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TALON

Talon Inside



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By Command Sergeant Major Paul M. Inman
Multinational Division (N) CSM



The cold temperatures offer a new challenge for Multinational Division (North) soldiers who may not be used to such conditions. This challenge involves keeping safe during the winter months.

Every soldier has to learn to prevent cold weather injuries. These injuries include frostbite and hypothermia.

There are many symptoms for these common cold weather injuries. Red and painful skin is a sign of the early stages of frostbite. When the skin turns blue and the pain leaves, it is in its final stage. Hypothermia casualties experience uncontrollable shaking, slurring speech and confusion.

Using the acronym "COLD" will assist you in cold weather prevention. C: Clean; keep your clothing clean to assist in ventilation. O: Overexertion; adjust your clothing as your exertion increases. L: Layers; taking off layers when exerting yourself will keep you from overheating. D: Dry; keep your clothing dry. Wet clothing will increase your chances of a cold weather injury.

Before you deployed to Bosnia, you were issued cold weather items. Gloves with liners, boots, balacalava, goggles, heavy polypropylene undergarments, gortex top and bottom, scarf and other protective equipment can be used to keep warm.

Maintaining proper water intake and eating nutritional meals, avoiding caffeine and nicotine and minimizing inactivity in cold conditions can prevent susceptibility to cold injuries.

Leaders must safeguard their soldiers by making sure that they know the signs and symptoms of cold weather injuries. It's up to the Noncommissioned officer to identify soldiers with prior cold weather injuries, and watch them to make sure they don't become injured again.

Keeping safe during the upcoming months is a vital part of the 1st Cavalry Division **Force Protection: Stay Safe**

On the Cover

While on patrol with 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1-8 Cavalry Regiment, Specialist Charlie Foster, combat medic, stops to care for a young Bosnian child with a cut on his head. (Photo by Staff Sergeant Jim Guzior. See page 9.)

"May the forces of evil become confused on the way to your house."
 - George Carlin

The Task Force Eagle Web site is located at www.tfeagle.army.mil

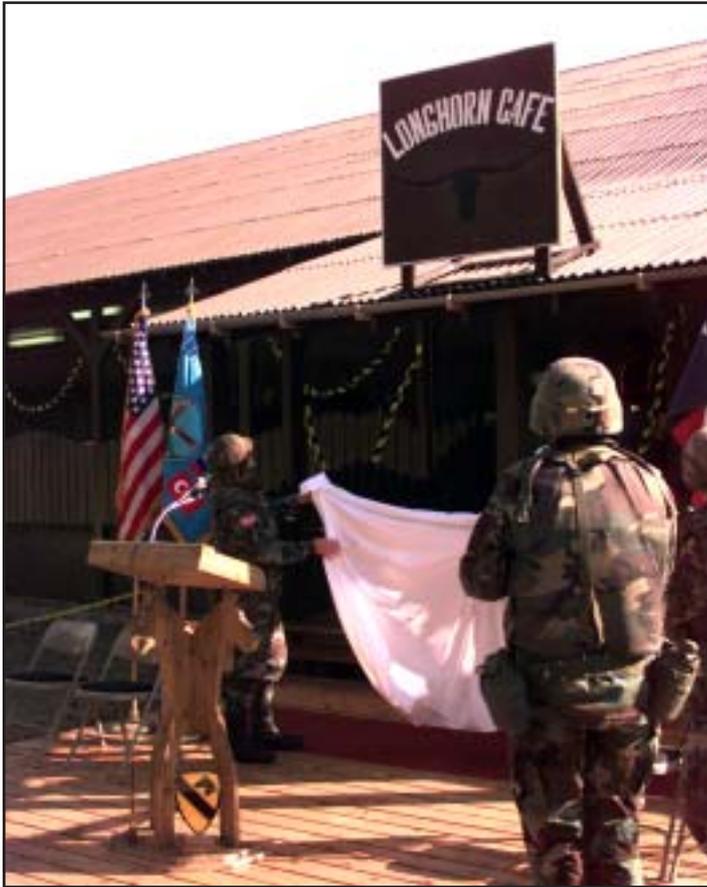
The Task Force Eagle web site offers breaking news and photos on its web site. The web site provides information concerning the Turk, Russian, and NORDPOL Brigade assigned to Task Force Eagle, as well as U.S. soldiers stationed in Bosnia.

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The Longhorn Cafe, 1st Cavalry welcomes hungry cowboys



Major General Kevin P. Byrnes unveils the sign for Eagle Base's new dining facility, the Longhorn Cafe.

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

With the consolidation of base camps throughout Multinational Division (North), more and more soldiers and civilians at Eagle Base's dining facility were fighting dining facility lines, and seats were scarce.

The overcrowding is now just a fading memory.

Only 60 days after the initial groundbreaking, Brown and Root workers completed construction of the Longhorn Cafe. The new dining facility can seat 300, and can service 900 people in about 90 minutes, according to a Brown and Root spokesman.

With both facilities in operation, everyone at Eagle Base can now enjoy a peaceful meal.

Major General Kevin P. Byrnes, commander of MND (N) and the 1st Cavalry Division, spoke at the Longhorn Cafe's grand opening ceremony. "This dining facility was part of 1st Armored Division's vision to improve living conditions for soldiers involved in Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Joint

Guard," the New York, N.Y. native said.

"Division has taken the baton. We are going to carry it farther," Byrnes stated.

"Texas is more than a place; it's an attitude. (1st Cavalry Division) brought the Texas tradition of friendliness, neighborliness and peace here with us," Byrnes said. "We want to leave that mark on this area. In the future, the 49th Armored Division from Dallas, Texas will be here. The Longhorn Cafe will remind them of home too," Byrnes said.

"This is a great facility, especially for the soldiers on this end of the base," said Brigadier General Steven Whitcomb, the assistant division commander for MND (N) and the 1st Cavalry Division. "It is much more convenient for these soldiers. By building this dining facility, living conditions are raised, because the other facility was getting crowded," the Charlottesville, Va. native said. "Now it will be more fun to eat a meal."

"Brown and Root is proud and pleased to turn over this facility to America's First Team," said retired Colonel John Downey, project manager for Brown and Root, and Houston, Texas native. "This was a teaming effort between Brown and Root, the 94th Engineering Company and the Base Camp Coordinating Agency.

The 94th Engineers cleared the area of any possible unexploded ordinance, and the BCCA provided the necessary planning within the Base Camp Infrastructure Upgrade Program, according to Downey.

"Through the combined effort of Brown and Root and the Army, we pulled this project together and made it happen. The Longhorn Cafe represents the quality of life standard that soldiers here deserve," Downey said.



This cake served as the first desert for the new Longhorn Cafe, ushering in a new standard for dining facilities.

Range provides enjoyable training for troops

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

With steady breathing and eyes focused, a McGovern soldier slowly squeezes the trigger of his M-16 rifle. A shot echoes throughout Gettysburg, McGovern's rifle range. This is by no means the first time this soldier has fired a weapon, but the thrill of sending a well-aimed bullet downrange never ceases to inspire this expert rifleman.

Training of this type is why Private First Class Rodney Brooks signed up for the Army.

He's a mechanized infantryman with 1st Platoon of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment at Camp McGovern, and a member of the sniper team.

"It is always fun to get out there and shoot," the Pine Grove, Calif. native said. "It's something to look forward to."

Gettysburg Rifle Range gives McGovern soldiers a chance to brush up on marksmanship as well as the opportunity to get outside the wire, according to Staff Sergeant Jose P. Maldonado, a team leader also with 1st Platoon, and a Tampa, Fla. native. "(Marksmanship) is one of those perishable skills. The more you use it, the better you'll be. That's what the range is for — to maintain our skills," he said.

In addition to target practice, the unit uses the range to confirm zeros, Maldonado said. "It's a type of preventative maintenance to make sure the weapon is still as efficient as possible."

Maldonado said the platoon also uses Gettysburg to cross

train soldiers on unfamiliar weapons. Although 1st Platoon soldiers are trained on all small arms, they most often fire their assigned weapon. The range gives soldiers the chance to improve their accuracy with other small arms that they don't usually get the opportunity to fire.

The range is smaller than ranges 1st Platoon is accustomed to at Fort Hood, Maldonado said, but it is perfect for M-16 rifles and 9mm pistols.

The small range is also easily maintained, Maldonado said. Besides the routine police calls and cleaning, they leave the target stands and any other equipment that could be used by other units. The goal is to leave the range in the same or better condition than when they arrived.

As with all aspects of the military, safety is the top priority, Brooks said. In addition to hearing protection and routine clearing and checking of weapons, each individual lane is required to have a noncommissioned officer present to supervise soldiers while firing is in progress.

"It is important to have an NCO out here for leadership and guidance," Brooks said.

Maldonado said the practice provides soldiers with another indirect form of safety — confidence. If a soldier is familiar with his weapon and knows what it is capable of, he will be able to defend himself better.

For Brooks, firing at Gettysburg Rifle Range has yet another positive impact; it builds morale. "I love being out there and shooting my weapon. I consider it a challenge to try to shoot the best I can, and I like the challenge."



Staff Sergeant Jose P. Maldonado, a squad leader with 2nd Platoon Company A of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment and an El Paso, Texas native, zeros his M-4 Carbine at Gettysburg Rifle Range.

Sol dier senj oydail yd chapel services



(From left to right) Chief Warrant Officer Anne Wickens, Chaplain Captain Eric J. Albertson, Chaplain Major Manny R. Guico, and Major Eric T. Lund hold hands and pray during Catholic Mass at the Eagle Base Chapel.

Story and photo by Sergeant First Class Donald R. Dunn II
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Nothing was going right. Down and troubled, the soldier wandered aimlessly looking for an outlet for his frustration. Where can a soldier go to get a little peace and quiet around here, the soldier wondered.

Then he stumbles across the Eagle Base Chapel, which is open 24 hours a day, and finds his answer.

The chapel provides a quiet safe haven where soldiers can come to meditate, pray or seek counsel with a chaplain. All a soldier needs to do is come and ask for help, and a member of the chaplain team will answer the call.

"We offer and provide religious support, pastoral counseling for all soldiers, to include Department of Defense Civilians," said Sergeant Michael L. Cargle, a chaplain's assistant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, and resident of Cleveland, Ohio. "Soldiers here need to know that during deployment and separation from their families we are available to meet their needs in this stressful and lonely place.

"I want to let soldiers know we will listen and support them," he added.

"We have started holding Catholic Services here at Building 14 every day at noon," Chaplain Major Manny R. Guico, with the 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group, and resident of Cerritos, Ca., said. "Now, soldiers will be able to get their spiri-

tual nutrition before they go to get their physical nutrition. We are close to the mess hall at the east gate, so we want to encourage soldiers and civilians to come and worship with us."

"Helping soldiers cope with their problems is what we do. We also work with the Red Cross and support them too," said Chaplain Captain Eric J. Albertson, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division and a resident of Arlington, Va. "Church services here are conducted by Army and Air Force Chaplains. We are a joint operation and support all our servicemen and women," he added.

"I like it now that the Catholic services are at lunchtime. It's more convenient and I enjoy it more," Chief Warrant Officer Anne Wickens of G-2, 1st Cavalry Division and a resident of Elgin, Ariz., said.

"The chapel also offers a wide variety of programs including a multi-faith room for other denominations. Here we hold services for Catholic, Jewish, Protestant and Orthodox religions. The chapel has a wide variety of spiritual literature to meet your religious needs — and guess what? It's free for the asking and the taking," Cargle said.

The chapel is open 24 hours a day and a Tuzla Chapel Service Schedule is posted.

Soldiers in need of support need look no further than the Eagle Base chapel. There's always someone there that cares, and can help.

Not just another day on the way to work

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

The fog was thick and the roads were barely visible, yet majestic machines rolled through narrow streets, easing their way around curves and through traffic. The metallic monstrosities demanded respect from everything they encountered on the road. Pedestrians gaped open-mouthed at the bizarre parade, and drivers steered their cars to the roadside to leave these machines of destruction a wide girth.

For the first time in more than two years, M1A1 tanks rolled down the streets of Bosnia. The tanks were headed for Steel Castle – a veritable playground for tank training.

The members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment got a “break to get out of the HMMWV and get back to what they enlisted in the Army for,” said Sergeant First Class Leroy T. Smith III, 3rd Platoon sergeant, Company B, and resident of Chicago, Ill.

“Our main mission right now is peacekeeping,” Smith said. “The wartime effort is our major goal, so we have to keep up with that aspect of it.” Smith and his troops spent two days out at Steel Castle sharpening their maneuvering skills with battle drills.

Following a briefing from their commander, Captain

Scott Roberts, they were ready to put their machines to the test.

Safety, the most important factor of every military mission, was key to the training at Steel Castle. Soldiers practiced removing an injured team member from the tank. The procedures varied between removing the driver, the tank commander, the gunner, and the loader.

“I love this training. The terrain is real good — not too moist but enough to go fast, do maneuvers, wedges and techniques and stuff,” Jason H. Hunter, an armor crewman from Orlando, Fla., said.

The cold weather only seemed to give the soldiers more energy and enthusiasm for their two-day exercise. Each team mounted their tanks and headed to the open field. They zig-zagged up and down the field, gliding over the moist terrain as if their tanks were boats traveling over a calm sea. Mud was flying everywhere as the tracks plowed deep into soft earth.

An M-88 recovery vehicle, also known as a 56-ton tank tower, with a crew of experienced mechanics, went along with the M1A1 tanks. Tankers consider the M-88 and crew essential to their operation. The M-88 crew performs field repairs and tows M1A1s when necessary.

“Our hats go off to our chain of command who supported us, and gave us the opportunity to come out here,” Smith said. “We know it is hard to get the tanks rolling out of Dobol and go through town to come here to train.”

The training was considered successful and well worth the trouble.



Soldiers wait out the fog so they can begin training at Steel Castle.



Specialist Jason H. Hunter, driver of an M1A1 Abrams, prepares his tank for maneuvers at Steel Castle.



Sergeant First Class Leroy T. Smith III coordinates his next maneuver with the other tanks at Steel Castle.

Giving cross-training a new meaning

Story and photo by Sergeant Lisa D. Ward
1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office

It was late morning and the gym was packed. Soldiers were busy working up a sweat to help keep their bodies in top physical condition. However, the majority of the soldiers were wearing uniforms unfamiliar in appearance to most soldiers stationed at Eagle Base.

Forty officers from the II Corps, Federation Army participated in an officer professional development class on the U.S. Army's physical training program at the Eagle Fitness Center on Oct. 16. The class was given by members of the Joint Military Commission and master fitness trainers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade and 82nd Field Artillery soldiers from Eagle Base and Camp Bedrock.

The demonstration provided the Federation Army guidance on how the U.S. Army conducts physical training, and introduced them to some of the equipment we use, according to Major David C. Hill, the federation desk officer in the JMC assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division.

The day began with a general overview on what kind of physical fitness training we conduct and why it is important.

"We introduced them to the master fitness trainers, the noncommissioned officers, and explained to them that in our Army the noncommissioned officers are the backbone of the Army and an integral part of running the physical training for our soldiers," Hill said.

The U.S. Army soldiers demonstrated the extended

formation, and then the Federation Army soldiers joined them in formation. Each command was given step by step while the senior fitness officer of the II Corps Federation Army echoed the commands. The soldiers were then taken through a series of stretches and calisthenics while the master fitness trainers walked the formation answering questions. During this demonstration, the instructor explained the purpose of each exercise and what muscles were worked.

The soldiers then broke into four different groups and were given a 15 minute block of instruction on the treadmill, stationary bicycle, Stairmaster and various weight lifting techniques in the weight room. A master fitness trainer, interpreter and demonstrators were positioned at each station to give the class.

"On each piece of equipment, we showed them the safety features, how to operate it, and the muscle groups that were exercised," Hill said.

The soldiers were rotated through each station and then given an hour to do a personal workout with the equipment of their choice.

The Federation Army perform basic physical fitness but are not provided any of the equipment that the Task Force Eagle soldiers have. The officers from II Corps planned to take what they learned during the class and pass it on to their units, according to Staff Sergeant Almir Kuluglic, professor of physical training for the Federation Army.

"I like working with the different equipment and think it is very useful, especially in the winter," replied First Sergeant Mensur Devedzic, the battalion first sergeant for the Federation Army.

"Soldiers in the gym that weren't involved in the class had a chance for some positive interaction with the Federation Army soldiers," Hill said. "They were able to see the Federation Army soldiers, talk with some of them, and work out with them. That was another good, unexpected benefit that we had."

Private First Class Andrew T. Doyle, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, and a driver for one of the liaison officers assigned to the JMC, provided assistance by helping to demonstrate the equipment and different exercises. "They seemed to catch on very fast, I enjoyed working with them," he said.

"They were excited about our equipment and hope that they can get some of their own. Overall, I believe it was a successful day," said Hill.

As the VF officers departed from the gym, they hoped to bring to their units some of the same concepts of physical fitness the U.S. Army uses. While the equipment the Task Force Eagle soldiers are provided is certainly a tool that helps keep them in top physical condition, the Army's physical training program is also a key contributing factor.



Major Deceno Dacumos, a Joint Military Commission liaison officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, explains to officers from the II Corps, Federation Army, during an officer professional development class, how to properly lift weights while Major Bill Neeland, also a JMC LNO for HHC, 1CD, demonstrates.

Combat medic gives first-rate aid



While on patrol with 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, Specialist Charlie Foster, a combat medic, stops to look at an injury on a fellow soldier's arm.

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

A soldier restlessly looks into the eyes of his medic and asks, "Am I gonna be okay?" Examining a long scratch on the soldier's arm, the medic reaches for his aid bag and says, "You'll be fine."

His name is Specialist Charlie Foster. He's the senior line medic for 3rd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and a Springfield, Ill. native. He is just one of the many medics at Camp McGovern traveling on patrols keeping soldiers healthy.

"My job is important because of the potential risks my soldiers face here in Bosnia," Foster said. "There are land mines, vehicle accidents and even general injuries that happen when they are on patrol."

Armed with an aid bag and medical deftness, Foster treats every blister, scratch and cut his platoon needs mending.

"After I evaluate a patient, I use the supplies in my aid bag to fix whatever's the problem," said Foster. "Sometimes you can't fix things like colds. They always come back but I do the best I can with what I have ... sometimes it just isn't enough," he added.

According to Foster, line medics are a rare breed. Basically, they work in the field with tankers or infantrymen, but seldom in the comfort of an aid station. Line medics are left alone to build a relationship with their combat platoons, Foster said. Each medic has a unique way of gaining platoon trust.

"I've built trust with my platoon by being with them all the time and dropping everything to help them with their problems," Foster said. "I take them to sick call, clean their wounds, and bring them food or water if they're on guard duty and just go out of my way to help them. That builds trust," he added.

Following his tank platoon through a nearby city on a dismounted patrol, Foster stops to look at a scratch on a soldier's arm. The soldier listens intently, and Foster smiles. Perhaps

treating soldiers' injuries is most gratifying for a medic.

"It's great when everyone is safe, and no one gets sick or hurt," Foster said. "I'm most happy when I don't have to reach in my aid bag at all -- that's a good day," he added.

Beneath the bandages, gauze, and moleskin, Foster said he just likes being a soldier-medic and helping out the platoon in the field.

"I like being a line medic because I get to go to the field and get down and dirty with the guys," Foster said. "When they're hurt, I'm their first care provider, and it just feels great to help people," he added.

The soldier relaxes his arm and lets the medic work. He trusts his medic and tells him so in two words, "Thanks Doc."

Civil Affairs unit helps Bosnian locals



Camp Bedrock soldiers deliver humanitarian aid to a displaced persons center.

nel Bruce Rogers, the civil-military cooperation officer for Task Force 2-8. "There's only one active duty (Civil Affairs) unit at Fort Bragg," Rogers, who's a resident of Bensalem, Pa., said.

Lieutenant Colonel Jeffery Gonsecki's team visits the 18 DPRE centers and one orphanage currently being monitored in the Task Force's area of responsibility, which includes most of the Tuzla, Banovici and Srebrenica Opstinas.

Civil Affairs soldiers ask the women if there is enough food, whether or not the children are going to school and if they have any needs or problems. The answers are recorded and, if necessary, there is follow-up with the appropriate aid agency.

The process is complicated and time consuming considering the more than 40 agencies soldiers deal with to accomplish the mission.

Major Rudi Mediavilla, leader of team two, is trying to combine the efforts of these many agencies under an umbrella agency like the one he worked with in Haiti. It provided a direct connection between those needing aid and those supplying it.

Even though aid comes from U.N. agencies, country's aid agencies and other organizations, soldiers at Bedrock can also help because of a Civil Affairs assisted program.

Civil Affairs chooses DPRE centers to be visited by Bedrock's chaplain and soldiers. They deliver boxes of clothing and school supplies that they have received from families and friends at home. It's an opportunity to meet victims of the war and bring smiles to the faces of the children and the soldiers.

The Civil Affairs soldiers for Task Force 2-8 look forward to the day that international and non-governmental agencies can completely take over the aid mission in Bosnia. That will not happen, however, until all the displaced civilians are safe in their own homes again. Until then, Civil Affairs soldiers will continue with their important work.

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Pat Johnston
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Many soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina think of Army Civil Affairs only when there is an accident that involves a military vehicle.

However, Civil Affairs do much more in this former war-torn country. Task Force 2-8 Cavalry Civil Affairs at Camp Bedrock is divided into two teams. One team monitors the displaced person refugee centers. The other team works with international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to provide help to civilians in Bosnia.

All the civil affairs soldiers at Bedrock are Reservists from units that are attached to the 358th Civil Affairs Brigade out of Norristown, Pa. Even though the 358th is tasked by Southern Command for duty, the 358th Reservists were called up for Bosnia duty because after five rotations, the Army was running out of Civil Affairs Reservists tasked for European Command duty. "Civil affairs is 95 percent in the Reserves," said Lieutenant Colo-



Members of Task Force 2-8 Civil Affairs team visit a school in Banovici.

Cavalry soldiers visit local school

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

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment put aside their weapons and joined students at Kozluk Secondary School in Zvornik for a lesson on American culture.

"We just thought it would be great to be able to interact with the kids instead of just waving at them from our vehicles as we convoy past them," Sergeant Alfred Z. Nieto from San Antonio, Texas, explained.

The troops are trying to reach out and help the Bosnians understand what Stabilization Force's mission is all about. "We are here to try to bring peace for the future of this country, which are the children," Nieto said.

They put together a small American culture lesson to teach the students U.S. traditions like Thanksgiving and Christmas, and discuss fashion, sports and music. Soldiers also brought pastries and gifts.

The soldiers visited two classrooms and were surprised at

how receptive and interested the students were in U.S. customs. The students seemed familiar with most of the music groups mentioned. There were so many similarities, in fact, that at times soldiers found themselves interacting with the students one on one as if the language barrier didn't exist. Soldiers also shared pictures of their families and pets.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Brown, commander of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, told the students what a typical day is like for his 14-year-old daughter. "Your lives are very similar to ours back home," Brown told the students. "There isn't much of a difference."

Brown went on to open new lines of communication between the students of Kozluk by giving them his daughter's address and encouraging them to write letters to her and her friends. He encouraged the students to become "pen pals."

"Our purpose here was to get the kids to know us as humans and not as soldiers roaming around in their country," Nieto said. "We want them to know that we are here to help them. That is our main goal — to bring peace to their country."



Sergeant Alfred Z. Nieto and Specialist Michael Hill talk with students at a school in Zvornik.

U.S., Russian engineers complete Urumovici Bridge

Story and photo by Sergeant First Class
Donald R. Dunn II
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

American and Russian engineers have done it again. In only three weeks, they completed another bridge that will connect two Muslim communities.

The newest bridge is called the Urumovici Bridge. It is located in the town of Mumbasic, in the Republic of Srpska near the Zone of Separation within the Russian Sector.

U.S. Engineers from the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, and the Russian Engineers of the Russian Airborne Brigade worked together in a joint operation to complete the project.

The recent opening of the Urumovici Bridge will allow Muslim refugees back into resettlement areas heretofore unreachable.

Russian Chaplain Alexander Sythov was on hand to bless the bridge and began the ribbon cutting inaugural ceremony. He said, "God bless this bridge and the unity it will bring."

"We have opened the Priboj Bridge, now we will open the Urumovici Bridge," Russian Colonel Anatolij Sipchenko, the Russian operations group commander said. "We are here to celebrate the desire for peace in Bosnia, and this bridge built by the Americans and Russians made this possible."

Brigadier General Steven Whitcomb, assistant division commander, 1st Cavalry Division and a resident of Charlottesville, Va., said, "This was a great opportunity to bring American and Russian soldiers together. We can only gain from our joint efforts in the building of this bridge."

"We would like to see more of these projects," Mayor Taib Muninovich from the town Teochek, said. "I would like to thank the Stabilization Force soldiers and for all the materials used to build this bridge. Bosniacs can now return home to this town in Srpska, and this will join us together."

Mayor Mitar Maksimovich of Ugljevik said, "This bridge is a great opportunity to connect our people. I hope there is even more and more to come. Thank you."

"We worked hand and hand with the Russian engineers. This will open the road to the refugee camps so these people can finally go home," said Specialist Seth G. Stegall, a combat engineer with the 20th Engineer Battalion and a resident of Lawrence, Kan.

Specialist Joey K. Jones, a combat engineer from the 20th Engineer Battalion, said, "Even the locals pitched in and helped out. It was great to see everyone including the town help us finish this bridge."

Senior Sergeant Vitalie Suharev, a Russian Engineer of the Russian Airborne Brigade said, "We developed not only friendships with the American soldiers, but we also had a solid relationship of accomplishment."