

TALON

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- Army's own electric company
- Helping hands for Bosnian orphans

Talon

Inside



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



“War on Excess”

As all of you know, the First Cavalry Division has been in authority of Task Force Eagle for two months. As Major General Byrnes and I have traveled from camp to camp and to the hilltops, we have seen a need to conduct a War on Excess equipment and supplies. Major General Byrnes has given the task of identifying what is excess to the command sergeants major of Task Force Eagle. The G-4 has the mission of getting the excess out of the area of operation.

The process to do this is a simple one but will require every soldier's cooperation. Beginning November 23 and for the following three weeks I will visit each of the camps and hilltops with a five-person team of noncommissioned officers. The team will look in every container and in every area at every site to determine if there is any excess. Each camp's senior NCO will identify empty containers to hold the excess equipment until it is removed from your area. The team will also look to see if there are excess vehicles. A member of the team will check to ensure each camp has the correct amount of ammunition, and that the ammunition is being stored properly.

Prior to our arrival, each site's sergeant major and first sergeants have been given the task of conducting a pre-inspection to determine the excess at each camp. We need every soldier's help. Take a look in your area to determine if there is excess, and then report that excess to your first sergeant. The mission will be much easier when all of the excess equipment and supplies are out of the area. The only person that can authorize keeping an item that has been declared excess is the first lieutenant colonel in the chain of command, and they have been given very strict guidance from MG Byrnes on keeping excess items. Please cooperate with the team when they are in your area. Have everything unlocked and ready for inspection. We are doing this for you. There is no need to keep and maintain equipment that is not needed to accomplish the mission.

Remember the number one thing we do is:
FORCE PROTECTION, “STAY SAFE”

On the Cover

View of the mountains around Camp Bedrock as seen from an M1A1 tank. (Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon.)

“Work as though you would live forever, and live as though you would die today. Go another mile!”— *Og Mandino*

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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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UXO threat as real as ever

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

A soldier crawls carefully through the brush. As he gently removes the weeds, he reveals two small rockets nestled on a stump. The rockets are dented from their fall to the ground. A farmer placed these rockets here after finding them in his field, and now the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Camp McGovern takes on the responsibility of removing the hazardous materials from the area.

Their job is to support the task force as well as respond to any ordnance detected in the McGovern area of responsibility, whether found on or off the main supply routes. "We render it safe if need be, and dispose of the items that are found," said Sergeant Anthony D. Kerstner, of Manhattan, Kan., an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 774th EOD out of Fort Riley, Kan.

The EOD team helps recover any ordnance remaining here after the war. Many of the items they found were discovered in yards near the main supply routes, which can be a danger to the populace. "We have the expertise to get those items out of the area so that no one gets injured," Kerstner said.

After being in McGovern for only 19 days, these EOD technicians have already gone on 26 missions to retrieve ordnance. They average more incident calls than the soldiers who go out looking for these types of ordnance. "Work comes to us daily. We don't go out and hunt for it. They just turn up," said Navy Chief Petty Officer Stephen S. Baker, of Virginia Beach, Va., an EOD diver with EOD Mobile Unit 2, Detachment 24, attached to 774th.

Most of the ordnance they dispose of are found by farmers hitting them with their plows because the munitions have been buried since 1994. Baker said time and the fact that the ordnance was buried plays no role in the potential danger of unexploded ordnance, and it's especially bad considering most of the ordnance lies in fields.

These soldiers are trained for nine months in all aspects of ordnance disposal, whether nuclear, biological, chemical, conventional, or improvised, according to Sergeant First Class Byron S. Rider, of Fort Riley, Kan., noncommissioned officer in charge of 774th EOD. They are the only people who have the capability to categorize explosives, and the tools and techniques to render ordnance safe for roughly 100,000 different pieces of ordnance.

The bottom line, according to Rider, is that it's the EOD technician versus the piece of ordnance. His goal is to safely



Sergeant Anthony D. Kerstner, of Manhattan, Kan., an explosives ordnance disposal technician with 774th EOD out of Fort Riley, Kan., examines two rockets left on a stump by a farmer.

dispose of the item or items. "That's what's unique about the job. It's you against something that was designed to kill someone or take something out, and (you have to) try to utilize everything you ever learned to get rid of the item as safe as you can."

The 774th soldiers are confident in their job, even when faced with unexploded ordnance. "I'd be a fool to say I'm not afraid, but the thing you gain most in school is respect for the ordnance," Baker said. "If you don't trust your knowledge of the safety precautions, you're not going to be able to handle this job."

These soldiers are a valuable asset for the Stabilization Force by providing added safety for soldiers on patrol. "If we can prevent the detonation or keep someone from being injured by these ordinances or booby traps, then we're doing our job right." Rider said.

Satellite communications vital to operations success

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

As patrols venture from Camp Bedrock to accomplish various missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, they know that no matter how far they travel, communications will not be a problem, because the "Spitfire" is only an arms reach away.

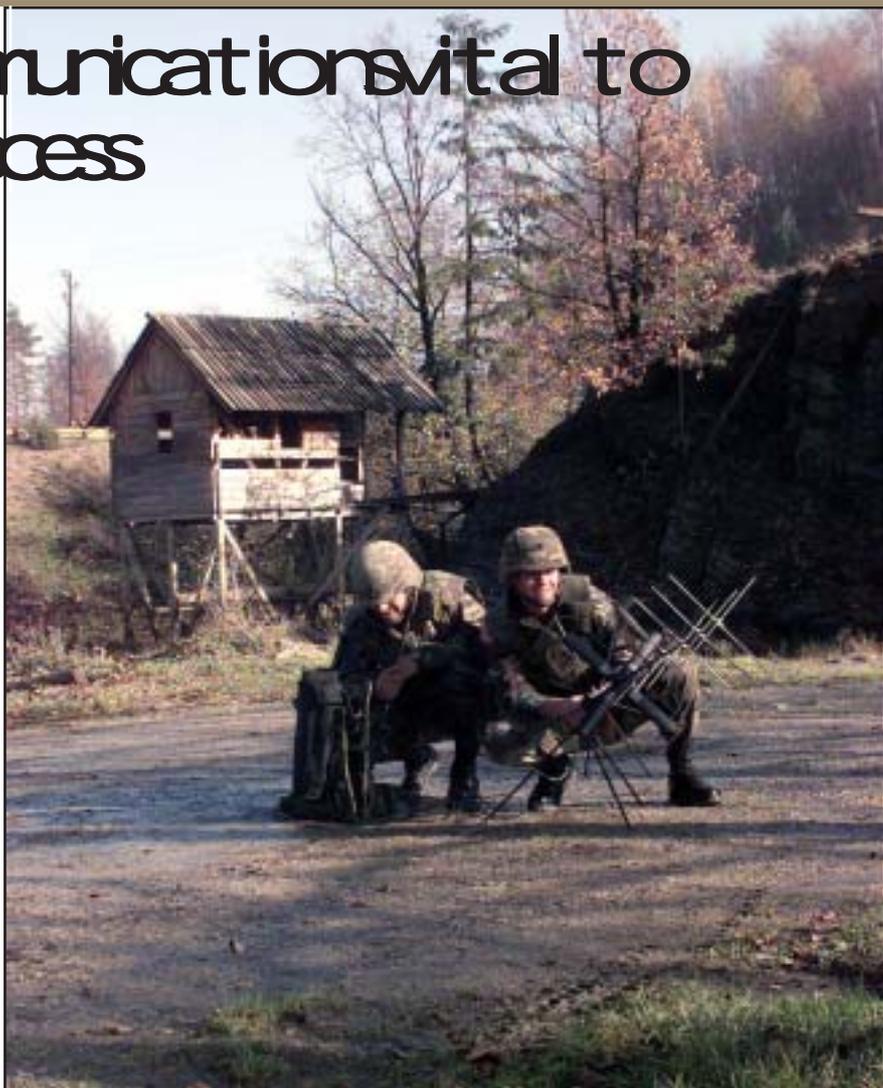
The AN/PSC-5 Spitfire radio has become a key communication asset to 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment while deployed to Multinational Division (North). Due to the mountainous terrain in the area, communication between patrols and the Task Force 2-8 Tactical Operations Center is often very difficult to maintain. The Spitfire helps them overcome this problem by providing a means of communication that has coverage throughout MND (N), regardless of distance or terrain.

Captain Ray Phariss of West Columbia, Texas, Task Force 2-8 signal officer, said the Spitfire's satellite capabilities are part of what make it so successful. "The Spitfire radio works so well because it operates via a satellite that remains in a fixed position in space in relation to the earth," Phariss said. "As opposed to a SINCGARS that operates via line-of-site with other radios, the Spitfire only needs to be able to have an unobstructed path to the satellite it will operate on."

In order to acquire the satellite that will be used, the Spitfire operator must know three important pieces of information. "The operator of the Spitfire must know the correct azimuth, elevation and frequencies of the satellite that he intends to use," Phariss said.

Once the operator has the necessary information he must aim the antenna at the satellite. Once the antenna has been properly aimed the operator must confirm the operation of the satellite and his radio by conducting a loop-back test. The radio conducts this test by sending a test message to the satellite on the up-link frequency and receiving it back on the down-link frequency. "The operator can begin sending and receiving traffic to and from another Spitfire user once this test has been successfully completed," Phariss said.

Specialist Woodrow A. Stewart Jr., of HHC 2-8, said setting up the Spitfire is a very simple task once learned. "A proficient operator can set up the radio and antenna, acquire a satellite, and be ready to send and receive traffic in about one minute," the Litchfield, Ill. native said. "I like that it's very mobile and easy to use. It helps us out a lot because we use to send out about four guys on a retrans mission and two vehicles to transport them. Now we only use one person and they ride with whatever they are going out with. This helps us keep more people at Camp Bedrock to complete



Specialist Woodrow A. Stewart Jr. (right) and Private First Class Manuel G. Portillo of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-8 Cav., acquire an azimuth before using the Spitfire radio.

other missions."

Stewart said with the use of a vehicle-mounted omnidirectional antenna, the system could be set up one time and operated on the move without having to stop and aim the antenna. "Mounting the Spitfire on the vehicles would provide the operator with flexibility to operate the system while mobile. Since we don't have that capability here at this time we just have to continue training on the Spitfire so we can go out with the patrols and set it up for them," Stewart said.

"I'm glad I'm being trained on the Spitfire because I think it's a good piece of equipment that will really help out the task force," said Private First Class Manuel G. Portillo, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment. "I'm going to be riding with the patrols to set the Spitfire up for them after I'm fully trained. I have enjoyed the training, but I'm looking forward to getting out there and doing it on my own. You can communicate from practically anywhere. The Spitfire is really taking communications to a new level," said the Cairo, Ga. native.

Watching the soldiers grab the Spitfire and assemble it as though they had been doing it all their lives showed how much Task Force 2-8 is determined to make sure communication at Camp Bedrock is never a problem.

358th Civil Affairs Battalion helps children in Tuzla orphanage

Story and photo by Specialist Natalie D. Haslem
319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Remember the carefree days of your childhood: going to birthday parties, opening Christmas toys, attending to school, sitting at the dinner table flicking peas on your sister. Eldin, an 11-year-old orphan, won't have this normal childhood. His childhood, stolen by the blood and hate of war, is shattered. His home is now a lone orphanage and, like his family of other orphans, his mother is now a child technician. He can no longer run and play with his mother and father. They are gone, lost forever. Now after the war, Eldin's big, brown eyes still cast diamonds of wonder and hope as he smiles at the American soldiers.

For 17,000 Bosnian children affected by the war, this grim picture is reality. The war indiscriminately displaced thousands of children — from small infants to the tender age of 18. Bosnia's war has left hundreds of vulnerable children without immediate family. Official figures cite 1,194 children in the Muslim-Croatian half of Bosnia have neither parents nor siblings. Foster families have taken in most of these wayward children, but an unfortunate number have found a home at the lone orphanage in Tuzla.

It is here at the Tuzla orphanage that the 358th Civil Affairs Battalion of the Civil Military Cooperation Battalion, Special Projects section, provides humanitarian assistance to restore the shattered lives of children inhabiting this shelter.

The program, started over a year ago by a concerned civil affairs officer as "Toys for Tots," is now spear-headed by Lieutenant Colonel Ronald K. Taylor, 358th Civil Affairs Battalion special projects officer of Shippensburg, PA. Taylor admits he grew interest in the program after a concerned soldier inquired about the program at the orphanage. This was all he needed to restart this worthy cause.

Nearly every week, team members of the civil affairs unit visit the children, extending their hearts to them. Each week is different. There may be a party one week or a soccer game the next. Most soldiers bring necessary items to keep children healthy. "Above all things, their health and sanitary practices are most important," Taylor said.

As the civil affairs officer and team carry the donated boxes filled with clothes, teddy bears, Power Rangers, lead pencils, soap, washing detergent and coloring books, the children stand by, seemingly frozen in place with expectation, gazing at the soldiers. They seem eager to receive the play balls, eat cakes and sweets, or just play a game of soccer with the soldiers. Their high-pitched voices ring in unison as they greet the soldiers. "Dobra dan," they shout. This is "good day" in their native tongue.

"My heart goes out to them," Taylor said, watching the kid's eager eyes as they greeted the soldiers.

"Those kids are great. They're just like the kids at home. They love to play and have fun," commented Master

Sergeant Michael F. Scuito, logistics officer of CA, after playing soccer.

All this fun and excitement is possible due to donors. Packages from agencies such as Helping Hands Ministry, Inc. and We Care U.S.A., Inc., private sources and soldiers make the civil affairs team's mission successful. These donors are some of the many contributors to this humanitarian cause, according to Staff Sergeant Mike M. Callaham, noncommissioned officer in charge in 358th Civil Affairs' shop. A native of Tulsa, Okla., Callaham helps coordinate the distribution of supplies.

"Our mission," Callaham said, "is to try to facilitate exchange of information and try to assist and identify how different organizations can assist the local population and kids. The key is to assist the local government and those in compliance with the Dayton Peace Accord."

To accomplish this task, a list of needed and desired items is created with the advice of Bosnian child technicians and Director Addija Herdegobac. Donations are then given according to supply. Presently, the civil affairs program has received an overwhelming response from soldiers, military units, outreach ministries and anonymous donors through the Denton Program.

Because of the Denton Program, donors can send packages to CA without cost. As outlined under the Denton Program, provisions for the use of the items is made according to need. The beneficiaries are clearly stated and are not to be taxed, fined or made to pay any costs to take the donated gifts into possession. This program allows for the free shipment and handling of cargo up to 100,000 pounds to be shipped to Bosnia. However, this is a space-available program only. All prospective donors are encouraged to contact U.S. AID in Washington, D.C., according to Callaham.

According to Herdegobac, the orphanage is home to 143 children of all ages. Next week, she expects a number of newborns to add to the number. Herdegobac expressed her concerns and gratitude toward the soldiers and thanked Taylor. An eyewitness to the destruction that disrupted Bosnia, Herdegobac is also an eyewitness to the innocent children the war left behind without home or family.

Civil Affairs' mission here is to support the tactical unit commander, interact with the population to provide assistance, identify damaged infrastructure and seek civilian funding for repairs through the local or regional Reconstruction and Returns Task Force.

Giving a friendly hand at the orphanage is only one small part of the Civil Affairs' mission here, but a very integral part of their humanitarian mission and in keeping with the Dayton Peace Accord. Because of this effort, 11-year-old orphan Eldin, and many other children, can have a chance at a better life. The pencils provided allow them to write at school. The medicines against disease give them the strength to go to school, and the toys give them back a piece of their childhood.

Dirty Dozen spend a day with the

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

The 1st Platoon "Dirty Dozen" of Company A, 2nd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, mounted their HMMWV's and rode to Camp Oden for what promised to be an interesting weekend. Their Swedish hosts, Charlie and Romeo 3d platoon, Company B, Swedish Battalion, had planned well for their visit.

Upon arrival, 1st Platoon, stood in formation as they and their Swedish counterparts were reviewed by the other country's lieutenants. Then the American soldiers unloaded the back of their HMMWV's. Rucksacks and sleeping bags were hoisted onto backs and into the barracks area. Company A didn't mind that they would have to make do without cots and kerosene heaters for one night as they staked out beds in the connex complex.

With gear stored, the soldiers toured Oden in small four-soldier groups. The gym, dining facility, sauna and library were pointed out, but the most memorable site was the "Bomb," a pub and munitions museum. The paneled, cozy room, attached to a maintenance facility, houses an enviable collection of confiscated weapons from the Bosnian War. They are classified, researched and attractively displayed all over the walls and ceilings of the room. New additions to the collection keep coming in, and one day it will all go back to Sweden for permanent public display. Sergeant First Class Roland Edward Drinkard, 1st Platoon, Company A platoon sergeant, said that the "Bomb" was both entertaining and educational. These may be the kinds of mortars, mines, rifles and handguns that could be found anywhere in Bosnia.

After taking a lot of photographs in the "Bomb," the soldiers filed out to a tent area where there was a vehicle and arms demonstration. Tank drivers were anxious to sit in a SISU's seat.

Once all questions were answered about the Swedish equipment, the guests were escorted to a special room at their dining facility for greetings from the Swedish Battalion commander, and for dinner.

Dinner finished, the Americans were led out to the motor pool for "Viking games." No one knew what to expect. No clues were given during dinner. The Swedish hosts said it was not necessary to change into physical training clothes. It was also dark by now. What kind of "games" can be played under these conditions? With a gleam in their eyes the Swedish soldiers drove a SISU from its parking place and attached a long rope to the front of the vehicle. It's a timed event they announce, "SISU pulling from point to point, the fastest team in four heats wins." Company A soldiers looked at each other and back at the SISU and shook their heads. The Swedish platoon went first just to show how easy it was. Ten soldiers grabbed the rope, and were well off at a run, SISU behind. Luckily the driver brakes at the finish.

SISU pulling isn't a common sport in the United States, however the American team only lost by a second or two. There were four other events, HMMWV pulling, gas can relays, standing arm wrestling and indian leg wrestling. Company A graciously congratulated the Swedish winners and began to think about what kind of competition they would arrange when they, at some future time, could host the Swedish soldiers at Bedrock.

The tired soldiers quickly filed off to their sleeping quarters.

A briefing the next morning was at 8 a.m. at the Swedish barracks. 1st Lieutenant Par Akerstrom, platoon leader of 3d Platoon, Company B, Swedish Battalion gave a concise overview of the route, mission, objectives and procedures for the joint patrol. Two Swedish soldiers would ride in each HMMWV and four American soldiers would ride in the SISU's.

After breakfast, the soldiers went to their respective vehicles. They would be on the road almost all day.

At Petrovo a mobile checkpoint was established by the convoy. Swedish soldiers searched vehicles



A citizen of Turija talks to Swedish/American patrols



Staff Sergeant Milous Loche and Specialist Steven Casto complete in the "Viking games," by pulling a SISU.

Swedish Military

while American soldiers guarded them.

Back on the road, the reunited convoy met at Ozren monastery for an excellent Swedish field lunch, thick hot mushroom stew over brown rice and big rolls. The beauty of the hilltop monastery and sheep-dotted fields belie the fact that the war was fought all around this area.

Lunch over, the convoy mounted up and drove along narrow roads with intermittent snow flurries to Turija, arriving there at 2:30 p.m. The Americans guarded the "social patrol" soldiers as they hiked up the dirt roads of the small village.

As the 1st Cavalry troops fanned out along the road, the tankers laughed and said that a "staggered patrol" for them is "one tank here, one here and another here." Some good information was collected about possible Kosovo refugees coming back to this area.

Because of the weather, there were not many people out. The Swedish soldiers said that on their last visit many people were walking around and talking to them. One gentleman did stop and discuss the war, and said his son was killed and answered questions

about Kosovo refugees in the area. After a brief walk through the village, the soldiers loaded up and headed home.

Back at Oden a wonderful dinner was enjoyed by all the soldiers. After an exchange of plaques and patches, the weary Company A soldiers drove back to Bedrock. Several of them went on 24-hour guard after arriving back at 7 p.m., but they didn't complain. They were saying how lucky they were to be the first Company A platoon to spend a weekend with fellow Swedish Stabilization Force soldiers.

The American soldiers said that it was interesting to see the differences in the Swedish rank structure, their equipment and how they live, but basically their soldiering operations were comparable with U. S. Army procedures.

Swedish Platoon commander, Akerstrom, served in Bosnia in 1994. Drinkard said, "Going out with them gave me a better perspective on what it was like here when the war was going on." The Los Angeles native platoon sergeant said, "I have a better understanding of this area and why we're here."



Specialist Ronald Razo guards a mobile checkpoint as a joint-patrol Swedish soldier motions traffic to slow down.



an interpreter during joint to his village.



Swedish Captain Henrik Lauksteins, EOD platoon leader shows soldiers the "Bomb" room at Camp Oden. The room houses an interesting collection of weapons used during the Bosnian War.

Post Office makes a difference



Sergeant Felicia A. Pecora (left), a Tallahassee, Fla. native, and mail clerk with the 15th Postal Unit, assists a soldier with a package that will be mailed back to the United States.

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

During overseas deployments, communicating with family and friends is very important to the soldiers. With the help of Sprint, soldiers are able to talk to their loved ones through the Defense Switch Network line, and computers make it possible for Internet access and electronic mail, but there is still a huge demand for regular mail. With the holidays coming, the United States Postal Service and the postal unit with 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry regiment will definitely have their work cut out for them. Sergeant Felicia A. Pecora is a mail clerk with the 15th Postal Unit on Camp Dobol.

"My job is to make sure all letters are sorted according to destination and stamped properly. My job certainly isn't as stressful as the civilian mail clerks, but when mail is lost or misdirected, I usually take the heat for it," Pecora said.

Though Pecora runs the post office alone here, she is not alone all the time. "I'm usually at Eagle Base with the rest of my unit, but the regular mail clerk for Dobol is on leave and I'm taking her place until she comes back," Pecora said.

Holidays are a very busy time for all postal units and services everywhere. People mail more letters and gifts during the holidays than any other time of the year. "With the holidays coming up, soldiers have been mailing letters more than ever. I'm pretty sure the mailroom will be overflowing with packages when Christmas rolls around," Pecora stated. "Most

soldiers come in to mail letters off to CONUS more than any other place. I feel like a bartender sometimes, because when they come in, they tell me about their family and where they're from in the states," Pecora laughed.

Along with her ten years of service in the Army, Pecora graduated summa cum laude from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. This will mark her second deployment. "I was deployed to Haiti for six months and now I'm here in Bosnia for nine months. It's actually not that bad here. I like Camp Dobol because it's smaller than Eagle Base and the people seem to be friendlier because everybody knows everybody," Pecora said. "When I'm on guard duty, most of the infantry soldiers laugh when I tell them I'm a mail clerk, but they're the first ones in the post office looking for mail. It gives me a real satisfaction when I see soldiers happy because they got a letter. It makes me feel like I've done my job," Pecora said. "To me, receiving a letter is better because phone calls don't last. I think the loneliest time over here is right before bedtime, because that's where you think most about your family, and it's always nice to be able to pull out a letter that someone has written to you and read again and again," Pecora said. "In regards to all the future mailers, please put your return address on the front of the envelope. You need a customs form for anything that doesn't look like a letter. It makes my job a little bit easier," Pecora said.

Soldiers should get their holiday packages sent off as early as possible if they want gifts to arrive back in the United States before the holidays arrive.

Soldiers keep streets safe for locals on Route Arizona “flea market”

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

Crowds of people swarm the muddy roads of a Bosnian shopping market. Small huts and shacks line the roads while vendors patiently await customers. Amidst the horde of people, a group of soldiers pass through the crowd greeting the vendors as they move through this combination of stores known as Arizona Market.

There McGovern soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, patrol these streets daily to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Their mission at the Arizona Market is to ensure freedom of movement for the people who shop there, the merchants who work there, as well as the traffic that passes by on Route Arizona. “Our job is to go down and make sure that there are no problems or concerns,” said Second Lieutenant Steven J. Bisbee, of Selinsgrove, Pa., 3rd platoon leader of Company C.

Because it’s such a popular area of interest, people from all different ethnic groups go there to either shop or earn their living. “It’s essential that we go down there on a regular basis to ensure that nothing happens and people are generally getting along,” Bisbee said.

Arizona Market is a miniature community of shops that sell everything from Persian rugs to groceries. “It’s a small area where a lot of people go to shop,” said Specialist Andrew F. Goodknight, of Chicago, Ill., a combat vehicle crewman with Company C. “It’s basically like a flea market.”

The market was started during the days of the Implementation Force. As a result of its popularity, it has increased not only the economic status of the community, but has proved that all the ethnic groups can work together. “It gives them a chance to help each other build their country back up,” said Specialist Brian C. Christman, of Niceville, Fla., a medical specialist attached to Company C.

The market is really great for the economy because of the amount of business it produces. “There’s a lot of money that goes through

there everyday,” Christman said.

According to Christman, Arizona Market has grown considerably from its original size of a few shops during IFOR into the large market it is today. “In the last two months, I’ve seen about 15 to 20 new shops put up. Every week it seems like it gets busier,” he added.

Company C soldiers conduct dismounted patrols so they can talk to the people, develop personal relationships, find out what’s on their minds, and if they have any problems. “It gives us a direct line of communication with the people,” Christman said. “They know they can come to us and tell us what’s going on.”

Although most missions are conducted during the day, Company C makes it a point to visit the market at night to check on the club scenes to make sure they aren’t having any problems, according to Goodknight.

The patrols through Arizona Market provide the locals with a sense of security and also give the Stabilization Force a feel for the overall situation of the market. Bisbee said there is no better way to uncover new issues and ideas than to talk with the local civilians about rebuilding their lives after the war. The continued growth of the market is just one example of the economic restoration, and another step forward on the road to recovery in Bosnia.



Specialist Brian C. Christman, a medical specialist attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, views the merchandise while conducting a presence patrol through Arizona Market.

Prime Power cranks out the juice

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

Everyday Eagle Base grows. Construction workers are constantly building accommodations to handle the number of soldiers and civilians that populate the installation. This makes Eagle Base scream for more power!

Soldiers from the 249th Engineer Battalion, or Prime Power, provide this necessity for all of Eagle Base.

"A lot of people think that Brown and Root makes electricity, but we do," Staff Sergeant Michael J. Wightman, a senior power station operator said. "We take care of generating the electricity, and they distribute it," the Derider, N.Y. native said. The task requires three shifts working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is at least one person operating the control room, and another manning the generator equipment.

The Prime Power site contains eight generators to meet the high voltage electricity requirement of Eagle Base.

"Currently the base uses 3.7 megawatts of electricity on any given day. Right now our maximum capacity is 4.5 megawatts," Wightman said. The generators that Prime Power operates are Cummings Diesel Engines, which use small version locomotive engines, he said. Each generator produces 3,800 volts. A transformer is used to increase the output to 10,000 volts.

"The generators use 245 gallons of diesel fuel per hour,"

Specialist Richard C. Crowe, a power generator electrician said. "A truck delivers 4,600 gallons a day to try to keep up with our needs sometimes it takes two deliveries. We use more fuel than the fuel point," said the Tomah, Wis. native.

Operating a power plant in Europe has different electrical requirements than in the states, Wightman said. "Electronic devices made in Europe run on 50 Hertz, while American electronics run on 60 Hertz. We have to slow down the engines cycles to 50; this makes an American clock run slow for example," he said.

Soldiers should always be aware of the difference in American and European voltages. European made devices use 220 volts of electricity, and American made appliances use 120. "You have to be sure of what you are using and what you are plugging it into, or else you will fry something. Now, a lot of appliances are convertible to both voltages," Wightman said.

This is not the first time that the Prime Power crew has been involved in humanitarian efforts. They work closely with the Civilian Corps of Engineers and Federal Emergency Management Agency after natural disasters.

"This past September, we were in Puerto Rico because of the destruction of Hurricane George," Crowe said. "We did assessments of several towns' electricity needs, and then we installed generators primarily for water pumps. We were on a plane in the air, as the storm hit," he said. "We were the first team to hit the ground with FEMA."

Prime Power's mission here is quickly coming to a close, and these soldiers will move on to their next assignment.

"Civilians will be replacing us in the near future," Sergeant First Class Mark Smeragliuolo, Prime Power noncommissioned officer in charge said, "Elektro Distribujica, the local Tuzla electric company, is in the negotiations phase of working out an agreement. After they come on line, the platoon will stay in theater for about a month to oversee the transfer," said the native of Buffalo, N.Y.

A Prime Power representative will be assigned to the Base Camp Coordination Agency to act as technical advisor and liaison to the civilian electric company.

Civilians will eventually handle the electricity needs at Eagle that is currently produced by service members, a scenario that follows suit like many other support operations. Such foundations and guidance, provided by peacekeepers like Smeragliuolo, is an example of the effort to rebuild the infrastructure in Bosnia.



Staff Sergeant Michael J. Wightman (left), a senior power station operator, and Staff Sergeant Thomas S. Hunter (right), a power generator electrician, work together to tighten down a new alternator.

Reservists, National Guards help secure Bosnia's future

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

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization wants the mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina to end with an environment that is secure and adequate for the continued consolidation of peace, without further need for NATO-led military forces in the area. The Reserve and Guardsmen supporting Operation Joint Forge help make sure that end is foreseeable in the near future.

The number of reservists and national guardsmen deploying to support different peacekeeping missions, like Operation Joint Forge, is increasing as they are called upon to help fill shortages within the active component.

Major Mark Hunter of Wayne, Neb., reserves and guard liaison officer, said there are reserve and guard soldiers supporting the peacekeeping mission from Tazsar to Sarajevo.

"From military intelligence to fire fighters, there are reservists and guardsmen from all over the United States supporting this operation, and a majority of them volunteered to come here," Hunter said. "With the draw down occurring on the active duty side, more reserves and guardsmen are being deployed to compensate for the shortage, and they will continue to be deployed as long as missions like Operation Joint Forge continue to arise. This is good, because it helps integrate the military and make the reserves, guard, and active duty one powerful force."

Hunter said that as the 49th Armored Division of the Texas National Guard prepares to deploy to Bosnia in the year 2000, the presence of the reserves and guard in Multinational Division (North) will be greater than ever before.

"Active duty soldiers are going to have to learn to adapt to the reserves and guard supporting them in different missions because we are going to be working together more and more," said Sergeant Yul D. Holloway of the 319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. "I'm a broadcast journalist, so I talk to a lot of people. Most of the reservist and guardsmen I've talked to, including myself, like working with the active duty soldiers, especially on a mission like this. It really gives us a chance to put some of the things we have been trained on into action," said the Aiken, S.C. native.

Holloway said being deployed impacted him the same way it impacted the active duty soldiers. "I had to uproot just like them. I have a wife and two kids at home, but the difference is I also have another employer back home and I'm lucky he supports what I'm doing over here," Holloway said.

One major problem that some reservist and guardsmen have is the strain that is placed on their employer once they leave. Senior service members and executive committee members of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve recently met to discuss the deployment of reservist and guardsmen and the consequences they face in their civilian careers.

Hunter said reservist and guardsmen can be deployed for 179 days to 270 days and this can cause severe problems at their civilian jobs. "Although they might be deployed for a long time reservist and guardsmen should have no problem

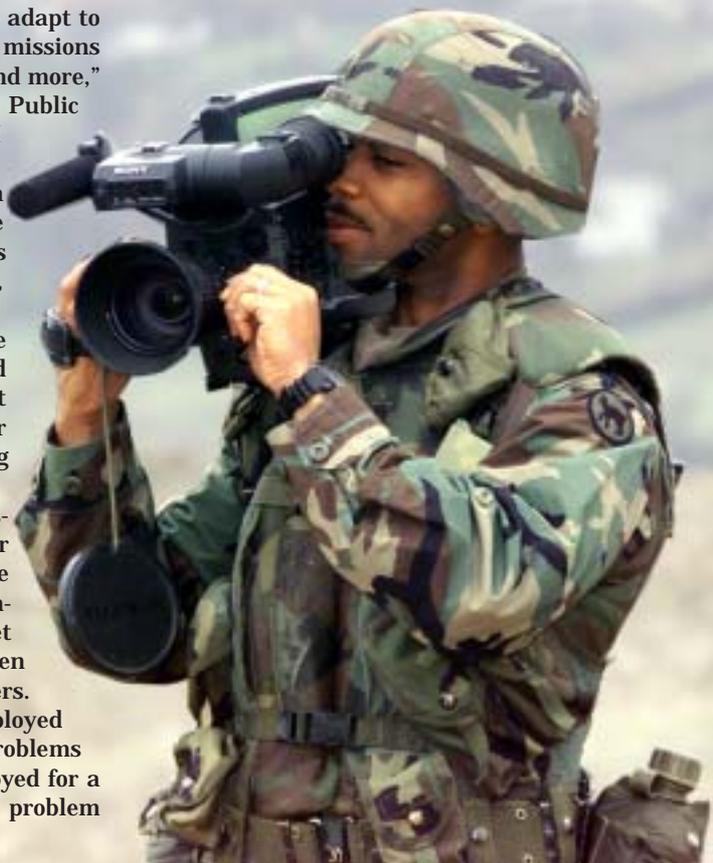
going back to their civilian jobs once they redeploy, but if they do have a problem they can contact the NCESGR," Hunter said. He added that reservist and guardsmen can contact the National Committee for Employer Support of Guard and Reserve. The committee provides information on employment rights and has a network of volunteers in every state to help negotiate employment disputes.

Sergeant Juanita G. Castrejon, an assistant personnel sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, said she did not have any problems with her employer, but she did have to give up her job.

"I gave up my job because I knew I was going to be deployed for a long time, but I didn't mind doing it," said the Ardmore, Okla. native. "I think this is a very good mission, that is why I volunteered. If I thought it wasn't, I wouldn't be here."

Another major interest of reservist and guardsmen here was their concern for the families they left back home. Hunter said Major General Kevin P. Byrnes is processing a letter to send out to the reserve and guard families containing information that will help them if they have any problems. He said family members at Fort Hood can contact the local family readiness center. All other family members can contact their local family readiness center. Hunter also said if reservist or guardsmen have any questions they can stop by his office at Eagle Base.

"One team, one fight, one future." This is what the military is working to put into action, but the reservist and guardsmen supporting Operation Joint Forge are already making it happen in MND (N).



Soldier plays coronet for troops

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

At 10:59 p.m., soldiers lay on their cots, sleeping, reading a novel or a letter from home, tower guards restlessly wait for their relief and those on night duty at the aid station and tactical operations center go about their evening duties.

Then, a minute later, the sweet Army lullaby floats over Camp Bedrock through the 26-degree air.

"Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lake, From the hill, From the sky. All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.

"Thanks and praise, For our days 'Neath the sun, 'Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky, As we go, This we know: God is nigh." *

For those few precious seconds, soldiers, wherever they are on camp, pause and reflect together as taps is played by Staff Sergeant William T. Yurek.

Yurek, operations and a platoon sergeant for Company C, 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, carries on a proud Army tradition.

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment commander, Lieutenant Colonel Barry J. Fowler, heard Yurek play his coronet at chapel a couple of months ago and asked him to play reveille before the Monday morning battalion run. Soon after that, Yurek decided to play taps. The first time he did it, Fowler rushed out to tell him how surprised and pleased he was to hear evening taps. Yurek has only missed playing taps once since then.

Yurek starts his day, six-days-a-week, with a 5:30 a.m. physical training formation. He ends it 17 ½ hours later by climbing the 34-foot-communication's tower in the center of

camp. After warming up a minute or two in the tower's room, Yurek walks onto the parapet, faces the camp's flag, and plays those sweet notes known to every soldier since the 1860s.

The Pittsburgh, Pa. native loves music, from jazz to gospel to classical, but he is not a professional musician. He plays by ear when playing for Bedrock's Gospel Choir because he says, "In (church) music you have to go by feeling." Playing taps live in the below-freezing temperature at Bedrock is completely voluntary.

Staff Sergeant William Pitre, Bedrock communications NCOIC, Company C, 13th Signal Battalion, thought taps at Bedrock was a recording. When he was told that Yurek actually plays taps every night he said, "That's a true example of a noncommissioned officer, one who goes beyond the call of duty." He said that whether he is in his tent or at the communication's shelter rotating shift with his soldiers, and hears taps, "It gives you a warm feeling inside to hear it being played at night."

Staff Sergeant Sean D. McMurtrey, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and a native of Rigby, Idaho, also says it's a good feeling to hear taps. He knows that it's live, not recorded, because he's seen Yurek on the tower. He says that he hears it best from where he does guard" duty.

At one time, cavalry soldiers' lives were ruled by over 30 different bugle calls, including stable calls twice a day to care for their horses. It was one soldier's job to call the soldiers to their different tasks. At Camp Bedrock, a soldier has volunteered to keep this proud tradition alive in Bosnia.

*There are other versions of lyrics to taps. These were taken from a Soldiers article, v.52, no.12, p.29.



Executive officer, First Lieutenant Geoffrey Van Epps, and Specialist Carlinton Dobson, Alpha Company, 52d Engineers out of Colorado Springs, Colo., bow their heads during Veterans' Day ceremonies at Camp Bedrock.