

TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, April 28, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



U.S. and Russian Soldiers Build Bridge in Janja

Comanche Conducts Accident Training

Eagle Base Hosts Earth Day 5K Race

Forerunners of Peace

The Lord said through the Prophet, “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another nor shall they train for war again.” (Isaiah 2:4)

Throughout time, human beings have yearned for such a peace. Yet time and again acts of spite and war have shattered humanity’s fragile hopes of peace. But as with the ice of winter, each conflict ends and gives birth to new hope for peace.

In Bosnia that rebirth of hope has already begun. After years of unrest and anger, the struggles of hate have come to an end. Even though anger and resentment may yet linger in the hearts of some, dreams of hope have already bloomed in the hearts of many more. But if the nations are ever to beat their swords into plowshares, we must first beat our own feelings of hatred and contempt into pruning hooks. We must turn our self-seeking ways into generosity and service to all.

But “The Kingdom of Peace” is still in the future, so should we strive for such a distant ideal? YES, we MUST look forward to this future. We must realize that the future can only come to be because of the present, so we must work as hard for final peace as possible.

FOR WE OF THE PRESENT ARE THE MAKERS OF TOMORROW’S FUTURE PEACE.

Thoughts for the Day

Sunday: Never let evil talk pass our lips; say only the good things people need to hear, things that will really help them.

Monday: Lord, you created us and put us on Earth for a purpose. May all our thoughts and inspirations have their origin in you.

Tuesday: There never is a night or day that God can’t hear us when we pray. There is no time or place, that the Lord withholds His love and grace.

Wednesday: Some people think they have it all, when riches come their way. But their great loss will be revealed on God’s accounting day.

Thursday: When problems seem impossible, and we cannot face the next day, the Lord extends His helping hand, and shows us how to make a way.

Friday: Don’t expect to have tomorrow what is offered to us today. God asks us now to respond to Him, trust in Him and don’t delay.

Saturday: Our life of service to the Lord bears fruit, even long after we are gone. So if our life is cut short, our work for the Lord will carry on.

By Chaplain (CPT) Tadeusz Majkut
Camp Comanche Chaplain

CONTENTS

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ON THE COVER 10

Firefighters carry one of the many "injured casualties" during the mock accident training. (Photo by Spc. Grant Calease)



"CIAO" TO OLD JANJA BRIDGE 6

A young resident of Janja waves goodbye to splintered wood and stripped metal. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy)



5K RUN FOR EARTH'S HEALTH 9

117 service members and civilians participate in the MWR Earth Day 5K run. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)

CSM's corner-----	4
Women Medics Join Inf. Unit-----	5
Janja Bridge Transformed-----	6
Earth Day 5K Run-----	9
Mock Accident Training-----	10
Kosovo in Brief-----	12

The Path to Excellence Begins with You

Your professional development plan...

Now that we have been in country for a about a month, I am sure most of you have begun to establish milestones for yourself in terms of professional development, personal goals, and a desired end result that you would like to achieve during our deployment. As professionals we must take a hard look at our duty performance and always modify and shape our professional development objectives in respect to our deployment situation. Often we can get into a "comfort zone," where we might cease to challenge ourselves and if not careful, we could stagnate in our professional development as noncommissioned officers.

When plotting our own professional development "scheme of maneuver" we need look no further than the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report. On the reverse side of the NCOER are areas of focus by which we can measure our duty performance. Furthermore, these areas are what our leaders use to rate our performance. That being said, it is not my intention for us to become "NCOER-focused," but rather that we know how to use this performance-measuring tool as an azimuth by which we strive for professional excellence here in Multinational Division (North). **"Competence is my watch-word..."**

Competence. No one should know your job better than you. Simply stated, possessing competence enables others to focus on their jobs without worrying whether yours will be done correctly. Along with competence comes the driving desire to seek self-improvement in order to sustain top-notch duty performance. As the standard bearers of the Multinational Division (North), our leaders should expect nothing less of us. **"No one is more professional than I..."**

Physical fitness and military bearing. We must always maintain ourselves in top physical condition to have the stamina to sustain our operational and personal tempo. SFOR Missions are challenging and require a physically fit force to overcome every hurdle. There are many opportunities afforded you to achieve your physical fitness objectives. Don't fall into a rut of job, mess hall, and rack. Seek opportunities to get a good workout, and always motivate your soldiers to do the same.

An added benefit of staying physically fit is that you also maintain a professional appearance. We all know that your physical appearance weighs heavily with your subordinates, peers, and superiors. You will find that balancing work and physical fitness assists in maintaining a positive mental attitude, professional appearance and winning spirit all the days of our deployment.

"All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership..."

Leadership. The cornerstone function of the noncommissioned officer is our ability to influence, motivate and direct our soldiers. Those we lead expect positive and capable leadership as we continue to assist the Bosnian nation to build a safe and secure environment for its people. We also must always live the creed of "Be, Know, Do" which outlines the manner in which we execute our leadership duties. By observing the dictates of this creed we are able to live our duty, be competent in our mission, and achieve the results required by our leaders. I challenge everyone to always build upon their leadership excellence through study, feedback, and through a heart-felt desire to "be all you can be."



Command Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo

"My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind—accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers..."

Training. Training is at the heart of what we do. Noncommissioned officers must identify training opportunities during the course of their soldiers' duties. Training must be planned, rehearsed, executed, and followed by an after-action review identifying weaknesses and a plan to improve performance.

The challenge is to identify these training opportunities soon enough so that they can be incorporated into all operations. Do not pass up an opportunity to train your soldiers. We owe it to them to develop their potential as future leaders of our organizations and beyond.

"Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine..."

Responsibility and Accountability. Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions. We must take professional and personal ownership of our mission, people, and property. Accountability is being responsible for the resources with which we have been provided to do our mission. We must be honest stewards of those resources through the conservation and measured use of money, equipment, supplies, and time. Our respective governments provide us with the needed facilities, equipment, and money to accomplish our mission. We must continue to maintain their trust while we carefully manage our resources through maximizing efficiencies and minimizing waste. This is an awesome responsibility that all must take seriously as we care for these precious commodities.

As we continue this important mission together, I hope all noncommissioned officers have begun an action plan for their own professional development. These focus areas described provide us with an azimuth-check as we continue to refine our professional development objectives.

I encourage you to seek further input from those around you. Share your good ideas with others as we collectively strengthen the "backbone" of MND (N).

Rock of the Marne!

*Statements in bold from the Noncommissioned Officers Creed

Medics “Pull Together” in Combat Unit

Combat Arms has always been a man’s world. Military tradition and law have prevented women from serving on the front lines. Until now.

Story by Pfc. Micahel Bennett
Eagle Base

Sgt. Margo Y. Butler and Spc. Joy L. Overrocker are combat medics assigned to the 2nd Battalion of the 121st Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), a Georgia National Guard unit stationed at Camp Conner.

By itself, that is not news. The fact that they are two of the first six women ever assigned to the battalion is.

“I’ve been with the unit 18 years, and they’re the first females I’ve seen with the unit,” said Sgt. 1st Class Chris Mills, the unit personnel sergeant.

Spc. Overrocker was equally surprised by the news. “After I received a copy of my initial deployment orders, I had to stop and ask ‘I’m going to be with what type of unit?’”

Both Sgt. Butler and Spc. Overrocker are also specially trained to deal not only with physical injuries, but emotional and psychological injuries as well.

“We’re both part of a CISM (Critical Injury Stress Management) team,” explains Spc. Overrocker, a 22-year-old in her fourth year with the military. “Our team has four people, the minimum, but the unit can draft in more people in a real emergency,” she continued.

The CISM is a team of individuals trained to deal with combat- and soldier-specific situations and occurrences, such as friendly-fire injuries, combat fatigue, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

“Say, as an example, someone was clearing their rifle before entering a building, and there was a round in the chamber that accidentally went off and hit someone else. That’s just an example,

but it’s the type of situation we would deal with,” explained Spc. Overrocker, an Atlanta native.

“I volunteered to go overseas in order to serve my state and my country to the fullest of my ability,” she said. “It also really did seem like a great chance to experience something completely new.”

Task Force Eagle is Spc. Overrocker’s first overseas deployment, but Sgt. Butler has been in the military 18 years, and has had several accomplishments in her career.

“I also helped to create the ‘Well-Women Clinics’ during (Operation) Desert Storm,” said Sgt. Butler, a Savannah, Ga., native. “A lot of commanders didn’t understand about women’s unique medical problems. These clinics offered complete GYN (gynecological) services.”

“I was a medical social worker as a civilian,” said Sgt. Butler. “I have my degree and am hoping to receive my direct commission before I retire. I’m looking forward to the chance to ensure peace in the area. I love people, all people. I want to help provide health care and social services to everyone.”

Of the other four women assigned the battalion, two are also combat medics, Spc. Salimary Mojica, also from Savannah, and Spc. Martha Verastegui, from San Antonio, Texas.

The final two women in the unit, Sgt. Janet Gibbs, also from Georgia and Spc. Tanya Thacker from South Carolina are both platoon clerks within the infantry battalion.

Sgt. Butler and Spc. Overrocker both admit there have been a few difficulties in adapting to their new unit.

“We really do have to work harder and longer than the males,” said Sgt. Butler. “But I think we’re better for it. We have to pull together more, because people are looking for a weak link. When we see (another woman) slacking off, we pull her into line and strengthen the chain.”

Above all, both women are very thankful for this opportunity. They believe many people have helped make this transition go more smoothly than they expected and agree upon whom to thank for this opportunity and experience.

“Most of all, we need to thank the task force for giving us the chance to be soldiers, not ‘female’ soldiers.”

Georgia NG General Visits MND (N)

By Pfc. Michael Bennett
Eagle Base

The Georgia Army/Air National Guard Adjutant General visited Eagle Base and Camp Conner April 18.

Air Force Maj. Gen. David B. Poythress visited the base camps to inspect the morale and welfare of the troops from his state.

Accompanying Maj. Gen. Poythress were Col. Jay Lawton, the Ga. state Plans Operations and Training Officer, Col. Al Gardner, the general’s Senior Army Advisor, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Dennis, Georgia state command sergeant major.

The major general started his day by having breakfast with soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry (Mechanized), stationed at Eagle Base.

He then flew to Camp Conner and received a short briefing on the state of operations in the area from Capt. Charles

“I have seen concrete evidence that what we are doing is working.”

– Maj. Gen. David B. Poythress

B. Bennett, the commander of Company A, 2-121.

After the briefing, Maj. Gen. Poythress was taken on a tour of the nearby city Srebrenica. As the convoy left the city, it stopped briefly to provide Maj. Gen. Poythress the opportunity to visit the nearby weapons storage site.

Maj. Gen. Poythress was impressed with the conditions at both Eagle Base and Camp Conner.

“It really is a fabulous place,” said Maj. Gen. Poythress. “I don’t see any way it could realistically be improved upon.”

The major general was equally impressed with the level of effort Stabilization Force units are putting forth and the effect that effort having on the peace process.

“I have seen concrete evidence that what we are doing is working,” said Maj. Gen. Poythress. “People are happy to see our troops. People came out of their homes as we went by. There were children waving. I’ve seen a real acceleration of the peace process.”

Above all, however, Maj. Gen. Poythress was proud of the troops from his state serving abroad.

“I’m impressed with the work they’ve done. They’ve gotten high marks all around from Maj. Gen. Sharp (commander of MND (N)). I’ve seen a great deal of enthusiasm, and morale is very high,” said Maj. Gen. Poythress.

“On the whole, I’m very satisfied with the work being done here.”

Russian and U.S. Soldiers Rebuild Bridge to Partnership...and Freedom

Story and photos
by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy
Eagle Base

Soldiers from the 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade and from Company C, 648th Engineers from the Georgia National Guard set out to rebuild a crumbling bridge. Their efforts served not only to strengthen the long-decaying structure, but also to reinforce the collaborative mission between the two countries to promote peace.

Billed as a “symbol for partnership, friendship and freedom,” the rebuilt Janja Bridge officially opened April 20 in a ceremony attended by Russian and U.S. Army leaders and other dignitaries, as well as the Russian and American soldiers who did the construction and dozens of Janja townspeople. The project took two weeks to complete.

As a Russian Army band played the U.S and Russian national anthems and a choir of Janja children sang, the ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the first of possibly several collaborations between U.S. and Russian soldiers.

Janja, a town in the Republic of Srpska just miles from the Yugoslavian border, is divided by the Janja River.

The 106-foot-long, 13.8-foot-wide bridge, in disrepair from years of use and showing damage from the civil unrest that has plagued the area, was badly in need of repairs to ensure safety for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.



1st. Sgt. Yuri Kuznestoff with the 1PRSAB bellows out the Russian and U.S. national anthems during the Janja Bridge ceremony.

Additionally, a reconstructed Janja Bridge would facilitate patrols by the Russian Army as well as local law enforcement.

“This new bridge provides...an increased ability to ensure a safe and secure environment for all citizens in this area,” remarked Brig. Gen. Robley Rigdon, the assistant division commander, Multinational Division North.

“For all citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska,” Brig. Gen Rigdon continued, “the bridge provides the freedom of movement guaranteed under the General

Framework Agreement.”

Aside from increased mobility, the rebuilt bridge also represents a level of cooperation between two former enemies, now allies, in the peacekeeping mission in BiH.

Pvt. Vladislav Hromov is one of 20 Russian soldiers who helped reconstruct the Janja Bridge. The 21-year-old reflected on the many hours he spent pulling up old wood by hand, but was quick to say that, although difficult, “in the Airborne Forces, we haven’t an impossible task.” Pvt. Hromov, who hails from Kursk in central Russia, has been in Bosnia for 18 months.

“It was hardest when we lifted the old bridge off the joists,” Pvt. Hromov said through an interpreter. “But everybody came together – Americans and Russians – for humanitarian aid, health and safety for everybody.”

1st Sgt. Andrey Zaitsev echoed those sentiments. Speaking through an interpreter, the 1PRSAB soldier, who boasts 2,500 airborne jumps in his 15-year career, agreed that the raising of the old bridge was the most challenging part of the project.

“All the old (sections) were falling apart,” the 38-year-old Siberian native explained. “It just wasn’t at all safe.”

The soldiers had to navigate equipment down extremely narrow roads into Janja from Camp Uglijevik daily, and then return to the camp with the equipment in the



The old Janja Bridge consisted of rotted wood and warped metal.

Photo courtesy of DIVENG Construction Management Cell

build a freedom

evening. All 30 Company C soldiers participating in the project stayed at Camp Uglijevik in tents for the duration of the project.

The American Engineers were in Bosnia less than two weeks when they received the bridge-building mission.

“We arrived (in Bosnia) March 8, and a week later we were tasked to reconstruct the bridge,” said 2nd Lt. David Hunter, Company C’s platoon leader. He said the building materials, which included enough wood, nails, steel plates and bolts for a complete structural replacement, were purchased from the local economy and arrived on time to complete the task. The only parts remaining from the old Janja Bridge are the concrete piers holding it up over the Janja River.

“My platoon has soldiers who have many different specialties in their civilian lives – we have plumbers, pipefitters, welders, you name it,” 2nd Lt. Hunter said, and their varied skills added to the success of the project. “As a platoon leader, you are only as good as your platoon, and ours did a great job.”

And 2nd Lt. Hunter, an engineer for the Georgia Department of Transportation, had nothing but praise for the Russian soldiers with whom he worked.

“It was fun. We got together beforehand to compare our skills and organize teams based on experience,” he said. “We really got to know each other.”

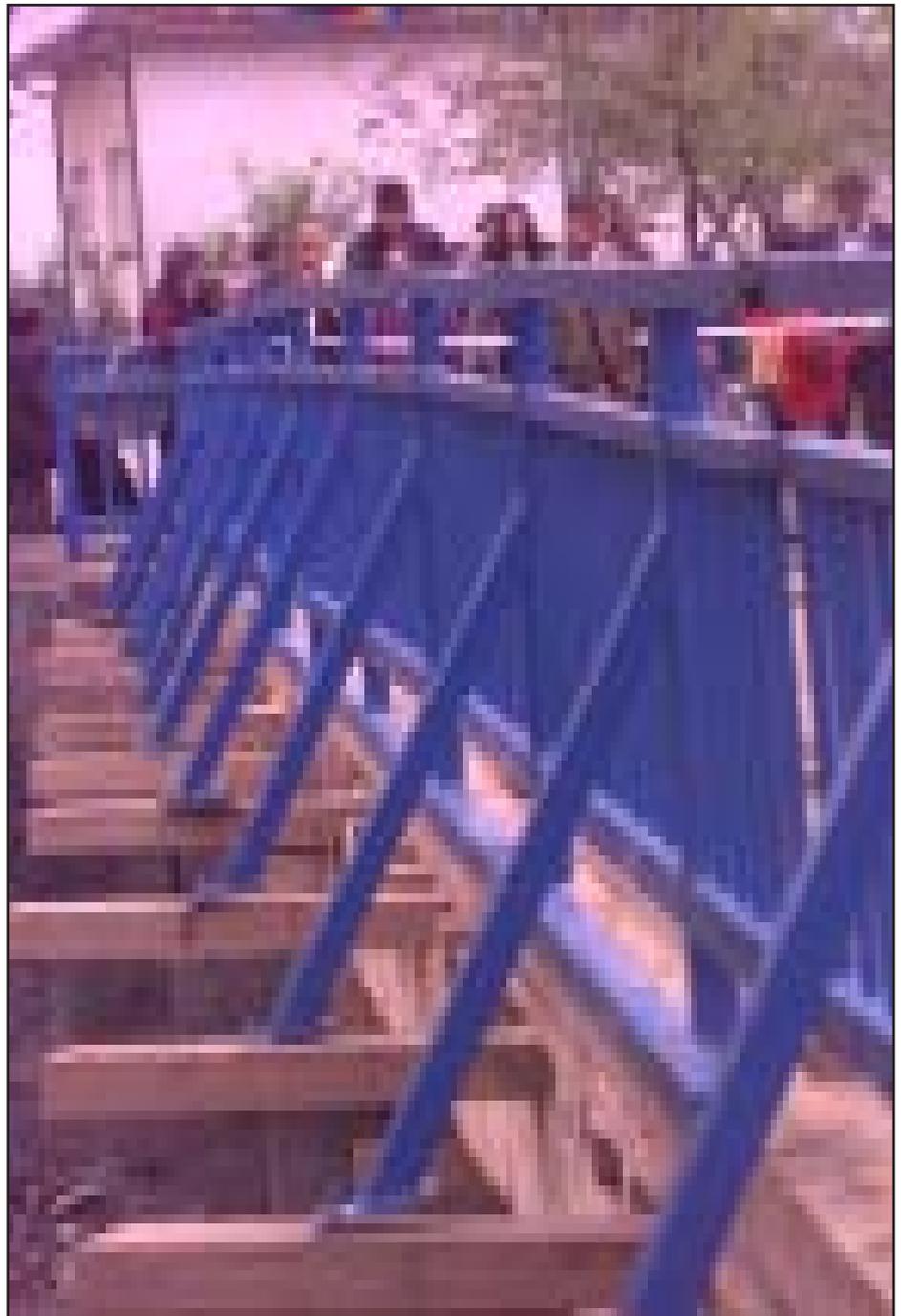
The architect of the new bridge, Capt. Alexey Elagin from the 1PRSAB, said, like all the other soldiers on the project, “this was the first time working with Americans.”

“There were no problems,” the 31-year-old soldier said through an interpreter. “Americans are very good guys – we really enjoyed them,” Capt. Elagin said.

Brig. Gen. Rigdon summed up the afternoon’s event by saying that the Janja Bridge project symbolizes freedom for the people to travel without fear.

“It is not sufficient that citizens have a right to move about freely if they are afraid for their safety,” Brig. Gen. Rigdon noted. “Together we will help ensure that all people within Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska enjoy their freedom in a secure and stable environment for generations to come.”

After the ceremony, as if on cue, a Janja resident slowly drove his tractor from one side of the bridge to the other, grinning as he pumped his fist in the air in excitement.



(Above) The dimensions of the new Janja Bridge are 106-feet long by 13.8-feet wide. Heavy equipment such as cranes as well as hand-tools were used to dismantle the old Janja Bridge.



(Left) Pvt. Vladislav Hromov (left) and 1st Sgt. Andrey Zaitsev are just two of the 20 1PRSAB soldiers who participated in reconstructing the Janja Bridge.

PsyOp Reaching the People of BiH

Story and photos by Spc. Grant L. Calease
Camp Comanche

To make the peacekeeping missions of today's military run smoothly it takes many units working together. The roles of some are well known, such as infantry units patrolling the Bosnian countryside.

The missions of other units may not be as familiar. In particular, the Reserve Component soldiers of the 307th Psychological Operations Company, Tactical PsyOp Team One, from St. Louis, Mo.

The 307th take their missions to the heart of the Bosnian cities. The unit provides updated information about the Stabilization Force to civilians, as well as educating fellow peacekeepers about the local population.

"We promote a positive image about SFOR to the civilians," said Staff Sgt. Robert B. White, the 307th team leader from Carbondale, Ill.

Team One provides its higher command with information pertaining to the communities they visit. "We provide the command with information about how the local civilians feel towards SFOR," said Spc. Sean M. Kelley, from Union, Mo.

The means by which they accomplish this mission is by connecting with the people. This is done in a variety of ways, including radio call-in shows and teaching classes to local school children. The team produces two radio shows: one is for Radio Feral in Kalesija and the other for Radio Osvit in Zvornik.

"The radio shows help us build a good rapport with civilians in that area," said Spc. Kelley.

Most of those who call the radio show live in the community surrounding the radio station, and their average age is 17, said Staff Sgt. White.

"We usually ask them questions about themselves and ask them 'fun-facts,'" said Spc. C. Lance Coffman, from Union, Mo. Spc. Coffman along with Sgt. Robert Latham from St. Louis, conduct the radio show with the help of an interpreter.

"We have informal questions comparing life here to life at



Sgt. Robert Latham, Tactical PsyOp Team One, 307th PsyOp Co., broadcasts a radio show with the help of an interpreter, Mirela Hibanovic.

home," said Staff Sgt. White.

Spc. Coffman and Sgt. Latham ask the listeners various questions. The callers with the correct answer get a soccer ball or a basketball for a prize.

Smaller prizes are available for the callers with the incorrect answer. "Everybody who calls will get something," said Staff Sgt. White.

Mine awareness and weapons turn-in programs are mentioned between questions and commercials, said Spc. Coffman. Weapons turn-in programs are also part of the unit's duties.

"We try to encourage the kids to get their parents to turn-in any weapons they may have at home," said Spc. Kelley.

The soldiers of the PsyOp team also teach classes to Bosnian school children.

Spc. Kelly along with Sgt. Ian J. Courter, from Carbondale, Ill., will be teaching an upcoming mine-awareness class.

"Civil Affairs and the Explosive Ordinance Detail will be teaching the classes along with PsyOp," said Spc. Kelley.

The team is also attempting to set up a soccer game between SFOR soldiers and a local soccer team. By interacting with the local population they hope to provide the military with a non-threatening alternative to using their larger forces, Staff Sgt. White added.

"I love the kids," said Spc. Kelley. "They are innocent and they are always happy to see us. They always wave when we drive by."

Helping the people of Bosnia provides the PsyOp soldiers with a feeling that they really have made a positive impact.

"This is an MOS in which we can make a difference in someone's life," said Staff Sgt. White.

"We can influence the behavior of a target audience because we know their culture. Because you can make a difference in someone's life without using violence, it makes this job very rewarding," he added.



Spc. Sean M. Kelley, Tactical PsyOp Team One, 307th PsyOp Co., hands out magazines to children in Kalesija.

Run For the Planet

MWR Sponsors Earth Day Event

Story and photos Spc. T. S. Jarmusz
Eagle Base

During the damp, brisk morning hours of April 22, 117 service members and civilians alike prepared themselves for the Earth Day 5-kilometer run on Eagle Base. Individuals were seen giving pep talks and getting in some final stretches just prior to the start of the race. For some, it was a



And they're off! Runners bolt out of the starting line commencing the 5K race on Eagle Base April 22.

way to show unit pride. For others it was a way to conquer the physical challenges that lay ahead.

Morale Welfare and Recreation organized the run as part of the Earth Day celebration. The start of the race began on the softball field. Shortly after 9 a.m., runners bolted down the street heading towards the Longhorn Café. From there they turned right and ran through Salute Alley, past the rocky driveways of Iron Horse Bluffs, and out near the airfield,

finally crossing the finish line at the sports complex.

The scene at the finish line was enthusiastic and spirited as soldiers and civilians gathered around to support and cheer on their comrades. Some runners barely broke a sweat, while others were seen gasping and struggling to maintain a swift walk.

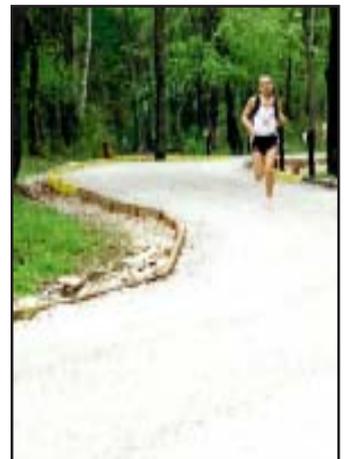
Regardless of how fast they finished, everyone did eventually complete the race making them all winners.

Fortunately, no injuries occurred, according to Tony C. Mullings, MWR

sports programmer, deployed from New York. Medals were awarded to the top three finishers in the men's and women's categories. Everyone who participated received a T-shirt with the logo, *MWR Balkans Serving America's Army Proudly*. The 5K run was open to all military MND (N) personnel and civilians. One of the goals of events such as this is to keep service members in high spirits.

"Through sports, we try to help improve the morale and welfare of the service members and civilians deployed here," said Mr. Mullings. "The race fosters camaraderie and spirit. We can meet and compete in friendship with our NATO partners and the civilians we work with in MND (N)," he added.

MWR attempts to schedule 5K and 10K races throughout local base camps at least once a month. The next 5K race is tentatively scheduled for Mother's Day. See the MWR website, or check the bulletin boards for upcoming events.



Faster than a speeding bullet? Well not quite, but Peter Emtenjfer of the Danish Armed Forces assigned with the Nordic-Polish brigade here, did finish the race in first place with a time of 16:48.

Earth Day Environmental Milestones

1872 – Yellowstone becomes the nation's first national park.

1905 – The United States Forest Service is established within the Department of Agriculture.

1911 – The Weeks Act appropriates \$9 million to purchase 6 million acres of land in the in the eastern United States for the purpose of establishing national forests.

1946 – The Grazing Service and the General Land Office are merged to form the Bureau of Land Management.

1968 – Redwoods National Park in California and North Cascades National Park in Washington are established.

1969 – Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin calls for national "teach-in" on the environment to be called "Earth Day."

1970 – April 22 – an estimated 20 million people participate in "Earth Day" demonstrations and activities across the country.

1972 – Clean Water Act signed into law.



Firefighters help a "casualty" who was injured in a helicopter accident as part of the mass casualty exercise on Camp Comanche.

Firefighters work to put out a blaze from a "downed helicopter".



All Fire

During this train definitely no 'stop

Story and photos by Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

As a Black Hawk travels across the Bosnian sky it has a problem with its hydraulics. The helicopter has trouble maintaining altitude, and on its way down it clips an observation tower and slams into the ground in a giant ball of fire.

This is the exact scenario that occurred during a training exercise at Camp Comanche April 21.

Responding to the mock accident were the medical personnel from Company C, 148th Logistical Task Force, a National Guard unit from Georgia.

"The purpose of the training is to integrate and exercise the casualty

ed Up!

ing, there was , drop and roll'

response should an accident happen," said Maj. Frederick K. Peterman, commander, Company C.

A metal structure was used for the exercise and set on fire to symbolize the downed Black Hawk. A two-story building, billowing smoke, played the role of the tower struck by the helicopter.

Key players in the training exercise were the Fire Department, the Base Defense Operations Center, Military Police and medical personnel, said Maj. Peterman.

The first part of the exercise was the accident and on-site treatment. The second part was transporting the injured to the medical center.

The Fire Department arrived on the scene immediately following the crash, put out the fire and assisted the casualties, played by LTF soldiers. The MPs set up a security perimeter around the accident scene.

The medics arrived soon after and began to treat the victims and prepare them for their trip to the medical center.

Spc. Jerry A. Bollock, an LTF medic, rode in the Humvee with patients from the crash scene to the medical center.

He briefed the medical officer-in-charge about the severity of the patients' injuries so they could receive medical attention in the order most needed.

The crash victims were then carried in to the medical center to receive the required treatment, ending the exercise.

"It went pretty smoothly," said Spc. Bollock. "I was surprised there were so many casualties. It really helped to sharpen our communication, treatment (skills) and movement of the injured."

"We are always training, to bring us up another notch in our proficiency," said Staff Sgt. Chris Harvey, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the medical center.

Staff Sgt. Harvey was pleased with how the entire exercise was handled.

"Everything went extremely well. Really up to speed," Staff Sgt. Harvey added.

"It is important for the soldiers to learn to deal with mass casualties," said Maj. Peterman. "I'm absolutely thrilled that we are working with the Fire Department. We used real fire and real fire trucks," he said.

Another mass-casualty exercise is planned sometime in early May.



Firemen carry an injured soldier to an ambulance to be evacuated to the medical center. A training exercise for firemen, MPs, base defense and medics was conducted at Camp Comanche.



A fireman heads into a burning building looking for "casualties."

Kosovo In Brief

Task Force Falcon Press Release

1 Multinational Brigade (East) soldiers continued their efforts to stop supplies and equipment from being moved in and out of Kosovo by extremists during the week of April 15-21. In Debelde, U.S. KFOR soldiers from 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, discovered a large cache of food and supplies April 16. Soldiers found the items during a routine search of an abandoned house. No one was detained with the supplies. The cache included 12 100-pound bags of flour, 12 50-pound bags of rice and five 150-pound bags of beans. Blankets, cooking oil, laundry soap and propane were also in the house. The supplies were removed from the house and the area put under observation in case anyone returned for the supplies. Abandoned houses in this area are checked frequently to ensure extremists cannot use them for these purposes. "Our continued patrolling and check-point operations have heavily interdicted the flow of personnel and material along the FYROM border and boundary with Serbia," said Col. Thomas Gross, Task Force Falcon chief of staff. "This is part of MNB (E)'s continuing effort to keep Kosovo from being used as a safe haven for extremists." The Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility has 105 detainees, all of whom are Albanian males suspected of being UCPMB members.

1 U.S. civil affairs soldiers held ceremonies in Klokot and Ribnik to mark the completion of construction projects at school in those communities. A roof was built for the primary school in Ribnik, and in Klokot a fence was constructed around the Serbian school. There were 12 MEDCAPs last week in the towns of Klokot, Palivodenica, Cernica, Izvor, Gorance, Susice, Globocicca, Donje Karacevo, Doganovic, Donje Bitinja and Vitina Church. Almost 800 people were treated, including 608 Albanians and 190 Serbs.

1 There are 11 MEDCAPS planned for the week of April 22-28 in the towns of Ljubiste, Dramnjak, Busovato, Garje, Gornje-Nerordimlje, Binac, Kmetovce, Krivenik, Drajkovce, Klokot and Veliko-Ropotovo. An eye doctor will issue donated eyeglasses in Krivenik April 27.

1 Media representatives interested in patrolling with KFOR soldiers, covering MEDCAPs, covering humanitarian assistance events or any other activities in MNB (E) should contact Capt. Alayne Cramer at the Task Force Falcon Public Affairs Office or 1st Lt. Annmarie Daneker at the KFOR Press Information Center in Pristina.



Sgt. Tony Wilson, team member, 62nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal, assists 2nd Lt. Eirik Stroem, team leader, K-9 dog section, Norwegian Bn., prepare a damaged Chinese 75 mm recoilless-rifle round for transport to Camp Bondsteel. (photo by Capt. Clarence Counts)

Soldier on the Street

"How have you benefitted from being deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina?"

It's made me increase my skills as an NCO, making sure I utilize my soldiers to complete the task without tasking any one soldier excessively."

Sgt. Kelly J. Barnes,
D Co., 23 Aviation Bde



I'm not here for my benefit. I'm here for the soldier's benefit. I'm concerned with how they benefit, instead of how I do."

Jaqueline A. Lackney,
American Red Cross

I've gotten some exposure, not only to the local nationals, but also to the multi-national troops here. This has expanded my horizons as a soldier. Being from the Reserve Component, and working hand-in-hand with the 3rd ID, has been a valuable experience. Not only for the reserves, but for both active and the reserves."

Command. Sgt. Maj. M. Keith Glass,
1-121 Inf (Mech)



I work for Task Force Med Eagle, so it's given me the chance to do what I like, working with patients, and taking care of soldiers."

Sgt. Tasha T. McMurray,
TFME 28 CSH