

TALON

Operation Joint Forge

Saturday, December 23, 2000

Happy Holidays

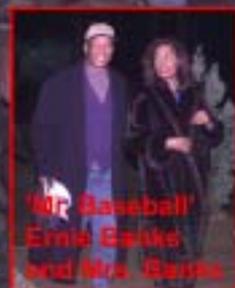
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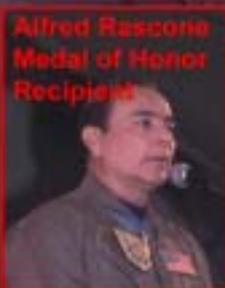
USO Christmas Show Entertains Troops



Secretary of Defense Brings Stars to Eagle Base
The Late Show with David Letterman
Broadcasts Live From Eagle Base



'Mr. Baseball'
Ernie Banks
and Mrs. Banks



Alfred Rascone
Medal of Honor
Recipient



Jewel



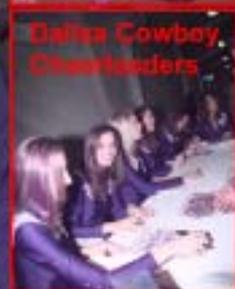
Bonnie Pointer



USO President
General John H.
Tielel (Ret.)



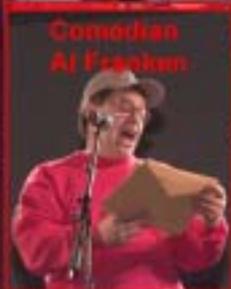
MTV VJ Aronde
Lewis



Dallas Cowboy
Cheerleaders



Former Senator,
Astronaut and
Writer
John Glenn



Comedian
Al Franken



'Samurai' Mike
Angletary



Singer
Carole
King



Terry Bradshaw

So, What's The Big Deal?

Well, here we go again! It's Christmas time in the City! So, what's the big deal? Every year at this time, the process starts again. Lights, music, decorated trees, cards, gifts, food, food, food! Christmas is big! I mean really BIG! In fact, it's a season. No other holiday can make that claim. I mean, you don't hear people talking about the 4th of July Season or the Memorial Day Season. So what's the big deal?

Schools shut down. People are traveling everywhere. And there is that old familiar sound at the checkout stand: Chi-Ching! That's right, money is being spent in record amounts, buying things that many recipients will return. So, what's the big deal? Well, it's Christmas time in the City! Soon it will be Christmas day!

Well, there is a BIG deal, but it's not what we normally see at this time of year. Yes, it's bigger than the lights! It's bigger than the parades or even the football games! It's even bigger than the unbelievable amounts of money that is spent during the Christmas season.

The Big Deal is this: From Isaiah 9:6, it says, *For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;* That may not seem at first like a Big Deal. I mean babies are born everyday. Why, everyone reading this article was at one time a baby. But please note two repeated words in this sentence: *unto us!* Upon those words hang the salvation and redemption of mankind. The birth of Christ was *unto us!* Not for a particular family only, but *unto us!* That's pretty inclusive! That's a Big Deal!

If you read the rest of verse 6, you will see that this is no ordinary child. As a child, *He was born*, but as a Son, *He was given*. That's a Big Deal! It also says that this child who was born and this Son who was given, *will carry the government of God on His shoulders*. That's a Big Deal! In light of that remarkable feat, He will be called *Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. That's a Big Deal! I've had some pretty nice things said about me on my OERs, but never anything like that! That's really a Big Deal!

So, you see, Jesus is really the Reason for the Season! Jesus is the Big Deal! If you want, you can experience the Real BIG Deal this Christmas!

See me for the rest of the story!

Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: Sin produces a moment of gratification and an eternity of remorse.

Sunday: The God who knows our load limit graciously limits our load!

Monday: Walking with Christ helps us enjoy our standing in Christ.

Tuesday: You don't need to know where you are going if you know Whom you are following.

Wednesday: The trouble with many people these days is that they marry for better or worse, but not for good.

Thursday: Children of the King should use the language of the Court.

Friday: Never argue with your doctor – he has inside information!

By CH (LTC) Clarke L. McGriff
TFE Chaplain

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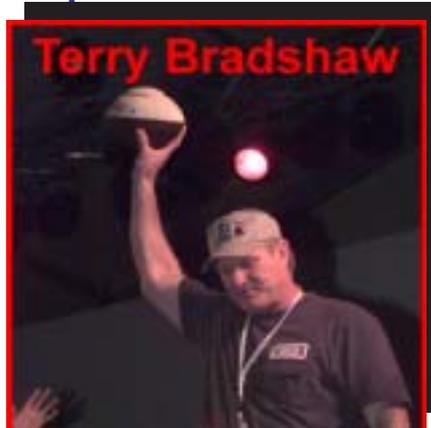
ON THE COVER

Secretary of Defense William Cohen and members of the USO holiday tour greet troops at Eagle Base. (Left to Right), Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell, Secretary Cohen, Medal of Honor Recipients Sammy Davis (at Podium) and Alfred Rascone, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, and the Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps, A. L. McMichael. Inset photos of some of the performers and stars on the USO holiday tour. (Photos by members of the 318th PCH) **6**



STARS COME OUT DURING USO SHOW

The soldiers of MND (N) get treated to a star-studded event with former Senator, Astronaut, and Marine John Glenn, Singer/Songwriter Jewel, the world-famous Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, and others. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney) **8**



MND (N) HAS IT'S WORLD TV DEBUT

Mr. James "Biff" Henderson, sidekick for "The Late Show with David Letterman," returns to Eagle Base for a live to tape session at the sports complex here. (Photo By Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.) **10**



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Maj. Gen Walter L. Sharp

**A Holiday Message
From
Commander, Multinational Division (North)**

As the first year of the new millennium comes to a close, we pause to reflect on the remarkable contributions that the members of Multinational Division (North) have made to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Our histories are rich with examples of service members dedicated to democracy, liberty and the pursuit to challenge aggression on every land. The spirit of selfless sacrifice and service to one's nation is acknowledged as the greatest testament to the human spirit: our respective nations so committed to the blessings of peace and hope that it sends its best sons and daughters into harm's way to keep the flame of freedom burning for all the world.

Ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people in this country requires tremendous personal sacrifice. You shoulder the heavy burden of standing guard on the frontiers of freedom each day as the peacekeepers of Multinational Division (North). Although you face the possibility of danger; you willingly sacrifice the comforts of home and family so that others may remain confident in the fact that we are on guard and ready to respond at a moments notice.

Always remember that you are the best at what you do. You are highly trained and fully capable, providing the assurance to every nation that our world is safer thanks to your hard work and vigilance. Every leader of every nation knows that you serve because you understand that our mission is the best hope for bringing peace, order, and stability to this troubled country. You are and will always remain a shining example for the world to see!

As you celebrate this holiday season may each of you find joy and satisfaction in the knowledge that because of you, the world is a safer and better place; that because of you, this fledgling democracy can remain focused on the opportunity to maintain a lasting peace for generations to come.

I wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

ROCK OF THE MARNE!

Walter L. Sharp
Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp
Commander, Multinational Division (North)



CHANGE OF COMMAND TAKES PLACE AT CAMP COMANCHE

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

A change of command ceremony was held on Dec. 11, at Camp Comanche for 2-3 Aviation. Lt. Col. Howard R. Ferguson assumed command from outgoing Lt. Col. Gary Servold.

"You just assumed command of a highly motivated team," said Lt. Col. Servold. "To the soldiers you have done a tremendous job. When I came into command, I asked the soldiers to do what was right. They did what was right."

Addressing the formation, Lt. Col. Servold praised his soldiers' outstanding service during his command tenure and highlighted their accomplishments.

In addition to their successful peacekeeping mission here, the noted achievements also included worldwide deployments, reconnaissance security missions, air movement missions, VIP support, assistance in counter narcotics missions for Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos in the islands near Cuba and flying the Secretary of Defense, the Honorable William Cohen. Lt. Col. Servold also noted they have an excellent safety record, with no reported accidents during their deployment.

"You know how to apply risk management daily. You put discipline into action. There has not been a single accident," said Servold. He said the mission would not be complete until all soldiers and equipment are safely back at home station. He also praised the work of aircraft maintenance soldiers.

"You have performed quality maintenance on a complex aircraft," Lt. Col. Servold said. Adding that proficiency is the legacy of these soldiers.

"You have accomplished everything I asked. Howard, I am giving you my adopted family. They will continue to work hard and experience excellence. To my wife, Jane and my kids, thanks for your support and love. Nighthawks... one team... one fight!"

Following Lt. Col. Servold's remarks, the new commander, Lt. Col. Howard Ferguson, spoke to the 2-3 Aviation soldiers. Prior to assuming this command, he was the aviation colonel assignments officer at PERSOM (personnel command) in Alexandria, Virginia.

ATTENTION—Lt. Col. Gary Servold, Task Force 2-3 Aviation Commander, stands at attention during the change of command ceremony inside the Comanche Base gym.



CHANGE—Lt. Col. Gary Servold prepares to pass the colors to the new commander of 2-3 aviation, Lt. Col. Howard Ferguson.

"I am honored and humbled to serve this distinguished and proud unit.

"The soldiers look absolutely magnificent. I realize that the quality of my remarks are directly related to its brevity," said Ferguson.

After the ceremony, Lt. Col. Servold said goodbye to his enlisted soldiers and officers in a receiving line, shaking hands and giving hugs to the soldiers he proudly commanded for the past two years.

Lt. Col. Servold accomplishments at Camp Comanche include the combining of separate elements of 2-3 Aviation. He blended the standard operating procedures of the three different aviation battalions that form the unit.

"We had a company of UH-60 Black Hawks from the 101st Division, a squadron of OH-58's (helicopters) from the 3-7 Cavalry and of course our own battalion, 2-3 Aviation," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Randy Miller, Brigade Aviation Safety Officer.

"You have three different people doing things three different ways and you have to standardize and make them play together. In that same time he organized these assets into a task force; 2-3 Aviation Battalion. He took the bull by the horns and did an outstanding job," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Miller.

In addition to three different units, Lt. Col. Servold had three different safety programs. "He had to combine these assets and then administratively allow for interoperability differences," he said.

The makeup of his task force is highly unusual, but his success was demonstrated in the last 5th Corps Aviation Safety and Standards Detachment (CASSD) inspection.

"This was evidenced by the high selection rate of commendable ratings during this arduous inspection." This task force is futuristic of the Army in the years ahead. This is a sign of the changing times of the U.S. Army, according to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Miller.

"Lt. Col. Servold is a leader on the cutting edge in this type of change," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Miller.

EAGLE BASE GREETS THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DURING HIS USO TOUR

Story and photos

By Spc. Marc Marin

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Secretary of Defense Williams S. Cohen paid a visit to troops here Tuesday as part of a six-day trek in which he also visited servicemembers in Kosovo and on the USS Harry Truman.

Along with Secretary of Defense Cohen were a slew of celebrities, including John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, and football Hall of Famers Terry Bradshaw and Mike Singletary.

After eating dinner with troops at the Longhorn dining facility, Secretary of Defense Cohen and his entourage headed over to the Fest Tent, where he addressed the assembled crowd and thanked them for what they were doing for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Let me tell you, there's no greater thrill for us (Cohen and wife Janet) than to be out with the troops," Secretary of Defense Cohen said.

Secretary of Defense Cohen appeared on Fox NFL Sunday aboard the USS Harry Truman alongside wife Janet.

"We wanted to promote how dedicated and patriotic our people are that serve in uniform," Secretary of Defense Cohen said. "The American people should be grateful."

But the best was yet to come for Secretary of Defense Cohen and his crew, as they moved to the Sports Complex, where all involved put on a show the troops who witnessed it aren't likely to forget.

"We do this to lift the troops' morale, to give them a touch of home," Janet Cohen said. "But it is also a pleasure for us, to be with (the troops) during this time."



GREETINGS—Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo, MND (N) Command Sgt. Maj., and Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell, MND (N) Assistant Division Commander, greet Secretary of Defense Cohen shortly after his arrival (above).



TOUCHDOWN—(left) Secretary of Defense and his wife set foot on Eagle Base during their visit to the Balkans and the USS Harry Truman.

CHOW TIME—Eagle Base soldiers and Secretary of Defense Cohen share a laugh during dinner at the Longhorn Cafe (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.).





CHEERS ALL AROUND—Secretary of Defense Cohen enjoys the USO show along with the rest of the soldiers during the show held at Eagle Base on Tuesday.

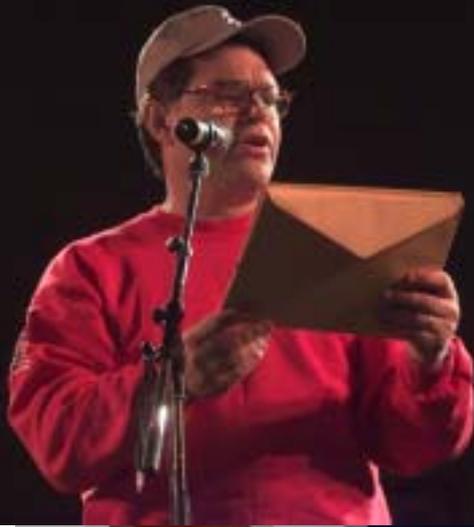
WELCOME—Brig. Gen. Ferrell salutes with pride as the Secretary of Defense Cohen approaches (right). Secretary of Defense Cohen came with legendary football players Mike Singletary and Terry Bradshaw as part of the USO Show. (Photo by Danny C. Martin Jr.)



SPEECH—Secretary of Defense Cohen introduces himself to the soldiers at the Fest Tent (left), during his speech he reminded the soldiers he is here for them. (Photo by Danny C. Martin Jr.)



A NIGHT W



STAND UP—Comedic veteran Al Franken brings a few smiles to the faces of the troops. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)

Story by
Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney
318th PCH, Camp Dobol

Bright lights adorn center stage. A colorful background of red, and blue stars highlight the man standing at center stage. The audience sits in a mood just bursting with morale this night.

That man is none other than the Secretary of Defense, William S. Cohen and he was here with the USO.

The United Service Organization, known since World War II as the USO, performed a spectacular show Tuesday at Eagle Base for the soldiers stationed in Bosnia-Herzegovina this Christmas.

An eclectic mixture of entertainment had the crowd on its feet with standing ovations. MTV star Anada Lewis was the Master of Ceremonies for the three-hour show. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen started the show off with a bang of a speech and got the attention of everyone who mentioned getting a pay raise for the military.

Jaws dropped to the floor when the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader performed much more than root for the team. Humble speeches by Medal of Honor recipients Alfred Rascone and Sammy Davis left not one dry eye in the Sports complex.

"I would give up my Christmas and New Year's for you," said Rascone. "I love what you do - you are the heroes."

Senator John Glenn was welcomed with a huge ovation as he walked on stage. The floor was littered with soldiers trying for the picture of the



ORBIT—Senator and astronaut John Glenn orbited the Earth again, this time with the USO. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)

VOCALS—Troops sat in a hushed silence as they listened to the performance of singer Jewel as she graciously accepted the honor. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)



COMPARE—Former Chicago Cub and Baseball Hall of Famer Ernie Banks thanks the troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina for a job well done. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)

TALON

WITH THE STARS

man to orbit the earth. He was also the main attraction at the autograph signing before the show.

According to Glenn's wife Anne, this was the first time he was appearing in an USO show.

"When John was in the Marines, Bob Hope did a USO show in the Pacific and he (John) had such great fun," she said. "When they came and asked us to appear in the show, he said yes without even thinking about it."

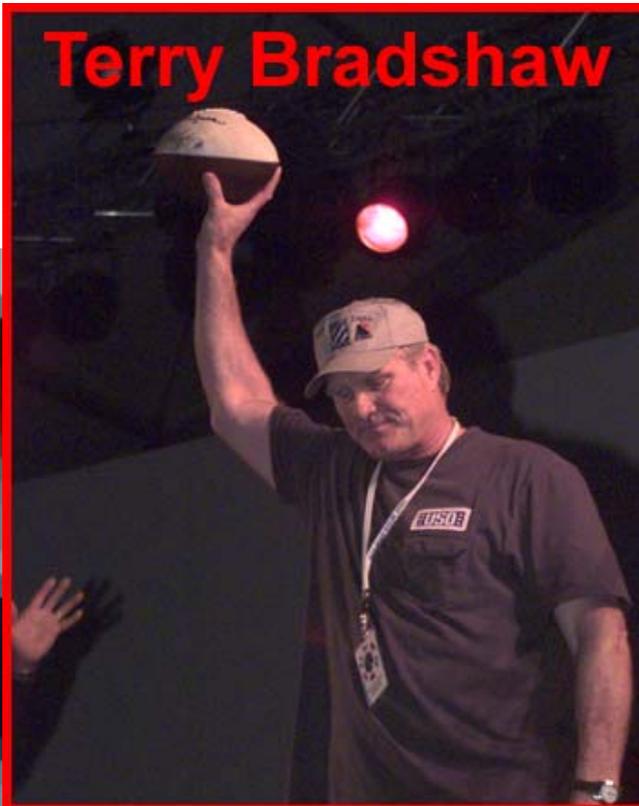
Terry Bradshaw and Mike Singletary, both Hall of Fame football players, had fun with the soldiers telling jokes. A couple of autographed footballs soon came flying from the stage, making fantastic souvenirs for a pair of lucky troops.

Ernie Banks, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Chicago Cubs also made an appearance and gave an encouraging talk about the similarities between baseball and the Army.

Another rousing routine from the Dallas cheerleaders got the attention of the non-sports fans in the audience. Ruth Pointer from The Pointer Sisters then rocked the house. Carole King closed the show with an audience-participating popular tune from the 70's.

Sgt. Toney F. Jones III, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), stationed at Camp Dabol, said he was having the time of his life.

"This is great! What a great show," exclaimed Sgt. Jones.



HAIL MARY—Football legend Terry Bradshaw prepares the crowd by showing the football he launched into the crowd. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)



RAH RAH RAH—In a series of spins, kicks, shakes and shimmies, the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders (also known as 'America's Sweethearts') pumped up the audience during the show. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)

we of the musical abilities
aced the stage. (Photo by



MR. PRESIDENT—General John H. Tilelli (Ret.), President of the USO, addressed the troops, expressing his gratitude for the sacrifices made by the troops. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)



Photo by Sgt. Keith McGrew, Combat Camera

Live... From

Story and photos

By Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines shuffled through the doors of what they thought was the coveted Eagle Base Sports Complex/ Post Theater, but much to their dismay, there was no basketball court, volleyball court and the huge movie screen was gone. Instead, the complex was transformed into a television studio, with a sea of seats for an audience, and a huge banner above the entrance reading, "The Late Show, Tuzla."

Tuesday marked an event that was the climax of this holiday season for the troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina. During a live-to-tape recording of "The Late Show, with David Letterman," a congregation of camouflage enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime experience, to be on television.

"It really touched me," commented Spc. Nairobi Grant, an Emergency Room Medic with Task Force Med Eagle. "I like that my loved ones would see me. They said they'd be watching."

Mr. Steve Sando, Senior Vice-President of Cable Vision and in charge of the technical side of the taping has been to the Balkans more than 20 times. "I feel good that I did this."

With the return of "The Late Show," also came James 'Biff' Henderson, a sidekick to Letterman. He played a video that he and his crew took while here.

Two weeks ago 'Biff' was touring Multinational Division (North) capturing soldiers at work, at play, in their quarters and in the fitness center. He talked with troops all over MND (N) about everything from their jobs here and about their significant others at home.

'Biff' also took part in some training. He learned to drive a tank and what it was really like with the Military Police K-9's.

During the show, Letterman had his studio in New York filled with servicemembers. In a segment of the show, called "The Singing Sergeants," a group of airmen sang Christmas Carols.

Just as quickly as it started, it was over. Spc. Nairobi said, "It was amazing!"

Eagle Base Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Pope and Eagle Base Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Earby L. Cockrell summed up the evening with Letterman by saying, "It was good for the soldiers to see someone appreciates them."

IT'S SHOWTIME—Some members of the audience gaze at the huge screens in the front to view the live video feed from the studio in New York. (above) Soldiers from Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 'The Gator War Dogs', Camp McGovern (left), show their appreciation outside the fitness center after the taping of "The Late Show." James 'Biff' Henderson, and Sgt. Lota Acosta, (below), a medic with Charlie Company, 26 Logistic Task Force, from Camp Comanche, pose for a quick photo after the show.





SET UP—Mr. Steve Sando(left) goes through the last minute checks to make sure everything goes smoothly.



LOVED ONES— Sgt. 1st Class Brandi Schiff and her husband, Staff Sgt. Daniel Schiff, show appreciation by laughing and applauding.

Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina

CLOSING TIME— The troops begin to file out of the fitness center and the television crew starts to dismantle their equipment, but the actual show didn't air in at home until later that night.



HELLO HOME— Members of the Oklahoma National Guard show some spirit by making a banner to show off to the cameras, in hopes that someone at home will see it.

Saturday, December 23, 2000



TRADITION CONTINUES: NCO'S INDUCTED INTO THE RANKS AT CAMP MCGOVERN

Story and photos

By Spc. Jodie Moore

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

They are the backbone of the Army. They induct new recruits, train soldiers, maintain unit discipline and ensure combat readiness. Many soldiers can tell a story or two on how they gave them that extra push needed to accomplish a mission. Their military experience and leadership abilities are recognized by all. They are the NCO's (noncommissioned officers) of the Army.

An induction ceremony was held here to welcome newly promoted sergeants to the NCO corps Dec. 10 at the Camp McGovern Center.

The ceremony highlighted the role and tradition of the NCO. Each company's first sergeant came to the podium one by one to tell the inductees the history and the leadership ideals of a NCO.

The history and leadership roles that the first sergeants spoke on served as the first indoctrination lesson of the NCO corps to the inductees.

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark T. Baker, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), who filled in as guest speaker, continued in his speech with the theme spoke of by the company first sergeants. He urged all inductees to use their military experience to train soldiers and to always lead by example.

"NCO's lead by example. You lead by example in everything you do," said Command Sgt. Maj. Baker.

Command Sgt. Maj. Baker said as his role as Task Force Command Sergeant Major, he must lead by example. He said his fellow NCO's and officers would let him know if he did otherwise.

As new NCO's the inductee's were told they would be looked at by fellow soldiers to see how they conduct themselves.

He said that inductees would also be looked upon to train soldiers. While he noted that training soldiers is not an easy task, he stated it is a task required of a NCO.

"Impart knowledge to soldiers coming up in ranks. You can train them here in Bosnia and get them home to their families," said Command Sgt. Maj. Baker.

He said he also expects the inductees to maintain and enforce standards.

Command Sgt. Maj. Baker filled in as guest speaker for Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo, MND (N) Command Sergeant Major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ruo could not make the appearance due to the weather. The inductees, however, felt privileged to be inducted in the corps by Command Sgt. Maj. Baker.

Sgt. James C. Burks, Bravo Company 1-252 AR said, "It's an honor to be inducted into the NCO Corps by Command Sgt. Maj. Baker."

The 29 inductees stood in formation throughout the ceremony, mostly at the position of attention. They listened intently to the speakers explaining what is now expected of them, now that they wear the rank of sergeant.

The inductees were called up one by one to receive their certificate and have the traditional wetting of the stripes. Pouring of beer on the rank and collar of the inductees represents the wetting. This signifies the inductees rise from the lower ranks. For this ceremony, non-alcoholic beer was used.

Three lit candles burned throughout the ceremony. After the last inductee had received their certificate, the candles were blown out. The blowing out of the candles signified the inductees leaving the lower ranks, never to return again.

Selected inductees recited parts of the NCO creed aloud while all NCO's stood and repeated the creed after the inductees.

"I promise to uphold the creed word for word," said Sgt. Burks.

He said he plans to live up to the NCO creed throughout his military career.

A fellow inductee, Sgt. LaQuincy S. Royster, Bravo 1-252

AR, believes his new leadership role will involve taking care of the soldiers under him. He said he plans to take care of his soldiers and accomplish his mission. Sgt. Royster believes he can accomplish his new role by talking with his soldiers.

"I'll make sure I communicate with them to make sure their happy, and everything is going ok with them," he said.

The inductees have a hard road ahead of them. However, they have tradition and history behind them to help out in the hard times. The induction ceremony set the stage for preparation in their new NCO careers.



BEER?—Command Sgt. Maj. Mark T. Baker, 3d ID(M) pours a drink on the collar of Christopher Baldwin, Alpha 1-279 IN, during the NCO induction ceremony held here. The pouring of the drink of the collar is called the wetting of the stripes.

TANKS ON DISPLAY

Story and photos

By Sgt. Noreen L. Feeny

318th PCH, Camp Dabol

An M1-A1 Abrams tank sits in an open field at Camp Dabol. An M2 Bradley armored personnel carrier accompanies it, hatches open, inviting all who walk past to come in and take a look. Many do, having their buddies take a picture of them sitting inside. The only thing different about this is the soldiers are French.

Crews from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d ID (M), got together to give the visiting French infantry soldiers a closer look at American armor with a static display Dec 8.

With the entire French contingent gathered around, Staff Sgt. Hans Kwoka, Charlie Company 1-64th AR Platoon Sergeant, gave a speech about the history of the M1-A1 Abrams tank and its capabilities. All eyes turned upward as Staff Sgt. Otis McDowell, tank commander Charlie Company, 1-64 AR, had his driver, Spc. Jaewon Kwang, Charlie Company, 1-64AR, spin the turret around, raising and lowering the gun barrel in a rumbling display of power.

The display of the tank lasted a while. Some of the French wanted more information from Sgt. Kwoka. Some wanted a look at the inside with Sgt. McDowell and some were busy passing an example of one of the tank's 120mm Sabot rounds to each other.

Then as the crowd closed in around the APC, Sgt. Matthew Walker, Bradley commander, and his gunner, Spc. Benjamin Hubbard, both of Bravo Company 3-15 IN, explained the differences between a tank and an armored personnel carrier. The driver, Pfc. Tony Hardy, Bravo Company 3-15 IN showed the French



HANDS ON DISPLAY—The French, temporarily stationed at Camp Dabol, gather around Spc. Jaewon Hwang and Staff Sgt. Hans Kwoka, both of C Company, 1-64 AR, for a demonstration of the M1A1 Abrams tank.

what Sgt. Walker and Spc. Hubbard were talking about with a demonstration of tube weapons.

When the demonstrations were concluded, the soldiers were allowed to climb aboard and see both vehicles close up. Many French hit Sgt. Walker with a barrage of questions about the Bradley.

A group of the French hung around the back taking turns getting their pictures taken sitting inside.

Others spent a good part of the morning on the turret of the Abrams getting to know the American counterpart to their own armor.

Sergeant Chief Serge Marty, of the French 110th Infantry Regiment, said he and his men really enjoyed the display and were glad the Americans took time out to show them before they left.

"This was a good idea. We don't do this with other armies much," he said. "We did this with Germans once, but this is the first time we got to see the American's."

According to Sgt. Marty, the French and American tracked vehicles are very much the same design and mechanics.

"Only the weapons are different," he said.

LIKE THIS—Staff Sgt. Hans Kwoka, tank commander with C Company, 1-64 AR, (below) gives a speech to the French troops through a translator about the American M1A1 Abrams tank. The French were stationed at Camp Dabol for a week.



COME ABOARD—Spc. Jaewon Hwang and Staff Sgt. Otis McDowell, both from C Company, 1-64 AR, allow the French soldiers to climb aboard the M1A1 Abrams tank (above). The mutual display of military vehicles was very informative to both armies.

MARINE EOD TEAM DEPARTS BOSNIA

Story and photos

By Spc. Marc Marin

318th PCH, Eagle Base

There's nothing like a job well done, and further proof to that statement was on display Dec. 12 at Camp Butmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The 10 Marines and one sailor from the 2nd EOD Platoon personally received congratulations on a job well done in the form of three medals each, presented by Marine Corps Maj. Gen. David Bice, Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Europe.

The ceremony was the culmination of a four-month deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which the Marines' mission was to make training aids out of the captured or turned in foreign ordnance left over from the Bosnian conflict, according to Capt. Kelvin F. Dudenhoeffer, commander of 2nd Platoon. The patchwork group represented four units and two bases, Camp LeJeune, N.C., and Cherry Point, N.C.

"Our mission here was requested by the Army," Capt. Dudenhoeffer said. "This is something that's never been done before and I think it went extremely well."

Not forgotten in the Marines' minds during the awards ceremony were Chief Warrant Officer Robert Hayworth and Gunnery Sgt. Richard O'Connell, who were injured in an inerting accident Nov. 28 and were transported back to the United States. Capt. Dudenhoeffer was also injured in the accident but was able to finish the tour. He said both men are in good spirits and expect full recoveries.

"Of course (the accident) wasn't something we expected, but we knew it could happen," Capt. Dudenhoeffer said. "It shook everybody up, but everybody's going to recover, and that's the most important thing."

The enlisted Marines received the NATO Service Medal, Armed Services Expeditionary Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal. Capt. Dudenhoeffer and Chief Warrant Officer Hayworth received the former two medals as well as the Meritorious Service Medal.

Considering everything involved, such as this being the first mission of

MEDALS—Staff Sgt. Christopher Behn, left, and Staff Sgt. Mark P. Birmingham, right, 2nd EOD Platoon await the presentation of their respective Army Commendation Medals by Maj. Gen. Bice.

its kind and being away from their loved ones for an extended period of time, the Marines did an honorable job of completing their mission, said Master Gunnery Sgt. Max. R. Dlugosh, non-commissioned officer in charge. He feels his Marines came away from the mission with a better understanding of how ordnance works.

"All the technicians learned a heck of a lot," Master Gunnery Sgt. Dlugosh said. "The disassembly of ordnance, the researching of ordnance, the final breakdown of ordnance, the certification of ordnance, everything. I really think this mission was a beneficial tool for broadening their knowledge of explosive ordnance."

Working in a multi-service and multinational environment had its perks, Master Gunnery Sgt. Dlugosh said, not only for the Marines but also for their allies.

"Working with the other countries was beneficial to us, obviously, because we learned a few things from them," Dlugosh said. "But on the other hand, they also got to see our system, how we were breaking down ordnance and stripping it and so forth. They learned, I think, more from us than we did from them."

When his Marines hit the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Capt. Dudenhoeffer and his crew got right to work and put in long hours to make Bosnia-Herzegovina a more secure, safer place for its citizens. So



FAREWELL—Gunnery Sgt. Michael Toddy, 2nd EOD Platoon, receives his medals from Maj. Gen. Bice.

much so, said Capt. Dudenhoeffer, that they rarely stopped to think about just how big of an impact their work could have.

"We never thought about the program saving lives when we first started our mission, but then people started telling us how they were going to use the training aids," Capt. Dudenhoeffer said. "It makes me feel good. If we can save one life, whether it be that of a U.S. peacekeeper, allied soldier, or Bosnian national, if we save one life, then our mission over here was a success."



EOD CONFERENCE STRENGTHENS FOREIGN RELATIONS

Story by Spc. Matt Burrell
318th PCH, Eagle Base

Peace took another step forward when Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams from all factions of the US military held conference with Yugoslavian chemists at the University of Sarajevo on Dec. 8.

The purpose of the conference was for the US Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines and a variety of foreign EOD teams to meet with chemists to discuss homemade explosives created during the war.

Robert Luther, Task Force Eagle Environment Officer, made contact with the University at the request of the Marine EOD team stationed at Camp Bedrock.

"The goal is just to get the Bosnians and Americans together," said Luther.

The conference featured many Yugoslavian subject matter experts, including Esmarela Gic-Habul, President of Earth and Science at the University. She was one of the chemists drafted during the war and presented with the unlikely task of making explosives. A

monumental task considering most explosives require a large amount of water to produce, but during the war there wasn't even enough water for the people to drink so chemists had to figure out a way to do dry production, according to Luther.

"We are here to share information. We are going over basic topics. Everyone is encouraging to ask questions," Gic-Habul said during the introduction of the conference.

The conference covered every type of ordnance; shot, placed or thrown that might possibly be found in Bosnia. The TFE EOD teams exchanged inerting information with the Bosnians including standards for EOD teams, and techniques.

Darko Kalas, Unexploded Ordnance specialist and also a former officer in the Bosnian Army, delivered most of the Bosnian information.

About four hours into the conference, Marine Capt. Kevin Dudenhoeffer, Commander of the USMC EOD team, hit the main nerve and revealed what everyone and been anxiously waiting for. The Explosive

Ordnance Wash-out System, which was developed by enlisted marines as an innovative way to dispose of explosives. The former way to dispose of explosives was to just find a big enough ditch and bury them there.

"We have to live on this earth also, and there's no sense polluting it," said Capt. Dudenhoeffer.

It's a multi-faceted device, the main activity-taking place in a 550-gallon tub, called a 'burn tub', with a steam generator being the most critical part. The concept behind EWOS is that all explosives began as a liquid and the system uses the steam to transmute the explosive back to liquid. Then the liquid is filtered through a system that collects all the solids in the liquid. Finally a blower will blow the liquids into 55-gallon tubs to be disposed of. Each tub contains 100,000 liters of contaminated liquid. The Marines are always making adjustments on the device to make it work more efficient, according to Capt. Dudenhoeffer.

The conference varied a little from the agenda when the Marines did not get to talk with the chemists more in depth about the homemade explosives, but the conference may have been just the first of many.

"The conference was kind of to test the water, get all the EOD together and see what happens," said Capt. Dudenhoeffer.

This included getting many of the foreign EOD teams at the conference.

"We've worked with the Marines before, and this is a positive thing we can meet the chemists, because solving this problem is a major goal in MND (N)," said 1st Lt. Morten Stensballe, section leader for the Danish EOD team. Many of the participants agree that it would be beneficial to continue the conferences.

"There was potential at the EOD conference, I would suggest continuing on it, but make it more specific to Yugoslavian ordnance," said Spc. John M. Healy, EOD technician.

A DANGEROUS SITUATION IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA; DRIVING IN FOG

Story by Sgt. Philip Puleo
TFE Safety Office, Eagle Base

It's one of the most unnerving driving experiences in Bosnia. You've been on the road a while, the road seems endless; long, bumpy, monotonous. The vehicle interior is warm and you're tired.

The sun is setting and your returning from a mission, en-route to Eagle Base. You only have 10 km to go, No problem. You have the vehicle commander and two passengers, and the conversation is lively.

As you crest the next hill it comes in slowly, mysteriously, rolling up on your convoy enveloping your vehicle in a shroud of hazy fog, adding yet another hazard to your already difficult task at hand. Suddenly, you can't see three meters in front of your vehicle. The conversation stops as things get really serious...the convoy slows to a crawl.

All eyes are on the road, radio chatter increases as the other convoy members communicate back and forth. A row of vehicles

whiz by, going in the other direction and you wonder how can they be driving so fast for these road conditions.

The vehicle has the window down watching the side of the road; you're looking for a landmark to guide you safely down the road, while at the same time your focus is on the white line dividing the road.

Suddenly, calls from the radios of the vehicles behind you flare up, followed by the bright lights of someone that has decided your going to slow to suit their needs, the calls are almost too late to warn you of the guy that just blew by. You managed to avoid a traffic accident because of the warning called in over your radio.

This story is true because it happens every rotation. Leaders can avoid this potential driving hazard by being pro-active in your convoy plans.

Your pre-accident plans and convoy briefings properly trained you for the difficult task of driving defensively on these Bosnian roads. Drive Safely, Drive to Survive.

MEETING His GOALS... CIMIC SOLDIER FULFILLS PERSONAL DREAM AFTER 27 YEARS

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



Story and photos

By Cpl. David Osgood

CIMIC, Eagle Base

For some soldiers, coming to Bosnia-Herzegovina, working ten hours a day and going out on missions is work enough. But for Sgt. “Gunny” Robynson, being all he could be also meant fulfilling a personal challenge to himself: going back to school after 27 years and getting his GED.

This was no small undertaking. After a difficult family life, he left high school midway through the eleventh grade and struggled for a few years on his own before joining the Marine Corps in 1973. “Gunny” rose to the rank of sergeant as an infantryman in the 2nd Division, spending time in Puerto Rico during America’s attempt to capture the Manuel Noriega.

In 1977, Sgt. Robynson left the USMC and started work for the Union Iron Workers in Philadelphia, logging 6,000 hours of apprentice work before becoming a full-fledged construction worker. He also got married and had three children.

Although successful in work and his own family, Sgt. Robynson still longed to be in the military again. With the support of his wife, he returned, joining the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) in Riverdale Park, Maryland and volunteering for a mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sgt. Robynson continued to prove his metal, serving long hours in the field in the General Support Team in the CIMIC Battalion here.

However, Sgt. Robynson knew that if he wanted to grow as a soldier, he needed to not just serve, but to excel. That was when he signed up to finish what he had started for long ago: his high school diploma. Working three hours a day for over a month, Sgt. Robynson studied History, English, Mathematics, and Art, passing five exams with high marks to receive his diploma.

As much as this accomplishment represents his character, so too does the number of people who came out to support him. “All

of CIMIC Battalion was on his side, pulling for him,” said Sgt. David Hargett, CIMIC. “A lot of people helped me out,” said Sgt. Robynson. “My Battalion Commander Lt. Col. George Maughan, Lt. Col. John Patrick, Maj. David Keefe, and 1stSgt. Daniel Williams broke their backs to support me and to ensure that the GED results made it into my promotion packet. My wife too gave so much to support me in this and my return to the military. Also, my officer in charge, Maj. John Baranowski was extremely supportive in ensuring that missions didn’t interfere with exam time.”

“Most of all, though,” said Sgt. Robynson, “it was Command Sgt. Maj. Chester Groce, who made this possible for me. He selflessly gave his time to encourage me everyday, guiding me on the right path. I could not have done it without him.”



CONGRATULATIONS— Sgt. Robynson (left) receives his hard-earned diploma from Lt. Col. Maughan. All the soldiers of CIMIC praised Sgt. Robynson for his determination, and congratulated him. (above)

