

# TALON

Operation Joint Forge  
Saturday, February 17, 2001

Task Force Eagle  
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**McGovern's 3-15 IN  
On Patrol**

**Troops get a "Taste of Tuzla"  
Russian Defense Minister visits MND (N)  
NORDPOL Changes Command**

# REMEMBER, MAN...

**A**shes, an ancient Jewish sign of penitence, begin Lent. Usually during Mass on Ash Wednesday, on the first day of Lent the faithful come forward to have ashes rubbed on their foreheads in the sign of the cross. The ashes come from the burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Depending upon local practice, the priest or other minister will say one of two formulas: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel" or "Remember, man you are dust and to dust you will return".

Ashes – black and gritty – remind us of the character of Lent. They symbolize the darkness in our lives, which must be confronted and repented. They remind us too, that just as something that has burned is gone, what we have and who we are on this earth are not permanent. There is an urgency in the Lord's call to conversion. Worn publicly, ashes remind us that we call each other to live the gospel.

**GIVE UP THINGS.** Since Lent is a time of personal and communal conversion, it is an especially fitting time to cut back on life's extras. Remember, the purpose of Lent is not solely to give up things; it is to turn our lives from what does really satisfy and to fill ourselves with God's life.

**RECEIVE SACRAMENTAL PENANCE.** Call it confession, reconciliation or penance, but put this sacrament on your "must" list for Lent. If you are a Catholic you can admit your guilt and struggles to the priest and experience God's forgiveness.

**SHARE YOUR WEALTH.** Jesus tells his disciples to share their resources quietly with those who are without. If you are giving something up for Lent, take the money you would have spent and donate it to a charity.

**ATTEND MASS.** One of the most popular Lenten practices is to try to participate in the Eucharist more often. Going to the daily Mass has many benefits: not only God's saving presence in the Eucharist, but also one's increased awareness of progressing through Lent as one listens to the daily Scripture readings and homilies.

**ATTEND OR PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** This private or communal ritual honors the passion and death of Christ. In the communal service, the leader stops at each of 14 station-crosses with scenes from the Gospel Passion Narratives, often found around the inside walls of a church, and leads the faithful in prayer. Lent is the time of retreat in the real sense of that term. It is a time of turning back, and turning away from that which is dangerous to our spiritual growth. None of us travels that six-week journey from death to life alone. Lent is the common journey that we take with our own families and with every other family and individual in the Christian community. Lent is a communal journey to the new life that is Easter. We will begin this journey together this year on Feb. 28 when the priest will touch our foreheads and say "Remember, man...".

## Thoughts For The Day

**Saturday: Learn to put your hand on all spiritual blessings in Christ and say 'MINE'**

**Sunday: There are no new sins – we just keep rerunning the old ones.**

**Monday: Blessed are the people who are too busy during the day to worry and too sleepy to worry at night.**

**Tuesday: What you worship determines what you become.**

**Wednesday: We are not converted to be introverted.**

**Thursday: Nothing can dim the beauty that shines from within.**

**Friday: Life ought not to merely contain acts of worship; it should be an act of worship.**

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Janusz Barczy  
TFE Catholic Chaplain

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

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

I want to finish my discussion of the eight-step training model and the utility of its practical format. If you remember in my last article, I discussed the preparation phase which included planning training; training and certifying the unit leadership; conducting rehearsals; and issuing the operations order. These initial four steps were conducted under the watchful eye of the observer/controller (O/C) who provided feedback to strengthen the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) the leader will use during the exercise. Step 4 culminated with back-briefs and sand table rehearsals to solidify the plan. This is where we will pick up on our discussion of this important training model.

**Step 5. Leadership conducts reconnaissance of the lane.** During this step, key leaders conduct a ground reconnaissance of the terrain on which they will conduct the operation. This provides an opportunity for them to conduct professional discussions of the mission essential tasks they have been assigned. Also, TTPs are validated and subordinate leaders can envision how their units will stage, deploy, maneuver and consolidate in and around the objective area.

After the reconnaissance, leaders can refine their operations orders and issue fragmentary orders (FRAGOs) to their subordinates as needed. The key to an effective lane reconnaissance is to consider the many contingencies that may influence the expected outcome of the operation. In other words, if after the reconnaissance leaders identify any major flaws in the operations order, they have the opportunity to refine their plans before they execute the training. This step ends when leaders are confident and prepared to conduct the operation.

**Step 6. Unit executes the training.** The unit conducts the exercise using multiechelon training. Exercising all individual and collective tasks outlined in the unit's mission essential tasks list (METL) and the task and evaluation outline (T&EOs). During the exercise the O/C keeps a close eye on the conduct of the operation and any TTPs that trouble the unit. He also uses the T&EOs to assist in determining if iteration training might be needed reinforcing tasks that might have not been performed to standard.

O/Cs also assist in the maintenance of a safe training environment. O/Cs help leaders enforce standards of safe operation of vehicles, use of simulation and pyrotechnics, and the enforcement of appropriate risk management procedures. This does not mean that unit's leadership is not ultimately responsible for the safety of training, but that O/Cs provide an added measure to assist the leader in achieving his desired training objectives safely. The conclusion of this step remains dependent on the observations of the leader and O/C following predetermined criteria.

**Step 7. Units conduct the after action review (AAR).** This is probably the most important step of the exercise. Leaders at all levels move through a self-discovery process facilitated by the



Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

O/C to determine the lessons learned after conducting the training mission. This step provides candid and insightful feedback concerning how the unit did, using one controlling theme; how can the unit become better! The AAR process will be discussed at length in my final article on training. This step ends at the conclusion of the AAR.

**Step 8. Unit conducts retraining.** If after the AAR the unit leaders, along with input from the O/C, believe that they did not attain an acceptable level of proficiency in a particular task, the unit will retrain either on the mission as a whole or in part. Retraining can incorporate as many steps of the eight-step training model as the leadership believes necessary. The O/C observes and provides feedback throughout the retraining process. If the mission must be conducted multiple times to achieve proficiency, the unit will conduct iteration training. The unit can conduct these operations until acceptable levels of proficiency are achieved based on available resources and time. This step concludes as does the eight-step training model when units are confident that they are fully capable of achieving their assigned missions in accordance with their assigned METL.

The eight-step training provides leaders at all levels a codified manner by which training events are planned, conducted, and assessed. Throughout the model, feedback is received, refinement of mission-type orders occurs and leaders are afforded the time and resources to achieve their training objectives. As you develop your training plans and conduct your training exercise, I want you to follow this important paradigm as we ensure a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

*Rock of the Marne!*

# McGOVERN PATROL EDUCATES LOCAL STUDENTS

## Story and photos

By Spc. Christopher D. Carney

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Assembling in the gravel parking area of Camp McGovern, members of Charlie Company, 3-15 Infantry, gather around the up-armored Humvees for a briefing on the day's activities. The briefing ends, the Humvees roar to life and gunners man the crew-served weapons. The convoy rolls out onto the dirt road and off to perform one of 3-15 Infantry's primary missions; a presence patrol of the Brcko area.

"What we are doing today is going out on a presence patrol of the surrounding area, to include Arizona Market and Route Desolation, also we are going to a local school to hand out some pamphlets and conduct a mine awareness class with an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) member," said 2nd Lt. Tate Lawrence III, HHC 3-15 IN.

The two-room schoolhouse the patrol pulled into is where Staff Sgt. Michael McCadden, EOD, brings his mine and ordnance displays.

The purpose of the mine awareness class is to help kids recognize the dangers of mines and know what to do if they are found, he said.

Talking to the class Staff Sgt. McCadden said, "We want to make sure you guys don't come across anything dangerous left over from the war. We want to make sure you guys don't touch them because they are dangerous."

The group of first graders was surprisingly quiet because as one student said, "The teacher told us we had to be quite for the class."

The main point that Staff Sgt. McCadden taught the kids is that if they see any mines or ordnance they should do three things; stop, turn around, and then



**GUNNER—** A soldier from Charlie Company sits behind his crew-served weapon during a patrol recently at Camp McGovern.

go tell an adult. This will keep them playing safe and from being hurt.

After the kids listened so intently the soldiers gave the appreciative students some potato chips and sodas for being so polite.

Leaving the school the patrol covered the roads on the way to Arizona Market,

stopping briefly to conduct a dismounted patrol led by 2nd Lt. Lawrence and Staff Sgt. Perry Hunt, 1st Platoon Sergeant, Charlie Company, 3-15 IN.

At Arizona Market another dismounted patrol was held to give an American SFOR presence and also to gather information.

Arizona Market is an area in the McGovern Area Of Operation (AOR) that is experiencing some changes in the way that it is run. One of the goals of patrols in Arizona Market besides giving a presence is to determine the feelings of store owners and workers. From this SFOR members determine what needs to be done and what possible problems there may be.

Leaving Arizona Market, the Charlie Company patrol ended their patrol by going on Route Desolation.

Desolation Route is a mostly one-lane dirt road pockmarked with sizable potholes that show the Americans are working even in rural, hard to reach areas.

At the end of the day the patrol pulled back in to McGovern.

Even though patrols are constantly running in McGovern, day and night, the soldiers are proud of the part that they play in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the end of the mission, Spc. Justen Robinett, 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 3-15 IN, had this to say about his unit: "This is a great company to be in."

**IMAGES—** Spc. Justen Robinett (right), 1st platoon, Charlie Company, 3-15 IN, sits with a local grade school student during the mine awareness class designed to teach the students about mines and ordnance they might find. (Bottom, from left to right) Staff Sgt. Craig Dedager, Staff Sgt. Hunt, and 2nd Lt. Tate Lawrence III, HHC 3-15 IN check the map one last time before going out.





**MOVE OUT**—Trucks hauling M2 Bradleys on flatbeds begin the long trek to Glamoc for the exercise.

**THIS ONE WON'T GET AWAY**—Staff Sgt. William Macdonald, A Company 1-120, tightens down one of the chains securing the M2 Bradley to the flatbed.



**PIGGYBACK**—A Bradley Fighting Vehicle is secured to a flatbed truck.

# MARCH TO FIRE EXERCISE

**Story and photos**  
By Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney  
318th PCH, Camp Dobil

The tanks have been tested. The Bradleys have been tested. They are rested and primed. The M1A1 Abrams, the M2 Bradleys, and the M113 and M577 trucks Feb. 5 and left in a convoy Feb. 6 for the live fire exercise with the 31st Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Glamoc, South Korea.

"I really wish I could go," said Spc. Brandon Hovind, Charlie Company (Mechanized), as he watched the M1A1 Abrams tanks being loaded onto the flatbeds. "If I can't go, it's okay."

There was more to planning the event than just making sure the trucks had enough food, water and electricity, which were all necessary for the weeklong exercise. To carry the bulk of the soldiers, more troops had to be ready in case of an emergency.

Spc. Quadrai Jordan and Cpl. Derrick Myers, Headquarters and Company (Mechanized) here, spent an entire day going over their M577 tracked vehicle to make sure they were 100 percent should they be needed at any time during the week.

"There is someone (communication specialist) there already," said Spc. Jordan. "I'll be there."

With the majority of the soldiers stationed at Camp Dobil being sent to the exercise. A good portion of soldiers, however, will remain behind to support the exercise.

"It would be fun to go," said Spc. Hovind from the guard tower.

"I haven't done live fire since basic training," said Spc. Kenneth.

"There's nothing I can do about it but drive on. We all have jobs to do."



**RIGHT THERE**—Staff Sgt. William Macdonald, A Company, 1-120 IN, directs the Bradley driver to the spot on the flatbed where it can be chained down for the trip.

...d onto a truck for the two day journey to the range.

# GLAMOC LIVE ...ISE BEGINS

**HOPING**—Spc. Quadrai Jordan (in helmet) and Cpl. Derrick Myers, HHC 1-64 AR, spend the afternoon preparing their M577 tracked vehicle for possible use in the Glamoc training exercise.

...e armored personnel carriers have been checked out. The soldiers

...77 armored personnel carriers from here were loaded onto flatbed  
...which took place Feb. 9–11 at the range near the town of Glamoc in

...e Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Regiment, 3d Infantry Division  
...ed on to flatbed trucks, “but everybody has their thing they have to

...ehicles were ready. At Glamoc, tents had to be set up for sleeping,  
...ng stay. Enough ammunition had to be brought, buses were needed  
...se they were needed at Glamoc during the course of the exercise.

...Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d ID  
...e and the communication equipment inside, making sure it was 100

...aid Cpl. Myers, “but if they need more commo support, we’ll go out

...ng mechanized, a number of camp personnel will be attending the  
...to secure the camp.

...“I haven’t done any live firing since 1997.”

...h Albrecht, C Company, 1-179 IN and Spc. Hovind’s duty partner.  
...s to do to finish the mission.”



# NORDPOL TRANSFERS AUTHORITY

Story and photos

By Sgt. Dave Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The new Nordic Polish Battle Group commander, Col. Franciszek Kochanowski, the former commander of the Polish Army Land Forces, received a warm welcome at the transfer of authority ceremony held Feb. 6 at North Pole Barracks in Dobož, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as troops from eight nations stood at attention. An honor guard carried flags representing all of the NORDPOL nations, including Norway, Poland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Before the change-of-command, several prayers were offered for the departing peacekeepers and for the new arrivals taking their place. "It is written in the bible, now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation," said Danish Army Chaplain Regina Ljung. "We pray you will strengthen all who are in the service of their country."

The outgoing commander spoke briefly to the troops.

"Thank you for your cooperation and for the results we have achieved. Bosnia is on the right track and will prosper in the future," said outgoing NORDPOL commander Col. Per Ludvigsen of the Danish Army.

"I have been extremely privileged to work with officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the highest caliber from eight nations," he said. Then Col. Ludvigsen wished the soldiers well and expressed his best wishes for the incoming soldiers of Team 11.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell, assistant division commander of Multinational Division (North), followed with an address to the troops. "To the soldiers of NORDPOL, General Sharp passes on his congratulations to the soldiers of NORDPOL. This ceremony is a time to reflect on past experiences and to look ahead."

"I know that over 200,000 people in this region are appreciative of your efforts and service in the Balkans," said Brig. Gen. Ferrell. Then Brig. Gen. Ferrell welcomed the new commander and new soldiers to NORDPOL. "You are now part of our team."



**PASSING THE COLORS**—The NORDPOL Battle colors are passed to the new commander at the transfer of authority.

"Distinguished guests and soldiers of NORDPOL, I am proud to take over command. I will continue taking care of soldiers and treat with dignity and respect the local inhabitants," said Col. Kochanowski.

The new commander will continue the work of the outgoing Team 10 and is interested in improving the role of Civil Military Cooperation centers in local communities, according to Capt. Sylwester Michalski, Press Information Officer, NORDPOL.

Col. Kochanowski is a graduate of the NATO orientation course at the NATO School (SHAPE) and completed post-graduate studies at the Polish Institute of Foreign Affairs.

He was most recently the assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Polish Land Forces and served as representative of the Polish Land Forces' commander to the Committee of the Multinational Corps Northeast.

Col. Kochanowski also received the United Nations and the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense Medals for service in Georgia.

## POLISH CONTINGENT OF NORDPOL TRANSFERS AUTHORITY

**CHANGING HANDS**—Polish troops (right top) stand at attention while the color guard awaits the two colonels for the ceremonial transfer of authority. Outgoing Commander of the Polish Troops, (below) and chief of staff, Nordic Polish Battle Group, Lt. Col. Jerzy Gut, left, and the incoming Nordic Polish Battle Group and Polish Contingent commander, Col. Franciszek Kochanowski, right, stand in front of a BRDM personnel carrier. Polish troops (right bottom) in place for the transfer of authority. (Photos by Lt. Col. Thomas Kurasiewicz, 318th PCH, Eagle Base)



# SOLDIERS GET A 'TASTE OF TUZLA'

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Daniel W. Schiff  
318th PCH, Eagle Base

Morale, Welfare and Recreation debuted another program for soldiers to enjoy here and at Camps Dobol and Comanche with the first 'Taste of Tuzla' dinner pass on Feb. 11, giving soldiers and civilians the chance to enjoy Bosnian cuisine at a relaxing local restaurant.

"I look forward to the opportunity to get out, see the community and interact with the local civilians to see what the culture is like," said Capt. Terrie Pittman, Task Force Med Eagle. This program was her opportunity to do so.

Thirty soldiers met at Triggers here and were bussed to Tuzla in the early evening. The transportation, reservations, and interpreter were provided by MWR and secured from local MND (N) assets. The actual cost of the meal (15-25 Marks) is the soldier's responsibility.

According to Ms. Maryl Neff, MWR marketing and tours coordinator, the program has been in the works since the beginning of the SFOR 8 rotation. "There was a great deal of command interest when first brought to them," said Neff.

With similar programs in Sarajevo and Tazsar, MWR knew what needed to be done to get things up and running here.

"The program got going with a lot of outside assistance," said Neff. "There was a great deal of command interest when we first approached the program at the beginning of SFOR 8," she said.

Before anything could happen though, MWR needed to find restaurants able to accommodate a large group of soldiers and ensure they met applicable safety and health standards, said Neff.

MWR asked local employees from Brown & Root and TRW for names of restaurants in the area that may qualify, and started looking at some each Tuesday in January, said Neff.

**TIME TO EAT**—Members of the first Taste of Tuzla trip soak up the atmosphere and relax as dinner is served.



The TFME preventive medicine team provided a great deal of assistance as well, said Neff.

Working with the Tuzla ministry of health, Capt. Gary Breon and Sgt. 1st Class Bertha Ganaway, both preventive medicine members of TFME, ensured the restaurants observed the required health and preventive measures.

The PM team, with others from the MND (N) provost marshal's office and military police, TF Eagle Safety Office and the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) G-1, inspected 12 restaurants in January, with nine meeting the stringent standards, said Sgt. 1st Class Ganaway.

The three not passing did not meet the water requirements of TFME tests.

"We used the Ministry's checklists, but did our own water tests on the spot for Chlorine and PH, and took samples to our lab to do presence tests," said Sgt. 1st Class Ganaway.

The Chlorine tests indicate the water has been treated and is difficult for bacteria to grow in, while the PH levels look to ensure the water is not too acidic or basic.

The TFME lab tests for the presence of bacteria in 18-24 hour cultures. These tests are critical, as most items of food are prepared with water, especially the basic preparation of washing, said Sgt. 1st Class Ganaway.

An SOP was drafted and the program was officially approved, with the first dinner on Feb. 11 from here and a second



**DINNERTIME**—Some members of the first Taste of Tuzla MWR trip enjoy their entree's. Clockwise, from left, Spc. Kristy Brown, Capt. Mary Johnson, Capt. Terrie Pittman, all from TFME, Ms. Lynn Vernon, Mr. Larry Rodgers, both from the education center, and Staff Sgt. Lawrence Primus and Pfc. Netrice Harrell, also both from TFME.

one from Camp Comanche on Feb. 15. There will be a schedule of additional nights published by MWR following the two trial dates, and depending on soldier demand and command involvement, the program could go to as many as four per month per base camp, said Neff.

The program has offered some of

the more 'secluded' troops a chance to get off base for a while. For some members of TFME, this was a welcome diversion from their normal hospital duties.

"It's great because it gives us an opportunity to get off post. It's kind of repetitive to Med-Eagle soldiers because a lot of them don't get off post much, unlike the patrols," said Capt. Mary Johnson, TFME. "For the next rotation's troops, I would definitely recommend they go on these dinner passes to get out and see some of the culture."

"It's a nice place. You can eat, relax, listen to some music, and the people are really nice and friendly," said Pfc. Netrice Harrell, TFME.

People recognize the work that went into getting this approved, and the results are worth it.

"Our commander (Lt. Col. Pauline Knapp) has really pushed to get our soldiers involved with these programs," said Capt. Johnson, and according to Staff Sgt. Lawrence Primus, TFME, "It gives a good appreciation for what we are doing here, and as far as MWR goes, it's great of them to help get soldiers out and off of Eagle Base and the surrounding base camps to see and experience other cultures."

A program for Camp McGovern is being worked on, with hope it will be up and running for the SFOR 9 rotation. The distance and logistics preclude bringing people from McGovern to Tuzla for a dinner trip, but command and MWR are working to bring a similar program to the McGovern area, said Neff.

To sign up, soldiers at Eagle base should see their S-1 representative, while those at Camps Dobol and Comanche should see their local MWR representative.

"This program literally gives soldiers a little taste of Tuzla," said Neff.

# RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS MND (N)



**SMILE—** (Left) Marshal Igor Dmitrievich Sergeev, Minister of Defense for the Russian Federation, poses with the troops during a visit to Check Point 39 on Route Georgia during his visit to MND(N) Feb. 6. (Right) Marshal Sergeev and Col. Vladimir Nikolaevich Demidov, commander, 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade, pay their respects by placing flowers at the graves of just a few of the thousands of Bosnians who died during the war.



Photos by Master Sgt. Brian O'Connors  
65th PCH, Eagle Base



**PAYING RESPECT—** (Left) Marshal Sergeev participates in a memorial service in Priboj to soldiers who died during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1992-1995. (Right) Marshal Sergeev listens during a command briefing presented by Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, MND (N) commander, at Eagle Base Feb. 6. Also pictured is Lt. Gen. Michael Dodson, SFOR commander.



## TAX TIP OF THE WEEK

**By Capt. Ruth Semonian**

*Tax Center OIC*

*Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Eagle Base*

**Q: What is the Earned Income Credit?**

A: The Earned Income Credit is a refundable tax credit. Soldiers eligible for this credit can receive a refund for this credit even if they owe no tax and had no income tax withheld.

**Q: Who is eligible for the Earned Income Credit?**

A: A taxpayer with a qualifying child who has earned income under \$27,413 is eligible for the credit. If the taxpayer has one or more qualifying children, he must have earned income under \$31,152. If the taxpayer is married, he must file a joint return and he must have maintained a home in the U.S. for more than six months of the year. However, if the taxpayer is a member of the Armed Forces stationed overseas, he still qualifies under the residency requirement.

**Q: Who is considered a qualifying child?**

A: A qualifying child is the taxpayer's child, adopted child, grandchild, stepchild, or foster child who, at the end of the year, was under 19 (or under 24 and a full-time student). The child must have lived in the taxpayer's home for more than half of the year.

**Q: What is Earned Income?**

A: Earned income includes both taxable and nontaxable income. For military taxpayers, this includes wages, housing and subsistence allowances (and in-kind equivalents), Combat Zone

or Qualified Hazardous Duty Area excluded pay, and earned income that is not taxable. Basically, all of the tax excluded income in Box 13 of the W-2 is added in reaching earned income.

**Q: What is the maximum credit?**

A: The maximum credit is \$2,353 for a taxpayer with one qualifying child and \$3,888 for a taxpayer with two or more qualifying children.

**Q: How does this apply to the soldiers deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina?**

A: The earned income credit can greatly affect our younger soldiers with families. Many of them will have little or no taxable income this year because of the deployment. They may receive all the money that they have paid in taxes back from the IRS. In addition, many will still qualify for the Earned Income Credit because the total of their earned income will not exceed the limits. Hence, in addition to receiving all their tax withholdings back, they might receive as much as a few thousand dollars back as well because of the credit.

**Q: How can I obtain more information about this credit?**

A: Visit the Tax Assistance Center located in Building 4, Eagle Base. The hours are:

**Monday and Wednesday, 0900-1200, 1300-1600, and 1700-2100**

**Tuesday and Saturday, 0900-1200 and 1300-1600**

The telephone number to the Tax Assistance Center is 762-0344.

# THE ARMY VALUES WINNING ESSAY ON LOYALTY

*(Editor's note— The MND (N) command group selected the following as the winning essay on loyalty for the January Army Values Essay Contest sponsored by the Equal Opportunity office. The Army value for the February contest is duty. Essays can be submitted at the Eagle Base Equal Opportunity office in Building 14 between Feb. 15-31 or can be e-mailed to Sgt. 1st Class Lee Morgenroth. For more details contact Sgt. 1st Class Morgenroth at 762-0033 or see your commander or first sergeant.)*

**By Maj. Paula Jones**

*318th PCH, Taszár, Hungary*

Loyalty may be defined as having faith in ones friendship, country or ideals, etc... It is a human quality that has existed since the dawn of time and closely parallels a religious conviction. This natural phenomena has also been characterized within the animal kingdom, for example the gander and goose will remain mated for their entire life cycle. Even man's best friend, the dog will gladly lay down its life in defense of its master. For some, loyalty is the consummate demonstration of love and respect irrespective of harmony or tragedy. The reverent admiration and fear of the Gods led many civilizations to develop and exchange allegiances with those who humbled themselves before the awesome power of the communal leadership authority and their God(s). Adversarial views were rejected or considered blasphemous and warranted labels of mistrust to those who dare oppose or defy the tribunal lineage.

Loyalty seeks no rewards of its own. In fact, it promotes intrinsic values within the dormant soul, and may convert the meek and docile into a force laden with aggression and determination. This intangible attribute that will lead one man to give his life for the welfare of another remains a true mystery and the center point of loyalty. At times, it has possessed entire nations to rise up and repel a would be opponent. The spirit of loyalty was forged from the interrelationship of man and woman and God and family. Later, as the cultures grew in communication and agriculture, a spiritual leader was appointed to establish the ethical climate, moral standards and policies in accordance with the hierarchy and their beliefs. Laws and rules were created and enforced to insure strict compliance, and punishment inflicted to those who either broke or refuted the societal values.

Throughout time man's insatiable appetite for power and dominance over agriculture and each other remained unchanged. Loyalty became subjective and not objective depending on the perspective of the ruling body or working class. Greed, gluttony and self indulgence are the corner stone which degrades societal values. The "haves" versus the "have nots" tended to crumble the basic ethical support of the governing body. Loyalty came at premium for these ruling states. The now chosen aristocrats deemed themselves worthy or ordained to institute policies without the consent or approval of the governed and selected civil and military rulers who would exercise their will. The populace had little choice but to accept the authority as the gospel or inject contempt into the minds of the citizens and risk an internal uprising. As the economies failed and basic resources became scarce, the people turned to the leadership for guidance and insight. Usually a war was the answer, an opportunity for the oppressed to align or mold its opinion to support the effort.

The common soldier's loyalty or allegiance was paramount for successfully motivating him into battle. This soldier may not



**Maj. Paula Jones (Photo by Staff Sgt. Darrin McDufford)**

have had a full understanding of the socioeconomic impact for which he is willing to die. All he knew is that he has a leader who is charged by the powers that be, to lead this soldier into battle for good of the common goal. The soldier must be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that his will is the will of the leader and that he will be victorious in battle. Once again, loyalty is tested as the foot soldier in the heat of battle hears the orders from his leader to press forward and destroy the enemy. He does this knowing that his life is given in honor of his God, family, and homeland. What better way to enter eternity than to spend ones last dying breath believing that his efforts are in accordance with the covenant of God or King and Queen.

Loyalty will always remain a topic of discussion on a national scale. Loyalty is taught through tradition and examples and aims to encourage leadership. When fabled legends such as "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table" got together to speak of deeds accomplished, they spoke of promoting a brotherhood that was pure and noble and founded on the premise of authority to God's will. Loyalty has allegiances with ambition, ethics, and belief that is not limited to any one country. No one nation can harness the potential of loyalty, but all seek to instill it within the framework of their society. The reaffirmation that the world is cruel and corrupt, but duty, honor and justice will prevail must be spoken and lived with proper values, honor and dignity. Propaganda, political influence, and talk of conspiracy may sway a persons views of his or her loyalty towards their spouse, employer, nation and God. Each individual has to decide and respond properly with a course of action that reflects the truth.

In today's Army the struggle continues, as officers, NCOs and enlisted are tasked to live a life that is ideal with the Army values. Given this, the modern soldiers is inundated with feedback from around the world on how his Army responds to the needs of its country and supports its fellow soldiers. Controversy and speculation as to the real purpose of conflicts and operations other than war missions, become debatable issues for the soldiers. Today's soldier is an Army of One with the intelligence to detect character flaws, smoke and mirrors tactics, and general "hog wash". The loyalty that this soldier harbors must be beyond reproach to insure that the democracy for which he has sworn to protect remains worth dying for... "for this we will defend". The political and military leadership for today and tomorrow must commit to reestablishing values and virtues from yesteryear to a new Army of sophisticated individuals who may have never truly understood the price of freedom; and form them into a spirit of one worthy of Knighthood.

Those who are not loyal to something will be disloyal to anything.



## ONE FRIEND PROMOTES ANOTHER

### Two soldiers reflect on the Army and why they have chosen to make it their career

#### Story and photos

By Spc. Christopher D. Carney  
318th PCH, Eagle Base

The promotion ceremony of Maj. Van Jarrell, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Aviation Brigade, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), Feb. 10, at Camp Comanche, allowed two soldiers the chance to show their love and dedication for the Army, and to share the roots of two people with a common experience.

Maj. Jarrell, promoted from captain, had his rank pinned on by Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Johnson, Bravo Company, 2-3 Aviation, a soldier who served with Jarrell in their first assignment in the Army.

They both joined the Army at the age of 21 and met in their first unit at Fort Bragg, N.C., 2nd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division.

“I kind of wandered around a little, I had a steady job and worked but I had no sense of belonging to anything. One day I was bored with what was going on with my life so I walked into the recruiting center and just joined the Army. I told the recruiter that I wanted to go to Fort Bragg, jump out of airplanes and be a part of the 82nd Airborne Division,” said Maj. Jarrell.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson also had a desire to be in the 82nd Airborne Division and told his recruiter that was what he wanted.

As privates in their field artillery unit at Fort Bragg they learned many things about the Army that continues to shape their lives today.

“I was exposed to some excellent leaders that provided me with what I was needing; it provided everyone that was there the same thing. Great leadership goes across an entire organization and it makes it grow and become one. It had a profound effect on me, not just my Army career but on me as a person,” said Maj. Jarrell. “It defined who I am today and how I grow and interact in this institution and with other people.”

Their NCOs set the example for them to follow and develop their own leadership styles.

“There were no middle of the ground leaders, you either had really good ones or they were bad and were left behind,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson.

“When the Army talked about taking care of soldiers it really meant something. 1st Sgt. Johnny Gunn did a lot for me and taught me a lot about life,” Chief Warrant Officer Johnson 3 said.

“When I was at PLDC (primary leadership development course) my wife at that time was seven and a half months pregnant. My first sergeant told me to go and that everything would be all right, he would take care of her.

When I was there my wife called and said that she had a minor



**FRIENDSHIP—Chief Warrant Officer 3 David Johnson (left) shakes the hand of a friend of many years, Maj. Van Jarrell (right). The two have been friends since their first duty assignment.**

problem but it was taken care of,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson.

“When I got back I found out that the clutch had gone out in her car while on the expressway. She called First Sergeant Gunn. He came and picked her up and took her home and then to the commissary. First Sergeant Gunn then picked her up at the commissary and took her home. When they got home the car was in the driveway fixed and he gave the keys back to her. That’s the kind of leadership that I was used to.”

“There was a bond there. The things you do are for each other. Soldiers don’t do things to get paid, they do things for the guy next to him,” said Maj. Jarrell.

“That’s what did it for me,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson. “I look for that same feeling everywhere I’ve been and I try to get people to see how it can be when it all clicks. There is nothing in the world like it. That’s why I am still in the Army.”

“You won’t find the type of camaraderie or the type of friendships that you will see in the Army in the civilian world. We do things for different reasons than they do. What we (soldiers) do is not motivated by money but by responsibility. When my soldiers today are ready for E-5 I am pushing them to go for sergeant. When they become sergeant I give them more and I expect more

out of them. That’s what our system demands and that’s why I love it so much,” said Maj. Jarrell.

“It’s hard to find a more fair system. You know what it takes to get advanced and you either decide you want to do it or you don’t. Anyone can do it, that is the beauty of the system, all it takes is desire,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson.

“It irritates me when my soldiers are content to sit where they are. To make E-5 all you have to do is check off those blocks and then you’re there. Anything that person does moving up the chain, the guy behind him is watching. For him to do a good thing and have another person see, it sets a trend of people who want to do better. An NCO is way too important in this Army not to have a good solid professionalism,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson.

“I couldn’t imagine going to a place where I didn’t have leaders like that. If I didn’t have people who cared, who were willing to sacrifice for me to make me a better soldier. The military system is not for everyone, but it’s definitely for me. It has been everything I had wanted,” said Maj. Jarrell.

Maj. Jarrell and his wife, AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kathy Jarrell, have made a career out of the Army that helped shaped him from 21-years old till now and as Chief Warrant Officer 3 Johnson said about him, “He has always tried to be a professional soldier which he has accomplished because that was instilled in us from the start.”