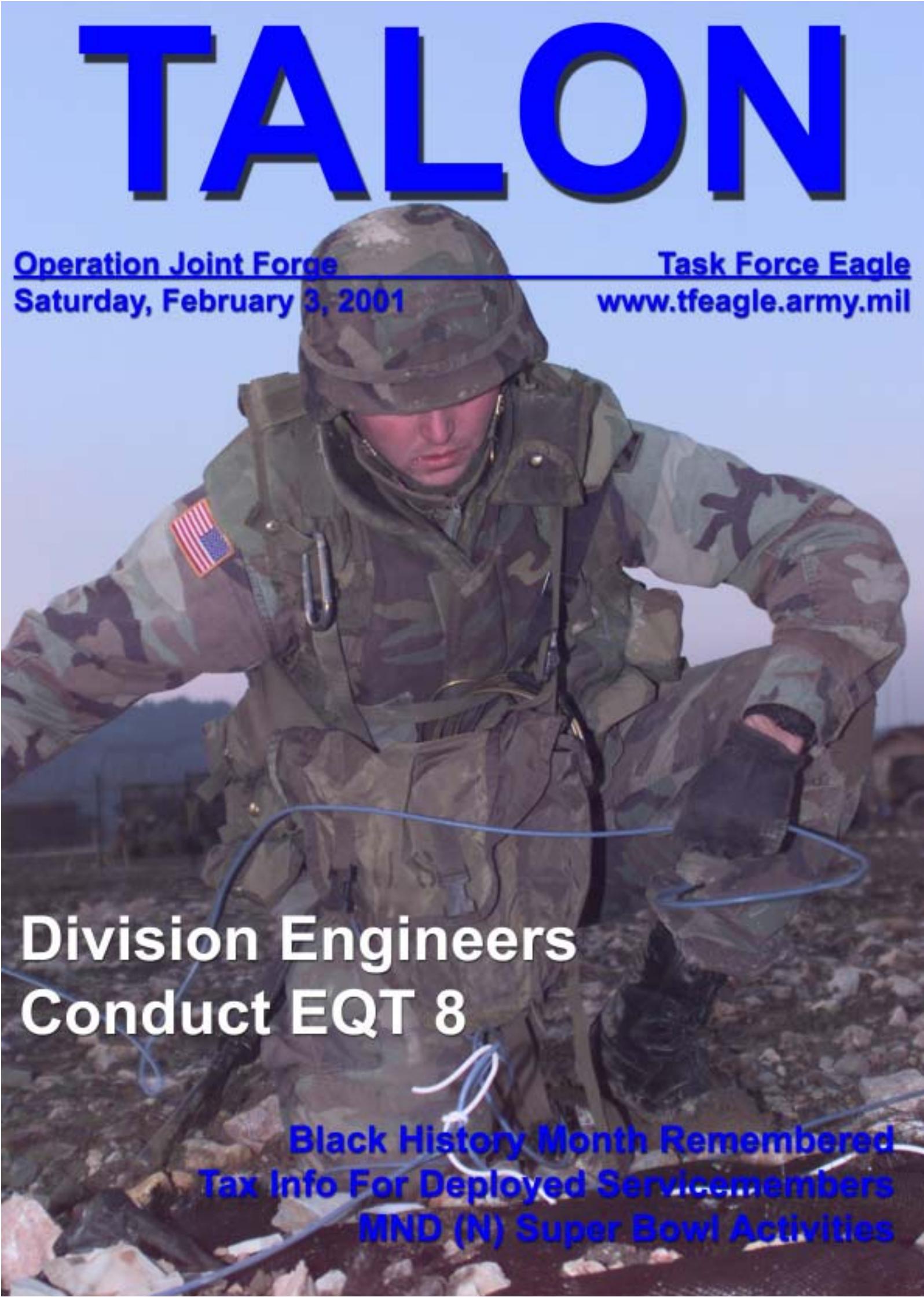


# TALON

Operation Joint Forge  
Saturday, February 3, 2001

Task Force Eagle  
[www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)

A soldier in camouflage gear is kneeling on the ground, working with blue cables. The soldier is wearing a helmet and a vest. The background is a rocky, outdoor environment.

## Division Engineers Conduct EQT 8

**Black History Month Remembered**  
**Tax Info For Deployed Servicemembers**  
**MND (N) Super Bowl Activities**

# TAKE TIME TO SMELL THE ROSES

How quickly our children grow up. It seems like only yesterday that we brought our baby girl home from the hospital. That was 26 years ago. Now we share the joy of her son, our grandson, as he challenges her resolve with all the energy that a five year old can generate. Time goes so fast and the events of our lives move in an ever-quickening stream of memories.

Oh if we could just stop time for a moment, or better yet, turn back the hands of time to relive memories of long ago. Playing “horsy” with our son or watching our daughters play “dress-up.” The first time they rode a bike without training wheels or the first time they got behind the wheel, *that’s one memory I’ll pass on.* It happened all too quickly, and then it’s gone.

Oh to capture, if for only a moment, the thrill of being the center of their world again. Now they have their lives. They are now in the mist of some of the “greatest times of their lives,” but if they are not careful, these experiences will pass by before they realize it. It is said that when one is on their deathbed they are not pining for the promotion they missed or the car they never drove or the money they never made. What one does contemplate are the relationships of family and friends. Please take time to “stop and smell the roses.” You and I will not pass this way again.

## Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: Most of us get run down because we stay wound up.

Sunday: We can be in the world without the world being in us!

Monday: It’s okay to hold a conversation, but let go of it now and then.

Tuesday: The easiest thing in the world to find is fault.

Wednesday: The wages of sin are always paid on time.

Thursday: God’s wisdom is both timely and timeless.

Friday: Gratitude is the memory of the heart.

By Chaplain (Maj.) Dave Crary  
2nd Brigade Chaplain

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[www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)

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The Turkish Battalion Task Force hosts a Portuguese company during a joint exercise between the two. (Photo by Turkish Battalion Task Force Maj. Yildiray Cevik)

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Correction: The January 27, 2001 TALON, on page 8, the photos were taken by Air Force Master Sgt. Robert R. Hargreaves, Combat Camera.

# THE EIGHT-STEP TRAINING MODEL (PART ONE OF TWO)

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

In my last few articles, I have spent a good amount of time reviewing the doctrinal themes used in the planning and preparation of training. Doctrine provides the foundation on which solid training plans are built. Once we build those training plans, we must begin the next step; planning a training event. These next two articles will discuss the eight-step training model and explain the many important aspects that are a part of this easy-to-use training model.

The eight-step training model, which originated in the United States Army Europe in 1995, is a great building block approach to maximize the training event preparation time line. It can be used from the simplest training events to the most complex multi-echeloned exercises requiring coordination and synchronization amongst all combat functions. I truly believe in its utility.

**Step 1. Plan the training.** During the planning phase, operations trainers resource the training of the units two-levels down to minimize training distracters and allow the training unit to wholly focus on the training event. During this phase, the type, size and force structure of the opposing forces (OPFOR) is identified, and observer/controller (O/Cs) are certified to ensure they have a clear understanding of the mission, training end state, and the tasks, conditions, and standards (T&EO) expected of the training unit. Operations trainers must also conduct a thorough time analysis taking into account opportunities for after action reviews (AARs) and iteration training. This phase concludes with the operations order of the training event being issued to the training unit.

**Step 2. Train and certify unit leadership.** This phase focuses on ensuring leaders at all levels understand the standards for the operations they will conduct. Leaders conduct doctrinal reviews and review the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) for the operation. Leaders also conduct tactical exercises without troops (TEWT), where individual leaders, replicating their units, maneuver on the training ground to better identify the military aspects of terrain respective of other combat functions. This phase ends when leaders receive the lane operations order which outlines the mission they are to notionally conduct.

**Step 3. Conduct rehearsals.** Leaders rehearse their prepared concept of the operation at the training site prior to issuing the operations order to their soldiers. This leader rehearsal is over watched by the lane O/C who provides feedback throughout the process. Leader rehearsals are done at this stage to ensure that the leader knows in detail the critical tasks and TTPs expected of the particular mission he is conducting. Leader rehearsals can replicate the operations as closely as resources provide. Use of training simulation devices and the incorporation of attachments can be part of the rehearsal. In this manner, leaders can synchronize the many combat functions related to the mission. While leader's immerse themselves in these critical planning steps, their soldiers



Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

continue to prepare for their responsibilities within the exercise.

Now that the leader has rehearsed the actions required by the T&EOs of the assigned mission, the leader completes the plan he will issue to his subordinate elements. Once complete, he briefs back his operations order to his O/C who provides feedback on the plan to strengthen the concept of the operation or incorporate any other TTPs he may have not considered. This phase concludes when leaders are prepared to issue the completed order to their subordinate units.

**Step 4. Unit leader issues the operation order.** The leader issues the completed operations order to his unit respective of the reconnaissance and rehearsals he has conducted, and the feedback he has received from his O/C. The operations order is issued at the training site or at the point most critical to the operation to provide a more thorough understanding of the mission essential tasks he has assigned his subordinate units. Subordinate leaders then conduct their individual mission analysis and develop their operations orders. Before delivering these orders to their subordinates, key leaders conduct back briefs to their higher headquarters with the lane O/C in attendance ensuring all understand the plan and that it is a fully synchronized operational effort.

The first four preparation steps of the eight-step training model provide the framework to achieve excellence in any training event. As you may have noticed, each of these four steps is carefully observed and scrutinized by certified O/Cs to maximize leader proficiencies and to ensure understanding of the TTPs associated with the operations they will conduct. Following this model sets leaders up for success throughout the process and does not wait until the end of the exercise to provide lessons learned. In my next article, I will focus on the execution and feedback portions of the eight-step training model.

*Rock of the Marne!*

# LITHUANIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS TROOPS AT CAMP DANNEVIRKE

## Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318<sup>th</sup> PCH, Eagle Base

Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicus met with Lithuanian soldiers of the Iron Wolf Brigade (a unit comprised of Lithuanian soldiers) at Camp Dannevirke, Bosnia-Herzegovina Jan. 24 after reviewing soldiers at the Guard of Honor ceremony.

Battle group soldiers from the armies of Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Latvia and Estonia also participated in the ceremony to welcome the defense minister. His last visit here was in 1996.

It's his second time serving as defense minister. During the ceremony, as the troops stood at attention, several Iron Wolf soldiers received certificates of achievement from Defense Minister Linkevicus.

The visit to Camp Dannevirke was just one of the stops that took the defense minister from Kosovo earlier in the day to Zagreb, Croatia, and then on to Camp Dannevirke. He was scheduled to return to Lithuania on Thursday.

Following the ceremony, he attended an informal reception with soldiers where they had an opportunity to ask him questions. Their questions concerned military organization and the educational system in the Lithuanian army.

According to Capt. Snitko, Defense Minister Linkevicus is considered highly popular in Lithuania where he serves in the cabinet of President Valdas Adamkus. Adamkus has worked towards the goal of getting Lithuania full membership in (NATO), which is also a goal shared by the defense minister. Linkevicus is viewed as open-minded and willing to talk with the enlisted soldiers and officers of the Lithuanian Army and improve their lives in the military.

Lithuania has been separated from Russia for the past 10 years. And since that time, soldiers have seen their pay increase as well as their educational opportunities.

"It's very prestigious to be an officer and enter the military academy," said Capt. Snitko. She said soldiers go to school for two years and upon graduation are promoted to lieutenant. "Usually they are sent to units and go to work as platoon commanders. They will continue studying for their next promotion and to work at higher levels."

Lithuanian recruits spend three months in a basic training program developed by



**DISCUSSION**— Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicus meets with soldiers of the Iron Wolf Brigade at Camp Dannevirke. He took time to answer the soldiers' questions.

the British Royal Marines. In addition, language courses were set up in 1998 to teach English to Lithuanian soldiers. This was done to improve the interoperability of Lithuanian soldiers working with international forces.

According to the NATO website, [www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int), the Lithuanian military consists of regular Armed forces (ground and air force), the National Defense Volunteer Forces (NDVF), and the active reserve force. About 12,500 military

personnel serve in the National Defense System. There are 14,000 NDVF volunteers who don't serve on a regular basis.

"I think the visit went very well. The soldiers asked a lot of questions. Here it was very positive. The soldiers are very interested in the future. They would like to know about changes and what will happen to the military structure in the future," said Capt. Snitko. "The defense minister enjoyed his visit to Dannevirke very much."

**INSPECTION**— Defense Minister Linkevicus reviews the troops during the Guard of Honor ceremony at Camp Dannevirke Jan. 24.



# ENGINEER TRAINING LIGHTS UP THE

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Background photo by Sgt. Stephen J. Cegielski

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The stars are clearly visible in the sky on this crisp, cold Friday night in Bosnia. Water trickles in a nearby stream. But the crunch of combat boots on snow, the dance of green and orange chemical lights moving in the dark and engineers snipping plastic detonator cord means this quiet valley has visitors.

The Alpha Company Warriors are training here so that in a conflict they can shape the battlefield and win the war.

On this night, Jan. 19, Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), are becoming certified in engineer qualification table (EQT) eight which is a critical training tool for engineers to accomplish in their company METL (mission essential task list).

They will practice the wartime missions of constructing a wire entanglement and breaching, or blowing up, wire obstacles with bangalore torpedoes, a tube filled with C-4, the standard military explosive, and a detonating booster at each end, so that maneuver units, like the infantry and armor, have mobility on the battlefield.

Engineers, also known as "Sappers," can place and detonate shape and cratering charges to block or delay the enemy and lay two types of minefields.

A hasty protective minefield can be laid in a matter of 15 to 20 minutes, giving the engineers enough time to quickly break contact with the enemy and to close off or block areas to the enemy. A basic disrupt minefield, 250 meters by 100 meters with three rows of mines, is used to create a turn block or fix, and steer the enemy into a kill zone.

"You want to fix your enemy in your engagement area, that's where all your fire is massed" said 1st Lt. Timothy Donoghue, 1st platoon



**STEP ONE**—Pfc. Lee Simonson holds the pickets which are used to construct the triple standard minefield.

**PREPARATION**—Alpha Company soldiers prepare the shape and cratering charges before starting EQT eight Friday.



**CLEARING**—Pfc. Lee Simonson retreating the wire to check for booby traps.



# ING NIGHT

leader, Alpha Company.

Engineers have to be smart. "Every soldier needs to know everybody else's job in the squad," said Sgt. William Zapfe, 1st squad leader, 1st platoon, Alpha Company. "That way if one soldier goes down, the squad doesn't miss a step, they just keep driving on with the mission." They have to be strong, tough and have that extra determination to accomplish difficult missions.

"These soldiers have grit. They grab the bull by the horns and do a damn good job," said Staff Sgt. Greg Lehman, Mine Action Center database noncommissioned officer,

Engineers emplace obstacles to own the battlefield. They understand how an obstacle can be tied into the terrain. They know about soil composition. Is it hard or soft ground? Can they pound the pickets into the ground? They disrupt and cause chaos to turn the enemy into the maneuver element or kill zone.

"Tonight, we are going to put a row in a minefield and conduct a minesweeping operation. Working at night increases the difficulty," said Sgt. 1st Class Johnnie Rofrits, Mine Action Center noncommissioned officer in charge. The engineers must be able to breach a minefield. Now it was time to start the training mission. 1st Lt. Donoghue delivered the operations order.

"This type of training is really important, especially for the new soldiers. We take this time to make sure that each soldier is fully trained and highly qualified to accomplish the mission," said Staff Sgt. Tom Sales, 2nd squad leader, 1st Platoon, Alpha Company.

"Each soldier has a unique piece of knowledge. When you combine these soldiers, it allows you to have a successful operation," said Sgt. Zapfe.

So on this cold Friday evening the engineers concluded their training with a blast! Literally. "Each squad completed their qualification lanes well above the standard and within the specified time limits," said 1st Lt. Donoghue. "They all achieved 'killer squad' status."



**A TEAM EFFORT**—Pfc. Daniel Nieves (left) and Pfc. Caleb Burris (right) tie a demolition knot on a bangalore.

**ARMED AND DANGEROUS**—Pfc. Caleb Burris uses a pair of crimpers to make a hole in a block of C-4 for the M-11 blasting cap.



rieves his grappling hook after shak-  
ps.



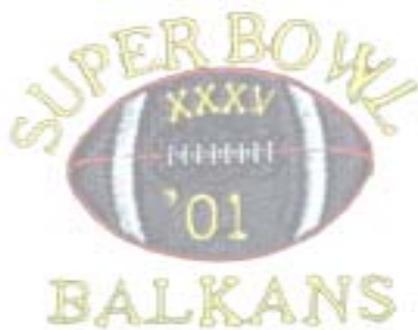


**GOOD THROW**— Capt. Marc Kelly, 56th Medical Battalion, Task Force Med Eagle, makes a successful throw at the Eagle Base Super Bowl celebration. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Schiff)

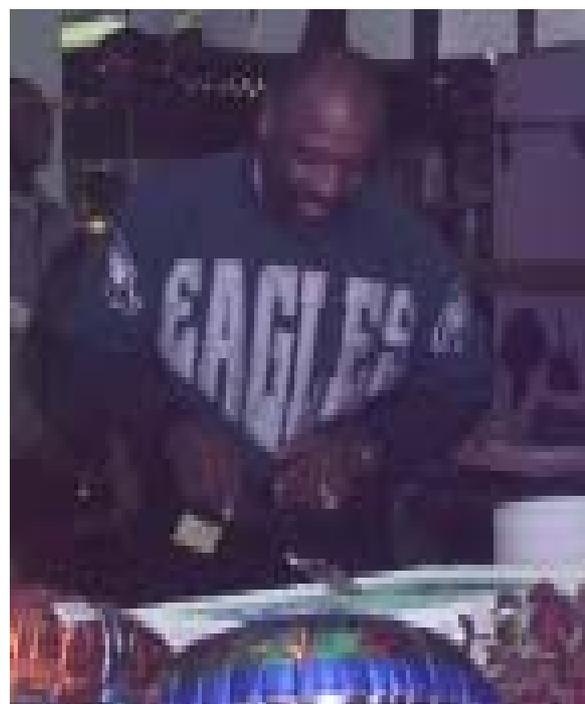
**JUST LIKE THIS**— Former Pittsburgh Steeler and NFL assistant coach Ed Hargrove demonstrates the tire drill to onlookers and contestants at Eagle Base. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Schiff)



**MOVE THOSE FEET**— (Left) Spc. Juan Garcia, Alpha Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, gives the tire drill a try during the Eagle Base activities. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)



**CAKE CUTTING**— (Right) Former Philadelphia Eagles running back Terry White Sr. cuts the Super Bowl cake at Camp Dobol. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)

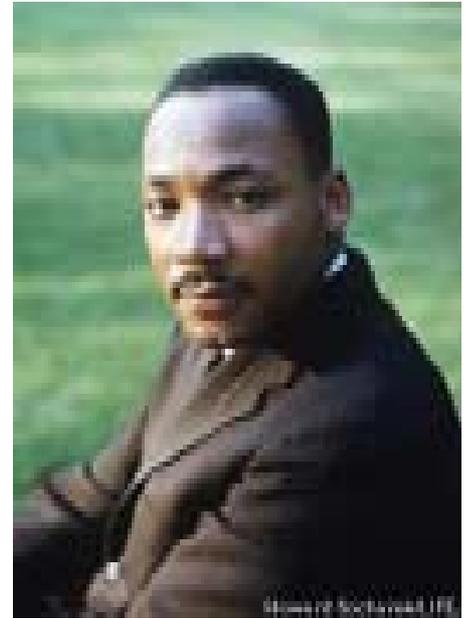


**FOOTBALL KNOWLEDGE**— The winners of the Eagle Base NFL Trivia challenge, from left to right: Sgt. Dean Johnston, Task Force Med Eagle, Spc. Marc Marin, 318th Press Camp Headquarters, Sgt. Donny Skinner, TFME, and Spc. Matt Burrell, 318th PCH. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)

**TAKE THAT**— Ravens fans at Camp Dobol let everybody else know how they feel when their team runs a kickoff back for a touchdown. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH; A CELEBRATION OF THE PAST, A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE



**A DREAMER—** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke on Black Rights, Civil Rights and Human Rights until his death at the age of 39. (Photo by Howard Sochurek, *Life Magazine*)

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

As children, if something didn't go as planned, you implemented the rule of a 'do-over.' In the game of golf, if you have a bad shot, you can take a mulligan. But in the harsh reality of life, you don't have the luxury to 'do-over' or a mulligan to correct what has been done, you can only learn from mistakes.

The phrase 'You are not forgotten' is used in the honor of the memory of the prisoners of war and those missing in action from wars of the past. The men and women honored by that vow are veterans of conflicts overseas and abroad. There are still so-called soldiers of so-called wars that are honored today.

Chaplain (Col.) Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III, (Ret.), honored one of these soldiers.

"Although he didn't wear a uniform," Dr. Sydnor said, "I feel Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a great soldier. He waged war against an elusive but equally lethal enemy... social injustice and prejudice."

During Black History Month, the efforts and sacrifices of those pioneers of civil rights and freedom for all are recognized.

In 1926, a man, Carter G. Woodson, inspired by his own beliefs and in honor of those before him, created and promoted 'Negro History Week'. A week in February

was chosen because it included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. 26 years after Woodson's death, the entire month of February was dubbed Black History Month.

Throughout the entire month, people of all ages, nationalities and gender remember the efforts of the African-Americans who placed their lives on the line, in hope to make stand against oppression and anger.

Woodson, who inspired 'Negro History Week,' is one who is immortalized by his work and effort. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1912, and in 1915 he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History to encourage the study of past.

Better known than Woodson is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "He (King) became the thundering voice of righteousness and a model of courage in the face of unjust oppression," according to Dr. Sydnor. Dr. King stood as an icon to the world as the leader of the war against injustice against all people, regardless of race, color or creed.

During World War II, the USS Mason, one of the first ships which was mainly comprised of sailors of color, was tasked with aiding a distressed convoy outside of Normandy, which was caught in what was dubbed as 'The Storm of the Century.' While en route, the USS Mason endured

heavy damage from the storm. With its deck actually split, the crew diligently worked to repair the ship. With an almost impossible task to save their own ship, they did so and still completed the task of aiding the convoy.

Those honored by Black History Month aren't all men. There has been a very strong group of

women who have also contributed greatly to the cause of equality.

Sojourner Truth was a woman, who in the 1800's spoke out frequently on the importance of women's rights and black freedom. In 1843, she was at a public gathering and she wore a satin banner that said, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all inhabitants thereof," which was very powerful declaration from a person who never learned to read or write.

In the Bible, from the book of Exodus, a story is told of a man named Moses taking the Israelites away from the persecution and hatred of the Egyptians. A similar story is one of a woman who was referred to as 'Moses of her people.' Her people being the slaves of the 1800's, and the woman was Harriet Tubman. In the mid-1800's, Tubman was responsible for freeing roughly 300 slaves from southern plantations. Using her ability to disguise herself, she used the 'Underground Railroad' to sneak through the swamps and farmlands of the South to help the slaves run to the North for their freedom. She also worked as a spy for the Union Army during the Civil War, and as a nurse for the government.

Black History Month is a time to look back at those in our past who have impacted the events of our overall American History.

"He (King) so eloquently tapped the mighty reservoir of the American people concerning love, justice, democracy and opportunity for all," Dr. Sydnor said about King.

"It became crystal clear that he was concerned about all people. He was concerned for humanity," said Dr. Sydnor.

**SPEAKER—** Chaplain (Col.) Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III, a retired servicemember, delivers a speech on the deeds of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Photo by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr.)



# TURKISH, PORTUGUESE JOINT EXERCISE PROVES MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION

Story and photos

By Maj. Yildiray Cevik

Turkish Battalion Task Force

Can you imagine a contingent in Multinational Division (North) not getting through combined operations? Well aware of this fact, the Turkish Battalion Task Force conducted a series of joint activities with other army Task Forces.

The Turkish Battalion Task Force and the Portuguese Operational Reserves (OPRES) Company conducted a combined operation between Jan. 8 and Jan. 14 with the aim of a better familiarization of the Portuguese OPRES Company to the Turkish AOR and further promote the mutual experience.

Portuguese OPRES 2nd Company, one of the companies under the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, has so far been deployed to eight base camps in six months.

Two platoons from the Portuguese OPRES Company regularly participated in the daily activities of the Turkish Battalion without any problems. Tents were set up in the covered basketball court in the base camp, command post and containers for the ranked personnel were provided and they were taken to field training just like the Turkish troops were.

**MAP**—Turkish and Portuguese soldiers evaluate a map and discuss a patrol route plan.



**TOUGH**—A joint Turkish Battalion Task Force and Portuguese OPRES patrol stops to pose during the mission.

The Turkish opened all their recreational facilities to the Portuguese troops, such as a coffee house, snack bar and NCO bar. To the satisfaction of both sides, HQ Support and Service Commander rendered all possible support in a timely fashion.

As the Turkish soldiers began the joint operation with the Portuguese OPRES, they particularly wanted to focus on training, the most important

aspect of any professional military organizations.

Both the Turkish and the Portuguese understand training scenarios must duplicate real world cases as closely as possible.

The conditions in which training is held should reflect many aspects of the real threat conditions, which must be covered in training in peace. Saying that, the two countries gave due importance to this point in the preparation of the program, as they included many headlines of joint activity rather than mere seminars and courses in the classes. Training as one team under the guidance of the Turkish Battalion, the two countries aimed at harmonizing procedures of each unit and solidifying their contributions to the larger organizations. When all was said and done, the Turkish-Portuguese exercise met the goals of both countries, to the satisfaction of everyone.

As we all know, training must be held to ensure standards are being met. It is important to understand how

and why a joint operation should be conducted. A unit must be able to accomplish the tasks in challenging conditions. Seeing how busily troops were engaged in the schedule, we can claim that this aspect of combined activity has also been achieved.

Another reason for such activity is to sustain proficiency. By virtue of planning, rehearsing, conducting, and assessing, armies sustain their proficiency. The recent exercise taught the Turkish to keep up with missions involving non-Turkish assets and capabilities.

The Portuguese OPRES' mission was the same as the Turkish Battalion. More clearly, they conducted patrols, monitored transport of ammo; in short, whatever the Turkish patrols needed done. The rest of the Portuguese OPRES on the base camp were taken to different training exercises such as crowd control, house and car search, combat, firing drill, maintenance drill and also a city tour to increase orientation to the area of responsibility.

# SAFETY OFFICER COURSE HELD AT PEGASUS HALL

Story and photos

By Sgt. David Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

A 40-hour Safety Officer Course (SOC) was held at Pegasus Hall on Eagle Base from Jan. 21 through Jan. 24 to train all unit safety officers and non-commissioned officers to USAREUR (United States Army Europe) safety standards.

Civilians James Snyder and Richard Hamilton of Alamo Safety Organization in San Antonio, Texas, taught the course. Their organization teaches safety-related subjects to military personnel.

"What it does is to bring all safety officers and NCOs to a basic operating level to perform the duties of a safety officer or NCO," said Mr. John Turnmire, Task Force Eagle safety director. "It was a huge success."

The course covered the USAREUR safety program. This included causes of accidents, investigating and reporting accidents, unit safety programs, convoy operations, risk management, fire protection and hearing protection safety. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards were also taught. The course is geared to make safety a daily part of operations.

"We want to prevent accidental injuries. The safety officer is the eyes and ears for the commander on safety-related subjects.

They look for and identify hazards and recommend corrective actions for them." said Mr Turnmire.

"They left no stone unturned. I think it was the most thorough safety program that I have ever seen conducted," said Capt. Noble S. Adigbli, operations officer, 318th Press Camp Headquarters. "Having them share their experiences really made it exciting and realistic for us."

Some of the soldiers attending were safety candidates or current safety officers and representatives from all of the American units in Multinational Division (North), including Camps Comanche, Dobil, McGovern and Eagle Base.

Although a unit's safety program is ultimately the commander's responsibility; safety is everyone's concern. Emphasis starts with the commander and flows down to each soldier. Safety officers are assigned and trained to ensure that a safety program is in place and functioning properly in every unit.

The instructors discussed several issues of particular importance to units deployed here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including:

*·following proper ground-guide procedures*

*·wearing protective gear when needed, such as hearing protection, shoes, boots and eye protection*

*·following applicable standards when*



**INSTRUCTOR**—Mr. Richard Hamilton, Alamo Safety Organization, San Antonio, Texas lectures the safety class at Pegasus Hall here.

*using electrical outlets, such as not linking two or more extension cords into one outlet (daisy-chain)*

*·being careful when walking on the boardwalks*

*·wearing reflective devices when moving at night*

"Safety officers are there to make sure that safety is interwoven into our daily operations," said Capt. Adigbli. "Since this class we will have heightened standards and be more vigilant in our unit safety programs. Safety is not a program, it's a part of being a professional soldier. We take risks but they are minimized because of the safety process that we adhere to," he said.

## TAX INFO FOR MND (N) SOLDIERS

By Capt. Ruth Semonian

Tax Center OIC

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Eagle Base

**Q: Do I need to file my taxes from Bosnia-Herzegovina?**

A: The IRS affords soldiers deployed to a Combat Zone or Qualified Hazardous Duty Area (QHDA) an automatic filing extension. Since Bosnia-Herzegovina is considered a QHDA, soldiers and spouses are automatically given the filing extension. The extension is 180 days, plus one day for every day that the soldier is here during the filing season up to a maximum of 285 days.

For example, Pfc. Snuffy deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina on Sept. 20, 2000, then he redeployed to Fort Stewart on April 1, 2001. Pfc Snuffy's extension is 270 days from April 1, 2001 (180 days plus the 90 days he was in theater during tax season, Jan. 1 to April 1). Hence, Pfc. Snuffy must file his 2000 income tax return by Dec. 26, 2001.

**Q: If I owe money and take the automatic extension, will I have to pay interest?**

A: No. Since you are in a QHDA, even if you owe money to the IRS and wait to file, you will not be charged interest. In fact, if you wait to file and warrant a refund, the IRS will pay you interest on your refund money- even if you file 285 days later!

**Q: How do I apply for the automatic extension?**

A: You do not need to fill out any IRS forms or apply for the automatic extension. It is automatic. When you do eventually file your return or if you receive any correspondence from the IRS, you must write across the top of your return or correspondence, "Qualified Hazardous Duty Area — Bosnia- Herzegovina". This is all that you have to do.

**Q: If I qualify for this automatic extension, why should I file now?**

A: First, if you are entitled to a refund, you may want to file now. In addition, filing now may be worthwhile just so you don't lose track of your need to file when you re-deploy and have the distractions of a normal life. Even though we are entitled to the automatic extension, if we forget our filing deadline and let it pass, the IRS may come knocking.

**Q: How do I file from Bosnia-Herzegovina?**

A: The Tax Center is located at Eagle Base in Building 4 and is open Monday through Thursday and Saturday. Both electronic and paper filing is done at the tax center free of charge. Unit Tax Advisors (UTAs) are available at the base camps to assist with tax preparation and to send returns to Eagle Base for Electronic filing.

# DEPLOYMENT DOESN'T STOP THIS BAPTISM

## SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



**Story by Spc. Jodie Moore**  
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Immersion in water to some means a new life, a more spiritual life. The immersion represents a change for them. In fact it signifies the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ to Christians.

“Baptism is compared to the death, burial and resurrection,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Boyer, 3-15 Infantry Chaplain.

The immersion in water is correlated with the burial of Christ. The reemerging from the water is like the resurrection, Chaplain Boyer said.

Baptism is Greek for to dip. The baptized person, once coming up from the dipping in the water, is believed to be anew, anew with the knowledge of Christ. It's considered a rite of passage for many Christians. It is a ceremony performed by military chaplains all the time. It is performed even in deployed situations.

A baptism took place here when Chaplain Boyer baptized Sgt. Jeffery D. Willis, HHC 3-15 Infantry, at the McGovern Center.

Being deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina gave Sgt. Willis, a Baptist, ample time to sit down and figure out what exactly his life was missing. He decided that it was a spiritual aspect he needed to add to his life. Baptism to him signified his closer relationship with God.

“I felt that being baptized would bring me closer to Jesus Christ himself,” said Sgt. Willis.

In fact, this is one belief of Baptists. In Matthew 28:19, Christ commanded his disciples to baptize the nations as a sign of God's coming rule.

“Christ was baptized himself, we're to follow his example,” said Chaplain Boyer.

Baptists get baptized like Christ and his disciples did. It's a symbol or public sign to others that a person has decided to commit to Christ. It is also symbolic to the baptized person, said Chaplain Boyer.

The Army has been good in making sure this religious practice is available to soldiers, notwithstanding deployments, said Chaplain Boyer.

“Baptism has always been available in deployed situations,”

said Chaplain Boyer.

However, complete immersion, which is required by some religions, is challenging.

The Army has consumable chaplain kits. The kits are set up for baptism. They are for deployments in the field and during wartime. For the baptism that took place here Jan. 21, the consumable kit was not needed for Sgt. Willis' though.

Brown & Root was able to track down a dunk tank. Sgt. Willis proclaimed his new life in front of fellow friends and soldiers at the McGovern center.

Though Brown & Root was able to track down a dunk tank for

this Baptism, chaplains have been known to improvise in the past, said Chaplain Boyer.

Chaplain Boyer said that chaplains have used whatever resources they have available to them, including creeks and ponds.

He feels it is important for soldiers to be able to get baptized, even in the field. “Some soldiers do not want to wait six months before they are able to get baptized,” he added.

Being on deployment, away from family, it may

not seem like an ideal time to get baptized for some. It was ideal for Sgt. Willis. He said while he wished his family could have been here, this was a perfect time for him to get baptized. This is the place where he developed his relationship with Christ. So this is the place where he wanted to show his commitment to Christ publicly.

His Fort Stewart friends came out to support him. Their support meant a lot to him.

“The friends I had here were the ones that helped me turn my life around. It made me feel good that they were here supporting me,” Sgt. Willis said.

Chaplain Boyer also played a big role in Sgt. Willis' decision to get baptized here in Bosnia-Herzegovina rather than at home.

“I just want to thank Chaplain Boyer. I felt good about him doing the baptism because he is the first pastor I've been close to,” said Sgt. Willis.

Chaplains are oftentimes strong advocates for soldiers. If one has the will, chaplains find the way.



**BAPTISM—Sgt. Willis (right) is read a scripture by Chaplain Boyer before the baptism.**