

TALON

Operation Joint Forge

Task Force Eagle

Saturday, July 15, 2000



MAKING HISTORY THE "ALAMO" FLAG

CELEBRATE!
Visitors from home celebrate July 4th

REST ASSURED
111th Engineers on Guard

BOSS LIFT
Civilian employers visiting Bosnia

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learn,
And many a person turns about,
When they might have won had they stuck it out,
Don't give up though the pace seem slow,
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night came down,
How close he was to the golden crown,
Success is failure turned inside out,
It's pressing on past fear and doubt.

So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Chaplain (Col.) Charles W. Edwards, Jr.
MND-N/Task Force Eagle Chaplain

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- TODAY – “The only thing that is worse than a quitter is the person who is afraid to begin.”
- SUNDAY – “Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.”
- MONDAY – “The train of failure usually runs on the track of laziness.”
- TUESDAY – “Success comes in cans; failure comes in can'ts.”
- WEDNESDAY – “A man is not finished when he is defeated, he is finished when he quits.”
- THURSDAY – “Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving, they make mistakes, but they don't quit.”
- FRIDAY – “The secret of success is to start from scratch and keep on scratching.”

Commander

Multinational Division - North

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson

Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Ronald J. Elliott
762-3353

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

CW4 F.C. "Pappy" Badder
762-3354

Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer in Charge

Master Sgt. Brian D. O'Connors

Editorial Staff

Editor

Sgt. Meghan A. Wood
762-5230

Assistant Editors

Cpl. James D. Nunley
Spc. Katherine L. Koehne
762-5233

Webmaster

W01 Rodney E. Hammack

Staff Writers

Eagle Base

Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro
Pfc. Jessica E. Revell
762-8208

Camp Dobol

Sgt. Kevin D. Cowan
764-2160

Camp McGovern

Spc. Destiny C. Smith
763-1771

Camp Comanche

Spc. Stephanie Bunting
768-0084

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:
www.tfeagle.army.mil

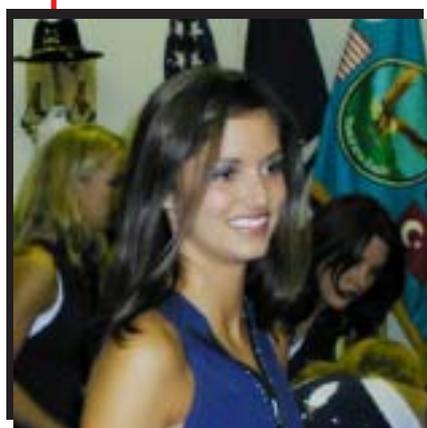
CONTENTS



ON THE COVER

8

An American and a Texas flag, both flown over the Alamo, are flown over Camp Comanche on the Fourth of July. (U. S. Army photo by Spc. Shane Devine, 65th PCH, Eagle Base).



JULY 4

6

Friendly faces from home, bosses and civic leaders, and yes, cheerleaders in Bosnia to celebrate the Fourth, and to see first hand why we are here.



SLEEP EASY

9

The soldiers of the 111th Engineer Battalion ensure you can sleep tight on Eagle Base.

Message from the CSM-----	4
Beating the Odds-----	5
A Message from General Shelton-----	8
Boss Lift-----	10
Soldier's Spotlight-----	12

A BIT OF HISTORY

by Command Sgt. Maj. Bobbie R. Adams
Command Sergeant Major, MND-N

The modern Battle Dress Uniform has come a very long way over the last century to evolve into the comfortable, light weight practical uniform we have today. It has been continually updated to fit the needs of our dynamic fighting force.

During World War I (WW I), the use of horses was still common. Therefore, the trousers were of a similar style to riding pants. They were lined with wool, for warmth, however, this also made very heavy when wet, and slow to dry. The jackets were made of canvas or a similar material, with brass buttons. One serious design flaw with these uniforms was a hook on the back of each button, which would get caught on any and everything, placing soldiers in danger.

During World War II (WW II), the army used many different field uniforms. The wool trousers and canvas shirts of the WW I era were still seen in both Europe and the Pacific. However, primarily in the Pacific a new type of camouflage uniform was now coming into use. These were used primarily in the South Pacific and the pants, similar to today's, had a button fly.

In Korea, the Army employed plain green fatigues of a similar design to those used in WW II. On the tunic, this time made of a herringbone fabric, there are now buttons with which to attach a hood. Another similarity to the WW II era uniforms is the yellow and black name tag. This tag was changed to the modern green and black, early during the Vietnam War though, because the old yellow and black was seen easily at night.

During Vietnam, the Army used a "tropical" field uniform made

of poplin, a lighter weight cotton fabric, which also had wind resistant properties. The color was either plain OD green or camouflage. The blouse had four large pockets, the top two slanted. The pants were similar to today's design, with large cargo pockets, although they were back to zippers, not buttons, at the fly.

In the post-Vietnam era, the design of the field uniform was changed again. The top pockets of the blouse were straightened, and camouflage darkened. In the 1980's all services adopted camouflage as the color for field uniforms.

During desert storm, the desert camouflage was improved. The color was lightened, and the hue altered to be more effective.

Our modern BDU has been available since 1996. The fabric is now a cotton and nylon blend, that is designed to be more resistant to wrinkles and to last 50 percent longer than the older hot weather BDU.

In a never-ending effort to improve the quality of military clothing and equipment, the U. S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Center at Natick, Mass., is working on two new BDU's. One, a Wrinkle Resistant/Permanent Press BDU is in development and has already been tested by both the Army and Marine Corps (USMC), with good results. The other is a reversible BDU, which is being produced for testing with the USMC. These BDU's could be manufactured in several combinations of camouflage, and would decrease deployment time, and increase flexibility of deployed units.

From the heavy wet wool trousers of WW I to the reversible BDU's of the future, our Army has come a long way with technology to increase our personal comfort and effectiveness in the field.



Command Sgt. Maj. Bobbie Adams

SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE—HOW'S YOURS?

By Maj. Ted N. Aanenson
Safety Office, Eagle Base

Soldiers develop their attitude toward safety from watching their leaders. They know the leaders who have their best interests at heart, and they know those who are just going through the motions.

Some leaders, especially the young ones, may be reluctant to "get tough" when it comes to safety. They don't want to be seen as weak or a stickler for the rules.

To the contrary, a good leader requires everyone to perform to the standards when conducting a task or mission. Safety standards are the same as other standards; whether they are in performance, appearance, or the standards of conduct—all are Army standards. The major difference is that safety standards were developed the hard way, by learning from someone else's mistakes; by accident.

Have you ever witnessed someone not adhering to established

standards (speeding, failing to wear a seat belt, not clearing their weapon properly, etc.)? What did you do? Did you speak up? If not, you have just reinforced a bad habit. Even worse, you have just set a new (and lower) standard for that person. The next time

you decide to take a short cut, remember—someone else is watching you. You can lead by example, or fail to lead by being a bad example.

What's your safety attitude? Is it: "I don't have the time to correct such a minor mistake." "It's not one of my soldiers." Or, my favorite: "Well, nobody got hurt." Or



is it: "Anything worth doing is worth doing right." "We do things by-the-book here."

Tomorrow's leaders are watching you today. Their safety values are being molded by their leaders right now. What are they learning? What are you teaching them? By adopting and enforcing a positive attitude about safety, the chain of command can influence a unit's safety philosophy for years to come.



KNOW THE STANDARDS

FOLLOW THE STANDARDS

FIGHTING FOR A STRANGER:

3RD ACR STAFF SGT. SAVES A CHILD'S LIFE AS A BONE MARROW DONOR, BUILDING A BOND FOREVER

Story by Master Sgt. John Sullivan
102nd MPAD, Camp McGovern
Photos by Cpl. James Nunley
102nd MPAD, Camp McGovern

Don't talk to Dean Stockert about playing the odds. A staff sergeant with Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Camp McGovern, he knows what taking on the odds means.

Stockert, 32, was a bone marrow donor for a small child facing a losing battle with a genetic disorder. It sounds simple enough, but it's a story that has more drama in it than anything in Hollywood. It's a fight that has forever linked him with young Dalton Franks of Texas.

The story began in Fort Carson, Colo., home of the 3rd ACR in the summer of 1997.

"The squadron sergeant major at the time said a soldier in the 2nd Squadron was suffering from leukemia and needed to undergo chemotherapy," Stockert said. "[He] said the only way the soldier could survive chemo was to receive bone marrow transplants."

"He asked that anyone who wanted to, sign up with the Department of Defense (DOD) Bone Marrow Registry." With a simple shrug of his shoulders, Stockert signed up and gave the DOD personnel a blood sample.

"I didn't think anything about it," he said. "It just seemed like the thing to do."

He said that he had heard horror stories about donating bone marrow and wasn't sure he wanted to go through with it. In fact, Stockert said, the odds were against him even being selected as a bone marrow donor.

"I think I was told the chances are about a million-to-one. I thought that was pretty slim."

With a laugh, he said, "All of that changed in November 1998 when I got a call that I might be a match."

Stockert had just returned to Fort Carson from a rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. This time, he said, the test required 16 blood samples.

"At that time I was told that I had a 1-in-10 chance of being a match. Then two weeks later I was told that I had a 1-in-5 chance of being a match."

That news meant more blood samples.

"I really couldn't get over the number of blood samples they had to take. A month went by and then I got the notice that I was the best possible match."

Stockert said he had no idea who he might be helping. The procedure is designed so the donor doesn't know anything about the possible recipient. The sergeant said he didn't really spend much time thinking about who the recipient would be, though it did cross his mind.

Then came the call, he had to come to Georgetown Hospital in Washington D.C. for more tests and one of the biggest decisions of his life, one that didn't just affect him, but the life of a person he had never met.

"I was asked to sign a contract that I would donate the bone marrow. It's not just



ATTENTION TO DETAIL—Staff Sgt. Dean Stockert ensures that his vehicle is lined up with the rest.

me writing my name on the dotted line, though. By me signing that form, doctors can begin giving the patient the chemotherapy needed. It's a no-turning-back point. I could have walked out of there, and they would have continued looking for a donor or I could sign," he said.

"Once I signed that line though, I told those people that I was going to be there and I was going to help."

Once he agreed to the procedure, Stockert was informed that the patient was a child less than one year old.

Two weeks later, Dec. 28, 1998, Stockert was at Georgetown Hospital for a procedure that required doctors drilling small holes in his pelvic bone and removing bone marrow. Half of the bone marrow went to the child and the rest to the Bone Marrow Research Center in California for further tests.

"Everyone was very supportive of me doing this, especially my chain-of-command," Stockert said.

"And especially my family. For me, life went back to normal."

Back at Fort Carson, Stockert said he settled into the daily routine of preparing for duty in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was allowed to exchange letters with the child's family.

The Bone Marrow Registry still wouldn't let him communicate directly with the family though, again a procedure to insure that if something went wrong and the patient died, the donor would not have made an emotional attachment.

This restriction is in place for one year from the date of the marrow donation.

"On Dec. 28, 1999 I got a call from a man who said, 'My name is David Franks and I want to say thank-you to the man who saved my son.'" Stockert and David Franks spent four hours that first night talking. The two talked about their families getting together and the Franks sent Stockert a photo album and described their baby's fight for its life.

"One thing that I found out was that after they gave the baby the bone marrow transplant, it created a fight inside the baby," Stockert said.

"The baby's body was trying to reject the bone marrow and my bone marrow was trying to overcome the baby's defenses. It was like there was a war going on inside that little body."

"I don't know if I could ever be that brave. They held him, though, and eventually my marrow began taking over and began helping the baby's own defenses. That baby went through that situation three or four times," he said.

"I knew the procedure would be painful, but I never imagined it would be anything like that."

Stockert said that he and the Franks decided to meet on the third weekend in February of this year. That week just happens to be National Bone Marrow Week. Originally they were to meet at a children's hospital in Dallas-Fort Worth where young Dalton Franks had been treated.

At the same time the 3rd ACR was preparing for their deployment to BiH. As a kind of second honeymoon, Stockert and his wife, Laurie, took a trip to Las Vegas, Nev., before the deployment.

(ODDS—continued on page 10)



4TH OF

Story by Sgt. Joseph C. 65th PCH, Eagle Base

The 4th of July went off with a bang at the stateside guard and r... leaders were given a m... Capt. Geoffrey Ryan of the M... then joined Eagle Base perso... cue with all the trimmings.

During the meal, the 49th A... a medley of tunes, including... formed by members of the 4...

Throughout the day, ser... horseshoe, tug-of-war and v...

The afternoon was highlig... show group of the Dallas C... joined in the barbecue as th... and distinguished visitors. In... leaders performed later that... the Eagle Sports Complex.



E
A
G
L
E



F JULY

DeCaro

...f without a bang as about 30
...erve employers and civic
...ine awareness safety brief by
...ine Action Center. The group
...nnel for a Texas style barbe-

...rmored Division Band played
...the popular "YMCA" as per-
...9th AD command staff.

...vice members competed in
...olleyball tournaments.

...ghted by an appearance of the
...Cowboys Cheerleaders who
...ey sat amongst the soldiers
...stead of fireworks, the Cheer-
...evening to a packed house at



B A S E



REMEMBER THE ALAMO!

Story by Master Sgt. Brian D. O'Connors
65th PCH, Eagle Base
Photos by Spc. Shane Devine
65th PCH, Eagle Base

During the early morning hours of July 4, 2000, Camp Comanche, home of the 49th Aviation Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), the "Alamo" Brigade headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, held a rather unique flag raising ceremony.

Two flags, the American "Star & Stripes" and the Texas "Lone Star", that had previously flown over the legendary Alamo in San Antonio, were raised and flown over Comanche Base.

The two flags were given to "Alamo Six", Col. John Braun, brigade commander, on February 7 by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas during a ceremony held when the brigade deployed to Bosnia, as a member of SFOR 7.

The Daughters of the Republic Texas are the caretakers of the Alamo and are responsible for saving the former army supply depot from destruction in 1889.

The 49th ABCT was given the call sign "Alamo" by special proclamation of the Texas senate according to Master Sgt. Larry Rayburn, Brigade Operations Sergeant Major.

After being flown here on the 4th the two flags will be returned to the Alamo for display in their museum.



REMEMBER—Col. John Braun, call sign "Alamo 6" addresses the troops during the flag raising ceremony on the 4th of July.

AN INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

LISTENING CLOSELY—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, with MND-N Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, during Shelton's visit to Eagle Base this spring.



On July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies declared their independence. The first Patriots, with diverse backgrounds, representing different regions and interests, were united in their quest for freedom and their willingness to fight for liberty.

Despite the considerable risk of almost certain defeat at the hands of the greatest land and sea power of that age, they ultimately triumphed and a new, independent United States of America emerged.

At sea, on land, and in the air, whether during peace or war, the men and women of America's Armed Forces have continued to ensure the sacrifices of our forefathers and others who followed them were not made in vain. The backgrounds of the individuals in today's Armed Forces are even more diverse than those of our predecessors — yet we all continue to unite behind the same ideals and values that guided this Nation to independence over 200 years ago.

Today, on the first Independence Day of the 21st century, you — America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen — are America's new Patriots, linked in spirit to the generations of fighting men and women of our Nation's great history. Around a troubled world, you deter our foes, protect our friends, and keep the peace.

Despite enormous danger, personal sacrifice, and lengthy separation from family and friends, it is your indomitable spirit and steadfast willingness to serve that define America and manifest its ideals, both at home and abroad. On this Independence Day, America honors you and all those who preceded you.

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, thank you for all you do in the defense of our great Nation — on this — America's birthday.

PROVING PATIENCE, PROVIDING PEACE

DONE BY MANY, DESIRED BY FEW, SFOR GUARD FORCE DUTY IS AT THE HEART OF TFE'S MISSION IN THE BALKANS

Story and Photos

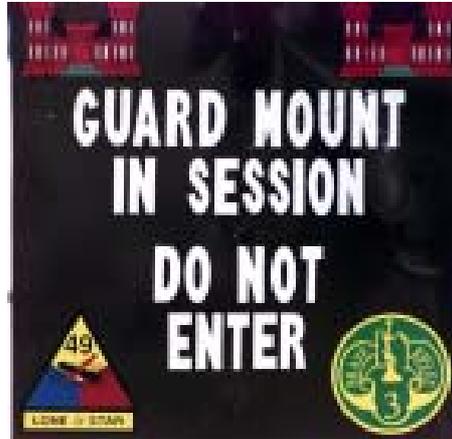
by Pfc. Jessica E. Revell

102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

Many were told they would be doing engineer work. Some thought they would be MPs and others just had no idea. Only a few months prior to deployment, the mission of the 111th Engineer Battalion and those attached, changed.

In fact, the mission changed three times due to a reduction in forces. Eventually, a spot became available for the engineers; they were tasked with "mayoral duties," better known as the Guard Force.

"Everyone thought they were secured in their individual missions until the guard force slot came available and all these different units were thrown together to form one big goulash," said Staff Sgt. Kevin



difficult to adapt to a job that is not the one you train to do day in and day out. Being a member of the guard force can also be difficult in itself. The job is isolating, monotonous and tiresome. But more importantly, it's necessary. Everything and everyone in the military has to be guarded.

General order number one states "I will guard everything within the limits of my post, and quit my post, only when properly relieved." The Guard Force is divided into three platoons with rotating relief. There is a daytime shift, an evening shift and a shift known as the 'Ghostriders.'

"Two things that tie all of us together are the uniform and SOP," said Whitley, "but each shift is unique in the issues they are faced with."

This base employs numerous civilians and the force is responsible for everyone entering and departing through the gates. They control traffic, search for contraband, verify identification, patrol the perimeter and detect anything out of the ordinary.

The day shift deals with mostly political issues. For instance, local nationals that may try to enter without proper identification.

"We search every vehicle that is not military or American civilian. We make sure there is no contraband, such as drugs, alcohol, or extra license plates, which could make it easier from someone without access to enter the base. Cameras and computers held by Bosnian local nationals are also not allowed," said Spc. Matthew L Cravens, A Co., 111th Engineers, day shift primary searcher. "There are also 'wanders' that search for anything metallic that could be a weapon."

Because many of the civilians have land that is contiguous to the outside of the wire, the guards are forced to deal with farmers.

GOOD TO GO—Checking bags for sensitive items is a standard part of inspecting all persons who enter base without an SFOR ID card. (left)

BEEP—Guards must scan by hand all persons who cause the walk-through metal detectors to beep as they pass through them. (below)



Whitley, third shift's Sergeant of the Guard.

This force has soldiers that have been in the last three wars, all different types of jobs, from different parts of the country. Several are kin to one another, including cousins, brothers, sons and fathers, and married couples. Nevertheless, the troops have managed to mesh into one, and that's something they have to work at everyday.

"I told my men one night, you lean on being a soldier first, not your individual jobs," said Lt. John Lewis, third shift Officer of the Guard.

Upon discovering their new mission, thoughts and feelings ranged from "I don't care" to "I just want to go to Bosnia," but most of the unit felt disappointment. It's



ALL CLEAR—Guards must thoroughly inspect all vehicles entering base belonging to those persons without SFOR ID cards.

"There is always something going on with the farmers that we have to go in there and talk to them. You get to know who's who, and get to know which ones are always going to have some type of claim or complaint. They complain of damages done to their animals, their chickens, their sheep, their cows, or cherry trees, apple trees, etc. They argue that they need some sort of protection otherwise their animals or trees are going to get killed, by either Brown & Root personnel or us," said 1st Lt. Kambiz J. Bahrami, C Co., 111th Engineers, officer-in-charge, day shift.

Dealing with the personal issues of the civilians makes their jobs easier. It takes talking and getting to know them to understand their concerns.

"Nothing is black and white here, you

(GUARD—continued on page 10)

(ODDS—continued from page 5)

“We came home and I must have had 30 messages on my phone from the public relations director at Cook’s Children’s Hospital,” Stockert said.

“I called and they asked if I would be willing to go on NBC’s “Today Show” to meet Dalton Franks for the first time.

Stockert said yes and that started a chain of events that would lead to his meeting Dalton Franks.

“The producer of the show called and was trying to ask me questions at the same time I was running an M16 qualification range,” Stockert said.

“You can imagine with the firing in the background it was a little difficult to carry on a long conversation.”

On Feb. 11, a little more than two years after writing his name down as a bone marrow donor, Dean Stockert met Dalton Franks on live television.

“The butterflies I had in my stomach were huge by this time,” Stockert said. When the moment came and he finally saw the child he had saved, Stockert laughed and looked around sheepishly, “I just handed him a teddy bear because I couldn’t think of anything else to do.”

From New York, Stockert and the Franks flew back to Dallas-Fort Worth for another meeting and another TV show and another round of meeting journalists.

“My family and I stayed with them for a couple of days and we really got to know each other,” Stockert said.

Stockert said the Franks still keep in

touch with him and his family. In fact, they’ve become great friends.

Even here in Bosnia, Stockert said the Franks still keep in touch with e-mail messages.

And Dalton seems to have beaten the genetic disorder that he had.

“I really didn’t do anything more than the other members of the military who have signed up to be bone marrow donors,” Stockert said. But, he said, there is a great deal more to be done.

“Everyone who joins the (Bone Marrow) registry increases the chances of saving a life,” Stockert said.

“This whole thing has made me see how valuable and precious life is. I’m just glad I was able to help someone and beat the odds.”

(GUARD—continued from page 9)

have to know the issues. You’re not just a soldier on one side of the wire, and they’re not just the population of farmers on the other. You get to know them as a person,” said Bahrami.

“One time we were laying out concertina wire across the land this family owned and the lady of the house got agitated and chased the guys with a farm implement. Later on in the day, we talked to her through an interpreter and discovered that the family was fighting to claim their land legally, and were sensitive about others being on it. But after they calmed her down, she asked us in for coffee,” said Bahrami.

Speeding is also a major concern during the day shift. Part of the reason that speed limits are so strongly enforced near the gate is the number of pedestrians walking back and forth.

“If these guys are speeding, they might not be able to stop on time, and hit one of the farmers returning to his land, a child, or even our own troops,” said Bahrami.

The biggest disadvantage of the second shift, or middle shift is missing all the evening base activities. They can’t watch movies, go to concerts, etc. Some mentioned opening a 24-hour PX, or having movies during the day to help accommodate these soldiers.

The third shift, or Ghostriders, allows us to sleep safely and soundly at night.

“What most people have forgotten is that we are in a very unstable part of the world. We are also a target, a very big target. We have very important airports inside of here, and if someone wanted to stir things up, this would be the place to do it. And if you’re going to hit something, you hit the softest spot. The softest point is when everybody is sleeping,” said Whitley.

“I explained to my guys one night what ‘stand-to’ meant. In a field environment you wake up prior to twilight. In the old war, the Indians would attack at twilight and the soldiers would still be sleeping. You have to be ready,” said Lewis.

Dissemination of information is essential amongst all ranks of the force. “The privates are the ones doing the job. If they don’t know what’s going on, then they can’t do their job,” said Staff Sgt. Len Early, commander of the relief for the third shift.

“In other words, what we know, they know. We make them understand what we tell them,” reinforced Whitley.

“In a combat mission you want to be quiet and not seen. We don’t want to be quiet. This is a peacekeeping mission. We want to be seen,” said Early. “We want people to see us on the wire so they know there is no chance for them to get in.” We were trained to use force. But here, you can’t look aggressive, you just have to be aware.”

Sleeping and eating are also affected during this shift. Lunch and dinner are sometimes overrated because sleep is more important. “We eat breakfast out of mermite cans off the back off a



INSIDE AND OUT— Guards must thoroughly search vehicles of persons entering base without SFOR IDs, including checking under the seats (above) and observing under the vehicles using a mirror (right).



truck at 4:30 every morning. We sometimes give up meals. Its either sleep or eat,” said Staff Sgt. Sam Talamantez, Ghostriders noncommissioned officer in charge of the pedestrian gate.

“We have to still do things like picking up laundry and clothes from the cleaners and they close at 6:00 PM, which affects sleep time,” said Talamantez.

In this job, there are three important factors: monotony, motivation, and motion. Because this is such a monotonous job, you have to stay motivated, to keep moving. “You have to stay motivated, or complacency sets in,” said Whitley.

“The most important part of my job is seeing that my guys stay motivated and stay on the mission. That is the most important and most difficult at the same time. It’s easy to take this duty we have for granted. It’s easy to feel comfortable, but that’s where motivation comes in,” said Lewis.

“I consider everything in life a learning experience. Whether you’re bored, you can always find good and bad in any situation. I found a lot of good here. Patience is a science, not a virtue,” said Cravens.

It is important that the command have an open and honest relationship with their subordinates, giving them the freedom to use what they know.

“I give them free reign so they don’t feel locked up. They have enough sense to do their job without being micro-managed,” said Staff Sgt. Daryl J. Thompson, commander of the relief for the day shift.

The guard force recently experienced a reduction. It is now more dynamic with fewer observation posts in operation and less roving patrols. The intent is less labor by the soldiers due to the constant improvement of facilities and gates that will become more of a reality.

So when you lay your head down at night to go to sleep, think of the soldiers who are out on the perimeter to make that possible.

CARRYING THE MESSAGE HOME:

EMPLOYERS & CIVIC LEADERS OF GUARD AND RESERVE SOLDIERS VISIT
MND-N FOR A FIRSTHAND VIEW OF SFOR'S BALKAN MISSION



LEARNING WHAT HAPPENED—Employers and civic leaders receive a tour of some of the war torn regions of BiH with stops for short history lessons along the way.

Story and photos
By Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro
65th PCH, Eagle Base
and Cpl. James D. Nunley
102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

Employers and local civic leaders of National Guard and reserve soldiers deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) arrived at Eagle Base for a firsthand view of what Stabilization Force (SFOR) personnel are doing here.

After being welcomed at Eagle Base by Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson, the group was transported by UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to Potocari and Kula Grad where they formed a convoy to tour Srebrenica and Sultanovici.

At Potocari, the convoy drove into the town of Srebrenica where they conducted a walking tour of the city.

The tour included several bare spots of ground where there used to be mosques.

The town of Srebrenica used to be predominately Muslim. However, after the summer of 1995 the Serbian locals moved in, took over, and tore down the mosques, carrying off every single stone from the sites.

At Kula Grad, the convoy drove through the town of Zvornik, eternally separated from Serbia by the Drina River.

The visible damage in Zvornik stood in stark contrast to the untouched buildings on the Serbian side of the Drina.

Among the employers on tour was John Avila, the CEO of Thos. S. BYRNE, a Fort Worth construction company.

Avila said he read-up about Bosnia, but needed to see the situation firsthand in order to understand it.

"We'll carry that message back home," he said.

And after several days of touring, briefings and Fourth of July festivities, they did just that.

PUTTING A FACE ON HISTORY—Brig. Gen. Michael H. Taylor (below left) and Maj. Karen Hochstrasser (below right), of the 49th Armored Division, add their own experiences to the historical tour, aiding the visitors in understanding the tragic histories of Srebrenica, Bratunac and Sultanovici during the war.



LIVING A LOVE FOR LANGUAGE

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



PLEASE INTERPRET—Spc. Alec Rotberg translates between local construction workers and Camp McGovern Mayor's cell.



A MAN OF MANY TONGUES— Spc. Rotberg, an interpreter with Company C, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, Virginia Army National Guard, serves at Camp McGovern, speaking several languages including Russian, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, Polish and German.

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

Spc. Alec Rotberg, a translator for Company C, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, Virginia Army National Guard at Camp McGovern sat at a table in the Rose Garden Cafe sipping his Coca-Cola.

A short, quiet man with rugged weather-worn features, he pulled an expensive cigarette from a golden case and lit it with a cheap paper match.

Slowly, he exhaled, letting thin tendrils of the smoke slip out of his mouth and curl up toward the ceiling before beginning the tale of how he came to be a translator.

"I was always curious about different languages," Rotberg said. "I loved to study the history of different countries, and that includes studying their language."

Rotberg speaks several languages, including Russian, Ukrainian, Serbo-Croatian, Polish and German, just to name a few.

"I learned various languages at different schools, colleges, the Defense Language Institute (DLI), and studying on my own," said Rotberg.

Rotberg says of DLI, "It wasn't really easy, but it wasn't really hard because I already knew a little bit. DLI only gives you a basic grasp of the language anyway. Later on, it's up to you to maintain it and learn more."

Rotberg didn't start out in the military doing his current job.

"I always wanted to work in Military Intelligence because it's the only job in the military that I know of where you can apply

language skills, Rotberg said. "Originally, I was a turret mechanic, but I always wanted to be a linguist, so I tried and was accepted to MI school."

Working with MI, Rotberg has the opportunity to brush up on his language skills quite often. "I get to use Serbo-Croatian almost every day," said Rotberg. "The knowledge of German helps also, because many people here speak German too."

Working in BiH gives Rotberg more practical experience than he could obtain while attending school.

"When I went to DLI, it was book study. Here it's life study and life practice. Languages don't always correspond with the books; they use different phrases, different dialects."

Having a good working knowledge of the local language can come in handy in various situations.

Rotberg tells a story of how it helped with one tense situation.

"When I was here during IFOR [Implementation Force], we were running a convoy from Tazar, Hungary to Comanche. It was one of those nights where it was very dark. It was raining cats and dogs, no stars. The convoy from Hungary to Comanche takes 13 hours. I was the translator for the leading vehicle. Our driver hit a Volkswagen van, which was parked in the road, because he couldn't see. The guy came out very upset because we crashed into his car. He was promising, not to kill us, but to start making a threat. Nobody could understand what he was saying. I was the only one who could calm him down and assure him we could repay him for his damaged vehicle. We gave him our telephone number. It was a tense situation because it was IFOR, not SFOR. Everybody was worried. Luckily, nothing happened," said Rotberg.