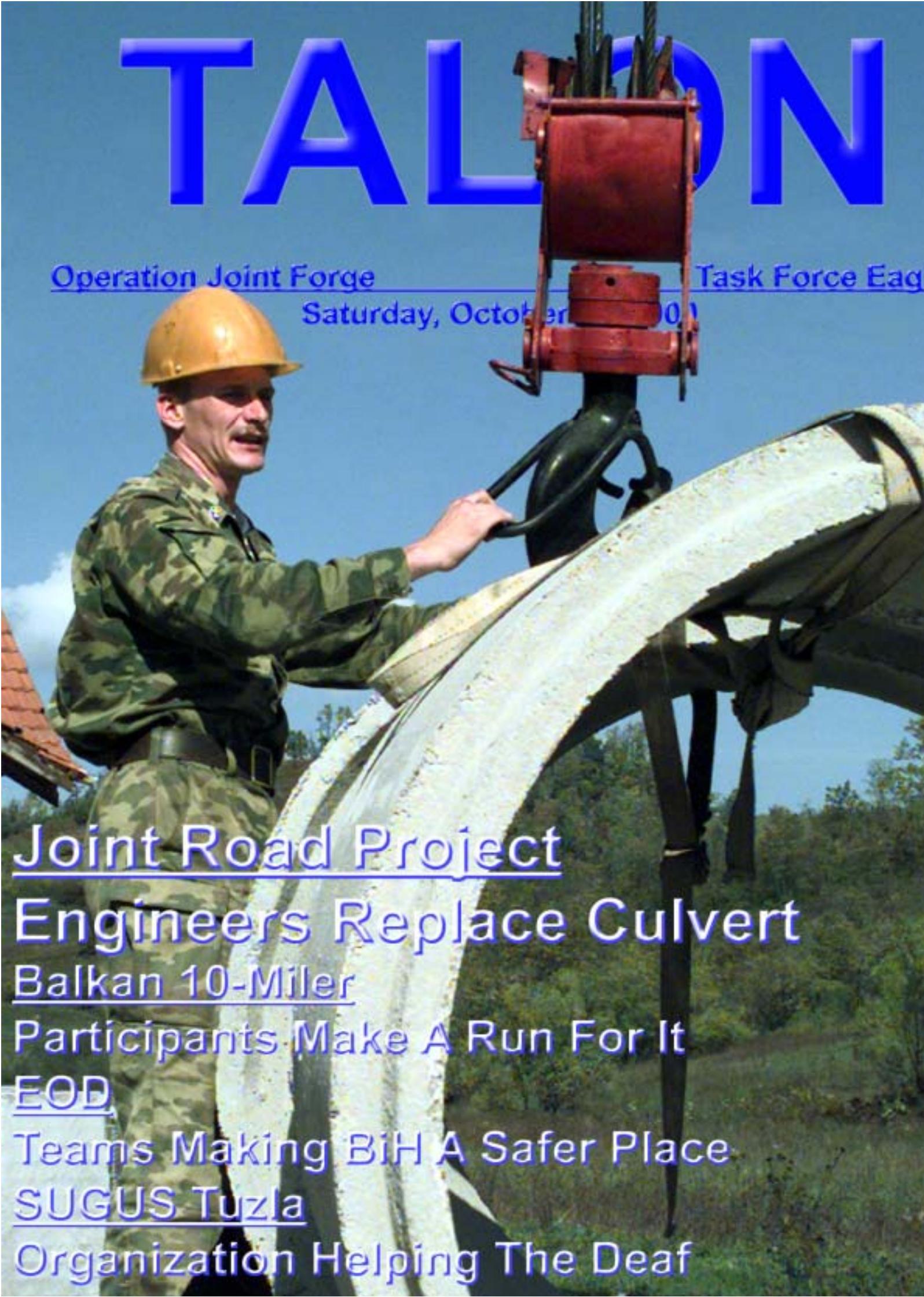


TALON



Operation Joint Forge

Task Force Eagle

Saturday, October 10, 2003

Joint Road Project
Engineers Replace Culvert

Balkan 10-Miler

Participants Make A Run For It

EOD

Teams Making BiH A Safer Place

SUGUS Tuzla

Organization Helping The Deaf

“DON'T JUST COUNT THE DAYS, MAKE THE DAYS COUNT!”

Well, how is it going so far? Are you a person who puts an X through each day on the calendar or are you someone who is so engaged in activity and purpose that time seems to fly by? Are you a “Only 150 more days and I’m outta here.” type person, or are you a “This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” soldier?

How we approach our time in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a daily decision of the will. It is our attitude that really determines the quality of our work in this place not the circumstances of each day. In other words are you a “Good morning God.” type or a “Good God, morning!” type?

As you plan out your time, do as much as you can to vary your schedule and allow some time for spiritual reflection and personal refreshment. Many of you are on tight schedules and may not have much ‘spare time’. I would encourage each of you to take a look at how you are spending your day and make time for being alone writing reading or thinking. When you take time away from the email and the routine you can get a fresh perspective on life.

These personal moments of renewal allow you to take a look at each day from a fresh perspective. It is like seeing a picture from a different angle. You are bound to see new dimensions, which add depth and drama. PT experts tell us to vary our work-out schedules for this very reason. Doing the same activity everyday is really not helpful to the body. We are told to use a new route for running, adjust the mileage, exercise different muscle groups, change the pace. All of these techniques can be directly applied to how you live your life from day to day.

It is early in the rotation, but by now most of us have developed the patterns that will serve us for the next 6 months. How is it going? It will be a shame to look back at your time in Bosnia-Herzegovina and think of it as wasted. Seize the day, make a difference, set some goals or just go for a walk. Throughout each week there are many worship and study opportunities available to you through your chapel. Take advantage of this time to grow spiritually. Then, at the end of your time here, you can say with satisfaction, “I used my time well and made a difference.”

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

Saturday: The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but to he who endures to the end.

Sunday: Purity in the heart produces power in the life.

Monday: Gossip is like mud thrown against the wall: It may not stick, but it sure leave a mark.

Tuesday: The great oak is just a little nut that held its ground.

Wednesday: Some people ask the Lord to guide them; then they reach out and grab the steering wheel.

Thursday: So often the first screw that works loose on a person’s head is the one that holds the tongue in place.

Friday: Read the Bible – It will scare the Hell out of you!

MIKE LEMBKE
TFE Plans & Operations Chaplain

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

The *Talon* is published weekly by the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) 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

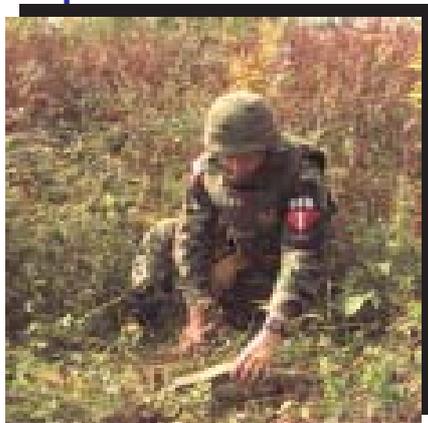
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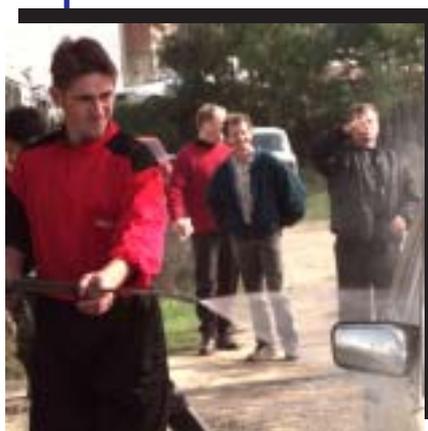
A Russian engineer from the 1st PRSAB attaches a culvert segment to a crane. The culvert project helped to rebuild the main road in Rastosnica. (Photo by Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro)



EOD—ON CALL ANYTIME

5

EOD is making Bosnia-Herzegovina a safer place by being on call 24 hours a day.



SUGOS PLEADS FOR PEOPLE TO LISTEN

11

Vulcanizer/carwash business brings deaf Bosnians a bit of hope.

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WE ARE THE BACKBONE OF MULTINATIONAL DIVISION (NORTH)

By **Command Sgt. Maj. George R. Ruo**

Command Sergeant Major, Multinational Division (North)

No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of soldiers.... These hallowed words from the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer are an inspiration to those who have served in the armed forces as a noncommissioned officer past, present, and future. I write to you today proud of the fact that each of us assumes the responsibility of living this creed each day in the service of our countries.

Since the Transfer of Authority, October 5, I have seen many examples of our multinational noncommissioned officers executing their duties with the Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer reflected in their actions.

It is evident during guard mount when noncommissioned officers conduct detailed inspections of their soldiers assuring preparation for mission. It is evident when a challenging situation arises that requires competent noncommissioned officer leadership, directing soldiers and equipment toward the planned objective. It is evident when a soldier needs someone to talk to or hear an inspirational message that gets them through a challenging situation. These are a few examples of how our noncommissioned officers remain at leadership's forefront as we conduct operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I want to take a few moments to outline a few focus areas where we can continue to strengthen our commitment as we serve others as part of the MND (N) family.

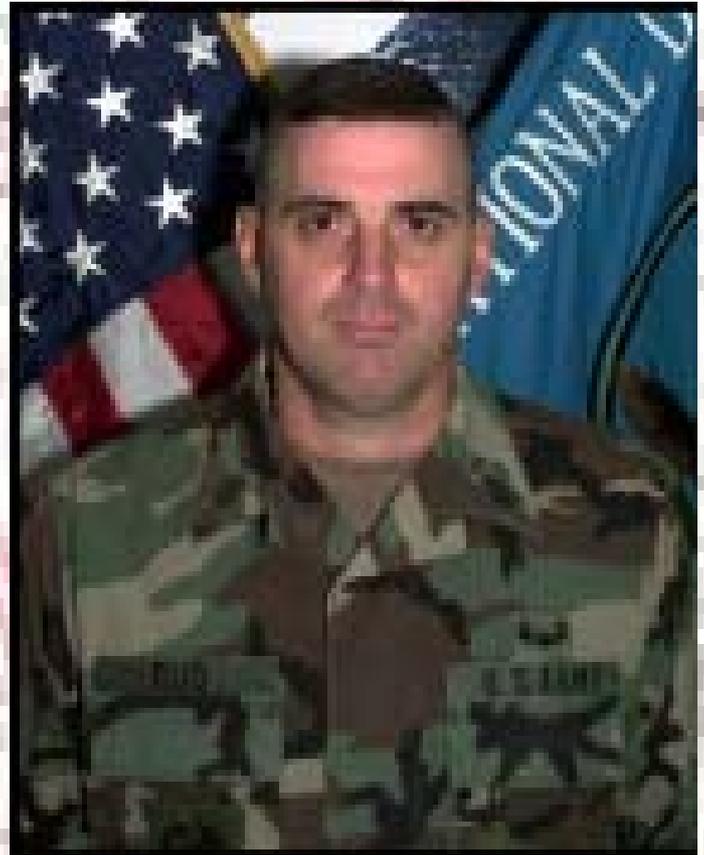
Standards are non-negotiable. Noncommissioned officers are the standard bearers of the military. Standards provide a common measure by which we achieve and maintain our peak performance. As I think about maintaining standards, I am constantly reminded of the phrase "better to choose the tough right, than the easy wrong." These must be our watchwords. We must challenge ourselves everyday to maintain the highest standards of professionalism, competence, and personal excellence in all that we do.

Discipline saves lives. Discipline becomes even more crucial in a deployed environment. We must be on constant guard for complacency that can be targeted by those who would discredit or obstruct the missions we perform. Our soldiers look to us to enforce disciplines that keep them safe and assured that they are doing what is always right.

There are many historical examples where complacency resulted in loss of life and catastrophic injury. We owe it to our soldiers and ourselves to keep a disciplined focus as we continue to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Care of soldiers. One of the greatest tasks charged to noncommissioned officers is the care of their soldiers. We do this in many ways.

First, we must ensure that the mission is always accomplished regardless of the difficulty of task or the amount of resources available. We must develop unique and ingenious methods of accomplishing the missions. Never take the stance that there is



Command Sgt. Maj. George R. Ruo

not enough time or material to accomplish a task. Our leaders look to us to tackle tough missions in the face of adversity. I have seen many examples where our noncommissioned officers have bested a mission with a little thought, a lot of muscle, and a raw determination to get the job done. Our leaders should expect nothing less of us.

Second, training must be at the heart of everything we do. Seek opportunities for training in the conduct of your daily activities.

Whether you are conducting a presence patrol in Srebrenica, providing personnel support to a unit at Camp Uglevik; taking pictures for your unit's webpage at Camp Comanche; or conducting dispatch procedures on your vehicle at Eagle Base, I guarantee if you look hard enough, there is a training opportunity. Individual training creates competent and well-rounded soldiers that can better execute their assigned duties and beyond.

Lastly, find opportunities to have fun. Our mission here is challenging and requires noncommissioned officers to look for opportunities for their soldiers to have some good times while we are here.

There are many recreation programs and facilities on the base camps. These include organized athletics, trips to neighboring towns and sites, and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation performances. Having fun in our mission will provide lasting memories that we will savor for a lifetime.

In closing, it is my privilege to be part of such a professional organization. We, as a coalition and joint organization of partners, represent many countries and cultures, that provide a unique service opportunity during our mission. As I continue my visits to the many areas of MND (N), I hope to meet with you and hear your insights into how to make our area of responsibility better as we support the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**"The 'earthen in 'is blindness bows down to wood an' stone
'E don't obey no orders unless they is 'is own.
The 'earthen in 'is blindness must end where 'e began
But the backbone of the Army is the Non-Commissioned Man!"**

—Rudyard Kipling

EOD: SUPERHEROES EVERY DAY

Story and photos

By Pfc. Jessica E. Revell

102nd MPAD, Camp Dobol

During the war, many people spent time dodging landmines, rockets, and artillery shells. But five years later, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team at Camp Dobol spends their time looking for them. To the local community, they are heroes. They promote safety, save lives, and remove what are reminders of a time many want to forget. But more than blowing stuff up, they are helping to put the pieces back together.

Prior to their arrival in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the 363rd Ordnance Company from Casa Grande, Ariz. took a theater-specific course on ordnance used in this region. Through problem-solving techniques, they were able to master the devices similar to the ones they had trained on in the past.

"There was a lot of first seen ordnance, but we had to be trained on the new and old models to learn how each worked," said Staff Sgt. Michael F. Power.

When the team arrived in country, they were immediately put to work. New incidents were being reported everyday. Most of the reports are from by presence patrols, however, civilians do call the interpreters directly. The team responds to calls in order of immediacy, and is on 24-hour call to ensure maximum safety in their Area of Responsibility.

Most of the unexploded ordnance they find are artillery projectiles, rocket propelled grenades, rifle and fragmentation hand grenades, bomblets, and rockets. The hand grenades are by far the most abundant. They also deal with landmines, but minefields are a job for the Mine Action Center not EOD.

No matter how small the job, the ordnance superheroes eagerly anticipate what they will find. "I wouldn't say any of it is a waste of our time because that's what we're here for: to help the people," said Sgt. Bradley Murphy.

In one instance, a man reported a round that he thought might still be in his yard leftover from the war. He said that while a tank was hammering his house, he was hiding behind it. When the shooting ceased, he found a hole in the ground. He was unsure if the round had skimmed the ground then flew and hit the house, or dove straight into the ground.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Napier and his team went to the man's home on several occasions. The first time, they could not tell where the round had landed and said they would return with the proper tools. After using a magnetometer, they concluded that the round was no longer there.

The group from Camp Dobol works with two, three-man teams. Either Staff Sgt. Power or Staff Sgt. Napier leads each team.

Prior to arriving at a scene the team does research based on information from the report to determine general safeties. They pay close attention to weather conditions, and will not work in

rain, darkness, or a cloudy day. If an explosion or controlled blast occurs, the clouds can actually reflect the sound and blast downward, which can cause windows to break, or create a dangerous environment overall.

Once the team arrives at a scene, they do a long-range reconnaissance. They set up equipment at a safe distance away and ensure the vehicles are also in a safe area. The team leader performs the recon. The second man, known as P2, stays in the safe area and watches with binoculars, sets up tools, controls communication, and documents everything taking place.

During the recon, the team leader takes photos of the ordnance and notes measurements, markings, color and types of metal. They also have a portable x-ray machine used to determine what is inside. All information is used to determine what type of ordnance they are dealing with and the safest way of removing the explosive hazard.

"Naturally, the more information you get, the easier it is to identify," said Staff Sgt. Power.

After gathering the information, they refer to a set of EOD publications to find how the ordnance functions and what safeties to observe. They can also determine what weapon system the UXO is from.

"When we find a new item we do a lot of research, we might take a bunch of x-rays of it, look at it on the inside, the outside, and compare it to stuff that might work the same way," said Staff Sgt. Napier.

The team uses several methods of disposal. They will detonate it in place, burn it, or disarm the firing mechanism. If the explosive effects threaten buildings, homes, heavy equipment, etc., the team performs a 'remote move' with ropes.

EOD considers safety first when detonating ordnance. An area is chosen, usually a large open field, and then blocked off. A formula, based on the amount of explosive in an item, is used to dictate the danger zone.

Next, they determine how much explosive is needed to execute the blast. Composition-4 is used most often, but

TNT may be used instead. Using an M-122 firing device, the wires and blasting caps are strategically placed. An EOD technician holds the transmitter, yells, "Fire in the hole" three times, and then initiates the explosion.

Fear is a natural aspect of the job they have to face. "I have a healthy respect for the potential danger in our job," said Staff Sgt. Power.

"Fear is healthy. It makes you think about what you are doing," said Staff Sgt. Napier.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team puts aside their fears to make Bosnia-Herzegovina a safer place.

"I have a 6-year old son at home and I couldn't help thinking what if he was out here in these woods," added Staff Sgt. Napier.



MEASURE TWICE—As part of reconnaissance on the ordnance, Sgt. Douglas Terbush measures for comparison.



LISTENING FOR THE BEEP—Staff Sgt. Douglas Napier uses a magnetometer to search for a round.

MND(N) 10-M

DEPLOYED SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS PARTICIPATE IN CO-SPONSORED RACE

Story and photos

By Spc. Stephanie L. Bunting
65th PCH, Camp Comanche

Thousands of miles away across the Atlantic Ocean, the Army Ten-Miler race took place in Washington, DC with over 16,000 participants and 700 teams from all over the globe. To make sure their troops, who would normally run in the 10-Miler in DC, as well as the others who accepted the challenge, Army Captains John D. Nawoichyk and D. Scott Varnado, of the 26th Logistics Task Force, co-sponsored an Army 10-Miler at Camp Comanche in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We thought this would be a good chance for the soldiers to get a little relaxation, a little competition and a chance to just enjoy themselves while they're deployed," said Capt. Nawoichyk. With almost 300 soldiers, civilians and local nationals from all over BiH, "it's important to have races like this because it allows (them) to show off their physical fitness level, and it challenges the soldier (and others) and allows camaraderie and

teamwork during the competition," said Capt. Nawoichyk.

One of the participants, Spc. Michael Johnson Jr., from 3rd Soldier Support Battalion and with a run time of 01:14:17, thought the race helped him feel more apart of the team here in BiH. This being his first deployment, "it was a great motivational run. I'm very lucky to be down here and very proud to be a part of this. To actually get out here ... with fellow NATO soldiers and the Bosnians... it's a great stress relief and an ice-breaker, so to speak," said Spc. Johnson.

The fastest female time of 01:16:02 was by Lt. Col. Pauline Knapp, commander of Task Force MED Eagle at Eagle Base and of the 56th Medical Evacuation Battalion back at Fort Bragg in North Carolina. "I haven't ran (in) a lot of races over the last two years, primarily because of my operations tempo at work. Actually, the last race that I ran was the Army 10-Miler last year in Washington, DC," said Lt. Col. Knapp.

Then and now, Lt. Col. Knapp ran as a

member of a team. While as a member of the Fort Bragg Women's Team last year, they took second place overall. "I can't wait to hear how they do this year, because I'm really proud of them," said Lt. Col. Knapp.

The actual Army 10-Miler was taking place on the same day and sure enough Lt. Col. Knapp received her wish. As reported by "Stars and Stripes", the Fort Bragg, NC Women's Team won first in its division. In addition to this win, her new team mates from TFME brought home the "Gold" after winning first place overall in the Multinational Division (North) 10-Miler race.

With first place and the run time of 01:03:21, Russ Rankin, a civilian contractor from Eagle Base, thought the event was a good moral booster for both soldiers and civilians. "I think it's great for the soldiers and civilians here to meet and experience what's it like to live and work with folks from other nations," said Mr. Rankin.

In appreciation for the volunteers, Moral Welfare and Recreation and Army



1ST PLACE—MEN OVERALL
Mr. R. Rankin—1:03:21
Civilian



1ST PLACE—FEMALE OVERALL
Lt. Col. P. Knapp—1:16:02
TFME



2ND PLACE—MEN OVERALL
Pvt. N. Mosin—1:03:48
1PRSAB

MILER

TO THE FINISH—(right) Although the race was filled with tough competition, everyone had fun.



SHINY, HAPPY PEOPLE—(below) Task Force Med Eagle posted the best time in the Mixed Team category.

Air Force Exchange Services, he complimented them for putting together a great way “to pass the time over here”.

MWR members helped with placement and race results. With almost 300 runners to keep track of and record their times and placements, it took a great effort to keep all of that straight.

AAFES provided prizes through a raffle and all who participated in the race had a chance to win “BIG” and receive Army 10-Miler T-shirts.

Even though they may not have ran the fastest, participants had the chance to win hats, stopwatches, towels, Reebok shoe certificates, runners bags and 100-dollar gift certificates.

No task too menial, ‘No Challenge Too Great’, the helping hands from volunteers made this event a success.

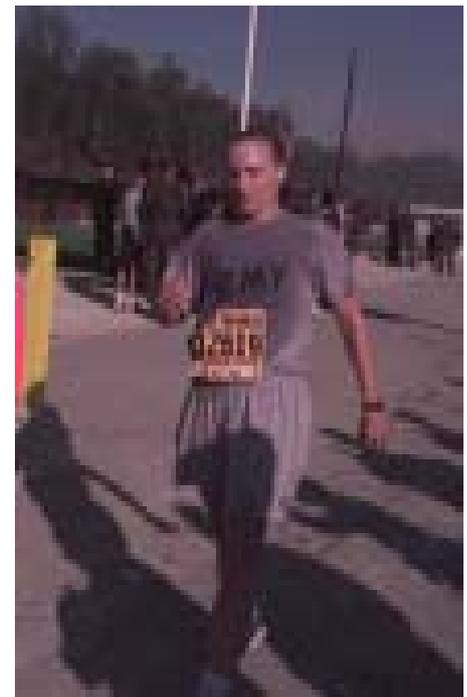
With encouragement from the spectators, their cheering helped urge the runners on to victory. From the winner of the race, “again, thanks to all who put this together and I appreciate it and the best... to everybody,” said Mr. Rankin.



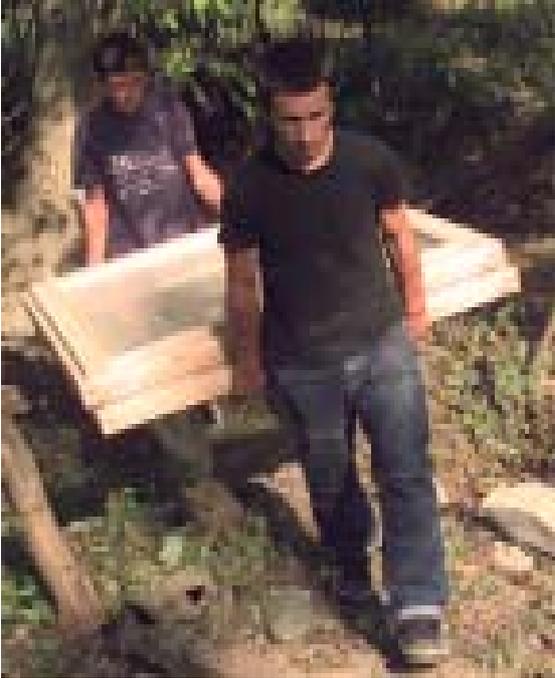
2ND PLACE—FEMALE OVERALL
Pte. J. Brondum—1:16:51
NPBG



3RD PLACE—MEN OVERALL
Maj. W. Spangler—1:03:57
HHC, 3ID (M)



3RD PLACE—FEMALE OVERALL
1st. Lt. P. Emmel—1:18:53
HHC, 3ID (M)



NO MORE HIKING—Rastosnica residents must carry building supplies into town on foot until the new culvert is completed.

Story and photos
By Sgt. Joseph C. DeCaro
65th PCH, Eagle Base

Soldiers of Company A, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), linked-up with their engineer counterparts in the 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade to help rebuild Rastosnica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, by laying a new culvert under the only road into town.

The community here is completely dependent on this road, said Maj. Peter S. Sonnex, assistant division engineer, Multinational Division (North).

He said the new culvert would help the movement of building materials into Rastosnica.

When the old culvert, a large channel that conducted the flow of water under the road, was destroyed, returnees had to carry building materials on foot over the now dry riverbed. But next spring that may be impossible as raging waters from melt-

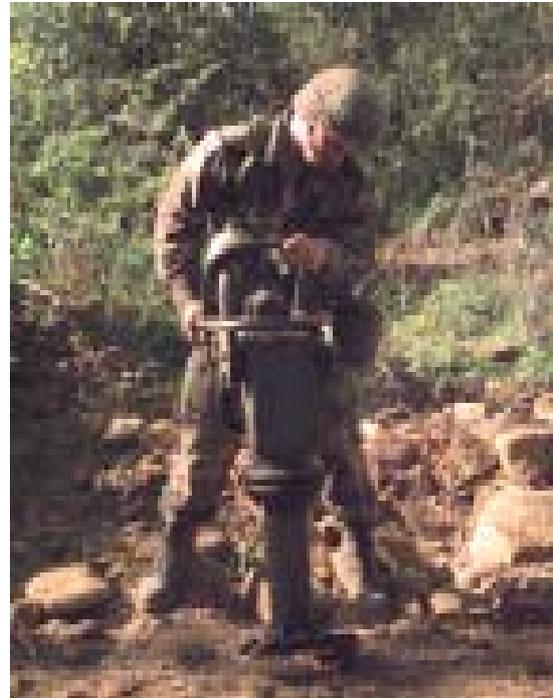
ing snow, which eroded away the soil around the former culvert and destroyed the road, may prevent the passage into and out of the town.

The American and Russian engineers first removed the damaged culvert, then compacted the riverbed with a Tamper while clearing away stones and other large debris. Then 10th Engineers used an excavator to carry separate segments of the culvert to a 1st PRSAB crane, which lowered them into place. The combined engineer teams fitted and sealed the sections together and reinforced them with Hesco bastions, multi-purpose baskets filled with rock or soil, to prevent any further erosion of the road.

“Everything is excellent,” said Cadet Ivan Zadorozhny, 1st PRSAB, who serves as a translator.

Our engineers built bridges with the 49th Armored Division in Celic, so we have lots of experience working and learning from each other, he added.

In appreciation for their work, the townspeople served tea to all the engineers.



ELEPHANT STEPS—Compacting the riverbed, Spc. Brad Giddings uses a tamper, known affectionally as an elephant's foot or whacker-packer, to prepare the ground for the new culvert.

ENGINEERS REPLACE CULVERT



FLATTEN THE RIVERBED—(above) American and Russian Engineers use a tamper to compact the dry riverbed for the new culvert.

TEAMWORK MAKES IT HAPPEN—(left) An excavator delivers a culvert segment as 10th Engineers prepare to fit and seal it in place.

CHAPLAIN'S CONFERENCE BRINGS MND-N CHAPLAINS TOGETHER

Story and photos
By Sgt. Shanon B. Woods
69th PCH, Eagle Base

Auto accidents, bombings, natural disasters, warfare...the list of trauma causing incidents goes on. Occurrence of traumatic incidents probably outnumbers the number of ways to cope with them.

However, various ways to cope and deal with trauma sufferers were presented during one of a series of Unit Ministry Team Chaplain Conferences at Eagle Base Chapel. These conferences are attended by chaplains and chaplain assistants from around Multinational Division (North).

The conferences take place monthly with each centered on a different theme, said Staff Sgt. Ann Todd, chaplain assistant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Chaplain (Maj.) Phillip C. Conner led the class with a session on a five phase process

called Critical Incident Debriefing.

Critical Incident Debriefing involves identifying members of different groups of people involved in a traumatic event who may need treatment. These include people who fall in the following categories: primary, first responders, tertiary responders, witnesses, and family associates.

Once a certified critical event debriefer has identified someone who needs counseling, they can then suggest to the commander that a CID needs to take place.

Chaplain Conner illustrated his points with several firsthand experiences he encountered while stationed in Hawaii.

There was a deadly traffic incident involving a soldier and a local family. Later he had to speak to the firemen who were on the scene, but they were hesitant to speak with him at first. Eventually, he was able to get them to open up.

"People want to talk about

their experiences," he said. "Sometimes it just takes them a while to come around."

Things to be mindful of during a debriefing are to ask the trauma sufferer about the facts of the event, their thoughts about the event, and reaction to the event.

Also, the briefer needs to watch for symptoms and teach the trauma sufferer that some responses to traumatic events are normal.

During the conference, Chaplain Conner presented slides and videos to further illustrate his points.

Before lunch, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Clarke L. McGriff, MND (N) chaplain, presented coins to some distinguished visitors.

After the meal, the chaplains and chaplain assistants broke off into small groups to discuss the day's lesson.

After the conference, attendees felt better prepared to handle tough situations that they may encounter later.

"Once a month, we get to-

gether for UMT," said Staff Sgt. Todd. "Units alternate presenting topics. It promotes cohesiveness and brings out unit basics for the team. Today's conference has shown me how to be more observant of other people. These classes are important because it allows the chaplain's assistant to help the chaplain assess what is going on," said Staff Sgt. Todd.

The conference brought key points to remember to the attention of the chaplain assistants.

"I can relate more with a person and sympathize. I've learned how important it is to get a person to talk," said Spc. Santiago Iriarte, chaplain assistant, HHC, 3ID (M).

"People have various ways of dealing with incidents like death in the family," said Spc. Denneth M. Justice III, chaplain assistant, HHC, 3ID (M).

"How they deal with it and our response to them can be critical to the outcome of their treatment."

MWR HELPS BRING LOVED ONES CLOSER

Story and photos
By Sgt. Shanon B. Woods
69th PCH, Eagle Base

Now you can virtually bring your family, friends and living room to Bosnia-Herzegovina. On October 16, the Eagle Base Cyber Cafe opened at the Eagle's Nest. There, U.S. SFOR yellow cardholders and DoD SFOR cardholders and contractors with Morale, Welfare and Recreation privileges, can use the Cyber Cafe for e-mail, surfing the Web, video teleconferencing, and quickcaming, among other things.

According to Ricardo Black, Brown and Root/MWR coordinator, this Cyber Cafe has been months in the making and thanks to the cooperation of several groups including the Department of Defense, MWR, and Brown and Root, the Cyber Cafe is a reality.

The Eagle Base Cyber Cafe has 20 booths. Each booth is equipped with \$6,000 worth of equipment including a Compaq computer, monitor, Quickcam and PictureTel cameras acquired through MWR funds. There are also printers available at the proctor's desk.

Utilizing the Quickcam, a user can either take still pictures or make 10-15 second videos for e-mailing. The PictureTel cameras are used for video teleconferencing.

"They function in real time and the picture is really clear. Now soldiers can do private VTCs on their own schedule," said Black.

Asmir Nuhanovic, communications technician and head of IT for Brown and Root, was instrumental in networking the com-

puter system and making the Cyber Cafe functional.

"This system is able to make 10kb pictures. Small enough so that the pictures do not take up too much space as an e-mail attachment," he said. "Each computer has an individual Internet Protocol address. If they have the IP address, people at home can reach people stationed here in Bosnia."

The Cyber Cafe doesn't take up Task Force Eagle's daily business bandwidth. In fact, connection speeds are faster.

"This system uses a separate domain, therefore the Cyber Cafe does not interfere with the mission," said Nuhanovic.

The Cyber Cafe is open 24 hours and there is a MWR proctor on duty to sign users in and provide assistance. A technician is on call 24 hours a day for problems.

Twenty minute classes will be scheduled to take place a few times a week to teach users how to use the equipment in the booths, said Black.

Currently, the system is networked with AT&T, but 6 months from now it will be established through the United States Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command. SPAWAR will eventually provide the permanent satellite providing more bandwidth, according to Rob Tate, Spacelink International network engineer and installation team member, Washington, D.C.



SAY CHEESE—Capt. Michael Edwards, G-1 HHC, 3ID (M), tests out the desktop camera at the Eagle Base Cyber Cafe.

THE 26TH FORWARD SUPPORT BATTALION ASSUMES COMMAND

Story and Photos

By Spc. Stephanie L. Bunting
65th PCH, Camp Comanche

With the completion of Stabilization Force Seven, a Transfer of Authority Ceremony brought change to the command and control of mission operations. Throughout this change in authority, mission readiness was maintained by uninterrupted logistical support. This continued support of maintenance, supply, transportation, and medical troops of Camp Comanche successfully upheld the continuing mission here in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

With the “passing the torch”, the 26th Forward Support Battalion, known as the 26th Logistics Task Force in BiH, is commanded by Lt. Col. Jayne A. Carson.

Lt. Col. Carson said that they must “continue with the tradition of excellence of logisticians (previously established). Your challenges will be great. Watch out for each other... maintain your mission focus, do it safely and with pride, exemplifying your motto, ‘No challenge too great.’”

When the 26th LTF unfurled their flag, it symbolized their taking command and control of the responsibilities of providing logistical support during SFOR8. With months of training, the 26th LTF was ready to take charge and will continue to support Task Force Eagle in the same manner Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment did.

In May of 1936, the 26th FSB was formed as the 1st Battalion, 26th Quartermaster Regiment. In support of changes in the military, the 26th FSB was reorganized, redesignated, inactivated, broken up and reorganized throughout its history.



SALUTE—The 26th LTF prepares to hoist their flag and take command and control of mission operations.

The Battalion was deployed in World War II to Northern France, central Europe and the Pacific Theater. During this time, they were awarded a streamer (no inscription), the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), and streamer embroidered for the Pacific Area from 1965 to 1966.

The 26th LTF troops have every reason to be proud of their unit and themselves.

With a well-trained and disciplined unit who are proud and fully confident in their abilities, “I have full faith they will continue to support Task Force Eagle in the superb manner that the Support Squadron did. Farewell Brave Rifles, your job here is done and the 26th LTF has assumed the mission,” said Lt. Col. Carson.

The Support Squadron, 3rd ACR, commanded by Lt. Col. Stephen M. Corcoran, provided outstanding support for their troops at Camp Comanche while deployed to the Balkans during Operation Joint Forge. Their presence allowed Comanche soldiers, aviators and command staff to always be prepared to meet the next challenge.

The history of the Support Squadron, 3rd ACR began on November 11th, 1977 and their mission was to provide logistical operation support. In 1985, Support Squadron was activated with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Maintenance Troop, and Supply and Transportation Troop. August of 1987 saw the addition of the Medical Troop and K Company. The 158th Aviation was attached in September of 1997. This brought the Squadron to its current organizational structure.

From conception in 1977 to the Balkans, Support Squadron has continued its “proud tradition” of providing support for the regiment and always going where needed.

“I’ve have said many times that it’s not how you start a marathon that’s important, but how you finish,” said Lt. Col. Corcoran. “The ‘muleskinner team’ safely completed and professionally executed every mission and with that, ‘I say thank you.’”



CHANGEOVER—As his soldiers look on, Command Sgt. Maj. Albert Newton unfurls the flag.

DEAF ORGANIZATION PLEADS

FOR THOSE TO LISTEN

Story by Air Force 2nd Lt. Karen Roganov
Air Force Liaison, CPIC
Photos by Staff Sgt. Fred E. Gurwell
Combat Camera

The future seems unclear for the deaf and hearing-impaired people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as they are struggling to meet basic requirements of existence. Still, one recent work project seems to be bringing deaf Bosnians a bit of hope.

The Civil Military Cooperation Battalion met in Srebrenica to check up on a newly formed car wash and tire repair business run by people from the Multitude of Associations of the Citizens with Impaired Hearing in Tuzla Canton (SUGOS Tuzla), October 11.

"We wanted to do something so we could provide for our families," said Mirsad Kesetovic, president of SUGOS. "Of the 4,500 deaf people in the Tuzla Cantonal area of Bosnia-Herzegovina, under one percent are employed. Only two are attending a university."

University programs are almost exclusively geared for the hearing, he added. With BiH slowly recovering from war, the needs of the deaf community seem to get last priority, he said.

And so the deaf community is left to their own initiative to make something of their future.

With a corner piece of land donated by the Srebrenica municipality, six men opened up the "Vulcanizer," a Serbo-Croatian word for tire repair. The business also includes a hand car wash.

"When the weather is good, we'll wash 20 to 25 cars. That's 5-Duetsche marks, inside and out," said Kesetovic contently.

The men brag of having the best quality equipment in all the Srebrenica area. "It's brand new. Others have used equipment," said Saud Mesic, who runs the business and is a car mechanic by trade.

It was because of Kesetovic's efforts that the business has the equipment they do. He went "door-to-door" looking for help, and he found some.

Almost 45,000 DM worth of tire balancing and washing equipment was donated by The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit.

Owned by the Federal Republic of Germany, the organization operates as a private-sector enterprise with a goal to make sustainable improvements to the living conditions of people in partner countries.

The biggest difficulty for them is to know there are many more deaf people who would like a chance to work, commented Raif Fejzic, president of the Zivince Association of SUGOS.

Fejzic has a wife and two kids. Before working at the car wash,

RUB-A-DUB—Senad Cudic pressure washes a Mercedes.



FINAL TOUCHES—Saud Mesic puts the finishing touches on the windshield of a car.

he said with a laugh, that he was "just wandering."

The six people at the Vulcanizer work for more than just their own families though. After upkeep, expenses, and salaries are taken out, a third of the profits go to SUGOS.

"We have an executive board to make decisions, and we buy food for the poorest families, things like sugar and flour and clothing," Fejzic said.

Another car pulled up. The car owner said he found out about the car wash just driving by.

The language barrier didn't seem to be an issue. "We can follow lips," Fejzic said.

When the business opened up about a year ago, the TV and radio coverage from the ribbon cutting ceremony brought customers. Now much of the business is word of mouth, Fejzic stated whole-heartedly. "People come here just because they want to help us."

Despite the success of the Vulcanizer business, the servicemen still live with uncertainty.

Since the land the business sits on is based on a courtesy loan, it can be pulled at anytime, Fejzic said. "It could be two months or two years."

Just the fact that the deaf group was getting some outside attention seemed to be energizing for them. They bustled about demonstrating how their pieces of equipment work.

"We (CIMIC) act as a liaison between the civilian population, the local government, SFOR (Stabilization Force) and the international organizations," said Maj. Julie Roche, team leader for the economic action group.

CIMIC provided the group with a contact list of organizations that give micro credits and grants.

"Whether they get the help, is between the international organization and SUGOS," Maj. Roche said. "But we've also found a few people who work with groups who have special needs, like SUGOS does."

Fejzic said he has goals to open similar Vulcanizer businesses. But it seems simple desires drive his ambition to think about his community. "There are 25-year-olds who can't get a job, and kids who have not had chocolate."

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



A MAN WITH A RUCKSACK

Story by Maj. Michael Rybchinski

Translation by Cadet Alex Dorofeev and Cadet Andrew Lyubimov

1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade

In the 1st PRSAB one can often see Lt. Col Romanuik with a heavy rucksack on his back. At first sight, he may seem to be trying to improve his PT score, but that is not really the case. Those in the know realize that Lt. Col Romanuik is a military ecologist, and that in his rucksack there is a set of technical gear for checking the ecological environment. Some people probably think this is an easy process. But Lt. Col Romanuik knows that environmental standards leave much to be desired, and that explains why twice a month he humps his rucksack and takes samples of air, water, and soil for analysis. Besides this, he checks and monitors daily activities of Russian soldiers at their base camps.

Having finished military engineering high school in the town of Kamensk – Podolsk in 1981, Lt. Col Romanuik could not imagine that his future career would be in logistics units, serving in the position of a military ecologist. As a young lieutenant, full of strength and energy, he began to teach his soldiers. At first it was rather hard, but Lt. Col Romanuik wasn't afraid of difficulties. He knew that military service could be challenging, and that good officers pass their knowledge on to their soldiers.

Lt. Col Romanuik has held a variety of positions and ranks. But in every assignment, he has been recognized as a highly professional officer. He has been awarded with many medals, one of which commemorates excellent service in the Russian Army of the Third Level.

In 1999, Lt. Col Romanuik successfully completed the Environmental Officers' Course and was sent to the ecologist position in the 1st PRSAB. To date, he has demonstrated ample skill in fulfilling the challenging tasks facing him on a daily basis.