

TALON

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Talon Inside



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On the Cover

"Transforming Peace," created by Private First Class Nicole Alberico, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

"Theirs is not to reason why, theirs is but to do or die." – Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

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 Brigades assigned to Task Force Eagle, as well as U.S. soldiers stationed in Bosnia.

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



Happy New Year and a wish that 1999 will be filled with peace, health, and happiness to each of you in Task Force Eagle. During this past week we were honored with many distinguished visitors. One of these was General Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his visit he had the opportunity to speak to many of you, but there also was a large number who did not get to see or hear him. I want to pass on to you some of his comments. General Shelton spoke about the proposed pay raises for the next six years. In FY 2000 the military pay raise would be 4.4 percent and the following five years would be 3.9 percent each. There also is a plan to realign pay based on promotions and the number of years of service.

General Shelton also spoke about the changes currently being proposed to our retirement system. If passed, everyone would retire with 50 percent of their base pay for twenty years of service and 2.5 percent for each additional year up to 75 percent at 30 years of service.

Both of these, increased active duty pay and the retirement pay system, have been on the front burner for the Army's leadership for many years. All of this still has to be approved by Congress but the outlook is good. The changes would greatly enhance quality of life now and after retirement.

During the next few weeks while I will be out of the country, I have asked many of the command sergeants major of Task Force Eagle to write Talon articles and share with you their thoughts from their camps and positions.

There have been some vehicle accidents recently that could have resulted in soldiers being seriously injured, but thanks to good crew drills and noncommissioned officers being alert, there were only minor injuries. The bad weather is making this a very dangerous driving period, stay alert. Remember the number one thing we do is

"FORCE PROTECTION"
STAY SAFE

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General Shelton pays holiday visit



Multinational Division (North) Commander, Major General Kevin P. Byrnes, greets General Henry T. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff upon his arrival at Eagle Base.

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

General Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently visited the soldiers at Eagle and Comanche Base for the holiday season.

The purpose of his visit was to greet soldiers and receive updates on the mission here in Multinational Division (North).

Shelton arrived early Dec. 24 and was first met by Major General Kevin P. Byrnes, Task Force Commander of MND (N). Then they headed for the MND (N) Headquarters on Eagle Base.

Next, Byrnes and his staff briefed Shelton and updated him on the continued mission in MND (N). He also went around and met with other soldiers in the various sections of the headquarters.

After he left the briefing, Shelton visited with hundreds of soldiers at the Eagle Base Sports Complex. He talked to all of them, then answered questions about retirement, education, and how he and his staff were going to make things better for soldiers.

"Your mission here is still important and we will be here till there's peace," Shelton said.

Shelton visited with Eagle Base soldiers before heading off to visit other base camps. General Shelton arrived at Comanche Base by helicopter later in the day. He and his staff visited the dining facility, saw the new Southeast Asian huts and toured the base.

During the last part of his visit, he held a press conference at the 3rd Battalion, 229th Attack Helicopter Regiment (Hell's Angels). With an AH 64A Apache helicopter in the background, Shelton talked to the soldiers and gave out coins, then talked to the press.

Private First Class Amy L. Lloyd, a 3-229 Apache mechanic and Spokane, Wash. native said, "General Shelton must think a lot of us to come over here during the Iraq crisis and the Christmas Holidays."

"It's good he checks on his troops and listens to them before he makes decisions that will effect all of us," said Specialist Dean L. Johnson, a 3-229 aircraft structural repair specialist and Coon Rapids, Minn. native

"I've enjoyed my visit here and I will do anything to get out of the Pentagon," Shelton said jokingly. He answered questions briefly about the mission here and the Iraq situation. Then he told all the soldiers, "you are truly the ambassadors of the United States."

Soldiers inspect weapons storage site



Staff Sergeant Matthew Salchert checks an inventory sheet for the weapons storage site.

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

Each unit in Bosnia holds special responsibilities and duties that must be carried out during the duration of their tour. One of the many tasks that Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment soldiers must perform is inspecting weapons storage sites.

Staff Sergeant Eric Gehring, a Sioux Falls, S.D. native and tank commander with Company B, 2-8 Cavalry, said they have the job down pat.

"This may sound to be lengthy and tedious, but this is pretty much routine and we have all the angles covered," he said. "We usually go in and inspect with little to no problems at all."

According to Gehring, the General Framework Agreement for Peace states specific timelines in which inspections are conducted. The inspections are conducted to maintain accountability of the weapons and ammunition possessed by the Republic of Srpska and the Bosnian Federation.

Staff Sergeant Matthew Salchert, a Calumet, Mich. native and tank commander with Company B, said they have a certain way of inspecting weapon sites.

"During our inspections, we have an inventory sheet that we go by," he said. "On that sheet, it shows what weapons or ammunition they have, how many they have, and where they are located in a storage site."

If weapons or ammunition listed on the inventory sheet is absent from the storage site during the time of inspection, the site manager must be able to account for all missing material.

"It is very rare that we inspect a storage site where weap-

ons or ammo are unaccounted for and during unaccountability is when we are forced to confiscate materials," Gehring said. Each unit has a number of designated storage sites to inspect and Gehring added that site managers let them do their work.

"We have a total of four storage sites, and the site managers are very cooperative during the inspections," he said. "They know what we come to do and they let us do our jobs."

Inspecting and counting weapons and ammunition in large quantities can consume the majority of a workday.

"Usually it takes about four hours to complete an inspection, but it depends on whether or not we are doing a ten percent or a 100 percent inspection," Salchert said.

During an operation like this one, sometimes assistance may be required from an outside unit.

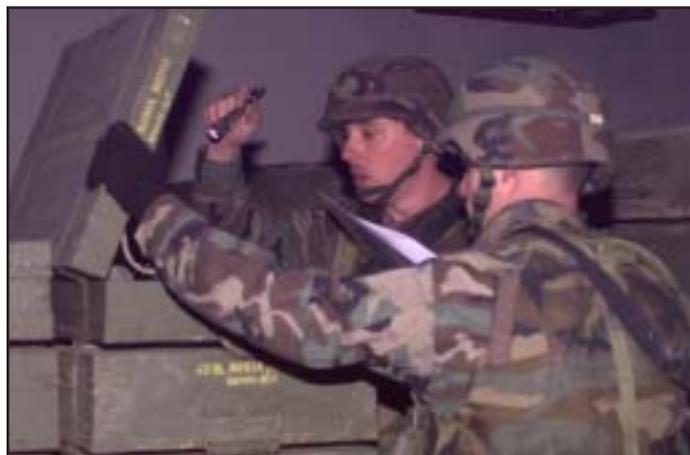
"EOD always comes along with us to enforce safety," Gehring said. "They observe while we conduct inventory and make sure everything is safe for inspection and storage."

Although most site visits are arranged, surprise inspections are authorized.

"We don't usually do surprise inspections, but we can," Salchert said. "This is just to make sure no illegal movements of weapons and ammo are being done. We normally visit the site a week prior to inspection to let the site managers know when we're coming and what items are inspectable."

In every task, there is a challenge to surmount. "The most challenging part is counting all the rounds and making sure that their paperwork matches our paperwork," Gehring said.

By doing these frequent weapons storage site inspections, Company B, 2-8 Cavalry is playing an important role by keeping weapons out of the hands of those who might want to break the peace that Stabilization Force soldiers are trying to maintain.



Staff Sergeant Eric Ghering inspects a crate of weapons at a weapons storage site in Zvornick.

Firefighters save lives at market fire

Story and photo by Specialist Bryan D. Cox
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Soldiers train constantly, reinforcing their skills so when duty calls, they can swing into action without hesitation and accomplish their mission. But when the time comes will they be ready? Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment at Camp McGovern recently put their training to the test responding to a fire at the nearby Arizona Market.

"It was huge and black," said Sergeant Iris Rodriguez, McGovern Fire Chief with the 463rd Engineer Detachment Firefighters and a Houston, Texas native. "We knew this fire had the potential to really hurt people so we wanted to get it under control as quickly as we could."

The market is located just south of McGovern and is one of the few economic booms in the region recovering from the effects of Bosnia's civil war, said Captain Christopher Norrie, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and a Winamac, Ind. native. Arizona Market is also an important asset because it's one of the few areas all three ethnic groups frequent, he said.

McGovern firefighters, escorted by Quick Reaction Force HMMWVs from Company C, were first to respond to the scene and the firefighters immediately began attacking the blaze, Rodriguez said.

Although responding to normal civilian problems is not part of Stabilization Force's usual mission, McGovern leaders decided to respond to the Arizona Market fire due to the high risk of people losing their lives in the flames if they didn't act.

Staff Sergeant David Keller, platoon sergeant for Company C and a St. Louis native, was responsible for setting up a perimeter around the fire to keep people a safe distance away and prevent injury to civilians.

"When we got there, all these people were running in and out of the fire trying to save things," he said. "We set up crowd control as best we could and pushed people back away from the fire to keep them safe."

McGovern's five-soldier firefighting team continued to attack the blaze, but the fire was too large to control with so few people, Rodriguez said. "I simply needed more manpower."

That's when Company C soldiers took the initiative and began carrying hoses and hauling equipment to help out the fire-fighting team.

"I saw one firefighter trying to drag a hose," Keller said. "He couldn't move it so we jumped in and helped out. We still had soldiers on security keeping people back but we did as much as we could."

Private First Class Richard Grimmett, a tanker with Company C and a Hinton,

W.Va native, dashed in to assist the firefighters. "We had Americans, Serbs, Croats and Muslims all working together side by side in a bucket brigade," he said. "It was amazing. Everyone worked together as a team and did their part to make sure no one was hurt."

McGovern soldiers continued to battle the inferno as best they could until local fire departments arrived to help after an hour. Rodriguez said that although the fire was unfortunate, McGovern's firefighters worked well with the locals to extinguish the blaze. They had just hosted a joint training demonstration at Camp McGovern a few weeks before with several local civilian fire departments.

"We talked about mutual aid and how we would help each other if a fire ever occurred and that's exactly how it happened," Rodriguez said. "We were fortunate to have hosted the locals because when this happened everyone knew exactly what to do. We were prepared."

According to Rodriguez, once the local departments arrived, they immediately began working with McGovern's team and quickly got the blaze under control. Fortunately, no one was injured due to their quick response.

"I think they did an outstanding job both in putting out the fire and keeping people safe," she said.

First Lieutenant Paul Krattiger, platoon leader of Company C and an Albuquerque, N.M. native agreed.

"We were a team and we made it work," he said. "Our soldiers stepped up and did a great job doing something we're not even trained to do. We're American soldiers and we can do it. I'm really proud of my guys."



Specialist Melvin Mixon, a firefighter with the 463rd Engineer Detachment Firefighters at Camp McGovern and New Caney, Texas native, chops down a burning structure in an attempt to control the fire at Arizona Market.

Holiday cheer from some of the Ba



Clockwise from

Camp Dobil's Santa Clause rides in on his 260 re in time for the tree lighting celebration. Photo by S 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Captain Steven Soika, with HHC 2-5 Cavalry, was chance to tell Santa what he wanted for Christmas Lorente, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Sergeant Jimmy E. Harrison, with Company B, 2- Clause and visits students at a refugee school in Z Giovanni Lorente, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Students from Divic get a picture snapped with Sa the jolly old man. Photo by Specialist Giovanni Lo Det.

Some of the local children in Divic help Santa Cla fallen to the ground. Photo by Specialist Giovanni Det.

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indeer powered, 500 poundsleigh
Specialist Giovanni Lorente,

one of many officers who got a
s. Photo by Specialist Giovanni

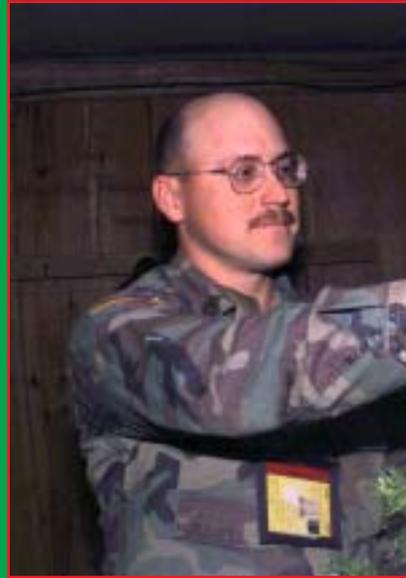
3 Cavalry, dresses up as Santa
Zvornik. Photo by Specialist

Santa Clause after a recent visit from
Lorente, 319th Mobile Public Affairs

use get up after having slipped and
Lorente, 319th Mobile Public Affairs



Camp McGovern





Clockwise from top left

A medic opens her present in the Camp McGovern Aid Station during a Christmas present exchange. Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove Jr., 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Sergeant First Class Terry L. Granzella, personnel action center supervisor, with Personnel Logistics, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, Colorado Springs, Col., native hangs an ornament. The ornament, made by a child, was sent in an "any service member envelope. Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove Jr., 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

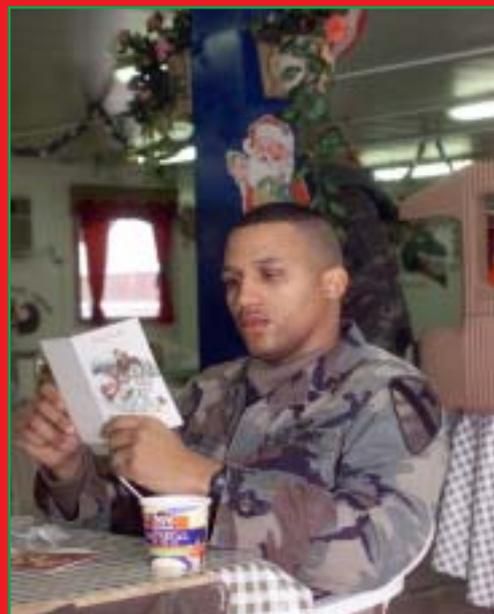
First Cavalry Division Band members play Christmas tunes for the soldiers during a Christmas dinner held at Camp McGovern. Photo by Private First Class Louis Sardinha, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

A Camp McGovern soldier sings Christmas music at the McGovern Christmas Day service. Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove Jr., 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

The TaskForce 1-8 cake sits in a static display in the Camp McGovern dining facility Christmas Day. Photo by Private First Class Phillip E. Breedlove Jr., 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Camp Bedrock





Clockwise from top left:

Captain Zan Sellers, Task Force 2-8 chaplain and Birmingham Ala. native, hands out “any soldier” mail on Christmas. Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Santa Clause and his reindeer “land” on a milvan during a recent visit to Bedrock. Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Staff Sergeant William L. Pitre, Company C, 13th Signal Battalion and an Orange, Texas native, reads “any soldier mail” from a young girl. Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Sergeant Yul D. Holloway, a 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det. broadcaster and LaGrange, Ga. native, opens a “secret santa” gift during a party held at his office. Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Captain Sellers speaks during service. Photo by Sergeant Derrick Witherspoon, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

“Frosty the Snowman” at Camp Bedrock, Christmas. Photo by Staff Sergeant Pat Johnston, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.





Clockwise from top left

California State Representative Ellen O. Taus and Major General Kevin P. Byrnes bow their heads in prayer at the tree lighting ceremony held in the Eagle Base "White House." Photo by Specialist Jason Shepherd, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Santa greets patients at the Hospital on Eagle Base. Photo by Sergeant First Class Pat Johnson, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Command Sergeant Major Paul M. Inman sings Christmas carols during the tree lighting ceremony at Eagle Base. Photo by Specialist Jason Shepherd, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Santa Clause takes a break during a gift distribution session in front of the "White House" on Eagle Base. Photo by Sergeant First Class Pat Johnson, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Members of the 1st Cavalry Band play during the Christmas dinner at the Main Dining Facility on Eagle Base. Photo by Sergeant First Class Donald F. Johnson II, 319th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Holiday elves pass out gifts to passersby on Christmas Eve. Photo by Sergeant First Class Pat Johnson, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.



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Medics perform mass casualty exercise

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

As the HMMWV rolled down the snow covered road a “boom” rang out through the valley. One of the vehicles had hit a land mine. As the medics rushed to the sight, their minds were ready for the worst. When they got to the sight they saw injured soldiers who were yelling, “Help me! Help me!” They cleared the area and rushed to the soldiers, tending to each one individually. After loading the soldiers into an ambulance, they closed the doors and rolled off with one thing on their minds: Mass casualty training exercises like this will really keep us on our toes.

The 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment’s medical platoon has an important mission in Operation Joint Forge. They provide medical support to all the soldiers at Camp Bedrock. Not only do they train to stay mission ready, but they also keep the soldiers of 2-8 Cavalry ready to accomplish their missions.

Sergeant First Class Gregory S. Harvey, Task Force 2-8 medical platoon sergeant, said they also support most of the patrols at Bedrock.

“We send at least one person out with the scouts, motor pla-

toon, and quick reaction force,” he said. “We do this incase of an emergency. Someone will be on scene to give immediate aid. Everywhere you turn around there is a medic. We treat everyone from the lowest ranking private to the highest ranking officer.”

Harvey said they train 24 hours a day to remain prepared for anything.

“It’s always training for us,” he said. “We see people everyday, be it twisted ankles or broken bones. The best thing is that we get fulfillment from doing our mission here. All the training we do here is preparing us for any future training we may face when we get back.”

He said keeping up on their medical skills is a priority, but teaching the individual soldiers how to take care of themselves and their fellow soldiers in an emergency is also important.

“We instruct Combat Lifesaver courses, Field Sanitation classes and classes on how to maintain physical and mental health,” Harvey said. “We hope these classes give the soldiers enough knowledge to help them take care of themselves if we are too occupied to get to them.”

Second Lieutenant Kevin S. Leland of Sidney, Mont., Task Force 2-8 medical platoon leader, said one of their missions as medics is to train so they can better serve the battalion.

“We try to acquire enough knowledge during training to perfect our skills as medics,” he said. “The better trained we are, the better we will be able to take care of the soldiers.”

Each individual medic trains so they will be able to operate by themselves without the help of a leader. Not only do we get training from our everyday procedures, but we also have mass casualty exercises we perform to keep the medics up on their skills.”

Specialist Jason L. Bernard of Orlando, Fla., Task Force 2-8 medic, said the training they receive helps him maintain what he already knows and needs to know as a medic.

“The thing that really keeps us up on our skills is the mass cal (mass casualty) exercises we do,” he said. “Everyone does a great job every time we have a mass cal exercise, and that is how it should be because that shows us that we are ready to face any situation that might need our assistance.”

Harvey said the Task Force 2-8 medics are capable of performing any mission that may come their way, but they also have their limitations.

“We have always been able to do only a certain amount at our level,” he said. “It’s not that we are limited by what we can do, but we have our part we play in the medical chain and we stick with that. There haven’t been any serious injuries, but that is due to the Task Force safety policy, which is outstanding. Right now, all we are worried about are colds and runny noses.”

In the end, the medics said they just want to make sure they return each soldier back home to their families physically and mentally healthy. They also want to leave the medics that will follow them with that same mentality, because a healthy soldier is a soldier ready to defend his country with pride.



Medics from 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, help an “injured” soldier during a mass casualty exercise.

Soldiers feel at home in new club

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

Keeping a soldier's morale up while deployed in Bosnia can be difficult at times. With the tedious schedule that some soldiers have, it's difficult to find time off. Sometimes soldiers want to get away from the whole Army concept and talk and dance with friends.

Camp Dobil may have found the answer. It has added a facility called The Knight Rider Club that is trying to keep the soldiers entertained. The Knight Rider founders tried to make this club look like a club in the United States. Its fluorescent lights and loud music reminds the soldiers of being back home and allows them to escape reality for just a little while.

Specialist Tramel Bracey, a Brooklyn, N. Y. native and medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Division, likes the new club because it's something different to do after a hard day.

"I think the club is going to be a good place for the soldiers to get away and have some fun after they've been on a mission all day long," he said. "I enjoy the atmosphere and it feels nice to feel like you're somewhere else for a change."

The idea for the club originated from Ado Halilovic, an Army Air Force Exchange Service contractor.

"I opened a club for the soldiers at Camp Demi," he said. "Many of the soldiers that visited Demi told me they were from Dobil and their base camp didn't have anything like that for the soldiers."

The club idea was brought to the attention of the Base Camp Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Brown and the Camp Mayor, Captain Thomas Mackey. With the help of Camp Dobil's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Coordinator, Kaitlyn O'Malley Peck and the Camp Demi MWR Coordinator, Steve Eclavea, the club was opened about a week later.

"We couldn't have done it without the command support," Halilovic said. "They were very cooperative and willing to help because it was going to make the soldiers happy."

Soldiers on Dobil wanted to help with the construction, so they added little touches of home to make it look and feel more like a club.

Private First Class Peter Gramazio, a Rockland, Mass. native and an intelligence analyst attached to Task Force 2-5 Cavalry, said it was important for the club to get soldiers away from the tents they live in.

"The ceiling and walls of the club are lined with plywood



Specialist Michael Henson, an engineer with Company A, 20th Engineers, was the Disc Jockey during the club's opening night.

to create a real nightclub setting," he said. "We thought it would be a good idea to put plywood in the tent so it wouldn't look like a tent. The whole idea was to decorate the club in such a way that it would make the soldiers feel like they weren't in a tent."

Although the club is decorated with the intent to make the soldiers believe they are indeed somewhere else, a mural that symbolizes the base camp is posted on the wall to remind them of the important job they are doing.

"Lieutenant Colonel Brown first came to me with the idea," Gramazio said. "He thought it would be a good idea to have each unit paint something on the wall. Well, it was kind of difficult to get a representative from each unit to come in and paint, so I thought painting a symbol that represented each unit would be easier."

With little to no supplies, Gramazio linked up with other soldiers who volunteered to help with the mural.

"We used my personal paint supplies to complete the job," said Staff Sergeant Gilles Haun, a Chicago, Ill. native and Judge Advocate General noncommissioned officer in charge attached to Task Force 2-5. "It took us about four days to finish the mural, but with everyone dedicating all of their personal time to help, it went along pretty smooth. Basically, we wanted the club to be a place for the soldiers, by the soldiers and I'm pretty sure everyone will feel at home while they're there."

Troops earn spurs during Spur Ride

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

Low crawling through the mud, dragging heavy tow cables behind them, carrying injured soldiers on their backs or testing their knowledge on cavalry history, helped the soldiers of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, earn their spurs in a traditional "Spur Ride" at Camp McGovern.

Officers and noncommissioned officers worked together in teams to participate in the Spur Ride, where they were tested on a variety of tasks. The purpose of the Spur Ride is to make sure that the junior and senior leaders are proficient in common tasks. These tasks include: leadership skills, vehicle identification, land navigation, weapons skills and many others, according to First Lieutenant Phillip D. Sounia, of Pompano Beach, Fla., the executive officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-8 Cavalry Regiment. It also gives 1-8 Cavalry the opportunity to uphold Cavalry traditions while deployed to Bosnia.

"It was a gut check more than anything else, to see who was going to quit," Sounia said.

The participants, or "Spurees," had to complete ten stations in order to receive their spurs, said Sergeant Haiyang Liang, of Brooklyn, N.Y., a tank gunner for Company D, 1-8 Cavalry.

After completing all ten stations, the soldiers gathered together at the dining facility for their Spur Dinner and award Ceremony, to receive their awards and the right to wear spurs.

According to Sounia, the soldiers had to complete stations such as first aid, where they were required to evacuate casualties from the landing pads to the aid station. At the small arms station, they had to take mixed up weapons parts and put them together in the dark using night vision goggles. When they completed the task, they performed function checks.

At the armored vehicle identification station, the "Spurees" had to identify vehicles when only given thermal images or a portion of it, he added.

The "Spurees" also tackled stations such as maintenance, 1-8 Cavalry history, security operations and an interview by the task force commander, said Sounia. Some stations had them crawling in the mud, such as in the mine probing station

where soldiers had to move equipment from one side of barbed wire to the other. Another muddy station was the physical training, or "Smokin," where the "Spurees" had to roll tank wheels and carry heavy tank tracks across a field, as well as doing calisthenics.

At the end of the Spur Ride, the soldiers were ready to collapse from all the strenuous activity and crawling in the mud, said Sounia. "They were pretty exhausted. I didn't see anybody that wasn't completely covered in mud by the end of it."

Usually, Spur Rides are exclusive to Armor soldiers; however, all officers and NCOs attached to the task force were invited to participate. "This is a Cavalry task force, so really everybody's considered Cav in this unit," said Sounia, a Master Spur Holder during the event. "It was a great idea. It created cohesion in the task force."

According to Sounia, the biggest benefit of the Spur Ride is it brings a lot of unity to the battalion.

"When you're done with the Spur Ride, you become closer with everyone," he added. "There's a new level of respect and individual pride."

Some soldiers get their spurs simply for the challenge, but others want them for the respect.

"I wanted to set an example for my soldiers and to show people I have the potential to be a good leader," Liang said.

Liang said he worked very hard to earn his spurs and was proud to finally get them. He said that no matter how hard it was for him, he wouldn't quit. "I just wanted to get my spurs, and now I have them."



Captain Lawrence E. Gill III, of Abilene, Texas, the commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, lifts tank tracks with his team before crossing a muddy field as part of Camp McGovern's Spur Ride.