

ТАДИЛИ





Multinational Division (North) Monthly Unit Ministry Team Training

June, 2000 training topics were:

- 1) Critical Event Debriefing (CED)
- 2) Religious Support and Combat Stress Control

Those attending the training conference are listed below:

1st Row: Ch. Ronald Thomas, 98th ASG, Family Life Chaplain-Trainer for the Month; Ch. Carl Rosenberg, U.S.; Spc. Paul Dutko, U.S.

2nd Row: Sgt. Richard Rios, U.S.; Ch. Miroslav Sulek, Poland; Ch. Torben Petersen, Denmark; Ch. Kare Mjølhus, Norway; Ch. Tom Saila, Finland; Ch. Kadir Albayrak, Turkey; Staff Sgt. Joe Gamez, U.S.; Ch. Charles Edwards, U.S.

3rd Row: Sgt. Lex Prange, U.S.; Ch. David Wake, U.S.; Spc. Robert Sommers, U.S.; Ch. Donald Van Alstyne, U.S.; Ch. David Voelker, U.S.; A1C Gregory VonArx, U.S.; Ch. Rajmun Kopec, U.S.; Pvt. James Folwell, U.S.; Maj. Jose Ballester, U.S.; Ch. Gordon Oglesby, U.S.; Spc. Gordon Oglesby, U.S.

NO MATTER WHAT

Innovations come from people who have problems.
Creativity springs from people who are dissatisfied.
The biggest breakthroughs come from those people who face
the most
formidable challenges.

Great accomplishments are not made by those who say
“I’ll start on this when I have the time and the money.”
Greatness comes from those who find a way to express it,
regardless of how limited their resources may be.

What is holding you back?

Is it really your lack of resources,
as you constantly tell yourself,
or is that just a convenient excuse?

The easiest way is rarely the only way.

When was the last time you heard yourself say
“no matter what?”

Stop waiting until things are perfect.

The obstacles will always be there.

They will never just go away.

Find a way through them.

Stop waiting for “if only” and start living
“no matter what.”

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

TODAY – “Enthusiasm is an inner fire that fuels the furnace
of achievement.”

SUNDAY – “If you make up your mind that you can do some-
thing, you’re absolutely right.”

MONDAY – “Through perseverance many people win suc-
cess out of what seemed destined to be certain
failure.”

TUESDAY – “We have forty million reasons for failure, but
not a single excuse.”

WEDNESDAY – “The power to hold on in spite of everything,
the power to endure, this is the winner’s quality.”

THURSDAY – “Persistence is the ability to face defeat again
and again without giving up.”

FRIDAY – “Nothing stops the man who desires to achieve.
Every obstacle is simply a course to develop his
achievement muscle. It’s a strengthening of his
powers of accomplishment.

*-Chaplain (Col.) Charles W. Edwards, Jr.
MND-N/TFE Chaplain*

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. Shanon B. Woods
762-5230
Assistant Editors
Cpl. James D. Nunley
Sgt. Kevin D. Cowan
762-5233
Webmaster
W01 Rodney E. Hammack

Staff Writers

Eagle Base
Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro
Sgt. Kevin D. Cowan
762-8208
Camp Dobol
Pfc. Jessica E. Revell
764-1012
Camp McGovern
Spc. Katherine L. Collins
763-1771
Camp Comanche
Spc. Stephanie L. 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.

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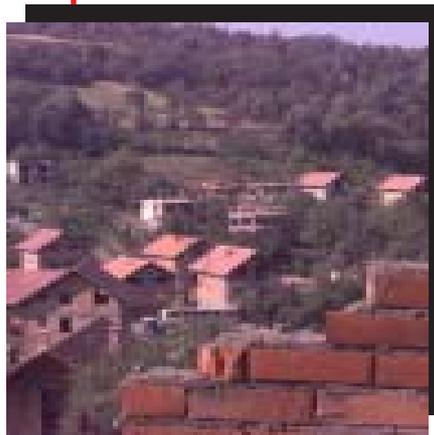
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1st Lt. Thomas Pederson Gives firing adjustments to gunner. (Photo by Sgt. Kevin Cowan).



Change of command NORDPOL TOA

6



Grapsksa

A city in the process of rebuilding.

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KEY TO A WORLD-CLASS RELIEF-IN-PLACE

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

I would like to provide information concerning my thoughts on the SFOR 7/8 Relief-In-Place. After careful consideration and thought I wish to express my thoughts on our focus for the upcoming transition and Relief-in-Place and the standards of conduct that I expect from all personnel of SFOR 7.

This has been a very successful mission with numerous challenges and rewards. As SFOR 8 personnel begin to flow into the area of responsibility (AOR), we must remember how we felt upon our arrival in country. The 10th Mtn Div. (SFOR 6) welcomed us with open arms and rapidly worked to make us feel at home and a part of something bigger than ourselves. I would like to take this moment to just remind everyone that the success of SFOR 8 is *our* success. We have a part in the successful beginning of their rotation. Our part is to show them what "right" looks like and deliver to them a world-class right seat/left seat ride program to establish them for success. We must remember that this is a team effort, NOT two separate camps with opposite ideals or attitudes. The key to the success of this transition will be treating everyone with dignity and respect.

We all (me included) need to watch what we say and who is listening. SFOR 8's senses are naturally on edge as they face this new challenging mission (just like ours were back in February); as a result they will be hanging on each and every word or comment that we make. We must remain professional and positive in our dealings with everyone. We've already had a few folks out there who are making "we versus they" comparisons. We always have believed in our units and our abilities, but so does the SFOR 8 team. We cannot get into an old-guy versus new-guy situation.

I request that we all remain professional and continue to work this message to make positive things happen. Together let us create a win-win environment to ensure a solid foundation for SFOR 8 mission accomplishment. We owe them the same that we received from the 10th Mtn Div: professionally executed Relief-In-Place, conducted to high standards. After we complete this last major mission here in Bosnia we can then depart with our heads held high and our hearts full of pride for a mission well done.

I expect all personnel to adhere to TFE policies and my General



Maj. Gen. Robert L. Halverson

Orders to ensure a safe and secure work environment in the AOR established on the highest standards of good order, discipline and readiness. These policies and restrictions are also necessary to maintain and improve U.S. relations with the host nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as protect the safety of all personnel.

To ensure compliance and a teamwork focus on the important matters of safety, good order and discipline of our personnel and the units that we represent, the following procedures are to be immediately implemented:

- a. The chain of command of every unit of SFOR 7 will ensure that all the provisions of General Order # 1 are read and understood by all our personnel.
- b. Amnesty boxes will be located in close proximity to each billeting area for the disposal of any contraband such as alcoholic beverages, unexploded munitions or ordnance, weapons, controlled substances, etc. All personnel will be given the one-time opportunity to voluntarily turn in any unauthorized items until 0730 hours, Sept. 9, 2000.

c. If not already accomplished, the chain of command of all subordinate elements of SFOR 7 are directed to establish a schedule to conduct health & welfare inspections to locate and confiscate contraband (or to ensure good order and discipline) and to enhance safety and readiness. In addition, the packing and loading of milvan containers for retrograde back to the Continental United States (CONUS) will be inspected by first line supervisors and the unit chain of command to ensure that no unauthorized items are placed in containers for shipment back to home station. Procedures also call for the routine use of military police working dogs from the K-9 section to examine and inspect all cargo prior to shipment back to CONUS.

d. Army Post Office policy is that all packages and mail will also be subject to inspection and examination to ensure compliance with proper policy.

Finally, I wish to thank each and every one of you for your support and dedicated service to our Army and the great nation that we serve. Continue to focus on mission accomplishment until you have safely returned to your family and friends. It has indeed been my honor and privilege to have served with you and commanded this magnificent organization for the past seven months in this important Bosnia Peacekeeping mission.

Story and photo

by CW4 Scott Dillon

Safety Office, Eagle Base

Everything we do has rewards or consequences, and some times a little of both. Our daily mission here has its rewards, but the consequences can be disastrous. Especially now, we must stay focused on our mission, even as our thoughts turn to home and the things we have given up to become Balkan Peacekeepers.

The threat here in Bosnia has not changed since the day we arrived. We face the same people, the same traffic, the same roads. Yet, we don't notice it because we have become acclimated to the risks, just as we have become acclimated to the weather. That makes it more important to focus on the task at hand, because it takes longer to react when we are relaxed and not concentrating on the task at hand. And those seconds can mean the difference in avoiding an accident.

In the pictured accident, the driver wasn't paying attention, the right wheel of the vehicle went onto the soft shoulder, and the weight of the vehicle took it over the edge. They were only traveling 5 miles per hour!

So, think about home when you are on your base camp, but while on a mission stay focused on the task at hand, because you can't get those moments back to prevent an accident.

A MOMENTS INATTENTION





REBUILDING—Freshly roofed houses stand next to recently cleaned ones. New roofs are being put on daily in the village.

GRAPSKA GORNJA ROAD TO RECOVERY

Story and photos

by Sgt. Kevin Cowan

102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

After the war, Grapska Gornja was sleeping in the silence. Roof and brick thieves were the only visitors for seven years, said Maj. Heikki Wala about the little village near Dobož, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Maj. Wala heads the Civil Military Cooperation Company at Camp Jussi in Dobož. One of their most impressive accomplishments is in the village of Grapska Gornja. Through the efforts of Maj. Wala and the CIMIC Company, this village is on the road to recovery.

In May of 1992, the Yugoslav National Army attacked the predominately Bosniac village and after three long days of fighting over 2,200 Bosniacs fled to save their lives. During the war and shortly thereafter, 901 of the 947 houses received some kind of damage. In those 46 undamaged houses, 27 original Serb occupants lived in ten of the houses with 42 Displaced Persons families occupying the remaining 36.

In January 1999, some of the Bosniac families showed an interest in returning to Grapska Gornja. Four years after the end of the war, escorted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the Finnish Battalion, the first Bosniacs re-visited their village. However, due to planning, coordination and Serb road-blocks, it would be five months before the first steps to rebuilding could be taken. Finally, late in August of 1999, the first house

JUST CHECKING—Maj. Wala checks the status of the distribution of building materials. The gentleman in the hat (below), is in charge of the distribution of the supplies and keeping an accurate list of who receives the supplies.



cleanings began and a month and a half later, the first donated construction materials arrived.

Very little construction or cleaning occurred during the winter, but more coordination was completed and more donations were lined up. In January 2000, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) promised to rebuild Grapska Gornja. Rebuilding began in April 2000 on 80 houses thanks to SIDA. Additionally, in July, SIDA donated materials and funding for 100 more houses. To address the infrastructure problems, the Finnish Construction platoon repaired roads and bridges, which has helped the flow of materials into the village.

Of the 901 houses that were damaged, 650 have been cleaned and are awaiting reconstruction. Eighty-nine of those houses have been roofed and are almost ready for the families to move back in. Thirty families have returned to live in Grapska Gornja and there are now about 700 people working each day in the village. SIDA also donated a school with desks, equipment and supplies and USAID started installation of power and water lines.

“Village fields are being cultivated by Bosniacs and DP-Serbs together. Cooperation between them is very good,” explained Wala.

Cooperation is the key to this rebuilding process. This village is an excellent example of what can be achieved if there is the effort and cooperation.

Soon, the silence in Grapska Gornja will be forgotten; replaced with the laughter of children once again.

PROGRESS—Maj. Wala explains to this couple (below), the coordination of the rebuilding of their house. As the couple is elderly and unable to rebuild their home by themselves, it will be rebuilt for them with donated supplies and labor.





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NPBG TOA

Story and photos
by Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro
65th PCH, Eagle Base
One mission, one team
Motto of the NPBG

Col. Per Ludvigsen took command of the Nordic Polish Battle Group (NPBG) during a ceremony at the North Pole Barracks, Doboј, on Aug. 13.

Ludvigsen replaced outgoing NPBG commander Col. Poul Kiaerskou who returns to his native Denmark.

Soldiers from all of Multinational Division North (MND-N) were in attendance, including Brig. Gen. Michael H. Taylor, assistant division commander, 49th Armored Division (49th AD).

Taylor said the NPBG is “a unique and proud” organization whose soldiers have earned the respect of all Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

In a succinct speech, Ludvigsen told attendees that the NPBG was “committed to carry out quality soldiering” to the benefit of BiH and to bring home all the Battle Group’s soldiers in good shape.

1. From left to right, incoming Nordic Polish Battle Group Commander Col. Per Ludvigsen, Brig. Gen. Michael H. Taylor and Col. Poul Kiaerskou at the TOA in Doboј Aug. 13.

2. A Dane is flanked by Swedish and Polish soldiers prior to the start of the Nordic Polish Battle Group’s TOA.

3. Nordic Polish Battle Group soldiers raise their nation’s flags prior to the start of the TOA in Doboј Aug. 13.

4. Col. Per Ludvigsen, the incoming NPBG commander, receives the Battle Group’s flag.

5. The arrival of the flags of the Nordic Polish Battle Group at the start of the TOA in Doboј Aug. 13.

6. Danish soldiers of the Nordic Polish Battle Group set up in preparation for their TOA. Photo by Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro.

A lawyer specializing in the international law of armed conflict, Ludvigsen is a knight of the Order of Dannebrog and was awarded the Silver Cross of Honour of the Federal German Forces.

Ludvigsen began his military leadership career as noncommissioned officer in the Crowns Artillery Regiment in 1977. He later served with the Royal Life Guards as a 1st Lieutenant (1981), as a company commander and as commanding officer of the Guards’ 1st Battalion after his promotion to lieutenant colonel in 1995.

Ludvigsen’s new command is an integral part of MND-N and enforces compliance in accordance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace by maintaining a focused military presence.

The NPBG was established January 5, 2000 as a part of the restructuring of Stabilization Force (SFOR). It assumed responsibility from the Nordic Polish Brigade, which was originally part of Implementation Force (IFOR).

Headquartered near Doboј, the NPBG consists of three camps: North Pole Bar-

racks, Dannevirke and Jussi.

The NPBG is comprised of soldiers from the nations of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and the three Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.



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AT THE HELM—Colonel Per Ludvigsen is the new NORD-POL Battle Group commander

LUDVIGSEN HEADS NORD—POL PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE PROGRAM CREDITED

Story and photo by Sgt. Kevin Cowan
102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

The question has been asked hundreds and hundreds of times and no one knows the answer. ‘How long will SFOR be in Bosnia and Herzegovina?’ The situation in BiH is a very tricky one and the only certainty that exists is one of change.

One such recent change involved the Nordic-Polish Battle Group. In a recent Transfer of Authority ceremony, Col. Per Ludvigsen assumed command of the

NORDPOL Battle Group. Ludvigsen, who is no stranger to NORDPOL, comes to Multinational Division – North from the Ministry of Defense in Denmark.

“It’s a great chance to be in command of a battle group like this, because it is really an experiment,” Ludvigsen explained. “But it is an experience that will have a positive outcome. I think this a very good answer for smaller countries (like the ones making up the NORDPOL Battle Group), because it will allow them to participate in more international operations. I’m in no doubt that the United States has the capacity to run this operation and the one in Kosovo without much help, but for a number of reasons, political reasons, alliance cohesion and things like that, it is obvious that it is not in the interest of anybody.”

Concerning the interests of himself, his staff, operations, and his troops, Ludvigsen went on to add, “To have a command is like buying a new pair of trousers. You must make sure that they fit you and not somebody else.

“We continuously reconsider what we are doing to make sure that our efforts match what is needed out there. That goes both for military operations, to provide a safe and secure environment, and on the other hand, support towards the international community.”

As the number of military personnel supporting Operation Joint Forge decreases, the more flexible the forces need to be. To assist in that transition, the exchange of platoons between NORDPOL and other SFOR forces will definitely continue. “I think it’s both a good idea and a necessity,” he stated. “It’s about communication, about exchange of views, about exchange of troops. It is actually materializing in the real world as a very, very useful

Multinational Division North soldier preview the Nordic Polish Battle Group’s TOA ceremony in Doboj Aug. 13.

and indispensable tool for international operations.”

One reason for the success of the NORDPOL Battle Group in this international operation, according to Ludvigsen, is the Partnership for Peace program. Only two of the seven countries making up the battle group, Denmark and Poland, are in NATO. The other five, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden work together with NATO through the PFP.

Partnership for Peace was introduced in 1994 as a basis for cooperation between NATO and non-NATO member countries. Today, twenty-six partners work together with NATO through Individual Partnership Programs. PFP goes beyond dialogue and cooperation by helping to forge a permanent relationship between partner countries and NATO.

It was enhanced in 1997 and further developed in 1999, building on its success by increasing and strengthening activities in political, security, military and institutional fields. Political consultation between partner countries and NATO is also being extended.

Such cooperation can only further the successes that SFOR and the International Community are credited with.

“Our aim is to create a situation where we can leave and still have or see a safe and secure environment,” Ludvigsen stated. “When we reach that state, we can leave without anything collapsing. Then the society has reached the level when our presence is not necessary anymore. The trick is then for us to find out when that is.”

Col. Per Ludvigsen, the new commander of the Nordic Polish Battle Group, addresses his command for the first time during the TOA in Doboj. Photo by Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro.





BULLSEYE—"I am still in good condition," thinks Capt. Rimantas (Lithuania G4)(top left), as he looks at his results.



COMFORTER—The French PIO and SFOR Informer writer receives a gift from the winner of the competition.



TANKGIRL?—The only female (above) brave enough to challenge the rest of the competitors was our NPBG legal advisor, Ulrikke Krogbeck.

SHOOTING COMPETITION

Story and photos
by Capt. Sylwester Michalski
PIO, NORDPOL Battle Group

Rifle training is a part of our daily routine. Alfa Coy (Company) decided to compete with other units and organized a shooting competition. On August 17, 2000 the best NPBG shooters gathered at our rifle range with their lethal weapons. Despite the enormous high temperature and glaring sun, 26 volunteers decided to try their skills. When Cpt. Andrzej Wójcik from Alfa Coy pointed his gun at the target, supporters from Alfa Coy held their breath. Meeting their expectations, he gained a victory over the rest of the participants.

Results of others participants were also really impressive so our Commander Of Squadron, Lt. Col. Gut, congratulated all competitors on their professional skills.

DANISH CONTINGENT GETS NEW FLAG

Story by
Sgt. Shanon B. Woods
69th PCH, Eagle Base
Photos by
Spc. Shane P. Devine
65th PCH, Eagle Base

The sun shone brightly upon the red field of the newly designed Danish contingent colors at a ceremony held in Dobož recently. "This flag is to be guarded with your life. Never let it touch the ground, nor let it fall into the hands of the enemy," Maj. Gen. Jan Scharling, chief of Danish Army Operations Command told the entire Danish contingent; colorless until now, during a ceremony held at Camp Dannevirke.

Scharling presented the colors to Col. Paul Kiaerskov, commander of the Nordic-Polish Battle Group, who then presented the colors to the color sergeant Warrant Officer

2 Finn Morgensen of the Maintenance Platoon, LOGCOY. Kiaerskov gave the Danish Army's traditional order to the color sergeant who is to take care of the colors and is being trusted with the colors because he is known to be a "brave, courageous and honorable soldier."

The colors are similar to the Danish flag, the exception being the Danish Army Operations Command badge in the color's upper left corner.

Scharling also took the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the troops views and concerns of conduct of their mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During Scharling's two-day visit he met with corps commanders and toured Camp Dannevirke and the Nordic-Polish Battle Group Headquarters where he met with Group troops.

The new colors now fly with the Danish contingent where, as Scharling directed, they will be "taken care of and kept in the proper manner."

SYMBOL—Maj. Gen. Scharling, chief of Danish Army Operations Command, explains the significance of the colors.



DANISH AIM FOR PERFECTION WITH MINI-GUN



TOPGUN—As 1st Lt. Thomas Pederson looks down range at the next target, Pfc. F.D. Rolander loads the next round in the 'Mini-Gun.' This quiet little village (below), awaits the oncoming barrage of rounds coming from the Danish Leopard A-5 tank during a recent target practice exercise.

Story and photos
by Sgt. Kevin Cowan
102nd MPAD, Eagle Base

As the Leopard A-5 tank, with its 105mm main gun, sat overlooking the tiny village, ready to attack, each member of the crew performed his assigned duty. The tank commander assessed the situation and told the gunner the next target, the gunner sighted in on the target and the loader rammed home the ammunition.

But this time, the village was only 15 cm tall. The Danish, just like all other tank squadrons, need to keep in practice. Hitting the target with the first shot is what it is all about.

During this practice exercise, the crew fired a 'Mini-Gun' to acquire the targets down range. The 'Mini-Gun' is a .22 caliber, coaxial mounted firing device that is attached directly to the main gun tube. Due to the small caliber of the round, the 'Mini-Gun' can be used practically anywhere. This is especially helpful during peacekeeping deployments.

Pfc. F.D. Rolander, ammunition loader on the Leopard A-5, also operates the 'Mini-Gun.' To keep them alert, Rolander will sometimes cause a "purposeful misfire" in order for the tank commander and gunner to make corrections and adjust fire.

"It is a good way to compromise for the few live fire exercises we have," said Rolander.

Due to the high number of tanks involved and the number of rounds fired, live fire exercises are very expensive. The 'Mini-Gun' makes it very easy for each tank crew to practice on a regular basis while keeping the expenses to a minimum.

However, this does not and cannot take the place of firing the actual 105 mm ammunition.

1st Lt. Thomas Pederson, tank commander for 1st Tank Platoon, C-Squadron stated, "It's not the same as firing live ammo, but allows us (the crew) to keep in practice."

As the .22 caliber tracer rounds streaked down range and found their target, a very old saying came to mind, "Practice makes perfect."



ALL IN A DAYS WORK AT THE NORDPOL



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1. 1st Lt. Jesper Byrdorf, physician for the three base camps in Dobo, puts new labels on supplies in order to have a more efficient system that is easy for all who work in the aid station.



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2. While Pfc. F.D. Rolander chooses the next target to be acquired, tank commander 1st Lt. Thomas Pederson looks down range with his binoculars. Rolander and Pederson are with C-Squadron, Danish Battalion at Camp Dannevirke.



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3. Pvt. Allan Viborg Mielsen (foreground) and Pvt. Teis Sogaard inventory supplies in their first aid kits to make a packing list of the contents.

4. Before leaving on a presence patrol, these Danish soldiers go over the specific routes they will use.

5. Danish soldiers from C-Squadron clean the main gun tube on this Leopard A-5 tank, part of routine maintenance to promote mission readiness.

6. As legal advisor for the NORDPOL Battle Group commander, Ulrikke Krogbeck spends many hours on the computer. Here, she finishes a claim for damages.



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POLISH CONTINGENT GETS NEW COMMANDER OF SQUADRON AT THE NORDPOL



Photos and cutlines
by Capt. Sylwester Michalski
PIO, NORDPOL Battle Group

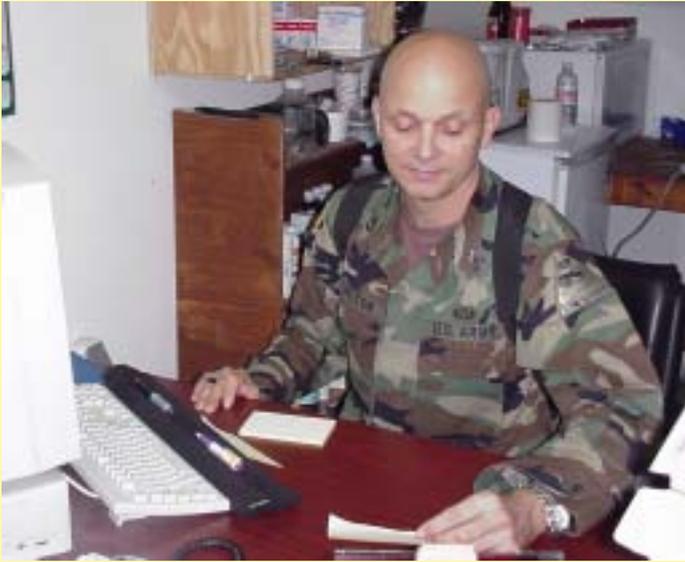
NEW COMMANDER OF SQUADRON—Lt. Col. Jerzy Gut was born in 1960 in Cieczkowice, Poland. In 1980, he entered the High Military School in Wroclaw and graduated in 1984. From 1984 he served in the 6th Airborne Brigade. Initially he was a Recce platoon commander, then commander of the 48th Recce Company. In 1991, he attended Special Activity Course at the National Defense Academy and was posted as deputy commander of 16th Airborne Battalion. In 1997, Lt. Col. Gut received his M.A. degree from Pedagogic Academy in Cracow. Then he spent one year (1997-1998) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Teslic as Polish Battalion deputy commander. In 1999, he was posted as 6th Airborne Battalion Commander. He is married and has one daughter. His hobby is parachuting.

CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION—August 13, 2000 was a special day for the Polish Contingent in NORDPOL Battle Group. First, there was a change of command ceremony for the transfer of authority between former Commander Of Squadron, Lt. Col. Andrzej Knap and his successor Lt. Col. Jerzy Gut. Second, there were award presentations and promotions in celebration of Polish Armed Forces Day. In Poland, our colleagues have a day off and they celebrate their successes together with families. In NPBG they also spent some time for celebration in the Polish dining facility.



SEASONED MEDIC HELPS, TRAINS OTHERS

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



ON TASK—Sgt. 1st Class Richard R. Shelton, 49th AD division surgeon noncommissioned officer-in-charge, is shown gathering redeployment information.

Story and photos
by Spc. Katherine L. Collins
65th PCH, Camp McGovern

He is the division surgeon noncommissioned officer-in-charge. A 15-year Army medic platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Richard R. Shelton, cares for the wounded and teaches others to do the same. His mission here in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is instructing medics and non-medics through Task Force Med-Eagle (TFME) to care for others in the world of emergency medical systems (EMS). His other duties include delivering TFME reports at the bi-daily battle update briefings and conducting urinalysis sessions.

Shelton served two years in the active Army as a mortar (11C) with the 82nd Airborne Division before becoming a combat medic (91B) with a mechanized infantry unit in the Texas National Guard.

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, as the son of an American soldier, Shelton said he always possessed the deep desire to help others, but his love for emergency medicine developed when he became a combat medic. This passion drew him out of employment as a salesman in the food distribution business, seven years ago, and into medically caring for others full-time as a paramedic at Mother Francis Hospital in Tyler, Texas, where he resides.

“The basic difference between being a medic in the civilian spectrum and the military sphere is you encounter more medical emergencies and trauma in the civilian world, such as auto accidents. As an Army medic you treat more injuries resulting from heavy equipment and penetrating trauma,” he said.

With compassion for people and a love for healing, Shelton shares his knowledge, experience and sense of integrity with other medics in the civilian and military world. He has taught emergency medical technician (EMT) basic courses through EMT paramedic courses at Tyler Junior College for the past five years, in addition to teaching through his example on the emergency scene.

Here in BiH, while serving for Operation Joint Forge, he further employs himself through the University of Maryland, teaching emergency medicine to soldiers. He has taught an advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) course, taught Camp McGovern’s first-ever EMT basic course, taught an EMT basic course at Camp Comanche, and will assist in teaching a basic trauma life support

class and an ACLS class through TFME.

“It’s been a wonderful mission over here. The opportunity to teach has been great. I’ve had a mix of students. Most have been medics, but some are not. All can benefit from learning emergency medicine.”

Shelton was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for his efforts made in improving soldiers’ skills and professional approach in the field of emergency medicine.

“I am honored to have received this award,” he said. “I just do what I like doing. I enjoy teaching. I want our medics to be the best medics they can be, and if I can help be a part of that, that’s what I like doing.”

Returning to Tyler, Texas in October, he plans to continue his career as a paramedic and National Guard medic, and in the future may perhaps train to be a flight medic.

The father of three sons, he has attempted to teach his children the importance of knowing how to conduct basic life support and the skills to perform it.

Shelton said his work as a paramedic is stressful due to exposure to graphic scenes and the emotions encountered.

“I’ve always been able to find friends or someone else I’ve been able to talk to about things.”

To further release any stress experienced in his job, he participates in Tae Kwon Do, having earned a black belt, and enjoys fishing and walking in the woods.

“The most rewarding thing about being a medic is the obvious fact of helping people,” said Shelton.

“The greatest difficulty is sometimes watching people die,” he said.

“I always know I did the best I could, but when I cannot save people, I wish I had had more training.”

For this reason, one of Shelton’s missions is to better train others in emergency medicine, and always improve his own skills. This includes encouraging those soldiers who do not believe they will make good medics. He reminds them they will recall skills quickly when emergencies arise and works harder to give them that extra training. Those whom he teaches who simply do not desire to be medics, he encourages to learn all they can for the sake of being able to treat their family or any other person when emergencies arise, though they will not practice emergency medicine professionally.

“Teaching others, I pass on my skills and encourage them to develop the sense of character they need to possess as medics. What I desire for them to have is compassion for their fellow people, because it doesn’t matter if they’re troops, civilians, male, female, children or adults. I want them to treat everyone the same and with compassion, treat them like they’d like their own family to be treated if someone were to treat one of their own kids. I train them with the view that what they’re doing is kind of an extension of me. It’s kind of my legacy towards others.”

“I’m just like everyone else here, just doing their jobs. I’m just thankful I can leave the medics better than when I received them. I’m giving them something that they wouldn’t have gotten otherwise, if I hadn’t been here. By my being here, I feel like I’ve accomplished something.”