

TALON



Operation Joint Forge

Task Force Eagle

Saturday, June 10, 2000

JOINT RESOLVE— 3rd ACR in MND-SW

**Glamoc Live Fire
Multinational Exercises**

**30 Years Later
Vietnam Vets Gather in Minue Park**

**Paying Homage
Med Eagle's Memorial Day**

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

A great deal has been written about the virtue of forgetting old grudges, prejudices, unpleasant experiences, and heartaches. We also need to be reminded of some of the blessings of remembering.

Remembering can be a good spiritual exercise:

Remember our sins that we might confess them to God.

Remember our weaknesses that we might receive strength.

Remember our humanity that we might stop trying to be God.

Remember God's mercies that we might be merciful to others.

Remember our joys that we might be joyful.

Remember God's greatness that we might be humble.

Remember our poverty that we might share our prosperity.

Remember God's forgiveness that we might forgive others.

Remember our needs that we might serve the needs of others.

Remember our troops and give them thanks for the service that they render to our nation and the people we serve around the world.

– Chaplain (Col.) Charles W. Edwards, Jr.
Multinational Division–North/Task Force Eagle Chaplain

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- TODAY** – “Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.”
SUNDAY – “It’s the constant and determined effort that breaks down all resistance, sweeps away all obstacles.”
MONDAY – “If a window of opportunity appears, don’t pull down the shade.”
TUESDAY – “It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts.”
WEDNESDAY – “Great thoughts reduced to practice become great acts.”
THURSDAY – “The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention.”
FRIDAY – “Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

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

The *Talon* is published weekly by the 49th Armored Division (Task Force Eagle) Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina APO AE 09789. Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5230. E-mail: talonpancoic@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 5,500.

Visit the *Talon* and other Bosnia and Herzegovina related items on the Task Force Eagle Home page:
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Sgt. Jerry Chapman keeps watch during a convoy to support Operation Joint Resolve in MND-SW. (Photo by Cpl. James D. Nunley, 102nd MPAD, Camp McGovern).



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ON APPROACHING OUR HALFWAY MARK

By Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson
Commander, MND-N

We are rapidly approaching the halfway mark between the transfer of authority to Stabilization Force (SFOR) 7 and the transfer of authority to SFOR 8. In the first week of October, we will turn over the command and control of this mission to our able replacements from the 3rd Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, Ga.

I think it's important to take a pause at this point and really look at the way things are run here in Multinational Division-North (MND-N).

I want us all to look at what we have accomplished in the first half of our time here, and I also want to know what we could have done better. We still have ample time for improvement, and I want to know where you think improvements should be made.

In order for this to happen, I will require help from each of you. I need your input and your ideas.

I am not asking for a formal report from anybody, rather a note or a comment from individual soldiers, from my personal staff to the private on the wire. It is your thoughtful input that leads to improvements in the methods we practice, and without your help we can't make informed changes.

I want to reassure you all that I am approachable, and I value

your ideas. If you have a suggestion, let me hear it. Do this in any way you can, whether that means a moment in the chow hall, or leaving a note with my aide. Stop in my office or send me an e-mail. You might not believe it, but I, too, am on the global.

We have 50 percent of this mission remaining, and in that time I hope that we will all be able to accomplish everything that we set out to do when we came here.

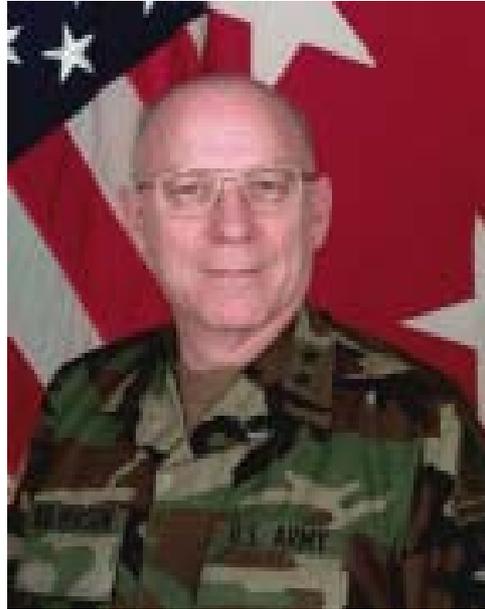
We all know that we are here to ensure a safe and secure environment within which the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina can rebuild their lives.

However, I know most of us came here with individual goals. Whether you set out to save money, or to take a class or max your Army physical fitness test, now is the time to evaluate where you are in relationship to accomplishing your goals, and to reassert your determination to attain them before we leave this fall.

I believe very strongly that this mission is an opportunity of each of us to improve our lives in some way. Whatever your individual goal is, do not give that up. The Army is better when individual soldiers are better and are committed to constantly improving

themselves. I encourage you to do this, and I pledge to support you in any way that I can.

Lone Star!



Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson

KEEPING SAFETY IN SPORT

Maj. Ted N. Aanenson
TFE Safety Office, Eagle Base
"Hello sports fans. This is Jack 'Safe-at-Home' Strap coming to you live from the Hootie Tent at Eagle Base. The MND(N) Eagles are looking good this year. But, they've suffered several injuries which may affect their future. Several key players have been temporarily sidelined by sports-related injuries. Coach Halverson is concerned but feels that the team can overcome these problems and finish the season healthy, ready to return home for an extended at-home series."

Playing sports is one of the favorite ways for soldiers to get exercise and have a little fun. It is also the biggest cause of lost-time injuries within Task Force Eagle. Stabilization Force (SFOR) 7 soldiers have been injured in virtually every sport being played on the basecamps; basketball, softball,

football, volleyball, rugby, and soccer. A soldier who is hospitalized or placed on restricted duty because of a sports-related injury can affect the unit's mission as much as a vehicle accident.

Many sports-related accidents could be eliminated by the use of proper equipment. Personal protective gear (proper footwear, safety glasses, reflective belts, etc.) and sport-specific equipment (batting helmets, shin-guards, etc.) must be worn when participating in team sports.

The best way to reduce these types of injury accidents is to ensure that everyone's attitude toward sports safety is positive. Most people obey rules they understand. They are much less likely to obey rules they do not understand or they see no reason for. Commanders, coaches, and sports directors should explain the logic behind the

rules. Rules must be known and understood before the game begins. Playing a pick-up game of "combat basketball" may be fun, but it is also a good way to get someone hurt. "If it isn't bleeding, it's not a foul" shouldn't be part of any game. If possible, appoint someone to be referee or umpire. During play, unsportsmanlike conduct should not be tolerated.

Evaluate the playing area for surface conditions and hazards (conduct a risk assessment). Either mark the hazards or adjust the playing field to avoid them.

A proper warm-up period before the game is always a good idea too. Stretching the muscles before playing will help to reduce or eliminate muscular injuries. A cool-down period after exercising will help prevent cramping.

Play hard, and play to win, but play safely!



The Vietnam-Bosnian Vets proudly pose for a picture at Minue Park here on Eagle Base (above). The bullet-riddled flag below was one of the last to be flown above the Citadel at Hue, near the DMZ, before the base was abandoned at war's end.

THIRTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

Story by Spc. Destiny C. Smith
102nd MPAD, Eagle Base
Photos by Spc. Stephanie L. Bunting
65th PCH, Eagle Base

I don't think I've ever seen a more experienced group of soldiers than here today," said Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, commanding general of Task Force Eagle (TFE), speaking of the crowd of over 50 'Vietnam-Bosnian Vets' gathered at Minue Park at Eagle Base May 28, for a Vietnam Veterans barbecue. Master Sgt. Jerry Huff, one of the organizers of the event and the division equal opportunity advisor here, described the participants as 'Vietnam-Bosnian Vets' because every invitee was a Vietnam Vet and they also are presently serving in Bosnia.

There were as many as 76 Vietnam-Bosnian Vets that responded to the e-mail that Huff sent out a couple of weeks ago. Most of the group is active National Guard, while 15 are civilians and three are active duty. "About 50 or so attended, though," he said.

The barbecue started off with the signing of a roster by the Vets. The roster was organized by rank, from the commanding general, who served in Vietnam as part of Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (MACV), to the assistant division commander of Multinational Division North (MND-N), Brig. Gen. Michael H. Taylor, who served in Vietnam as a platoon leader with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, to the lowest ranking. Also on the roster was the unit served, the years served, and rank in Vietnam.

"I was real shaky when I was signing in," said Staff Sgt. Sam G. Talamantez, serving with the 111th Engineer Battalion as the NCOIC of the pedestrian gate here who served in Vietnam with Patrol Boats

Rivers (PBR). "I lost a lot of good friends. When I went back to my high school reunion, a lot of people were surprised to see that I was alive."

After the signing, Capt. Donald VanAlstyne, a chaplain for TFE and also a Vietnam-era Vet, said a prayer for the Vets.

"Lord, be their point man, guide them down this trail of life and point out the boobytraps, pitfalls and dangers that I know are there," he said, as part of the prayer. "And don't let them be ambushed by Satan again."

Picture taking was part of the agenda also. There were numerous group photos and individual photos taken also. One picture was taken of the youngest and one of the oldest enlisted Vietnam-Bosnian Vets. At the age of 46, Sgt. 1st Class Mack McMullan of the 249th Signal Battalion here is the youngest Vietnam-Bosnian Vet. He received his orders at 17 years old, shortly after he finished high school, and he served with the MACV Team 1 in 1973, while in Vietnam. At the age of 56, Master Sgt. Lawrence A. Tucker, a physical security inspector for the provost marshal with the 149th MP Company, is one of the oldest enlisted Vietnam-Bosnian Vets. Tucker served in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Field Artillery Unit in 1966-1968.

"Tucker was one of the first soldiers to Vietnam, and I was one of the last soldiers to get on the last helicopter leaving Military Region 1 and one of the last soldiers on the last plane leaving Saigon," said McMullan.

"And (McMullan) learned well from us older folks, he's carrying on the tradition well," said Tucker, patting McMullan on the shoulder.

Another interesting group was two soldiers here who also served in the same

unit in Vietnam. Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Davila, command sergeant major of the 111th Engr. Bn. here, served as a private during Vietnam with the Assault Aviation Battalion. Sgt. Claude Milton, also with the 111th Engr. Bn., was a helicopter pilot with Combat Assault during Vietnam.

"Since we were in the same place at the same time, doing the same thing, there's a good chance we are probably in some of each other's pictures," said Milton.

Also a Vietnam-Bosnian Vet is the Division Surgeon of MND-N, Col. Jim Reynolds. He served in Vietnam as a tank platoon leader and executive officer of a tank company with the 77th Army 5th Mechanized Infantry. He commented on the major differences between the theatres of Vietnam and Bosnia.

"It is a big difference going from being one of the war fighters to one of the people putting them back together," he said. "And it's also good to know that when we go back home that people will be glad to see us as opposed to when we came back from Vietnam. It's a good chance to be able to put on the uniform again and have people appreciate what we are doing."

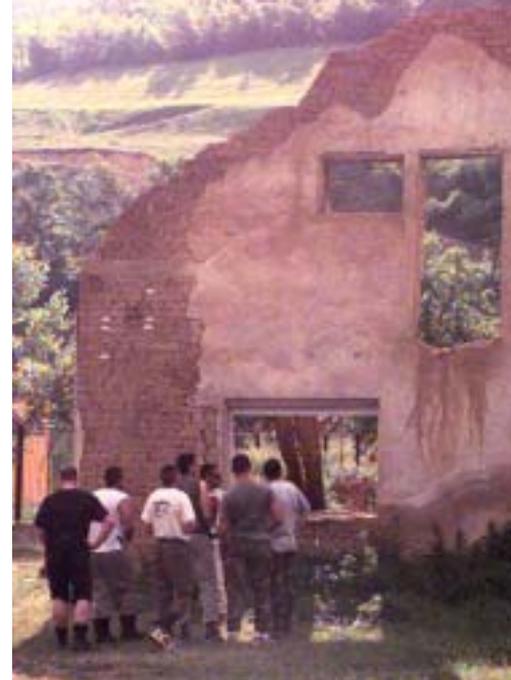
Many of the Vets said that this was the first celebration they had been to like this one. However, a lot of them also said that the group that served in Vietnam is getting smaller and smaller every year. But it is great to know that these soldiers have continued to serve.

"These are soldiers that were called up more than 30 years ago, they served in an effort that was not very popular, they did what the Army asked them to do, they came back to face the wrath of people who did not believe in the war and yet they continued to serve for another 30 years," said Halverson.



REASSURANCE—Sergeant 1st Class Steven D. Estes and Sgt. Justin Jump, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2/3 ACR) reassure the displaced family that they will get them home.

CAN IT FIT THROUGH HERE?—2nd Platoon, Eagle Troop, 2/3 ACR, escorts the bus through some pretty tight spots.



HOME SWEET HOME—The "family" survived and was safely transported there by 2nd Squadron.

EAGLE TROOP, 2ND S

Story and photos
by Cpl. James D. Nunley
102nd MPAD, Camp McGovern

Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, participated in Operation Joint Resolve May 23 through May 25 at Camp Vosoko in the Italian section of the French sector.

This was to show how effectively a unit from one division can reinforce one from another.

Once they got there they stayed in the Greek barracks.

One of the first things everybody noticed was the birds. Flying all through the building and perching on all of the rafters were a great number of swallows and pigeons.

Needless to say ponchos were used along with sleeping bags just to make sure no one would receive a nasty surprise from the birds in the night.

The action began May 24. The scenario was a family that had been taken from their home by an angry mob. Rocks had been thrown and the mob was getting unruly. Eagle Troop's mission was to escort the family back to their home and ensure they were not injured by the mob of protesters.

For the purposes of this exercise Italian soldiers played The OPFOR.

That afternoon 2nd Platoon conducted the mission to standard.

Second Platoon split into 2 sections. 1st Lt. Burris D. Wollsieffer led the first section. The second was led by Sgt. 1st Class Steven L. Estes.

The lead section went to the home and tried to calm the protesters while also keeping an eye on them.



...eys the damage to their home after being

QUADRON, 3RD ACR

The second section was tasked with escorting a bus containing the displaced family back to their home. First they pulled over on the side of the road, in an attempt to let the crowd disperse, before continuing on.

The first section radioed back to let the second section know that the protesters were walking up the road toward their position.

The second section turned around and took the bus up a series of small mountain roads, some of which were nothing more than dirt trails, and hid there until the crowd dispersed.

Consequently they were able to deliver the family back to their home without even a confrontation.

When the day was done, Eagle Troop was invited to Tito Barracks in Sarajevo for a meal with the Italian soldiers.

After eating, as the troopers were returning to their buses, they heard the sounds of a live rock band coming from a nearby building.

Upon closer inspection they found that indeed, a band of Italian soldiers were practicing.

The troopers stood there listening though the open windows until one of the Italians motioned them in.

Finding no door from the outside into that room they began climbing though the windows.

Before long the Americans were singing along and the few who knew how to play an instrument grabbed one and began playing along too.

What began as a simple dinner had turned into a multinational rock and roll jam session that lasted for several hours and left everyone with a smile on their face.



PULL OVER!—Members of 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2/3 ACR), pull over to wait for a crowd to disperse before escorting a bus load of returnees to their home.

KEEPING WATCH—Sgt. Jerry Chapman stays on guard during the convoy to support Operation Joint Resolve in MND-SW.



INFORMATION SUPPORT SERVICES: HERE TO SERVE YOU

By **Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro**
65th PCH, Eagle Base

Information Support Service Operation (ISSO), located on the first floor of the White House here on Eagle Base offers service members a wide variety of printing needs at no out-of-pocket cost.

Contracted by Brown & Root, the office is manned 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We offer you, as our client, any copy reproduction – black and white or color – and we also have a color laser printer that really makes nice things," said Beverley Baugher, ISSO staff member.

ISSO can reproduce full-color change-of-command brochures, certificates of appreciation, invitations, fliers, posters, etc.

"Whatever your printing needs are, if we can't do it, we'll find a place that can," she said.

Projects should be brought to ISSO on 3.5 floppy discs or zip drives, she said. They will usually be completed in one to two days, depending on the size of the job and the work load at ISSO.

Baugher said there are three fax machines available for sending banking information, powers of attorney and personal information.

"No questions asked," she said.

Service members without White Hose passes can receive an ISSO pass from the MPs at the front gate and will not need an escort to go inside, she said.

Soldiers at outlying camps who need large reproduction jobs done can also use ISSO here at Eagle Base. Simply get the information to the ISSO staff at Eagle Base for assistance.

IS THERE AN OCTOPUS IN YOUR TURRET?

IT MUST BE TIME FOR YOUR SEMIANNUAL TANK SERVICES

Story and photos
by **Sgt. Kevin Cowan**
102nd MPAD, Camp Dobil

Why is there an octopus in the tank turret? It must be that time of year.

That time of year just happens to be the semi-annual tank services for Lightning Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3/3 ACR) at Camp Dobil.

As for the 'octopus', Pfc. Dennis Stewart, tank turret mechanic attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3/3 ACR explains how this piece of equipment helps the mechanics keep the turret in working order.

"We do what is called an 1800 test that (using the 'octopus') hooks up to eight components inside the turret. It checks everything. Every cable, every wire, everything inside the turret. It pinpoints what is wrong so we can fix it."

This test takes about an hour and a half to do, but most of that time is just hooking up the cables. Stewart says it is the longest part of the test because it is small in there.

The items not checked by the 'octopus' are not overlooked. These items range from of the hydraulic filters, thermal unit, and the fire extinguishers.

"We have to make sure everything is ready, because if something was to happen and these were to go out... We have a 2-hour Quick Reaction Force time. We make sure everything is working right," says the San Antonio native.

So much for the brains...now for the brawn.

The M1A1 Abrams tank sports a 1500 horsepower turbine engine that will let the beast cruise smooth and easy at 50 mph. But in order for it to do that, it needs to be serviced too.

Sgt. Brad Morris, Shop foreman and



WAIT, IT DOESN'T FIT—Sgt. John McLaughlin guiding the engine and transmission pack into a M1A1 Abrams tank.

M1A1 tank systems mechanic, says "We pull the 'pack' (engine and transmission) out and clean it up, change out all of the

fuel filters, take out the batteries and make some electrical adjustments."

Although it only takes about 15 minutes to pull out a 'pack', he says they like to take a week for services on the tanks so they can take their time and get everything just right.

"I love my job," he says. "There are some problems that you have to stop and think about sometimes. It's not always obvious."

But what is obvious is the teamwork attitude that is shared by the crew and mechanics.

"The whole crew jumps in and helps everybody. It's just like one big family team," said Sgt. Michael Stone, a tank gunner from West Virginia.



ADJUSTMENT—Sgt. Brad Morris makes final adjustments on the batteries of a M1A1 Abrams during semiannual services.



LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS - Lt. Col. Erkan address M3M university students (above) and presents Zavidovici Mayor Ulic with a Project Harvest Leadership Medal (above right). 1st Lt. Gultekin and Sgt. Albayrak of the Turkish Battalion EOD Team teach students about mines (below).



TURKISH BATTALION AIDS HARVEST

Story by Master Sgt. Brian D. O'Connors
65th PCH, Eagle Base
 Photos by Spc. Shane Devine
65th PCH, Eagle Base and
 1st Lt. Ekrem Yazla
Turkish Battalion Task Force

Project Harvest is one of the many programs being conducted in Multinational Division-North (MND-N) to help make Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) a safer place for the next generation of Bosnians. The Turkish Battalion Task Force headquartered in Zenica is taking a very active role in this initiative with several programs in their area of operation.

May 31, Lt. Col. Kudret Erkan, Turkish Battalion Commander, met with Salvidina Ulic, Mayor of Zavidovici and other civic leaders to thank them for their support of these programs. At the conclusion of the meeting, Lt. Col. Erkan presented Mayor Ulic with a medal to show his appreciation for her leadership. This was the first of several planned meetings across the battalion's area of operation to further understanding and cooperation between Stabilization Forces and the local governments.

1st Lt. Birol Demir, Civil Military Cooperation Team Leader for the Zavidovici area, conducts one such program. They conduct classes in the local schools on mine awareness and education.

On Wednesday, May 31, the CIMIC team was at the Perva Oslova School in Zavidovici, which hold grades one through eight and is the central school for the area. On this visit both the Turkish Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team and a medical officer assisted Demir.

Turkish Navy 1st Lt. Onder Gultekin, EOD team leader conducted a class on mine

awareness and education. Assisted by Sgt. Albayrak, Lt. Gultekin displayed more than a dozen different mines that may be found throughout BiH. Speaking with the help of an interpreter, Lt. Gultekin explained about each mine and the dangers associated with it. He asked how many students had encountered mines and nine children raised their hands. He then asked how many knew someone who had been killed by a mine and three hands went up.

"Mines and unexploded ordnance are the main danger to children in BiH," Gultekin said. "Our hope is that if we can teach the children, the children will teach their parents and others. Through the children we can teach everyone about mines."

"It is important to us (Turkish Battalion) to make it safe for the children here," said Gultekin after the class was over. "My hope is that in the future when I ask if any of the children know someone who had a mine accident, there will be no hands raised. Today there were three hands."

After the class on mines and UXO's, Turkish Maj. Barbaros Gundes talked to the students about the dangers of plagues and other contagious diseases. Gundes

stressed the importance of personal hygiene as a basic way students could improve their own health. Gundes, who holds a degree as a Food Hygienist and Technologist from Ankara University in Turkey, also talked about the problems associated with eating foods that were not properly prepared or stored.

The Turkish CIMIC team tries to visit two or three schools every week; they hand out Mirko magazines that are used throughout MND-N. In addition to younger students, the Turkish Battalion Task Force reaches out to older students as well.

According to Turkish Army 1st Lt. Ekrem Yazla, Eagle Base, Erkan recently gave a speech during a visit by 30 members of Third Millennium Youth (M3M) in Zenica that emphasized that a nation's youth means everything because they hold the future of the country in their hands. Further, the nation's destiny depends on the knowledge of its students.

The goal of M3M, an organization composed of university students from all of BiH, is to help develop democracy here. As a part of SFOR, the Turkish battalion helps provide a safe and secure environment for Bosnians to establish a democratic and secular state by rule of law. After the speech, M3M members stated they were willing to work together on many projects to further this principle.



PAYING OUR RESPECTS



Lt. Col. George Dilly and Chaplain Stephen Sexton salute the flag during the national anthem at the TFME Medics' Memorial Day tribute.

Story and photos
by Spc. Destiny C. Smith
102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

The soldiers in the color guard solemnly marched down the aisle proudly displaying the United States flag. The crowd stood at attention and rendered a salute to the flag as a soldier sang the national anthem. Complete attention was given as each soldier delivered his lines at the podium. Respect is the name of the game on Memorial Day. When our fallen heroes are remembered, nothing but respect is to be given.

“To carry on with the future, we need to learn from the past,” said Spc. Jimmie Watson, a member of Task Force Medical Eagle’s (TFME) Color Guard and a pharmacy specialist for TFME. “Without them, freedom today wouldn’t be possible.”

On Memorial Day, TFME put on a tribute to honor the fallen soldiers and to trace the progress, achievements and contributions of the Army Medical Department. The tribute started off with a welcome address by the Deputy Commander of TFME, Lt. Col. George Dilly. Dilly, with help from others, put this tribute together.

The color guard posted the colors and the national anthem was sung by Staff Sgt. Travis Powell, of the 1042nd Air Ambulance Company. An invocation was given by Chaplain Steven Sexton.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, commanding general of Task Force Eagle (TFE), also remarked on this special occasion.

“Alongside of our reverence, there is darkness in our mourning hearts,” he said. “Our nation will never overcome the loss of loved ones who have paid the tragic ultimate price for our freedom. We will never be able to comprehend the horrors they endured. We will never have the chance to look them in the eye and simply say, ‘thank you.’”

Another organizer of the event, Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Chipman, chief wardmaster for TFME, gave a history of Memorial Day and introduced the young soldiers chosen to give a tribute to fallen comrades.

The nine soldiers who participated in this part of the tribute represented the seven tenants of TFME’s Combat Health Support—medical logistics, hospitalization, ground evacuation, air evacuation, veterinary services, combat stress control and preventive medicine.

Every soldier represented a war, from the American Revolution to the Persian Gulf War, told of the years fought, the outcome

and the number of American casualties.

The TFME Commander, Col. David L. Maness, then spoke on the progression of the Army Medical Department, the largest health care system in the world. He said their mission was to deploy and train the medical force and provide world-class medical care.

He also gave some statistics and facts.

“The total cost of all wars is 1.2 million lives and over 568 billion dollars,” he said. “The improvements in the Army Medical Department, including improved tactics and better equipment, have reduced the likelihood of becoming a casualty.”

The tribute concluded with a ceremonial fly-over by three UH-60 Blackhawks from the 1042nd Medical company (Air Ambulance), Oregon National Guard, flown by Desert Storm and Vietnam Veterans. After the playing of ‘Taps’ the colors were retired.

As far as the planning of this tribute, Chipman said they got most of the information off of the internet. Dilly commented on the reasons he wanted to put on this tribute.

“I wanted to involve the young soldiers so they would have an understanding for what Memorial Day is all about,” he said. “Getting each soldier to represent each war and talk about the number of casualties made them realize the tremendous sacrifice involved.”



The TFME Color Guard posts the colors. The color guard is (l to r) Pfc. Amber Cenzano, Sgt. Jimmy Moore and Spc. Jimmie Watson.

Col. David L. Maness speaks on the progression of the Army Medical Department over the years at the TFME Memorial Day tribute.



FOUR SFOR NATIONS PRACTICE LIVE FIRE AT GLAMOC

Story and photos
by Spc. Shane P. Devine

65th PCH, Eagle Base

Four nations from Stabilization Force (SFOR) participated in a joint live-fire exercise at Glamoc, Multinational Division-South West (MND-SW) on May 26.

The United States supplied two U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopter gunships from Quicksilver Troop 4th Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Representing the United Kingdom was the 7th Sphinx Commando Battery Royal Artillery (7th SCBRA), 28/143 Battery Royal Artillery and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment Mortar Troop. Canadian soldiers came from 1st Battalion Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry (Mortar Troop) and the Netherlands highest command coordinated the whole exercise.

Troops rallied in a dusty assembly area for a mass formation. The 7th SCBRA had its mascot, a gold-leafed sphinx replica, placed in the center of the formation. It accompanies the 7th wherever the unit goes and is affectionately known as the "gold dog."

After the formation the commanding officers from the different nations had a quick briefing going over safety, call signs and the order of fire. During which time the troops quickly went about preparing their weapons platforms for the move to the firing points.

The word came down to "saddle up" and seconds later the movement began. It went off without a hitch showing the good coordination done by the leaders. The artillery and mortars quickly took up pre-plotted positions along a road and started firing smoke into the impact area for target acquisition. After acquiring the targets, high explosive rounds started raining in on the would-be enemy.

Then a call for air support went to the Apache's. They were concealed behind a ridge 500 meters from the impact area. Stealthily the Apaches moved up from their positions to light up the impact area. They fired off 60 target-practice rockets scoring direct hits on the kill zone. Then fired 100, 30mm canon rounds to finish off any would-be survivors of the formidable onslaught brought down on the "enemy". The Apaches fired off their payload in less than three minutes and moved down below the ridge out of view and away from the area.

FLYING TIGHT—AH-64 Apaches from Q-4/3 ACR and a UH-60 Blackhawk of Stetson Troop 4/3 ACR, fly in tight formation on the way to Glamoc for a joint live-fire exercise with the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands.



BAGPIPES—Bombardier Jon Earl, 19th Regt., 28/143 Battery Royal Artillery, plays a tune after the day's exercise.

All the firing took place in less than nine minutes. It was an impressive show of firepower, coordination and teamwork by the allied nations.

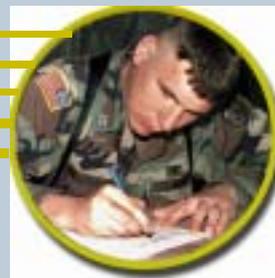
After the exercise, all the troops came back into the assembly area, pumped up with the adrenaline soldiers always get firing off live ammo. Even the ever-present dust raised up by the vehicles couldn't dampen spirits.

The troops from the four different nations milled around each other's equipment comparing the pros and cons of each weapon system. All were impressed with the efficiency and capabilities of the Apaches.

Friendships were made that can only be forged through the shared experience of soldiering.

Danish Commander MND-SW, Brig. Gen. Rein van Vels, presented a certificate to US Army Lt. Col. B. Shannon Davis, 4/3 ACR Commander, after the days events. "I look forward to working with the U.S. Army again, it is always a pleasure. Your professionalism shows," van Vels said.





PRIDE THROUGH PERSEVERANCE:

3/3 ACR LINE MEDIC EARNS EFMB IN BAD KREUZNACH, GERMANY

Story and Photos

by Sgt. Kevin Cowan

102nd MPAD, Camp Dobil

As the smoke enters the lungs, a violent coughing attack begins. They are already working overtime from the sheer physical exertion of carrying a severely wounded, 185 pound patient through rough terrain. The patient screams in agony, not only from the pain of the injuries, but from fear of being dropped from the litter as the trek to the awaiting ambulance continues. This only adds to the madness being experienced; all the while thoughts keep running through the brain, like what if the patient falls off, is it head-first or feet-first,



SLOW AND STEADY—Newly pinned EFMB honoree Spc. Thomas Willson administers an IV to a patient.

does the litter rotate clockwise or counter-clockwise. The chaos subsides as reflex takes over. Make sure the patient is delivered to the doctor in better shape than he was found. Load the ambulance in the right sequence. And then this pestering peon keeps asking you, “Are you ready to quit yet?” Spc. Thomas Willson, line medic for the 3rd Squadron 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3/3 ACR), said, “I’ve been through worse. Quitting was not an option.”

Willson, a New York native, recently received the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) in Bad Kreuznach, Germany with only two weeks notice.

There was some uncertainty about attending the course at the beginning of his deployment. Due to a limited number of slots for the course, Willson was very lucky. The 3/3 ACR got one slot for the course out of 367.

“Since I had gone the furthest of everyone else that didn’t have it, I got to go.”

Willson had gone the furthest because this was his second time around. Due to an unfortunate turn of events, his first go at the badge turned out for the worst.

“We went through a couple of train-ups that laid out what was going to happen, and I got a good basis of knowledge of what the EFMB was all about. I passed the written test, but when I got to land navigation I got 2 out of 4, but the land nav course was messed up so I had to retest. I continued with testing and passed night land nav, Commo/Evac (Communication and Evacuation), CPR, and went back to retest on land nav and got 2 out of 4 again, but it was my fault because I reversed two of the points so I didn’t make it.”

But this time things were different.

“Fort Carson’s is run by a medical unit so they put it on a little different,” he said. They (in Germany) were an armored division so there was a little more of the ‘Hooah-Hooah’ stuff, so it was a little tougher in that aspect. They had a better train up, because everything was lined out of what was expected.”

This time he did what was expected and received his badge. But he said it wasn’t easy. Most of the tasks were very demanding.

Willson said the most challenging part was the Emergency Medical Technician part, which dealt with the soldier’s knowledge about patient assessment and treatment. He adds that the most physical portion was the litter obstacle course. “It definitely smoked us.”

“I’ve been told by countless people that it’s the hardest badge to get. It’s a different kind of badge. The others, you go there to learn the knowledge and skills, the EFMB is based on what you know as a medic. In that aspect, it’s a little bit

tougher.”

“I didn’t realize it at first how much of an honor it was because so many people got it (in Germany). But if you actually stand back and look at it, the percentage of people that actually get it in the Army is pretty low.”

“Some get discouraged when they don’t get it the first time. It’s good that they (go back) and get it,” said Sgt. Douglas Cunningham, also with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3/3 ACR.

He added, there is a noticeable change in Willson. “His pride definitely shows since he got it.”

Although there is a sense of honor and pride that comes with wearing the EFMB, when it comes to the way his fellow medics treat him, “There’s no difference!” he said jokingly.

“I get a lot of congratulations, which I appreciate. I’m friends with all of them and it means a lot to have people that you are friends with come up and say congratulations. But there’s no special treatment at the aid station!”



PRECISION IS CRUCIAL—Spc. Thomas Willson carefully draws the correct amount of solution for an injection.