

TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, March 24, 2001

Task Force Eagle
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MND (N) Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Women Celebrate Place in Military History
McGovern TOC Renamed in Honor of Fallen Soldier
Radio Mir Reaches People of Bosnia-Herzegovina

YOUR FINAL ANSWER

It has quickly become the most popular show on television. Filled with suspense and drama, the audience watches as two people sit face to face. Lights begin to flash, booming music begins to play, and then a question is asked. More lights – more music. Everybody is pulling for the poor guy in the hot seat. Oh, he may be poor now, but if he could only answer this question, he would instantly become rich. A series of possible answers is presented, and then after what seems an eternity, he makes a choice. Next comes the excruciating and tension-building silence from the show's host, and then the predictable and certainly the most famous line in modern TV: *"Is that your final answer?"*

Normally, when Regis Philbin poses that question, there is a lot of money at stake. The key to winning is to give the right answer. There's only one problem however, the guy in the hot seat is not sure about the answer. Fortunately for him he is allowed to take a *lifeline* which allows him to receive help from others to figure it out.

"Is that your final answer?" This now famous question is not new, nor is it exclusive to the 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' program. In fact, it's the exact question God is asking you about what you are doing with Jesus. And, like the person sitting with Regis, there is a lot at stake. Someday, you will have to give your final answer about Jesus. There will be no more chances. You won't be able to call a friend for help and the audience cannot answer for you.

In Isaiah 55:6, God's word says, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near." This verse implies that you won't always be able to find him. Someday, and you don't know when that day will be, you will give what turns out to be your final answer about Christ. And when you stand before God, there will be no lifelines available. In fact, the only lifeline today is Christ and today, He is near. Today, He can be found. If you have never trusted Jesus to be your personal rescuer from the penalty of your personal sins, don't wait another day! Answer yes to Jesus now. Let that be *your final answer*.

See me for the rest of the story!

Thoughts For The Day

Saturday: The difficulties in life are intended to make us better, not bitter.

Sunday: My life helps to paint my neighbor's picture of God.

Monday: The people you should try to even with are the people who have helped you.

Tuesday: Christ's blood makes us safe; God's Word makes us sure.

Wednesday: We have committed the Golden Rule to memory – let's now commit it to life.

Thursday: A bit of love is the only bit that will put a bridle on the tongue.

Friday: Only as we go God's way can we know God's will!

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Clarke L. McGriff
TFE Chaplain

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FAREWELL SFOR 8 AND WELCOME SFOR 9

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

For the soldiers of SFOR 8 who will be departing throughout this next week, I wanted to share with you a few thoughts of how much your duties in support of this mission in the Balkans has meant to your service and the people of this country.

Over the past six months, I know the level of sacrifices you have each made in order to make our mission a success. Your sacrifices are worthy, and appreciated by those of whom you serve as well as all the leaders of the world. The work you have done here is good. This mission is worthwhile, you should be proud of yourselves and I am proud of each one of you. I want to offer you some parting thoughts to you as you reunite with family and friends in the next few weeks.

You made a difference. During SFOR 8 we have been challenged in many ways requiring you to perform at the highest levels. Because you did your job, did it well and did it to the best of your ability, SFOR 8 was a complete success! You must know that your nation and our world knew you had what it takes to face the challenge head-on and succeed.

You are professionals. Because you conducted yourself professionally and performed accordingly, we achieved our objectives. During the past six months, you have met the challenge of accomplishing a very tough mission diligently and safely.

Don't let down during the transition. This transition period is critical and requires even harder work to set our counterparts up for success. You are responsible to train, coach and mentor your replacement in every intricacy of your job. Don't let up during this period. Give tough and honest evaluations of their performance; be prepared to spend additional hours in teaching the process and systems of your functional areas, and by all means don't stop until you assess that your counterpart has mastered the material and can accomplish the task completely on their own. As a way of assessing if you have sufficiently prepared your counterpart for success, ask yourself this question. Can my replacement do the same things I did, to the same level of



Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

proficiency after I redeploy? If the answer is yes, then you are on the right path. If the answer is no, retrain and coach until you can answer yes. It is up to you.

Transition to the war fighting focus. Those of you in the Marne Division who will rejoin your parent organizations, will now undergo the transformation from Security and Stabilization Operations to a war fighting focus. Some may think that this experience, absent from combat vehicles, would dull our war fighting edge. That is true from a 'hands on equipment' approach, but I submit that the many lessons learned and experiences gained during your deployment, in terms of conducting troop leading procedures, operational planning and preparations, leading and soldiering skills all translate well during high intensity combat operations training. Many of you will begin a gunnery density, rotate to combat training centers, and prepare to assume deployable ready force missions. Remain focused on your missions and you will continue to be successful as you prepare for any contingency globally.

Thanks to your families. As I have written many times in the past, we could not achieve all that we do if it weren't for the support we receive from our families and friends back at home. They keep us motivated during challenging times; they provide us with a kind word or an azimuth check while we remain focused on our mission; and they will be there long after we 'hang up the uniform' for the last time. We all owe a special thanks to our families and recognize their sacrifices just as they have sacrificed so much for us throughout





our deployment. They deserve our indebted gratitude!

Tell others of your experiences. You have gained profound experiences in an extremely complex operational environment. You must share your experiences with others and tell your civic leaders, friends and families how important this mission is to ensure stability and security in this region. We must continue to share information of the significant impact Stabilization Forces have had in the Balkans, and must be advocates for the continuation of providing a secure and stable environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I look forward to serving with you in the future. I have been honored to serve with you and am proud to have been part of such a professional organization. I have participated in many deployments during my career, and I am extremely honored to have served with you during SFOR 8. I look forward to the opportunity of serving with you again in the future. You are an example for others to emulate. Thank you again and I hope to see you when I return after SFOR 9.

For those of SFOR 8 staying for SFOR 9

I want to add a special thanks to those soldiers continuing their service as part of SFOR 9. You have sacrificed so much already and will continue along the path of excellence during this next rotation. Stay the course, stay focused on the mission and know full well that our nation and our Army are extremely proud and grateful for the accomplishments you have made and will continue to make for the next six months. I am confident we will once again achieve excellence during this next rotation.

A message to the professionals of Stabilization Force 9

I would like to extend my welcome to those soldiers who will participate in the SFOR 9 rotation. I am glad to see you because I know you will carry on the traditions of excellence set forth by the many rotations before you. I know that the soldiers of SFOR 8 will continue to extend the hospitality you expect. You have much to learn and I want you to be fully prepared to assume your duties the moment transfers of authority are complete. I am confident you will meet the challenge!

As you begin your transition period, I want you to keep a few things in mind during this pivotal learning experience.

Force protection is key. Force protection is an unwavering duty that we all must take seriously.

There are many individuals who would delight in seeing the demise of SFOR and our mission. Maintain situational awareness of your surroundings and be constantly aware of situations that don't quite 'feel right.' Always keep your head in the game and follow the prescribed force protection standards found in your SFOR handbooks and articles. Complacency is a force distracter and can lead to serious injury or death. It is up to us to keep our force safe and secure, enabling us to focus on our assigned missions.

Learn your job inside and out. As you continue your right seat ride, be aware that your counterpart will be departing shortly and all responsibilities for the success of the mission will fall on you. That is not meant to scare anyone, but quite frankly foster an understanding that what you learn during this transition period will have a direct impact on the mission of Multinational Division (North) as a whole. If you have a question, ask it; if you are uncertain how to perform a particular task, do it again. We are counting on you to be the subject matter expert in your areas of responsibility.

Confidence is a force multiplier. Learning your new job, adapting to this deployed environment, and discovering that this is a highly challenging operational environment may weigh on you initially during this transition period. This is normal and will pass as you get into your 'battle rhythm' and identify your own methods of operation that are right for you. But, one thing must be maintained for you to be successful... that is, be confident in your abilities and the abilities of those around you. Being tentative or fatalistic is dangerous in this environment. Historically, we have seen what confident leaders and soldiers have accomplished during the most challenging times. Develop this characteristic and invest the time and energy in your transition so you can be confident that you are always doing the right thing at the right time. Your leaders, peers and subordinates expect nothing less.

As we close one chapter and open another in this Stabilization Forces mission, I remain committed to you and the duties we provide to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I know that we will continue to meet every challenge, befitting of the trust our countries have placed in us to conduct this important mission. We are the best multinational force in the world, and will continue to remain the light of hope as we provide a safe and secure environment for the people of this country.

Rock of the Marne!



MND (N) RUNS INTO



FESTIVITIES— (Clockwise from top left) St. Patrick's Day kicked off with the 5K Fun Run on a request to disc jockey Sgt. Robert Pawłowski at Camp Comanche. Sgt. Robert Robinson and Blair Davis enjoy a game of darts. The first woman to cross the finish line at Camp Comanche, Chris Knoble (left) led the 5K at Camp Comanche until Sgt. Tony Locklear (center) took over. Sgt. Locklear passes the baton to Pfc. Mikal Calvert. Sgt. Robert Robinson (left), Spc. Johnathen [unclear] enjoy a game of darts. The same evening, Triggers at Eagle Base was packed with people for the 5K race at Eagle Base. Runners of the 10K and 5K runs at Eagle Base are seen in the background. (Photos by Spc. Danny C. Martin Jr. and Spc. Christopher D. [unclear])



TO ST. PATRICKS DAY



Run at Camp Comanche. Staff Sgt. Brandon Hill makes son (left), Spc. Johnathan Eggleston (center) and 1st Lt. Comanche's 5k Fun Run was 1st Lt. Mattii Minor. Pfc. (center) took the lead in the middle of the last lap. Camp Comanche 10K relay race at Eagle Base Maj. Douglas Dankworth (left), Spc. Johnathan Eggleston (center) and 1st Lt. Blair Davis enjoy a game celebration. Sgt. James Bockelmann and K-9 Uvarted (right) stand at the start line waiting for the beginning of the relay race.



RADIO MIR REACHES PEOPLE OF BiH

Story and photos by
Spc. Jodie M. Moore

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

Radio Mir broadcasts live six days a week from Camp McGovern providing the music listeners love to hear throughout Multinational Division (North). They boast good music, good disc jockeys and a large listening area.

Love line, horoscopes, jokes, news, sports, weather and local events are all some of the popular segments on Radio Mir that people tune in to hear daily. This Stabilization Force run radio station is responsive to the people and to SFOR's mission.

Radio Mir's task is to be a command asset in information operations, said Maj. Barry L. Peterson, Detachment commander, 13th Psychological Operations Battalion.

For instance, Radio Mir played a key part in the success of the harvest program, which encourages local citizens to turn in illegal or unwanted weapons, ammunition and unexploded ordnance. Radio Mir ran spots on the air telling listeners where harvest locations would be, and the time

they were able to turn in weapons.

Maj. Peterson says one of the goals of Radio Mir is to reach the largest audience possible with SFOR's mission.

The radio station reaches 90 percent of the MND (N) area.

"We are trying to expand to cover even more area," said Maj. Peterson.

Radio Mir reaches throughout the area, and it reaches the people.

"Radio Mir is the number one radio station in some areas," said Maj. Peterson.

Balancing SFOR's mission with a successful radio station that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina enjoy is a mission in and of itself. But it has been a successful mission thus far.

Staff Sgt. Brian M. Hess, 13th PsyOp Battalion, the NCOIC of Radio Mir, said the success of Radio Mir is a direct reflection of the responsiveness of the station to the people.

He said when he was first assigned to Radio Mir he noticed that there wasn't much connection between the radio station and the people they were supposed to communicate with.

Staff Sgt. Hess believed that Radio Mir needed to be reprogrammed to fit viewer demographics.

He set out to target their audience with regular scheduled programming.

"We opened up a Telo system. We allowed people to call the radio station and talk with the D.J.'s on the air," he said.

Staff Sgt. Hess took a risk by initiating the new listener call-in format.

Initial research showed the people of BiH were not ready to go on air and voice their opinions about anything, including music, said Staff Sgt. Hess.

The research was wrong.

"We quickly found out that indeed they (listeners) were ready to do that, they were ready to do that with a vengeance. The call-in rates came up very fast," said Staff Sgt. Hess.

This helped Radio Mir get an idea of where their broadcast reached. It gave them an idea of who was listening during certain times of the day, and they were able to make adjustments based off of this information.

With their newfound knowledge of listener demographics, Radio Mir was truly able to become the radio station for the people.

Radio Mir also remains responsive to the people by doing remote broadcasts.



NCOIC— Staff Sgt. Brian M. Hess, 13th Psychological Operations Battalion, NCOIC of Radio Mir, looks over some information at Radio Mir located at Camp McGovern.

Radio Mir takes their radio station on the road to actually meet and greet the listeners that have made them so popular.

"Our remote broadcasts are event driven," said Staff Sgt. Hess.

Radio Mir broadcast live from Brcko during a multi-ethnic fishing club tournament held there March 11.

It was a chance for the radio station to get out and talk with the people, and for the radio station to support a theme of SFOR – peace between ethnic groups.

The fishing club is the only multi-ethnic club in this area, said Staff Sgt. Hess. People of different religions and ethnicities enjoy a common interest.

Staff Sgt. Hess said he sees requests from peoples to do live broadcasts as a positive thing for Radio Mir.

"If you take Radio Mir to the people, it shows the people we are aware of the towns they live in, and we want to make an investment in them," said Staff Sgt. Hess. "We come to your town, and let you mingle with us. It gives us an investment in the town and town an investment in us."

So far the radio station has broadcast live from Srebrenik, Brcko, Brcka, Dobo, and Drebrenik. Radio Mir is looking to broadcast live from every major city in the MND (N) area, said Staff Sgt. Hess.

They want to get their messages and their music out. They are willing to travel to the listeners to do just that. Radio Mir is truly a radio station for the people by the people of SFOR.



BROADCAST— Radio Mir personality Dino Edinredic and two CIMIC civil affairs soldiers participate in the live broadcast from Brcko March 11. Radio Mir goes out on live broadcasts to bring the radio station to the people.

WOMEN CELEBRATE PLACE IN MILITARY HISTORY

Story and photos by

Sgt. Dave Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

During the Civil War, a 19-year-old woman named Emily ran away from home and joined the drum corps of a Michigan regiment. In Tennessee, during the struggle for Chattanooga a minie ball pierced her side. Her wound was fatal and her gender was disclosed.

At first she refused to give her real name but as she lay dying, she dictated a telegram to her father in Brooklyn.

"Forgive your dying daughter. I have but a few moments to live. My native soil drinks my blood. I expected to deliver my country but the fates would not have it so. I am content to die. Pray forgive me...Emily." (Excerpt from the book *Woman in War 1866*, by Frank Moore).

At a celebration for Women's History Month March 15 at the Eagle Base Chapel, Air Force Chaplain Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Wilma L. Vaught spoke about the challenges and victories women have achieved in the military. Vaught is one of the most decorated women in U.S. military history. She broke ground as the first woman to deploy with a Strategic Air Command bombardment wing on an operational deployment in 1966-67. Among numerous awards and achievements, she holds the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. Currently, she is President of the Board of Directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc.

"The Women's Memorial is a place of remembrance, a place to remember women who served and are no longer with us," said Brig. Gen. Vaught. Women have participated and paid the ultimate price in every war and conflict since the Civil War. Here are just a few examples.

During World War II, Lt. Ellen Ainsworth, a 24-year-old Army nurse from Glenwood City, Wisc., treated wounded soldiers in hospital tents during the Battle for Anzio. According to the Military Women Veterans website, userpages.aug.com/captbarb/index.html, she calmly moved her patients to safety when a shell hit the hospital during an enemy bombardment. Her calm assurance instilled confidence in her assistants and patients, thereby preventing serious panic and injury, according to the website. Ainsworth received wounds during the attack and died six days later.

There is also Air Force Capt. Mary Therese Klinker, a flight nurse assigned to the 10th Aero-Medical Evacuation Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, who died during the crash of a C-5A Galaxy on April 4, 1975 outside Saigon. The Lafayette, Ind., native was 27 years old when she perished in the Operation Babylift crash trying to evacuate Vietnamese orphans.

Brig. Gen. Vaught cited role models like Abigail Adams and Eleanor Roosevelt as being "women of courage and vision." Mrs. Roosevelt was a proponent for allowing women to serve in the military. "The true heroes are the silent ones, the ones who never ask for glory... the ones who define courage and bravery," Brig. Gen. Vaught said.

In addition to the Civil and Spanish American Wars, women have served in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada and Desert Storm. Air Force Col. Eileen Collins, now a space shuttle pilot and commander, was one of the pilots that ferried medical students from Port Salinas in Grenada to safety during the invasion of Grenada.

"Perhaps the most positive change is allowing women to enter jobs that they were not normally offered, particularly aviation," explained Lt. Col. Pauline Knapp, Task Force Med Eagle Commander with 21 years of active service.

Lt. Col. Knapp remembers being a 2nd Lieutenant stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 1981 and being inspired by seeing a female aviator for the first time.

"Now we have women three-star generals. Younger women can now envision themselves in these roles," explained Lt. Col. Knapp.

Lt. Col. Knapp added that the military has done a great job of integrating the genders in the services, "but there will always be challenges."

What are some of the challenges for women in today's military? "Being a woman, it's hard to have a strong opinion about something without someone assuming you're being emotional," said Capt. Katie Karwan, a Black Hawk pilot with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, at Camp Comanche. She offered some advice for women to succeed in

their military careers.

"Maintain physical fitness and do well on your PT test. Make all the road marches. Aim for achieving 290 or above on your PT test. You have to excel," said Capt. Karwan. "Always refer to yourself as an officer or soldier. Don't use the fact that you're a woman to get special treatment." She added that "all it takes is one woman not performing to standards or using the fact that she is a woman to get some kind of advantage over their male counterparts" to negatively stereotype all women.

But March 15 was a day of celebration, a day to commemorate and celebrate the contributions of women who served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.

As Brig. Gen. Vaught's speech drew to a close, she reminded everyone in the audience to "let the generations know that women also guaranteed our freedom."



SPEAKER— Air Force Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) (Ret.) Wilma L. Vaught speaks to the crowd celebrating Women's History Month.

McGOVERN TOC RENAMED IN HONOR OF FALLEN SOLDIER

Story and photos by
Spc. Jodie M. Moore
318th PCH, Camp McGovern

A person's service to their country is often said to be the highest tribute he or she can ever make to their country. This service should be honored in life and death.

A dedication ceremony was held here March 9, renaming the TOC (tactical operations center), the Gallagher TOC, after the late Staff Sgt. John A. Gallagher.

Staff Sgt. Gallagher was a soldier with HHC, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized). Staff Sgt. Gallagher passed away here Nov. 26.

The tribute to his service was something Lt. Col. Stefan J. Banach, Commander, Task Force 3-15 IN, has been working on every since Staff Sgt. Gallagher passed away. He wanted the rededication ceremony to take place before the current SFOR 8 rotation ended, he said.

When 3-15 IN returns to Fort Stewart, Ga., there will be a similar dedication ceremony at the Task Force Headquarters there, said Lt. Col. Banach.

"It is important that we remember those who have served with us and passed on. Not only (during) peace time and peace time enforcement missions but in combat as well," said Lt. Col. Banach.

The dedication ceremony served as a time for Staff Sgt. Gallagher's friends to reflect on their fellow soldier's life and for TF 3-15 IN to honor their own soldier.

"This ceremony is a fitting tribute to our fallen comrade who was a great soldier, leader, and a friend," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark T. Baker, 3-15 IN command sergeant major.

His fellow soldiers and friends were present for the dedication ceremony. The unveiling of the display case bearing Staff Sgt. Gallagher's image and patches drew a warm applause from the attendees at the ceremony.

"(I'm) truly elated by dedicating the TOC to such a deserving soldier, an NCO. Staff Sgt. Gallagher was many things to all of us;

he was a soldier, a leader, comrade and friend. And most of us know him as a humble person, and he would never think that he would be so deserving of an honor like this," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian D. Washington, HHC, TF 3-15 IN.

His friends, fellow soldiers, and battalion thought he was more than deserving of this honor. It wasn't a question of if his service would be remembered, but when.

In his prayer for the dedication of the Gallagher TOC, Chaplain (Capt.) Eric Boyer, TF 3-15 IN chaplain, prayed that the future planning that goes forth from the Gallagher TOC be in compliance with the service

of Staff Sgt. Gallagher.

"May the operations and plans that go forth from this building which is being dedicated in his memory help bring peace to a troubled land, so we know that our friend had a purpose in what he gave to this land," said Chaplain Boyer.

That is to say that Staff Sgt. Gallagher paid the highest tribute one could ever make. One can only hope that his service was not in vain, and the Stabilization Force mission in the Balkans ends on peaceful terms.

"Those of us who knew of all of his accomplishments would know this is only a small gesture as to what he was worth as a person," said Sgt. 1st Class Washington on the dedication ceremony.

The days of the draft are long gone. Staff Sgt. Gallagher dedicated his life to the service of his country because he felt it was the right thing to do. Those who knew of his service felt the dedicating of the TOC in his name was the right thing to do also. How does one honor a fallen comrade who dedicated his life to the service of his country? You honor him with a lasting tribute of remembrance for his service.



PRAYER— Chaplain Boyer leads a prayer during the rededication of the Camp McGovern tactical operations center March 9. The TOC was renamed the Gallagher TOC after Staff Sgt. John A. Gallagher, who passed away Nov. 26. (Below right) Sgt. 1st Class Brian D. Washington pays tribute to his fallen comrade. (Below left) Staff Sgt. Timothy Terpak looks upon the plaque which sits in the hall of the Gallagher TOC.



EDUCATION CENTER STARTING NEW SEMESTER

Story by Maj. Judith Gardner

Photo by Spc. Christopher D. Carney
318th PCH, Eagle Base

Being deployed doesn't mean you have to interrupt your civilian education. The Army Education Center offers a wide variety of university classes and seminars taught throughout the year at Eagle, Comanche and McGovern base camps to help soldiers reach their educational goals.

The University of Maryland offers math, English, humanities, social sciences and computer technology courses during eight-week terms at a variety of times to adjust to soldiers' schedules. The three-credit-hour courses are taught in eight-week terms with one-credit hour seminars offered frequently throughout the year. The courses are designed to help soldiers develop their professional skills and attain associate or bachelor's degrees.

Spc. Robert Sanchez, motor sergeant with the Coalition Press Information Center, is taking full advantage of the Education Center programs. With no prior college experience, he has used the Army's Tuition Assistance Program here at Eagle Base and completed eight semester hours in the last five months towards an associate's degree in Business Management. The Chicago, Ill., native is a reservist and supervisor of the Pittsburgh, Pa., Institute of Transfusion Medicine's donor recruitment program at the Chicago branch office and wants to become the director of the program. An associate's degree is key to reaching this goal.

"I feel the Tuition Assistance is wonderful. If I hadn't started school here, I probably would have kept putting it off at

home. I've discovered that classes today are designed for adult, working students and offered at times that work around your schedule," Spc. Sanchez said.

Spc. Sanchez first learned about the Education Center programs during the inprocessing briefing and then met with a counselor. "The counselor developed a plan for me and helped me understand what I could realistically do here. After I finished six hours, he prepared an evaluation for me and laid out a roadmap for me to follow at any school, not just the University of Maryland," said Spc. Sanchez.

In addition to degree completion courses, Central Texas College, through their Europe Campus, offers more than 20 courses in their Advanced Skills Education Program (ASEP) here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. ASEP offers unit-level instruction designed to help develop the communication, management, leadership and supervisory skills of noncommissioned officers and junior officers. Courses are taught in subject areas such as Counseling techniques, Conducting Briefings, Problem Solving, Effective Military Writing, and Military Forms and Reports. These seminar-type classes offer one credit hour each in management. Courses are scheduled based on unit requests.



TEACHER—Ms. Constance Fournier leads an English class at the Education Center.

For soldiers needing to improve their GT scores to at least a 110, Central Texas College offers a 60-hour, non-credit course focusing on math and English skills development. Both group and individual instruction is offered to reach this goal.

The next University of Maryland eight-week term starts March 31 and runs through May 25. For further information, go to the intranet site <http://eaglevision/EdCenter>. You can also call the Eagle Base Education center at 762-7073 or send an e-mail to: tuzlaedtech@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil

SPORTS SAFETY IN MND (N)

By Maj. Jack Matthews

Task Force Eagle Safety Office

With winter nearly behind us and warm temperatures on the way, some of us will soon be turning our attention to outdoor activities. Playing unit or team sports is one of the favorite ways for soldiers to get exercise and have a little fun. It is also one of the biggest causes of lost-time injuries within Multinational Division (North). Soldiers have been injured in virtually every sport being played on the base camps; basketball, softball, football, volleyball, rugby, and soccer. A soldier who is hospitalized or placed on restricted duty because of a sports-related injury can affect the unit's mission as much as a vehicle accident.

Many sports-related accidents could be eliminated by the use of proper equipment. Personal protective gear (proper footwear, safety glasses, reflective belts, etc.) and sports-specific equipment (batting helmets, catcher's mask, shin-guards, etc.) must be worn when participating in team sports. See your MWR representative for checking these items out.

The best way to reduce these types of injury accidents is to

ensure that everyone's attitude toward **SPORTS SAFETY** is positive. Most people obey rules they understand. They are much less likely to obey rules they do not understand, or they see no reason for. Commanders, coaches, and sports directors should explain the logic behind the rules. Rules must be known and understood by everyone, before the game begins. Playing a pick-up game of "combat basketball or football" may be fun, but it is also a good way to get someone hurt. "If it isn't bleeding, it's not a foul" shouldn't be part of any game. If possible, appoint someone to be referee or umpire. During play, unsportsmanlike conduct should not be tolerated.

Evaluate the playing area for surface conditions and hazards before playing. (conduct a risk assessment). Either mark the hazards or adjust the playing field to avoid them.

A proper warm-up period before the game is always a good idea. Stretching the muscles before playing will help to reduce or eliminate muscular injuries, and a cool-down period afterwards will help prevent cramping.

Play hard, and play to win, but remember **SPORTS SAFETY** when playing.

DESIRE IS KEY TO SOLDIER AND NCO AWARD WINNERS

SOLDIER'S SPOTLIGHT



Story and photos

By Sgt. Dave Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The SFOR 8 (Stabilization Force) soldier and noncommissioned officer of the rotation were honored for excellence at a luncheon March 14 at the Balkan Grille here.

Spc. Kevin White, an air traffic controller with D Company, 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Airborne) was selected as the SFOR 8 soldier of the rotation and Sgt. Elizabeth Lippe, an Arabic linguist with the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, was selected as the NCO of the rotation. Both received their awards after competing against other soldiers at the company, battalion, installation and SFOR levels.

"Both soldiers went through boards with senior NCOs firing questions at them," explained Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo Jr., Multinational Division (North) command sergeant major. He added that all of the soldiers that competed embody the seven corp values of the Army. "Any one of the soldiers that competed could have won this award," he said. "What separates these soldiers from the others competing for this award and recognition is their heartfelt desire to be the best. Every one of the soldiers competing had that desire," explained Command Sgt. Maj. Ruo.

Question areas on the board included SFOR history, customs and courtesies, leadership and training, wear of the uniform, and performance of guard duty. "They get a list of what will be asked that's extensive," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ruo. There are four presiding members and a president that make up the board.

"Both of them are outstanding soldiers. They are a shining example for every other soldier and NCO to aspire to," Command Sgt. Maj. Ruo said. "We will also be doing this for SFOR 9."

Sgt. Lippe worked diligently, studying long hours by going through various Field Manuals and study guides to prepare for the competition. "I studied long hours at night after working at the White House (MND (N) headquarters). We are a 24-hour shop so I would take timeout during lunch and dinner breaks. I wrote down the questions on index cards and had soldiers quiz me," explained Sgt. Lippe. She added that selfless service and setting a good example for troops to look up to are two of the most important qualities for a NCO.

"They will follow in your footsteps. You must teach the soldiers from day one," Sgt. Lippe said.

Sgt. Lippe joined the Army five years ago and recently re-enlisted so she could complete a full one-year tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina and be part of a real-world mission. She has participated in training at the National Training Center and is looking towards the future.

"Right now, I am looking to apply to the military linguist program with the National Security Agency. It's an internship program with the NSA," said Sgt. Lippe.

As an air traffic control specialist, Spc. White works at the Comanche Tower. He worked hard to prepare for the board and offers some advice for others.

"Whenever you walk on your way to work, recite what you are going to say. Go over it in your head," said Spc. White.

He also advises soldiers who want to compete for this type of award to "train hard" and stay motivated. Spc. White has been in the Army just over two years. He is a graduate of the air traffic control school at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"I think the recognition program we do in the Army is very important," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ruo.

AWARD WINNERS—(Right) Spc. Kevin White (left), soldier of the SFOR 8 rotation and Sgt. Elizabeth Lippe, NCO of the rotation (right) cut a cake celebrating their achievement. (Below) Sgt. Lippe receives an award from Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo Jr., MND (N) command sergeant major.

