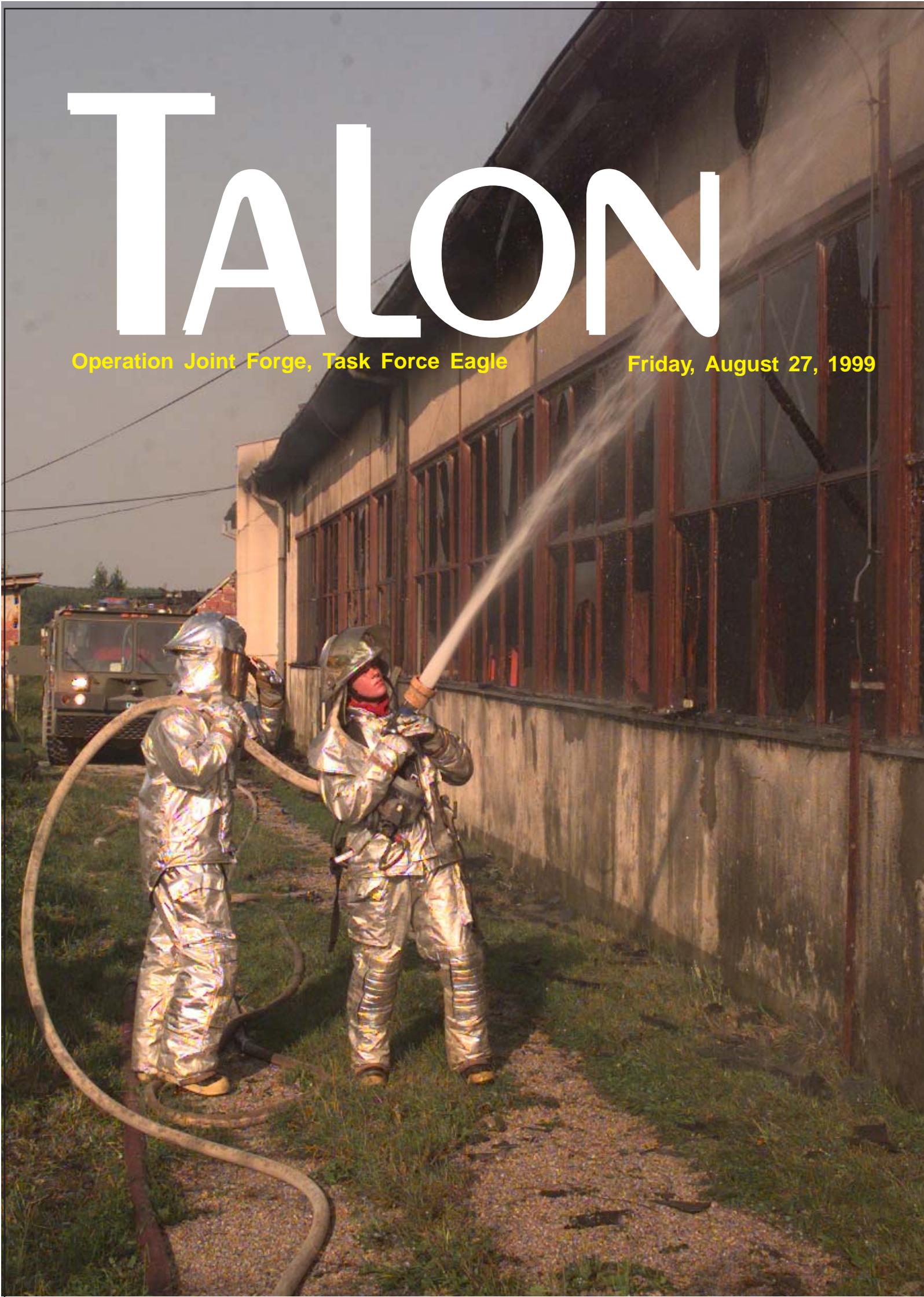


TALON

Operation Joint Forge, Task Force Eagle

Friday, August 27, 1999





On the cover

REAL LIFE TRAINING

Firefighters from Camp McGovern combat a blaze in Brcko. See story on Page 8. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Woelzlein, Combat Camera, Camp McGovern)

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Inside

4 Reserve, Guard troops tackle deployment

5 Tankers train on the 'ultimate arcade'

9 Bodybuilders vie for title of "Mr. Camp McGovern"



6 Soldiers enjoy Bosnian tradition



11 Local kids tell their dreams of peace

Guard duty for the heart

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael A. Hoyt
Multinational Division-North Chaplain

“Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.” Proverbs 4:23

This Proverb seems to be stating the obvious, but is it? In this day and time we tend to interpret this scripture as though it were a commercial, offering some quick scheme to satisfy a desire for something we want. Our modern proverb goes something like this, “Life’s a sport, drink it up.” Or a simpler phrase, stated like a command, “Just do it.” We are encouraged by well-wishers and charlatans alike to find out what we want, our heart’s desire, and then to pursue the dream until it comes true. The main effort is to satisfy the heart’s fancy rather than protect the heart’s integrity. This misses the point.

For some reason, deployments tend to lull us into thinking differently about our heart’s desires. Maybe it’s because matters of the heart are so prominent when we deploy. Separation, changes in routine, dangerous environments, newly assigned “intimate” friends all shake us a little right where we live with ourselves and we are left a little unprotected. Sometimes new rules, new supervisors, new lands and new reasons to act different offer a false sense of freedom and we open our hearts to ideas and actions we would never do “back home.” Regardless of the reason, we are each vulnerable to heart attacks. Jeremiah 17:9 says, *“The heart is more deceitful than all else, and desperately sick: Who can understand it?”* (NASV)

The writer of the proverb carefully chose the words guard and diligence as he offers advice for matters of the heart. He spoke from unequalled splendor and experience as the King

of Israel. Solomon was a walking advertisement. In his own confession he states, *“All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure.”* Yet the conclusion of all this “heart felt” living is summed up in this simple proverb, guard your heart.

The reality of guard duty is all around us; sentry posts, gate guards, duty rosters, patrols, guard mount and shift change. Let’s not miss the obvious while we are preparing for the unexpected. Guard duty is a full time job, keep a good lookout.

The answer to last week’s trivia question, “Who were the parents of King Solomon of Israel?” is found in II Samuel 12:24.

This week’s trivia question: How many brothers and sisters did Jesus have?

Variety of jobs contribute to one mission *Servicemembers, personnel comment on duties*

Five military and civilian personnel at Eagle Base were asked to describe their jobs and why they think it’s important that Stabilization Force is in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Here are their responses:

Cpl. Gianluca Medda
Italian Police Carabinieri



Airman Daviana Jimenez
52nd Security Forces Squadron

Airman Daviana Jimenez recently arrived to Eagle Base last month from

Spangdahlem, Germany.

She describes her unit as highly trained

Spc. Chris S. Cherry
Company B, 1st Battalion,
87th Infantry Regiment



Spc. Cherry is a combat medic assigned to an infantry company. He serves as the senior line medic and is primarily responsible for providing medical supplies and support to the unit.

“It’s important for us to support peacekeeping operations to

prevent continued hostilities in Bosnia,” he said. “Individuals I’ve talked with feel that had we not provided a presence here, the fighting would have continued.”

Airman Daviana Jimenez
52nd Security Forces Squadron



Airman Jimenez arrived at Eagle Base last month from Spangdahlem, Germany.

She describes her unit as highly-trained security forces providing security for airfield operations here.

“We’re here to sustain peace and normal living conditions for military, civilian and local nationals working on the base camp,” she said. “Overall, our role here plays a vital part in support of the Stabilization Force mission of maintaining peace in Bosnia.”

Edita Dedic
Photo Shop Concessions



Dedic was only 16 years old when the fighting started in Bosnia. She joined the Post Pessimists Youth Group that traveled through Norway, Hungary, Austria and much of Europe to “talk

about what we should do to stop the war.”

“We have several friends who we haven’t heard from since the war in Kosovo started,” she said. “Some of them had just visited us several days prior to the bombing.

“Yes, I feel the military’s presence is needed here,” she added. If not for SFOR, Edita said she feels the fighting would start again.

Sgt. 1st Class Jorge A. Galloza
401st Military Police Company



Sgt. 1st Class Galloza serves as senior medic and supervisor. He said his mission is to make sure the military police have the medical support needed each time they go out on mission. He

also ensures the commander is aware of any health or preventive medical concerns that may impact on the unit’s mission or personnel.

“It’s a great thing that we’re here,” he said. “I was here in 1996 and you can really see the difference. There have been a lot of changes. Our presence here has allowed individuals to resume their normal day-to-day lives.”

Part-time soldiers eagerly tackle full-time jobs when deployed



Col. Joseph Smith, commander of the 10th Aviation Brigade at Comanche Base, greets troops arriving in Rijeka.

**Story & photo by
Cpl. Kevin Greenwood
133rd MPAD, Eagle Base**

Reserve and National Guard soldiers are ever present in Stabilization Force operations. With the downsizing of the military a blatant reality, these "part-timers" will probably continue to play a vital role in the future.

"No matter where you go, there will be a Reserve or Guard component with you," said Maj. James Ash, executive officer of Automated Information, 10th Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

Army Reserve soldiers from the 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment out of Fort Knox Ky., recently arrived from the states to do their part in keeping the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It was early morning when the soldiers, accompanied by soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, arrived at the international airport in Rijeka, Croatia.

These reservists preceded the arrival of their Apache helicopters being shipped to port where the aircraft will be assembled and then flown en masse to Comanche Base.

American soldiers and civilian workers are familiar with the flight across the Atlantic. The

flights are long, often crowded, and always preceded by soldiers leaving those whom they love.

Col. Joseph Smith, brigade commander, 10th Aviation Brigade, thought it important to welcome the soldiers upon their arrival.

The commander personally greeted each soldier as he or she exited the plane, shaking hands or giving a warm pat on the back. It was obvious that the gesture was appreciated by every troop and proved that soldiers from all components are treated alike.

Spc. James Ricketts of Company A, 8th Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, was one of those greeted by the colonel.

Ricketts stood in front of the Rijeka airport, absorbing his first moments in eastern Europe. A reservist from Kentucky, Ricketts awaits the arrival of the Apaches so he and others from 8-229 can assemble the "birds."

They can assemble about five aircraft a day and then fly them back to Comanche, said Smith.

"I'm looking forward to the experience," said Ricketts.

He said he hopes he enjoys his stay and looks forward to getting the job done and seeing different countries.

The reservists will relocate to Comanche when the birds are assembled. They are just one of the reserve and guard units making a difference in the world along with the rest of the U.S. military.

Unit receives NATO medals

**Story & photo by
Cpl. Tom Cox
314th MPAD, Camp Dobol**

Everybody in the military wants medals. The soldiers of Task Force 1-5 Cavalry at Camp Dobol added one more to their collections of "fruit salad" after being awarded NATO Medals at a ceremony recently.

The blue and white NATO Medal is awarded to all soldiers who serve 30 days in support of a NATO mission, in this case Operation Joint Forge.

"Blessed are the peacekeepers," said Col. George Bowers, 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander. "You have spent almost six months doing just that; keeping the peace. You have invested a lot of time, energy and emotion doing an excellent job."

Bowers told the soldiers that their presence has greatly helped to foster peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their efforts will be widely felt in the lives of many Bosnians in the coming years, he said.

"From Tuzla to Srebrenica, your professionalism and courage has made a difference in this country," Bowers said. "You have been ambassadors for the United States and you did it well."

Task Force 1-5 took on its current mission March 20 and will be finished Sept. 20 when they return to Fort Hood, Texas.

Lt. Col. Richard Totleben, Task Force 1-5 commander, told his troops he was proud of them.

"From our first night in Bosnia, when we confiscated a huge cache of demolitions, the Black Knights have served with distinction," Totleben said. "I could not have chosen a finer group of soldiers to work with here."

Spc. Stephen Stanko, a tanker in Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, was among the soldiers awarded the medal.

Before he received the NATO award, Stanko had an Army Achievement Medal and an Army Service Ribbon.

"This gives me a feeling of accomplishment and I'm proud to have served as part of the peacekeeping force in Bosnia," he said.



First Lt. Henry Alvarez pins the NATO Medal on 1st Lt. Brett Bair.

The ultimate arcade

Simulator is where tankers 'learn how to fight'

Story & photos by
Sgt. Michael T. Koentop
133rd MPAD, Camp McGovern

For more than five months the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, has been keeping the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Though successful, this mission is a far cry from Fort Hood's tank table eight and the familiarity of sending massive sabot rounds downrange during qualification with a new tank commander.

To ensure the tankers of Task Force 1-12 don't get homesick, an Advanced Gunnery Training System is in place at Camp McGovern to offer all the reality of destroying enemy tanks without actually firing a round.

"This is a cheap way for crews to launch rounds downrange," said Sgt. Curtis Mitchell, 3rd Platoon, Company A. "A tank crew has to be qualified on the AGTS before they can go out and fire live rounds on a live range."

This Abrams tank simulator resembles a big video game, but is a serious piece of machinery that requires soldiers to take all the precautions they

would take on a real tank.

"The feel of being in the AGTS is a little bit different from being in a tank, but basically everything you do to get a tank rolling you have to do in here," Mitchell said.

"The biggest difference is here, the system uses electronics and on a tank it uses hydraulics."

More important than the reality of the equipment is the relationship the gunner and the tank commander are able to build by training in such

a realistic manner.

According to Mitchell, this is the place for the crew to learn to fight.

"The AGTS offers the crew a chance to work together and become familiar with each other," he said. "They work on crew drills together and basically learn how to fight with their tank."

Task Force 1-12 offers each of the companies here the opportunity to train on the AGTS during the week they serve as base camp security, and Company A takes the time seriously.

"On the days that we get the AGTS, we are in here from sunup to sundown," Mitchell said.

Besides the training, the time the soldiers get on the AGTS breaks up the mission's monotony and offers something that is fun for the tankers.

"On the days we get to use the AGTS, I feel like I have a pocket full of quarters and I'm going to the arcade," the sergeant said. "I sometimes have to remind myself that this is for training, not playing."



This is the screen the tank crew sees to track enemy soldiers and tanks.



Sgt. Curtis Mitchell keeps an eye on the progress of the tank crew working in the AGTS.



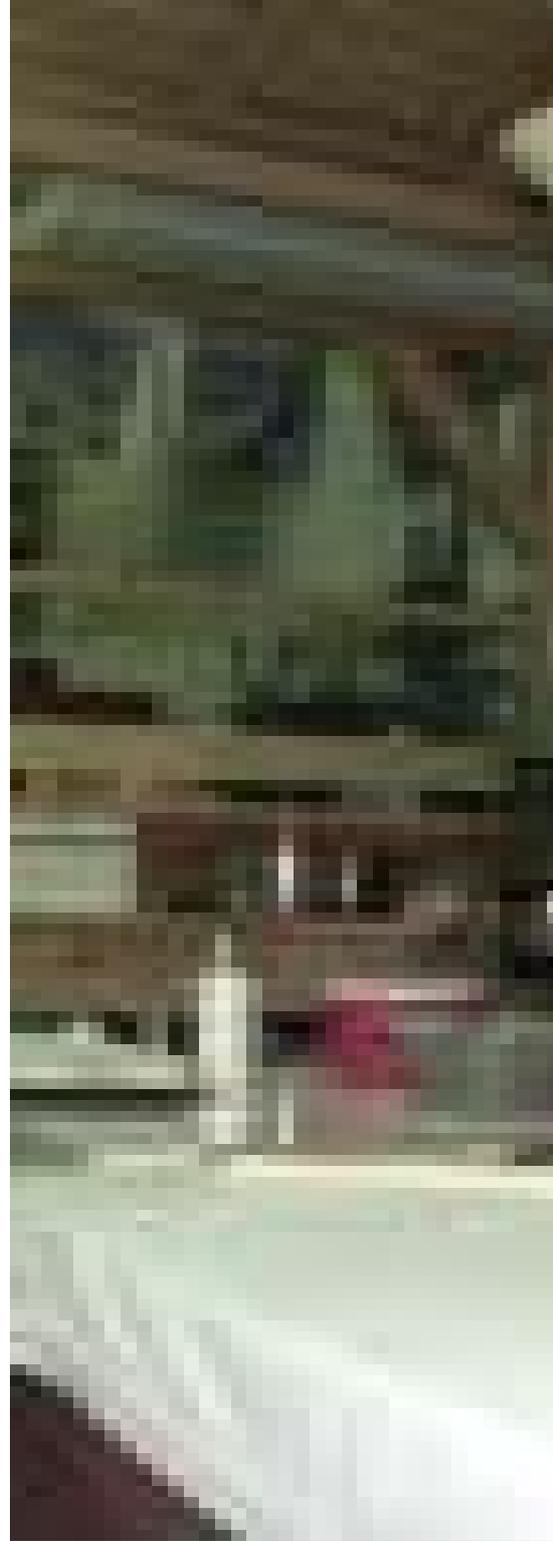
Three meat pies are ready to go.



Mudadia Razic' places the meat mixture of sausage, onion and spices onto the dough before rolling it into the meat pie form.



Mudadia Razic' assists her daughter, Edina, in spreading the dough as Edina makes her first meat pie.



Mudadia Razic' finishes preparing meat pie

Soldiers t

Story & photos by
Staff Sgt. Melanie R. Rowton
314th MPAD, Eagle Base

Taking the eight-inch ball of dough and making it into a flat, white tablecloth is something Mudadia Razic' makes look easy as pie. Actually, it is "pie" in it's preliminary stages.

Mudadia, a Bosnian worker on Eagle Base, works for Trigger's and has been making the specialty "meat pies" for 34 years... since she was nine years old.



s while Asceric Radenko tosses pizza dough for customers at Trigger's.

ake to Bosnian tradition

The legend of the meat pie goes back for generations and has since become somewhat of an art form. The meat pie, oddly enough, does not look much like a pie, nor does it contain that much meat. It's appearance is more that of a wrapped sausage link, but it is actually dough, rolled over a sausage, onion and spice mixture rolled and formed into an odd, elongated cinnamon roll shape.

Legend has it by some that the meat pie was a requirement for a young woman to master before marrying a Bosnian man. "Of course, it could never be as good as their mother's," Edina,

Mudadia's daughter, said jokingly.

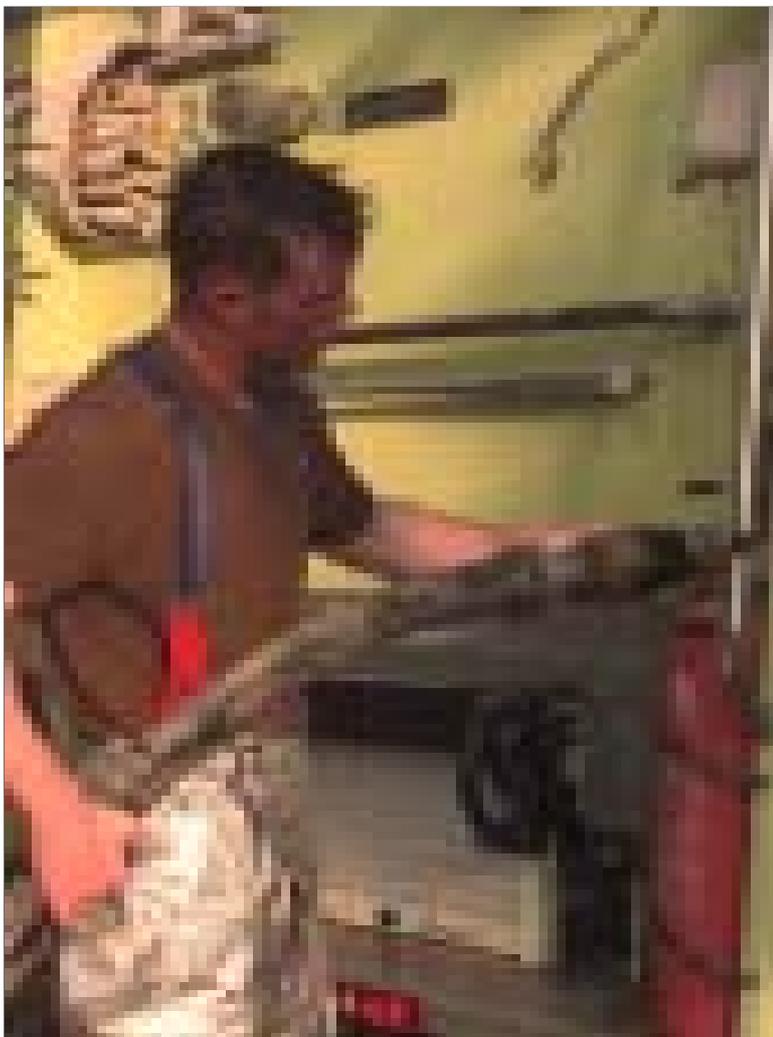
Edina recently took on the challenge of making her first meat pie. She was confident that it would be easy to prepare.

"Look and learn," Mudadia said to her daughter as she stretched the small ball of dough over the table so that it looked like a thin table cloth. She then proceeded to pinch out the pre-made sausage, onion and spice mixture and place it along both sides. She then rolled the edges of the dough to cover the sausage and continued to roll them both inward until they were about one and a half inches apart. She cut the dough

separating the two pieces and rolled them up, leaving enough from each piece to form one more pie.

Mudadia makes about 50 meat pies each day and averages seven minutes to make three pies. This doesn't include the dough preparation, meat mixture preparation and cooking time of 10 minutes. So at \$1.75 each, most consider the meat pies to be quite a bargain.

Staff Sgt. Jeff Farmer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain, said the meat pies are good, but "it's really more interesting to watch them being prepared."



Spc. Jeff Urbanek checks the hose on a fire truck.

Firefighters help save local gas station, homes

Story by

Spc. Ramon Ruiz

314th MPAD, Camp McGovern

Photos by

Staff Sgt. Mark Woelzlein

Combat Camera, Camp McGovern

According to the 1995 Dayton Peace Accord, the purpose of Stabilization Force is to ensure peace and stability is maintained throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. But often situations arise and the peacekeepers must do more.

Recently, firefighters from Camp McGovern proved they could do just that.

“We were called at approximately five o’clock to respond to a fire in the city of Brcko, not too far from Camp McGovern,” said Staff Sgt. Warren Washington, fire chief, 482nd Engineer Detachment (Firefighters). Immediately, the team was loaded up and ready to roll.

The fire started at a local gas station where a gas tank caught on fire. “We did a site assessment, positioned our vehicles, ran the first line and started battling the fire,” Washington said.

He added that the team periodically conducts firefighting training in preparation for real-world missions.

“We do a lot of live burn training,” Washington said. “My guys were really pumped because they finally got to utilize the training they had received.”

Brown and Root assisted the team by providing extra water.

“Brown and Root gave us plenty of support with the water truck,” Washington said. “They pumped the truck full of water and dispatched it to us, then we did what we had to do.”

The team was able to test its training and also have a positive effect on relations between SFOR and the citizens of Bosnia. The soldiers kept property damage to a minimum and there were no injuries.

“We helped show the citizens of Bosnia that we are not here just to keep the peace,” the fire chief said.

Their hard work did not go unnoticed by the citizens of Brcko.

Mirsad Haseljec, Brcko’s deputy chief of police, expressed a great deal of gratitude to Camp McGovern and its firefighters.

“It’s great that SFOR was there to show that they can assist people around this area in other ways,” Haseljec said. “Firefighters from Brcko, the Federation and SFOR were there in very short notice. They did a great job and if it weren’t for them, the damage would have been much greater.”

Although the blaze was the first real fire most of the soldiers had battled, it wasn’t evident as the team reacted like seasoned veterans.

Spc. Nathan Gieber, assistant fire chief, said the team will do whatever it takes to extinguish any fire.

“We get a huge adrenaline rush. Our minds get off the heat and exhaustion and it pushes us to do more,” Gieber said.

Lt. Col. Buck Connor, commander, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, applauded the team for its professionalism in executing the job above standard and in an extremely timely manner.

“It’s amazing. Because they train so hard, their response time is so fast,” Connor said. “They were there in a moment’s notice and were able to prevent the fire from spreading to other homes in that area.”

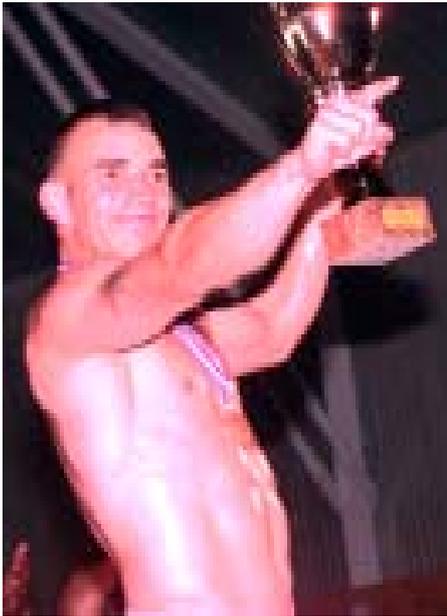
As the citizens of Brcko and SFOR work to bring Bosnia into the 21st century, the firefighters of Camp McGovern have done their part to ensure that at least part of the infrastructure remains intact.



The firefighters take off their gear after successfully extinguishing the fire.

If looks could kill

Soldiers vie for Camp McGovern's body building title



Darrick Blackburn shows off for the crowd after being named the first 'Mr. Camp McGovern.'

**Story & photos by
Sgt. Michael T. Koentop
133rd MPAD, Camp McGovern**

Soldiers at Camp McGovern have different ways of using their off-duty hours. One of the most popular pastimes is pounding iron in the gymnasium.

During a recent bodybuilding competition, those dedicated soldiers got the chance to show off their hard work.

"This competition was a real morale-builder for the soldiers," said Terrell Simmons, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, Morale, Welfare and Recreation representative. "They got to show off their hard work to a big crowd."

The bodybuilding competition was one of many MWR events scheduled here during the six-month rotation. Simmons said there have been power-lifting competitions and it was time to see the results of the heavy work.

"These soldiers got to show the people watching what it means to achieve muscle tone and balance," he said. "And as a result of the competition here, three of the soldiers said they want to compete in Army-wide competitions."

One such soldier is bodybuilding champion, Darrick Blackburn. Blackburn said he enjoyed the chance to perform despite the nervousness he felt going in.

"I was so nervous before the thing started," Blackburn said. "I don't like being the center of attention, but as the show went on, I relaxed and had a really good time. I'm going to work hard for the next six months and see where I am. I want to compete again and see how far I can go."

As much as the bodybuilders enjoyed the competition, they said it was great to hear the crowd get so involved.

"During the deployment, the guys have got-

ten to see the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders and the Washington Redskin cheerleaders, but the women here haven't gotten to see any entertainment like that," said Elvis Byron, bodybuilder. "This event was for them, and all the ladies I've talked to said they enjoyed the show."

It was a show many of the men enjoyed as well.

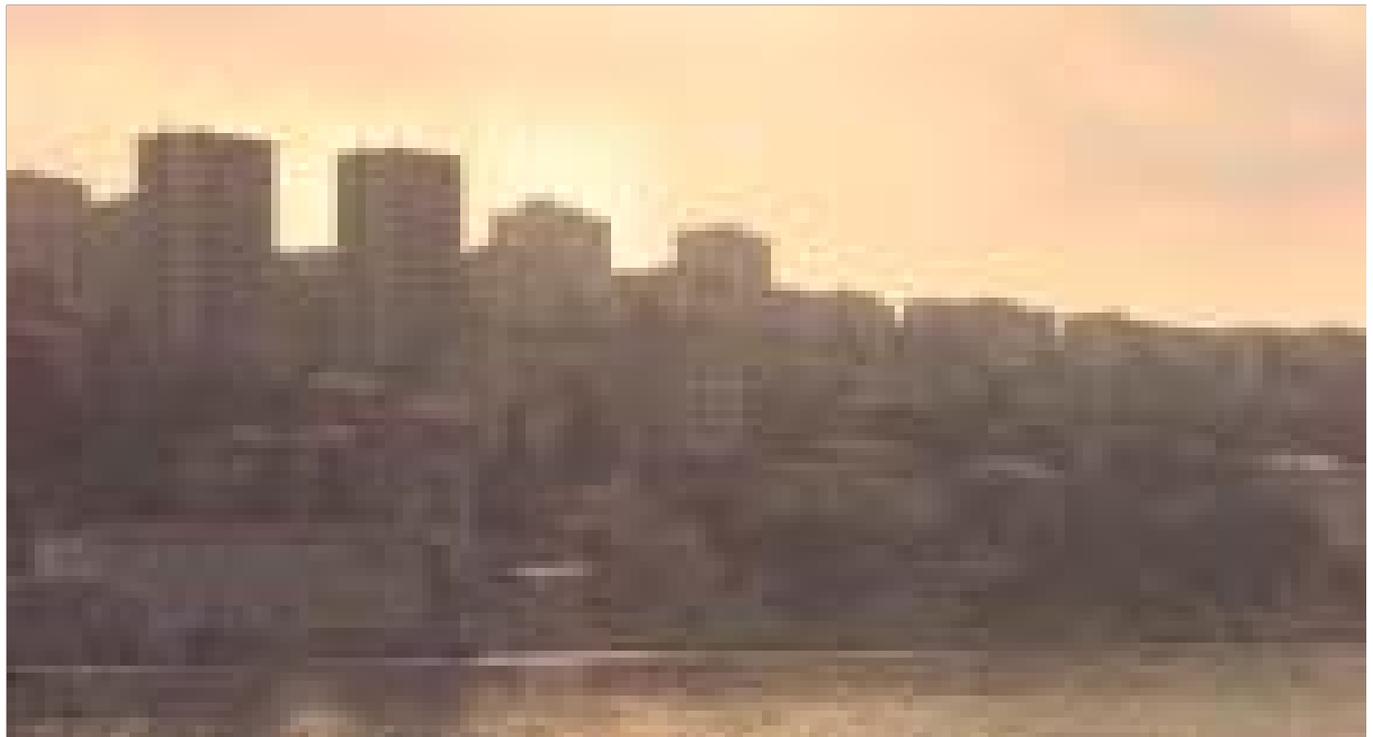
"I was surprised at first at the number of guys who showed up to watch," Simmons said. "But there are a lot of bodybuilding fans here and I just wasn't aware of that."

The competition was divided into three events, each earning points from the panel of judges. First, each contestant stood alone on the stage and performed a series of required poses. The second phase was a choreographed performance to music chosen by each bodybuilder. The last event was a 60-second pose-off between all the contestants at the same time.

"This event was a total success," Simmons said. "The participants did a great job and the crowd loved the show. The goal was achieved by the participants and the audience."

The MWR representative said there is more left for the task force to do before the mid-September redeployment. There are softball, flag football and basketball tournaments as well as a tattoo show scheduled in the next few weeks. "All of our events are open to all the base camps in Task Force Eagle," Simmons said. "We have not had any takers, but anyone that wants to come here and compete is welcome."

Sunset in the Balkans



This scene in Rijeka is one of the many beautiful sites in Croatia. (Photo by Cpl. Kevin Greenwood, 133rd MPAD)



Sgt. Cornelius Lunsford fires his M-16 at Camp Dობol's qualification range.

Making soldiers feel like soldiers

Story & photos by
Cpl. Tom Cox
314th MPAD, Camp Dობol

It took them about five months to get their ammunition, but the soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company B, 91st Engineer Battalion, finally fired their M-16 rifles for qualification at Camp Dობol's range.

Although the "Beasts" are about to rotate back to Fort Hood, Texas, this training is essential. A trip to the National Training Center looms in their near future.

"It's always good to get trigger-time for the guys," said 1st Lt. Robert Hellner, platoon leader.

"We've only shot once since we deployed several months ago and this is our first time shooting for record in Bosnia," he said. "We need to have everyone qualified before going to NTC."

Hellner said the training objective was for



Range safety officials keep a careful watch over the firing range.

the entire platoon to qualify. They came pretty close, with more than two-thirds qualifying, including four who fired expert.

After spending time in the Engagement Skills Trainer at Eagle Base the day before, the engineers marched the short distance down to Camp Dობol's 25-meter range. The "C" silhouette targets used there are scaled to represent those on a normal qualification range, simulating targets out to 300 meters.

Everyone fired several rounds to verify their weapon's "zero" and a few were surprised to find that their previously zeroed weapons were off. Soldiers said they believed the daily weap-

ons maintenance and months of climbing in and out of vehicles had shifted the sights around.

"We need this kind of training regularly because you grow rusty in the basics," said Staff Sgt. Howard Duncan, a squad leader and range safety officer. "Plus, you find stuff like the sights getting out of alignment."

Other soldiers agreed.

"This was good refresher training," added Sgt. Cornelius Lunsford, a squad leader who qualified expert. Like most soldiers, he wants to fire more often.

"We should do this all the time," Lunsford said. "This is the stuff soldiers like to do."



I wish everything was as it should be,
 Happiness reigned under the sun,
 Swallows flew again free,
 Every child was happy.
 Peace was spilled throughout the whole world.

I wish children suffered no more,
 They were not afraid of that horrible bomb.
 All the children had daddies,
 The disappeared ones came back into our hug.

I wish the peace knocked on every door,
 The cries from the past disappeared.
 May the peace be in the whole world,
 May the peace be even to the words in flight.

After the war, there were memories left of
 The broken blooming boughs,
 The tearful whispered farewells,
 The children's souls broken into pieces.

Isn't it beautiful when here in the peace,
 The stranger a friendly hand offers
 And with the smile on the face,
 Says that he wants to be a friend?

Isn't it beautiful when, without fear,
 The black and white hands are joined?
 That is the friendship.
 That is the happiness.
 That is the silent sign of love and peace.
 – Marijana Bublic, Milici

– Poems and artwork
 provided by local children



Here Came the Peace

An old woman carries water with great effort up the road, stops for a second or two while walking and wipes the sweat with one hand.

In front of the house grass grew out but grandma persistently carries the water and also has to cut the grass.

But here there is peace,
 And the war has disappeared,
 Even Daddy is back home.

Now Daddy carries the water and cuts the grass in front of the house.

Here came peace in our front door.
 Oh, if only there hadn't been this damned war.
 – Rada Miruzovic, Milici

Rijeka: An SFOR paradise

Story and photo by
Cpl. Kevin Greenwood
133rd MPAD, Eagle Base

The port city of Rijeka, Croatia, is located in the northwestern part of the country. It has thrived beside the Adriatic Sea for nearly 1,000 years. It is a trade, industrial and cultural center which derives a great deal of money from its largest industry, tourism.

The area has long been frequented by tourists from Europe and abroad. Beachgoers lie in the sun, which shines nearly everyday, approximately 2,100 hours a year. The coastline juts out ruggedly, sandy beaches hide within ancient coves.

Rowers compete with fishermen casting their nets as the sun appears in the eastern sky. Large ships await port, their cargo destined for many parts of Eastern Europe and beyond.

Task Force Rijeka, a Stabilization Force operation, is located next to the sea in Rijeka, its deep natural ports allowing ships easy access to unload needed supplies and equipment, essential for a successful operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

