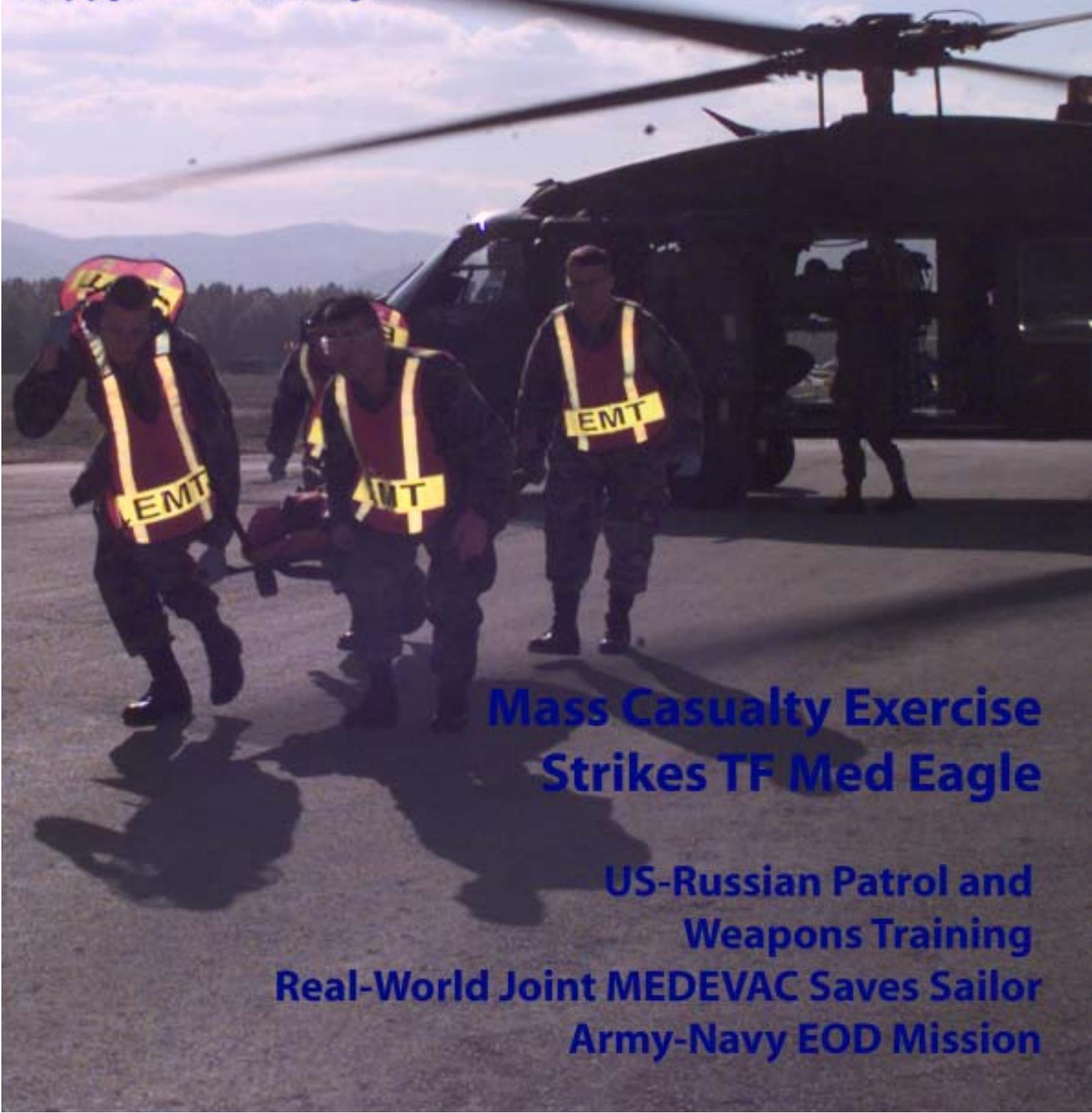


TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, November 4, 2000
Happy Veterans Day!

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



**Mass Casualty Exercise
Strikes TF Med Eagle**

**US-Russian Patrol and
Weapons Training
Real-World Joint MEDEVAC Saves Sailor
Army-Navy EOD Mission**

CONNECTED THROUGH CREATIVITY

One of the things I have found encouraging in this war torn country is the beauty of God's creations all around us. One needs only to see the rolling hills, auburn sunsets, and the colorful fall foliage to appreciate the dichotomy of our environment.

On a recent trip, 'outside the wire,' I was reminded of just how much this area of the world reminds me of home. From the fall leaves of a Pennsylvania forest to the subtle mountain range of eastern Tennessee. From the tall dried corn stalks of an Iowa farm to the meandering streams of the Ohio River valley region. In the mist of all this beauty, one cannot avoid the conclusion that we are all connected. If not through religion, politics, or a common heritage, we are connected through the very fact we are all apart of God's creative act.

Considering that fact, we are unique, and in our uniqueness, we are important to God. The Bible states that we are his children and that he loves us and wants to care for us. It is here we stray from what God has planned for us from the very beginning. Seeing ourselves as a child of God is one thing, allowing him to care for us is another. The latter requires us to trust him with our lives.

It is much easier, so we think, to care for ourselves than to place our lives into his care. We cling to the misguided notion that true happiness comes from a self-reliance void of God's intervention. Nothing could be further from the truth. True happiness comes from allowing God to care for us as a parent would care for a child. We are God's highest creation and we are special because he loves us.

So as you view the beauty of nature, remember you are an expression of God's creative act and you are special. Have a great day.

Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: When you are in the wrong place, your right place is empty.

Sunday: God gives strength in proportion to the strain.

Monday: Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans.

Tuesday: Man's limited potential underscores God's limitless power.

Wednesday: If your face reflected your God, what would you see when you looked in the mirror.

Thursday: A happy marriage exists when the couple is as deeply in love as they are in debt!

Friday: God knew all about the wickedness of the world, and STILL thought it worth saving.

Chaplain (MAJ) Dave Crary
2nd Brigade Chaplain

Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.

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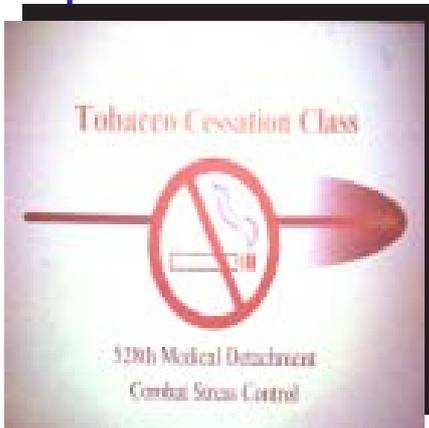
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A UH-60 Blackhawk hovers as members of Task Force Med Eagle remove a casualty from the aircraft during a recent mass casualty exercise. (Photo By Sgt. Dave Lietz)



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Soldiers all around MND (N) now have the support to quit smoking. (Photo by Spc. Christopher D. Carney)



SUNKEN MUNITIONS RECOVERED NEAR BRCKO

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Army and Navy EOD detachments recover an anti-tank mine from a sunken ferry. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Adrian D. Groggett, US Army, and Store Keeper 1st Class Dave Early, US Navy)

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Correction: The November 4, 2000 *TALON*, on page 5, misspelled Staff Sgt. Michael O. Williams name in the lower-left photo. In the soldier's spotlight, the upper left photo should have read Chief Warrant Officer 5 Peter Kalogris (left) and Sgt. Thanh Phan.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN...

By Command Sgt. Maj. George Ruo

Command Sergeant Major, Multinational Division (North)

Now that we have been in country for a over month, I am sure most of you have begun to establish milestones for yourself in terms of professional development, personal objectives and a desired end state that you would like to achieve during our deployment. As professionals we must take a hard look at our duty performance and always modify and shape our professional development objectives respective of our current situation. Often we can get into a 'comfort zone,' where we might cease to challenge ourselves and if not careful could stagnate in our professional development as noncommissioned officers.

When creating our own professional development 'scheme of maneuver,' we need look no further than the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report. On the reverse side of the NCOER are focus areas that can help us gauge our duty performance. Furthermore, these areas are what our leaders use to rate our performance. That being said, it is not my intention for us to become 'NCOER focused,' but rather use this performance-measuring tool as an azimuth by which we strive for professional excellence here in Multinational Division (North).

Competence. No one should know your job better than you. Simply stated, possessing competence enables others to focus on their jobs and not have to worry about yours. Along with competence comes the driving desire to seek self-improvement in order to sustain a top-notch duty performance. As the standard bearers of the MND (N), our leaders can expect nothing less of us.

"Competence is my watch-word..."

Physical fitness and military bearing. We must always maintain ourselves in top physical condition to have the stamina to sustain our operational and personnel tempo. Missions are challenging and require a physically fit force to surpass every hurdle. There are many opportunities to continue to achieve your physical fitness objectives. Don't fall into a routine of; job, hit the mess hall and hit the rack. Find opportunities to get a good work out, and always motivate your soldiers to do the same. The added benefit of staying physically fit is that you maintain a professional appearance. We all know that your physical appearance carries a lot of weight with your subordinates, peers and superiors. You will find that balancing work and physical fitness assists in maintaining a positive attitude, professional appearance and winning spirit every day of your deployment.

"No one is more professional than I..."

Leadership. The cornerstone function of the NCO is our ability to influence, motivate and direct our soldiers. Those we lead expect positive and capable leadership as we continue to assist this nation in building a safe and secure environment for its people. We also must always live the creed of Be, Know and Do, which outlines the manner we execute our leadership duties. Live our duty, be competent in our mission and achieve the objective required by our leaders. I challenge everyone to always build upon their leadership excellence through study, feedback and continuing to build a heart-felt desire to 'be all you can be.'

"All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership..."

Training. As I said in my last article, training is at the heart of what we do. NCO's must identify training opportunities during the course of their soldier's duties. Training must be planned,



Command Sgt. Maj. George R. Ruo

rehearsed and professionally executed, with an after action review identifying methods of improving performance. The challenge is to identify these training opportunities soon enough so they can be incorporated into all operations. Do not pass up an opportunity to train your soldiers. We owe it to them to develop their potential as future leaders of our organizations and beyond.

"My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind; accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers..."

Responsibility and Accountability. Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions. We must take professional and personal ownership of our mission, personnel and property. Accountability is being responsible for the resources that have been provided to do our mission. We must be honest stewards of resources through the conservation and measured use of money, equipment, supplies and time. Our respective governments provide us with the needed facilities, equipment and money to accomplish our mission. We must continue to maintain their trust while we carefully manage our resources through maximizing efficiencies and minimizing waste. This is an awesome responsibility that all must take seriously as we care for these precious commodities.

"Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine..."

As we continue this important mission together, I hope all NCO's have begun an action plan for their own professional development. These focus areas described, provide us with direction as we continue to refine our professional development objectives. Continue to seek further input from those around you. Share your good ideas with others as we collectively strengthen the 'backbone' of the MND (N).

Rock of the Marne!

**Italicized statements from The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer.*

MASS CASUALTY EXERCISE ON EAGLE BASE HELPS HONE MED EAGLE'S SKILLS



LIFT— Part of the Med Eagle crew prepares to load a casualty onto an ambulance.

Story and Photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

A mass casualty exercise on Oct. 31 utilized the resources and skill of the Task Force Med Eagle staff at Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“Three different scenarios: a vehicle accident, an aircraft fire on the flight-line and a weapons storage site explosion, were used to validate our mass casualty procedures,” said Task Force Med Eagle Commander Lt. Col. Pauline Knapp.

“Everybody was actively engaged. The goal is to treat, stabilize, return to duty or evacuate the patient by strategic aircraft if needed,” said Lt. Col. Knapp. “This is the first exercise for the

PULSE— Maj. Paul Bonucci, chief of emergency medicine and primary care, checks vital signs of a casualty.



MOVE OUT—Med Eagle personnel quickly move a casualty from the helicopter to a more stable destination.

Med Eagle staff since our transfer of authority so it's an excellent opportunity for team building.”

During the exercise, medical personnel, working as a team, learned about off-loading patients from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter and the Danish SISU (an armored ambulance).

“The medical personnel here removed the patients from the helicopter in a very professional way,” observed Sgt. Peter Ronne, Danish Army SISU Commander.

An Air Force liaison officer standing by provided the ability to have a C-9 Nightingale or C-17 Globemaster aircraft within the hour to evacuate critical patients for treatment to Landstuhl, Germany, if unable to treat them here.

The exercise is a good opportunity to test the communications system and access the medical team and equipment capabilities, according to Lt. Col. Knapp.

“One of the other areas tested was the ability to handle our own internal crash accident plan involving the crash of a Task Force Med Eagle flight crew, could potentially become extremely emotional for soldiers within the organization having to treat one of their own,” said Lt. Col. Knapp. “Also, to control the information back to home station which has a significant impact on the families back home.”

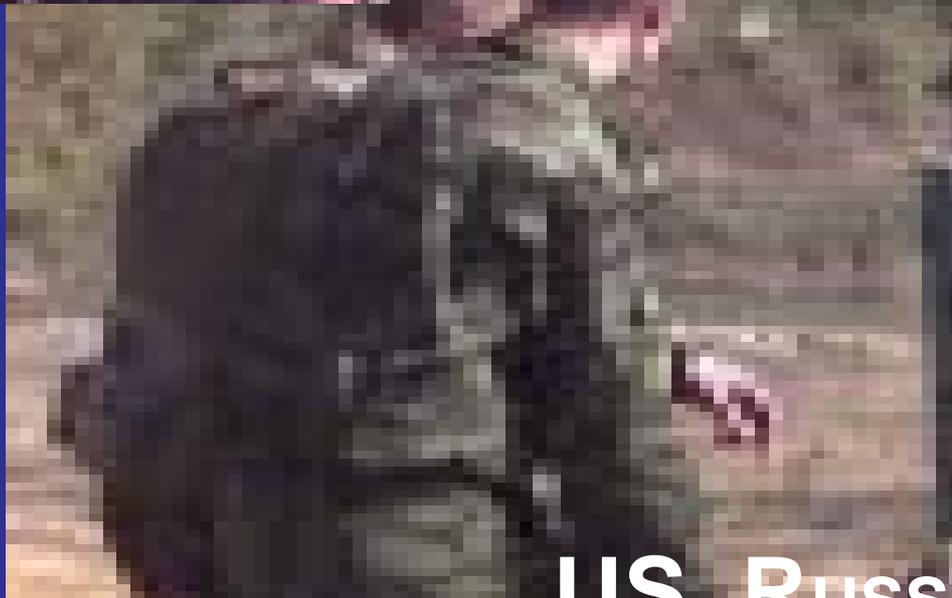
There is also a full-time Russian interpreter available to handle the communication needs of a Russian patient.

“It's really great training,” said Danish Army Nurse Hanne Jespersen. “We need this training so that we can learn to work well together. I learned a lot of things today.”

Task Force Med Eagle Hospital is a level-3 care facility. They have 20 beds and can expand up to 40 beds if needed. The hospital is equipped with two complete operating rooms for general surgery, seven ICU beds and four ground ambulances including the SISU. It also has a pharmacy, a laboratory, X-ray capability, CAT scans, and ultrasound and dental/optometry.



TEAMWORK— (above) 2nd. Lt. Cary Adams and Sgt. Donald E. Ulbricht eagerly await their turn to fire while (above center) other soldiers are briefed on the weapons by a Russian officer. (below) Staff Sgt. Michael Dunfee practices safety techniques before firing the AK-74 and then aims down range (center) to engage his targets. (top right) Rockets were also fired downrange, as this Russian soldier demonstrates.



US, RUSSIA DURING LIVE

Story and Photos

By Spc. Christopher D. Carney

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Members of Bravo Company, 1-64th AVN, participated in a joint U.S.- Russian patrol activity at Lazare Vica, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bravo Company linked up with a group of Russian soldiers from the 1st Motor Rifle Division, 1st Sector of Multination Division (North), north of the town of Lazare Vica. Soldiers from both groups took the opportunity to interact and exchange information.

To increase interaction between the units Bravo Company and the Russian patrol rode in a BTR-80, an armored personnel carrier. The Russian patrol also rode in the company's armored Humvees.

Once at the range in Lazare Vica, the Russians showed the U.S. soldiers the assembly and disassembly of the AK-74 assault rifle.

They continued with a safety demonstration and then tested the U.S. soldiers' marksmanship skills to the test by firing both of the rifles.

"We didn't expect to fire the weapons," said 2nd. Lt. Cary Adams.



RUSSIAN FORCES SHOW TEAM CONCEPT LIVE FIRE EXERCISE

Armor, 3d ID (M) recently took part in a live fire exercise and weapons familiarization in Zvornik, Bosnia on October 31.

American paratroopers that morning in the Russian town of Zvornik. Upon meeting, introductions were given and an opportunity to take photographs.

Both American and Russian troops were invited to ride along with the American M109 howitzer carrier, and Russian soldiers were invited to ride along with the American M109 howitzer carrier.

American soldiers briefed the American soldiers on the use of the M109 and the Dragonov SVD sniper rifle.

Both sides were allowed to put their hands on the weapons.

2nd Lt. Cary Adams. "The hospitality of the

Russians is great."

For most American soldiers this was their first opportunity to work and interact face to face with the Russian soldiers.

Sgt. Donald E. Ulbricht explained his experience. "I've been in the Army for a while and this is the first chance I've had to meet with the Russians," he said. "I found them to be thoughtful soldiers."

"For me this is why I joined the Army. I joined to be able to see foreign countries, to train and to fire weapons. If I could do this again I would do it in a minute," said Sgt. Ulbricht.

2nd Lt. Adams explained the benefits of joint procedures. "It's good for the Army in general, and is one of the plusses of being deployed. It's good for my guys to get the experience of being around foreign armies," said 2nd Lt. Adams.

Following the weapons firing Bravo Company traded American patches for Russian ones and American MRE's for Russian MRE's.

A short informal meeting between American and Russian soldiers also took place, and both sides agreed that the day's events were beneficial and that it would be in the interests of both Armies to continue such relationships.

RISKY MEDEVAC SAVES SAILORS LIFE

Story and Photo

By Spc. Matthew Burrell
318th PCH, Eagle Base

It started with a telephone call on the morning of Nov. 1. The night before, on Halloween, an American sailor fell 40 feet off of a wall and woke up ten hours later in a Croatian hospital.

The sailor's ship, the USS George Washington, an aircraft carrier, was anchored less than a mile off shore from the coastal town of Dubrovnik, Croatia. The telephone call was from the ship's doctor to an American military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

The sailor needed medical care beyond what was available from the small local hospital or aboard the ship. After exhausting all other options, the hospital in Germany then called on 'The Original Dustoff'.

The 57th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) is based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The unit is nicknamed 'The Original Dustoff' because it was the first helicopter ambulance unit to exist in the US military. The 57th Medical Company has been an Air Ambulance unit since the early days of the Vietnam War. Today the 57th has 15 UH-60A Blackhawk helicopters and more than 100 personnel. Six of those aircraft, along with crews and support personnel, are deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge.

After receiving the request for air ambulance support, the 57th Medical Company, part of Task Force Medical Eagle (TFME) on Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina, began planning for the mission. Was it possible to send an aircraft to the Croatian coast to pick up the patient? Is the weather good enough to get there and back? Have all other options truly been exhausted? Who will fly the mission? These are some of the questions that needed answers before the mission was a 'go'. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Phillips, pilot-in-command, explained the adversity the future held.

"This is not something we would try during a training mission," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillips.

The sailor had broken one arm, both legs, and three ribs. He had possibly damaged his spine and other internal organs and had several lacerations on his head. The 20 year-old needed to get to a higher level medical treatment facility, and soon. Medical professionals determined that the sailor needed to get to the hospital in Germany as soon as possible. An Air Force C-130 cargo plane would fly from Germany to Eagle Base to pick him up, but the sailor needed to get to Eagle Base.

The 57th Medical Company has two

MEDEVAC crews on duty at Eagle Base at all times. On this day, the crew of EVAC 02 consisted of: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillips, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Smelser-pilot, Staff Sgt. Richard Rigsby-crew-chief, and Sgt. 1st Class Donald McMillon-flight medic.

For Chief Warrant Officer 2 Smelser, this was his first "real" MEDEVAC.

"We could be here another six or seven months and not do another one," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Smelser.

The aircrew began planning the mission by calling the Air Force Weather Detachment at Camp Comanche. The weather forecaster had bad news. There was a storm moving in and it would be here for more than 24 hours. The forecaster advised against going on the flight because low (at the surface) clouds would prevent the helicopter from reaching the injured sailor.

The sailor's only chance of making it to the hospital in Germany would be if a helicopter from the 57th Medical Company were

was as little as one mile and the clouds as low as 500 feet.

EVAC 02 had arrived safely at Dubrovnik where a US Navy SH-60 helicopter awaited with the patient. The Army flight medic and a Navy flight surgeon prepared the patient for the flight and transferred him from the Navy Sea Hawk to the Army Black Hawk. EVAC 02 was off again, with the sailor and a Navy flight surgeon as well, now attempting to return to Eagle Base.

The crew elected to stop and refuel in Mostar, due to the poor weather. After departing Mostar though, the sun began to set. What little visibility they had was gone, increasing the risk to all involved. Fortunately, the aircrew was trained, prepared and equipped for flying with night vision goggles (NVG's). Unfortunately, the weather had gotten worse over the course of the day as well. Now, in addition to low visibility, low clouds, and high mountains, the crew had to deal with heavy rain. All while wearing NVG's with zero illumination.

Once EVAC 02 was north of Sarajevo, the weather began to improve and the crew hurried back to Eagle Base and the waiting C-130. After landing safely back in Tuzla, the injured US Navy sailor was transferred from the Army helicopter to the Air Force plane and flown to Germany.

This was truly a joint service mission. The patient went from Navy, to Army, to Air Force care, and from Croatia, to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and then to Germany. The French military provided fuel for the helicopter during the two stops in Mostar. Servicemembers from many nations came together to help the American sailor. Most of them work behind the scenes providing support.

"It's a great example of people working together. Our job is to cover MND (N), and the sailor is not a part of that region," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillips.

The aircrew of the 57th Medical Company had gone above and beyond the call of duty that day, they were not just 'doing their job'. On this single mission, the aircrew flew more than 200 miles and logged four hours of flight time, 1.4 while wearing NVG's. The crew had been advised not to fly by the weather forecaster. They could have come back to Tuzla after encountering the poor weather. Instead EVAC 02 chose to push-on and provide dedicated, selfless service to our fighting forces.

"It feels good to succeed when these forces are against you, and you were advised not to proceed by the weather forecast," concluded Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillips.



DUSTOFF—The UH-60 Blackhawk Crew part of 'The Original Dustoff', (from left to right) Sgt. 1st Class Donald McMillon, Staff Sgt. Richard Rigsby, CW2 Michael Phillips, and CW2 Kevin Smelser.

to somehow make it to and from Dubrovnik, a total of more than 100 miles. The DUSTOFF crew decided that they wouldn't give up on the flight. Against the better judgement of the weather forecaster, the crew of EVAC 02 tookoff for the Croatian coast. The crew knew that if the weather was bad they could turn around and come back to Eagle Base. They also knew that if they did not go get this American sailor, nobody would.

The flight would take the crew south past Sarajevo, through Mostar (located in MND (S), or French sector, Bosnia-Herzegovina), into Croatia, and down the coast to Dubrovnik. Much of the flight was spent flying through narrow river valleys where mountains rose on each side and disappeared into clouds. Visibility at times

SMOKERS TRY TO QUIT AT CESSATION CLASSES.

Story and Photo
By Spc. Christopher Carney
318th PCH, Eagle Base

People go through many trying and difficult times in their lives, and as soldiers, the stresses and strains are often much greater than the average person has to face.

People deal with that stress in different ways. One way is doing something that we all know is not healthy for us: smoking. The dangers of smoking are great and trying to quit can be a difficult task. The 528th Combat Stress Control Detachment, TF Med Eagle, attempts to help soldiers with this difficult task.

They currently hold a smoking cessation class designed to help soldiers who want to quit. The 1st class was held here at Eagle Base on Nov. 3, at the request of soldiers who want to quit. The class will be held at 9 a.m., every Saturday at the Medical Education Center on Eagle Base. Contact your local aid station at for their schedule.

Maj. Jorge Torres, the 528th CSDC Officer in Charge and TF Med Eagle Army Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, knows what it's like to quit smoking. He feels his personal experience quitting helps him because he knows what people are going through and also, they know he went through the same thing.

Maj. Torres commented on the class, "We are basically adapting to a need. Soldiers said they would like help and we give it to them. If we can help just one soldier quit then we have made a difference for him and his family."

The class covers all of the aspects of smoking and what it takes to quit. It helps people determine why they smoke and how they can alter their behavior in order quit. Sgt. Larry Rabideau, who attended the class, carries an empty pack of cigarettes with toothpicks in it so when he gets the urge to smoke he can just pull one out. The class demonstrates that quitting smoking is not just the physical symptoms but there are psychological obstacles as well.

Sgt. James Dixon, a friend of Sgt. Rabideau, said that the two will work together to quit smoking.

Major Torres likes the idea, "that is an ideal situation: when people who know each other quit together. It helps to have someone who is going through the same thing," added Maj. Torres.

November 16 is the 'Great American Smokeout' which is the ideal day to stop smoking for good. Every year people are challenged to stop smoking on that one day.

"The goal is to get people to quit for one day," said Major Torres. "This shows them that if they can quit for one day then they can quit for the rest of their life."

Posters will be set up before the 16th, also at 10:00 A.M. there will be a class held in building 14 at Eagle Base.

The 528th CSC would like to encourage anyone who is thinking about quitting smoking and living a healthier life, and would like a little extra help, to feel free to contact them or attend one of the classes.

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST HELD AT CAMP MCGOVERN AS PART OF HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

Story and Photos
By Spc. Jodie M. Moore
318th PCH, Camp McGovern

Bring on the pumpkins and sharpen all *Leathermans* was a cry heard at Camp McGovern Oct. 31. Halloween was celebrated at Camp McGovern with a pumpkin-carving contest sponsored by AAFES. All amateur and professional carvers showed up to slice their way into the history books.

3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) pumpkins, haunted houses, witches, cats and bats all competed for the top spot. Competition was sharp, but judge Staff Sgt. Amin Noormohamed, 3 ID (M), was up to the challenge.

Staff Sgt. Noormohamed invited all passing soldiers to throw their skills on the table and compete in the contest.

Friendly banter was tossed out between contestants. Battle lines were drawn. Only one person would walk away with the prize.

After the votes were tallied, the winner, Staff Sgt. Charles L. Nay, C 3-15 Infantry, 3 ID (M), claimed a \$25 AAFES gift certificate, a CD of choice, and a pair of headphones as prizes for winning the pumpkin-carving contest.



CONCENTRATION - Spc. Anthony J. Price, C 3-15 Infantry, 3 ID (M), draws the image he will later carve on his pumpkin. Price was awarded second prize for his haunted house pumpkin.



SMILE—American 1st Platoon, C Company, 3-15 Infantry, poses with the Russian Reconnaissance Team, 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade.



TRANSLATION—Capt. Raymond Hackler, Foreign Area Officer, with the Marshall Center, translates between 1st Lt. Sattersfield and Capt. Saks at Camp McGovern

JOINT PATROL INCREASES COHESIVENESS BETWEEN US AND RUSSIAN UNITS

Story and Photos

By Master Sgt. Brian D. O'Connors

65th PCH, Eagle Base

As the morning mist slowly lifts at Camp Ugljevik, home of the Reconnaissance Team 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade, the Russian Recon Team under the command of Capt. Dennis Saks, is to move out and head to Camp McGovern for a joint patrol exercise with their American counterparts, 1st Platoon, C Company, 3-15 Infantry.

Accompanying the Russian personnel carrier (BTR-80) was a US Army High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle (Humvee), with members of the Special Forces Team from 1st Group, Ft. Lewis, Washington, who are stationed at Camp Ugljevik, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The team has facilitated countless joint training mission between Russian forces and other units of Multinational Division (North).

The SF team members will be assisting with translation during the operations briefing and helping the American and Russian soldiers get to know each other.

The purpose of the exercise is to familiarize both units with their counterparts procedures, techniques and equipment to help prepare for future joint missions consisting of two or more peacekeeping forces. Another purpose of the exercise is to present to the local population in both the Federation and Republic that all nations involved in SFOR are working together to maintain permanent peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

When the Russian team arrived at Camp McGovern, they were met by 1st Lt. John Satterfield, Platoon Leader of 1st Platoon, C Company, 3-15 Infantry. The first order of business was the American Operation Order showing the route of the patrol through the Brcko area. The stop at Camp McGovern also gave the Russians a chance to show off their equipment to the soldiers of 3-15 Infantry, many of which had not seen the Russian armored personnel carrier up close.

With the operations order (OPORD) issued, it was time to mount up and move out. The Patrol left Camp McGovern and headed into Brcko to conduct a mounted patrol. Unlike most military operations, the mission did not go as planned. Due to unscheduled road construction by the Brcko municipality, the planned route had to be altered to go around the construction site. This minor inconvenience was quickly overcome and the patrol adjusted to the new route accordingly.

After spending the morning patrolling the streets of Brcko, 1st Platoon hosted their new Russian friends to lunch at the Camp McGovern dining facility, gave the Recon Team a brief tour of the base camp, and then went back to work. Capt. Saks conducted the Russian version of a mission briefing and the patrol headed out to conduct the second half of the training exercise.

The afternoon route took the convoy of one Russian BTR-80 and three American Humvee's away from Brcko to the town of Celic. The patrol crossed a bridge which last spring had been rebuilt in a joint project by American and Russian engineers. Once in Celic, the patrol turned into the hills, past one of the checkpoints along the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL), through the village of Koraj and back towards Celic.

After posing for a group photo, the two teams shook hands, parted company and headed back to their respective base camps.

This was the first joint patrol exercise that the two nations had conducted in almost two years. It was one example of how all the nations of SFOR are working together to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Judging by the smiles and the countless waves from the citizens passed along the route, the mission was successful.

For the individual soldiers involved, the unofficial mission is simply to get to know each other, share a few laughs and make some new friends. All the way around, the patrol exercise was a success.

EOD FINDS SUBSTANCE TO RUMORS, UNCOVERS MINE IN SUNKEN SHIP NEAR BRCKO

Photos by Staff Sgt. Adrian D. Groggett, US Army, and Store Keeper 1st Class Dave Early, US Navy
 Story by Spc. Jodie M. Moore
 318th PCH, Camp McGovern

In a shallow watery grave, in the Sava River, near Brcko, on the border of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, lies a ship. This ship is rumored to have munitions as the cargo.

With mine awareness and knowledge of unexploded ordnance always in the minds of the soldiers of SFOR, these

McGovern.

“We were told a ferry had sunk and it was loaded with munitions,” said Gunners Mate, Chief Michael P. McLean, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 8.

A joint effort between the Army and Navy EOD teams was formulated to safely recover any

SUBMERGED MINE— This anti-tank mine was found on a sunken ferry in the Saba River in Brcko. Brcko. The Navy EOD MU (Mobile Unit) 8 team recovered the mine off of the sunken barge.

ordinances being recovered.

Chief McLean said he was, “disappointed it wasn’t loaded down with ordinances.”

This is the first dive for Chief McLean’s team and they were anticipating the first mission to be a larger venture.

“The mine was given to a Marine EOD unit at Bedrock to disable and use for training aids for EOD units,” said Staff Sgt.

Adrian D. Groggett, 363rd EOD.

Despite the fact that the barge wasn’t laden down with munitions, this was a successful mission.

Safe recovery of mines in BiH is a task of SFOR. A small step towards this accomplishment is a safe step towards the overall goal of SFOR.



TIME TO WORK— (left) The Navy EOD team loads up the boat to head out and explore the sunken boat. (right) Two members of the Navy EOD team here walk on the sunken barge in the Sava River in Brcko. They did a visual inspection of the top of the boat before the dive.

rumors quickly became a concern.

The International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Orasje was very much aware of the rumors. They wanted the munitions located, recovered and disabled before credence was given to the rumors, and people went exploring.

It was a potentially dangerous situation.

The IPTF wanted to gain control of the situation. They contacted Lt. Doug Zcarnecki, Officer In Charge, of the Navy detachment at Camp

ordinances that remained on the barge.

The Navy divers mission was to locate and recover all mines found on the barge. The Army EOD team was to secure the recovered mines on land.

On October 31, the operation for the safe recovery of any munitions on the barge took place.

The initial dive resulted in the location of an anti-tank land mine. The mine had been damaged and according to Chief McLean A second dive resulted in no additional



SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



LOCAL MP JOINS ELITE CLUB OF NCO'S

Story and Photos

By SPC. Christopher D. Carney

318th PCH

Sgt. 1st Class David A. Hammond, station commander for the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Military Police station at Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina, recently received the Sgt. Audie L. Murphy award here.

Sgt. 1st Class Hammond was one of 22 people competing that day and was the only one recommended for induction in the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club (SAMC).

According to FORSCOM Regulation 215-7, induction in the SAMC is a reward for noncommissioned officers whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition.

The SAMC is a means of recognizing those NCO's who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and a combat ready Army. Members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of soldiers and concern for families of soldiers

According to Sgt. 1st Class Hammond, "Sgt. Audie Murphy was one of the finest and most decorated Noncommissioned Officers in the United States Army during World War II."

Sgt. Audie Murphy's leadership on the battlefields of Europe demonstrated the ideals of an American NCO. Sgt. Audie Murphy displayed immense courage and bravery at great personal risk. Throughout his distinguished career, he consistently discounted personal injury and hardships to complete the mission and take care of troops.

This finest of soldiers was constantly ready, mentally and physically, to lead his soldiers under the most adverse battle conditions. Words and military decorations alone cannot sufficiently honor the valor of Sgt. Audie Murphy. He was one of the bravest NCOs in the U.S. Army. He demonstrated his commitment to the American principles of freedom and liberty at great risk to his health and quite often his life.

"Sgt. Audie Murphy's actions established the leadership standard for generations of NCOs," Sgt. 1st Class Hammond said.

Sgt. 1st Class Hammond possesses the leadership qualities that won him the SAMC induction. A look at his previous assignments shows the variety of his experience.

"I have 12 years and three months in service with 18 months time in grade," he said. "I have completed two tours in Germany, one tour with the 101st Airborne Division (air assault), one in Panama and I am currently with the 3rd ID (MECH). I have been a team leader, squad leader, platoon sergeant, and am currently an operations sergeant. I have been deployed to Honduras (twice), Haiti, the Sinai Peninsula, El Salvador, and here in Bosnia.

At his present duty as station commander, Sgt. 1st Class Hammond supervises MP Law and Order operations and all personnel assigned.

"I review all MP paperwork and case files for accuracy, completeness, and timely submission, including USAREUR/SFOR situation reports, Military Police Blotter and journals and other associated paperwork," said Sgt. 1st Class Hammond. "I also maintain and update the MP Station standard operating procedures as necessary, and compile law enforcement statistics. I am also the MP liaison to the Base Defense Operations Center and assist the

engineers with mine clearing operations."

Sgt. 1st Class Hammond has obviously devoted a lot of time and effort to his military career which is ultimately why he received the award, but he gives credit to someone else as well.

"I would like to thank my wife most of all, she spent the majority of her time helping me study," said Sgt 1st Class Hammond. "From listening to me recite the BIO to her, to quizzing me on regulations, field manuals, and publications, to helping me put my uniform together, to standing beside me when I became frustrated. She was the key to my induction."

"I would also like to thank all of my soldiers who made me the leader I am," said Sgt. 1st Class Hammond, "they were a pleasure to lead, and to my leadership, who recommended me and provided me the opportunity to prepare myself."

Sgt. 1st Class Hammond in the future would like to remain in troop leading positions, "So I can continue to lead our fine young soldiers."

HONORED—Sgt. 1st Class Hammond was inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. He has displayed the qualities that have distinguished him from his peers.

