

TALON

A soldier in a camouflage uniform and helmet is looking down at a red-handled tool on the ground. The soldier is wearing a green and brown camouflage uniform and a matching helmet. The background is a dark, industrial-looking environment with various mechanical parts and a chain-link fence on the left side.

Operation Joint Forge

Task Force Eagle

Saturday, July 8, 2000

QUALITY CONTROL
Ensuring your safety

OUTREACH
Turkish Battalion helps refugees

CLOSE TO HOME
One soldier struggles to help her family

BOSNIA FROM BOSNIANS
Learning through interaction

THE RACE

“Quit! Give up! You’re beaten!” They shout at me and plead. “There’s just too much against you now. This time you can’t succeed!” And as I start to hang my head in front of failure’s face, my downward fall is broken by the memory of a race. And hope refills my weakened will as I recall that scene; for just the thought of that short race rejuvenates my being. A children’s race – young boys, young men. How I remember well. Excitement, sure! But also fear; it wasn’t hard to tell. They all lined up so full of hopes; each thought to win that race. Or tie for first, or if not that, at least take second place. And fathers watched from off the side, each cheering for his son. And each boy hoped to show his dad that he would be the one. The whistle blew and off they went! Young hearts and hopes afire. To win and be the hero that was each boy’s desire. And one boy in particular whose dad was in the crowd, was running near the lead and thought, “My dad will be so proud!” But as they speeded down the field, across a shallow dip, the little boy who thought to win lost his step and slipped. Trying hard to catch himself, his hands flew out to brace, and mid the laughter of the crowd he fell flat on his face. So down he fell and with him hope, he couldn’t win it now – embarrassed, sad, he only wished to disappear somehow. But as he fell his dad stood up and showed his anxious face, which to the boy so clearly said, “Get up and win the race!” He quickly rose, no damage done, Behind a bit, that’s all – and ran with all his mind and might to make up for his fall. So eager to restore himself to catch up and to win – his mind went faster than his legs; he slipped and fell again! He wished then he had quit before with only one disgrace. I’m hopeless as a runner now; I shouldn’t try to race.” But in the laughing crowd he searched and found his father’s face. That steady look which said again, “Get up and win the race!” So up he jumped to try again ten yards behind the last – if I’m to gain those yards, he thought, “I’ve got to move real fast.” Exerting everything that he had he gained eight or ten, but trying so hard to catch the lead, he slipped and fell again! Defeat! He lay there silently – a tear dropped from his eye. “There is no sense running anymore; three strikes, I’m out! Why try?” The will to rise had disappeared, all hope had fled away: so far behind, so error prone: a loser all the way. “I’ve lost, so what’s the use,” he thought. “I’ll live with my disgrace.” But then he thought about his dad, who he’d soon have to face. “Get up,” an echo sounded low. “Get up and take your place; you were not meant for failure here. Get up and win the race.” “With borrowed will, get up,” it said. “You haven’t lost at all. For winning is no more than this: to rise each time you fall.” So up he rose to run once more, and with a new commitment, he resolved that win or lose at least he wouldn’t quit. So far behind the others now, the most he had ever been – still he gave it all he had and ran as though to win. Three times he had fallen, stumbling: three times he rose again; too far behind to hope to win, he still ran to the end. They cheered as the winning runner crossed the line first place, head high, and proud, and happy: no falling, no disgrace. But when the fallen youngster crossed the line last place, the crowd gave him the greater cheer for finishing the race. And even though he came in last with head lowly bowed, you would have thought he’d won the race to listen to the crowd. And to his dad he sadly said, “I didn’t do so well.” “To me, you won the race,” his father said. “You rose each time you fell.” And now when things seem dark and hard and difficult to face, the memory of that little boy helps me in my own race. For all of life is like that race, with ups and downs and all. And all you have to do to win, is rise each time you fall. “Quit! Give up! You’re beaten!”

They still shout in my face, but another voice within me says;
“GET UP AND WIN THE RACE!”

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

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- TODAY – “No one can choose your mountain or tell you when to climb...it’s yours alone to challenge at your own pace and time.”
- SUNDAY – “One person has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 hours, another for 30 days, another for 30 weeks, another for 30 months, but it is the person who has it for 30 years who makes a success of his/her life.”
- MONDAY – “The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person’s determination.”
- TUESDAY – “Some people succeed because they are destined to, but most people succeed because they are determined to.”
- WEDNESDAY – “There is no failure except in no longer trying.”
- THURSDAY – “You must have long-range goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-range failures.”
- FRIDAY – “Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

U. S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Keith J. Gardner, 55th Sig. Co., (Combat Camera)

TALON

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SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF INDEPENDENCE

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

Each year at this time, Americans from Texas to the Aleutians and coast to coast celebrate the Fourth of July, the birthday of our great country. On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from England and Democracy was born. That day saw the beginning of a journey that has brought us through struggles and adversity to become the proud and strong nation we are today. On the Fourth of July we remember who we are, where we've come from and what we've accomplished as a people.

Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate that freedom and independence with barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings. This year, although we are not home with our families, through this mission here in Bosnia we are learning about and communicating with people of different nations, languages and races throughout the world. Bringing the world closer with understanding and knowledge can only benefit all nations. We will celebrate here but our hearts will be at home with our families.

What would be the worth of independence if a nation's citizens had not the willingness to protect its virtue or spread its benefit? Each of us here today has inherited astonishing wealth, and most Americans know little or nothing about the misery of craving for freedom. However, we have seen it first hand here in Bosnia.

American soldiers have always been known as remarkably

loyal citizens, willing to sacrifice for the sake of freedom and all of its precious gains. Never have they accepted a fate less than success in preserving our independent union, even though so many soldiers traded their very lives for that success. Even when haunted by war and death, our soldiers have never abandoned their great faith in our nation, or their personal oath to uphold its future. In the most tragic of wars and most compromising of causes, American soldiers persevere with positive can- and will-do attitudes.

As with many national holidays throughout the year, it is easy for all of us to forget why we're really celebrating. As Mark Twain mentioned in several of his Fourth of July speeches, we've got the typical evening hours celebrating down pat, with our fireworks and noise-making. So it is important to focus during the daylight hours on the true meaning of this important day.

As Americans, we are among the luckiest souls of mankind. It is important that each of us, in our own ways, honors this independence, this freedom through or daily conduct as active citizens and soldiers

in this greatest democracy the world has ever seen.

Celebrate this patriotic day and remember the sacrifices of those who came before us. Remember the duties and responsibilities of citizenship that we carry each day, for it is up to each and every one of us to keep America free.

We invite all nations to celebrate with us this Fourth of July. Happy Birthday, America!



Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson

IT'S NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

By CW4 Scott M. Dillon
Safety Office, Eagle Base

You don't need to be a rocket scientist to create an explosion, just products used in the maintenance of vehicles and aircraft have hazardous properties.

Materials can be flammable (flashpoint below 100 degrees Fahrenheit), combustible (flashpoint at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit), corrosive (causes physical destruction through chemical reaction) or an oxidizer (supplies oxygen which allows other combustible material to burn more readily). Each of these must be stored only with other compatible substances to prevent a potential catastrophe.

Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) should only be used in their original container, or a container made for the specific type of substance. Never use beverage bottles or cans for handling hazardous materials.

Leaders should make it a habit to check HAZMAT storage lockers and verify that material under their control is being stored properly and ensure that regular training on hazardous material use and storage is conducted for all personnel.



WHAT IS THAT SMELL?—The container in this picture contains two incompatible substances, which were creating poisonous fumes, and would have caught fire had the situation not been corrected.

WHEN YOUR PARENTS NEED HELP: ONE DAUGHTER'S EFFORTS TO GIVE BACK

Story and photos

by **Spc. Destiny C. Smith**

102nd MPAD, Camp McGovern

Imagine if you are living among the best conditions in the world and your parents are living among the worst," said Pfc. Aida Osmani, an administrative specialist for the 200th Material Management Company in Germany.

Osmani is a Bosnian — and half Albanian — native who joined the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in Germany. She was a refugee in Germany after the ethnic war in Bosnia, and there she married a U.S. Army soldier. She then moved to the United States and six months later, she enlisted in the army.

Osmani said she feels her father and mother, Sabedin and Mina Osmani who currently reside in Brcko, Bosnia, are living in substandard conditions. She is claiming them as dependents and trying to get them command sponsored (authorization) by United States Army Europe (USAREUR) so they can move with her into Germany. The way that Task Force Med Eagle (TFME) fits into this situation is through the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). EFMP ensures that a service member is stationed where his/her dependents will have access to medical services appropriate to their condition.

The first step in the process of getting them command sponsored is to do an EFMP screening, according to Maj. Eric Darnauer, medical operations officer for the division surgeon's office at Eagle Base.

The screening is basically a physical done by an army doctor in an army medical facility, said 1st Lt. Judson Dean, medical platoon leader for 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (2/3 ACR). The screening is a ten-page form asking about medical history and current problems.

One unusual aspect of this screening was who was doing it. "Forward deployed units don't usually provide EFMP screenings," said Capt. Douglas Partangen, physician's assistant with 2/3 ACR at Camp McGovern. "We are here mostly set up to do trauma and day-to-day sick call. This is the first time we brought in civilians to examine."

Another unusual aspect of this screening was where it was being done. EFMP screenings aren't usually done in hostile fire areas. But since the Osmanis are from Brcko, Camp McGovern is the closest army medical facility, according to Dean.

The EFMP process is usually a long one, said Dean. After the screening is done, the paperwork will go to USAREUR and they will make a decision.

"I think it is going pretty quick," said Dean. "We just found out about this last week from USAREUR and we are doing the physical this week."

Pfc. Osmani seems hopeful. She said she understands this is a long, hard process, but her chain of command has been very supportive.



WHERE DOES IT HURT?—Mina Osmani, mother of U.S. soldier Pfc. Aida Osmani, answers questions for the EFMP screening through the interpreter. This screening is the first process in getting dependents moved to the soldier's duty station.



DEEP BREATH—Capt. Juan Pico, a doctor for 2/3 ACR at Camp McGovern, checks the heartbeat of Sabedin Osmani, Aida Osmani's father as a part of the EFMP screening process.

GOOD SAMARITANS

Story and Photos
by PFC Jessica E. Revell
102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

Both Turkish and American physicians came together recently to provide medical attention and humanitarian assistance, and to brighten the day of children and families of the Moscanica refugee camp.

For the Turkish Battalion Task Force this was nothing new. This is only one of the 15 collection centers they visit, providing free medical care and medications to the needy people of Bosnia.

The Turkish Medical Center has been treating the needy people of Zenica since 1994 and has helped an estimated 70,000 people thus far. The hospital specializes in general and orthopedic surgery, internal medicine, and dentistry. Commonly treated diseases in this region are hypertension, diabetes mellitus, peptic ulcers, osteoarthritis, goit, gall stones, depression, pshycosomatic disease, and cavities.

Stabilization force (SFOR) personnel are treated as well as local citizens and the displaced persons of the refugee camps. All patients are treated without regard to nationality.

Moscanica is the largest refugee camp of the 15 they visited by the physicians. There are approximately 290 refugees and displaced persons there, 80 of whom are children.

“Predominantly older people are treated because the kids just don’t have those types of diseases,” said Maj. Kanoan Nuroglu, General Surgeon and Chief Medical Officer at the Turkish Brigade hospital.

The physicians do not perform preventive medicine, but they do treat for general symptoms. The doctors keep record of each patient’s name, condition, and the medication given. For more serious problems, patients can be transported to the Turkish Medical Center by bus for special treatment.



I CAN'T TALK—A young girl tells the visiting doctor about her sore throat.

ARE YOU DONE YET?—A visiting Turkish doctor treats an edery woman at the refugee camp near Zenica in the Turkish sector.



ONE AT A TIME—Staff Sgt. Travis Powell helps the children.

The Americans recently took part in a joint medical operation at Moscanica. The Turkish physicians brought medics from the 115th Field Hospital, Fort Polk, La., from Eagle Base, to the refugee camp to assist with basic physical examinations. They saw problems such as skin rashes, seasonal allergies, foot ailments, sprained ankles, and broken bones.

“These people need future, and we give them their only help for medication,” said Nuroglu.

The 112th Medevac Company out of Maine and the Oregon National Guard have been gathering medical supplies to be distributed to the camps. “I am thankful that we are able to do some one-on-one stuff and get into their lives more personally. Here we can do a hand touch and let them know that we feel for them and try to make the day the best for them. Just that moment has more gratification than all the time I’ve been here doing my daily job,” said Staff Sgt. Travis Powell, of the 1042nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance).

Distributing medical supplies is one example of how U. S. Troops are helping the local people on a daily basis to rebuild their lives and improve their hope for the future.

“A lot of time when you are a child you see the big kid that has everything, and you’re jealous whenever he has it all.

Maybe when they see us bringing [medical supplies], it will give the message that we’re not here just for business, but to look out for their well being also,” said Powell.

Not only were the force of Americans and Turkish doctors able to help, they also benefited from this experience by seeing the gratification of the refugees from things that are so often taken for granted.

“It fostered our humanness,” said Maj. Theresa Taylor, a 115th Field Hospital nurse.

“To see the smiles in their face and a little more installation of hope that tomorrow’s going to come and they are going to survive that day too,” said Powell. “It’s tough to know that we can’t go out and save the world, but the little bit we can do, I’m thankful for that.”



DOES IT ITCH?—A physician from the Turkish Battalion examines a boy with a rash on his face at the refugee camp.

THERE’S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE—Major Theresa Taylor from the 115th Field Hospital, Fort Polk, La., gives hygiene items to the children of Moscanica.

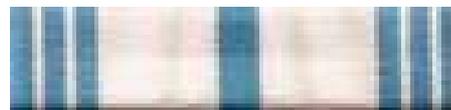




NATO Medal



Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal



Armed Forces Reserve Medal

FREE FOR YOUR SERVICE:

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FOR YOUR HONORABLE SERVICE WITH OPERATION JOINT FORGE

Story and photos

by Spc. Katherine L. Koehne

65th PCH, Eagle Base

Many soldiers are unaware of the great benefits they can receive through deployment, said Lt. Col. Shelby K. Little, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel (G-1).

Soldiers are eligible for various awards during their missions abroad.

All soldiers serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are entitled to receive the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Medal for service in the Balkans, for this is a NATO operation, as opposed to a United Nations operation. The medal is inscribed, "Former Yugoslavia." Soldiers here receive the NATO Medal assuming they perform honorable service, said Little.

"This is a key point," he said. "To be eligible for most any of these awards requires honorable service. Article 15's or other items at the commander's discretion can cause that to be classified as not honorable service, and deny them these medals."

Multinational Division - North (MND-N) is unable to give out these awards to soldier leaving unexpectedly, for it simply does not have the awards on hand. All NATO Medals and the certificates accompanying them are administered by the NATO Headquarters in Belgium. For this reason, keeping NATO Medals in supply is not as easily under the control of MND-N as are U.S. decorations, said Little. However, MND-N does keep accurate records of the soldiers' forwarding addresses, and, with an approximate 90-day turnaround, they do arrive fairly quickly, he said.

Soldiers also receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) by nature of their being here and serving honorably. Only one AFEM is received by each soldier per theater, and all missions within the Balkans are considered within the same theater, said Little. If soldiers had received AFEMs for serving in other theaters, such as Desert Storm, however, each still

receives an AFEM for serving in the Balkans, he said.

A recent change has been made within this past year, providing that soldiers now serving in Hungary receive the Armed Forces Service Medal in the place of the AFEM. Soldiers do not receive both, though they may serve in both Hungary and BiH, Kosovo or Croatia, said Little.

Additional medals are presented to reserve component personnel. By nature of the service here, most guardsmen and reservists receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (AFRM) with the Mobilization Device (M Device). The AFRM has typically been a service medal, requiring soldiers to have served for at least 10 years within the component in which they receive it. This changed during Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and carried over for the missions in the Balkans. It was decided soldiers would receive AFRMs for their honorable service during the conflict in which they serve. The M Devices accompanying them signify that the soldiers receiving them were called up to active duty.

Guardsmen receive additional awards. All Texas guardsmen receive the Texas Federal Service Medal, and guardsmen from other states receive any awards their states may provide for basic honorable service. All National Guard commanders should provide their soldiers with this information, said Little.

MND-N urges all commanders to complete and forward all paperwork for merit and achievement awards for their soldiers, as they feel appropriate, and to carefully observe the deadlines for each recommendation, that soldiers will receive them before they re-deploy, said Little.

In addition to recognizing soldiers with medals, commanders can recommend their soldiers for certificates of achievement, including an SFOR 7, an MND-N and a unit certificate. Each unit also has a limited number of unit coins, which commanders can award at their discretion.

There are a number of ways to recognize

the honorable service of soldiers. Soldiers are reminded they must serve honorably or be eligible for any of these awards, said Little. As SFOR 7 reaches its halfway point, commanders are urged to recommend honorable soldiers for the various awards, he said.

Commanders should be sure to not inflate the recommendations or create them poorly, said Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, Commanding General, MND-N. Each recommendation should include sufficient justification for the level of the award to be presented. Soldiers will think less of an award they feel they did not earn, and the commanders and leaders will be diminishing the integrity of the Army's Awards Program, he said.

Those recommending soldiers are also urged to forward the completed paperwork in a timely manner, said Halverson. Making recommendations at the last minute reflects very poorly on the command.

If the paperwork is submitted prior to the arrival of the unit replacing the recommended soldiers' unit, the processing of the awards is much smoother, said Little.

In addition, all award recommendations presented to him should be free of errors and omissions, said Halverson.

Finally, the commanding general's policy on post-dated awards states, any award recommendations requiring his signature as the Approving Authority will not show an End Date after the soldier's scheduled departure from theater without an accompanying letter of justification. Award dates of two or more months after soldiers' scheduled departures are not justified. If units desire award periods to extend through this time, the award recommendations should be processed through the unit Rear Detachments.

"The Awards Program is a very important ingredient in soldier morale and unit esprit," said Halverson. All appropriate parties in SFOR 7 MND-N should give award recommendations the proper attention they deserve, he said.

A CULTURAL EDUCATION



EXCUSE ME, WHERE'S THE MALL?—U. S. soldiers on a day trip visit the Old City in historic Sarajevo.

Story and photos

by Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro

65th Press Camp Headquarters, Eagle Base

Service members here can learn much about the local flavor of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), but not by reading the Talon alone.

Every one who has a chance should learn about Bosnia from Bosnians, and the best way to do that on Eagle Base is to get outside the wire through a MWR sponsored day tour of nearby Tuzla.

The name Tuzla comes from the Turkish “tuz” or salt, said Ines Erdeljac, a local journalism student who pays her way through college by being a tour guide.

Erdeljac compared Tuzla to Austria’s Salzburg or “salt town.”

However, unlike Salzburg, the salt mines under Tuzla have caused the town to sink 30 meters over the past two centuries.

When the bus arrived in Tuzla, the tour began with a visit to a cemetery overlooking the town on a hill called Slana Banja or “salt garden.”

The hill bore both the old and the new tragedies of Tuzla; a memorial to the town’s World War II dead and the graves of 51 – out of a total of 71 – people killed by a Serbian rocket that struck into the heart of old Tuzla in May 1995.

Other evidence of that conflict can be seen in the shattered mortar and plaster of the buildings surrounding the town’s square. But a more poignant reminder can be found in a visit to Tuzla’s Bosfam Fashion House.

Bosfam is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 1994 to assist displaced women who had lost their husbands, fathers and sons in the war, according to the Bosfam brochure.

The original plan for these women – initially funded by the British charity Oxfam – was occupational therapy based on their

traditional handicraft skills of carpet weaving, rug making and sewing.

After the war, the concept changed from therapy to self-sufficiency for these women and what was left of their families.

Other examples of Tuzla’s attempts at self-sufficiency can be seen in the numerous shops and storefront vendors.

However, Chief Warrant Officer Wade A. Van Gilder and U.S. contractor Pedro J. Salado — both of Eagle Base’s property book office — soon discovered that all the stores that glitter don’t necessarily have any gold.

Van Gilder said he and Salado went to a total of three different stores – an upscale clothing outlet, a toy store and a gift shop – and none of them could make any change for a purchase.

The tills were empty – they couldn’t even change 50 marks, said Van Gilder

He said this indicated there was no real cash flow, which is essential to stimulate Tuzla’s economy.

“We will have peace as long as you guys (Stabilization Forces) stay here,” said Erdeljac. “We will have jobs. Many of my friends work on Eagle Base. Please stay. Don’t leave.”

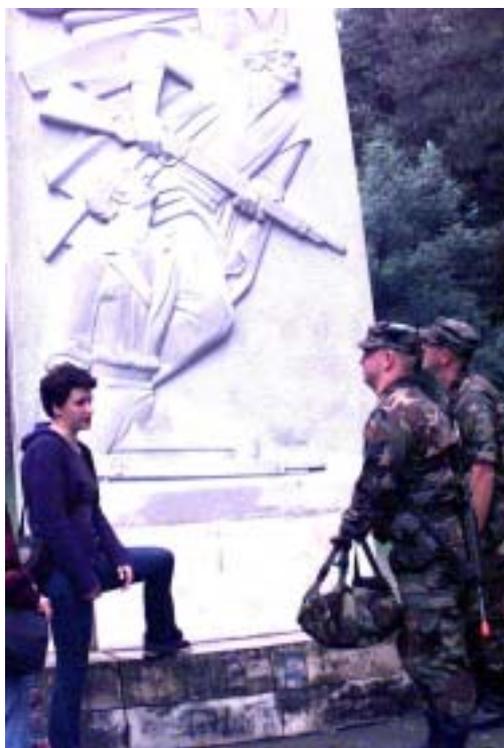
As Erdeljac and her tour group walked the streets of Tuzla, a man pointed to the SFOR personnel – all of whom carried either a 9-mm pistol or an M-16 rifle – and called out to them in Serbo-Croatian.

“You don’t need those weapons here,” Erdeljac translated. “You’re safe with us.”

And apparently they had every reason to be so.

Depending on the Force Protection level, MWR sponsors day trips to Tuzla every Tuesday and Thursday and day trips to Sarajevo every Saturday.

Service members can call 762-1079 to register for the Tuzla tour and can apply for day trips to Sarajevo through their respective units.



IT'S HOW OLD?—MWR sponsored tour guides show Eagle Base service members a monument on Slana Banja in Tuzla.

Questions and Answers: Eagle Cash Card

Summary. Eagle Cash Card use will reduce U.S. DOLLARS within theater but will still allow soldiers the opportunity to purchase goods and services from vendors on post.



When and where do I get my eagle cash card?

Starting on or around 12 July 00 when you come into the finance office to cash a check or get a casual pay you will be issued an Eagle Cash Card. The amount of the check, cash, or casual pay will be loaded on the card.

Do I have to get an eagle cash card?

Yes. All service members, Department of Defense (DOD) civilians and contractor employees will have to get a card (the card replaces U.S. cash).

Can I get cash if I am going on LEAVE or PASS?

Yes. When going on leave you can get cash. You must bring the original DA 31 approved by your commander.

What about foreign currency?

You can still purchase foreign currency using checks, cash or your Eagle Cash Card.

What do I do when my eagle cash card is empty or I have used all the cash value on it?

(DON'T THROW AWAY) The Eagle Cash Card can be reloaded and used again. Whenever you want to cash a check, get another casual pay or just put cash on it you must bring the same card to the finance office. **IT IS REUSABLE.**

How much cash value can I put on my card?

You can write a check for up to \$700 a month. The card will hold up to \$9,999.99. You can load all the cash you want. Finance will load up to \$100 as one casual pay.

When I am ready to re-deploy to the states, how do I get the money that is left on my card?

You can come to the finance office three to five days before re-deploying back to the states and we will give you the remaining balance of your card in cash. You need to also bring a copy of your re-deployment orders. You can keep the card or throw it away.

If someone owes me money, how do they pay me using their EagleCash Card?

You can transfer money from one card to another. This can only be done at the finance office. Both individuals must be present with their cards.

If my card gets lost, stolen or damaged, what happens to the money I had on my card?

If a card is lost or damaged you must come to the finance office and fill out an incident report. In most cases, it takes 48 hours to research the balance of the lost, stolen or damaged cards. The finance office can then issue you a new card and load the balance of your previous card onto the new one. **This is so we can cancel the lost/stolen card.**

It is important that all leaders display a positive attitude about this when addressing their soldiers. It will only make the transition easier for you and most importantly your soldiers.

Contact:

1st Lt. STEVEN EMANUEL
DSN 762-11103

QUALITY ASSURANCE QUALITY CONTROL

Story and Photos
by Sgt. Kevin Cowan
102nd MPAD, Camp Dobol

Death and Taxes are supposed to be the only things that are sure to happen. However, at Camp Dobol, that list includes QA/QC.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control is a weekly service performed on all vehicles prior to re-dispatch.

"There would really be no need for us if people would do a proper PMCS (preventive maintenance, checks and services), but then there would be no need for us to be in Bosnia if there was world peace," said Spc. Scott Rieman, a member of the QAQC team.

Unfortunately, a complete PMCS is not always done. But the QAQC team understands.

"You can't really expect to take a scout or a tanker out of a tank or a Bradley and expect them to know the ins and outs of a Humvee," explained Sgt. Scott Smith. "Even though we've been in country for three or four months now, you still can't expect them to know. We still show them things that they didn't have any idea about."

The job of the QAQC team is to re-inspect the PMCS that was done and then go a bit further. They inspect major components like ball joints, suspension, and brakes.

According to Rieman, the team inspects

about 20 vehicles per day. Of those 20, the most common problems are low fluids, broken wheel studs and broken half-shaft bolts, all of which are all fairly easy to repair or correct.

Smith agrees that the most important aspect of doing QAQC every week is "catching the little things that could cause major accidents or incidents."

When asked about why the job is important, Rieman stated, "I honestly believe it saves lives. Something we've done since we've been here saved somebody's life.

"We're like the unsung heroes. We don't really get credit for anything. We don't get any of the awards. We don't get too much recognition for the job we do," he said.

But there are some perks to the job.

"I try to get them 'outside of the wire' as often as I can. We give them time off whenever we can. We give them time off to go to Tuzla on the day trips. I know how it can be working six days a week, nine to ten hours a day."

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys," Smith said. "All of the guys that are wheel related were hand picked by me from Fort Carson. The guys that we shifted to the QC tent, they were all debated on. So we took the most knowledgeable guys on wheels and put them on QAQC."

Smith, from St.



CHECK OIL, SIR—Checking one of the more common deficiencies found during Quality Assurance, Quality Control (QAQC), Pfc. Wayne Stillwell checks the oil level on this vehicle.

Joseph, Mo., says having the vehicles on a set schedule helps things run smoothly also.

The vehicles are on a set schedule, which not only helps the mechanics, but more importantly the operators of the vehicles can get in and out more quickly so they can complete their mission.

If a vehicle is in line but not on the schedule, it gets moved to the end of the line.

"It's just to be fair. Either way you look at it we're working 8 to 5," Rieman claimed. Although the vehicles are on a schedule, they are not locked into a specific time slot.

The vehicles arrive at random at the QAQC tent, because the mission dictates when the vehicles are available.

"There's always something to do," said Rieman. "This week we got a generator working for the shop so we could have an air compressor. We had to go get sandbags to make a little bunker around the generator so it wouldn't make so much noise."

He said the air compressor would help the QAQC team do their job a bit easier. By making their job a bit easier, the missions supporting Operation Joint Forge can be completed a bit easier.

NEED A QUART—Spc. Joshua Johnson performs "preventive maintenance, checks and services," better known as PMCS.



The man with a plan:

Espionage, sabotage and subversion— all just part of the job for Comanche captain striving to protect forces in MND-N

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



Story and Photos

by Staff Sgt. James K. Hunter

102nd MPAD, Camp Comanche

Espionage, sabotage, subversion... all significant components of the daily routine for Captain Curly W. Jackson, S-2 Plans, 49th ABCT, Camp Comanche. He is a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Austin, Texas, deployed here in February of this year. His responsibilities are intense and critical to the safety of the Stabilization Forces here in the Multinational Division North (MND-N).

His mission as intelligence officer is to advise his commander on all activities within the Area of Responsibility (AOR). He works in the three regional areas, MND-N, SE, and SW. Jackson coordinates and plans the Intelligence Preparation of Battlefield (IPB) with SFOR units throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

Advising his Commander of all potential hostile operations such as demonstrations, protests, and Displaced Person Returnees (DPRE), Jackson creates products such as the Intel Annex, Reconnaissance and Surveillance Plans, Collection Plans, and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Maps to thwart projected hostile operations. Years of experience and training combine to give Jackson the ability, skills and technical knowledge to keep our forces secure and prepared for any unforeseen event.

During the development of these products, he follows an operational format that sequences itself with minute variables depicting potential danger and hostilities to the SFOR.

Jackson evaluates the "threat" using guidelines generated through years of military use. The process includes 1) Current Situation, or daily intelligence compiles through a variety of sources. 2) Weather and Solar and Lunar Illumination Data supplied by the Staff Weather Officer (SWO). 3) Background Information provided by a combination of regional strategy and historical parameters. 4) Overall Threat Assessment, including civil unrest, political rallies, demonstrations, and hostile intent to SFOR or indigenous populations.

The "bottom Line" is that Jackson is responsible for advising the commander on the Course of Action (COA), which contains options from routine to "most dangerous" scenarios.

Back home in Texas, Jackson works as an Intel Analyst with the Counter Drug Task Force, Texas Army National Guard. He directly supports the U. S. Customs Service in San Antonio, Texas. Once a month he travels to Headquarters, 49th ABCT in Austin, Texas for his drill with the S-2 Section. His civilian employment keeps him very busy assessing intelligence data and drug related activities along the U.S. and Mexican border. His work in his civilian capacity is uniquely similar to the necessities of the peace-keeping mission here in BiH.

Back in San Antonio, his wife, and loving mother of two, Mrs. Roslyn Jackson shares the concerns of other deployed spouses remaining behind during a deployment. Captain Jackson has two school age children who are doing well in their classes. The oldest, son C. Wilson Jackson, 17, a senior this year at O'Connor High School, San Antonio, enthusiastically pursues an interest in the martial arts. His 11 year old daughter, Candice, starts the sixth grade at Coke-Stevens Middle School, San Antonio, Texas this fall, plays the Oboe in her music classes and loves all types of

music from classical to modern. Mrs. Jackson has worked the last six years in the Nutrition and Dietary Department of the San Antonio Northside Independent School District.

Jackson was born in Clarksville, Texas, graduated from Clarksville high School in 1978 then married Roslyn Jackson on December 24, 1980 in Clarksville. He attended Texas State Technical College for two years and graduated from New Regents University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Arts in 1991. After graduation he worked as a manager in the clothing manufacturing industry in Clarksville. He plans to continue his formal education and work on a Masters Degree in Psychology at a university in the San Antonio area.

Jackson first joined the Army fifteen years ago as an enlisted soldier. He worked his way up to the level of Staff Sergeant as a Combat Engineer and as a Field Recruiter before entering the Texas State Military Academy. There he graduated from the OCS Program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in July 1990. His first assignment was Assistant S-2 with 1/141 Mechanized Infantry, San Antonio, Texas. His next assignment, from 1992-1993, was with D Company, 1/141, as a Platoon Leader. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in July of 1993 and became the S-2 for the 1/141. Jackson was promoted to Captain while holding the position of S-2 with the 1/141. In 1997 Jackson moved to Battalion S-4, HHC, 649 MI Battalion. Next, he became Company Commander of HHC, 649 MI, his current duty assignment with the Texas Army National Guard.



PROTECTING OUR FORCES—Comanche Capt. Curly W. Jackson, S-2 Plans, 49th ABCT, evaluates "threats" and advises the commander on the Course of Action.

Jackson aspires to become an S-2 with one of the maneuver brigades with the Texas Army National Guard. This would mean a promotion to an O-4 billet, which is a personal and professional goal for Captain Jackson. When asked what he wanted to do as soon as he returns from this deployment he said, "I want to go home, hug my kids and my wife, and play a round of golf". When asked about what his tour here has done for him, he said, "it has expanded my horizons and increased my awareness of historical and cultural events in this region of the world".