

# TALON

Operation Joint Forge  
Saturday, April 7, 2001

Task Force Eagle  
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**Mission Complete**  
Camp Dobol Closes

**SFOR 8 to SFOR 9**  
**MND (N) TOA Issue**

# AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

There is a story in the New Testament about ten men whose lives were wonderfully changed because of their faith. They had a dreaded disease called leprosy. And because it was highly contagious and no medical cure existed at that time, they were forced to leave their homes, jobs and families.

They roamed the desert with others infected with leprosy, all suffering with this dreaded disease until they would finally die. Jesus was traveling through that part of the country providing ministry to people who were sick and in need.

As grace would have it, he came to a village located near the leper's camp. When these ten men heard that Jesus would pass their way, they were ready. As he came by they called out for his help. He responded by listening, caring and then giving them specific instructions.

As they obeyed in faith, the horrible disease left them! Great story, good guys win! But the rest of the story is this. Of the ten, only one came back to say *thank you*. And as the story goes, the greater blessing came to that one! The point is this: *an attitude of gratitude makes all the difference*. It makes a difference to the giver and receiver.

Most people learn those two magic words when they are young, but tend to forget them as they grow up! May we all be encouraged in the very beginning of our rotation to make it our habit to say *thank you* often. The attitude of gratitude will allow us to see the positive and lift the spirits of our fellow soldiers. May God bless you as you give the gift of gratitude!

**\*\*\* Special services are planned for Passover, Good Friday, and Easter. Contact your Base Camp Chaplain for more information.**

## Thoughts for the Day (From the Proverbs)

Sunday: "Let not loyalty and faithfulness forsake you, bind them about your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart." 3:3

Monday: "Take heed to the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure." 4:26

Tuesday: "He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out." 10:9

Wednesday: "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses." 10:12

Thursday: "He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense!" 11:12

Friday: "A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention." 15:18

Saturday: "Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed." 15:22

By Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Durham  
TFE Chaplain

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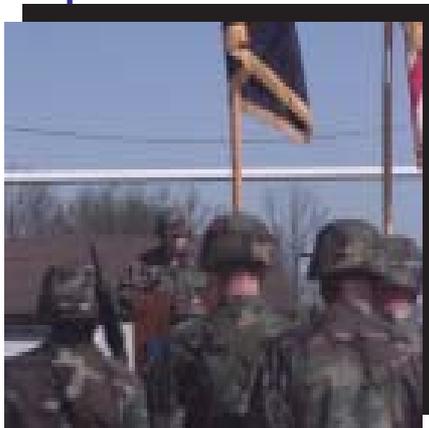
# CONTENTS



## ON THE COVER

8

In a brief but dignified lowering of the flag ceremony March 25, Camp Dobil closes its gates. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)



## 1-121 IN TAKES OVER FOR 1-64 AR

8

1-121 IN commander Lt. Col. Reed B. Dunn speaks to the assembled troops at the transfer of authority ceremony March 26 at Camp Dobil. (Photo by Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney)



## 3-7 CAV TAKES OVER AT MCGOVERN

9

The 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment takes over command at Camp McGovern during a transfer of authority ceremony March 27. (Photo by Spc. Jodie M. Moore)

CSM's corner	4
TFME TOA	5
Aviation TOA	6,7
1-121 IN assumes command of Eagle Base	9
Logistics Task Force TOA/Engineer TOA	10
Chaplains Conference/Clearing Barrel Safety	11
Soldier's spotlight	12

# STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT...



**Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp**

**By Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp**

*Commander, Multinational Division (North)*

Again welcome to SFOR 9 and the opportunity to continue to make a difference in the lives of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. As we begin this SFOR 9 rotation together, I want to share with you my philosophy or way I do business and the things I consider most important as we embark together on this important mission.

While I fully accept the responsibilities of leadership, I will not rely solely on my own opinions when it comes to conducting operations here. You will find that I am a listener who respects all positions and views contributing to the accomplishment of the task at hand.

I value your input, so I will often ask your opinion on key issues. I sometimes think that listening has become a lost art, and will work hard to make sure you have a voice with me. You are the expert in your area of responsibility. When presented with a challenging decision, I will always ask and generally defer to the commander on the ground. You will have my support.

With that brief introduction, I'd like to highlight the things most important as we continue to build our team.

Force protection is paramount in everything we do. Our posture during the conduct of operations serves as a tremendous deterrent. I call it putting on your "game face." I want those individuals who consider taking action against us to take one look at the discipline and professionalism of our soldiers, and quickly dismiss their plans. Daily risk assessments are a must to ensure we have employed the force protection measures necessary to take care of soldiers. Never leave your camp without first getting an intelligence update and insuring your chain of command is tracking your movement until you return.

The way we treat people goes a long way to success in our mission. This includes all members of SFOR, the international community, Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFBiH), commanders, soldiers, and the people of this country. Dignity and respect must be our watchwords. Simply put, the Golden Rule applies. Treat others as you want to be treated. A smile and a sign of courtesy does not signal a drop in discipline; rather it shows we're professional, confident, compassionate and approachable in our duties.

Accuracy in reporting is critical. You have to help me fill in the blanks when something takes place in your sector or in your command. I am not asking you to rush inaccurate information to me and the MND (N) headquarters; rather, I want you to forward it in such a fashion that you would be satisfied if you were on the receiving end. Having said that, initial "contact" reports are important to me and I do understand that "first reports are usually wrong." My job is to ensure the MND (N) staff gives you the time, and the assets necessary to develop the initiative and complete the picture.

All operations will be deliberately planned, rehearsed and executed with an after action review following each operation. We must then capture those lessons learned to assure greater performance during subsequent missions. We will make every attempt to include planners from the brigades and task forces early in the parallel planning effort. Unless a situation requires immediate response and action, I will resist the efforts to rush to a "snap decision." We must do our homework, to include impacts on adjacent units and second and third-order effects on the AFBiH, civil authorities and the people of this country.

Crosswalk of information and coordination of efforts are essential. We must be synchronized with SFOR Headquarters, our adjacent units, AFBiH, the international community and civil authorities. Independent and uncoordinated initiatives, even those well intended, could very easily unhinge an operation. Task and purpose for all operations must be understood and nested for continuity of effort. If something is unclear, do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

Situational awareness is at the heart of all we do. That means getting out into your sections, talking with people and tackling tough issues head on with the members of the international community. We also must constantly update our assessments of our responsibilities and recommend changes to keep our organization always at the forefront of change.

As I close this first part of the way I operate, let me tell you how proud I am to have you be a part of such a capable and dedicated organization. I am confident that each and every one of the professionals of Multinational Division (North) will always do the right thing and exceed the standards in everything we do as we provide a secure and stable environment for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

***Rock of the Marne!***

# TFME TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

Story and photos by

Sgt. Dave Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

Task Force Med Eagle held a transfer of authority March 24, as Lt. Col. Pauline Knapp, outgoing TFME commander, transferred authority to the incoming commander, Col. Rhonda Cornum. Multinational Division (North) commander Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp and assistant division commander, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell witnessed the ceremony.

Departing soldiers from SFOR 8 (Stabilization Force) and incoming soldiers of SFOR 9 were flanked by a Danish SISU, MEDIVAC helicopter and a ground ambulance.

The ceremony opened under bright sunny skies with 1st Lt. Eric Spivey, a pilot assigned to TFME, singing the national anthem. Then Brig. Gen. Ferrell spoke to the assembled troops.

"It's a great day to look back on the accomplishments of SFOR 8. We bid

subordinate units. Following Brig. Gen. Ferrell's comments, Lt. Col. Knapp spoke briefly to the troops she had led during the SFOR 8 rotation.

"It's important to not count the days but to make our days count!" explained Lt. Col. Knapp. "What do these numbers mean? They mean dedication and hard work for the soldiers of Med Eagle. It's truly remarkable what these soldiers have done."

Lt. Col. Knapp added that the officers and noncommissioned officers of the SFOR 8 rotation are "awesome. You are the heart of this medical task force," she added. "Now I turn this mission over to the next team. I wish you and your soldiers a safe rotation."

Brig. Gen. Ferrell presented Lt. Col. Knapp with a commemorative coin.

Then Col. Cornum spoke briefly to the soldiers. She is currently the commander of the 28<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital at Fort Bragg, N.C., having assumed command in July 2000. Prior to that Col. Cornum was the assistant DCCS (deputy commander for clinical services) and a staff urologist at Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga. Col. Cornum has 19 years of active military service. Her awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Purple Heart and the POW medal. She has earned the Senior Flight Surgeon Wings, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Expert Field Medical Badge. She outlined some of the goals she would like to see accomplished during the SFOR 9 rotation.

"We would like to expand our veterinary clinic. We also want to expand the amount of training that goes on between Task Force Med Eagle and the division and allied assets," Col. Cornum said. "We look forward to working with everyone and to serving the soldiers."



**OUTGOING**— Lt. Col. Pauline Knapp, the outgoing Task Force Med Eagle commander, speaks to the troops at the TFME change of command ceremony March 24, in which Col. Rhonda Cornum assumed command.



**DISCIPLINE**— TFME soldiers stand at parade rest during the ceremony.

farewell to this organization. The soldiers of Task Force Med Eagle have set a wonderful example," said Brig. Gen. Ferrell. "Pauline, you and your soldiers answered the call. We are extremely proud of your accomplishments. We look forward to Col. Cornum to continue the tradition of excellence. Soldiers, hold your heads high as you return home to family and friends. Rock of the Marne!"

Some of the major accomplishments of SFOR 8 TFME soldiers are 16,230 accident free miles of driving, 1,037 optometry visits, 1,050 medical maintenance missions, 60 ground evacuations and 900 accident free hours of flying by helicopter crews assigned to TFME. The medical team treated over 7,000 patients and the 57<sup>th</sup> Medical Air Ambulance Company participated in numerous MND (N) training missions.

The personnel for SFOR 8 TFME were comprised of 211 soldiers from seven



**MARCHING**— From left to right, Lt. Col. Knapp, Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell, assistant division commander, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Col. Cornum march in step just before the transfer of authority.



# AVIATION TRANSITION

## 1-229 MOVES ASIDE

Story by Sgt. Dave Lietz  
Photos by Sgt. Dave Lietz and  
Spc. Christopher D. Carney  
318th PCH, Eagle Base

A transfer of authority was held Saturday, March 31, for Aviation Brigade, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized), and Task Force 2-3 Aviation, at Camp Comanche. The incoming companies from 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation, Fort Bragg, N.C., are Bravo Company, 1-82, Alpha Company, 2-82, and Delta Company, 1-17 Cavalry, also from Fort Bragg.

Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, Multinational Division (North) commander, praised Col. H.T. Landwermeyer Jr. and his soldiers for "setting the standard" by flying 8,500 safe flight hours. He offered "special thanks for the sacrifices you have made."

"You have accomplished your mission here. Now that you have achieved your goals at SFOR 8, you will rotate to combat training center," said Maj. Gen. Sharp. "We now look to the first multi-aviation brigade for SFOR 9. We are confident that these aviators are fully ready and trained," he said.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of this mission," commented Col. H.T. Landwermeyer, outgoing commander. "We have flown our missions aggressively and safely."

"Congratulations on a job well done! You have done a great thing. Return home with your heads held high!" he added. Col. Landwermeyer also thanked the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina for their time, conversation and friendship. "God speed. Rock of the Marne!"

Following Col. Landwermeyer's remarks, Lt. Col. Howard Ferguson, incoming commander, spoke. "Thank you for joining us here this afternoon. We are a team here to have a successful SFOR 9 rotation. One team, one fight!"

Task Force 2-3 AV served during SFOR 8, however the headquarters and staff elements are staying on to serve during the SFOR 9 rotation.

**SALUTE**— Col. H.T. Landwermeyer Jr. salutes as the 1-229 AV colors are retired during the transition of authority at Camp Comanche.

**FLY OVER**— During SFOR 8, soldiers flew countless missions over MND (N).



# TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

## FOR 2-82 AND 1-17



**PRAISE AND THANKS**— Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, commander, MND (N), (above) praised the accomplishments of Task Force 2-3 AV during the TOA at Camp Comanche. Col. H.T. Landwermeyer Jr. (below) thanked the aviation brigade soldiers of SFOR 8 for doing a fine job.



**RETIRED**— The 1-229 AV colors are retired during the TOA ceremony at Camp Comanche.



# NEW COMMAND ARRIVES AT CAMP COMANCHE

Story and photos

By Sgt. Noreen Feeney

318th PCH, Camp Comanche

The 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade officially took over the Task Force Command in a ceremony here March 26.

On the last sunny, warm day before the snow fell again, Lt. Col. D. Bruce Hain, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) commander, passed the command to Lt. Col. Reed B. Dunn, 2-121 IN.

The 2nd Brigade 3d ID (M) Commander, Col. Louis Weber, began the proceedings by thanking the Russian Band for honoring the troops twice with a double playing of the national anthem.

Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp then presented Lt. Col. Hain with a certificate of appreciation for him and his troops for the quality work done during SFOR 8.

As the colors of 1-64 AR silently left the grounds, the wind blew just enough to display the colors of the 2-121 IN for the standing-room only crowd.

Lt. Col. Dunn is a graduate of the University of Georgia. His first assignment was with the 124th Military Intelligence Battalion, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Lt. Col. Dunn was later assigned as the Battalion Signal Officer for

the 2-21 IN. While in this assignment, he was transferred into the infantry. Lt. Col. Dunn then served as rifle platoon leader in D Company, 2-21 IN. As a captain, Lt. Col. Dunn served as the S-3 Air Operations for the 1st Brigade, 24th ID (M).

After attending the Infantry Officers Advanced Course, he was assigned as an operations officer in G-3 Operations, 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. Upon his return to the United States, Lt. Col. Dunn served as a platoon trainer for the Infantry Officers Basic Course, Fort Benning, Ga.

In October 1989, Lt. Col. Dunn joined the Georgia Army National Guard. His first assignment in the Guard was with 2-122 IN (Tow, Light Anti-tank) as the S-2 and deputy S-3. Lt. Col. Dunn commanded a company in 2-122 IN (TLAT) until the unit's deactivation in August of 1992.

Lt. Col. Dunn was promoted to major and assigned as the S-3 for 2-121 IN. In September 1995, he was reassigned to the 48th IN BDE as the S-3 Air until being made the executive officer for 1-121 IN.

Following a brief assignment as the



**COLORS**—The colors of the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade are brought in during the morning ceremony.

Deputy State Inspector General, Lt. Col. Dunn became the Brigade Executive Officer for the 48th IN BDE. He served in this capacity until June 2000, when he assumed command of 2-121 IN. Lt. Col. Dunn and the soldiers of the 2-121 IN were mobilized Feb. 3 in preparation for their deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of SFOR 9. Lt. Col. Dunn assumed command of Camp Comanche Mar. 26.

## MISSION COMPLETED: CAMP DOBOL CLOSES

By Sgt. Noreen L. Feeney

318th PCH, Camp Comanche

It was a quiet evening. Too quiet. It hasn't been this quiet in five years. Bosnian crickets, never really noticed before, play soothing melodies across the unused firing range.

A wind blows across the gaping hole in the ground where the gym used to be, creating ghost-town dust storms never before seen around the camp. The Thunderdome, once a cacophony of squeaky shoes and slapping hockey sticks, stands alone and quiet. A whisper can echo from one end to the other.

Alone jogger, using the light of the last sunset over what he called home, gets in one more lap. The guard towers that were manned 24 hours a day, seven

days a week are now vacant.

The coffee shop, a place of festive laughter and loud music, is barren, leaving only a pile of confetti as evidence of the good times it provided.

The golf driving range, never used in the 21st century, remains as a fossil in the soft dirt.

There isn't so much as an oil pan sitting in the motor pool.

There are no more sounds of boots crunching on the gravel. No more unit formations outside the Mayor's cell. No more lines of Humvees waiting to go out the gate on patrol.

All is quiet on the Dobol front.

Camp Dobol closed its gates in a brief but dignified lowering of the flag ceremony March 25.

Some soldiers have been redeployed; some have been reassigned to Camp Comanche.

The Post Exchange was packed up and the manager was sent to Camp McGovern. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation manager went to Sarajevo. Only a few soldiers remained to man the front gate.

"My understanding is that Brown and Root will take over, but we still have to have force protection," said 1st Lt. John Avera, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 121st Regiment, 48th Infantry Brigade.

Lt. Col. D. Bruce Hain, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) commander, led the 30-minute ceremony and told the remaining soldiers it is nothing to be sad about.

"What this signifies today is that our mission on this camp has been completed," he said.

He also let the troops know how well a job they did while

stationed at Camp Dobol and how it "carries on toward the road to peace."

The flag came down during the playing of retreat and was folded by the color guard and presented to Command Sgt. Maj. Otis Smith, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 3d ID (M), who then passed it to Lt. Col. Hain.

After one last meal in the dining facility, the duffel bags were loaded onto a truck, the soldiers onto a bus and the last Dobol convoy left the gates.

After five years as a nucleus for armor units stationed near the Serbian border in support of Operation Joint Forge, Camp Dobol was closed in favor of a more strategic placement of forces throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina.

# 3-7 CAV TAKES OVER AT MCGOVERN

Story by Spc. Jodie M. Moore

318th PCH, Camp McGovern

Photos by Staff Sgt. Vivian E. Strupp  
Combat Camera

A new battalion ushered in a new rotation here March 27 with a transfer of authority ceremony. Lt. Col. Stefan J. Banach, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment commander, officially relinquished his duties as Task Force commander to Lt. Col. Terry R. Ferrell, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment commander.

The day was a special day for Task Force 3-15 IN. Their successful SFOR 8 rotation only added to the rich tradition of the battalion, said Lt. Col. Banach.

"This is a historic day for Task Force 3-15 IN. We've turned another page in the rich history of this battalion. We've accomplished our mission, and we've contributed to peace," he said.

Task Force 3-15 IN has worked diligently during the past months to continue the SFOR mission of peace. Their efforts required great sacrifices.

"The last six and a half months soldiers from this regiment have sacrificed the comforts of their homes and their personal freedom to improve the lives of the citizens here in Bosnia," said Lt. Col. Banach.

The sacrifices, though great, are a necessary part of the tradition. Many

nations depend on this tradition.

"To the soldiers of the Can Do Battalion, you're the foundation of our great nation. And today the success and failure of many nations rest firmly on your shoulders. There aren't many soldiers in the world who can do what you do; you ought to be proud of the job you've done," said Lt. Col. Banach.

The Gary Owen soldiers of the 3-7 CAV



**GUARD**— Color Guard soldiers stand at attention during the Camp McGovern transfer of authority ceremony March 27.

are ready to continue the success of their fellow Fort Stewart soldiers. They are more than prepared to take on the weight carried by the Can Do soldiers of 3-15 IN.

"We look forward to the continued success in SFOR 9. We'll work daily to enhance the operation and make this a better place," said Lt. Col. Ferrell.

Lt. Col. Ferrell, a West Virginia native, began his military career when he was commissioned as an Armor Officer in 1984 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Marshall University.

After completion of the Armor Officer Basic Course, Lt. Col. Ferrell served as a tank platoon leader and company executive officer in 2-72 Armor, Camp Casey, Korea; and as a company executive officer and battalion S-4 in 2-8 Cavalry, Fort Hood, Texas.

Most recently, Lt. Col. Ferrell completed a seven-month deployment to Bosnia with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and 49th Armored Division (Texas National Guard), serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for the Division.

Lt. Col. Ferrell is married to Lt. Col. Robbie Woods and has a seven-year-old son Logan, who lives in Richmond, Virginia.

# EAGLE BASE NOW IN 1-121 IN'S HANDS

Story and photos by

Spc. Christopher D. Carney

318th PCH, Eagle Base

The 4th Battalion, 64th Armor passed the mantle of Base Camp security to the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry during a transfer of authority ceremony held April 2 at the Sports Complex here.

4-64 AR soldiers, or 'Tuskers' were responsible during their deployment for base camp safety and operations. Guard Mounts were held every day, while the Guard Force secured the perimeter. Day to day operations were routinely handled through the Mayor's Cell. All of the duties of 4-64 AR will now be performed by 1-121 IN.

Lt. Col. Thomas G. Pope, Battalion Commander 4-64, transferred authority to incoming commander Lt. Col. Harvey Romine, 1-121 Battalion Commander.

Lt. Col. Romine was born in Chattanooga, Tenn. on November 2, 1960. He graduated high school in Macon, Georgia. He attended North Georgia College, received a degree in Business Administration and was commissioned a second lieutenant in May of 1982. His initial assignment was with the 148th Support Battalion, 48th Infantry Brigade. Subsequent schools attended include the Finance Officer Basic Course, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Military Intelligence Transition Course, Tactical Commander Development Course, and the Brigade/Battalion Pre-Command Course.

Lt. Col. Romine has served predominately in mechanized infantry units including serving as Battalion S-2 for 2-121 IN during its Desert Shield/ Desert Storm mobilization. His most recent

assignment was as assistant professor of Military Science, North Georgia College and State University, Dahlonega, Georgia.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, U.S. Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge, and the Presidents Hundred Tab.



**COMMANDER**— Lt. Col. Harvey Romine, 1-121 IN commander, and fellow 1-121 IN troops watch the festivities during the Eagle Base transfer of authority April 2.

# LOGISTICS TASK FORCE TRANSFERS AUTHORITY

Story and photo

By Sgt. Noreen Feeny

318th PCH, Camp Comanche

The 26th Logistics Task Force took their first large step homeward when they transferred their authority to the 148th Logistics Task Force on March 31.

Col. Louis Weber, 2nd Brigade, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) commander, began the ceremony by thanking the 26th for the work they did during SFOR 8.

"I'm sure the 148th will carry out the high standards of the 26th," Col. Weber said.

Lt. Col. Jayne Carson, the commander of the 26th LTF, said she was proud of her troops.

"We did more than just supply the force and maintain equipment. If it broke, we fixed it. If you needed it, we got it for you," Lt. Col. Carson said.

Lt. Col. Carson credited the 26th LTF's successful mission to dedicated soldiers and a good command.

"I am happy to turn the reins over to the 148th Logistics Task Force," Lt. Col. Carson added.

The members of the color guard, Sgt. Darrick Pinkston, Spc. Ethan King, Sgt. James Kennedy and Sgt. James Ricaporte then brought the colors front and center. Sgt. Kennedy retired the 26th LTF colors and Sgt. Gregory Moore introduced the colors of the 148th LTF.

As he accepted command, Lt. Col. Larry McLendon of the 148th LTF spoke of carrying on where the 26th left off and that he and his unit were proud to be a part of the peacekeeping in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

With the playing of the 3d ID (M) theme song and the Army song, another notch was cut for SFOR 8.



**POST**— The colors of the 148th Logistics Task Force are posted during the Logistics Task Force transfer of authority ceremony.

## NEW ENGINEERS TAKE CONTROL IN MND (N)

Story and photo

By Sgt. Dave Lietz

318th PCH, Eagle Base

A transfer of authority for the Division Engineers was held April 2 at the Sports Complex here. Lt. Col. Kevin Beerman, SFOR 8 Division Engineers commander, transferred authority to Lt. Col. Archie Pollock during the ceremony.

"It's an honor to participate in today's ceremony. Lt. Col. Beerman and his soldiers have set a very high standard. Their accomplishments reflect courage and dedication," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell, assistant division commander, 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized). Some of those accomplishments include 13 bridge repairs and assisting in 16 mine clearing operations.

"We're proud of your accomplishments and dedicated service," said Brig. Gen. Ferrell. "SFOR 9 engineers will continue along a path of excellence."

Lt. Col. Beerman then spoke briefly. "We have worked side-by-side with NORDPOL and Turkish engineers. You have instituted high standards for future rotations in operating the mini-flail demining machine." He added that the engineers destroyed 13,000 pieces of ordinance during SFOR 8. "I am extremely proud of your accomplishments." Then Lt. Col. Beerman wished the "best of luck to the soldiers of SFOR 9."

Lt. Col. Pollock then spoke to the soldiers standing in formation. "It's a distinct honor to be commander of the SFOR 9 engineer team."

"To my engineer counterparts, I look forward to working with you. I am truly excited to be back in Bosnia. Everything you do here makes a difference every day," Lt. Col. Pollock said.

Before Lt. Col. Pollock assumed authority here, he was the Design Engineer for the 36th Engineer Group (Construction) at Fort Benning, Ga. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Medal, the NATO medal and the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal.

**ATTENTION**— Outgoing and incoming soldiers stand at attention during the ceremony.



# CHAPLAINS OF ALL NATIONS GATHER FOR THE CHAPLAINS CONFERENCE

Story and photo by  
Spc. Christopher Carney  
318th PCH, Eagle Base

An inter-entity religious support conference took place here March 20, gathering together religious leaders and chaplains from around Multinational Division (North), surrounding towns and entity armed forces (EAF).

This is the first Bosnia-Herzegovina religious support conference to bring together Republika Srpska and Federation military religious leaders and American and foreign military religious leaders for the common good. The goal of the conference was to help set the course that the Bosnian military will take in its chaplain program.

Attendees included the American forces chaplains, as well as the Polish, Danish, Turkish and Dutch chaplains. Federation religious leaders from the I and II Corps and III and IV Guard, Republika Srpska religious leaders from the I, III and V Corps, and some local religious leaders from surrounding communities represented Bosnia's military.

Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Lembke, SFOR 8 plans and operations chaplain, said, "Everyone came together for religious support. This was not something that was required; anyone who didn't want to come didn't have to. Chaplain Stefero (Chaplain (Col.) John Stefero, command chaplain,

United States Army Europe) came from as far away as Stuttgart, Germany. This gave the conference a joint and combined legitimacy."

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Clarke McGriff, SFOR 8 chaplain, agreed with the importance of the meeting.

"This is a historic day. Your presence here will make a difference in what happens in your country for years to come. Conflict

said in an opening devotion, "What we are doing here today we do not only for ourselves. We are having this conference for others. We must act in the moment to build hope for our future. As clergy and as people ... we must pursue a righteousness for all in this country and work towards providing a safe and secure environment. The Bible and Koran both point to peace and healing as the way."

Presentations by the various countries' chaplains explained how religious services are provided by the different countries.

"In Denmark the Danish Army has no full-time chaplains because of the small distance from the barracks to the local church," said Chaplain Graverson, Danish chaplain. "Chaplains have no military rank but are equal with everybody to facilitate communication."

The different countries each have their own cultural problems that they overcome and showing how they successfully cope with them shows promise for the Bosnian military.

The one fact that was the same in all of the militaries religious programs is making sure all soldiers religious needs are met.

Chaplain Lembke said the chaplaincy exists to, "ensure the free exercise of religion." Its doctrine is to "nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead."



**CHAPLAINS—Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Clarke McGriff (second from left), SFOR 8 division chaplain, and 2nd Lt. Recep Kaplan (second from left), Turkish chaplain pose with entity religious leaders.**

can lead to opportunity ... you can choose peace rather than war. Your presence here means that you choose peace. We can choose to go together to bring about a lasting peace, to be leaders in this quest for reconciliation," he said.

Turkish Chaplain, 2nd Lt. Recep Kaplan

## CLEARING BARREL SAFETY

By Maj. Jack Matthews  
TFE Safety Officer

Every Operation Joint Forge rotation has experienced an accidental weapons discharge. Stabilization Force 8 experienced 3 accidental discharges, one resulting in a fatality. As SFOR 9 begins, it is important that we get off on the right foot when it comes to weapons safety. We cannot afford to start off with bad habits.

Treat your weapon as though it is loaded and always have the weapon selector lever on "Safe." Clearing barrels are located at all Base Camp entrance gates throughout Multinational Division (North) and at the entrance of many camp buildings.

Weapon clearing procedures are posted above each clearing barrel. The only exceptions to this rule are the Military Police while on duty.

All 9-mm pistols will be attached to the Load Bearing Equipment/holster with a lanyard. All M-16s will have a sling attached for security purposes. During physical training weapons will be in designated custody, under lock and key, or on your person.

Remember, redundancy often causes complacency, and this is one time we cannot afford not to do it right. Let's make SFOR 9 an accident free rotation with no accidental discharges. **COMPLACENCY KILLS.**

**CLEAR ANM-16 RIFLE**

1. Point weapon at the clearing barrel.
2. Ensure selector lever is on SAFE.
3. Remove the magazine.
4. Lock the bolt open.
  - a. Pull the charging handle to the rear.
  - b. Press the bottom of the bolt catch.
5. Visually inspect the receiver and chamber to ensure these areas contain no ammo.
6. Press the upper portion of bolt catch and allow bolt to go forward.

**NOTE: The selector switch/lever remains on SAFE and the trigger is never pulled.**

**CLEAR ANM-9 PISTOL**

1. Point weapon at the clearing barrel.
2. Place decocking/safety lever in SAFE (down) position.
3. Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol.
4. With the pistol pointing into the clearing barrel, grasp the slide serrations and fully retract the slide.
5. Lock the slide to the rear using the slide stop and visually inspect the chamber to ensure that it is empty.
6. Release the slide stop and allow the slide to go forward.

**NOTE: The selector switch/lever remains on SAFE and the trigger is never pulled.**



# FORMER DRILL SERGEANT REMINISCES

Story and photos by  
**Spc. Marc F. Marin**  
*318th PCH, Eagle Base*

**N**oncommissioned officers are often called the ‘backbone of the Army.’ Nowhere is this more evident as when looking at drill sergeants, who are given raw recruits and expected to mold them into highly trained, capable soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Rich Greene, detachment commander for AFN Balkans, served as a drill sergeant for Student Company, Fort Meade from April 1997-April 1999 in support of soldiers going through the Defense Information School.

“(Being a drill sergeant was a) chance to have an immediate impact on my career field,” Sgt. 1st Class Greene said. “We have a small career field. (Broadcast journalism) You see people all the time. I’ll give you a perfect example. When I walked into my new assignment at AFN Heidelberg, three of the staff members went to parade rest in the hallway. They were former privates of mine.”

“I’ve been in the Balkans 10 days now, and I’ve seen 25 of my privates, or soldiers that were cross-training at the time. I remember the majority of them. I remember all the stories.”

One of those 25 soldiers is Spc. Matt Burrell of the 318th Press Camp Headquarters.

“There were some bad times in Fort Meade, but I’ll remember it for the rest of my life,” Spc. Burrell said. “I came out a changed person.”

“That’s what I want to be remembered as; a drill sergeant who didn’t just slam the privates because they were screwing up,” said Sgt. 1st Class Greene. “We trained you.”

Having the opportunity to make a direct impact on soldiers’ lives played a big part in Sgt. 1st Class Greene’s decision to become a drill sergeant.

“I’ve always enjoyed the Army and had a love for the Army. But being a drill sergeant, you get to know the Army in a different way,” Sgt. 1st Class Greene said. “You get to see the Army from the ground up. You get to have an impact.”

Sgt. 1st Class Greene was a stickler for discipline during his time as a drill sergeant, and he wasn’t afraid to use the Uniform Code of Military Justice if a soldier needed it, in particular Article 15s.

“I sure as heck recommended a whole bunch,” said Sgt. 1st Class Greene. “There were a lot of privates who needed the UCMJ to get them back on track. It was a wakeup call.”

“UCMJ is a commander’s tool,” said Sgt. 1st Class Greene. If it’s used wisely, it can be that wakeup call for that soldier. Whether you’re in an IET (Initial Entry Training) environment or in the Balkans, when a soldier gets an Article 15, that soldier has to make a choice.”

His tour as a drill sergeant brought forth numerous challenges, not the least of which were managing hundreds of soldiers and missing out on quality time with his family.

“It was never easy,” said Sgt. 1st Class Greene. “The

hardest part was the fact that we went through so many drill sergeants. When you’re down to 300 privates and two drill sergeants, those are some long days and nights.”

“I wouldn’t trade those two years for anything. It was great. (There were) long nights, a lot of time away from the family, but it was positive, very positive.”

In conclusion, Sgt. 1st Class Greene wanted to let his former privates know he’s still in charge, even two years after saying goodbye to Student Company.

“Once you’ve been my soldier, you’ll always be my soldier,” Sgt. 1st Class Greene said.



**GREENE**— Sgt. 1st Class Greene poses for a picture outside AFN Balkans.