant Michael P. Solovey explains the meaning behind his latest work entitled "96 Combat Patrols, Sir."

Story and Photo by Specialist Robert B. Valentine
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Given a paintbrush or pen in hand, First Lieutenant Michael P. Solovey of Lexington, Va. can tell a story without words.

"It's very hard to write a letter explaining what is going on here. I wanted to give an account of what it is like to be here," said Solovey, a logistics operations officer.

His latest work is a pen-and-ink drawing depicting a variety of scenes of Operation Joint Forge. It is titled "96 Combat Patrols, Sir." It took him 50 hours to complete the illustration once the initial sketches were done.

"Each part tells something specific — the HMMWV is an XM1114. It is specifically used in Bosnia. The M1A1 Abrams Tank is also utilized in Bosnia. There is also the joint Russian / U.S. parachute exercise depicted. The Slav-Brod Bridge that we rebuilt signifies the rebuilding of the infrastructure we are doing here. Before you could not get across to the other side," Solovey explained.

All of these scenes represent the day-to-day operations of 1st Armored Division soldiers deployed to Bosnia. "They

are the true peacekeepers of the world," Solovey said.

Some of the prints will be donated to the 1st Armored Division Association to be sold. A part of the profits will go towards Soldier of the Month awards.

"I have been drawing ever since I can remember. I was always getting in trouble in school for doodling and sketching," he said. "In my last year at VMI (Virginia Military Institute) I went to France to the Marshutz School of Art. That is where I really learned to paint oils."

Since then, Solovey has done three oil paintings, and each portrays cadet life at VMI. "Each one illustrates the humility and experiences that only a VMI graduate can understand and appreciate," he said.

Due to his tight schedule, Lieutenant Solovey has to make time to practice his art. Sometimes he stays up late at night just to finish a piece.

"I love drawing and painting because it is relaxing and you can share it with other people."

Given the continued presence of peacekeeping soldiers in the Balkans, First Lieutenant Solovey will have more to stories to fuel artwork.

Camp Colt closes for business



Specialist Gig M. Rohmfeld guides a wrecker with a heavy load to keep the front end of the vehicle from drifting to the side.

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

After two years and seven months of operation, the soldiers of Camp Colt will say goodbye, according to Captain Steve J. Lutsky of Clinton, N.J., commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment out of Baumholder, Germany.

The downsizing of Colt was initiated July 15 and is expected to be completed sometime in September, according to Lutsky.

"It's just a matter of paperwork coming through, and the final decision being made, then the base camp will be torn down," said Specialist William R. Allen of Lexington, Ky., a tanker with 1st Armored Division out of Baumholder, Germany.

"We came down here with this mission in mind knowing that we'd be closing the base camp down," said Allen, who works in the Tactical Operation Center, tracking missions moving in and around Colt.

"The Army wants to close the camp down, and we're here to do it. The Army's pretty amazing with what they can do in

the field," Allen said.

Colt is the only U.S. camp located in Serbian territory and was decisive terrain when the Implementation Force operated here, according to Allen. "I think that when things first started happening (Colt) was pretty strategic. At this point, it's not as volatile of an environment, so there's no need for as much manpower." Everyone feels that the mission here has calmed down because of Stabilization Force progress, and that Camp McGovern can handle the mission after Colt closes.

Colt's soldiers must roll all the military equipment out, while continuing to pull force protection, Allen said. "We have tanks here we use for the Quick Reaction Force in case there are any problems. But outside of that, we're driving mostly up-armored Humvees," Allen stated. He said the TOC will be the last structure taken down. "We can't shut down control."

"It used to be huge," Allen said. "They used to have over three miles of perimeter. This base camp was originally designed to hold 1200

soldiers," continued Allen.

"Our company provides force protection for the tower," said Allen. "We watch the perimeter; meanwhile, Brown and Root tear down the base camp. Brown and Root is just going to drop everything," he said. "They're like miracle workers."

Brown and Root will take down the camp's buildings and tents, and everything that was a part of the camp in the surrounding area.

Allen said it's nice to be able to write a part of history. "There are a lot of bad things that went on in Bosnia. Now that we've had the opportunity to provide peace and security here, you can see a lot of progress being made with new houses built and roads improved."

"It's all been a good time here," Allen said. "It's

a nice cultural interaction. There hasn't been one moment where we've had a crowning achievement. It's a continuing mission."

"It's pretty evident that the situation here has died some," Allen stated. "Obviously everyone's confident that everything here is well."

"Now that we've had the opportunity to provide peace and security here, you can see a lot of progress being made with new houses built and roads improved."

Specialist William R. Allen

Engineers repair Sekovici bridge

Story and Photos by Private First Class Giovanni Lorente
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

A little outside help can go a long way when trying to help a country devastated by war achieve a lasting peace. As members of the Stabilization Forces in Bosnia, soldiers of the 40th Engineer Battalion of Baumholder, Germany got a chance to put their weapons aside and assist the local people in "bridging the gap" between their personal differences.

The 40th Engineers at Camp Dobol, along with help from members of the Republika Srpska Army, laid down their weapons and, with hammer and nails in hand, used their skills and knowledge to repair a wooden bridge in the area of Sekovici.

Repairing damaged and unserviceable bridges is crucial to linking formerly isolated communities, and helps the overall communication process in Bosnia.

Before the engineers could begin their repairs on the dilapidated bridge, they had to remove its damaged parts.

The soldiers first tore down the bridge's broken railing. Then the real work started as engineers produced hammers, nails, wood and a chain saw and began their day's labor.

The wood was carried to the bridge, measured and cut. Air once filled with the noise of gunfire now resonated with the steady beat of hammers pounding nails into fresh wood.

Traffic initially hampered the mission of the 40th Engineers, but the experienced soldiers easily overcame the hindrance. The engineers put soldiers at either end of the bridge to control traffic flow, while the rest of the team was hard at work making their repairs.

Locals gathered nearby and watched as the soldiers worked steadily and with skill to make the bridge serviceable. Children approached and smiled, and motorists waved as if thanking the soldiers for their help.

"A building of unity between the different entities is what we are trying to accomplish," said Sergeant First Class Kevin T. Magoon, from Ticonderoga, N.Y.

Residents of Sekovici now have a trustworthy link between their communities thanks to the efforts of these dedicated soldiers.



Sergeant First Class Kevin T. Magoon nails down a railing in place while several other members of the 40th Engineers secure the beams along the rest of the bridge.



Staff Sergeant Chris Mckinney carries several wooden beams which will be used to make repairs on the bridge.

Eagle Base signal unit sign off



Photo by Specialist Jason Shepherd/ 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The 440th Signal Battalion transferred authority to the 13th Signal Battalion from Fort Hood, Texas on Sept. 30. Lieutenant Colonel William R. Wilson (Right) and Sergeant Major Roderick D. Johnson case their colors as a symbol of turning over command during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Eagle Base. The "Road Runners" assumed control of Eagle Base's communication systems in May of 1998 and were responsible for providing critical tactical communications support to 1st Armored Division and Task Force Eagle.