

TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, January 6, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



Division Engineers Train For Winter Months

Soldiers Get Into the 'Act' at McGovern
Task Force Eagle's New Year Celebration
Personal Security Detail at Dobil

IT'S A BEGINNING!

As the saying goes, "Well begun is half done!" Here we are a week into the New Year. I hope you are off to a good start. As SFOR 8 rolls into this year of 2001, you may look back at the past year, but it is more important to look ahead, to make your plans for the future.

Perhaps you made a New Year's Resolution. Often we make promises to ourselves on 31 December that are impossible to keep. These promises fall by the wayside, because we are not serious about keeping them or we are going it alone, trying to make changes in our lives, working by our own strength.

In the Psalms, there is a verse, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Fear here refers to our respect and awe of God, and the Psalmist encourages us to use this fear as a beginning point for our journey to wisdom. This verse suggests that our walk to wisdom is best done hand in hand with God. In another part of the Psalms we read that, "(God's) Word is a lamp unto my feet and light to my path." The revealed Word of God acts as our inner illumination along the path of life.

These two verses form a whole theology as they guard and guide our way through life. Wisdom is gotten through attention to one's spiritual nature and the manners in which God reveals Himself to you along the way.

The fog of life can sometimes be as thick as the fog on the roads in Bosnia! When life closes in around us we can be thankful for the awesomeness of God and the guiding light of His Word, just as we are thankful for the headlights on the vehicles and the white lines on the roads.

Fear God and get wisdom, it can be a year well begun!

Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: Don't be afraid of opposition, remember a kite rises against, not with the wind.

Sunday: Make Sunday your strong day and the rest of your days will not be weak days!

Monday: All I have seen teaches me to trust God for all that I have not seen.

Tuesday: There is no right way to do the wrong thing.

Wednesday: Lord, don't move the mountain – just give me the strength to climb.

Thursday: You are only young once – but immaturity can last a life-time.

Friday: Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait.

By Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Lembke
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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 360-1. 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.

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An extraction exercise performed by Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, proves to be a great planning tool in force protection and winter safety. (Photo by Spc. Matt Burrell)



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HAND-PICKED CAVALRY SCOUTS PERFORM PERSONAL SECURITY

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The Personal Security Detail, a group of Cavalry Scouts from HHC, 1-64 AR, Camp Dobol, are setting security standards. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)

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Training is what we do...

By Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

Commander, Multinational Division (North)

As we begin the New Year I wanted to focus my next few articles on my philosophies and insights concerning the most important aspect of any professional military organization; **Training**. If you reflect on the complexities and challenges we face everyday, you can see it was only through the excellence achieved through tough and realistic training that we are able to conduct such a flawless mission.

To open my discussion on battle focused training, I want to first review some of the essential principles found in Field Manual 25-100, Training the Force, which provides leaders a conceptual framework to achieve excellence in training. As an appropriate starting point, we must realize what the principles of training are and how they must contribute to the training plans we execute. As you review these benchmark principles, reflect on how you incorporate them into your own training plans.

Train as you fight (conduct your real world mission). Training must replicate real world scenarios as closely as possible. The conditions in which training is held should reflect the many “fogs of war” that challenge units who are conducting the training. For instance, during Operation Joint Resolve XXI in December 2000 we challenged our units by providing a realistic training environment. Demonstrators were highly uncooperative and unruly; we used simulated effects, such as smoke, to cloud the environment, and we even went so far as to build a mock town. These conditions mirrored those conditions our soldiers may have to respond to in a real-world situation.

Sustain proficiency. While deployed in this challenging peacekeeping environment, our subordinate units exercise mission essential tasks each day that support their higher security and stability operations (SASO) tasks. By virtue of planning, rehearsing, conducting, and assessing these specific tasks we sustain our proficiency in our operational arena. I am sure many of you believe, and rightly should, that you have presence patrolling “down to a science.” That is the wonder of sustainment training.

That being said, we must also create innovative training methods to sustain our war-fighting proficiencies as well.

The first step is to identify those necessary war-fighting tasks respective of your unit’s mission. These tasks are not arbitrarily developed, rather are gleaned from the mission essential tasks of the higher unit. Along with these mission essential tasks, a subordinate unit uses appropriate doctrinal manuals in concert with the commander’s guidance to develop their unit’s individual and collective tasks. This training analysis “cross-walk” codifies the manner by which each multi-echelon unit develops their training plans. I will discuss this important concept in my next article.

So, what if one of your unit’s war fighting mission essential tasks is to conduct a deliberate defense at the platoon level? Can you think of any subordinate critical tasks that you can train on in our current operational environment?

We derive doctrinally that sending an accurate individual call for fire is critical to conducting a platoon deliberate defense. During a presence patrol scheduled halt, ask your vehicle commanders for an immediate suppression mission along a ridgeline in the vicinity. Ensure they use the proper format and that the report is accurate and complete.

How about the critical task of occupying a hasty platoon battle position after seizing an objective? Even though we are restricted to using roads, vehicle commanders can conduct a hasty terrain analysis and develop a sector sketch of a notional individual vehicle fighting positions. Leaders and commanders can subsequently develop platoon or company fire plans based on the sketches received from their individual vehicles. From this, fire support leaders can develop a fire support plan in support of their respective unit’s defensive plan and so on.

Lastly, don’t forget the age-old sand table exercise. Units can pick a piece of terrain from a map, construct and plan a defensive scheme in which soldiers from the unit can participate. Exercise all the critical tasks from the respective Task and Evaluation outlines (T&EO). How intricate



Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

these exercises become, is up to your ingenuity when training on these “perishable” war-fighting tasks.

So we see that we **can** exercise critical war fighting tasks in a SASO environment. With a little creativity we can use the time on patrols to train on those “perishable” war-fighting tasks, further preparing us for our transaction back to those missions when we redeploy.

Train using multi-echelon training. Just as we train as a unified force, we must also train at all levels concurrently to exercise the creation and dissemination of mission-type orders respective of the unit’s level. Furthermore, through the use of multi-echelon training, units exercise the synchronization of many organizations throughout the depth of the battlefield, which also creates greater cohesiveness in our units.

Train as a combined arms team. In Multinational Division (North) we live, work, and train with a host of different combat, combat support and combat service support organizations daily. We rely on one another extensively to complete our assigned missions. These same units were with us through every step of the predeployment training process and were incorporated in all training vignettes. Training as a team works the tactics, techniques, and procedures of each unit and solidifies their contributions to the larger organization.

Train to maintain. Simply, you can’t conduct a logistics convoy if you can’t roll out of the motor pool. Maintenance is an integral part of training and must be incorporated during the conduct of all training events. Exercising the maintenance management system is essential to maintaining our mission readiness.

Conduct performance-oriented training. Training must be assessed to ensure standards are being met. Albeit important to understand the how and why a mission should be conducted, a unit must be able to accomplish the tasks in challenging conditions. Simply, when conducting training, we must “walk the talk!” In future articles I will discuss the significance of the after action review (AAR), the feed back mechanism used to assess performance during all training exercises.

The principles of training provide us with the foundation on which we build cohesive and substantive training plans. In my next article I will discuss using these principles during the formulation of your training plans. If we continue to focus our efforts on achieving excellence in training we will remain fully prepared to ensure a secure and stable environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Rock of the Marne!

SOLDIERS GET INTO THE 'ACT' AT CAMP MCGOVERN

Story and photos

By Spc. Jodie Moore

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

The Camp McGovern Drama Society held its first dinner theatre on Christmas day, which included a group of singing and dancing thespians.

The Drama Society performed the original play, "Love Poems in Motion and Then Some."

The talented amateur actors consisted of Camp McGovern's own soldiers, Brown & Root employees and Army and Air Force Exchange Service workers. The play was written, directed, produced, and choreographed by Beverly A. Cooper-Pete, the Camp McGovern Morale, Welfare and Recreation programmer. Cooper-Pete said the idea for the play came while praying for inspiration.

"I always pray about love and the different dimensions of love. That's how I get inspired," said Cooper-Pete.

Cooper-Pete said she knew that there

were talented people at McGovern who were in need of an opportunity to display their talents. Cooper-Pete believes that the soldiers needed another venue to display their talent.

The play allowed for that opportunity. Soldiers, who normally wouldn't consider the theatre a forum to express themselves found out just how much fun theatre arts can be.

Staff Sgt. Selby K. Primus, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, Joint Visitors Bureau, said that he was reluctant at first to join the cast. He had never acted before but he decided to give it a try.

"It was outside my realm. Once I got into it, it was fun. It's not often I get a chance to do something different," said Staff Sgt. Primus.

Love and poetry aren't themes that most people would associate with 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) soldiers. However, Cooper-Pete, a theatre arts graduate, felt that love is a central theme in everyone's life, including soldiers. She said she wanted the audience to come away from the play with a greater understanding of love.

"I wanted them to walk away knowing that love is the most powerful force on earth. It's even more powerful than hatred," said Cooper-Pete.

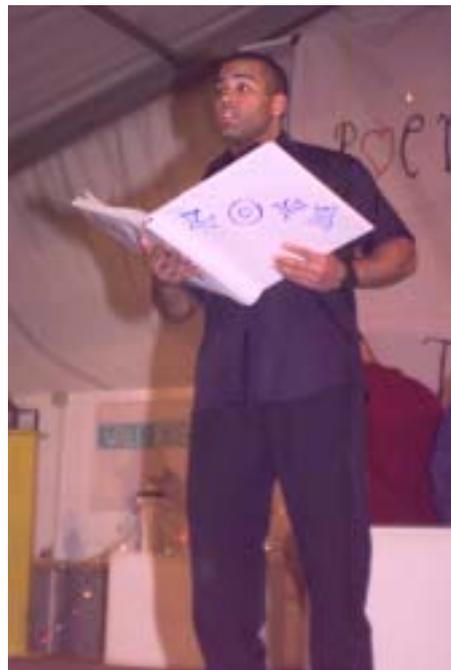
For Cooper-Pete the day was about love. For the soldiers here, it was a day to come together and celebrate the holiday as Task Force Eagle.

The acting and the opportunity to see their fellow soldiers entertain them during Christmas delighted soldiers taking in the show. When 'Killer Joe,' played by Command Sgt. Maj. Mark T. Baker, 3-15 IN, made his initial stroll across the stage to his self-titled theme music, the audience erupted into cheers and applause. Camera flashes were seen throughout the gym.

Similar responses were heard throughout the night as the audience encouraged their fellow soldiers in their acting debut.

"I felt a bonding of the soldiers here at Camp McGovern on one of the hardest days to be away from family and friends," said Spc. Brian D. Combs, HHC 3-15 IN.

The average TFE soldier does not have an inordinate amount of



LOVE—"The thing about love is, it's worth sharing." Spc. Clark F. Shillingford, Alpha Company, 3-15 IN, reads to the audience during the play held here Christmas day.

downtime. The fact that they willingly gave up their time to bring a little extra joy to their fellow soldiers on a day when everyone's mind was on home, speaks volumes about their commitments to one another.

Staff Sgt. Primus believed all the hard work that went into putting the play on was well worth it. He said he worked hard not only on remembering his lines for the play, but on setting up the props for the play. He thought it was important for the play to be held on Christmas.

"I think it's important as far as morale. It takes your mind off of loneliness for a brief moment. I thought it was successful," said Staff Sgt. Primus.

Spc. Combs said he appreciated the effort put forth by everyone to make the play a success.

"MWR brought a magnificent play to the soldiers, it lifted our spirits," Spc. Combs said.

A play about love and poetry brought smiles to the faces of soldiers on Christmas day. Seeing their fellow soldiers entertain them and teach them a thing about love seemed to be just what TFE needed. However, the newly formed theatre troop isn't through yet. The MWR Drama Society has scheduled a play for the last Sunday in February, commemorating Black History Month.

LADIES MAN—"Killer Joe," Command Sgt. Maj. Mark T. Baker, 3-15 IN, is definitely the ladies man in the scene from the play; "Love Poems in Motion and Then Some."





OBSERVATION—Staff Sgt. Tom Sales, Squad Leader, Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, observes a Blackhawk Helicopter hoisting a Mini-flail.

RUN—An Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion ground crew moves for cover as a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter hoists the Mini-flail.

SLING-LOAD AND MINE EXTRACTION EXERCISE PREPARES DIVISION ENGINEERS FOR HAZARDOUS WINTER

Story and photos

By Spc. Matt Burrell

318th PCH, Eagle Base

This is just practice, wait till you see them doing it for real,” according to Master Sgt. James Swedenburg, Division Engineers Sergeant Major, who described a sling load and mine extraction exercise members of the 10th Engineer Battalion conducted at Eagle Base on Dec. 27. The purpose of the exercise was to sling load a mini-flail, which is a remote controlled robot that uses whip-like chains to create a one meter path through a suspected mine field.

“It is a quick and expedient way of getting a soldier out without putting him in danger,” said 1st Lt. Tim Donoghue.

The exercise was conducted by 1st and 2nd platoons, Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), and was the first the 3d ID (M) had here. The exercise is in preparation of the ice and snow the winter months will soon bring. “This is the season when mine fields are most hazardous, because many times vehicles will slide right off the road and into one,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Beerman, Division Engineers Commander. The conditions for the exercise were optimum; foggy and raining; such is life in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Engineers acknowledge they must prepare for the worst.

The worst nearly materialized when during one of the sling loads the mini-flail flipped while it was ascending. however, the air controller reacted quickly and gave the hand signal to drop the load.

“The air controller is the helicopter’s eyes on the ground,” said Staff Sgt. Tom Sales, Squad Leader, Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion.

“The recovery was phenomenal by the engineers who made the proper adjustment while re-hooking the mini-flail,” said Staff Sgt. Sales.

“This may have been the first sling load here, but the engineers use the flail all the time,” said Lt. Col. Beerman. The engineers plan to make the exercise somewhat of a habit; they will continually conduct the exercise once a month.

The engineers have yet to implement these tactics in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but as Master Sgt. Swedenburg suggests it’s all a numbers game and the engineers have been lucky.

“We’re just lucky, so keep praying,” Master Sgt. Swedenburg said.

The 10th Engineer Battalion, normally stationed at Fort Stewart, Ga., usually doesn’t have the opportunity to conduct sling load exercises, but did have a chance to conduct it while training at the Mission Rehearsal at Fort Polk, La., this summer. The Engineers are making the most of their stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

“We never get to do this, so the training is extremely beneficial,” said Sgt. John Harris, Combat Engineer Squad Leader.



gt. Tom Sales observes his squad pile aboard in preparation for a sling-load exercise.



ROBOT—Pfc. Noel Sida, Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, awaits instructions to deploy the Mini-flail.



READY—An Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion crew (above) of Pfc. Noel Sida, Sgt. Carl Owens, Sgt. William Zapfe and Spc. Gary French await their turn to sling-load the mini-flail, while a ground crew (below) awaits a hovering Blackhawk Helicopter.



SMOOTH—The Blackhawk Helicopter piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Vince Rollman and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lou Lampon glides across the horizon.





CELEBRATE— Soldiers (left) get their groove on as the New Year approaches. Spc. Joel E. Machado, 94th Military Police Company, (right) is all dressed up as he dances the night away New Year's Eve.



Story and photos

By Spc. Marc F. Marin

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The New Year started off with a bang here Monday night with the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band and comedians Cortney Gilmore and John McDonnell entertained soldiers at the Sports Complex.

The festivities started off at 8 p.m. as the 3d ID (M) Band ripped off hit song after hit song, getting the crowd involved and working them into a frenzy. Staff Sgt. Robert C. Crawford was the main reason for this, as he continually encouraged the crowd to show off their vocal capabilities after every song.

Next came Gilmore and McDonnell, who both succeeded in getting laughs from the troops, although Gilmore's venting on the amount of child support he has to pay drew some of the biggest laughs from the crowd.

Not to be outdone, the 3d ID (M) Band took the stage again, cranking out tunes up to the moment everybody had been waiting for- the New Year.

As the crowd counted down the seconds to 2001, Command Sgt. Major William J. Gainey, 2nd Brigade, 3d ID (M) Command Sergeant Major, stood guard at the projection booth, ready to unleash the balloons and confetti stored high above the Sports Complex. When it was time to do the honors, Command Sgt. Major Gainey kicked off a wild celebration, as troops shook hands and exchanged pleasantries all around.

Watching NFL playoff football at Triggers after the mayhem had ended, Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Hall, Information Operations NCOIC, 3d ID (M), reflected the feelings of many soldiers deployed here when he said, "I'm just looking forward to the coming year and getting back home to my family and friends."



DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY— Capt. Carolyn Davis, HHC, 103rd Military Intelligence, and Staff Sgt. Greg Odden, 3d Military Police Company, (below) dance to the music New Year's Eve.



A LITTLE SONG AND HUMOR— Command Sgt. Major William J. Gainey, 2nd Brigade, 3d ID (M) Command Sergeant Major, and Staff Sgt. Robert C. Crawford, 3d ID (M) Band, (above) get together for a duet. Comedian Cortney Gilmore (right) entertains the troops. He vented on everything from dating to the differences between American bases and camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.



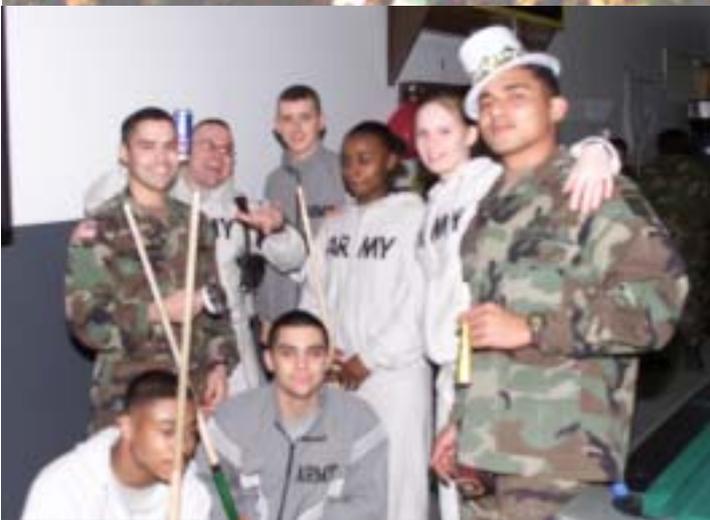


RESOLUTIONS— New Year's just isn't New Year's without resolutions. Maj. Rita Casey, EOD Staff Officer, (left) made hers to spend more time with friends, family and her cat. Spc. Kelly Caldwell, a trumpet player in the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band, (right) hopes to become a better person and to be a better trumpet player. With 2000 gone and 2001 just beginning, a mass of balloons tumbled from the ceiling of the Sports Complex at Eagle Base. (background)



HAPPY NEW YEAR TASK FORCE EAGLE

Photos by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.
318th PCH, Eagle Base



HAPPY NEW YEAR— Staff Sgt. Thomas Mangum, Spc. Nathaniel Oliveras, Spc. Jeremy Trescott, Pfc. Mary Rochelle, Pfc. Bonnie Porter, Pfc. Tim Elekes, Pfc. Jerome Iese and Pfc. Norris Johnson, 129th Postal (Airborne), (upper left), and Spc. Rick Treadaway, Pfc. Xochitl Gonzalez and Pfc. Aaron Lee, 103rd MI, (lower left), wish everyone a Happy New Year as Spc. Thomas Lindsey for the 3 ID (M) Band brings the crowd by pounding out note after note on his guitar.



CAVALRY SCOUTS FORM PERSONAL SECURITY DETAIL

Story and photos

By Sgt. Noreen Feeney

318th PCH, Camp Dobol

There are one dozen men in his platoon. All are specially trained for one job. None are Special Forces, Rangers or even Airborne. They don't carry any special gear, use any special weapons and don't possess special talent. Yet each person is very special. Each man was hand picked by him for his unique team. Each soldier on this team has but one thing on his mind when working; to protect. His men are not military police or secret service, yet they do the jobs of both. Heads always turning, eyes seeing everything. They follow, they lead, they take charge. He has them ready to react at a moment's notice. All soldiers in his platoon are Cavalry Scouts. He is their guide.

The Personal Security Officer in charge, Staff Sgt. Matthew Parker, is normally the Cavalry Scout Platoon Sergeant, but here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he heads the Personal Security Detail, a part

FOLLOW ME—Pvt. Dennis Nusbaum (below left), Personal Security Detail, HHC 1-64 AR, leads the way for Capt. Robert Bruder, A Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (M) through the streets of

Zvornik during the colonel's visit to the police station. Pfc. Luke Mitchell, PSD, HHC 1-64 AR, brings up the rear. (Far below) Spc. Aleksander Kadow and Spc. Rodney Schneider, both assigned to Personal Security Detail, HHC 1-64 AR, get their weapons ready to escort the commander on a mission that will take them through several local towns.



ALWAYS SAFE—Staff Sgt. Matthew Parker, Personal Security Officer, HHC 1-64 AR, makes sure Lt. Col. D. Bruce Hain, Camp Dobol commanding officer, is safe at all times while off post.



of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), here. Their mission is to protect the task force commander and all members in his party. On post or off, Lt. Col. D. Bruce Hain, Commander, Camp Dobol and Task Force 1-64 AR, 3 ID (M), couldn't shake the men assigned to protect him if he wanted to.

According to Staff Sgt. Parker, the only soldiers he accepts into his platoon have the military occupational specialty of 19D: Cavalry Scouts.

"Scouts are free thinkers. If something happens, they all know what to do," Staff Sgt. Parker said. "They think on their feet."

Gone are the days of the scouts on horseback riding ahead of the unit, studying broken branches and old campfire sites searching for signs that will hopefully lead them to the enemy. Today the scouts ride ahead and look for signs hoping not to find an enemy.

"We don't take the colonel anywhere without reconnaissance. I take my men and check the site out and rehearse everything first," Staff Sgt. Parker said.

According to Staff Sgt. Parker, he personally picked each soldier to be on his team.

"Each man is supposed to hold the rank of specialist," Staff Sgt. Parker explained, "but I know what kind of soldier I want in my platoon and what it takes to do the job, so rank doesn't matter."

Staff Sgt. Parker said he feels insulted when he and his men are referred to as bodyguards.

"Bodyguards only react when something happens like a gun going off. VIP protection is proactive. We plan ahead so nothing will happen," Staff Sgt. Parker said.

Lt. Col. Hain went out on a mission to three different sites on an investigation regarding a mine accident. The mission took him through the streets of Zvornik and Bratunac. Security surrounded him every step of the way.

"The colonel (Lt. Col. Hain) doesn't so much as cross the street unless I'm with him," Staff Sgt. Parker said.

According to Staff Sgt. Parker, there are four tasks to the mission statement of the PSD: prevent abduction, assassination, serious injury or harm and embarrassment to the Commander or anyone in his official party. The team members hold open doors, escort the party through the streets, stand guard outside rooms during meetings, and steer around potentially dangerous areas.

Always solemn and dignified, the team members make it a point to stay 'in the shadows' even while walking down the middle of the street.

"We are here for protection, not picture taking," Staff Sgt. Parker explained.

During the brisk walk to the mayor's office, Pvt. Dennis Nusbaum, a member of the Personal Security Detail from HHC, 1-64 AR, 3d ID (M), had a moment to reflect on his Army life.

"I've been doing this for one and a half years and I love it. This is a great job," Pvt. Nusbaum said. "My tour is over soon and I asked to extend it and stay in Bosnia on the security detail."

McCABE BAND SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER

Story by 1st Lt. Vic Aviles

TFE G-3 Training Officer, Eagle Base

Recently, the men and women of Multinational Division (North) had the opportunity to enjoy the great country sound of the Amy-Jayne McCabe Band as it performed at Camps Dobol, McCovern and Eagle Base.

Each show spotlighted soldiers of Task Force Eagle when Amy-Jayne would pull volunteers from the audience to sing with the band in their Live Karaoke show.

In each performance, audience participation was required as Amy-Jayne would browse the audience and move from lap to lap, while her unique voice lent heart and soul to the music.

Background vocals singer Trenna Barns further turned up the heat in the audience with a sultry rendition of 'Santa Baby.'

During their performance on Eagle Base, the Band closed out with a command

performance of 'Your Cheating Heart' dedicated to Command Sgt. Maj. William J. Gainey. During the song, Command Sgt. Maj. Gainey was able to dance with almost everyone in Triggers.

After each performance, McCabe and the other band members stayed around to sign autographs and thank the soldiers for the great job they are doing and how proud the band is of their sacrifice.

While visiting MND (N), McCabe managed to win the hearts of the members of the 94th Military Police Company. Being from New England herself (Rutland, Vermont is her hometown), she related well with the MP company that escorted her around MND (N) and even convinced them to sing 'Sweet Home Alabama' during her show on Eagle Base.

One member of the 94th, Spc. Emily King, is also from Rutland. McCabe insisted on getting a picture with Spc. King

to send back to her hometown newspaper.

No stranger to the military, McCabe is the wife of Capt. Patrick McCabe, a Company Commander with the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, stationed in Kosovo since August.

Her tour in MND (N) is the result of requests from soldiers and commanders stationed in Kosovo who wrote letters to DoD asking that the band to tour to the Balkans to entertain them. Following her tour in MND (N), the band continued on to Kosovo where McCabe will spend the Christmas holiday performing for the soldiers there.

McCabe is thankful to soldiers of the Balkans for requesting her. She said she would love to bring her band back to perform again. All the soldiers need to do is request it through MWR. For more information on the Amy-Jayne McCabe Band visit www.AmyJayne.com.

SAFETY... A WINTER DRIVING TECHNIQUE TUNE-UP

Story and photos

By Sgt. Phillip A. Puleo Jr.

TFE Safety Office, Eagle Base

When it comes time for actual driving, a little technique can make a big difference, according to Mark Cox, director of the Bridgestone Winter Driving School in Steamboat Springs, Co.

The sooner you see a potential problem developing the more time you'll have to respond. Avoid becoming fixated on the problem; instead focus on solutions. "If your trying to avoid a truck turned over in the middle of the road, don't look at the truck; look for gaps on either side of it, because your hands and feet follow your eyes," said Cox.

It is important to make all your acceleration, steering and braking as smooth as possible. Watch your speed and leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front of you. "It takes ten times as much distance to stop on ice as it does on dry pavement, so following distance is critical," said Cox.

Make the most of limited traction on winter roads. Cox recommends breaking down even the simplest moves into their individual components. "Use all the traction you have available for one thing at a time," he said. "When you come to a turn, you want to do all your breaking in a straight line, then take your foot off the break and begin steering, then straighten the wheel and accelerate."

Cox went on to say mastering the concept of weight transfer is critical. "Essentially, any time you decelerate, whether by lifting your foot off the gas or applying the brakes, you transfer weight to the front of the vehicle, making the rear wheels more likely to skid."

Likewise, anytime you accelerate, weight transfers to the rear of the vehicle, making the front wheels more likely to lose their



TECHNIQUE—Winter is the most hazardous season for driving and a little safety technique can go a long way.

grip. If you understand how weight transfer works, you can avoid most skids and correct those that occur by reversing what caused it.

Bringing a vehicle to a safe stop requires knowing a little about your vehicles' brakes and how to use them when you need to stop in a hurry. Personnel that operate tactical vehicles with traditional braking systems will want to use "Cadence braking, which is repeatedly applying the brakes almost to the point of lock up and then releasing them. Those of you that have vehicles with antilock brakes; just need to put the brake pedal down as hard as you can and hold it there," said Cox.

Finally, taking time to get a feel for your vehicle's handling in a safe spot can help you to better handle real-world emergencies when they arise, said Cox. Practicing will help you feel more confident and avoid panicking, which only makes a crisis situation worse. Leaders must ensure that sufficient training is conducted for winter driving and anyone who demonstrates deficiencies in techniques be given remedial training and practice.

With driving experience, comes safer driving habits. Training safe drivers will help reduce accidents in your unit and protect the force. Drive Safely, **Drive to survive.**

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



LITTLE HAS BIG HEART

Story and photos

By Capt. Charles Anderson

CIMIC TST, Camp Ugljevik

People say that Sgt. 1st Class Michael Little has a big heart. Since arriving in Bosnia in August 2000, Sgt. 1st Class Little, an Army Reservist from Tennessee, has been actively involved in helping those who have been most disenfranchised by the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade (1st PRSAB), Civil Military Cooperation Battalion (CIMIC), Tactical Support Team (TST), located at Camp Ugljevik, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sgt. 1st Class Little offers assistance to the residents of DPRE centers in the 1st PRSAB's area of operation (AO). The centers include Nezuk and Sapna Community in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Amajlije and Drina camps located in Bijeljina in the Republic of Serbska.

When conducting other non-humanitarian aid missions in areas which are in close proximity to the camps, Sgt. 1st Class Little makes a point of visiting the residents of the camps to inquire if any have special needs. Sgt. 1st Class Little discovered that many of the residents are disabled, being either elderly or handicapped, as a result of the war. He recognized that crutches were an



A GIFT— Brand new crutches can change the life of refugees and war veterans simply by giving them the freedom of mobility, a basic tenet of SFOR's mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

immediate need. According to Sgt. 1st Class Little, "crutches are an inexpensive way to make a difference in the lives of crippled and elderly persons."

Sgt. 1st Class Little seeks private

donations from family and friends in the United States. Once the crutches arrive in Ugljevik, they are delivered to the specific needy individuals on these assistance missions that coincide with other ongoing CIMIC missions. An additional benefit according to Sgt. 1st Class Little is that his relatives and friends are becoming involved in his Bosnia experience.

A Civil Affairs veteran of Desert Storm, Sgt. 1st Class Little was also stationed in Doboj, Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996, as a member of the CIMIC Team there. He feels that his current tour with CIMIC would not only be a fine culmination to his 20+ years of his career, but also a continuing reminder of how fortunate it is to be an American enjoying all the privileges and benefits it offers.

GRATITUDE— Sgt. 1st Class Little and Capt. Edward Kuharchuk, 1st PRSAB CIMIC liaison officer, receive thanks from a camp resident near Jana, Bosnia-Herzegovina after delivering a set of crutches.

