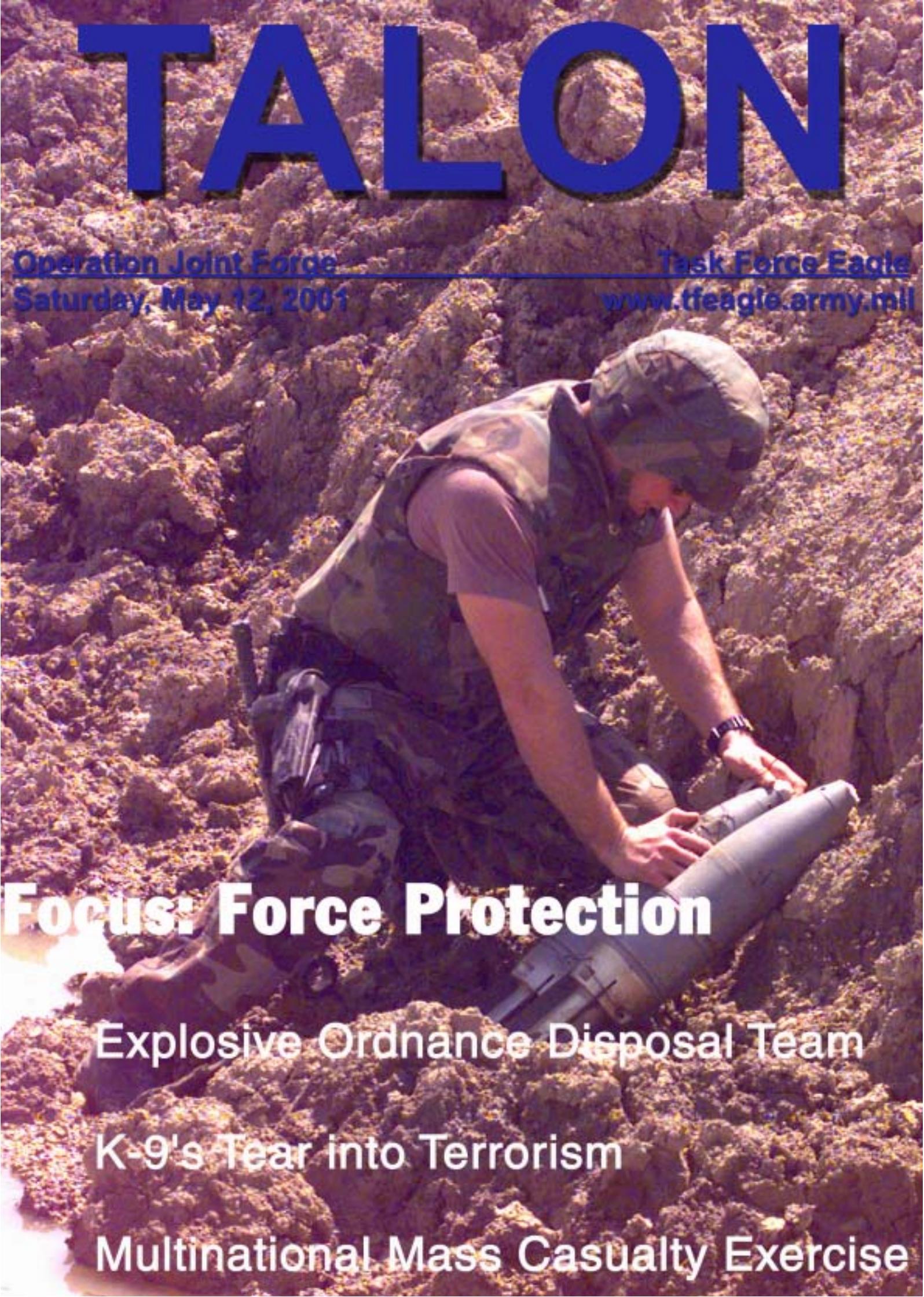


TALON

A soldier in camouflage gear is kneeling in a trench, handling a large cylindrical explosive ordnance. The soldier is wearing a helmet, a vest, and a watch. The background is a rocky, uneven terrain.

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, May 12, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil

Focus: Force Protection

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team

K-9's Tear into Terrorism

Multinational Mass Casualty Exercise

Put in the Big Rocks First

Matthew 6:33

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all that you need will be given to you.”

This verse from Matthew is one of my favorites and I believe it holds something for each of us in SFOR 9. Every time I read this verse, I am reminded of a somewhat familiar story about a college professor and his glass jar.

One morning a professor came into class, set a large glass jar on his desk and began to fill the jar with some items he had in a big tray next to the desk. He first put in five big rocks, then a scoop of gravel, next a couple handfuls of sand, and finally water from a small beaker. At this point the jar was completely full – nothing more could fit in the jar.

Just as quickly as he filled the jar, he emptied it of its contents and once again began to fill it. This time, however, he did it in reverse order: He began with the water, then the sand, next the scoop of gravel, and finally he reached for the big rocks. A few went in the jar, but there seemed to be no more room for the others. No matter how hard he pushed, the professor could not fit in all the big rocks.

At this point the professor stooped, looked at the class, and asked, “Do you understand the lesson? The lesson is this: The jar represents your life and what was put into the jar represents what you put into your life. In order for everything to fit, you must put in the big rocks first! In short, you must have the right priorities.

Let me ask you, what are the big rocks in your life? Most of us will agree that four big rocks are: Family, Finances, Health, and Friends. Truly these are big rocks and we do need to focus here. However, for me there is another rock – my relationship with God. This is my biggest rock.

The above verse of scripture mentions this – “Seek first the Kingdom of God . . .” This verse speaks of having the right priorities and priorities are like the buttons on your BDU jacket. If you get the first one wrong, the rest will be out of order. But if you get the first one correct, the others fall right into place!

My suggestion to you is this: Put God first in your life and watch everything else fall into place. Make it part of your plan to visit your Base Camp Chapel this week. May the Blessed One grant you a great week, and always remember:

Put in the Big Rocks First!

Thoughts for the Day

Saturday: The person who succeeds lengthens his stride when he realizes the mile-marker has deceived him; the quitter looks for a place to sit down.

Sunday: If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Monday: You don't have to worry about snakes when you are living above the snakeline.

Tuesday: No weapon formed against you shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

Wednesday: Try honesty–It requires less memory.

Thursday: In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path (Proverbs 3:6).

Friday: In the race to succeed, never forget to enjoy the journey.

By Chaplain (CPT) Bob Marsi
Camp McGovern Chaplain

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The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas under the provision of AR 360-1. Contents of the *Talon* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle.

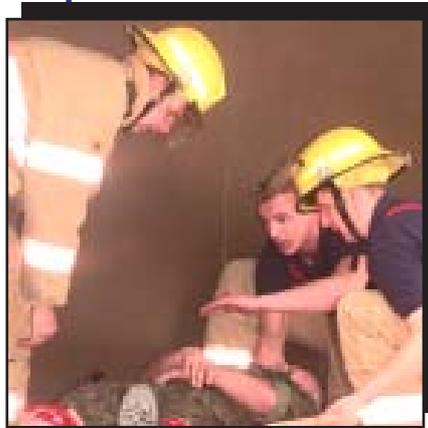
The *Talon* is published weekly by the 3d Infantry Division (Mechanized) Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina APO AE 09789. Telephone MSE 551-5230, Sprint 762-5230. E-mail: talonpancoic@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 5,500.

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Correction: In last week's story about the Honorable Westphal's visit, we incorrectly identified Capt. Charles Bennett's unit. Capt. Bennett is with Co. A, 2 Battalion, 121st Infantry.

Force Protection Requires Everyone's Vigilance

By Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp
Commander, MND(N)

There is no more important responsibility than force protection. In this age of terrorism, force protection is a vital part of our daily field and garrison operations. The responsibility for making force protection work is everybody's business. Force protection measures range from using proper NBC-defense measures during combat to exercising anti-terrorism techniques at the work place.

Needless to say, force protection is not just about protecting weapon systems. It also applies to protecting critical facilities, vehicles, computer and communication systems, and most of all, our people. It also entails practicing good safety techniques to avoid accidents.

Force protection, according to AR 525-13, incorporates active and passive measures taken to preserve the combat power of the force. It is the application of organizational, material and procedural solutions to the challenges of protecting personnel, information and critical resources force protection is defined as the means by which we preserve combat power in the course of operations under peacetime and wartime conditions. But why is all this important?

You only need to read about the recent terrorist attack in Southwest Asia. In October of last year, terrorists successfully attacked the USS Cole while it was conducting refueling operations at a Yemen port. The suicide attack resulted in 35 deaths and severe damage to the vessel. Once again, the attack served as a tragic reminder of our forces' vulnerability to terrorism worldwide.

This event is one of the most serious terrorist attacks against the U.S. military since the Khobar Tower bombing in Saudi Arabia in June 1996.

Here in Bosnia, we are not immune from

(Below) A terrorist attack on USS Cole last year resulted in 35 deaths and severe damage to the vessel.



potential terrorist or criminal activity. Yes, the threat of terrorism in MND(N) and throughout the Balkans is real. In the past two years, there have been incidents in MND(N) against Stabilization Force personnel. Fortunately, they have not resulted in the death or serious injury of any peacekeeper or local national supporting the SFOR mission.

Nonetheless, we must remain vigilant and adapt our security and force protection measures to fit this environment.

The Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment, which is a Department of Defense assessment team, was initiated after the bombing of the Khobar Towers. Their primary focus is protecting the force. JSIVA will be visiting each base camp during the time period of May 13, 2001, through May 25, 2001. This is an assessment to ensure we are prepared and focused in regards to force protection.

Regardless of our job positions in MND(N), we can all contribute to a safe and secure environment. We can practice basic force-protection security measures to help mitigate the threat of terrorism. Report suspicious activity to your chain of command. By enforcing the ID card display policy on base camps, maintaining disciplined vigilance while on guard duty and simply practicing good situational awareness by looking for things that "just don't look right," we can all do our part to ensure a successful SFOR rotation and return home safely to our loved ones.

As mentioned earlier, force protection and safety go hand-in-hand. There is no doubt that people are our most precious resource. In fact, we have taken great strides in recent years to employ effective risk-management techniques so we can train safely while maintaining readiness.

Our Nation expects us to take the necessary precautions to protect the



Maj. Gen. Walter S. Sharp

resources and materials provided to us. It is an awesome responsibility and one that I expect all leaders and service members to follow. Force protection is not a new concept. It's really about discipline, teamwork and pride in one's unit and duty. This reminds me of what Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote in a directive to his troops in 1865 when he stated:

"[Service members] should be made to understand that discipline contributes no less to their safety than to their efficiency...Let officers and [troops] be made to feel that they will most effectively secure their safety by remaining steadily at their posts, preserving order, and fighting with coolness and vigor."

I strongly believe that force protection requires us to practice discipline and remain steady at our posts. In the long run, we will conserve vital combat resources and protect our people from undue harm. Together we can make a difference! Your leadership cares about each and every one of you. We gratefully acknowledge your hard work and commitment to excellence everyday. The business of force protection is truly everyone's duty. Stay vigilant and practice common sense.

Rock of the Marne!



The June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing at Khobar Towers killed 19 airman, and wounded many more.

Gate Keepers

Force Protection's Front Line

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

Everyday and every evening the lines form. Hundreds of local Bosnians pass through the civilian gate at Camp Comanche on their way to and from jobs on base.

It is here where the protection of peacekeeping troops on Camp Comanche begins. It is the front line of force protection.

"As far as base protection the gate is the most important. This is where everything comes on," said Staff Sgt. Jason W. Honeycutt, Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry squad leader and NCOIC of the gate-defense team. The team pulls duty two weeks per month.

The Bosnians coming through the gate are searched for weapons and any items that could be considered dangerous to the soldiers on Camp Comanche, said Staff Sgt. Honeycutt, a Kingsport, Tenn., native.

"All civilian employees coming from town must pass through here," added Spc. Darrell W. Sanders, a Company A soldier from Snellville, Ga.

The civilians are checked through the computer system by scanning their Stabilization Force badges. They are also searched with a metal detector and sometimes patted down.

"We like to mix it up," said Staff Sgt.

Honeycutt, implying that not every civilian will just have the metal detector used on them. Some are patted down as well to be extra cautious.

After the work day ends, the civilians pass through the gate once again.

"The workers know the drill," said Staff Sgt. Honeycutt.

"They come into the inspection area and get in position to be searched. They just want to get home."

The civilians can get antsy at times if they are in a hurry, he said.

"We just let them know we are going to do our job no matter what," said Staff Sgt. Honeycutt.

"The people who work on post understand and know how things work. Even when there is a line, they realize we are trying to move as quickly as we can," said Spc. Sanders.

The team rotates through six different positions at the gate to keep from getting bored during their eight-hour guard shift.

"We switch spots every two hours. It helps the time pass," said Spc. Kerry J. Potter, from Atlanta, Ga. Switching positions keeps the guards from becoming complacent, added Spc. Sanders.

Although the busiest times are mornings and evenings, there is a constant trickle of people throughout the day.

"Three-hundred to 350 people pass through here per shift," said Staff Sgt.



Sgt. Greg J. Zboran, Co. A, 1-121, searches a Bosnian man with a metal detector.

Honeycutt, "along with 150 vehicles."

The civilian gate at Camp Comanche actually consists of two gates. After a vehicle is let through the first gate, another closes behind as is searched.

"We always check the cabs, seals and cargo holds," said Staff Sgt. Honeycutt.

They mix it up here as well, using the mirror to check underneath the vehicle as well as an occasional check of the inside.

"Par for the course is looking inside every car, behind every seat," said Staff Sgt. Honeycutt.

As the vehicle is checked, passengers have their badges scanned and are searched themselves if the team feels it necessary.

Following a satisfactory search the vehicle is cleared to move on and the second gate opens to allow the automobile on or off the base, whatever the case may be.

Soldiers guarding the gate understand the importance of their job, despite the fact that they would rather be on patrol. Some soldiers admit they didn't expect to be pulling guard so often.

"It's a necessary task that has to be accomplished," said Spc. Potter. "I'd rather be patrolling but I don't mind it."

Spc. Sanders agreed. "It's part of force protection. It's part of our responsibility, so we will perform it to the best of our ability."



Spc. Darrell W. Sanders, Co. A, 1-121, searches a Bosnian citizen passing through the gate after work. Everyone is checked, and during busy times long lines usually form.

Camp Dobol Stages Multination



Casualties are loaded onto a German Cargo Helicopter (CH-53), and flown to Rajlovac Hospital near Sarajevo.

Susan Hartel, a nurse anesthetist with the Danish Armed Forces, manages to keep calm under pressure as she prepares to ventilate an "unconscious" Polish soldier.



Story and photos by
T.S. Jarmusz
Eagle Base

In just one moment, our lives can change forever. One unfortunate event can rob us of our sense of security and thrust us into the arms of chaos. Such was the case during a recent exercise, when unknown terrorists launched an attack on Camp Dobol.

Two bombs detonate, jolting soldiers at the front gate and inner perimeter. Injured soldiers cry out desperately for help, while others remain silent and dazed. As the smoke clears, 15 soldiers lay seriously wounded, with 35 others sustaining minor injuries.

This was the scene during the mass-casualty evacuation exercise May 5. Rallying against the searing heat of the afternoon sun,

units from more than five countries came together to test their skills.

The exercise was unique in that it was a joint-training effort, consisting of Polish, German, Danish, Swedish, Russian, and American units, according to Sgt. 1st Class Gerald E. Smith, a native of Detroit, Mich., and operations NCOIC of the division surgeon's office, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

Even though the terrorist attack was only a simulation, it is still important to practice mass-casualty evacuation procedures in order to maintain our current force protection level. "This exercise points out potential problems that can be corrected before it's too late," said Sgt. Mark Southerland, shift leader of Comanche Aid Station, with the 48th Forward Support Battalion.

Bearing this in mind, Camp Comanche medics from the 48th FSB raced into action, taking the exercise no less serious than if it were the real thing. Members of the Camp Dobol Fire Department, and 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, also assisted in the training.

Medics and firemen arrived on the scene, rushing frantically to assist maimed soldiers. They were called upon to treat a wide range of injuries, from 3rd-degree burns and sucking chest wounds, to emotional shock and unconsciousness, according to Sgt. 1st Class Smith. Injured soldiers were assessed and placed into one of four categories depending on the extent of the injury sustained. Most soldiers in the "surgical urgent" and "urgent" categories were air-lifted to Task Force Medical Eagle, Rajlovac Hospital, near Sarajevo and Sipovo Hospital in Bosnia by the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Medical Company.

Soldiers in the "priority" and "delayed" injury categories were transported by field-litter ambulances or other ground vehicles to Camp Comanche Aid Station, said Sgt. 1st Class Smith. "This training is beneficial because it allows us to test our evacuation procedures throughout MND(N) and it incorporates all the multinational organizations into one cohesive working medical team," said Sgt. 1st Class Smith.

nal Mass-Casualty Evacuation

The training also further emphasized the need for force protection. Medics could not travel to Camp Dobil without security assistance because of current force protection levels. For the mission, medics were assisted by military police escorts and a quick reactionary force, according to Sgt. 1st Class Smith.

"The MP's and QRF provided security, allowing the medics to do the job they had trained for. In real life, if the escorts had not been there to pull security, the medics might not have made it at all," according to Sgt. 1st Class Smith.

The day's training also provided the fringe benefit of getting to know and work with soldiers from other countries.

After the exercise's closure, soldiers were seen talking and laughing with one another.

"I enjoyed the training because, for me, it was able to dissolve some of the stereotypes that are out there. Getting familiar with our allied forces allows us to put a face with the uniform and humanize the whole process," said Sgt. Southerland.

"This gives us a chance to see how other units train. We can observe the other methods and compare them to our own," said Pvt. Tom M. Tynski, 2nd Storm Unit at Dobj with the Nordic-Polish Battle Group.

"We can also learn a lot of moral lessons from each other," he added.

"From a medical stand point, they showed us that there are different ways of doing things. While our languages may differ, in the end, it's all about taking care of your soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class Smith.

In the end, the exercise proved to be a success in more ways than one. Force-protection measures were practiced, and soldiers from many nations were given the rare opportunity to train with and learn from each other.

The exercise let soldiers know exactly what they could expect from each other in the event of an actual emergency.

"This theater is unique because here, we have to conduct cross-boundary medical care," said Sgt. 1st Class Smith. "If there were an event with real mass casualties, it would be imperative that we call upon other nations for assistance.

"The bottom line is, without the help of other nations, soldiers would die," he added.



Flammable boxes are scattered and set aflame during the multinational mass-casualty exercise. The boxes set the stage for medics, firemen and "casualties".

(Above) A Polish soldier basks in the sun while waiting to be airlifted to a medical treatment center. "Casualties", like the one above, sustained "injuries" ranging from minor scrapes and abrasions to severe 3rd degree burns during the four-hour training exercise.

Rollin' Force Protection with Rock Drills

Story and photo by SSgt. Ken Hudson
Eagle Base

A thin layer of chain-link fence is all that divides the soldiers and Airmen of Task Force Eagle from those who would potentially do them bodily harm. That statement is not really true however, because the integrity of that fence is constantly monitored and insured by soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard.

The name rock drill comes from an old tradition of using a scale model representation of an area with sand and rocks in place of actual structures. A model of Eagle Base with miniature houses, trees and guard towers serves as the table model for rock drills. A ribbon of mesh material depicts the nearly seven miles of perimeter fence around the base.

A member of every major unit on Eagle Base attends the rock drill, briefing in turn what his or her unit's actions and responsibilities are under each of the four levels of threat condition, or "threatcon" observed here in Bosnia. Mission Essential Vulnerable Areas or MEVAs such as the water storage and energy production facilities are identified and tenant units are designated to defend them in case of heightened threatcon. Threatcon Alpha is the least restrictive level of security, but we never observe that level here, according to Maj. John Powell, the 1-121st S-3 Officer. Threatcon Delta is the most restrictive. Under Delta, "we close down all services except the most essential like the dining facility and only holders of the green I.D. card are allowed on base," said Maj. Powell.

Daily threat conditions are determined

based on information gathered by our Military Intelligence assets on duty in Bosnia. On Eagle Base we are typically at Threatcon B or B+ because of situations to our north where there have been demonstrations that turned violent, according to Maj. Powell.

According to Maj. Powell, terrorists monitor our security posture constantly and are dissuaded from taking aggressive actions against us by our state of preparedness. But there is still a constant danger of our being lulled into a state of complacency. "When the USS Cole was attacked by bombers in a small inflatable raft there were guards on duty manning machine gun positions," said Maj. Powell. "They didn't see anything wrong because small boats were always coming and going from the ship bringing supplies," he said.

There have been attempts to breach the wire around Eagle Base, according to Maj. Powell. "During SFOR VIII a hole was discovered where the fence had been cut. As soon as the guy was spotted, he ran," said Maj. Powell. There's reason to believe such incidents are carried out by local teens, probably on a dare or as an initiation into a gang, according to Maj. Powell.

A Base Defense Company is assigned the task of defending the perimeter of Eagle Base by conducting 24-hour roving patrols, and manning observation posts and guard towers. "We are a unique organization," said Capt. Timothy Head, Commander, Base Defense Company. Capt. Head explained that his company was organized like a regular headquarters company with mechanics and medics. That diversity of skill has given his company an advantage a regular infantry company might not have. "Mechanics know better where to look for



Capt. Michael Pickett of the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion indicates his unit's sector of responsibility on the Eagle Base sand table.

things hidden on a vehicle and medics can treat injuries right on the spot," said Capt. Head. The BDC guard force is augmented with members of tenant units provided to beef up guard towers and observation posts.

As they're conducted inside a building with a simulated terrain model, rock drills can't achieve a strong sense of realism for participants. Therefore, they are followed by an actual terrain drive during which unit representatives visit their MEVAs and brief fellow rock drillers of their responsibilities and reactions in the event of threat condition changes.

Air Base gets New Commander

Story by Air Force Capt. Richard Sater
Eagle Base

"Sir, I relinquish command." "Sir, I assume command."

With those eight words and the passing of the wing guidon, leadership of the 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group passed from Col. Dennis Eflein to Col. Robert Parker. The change-of-command ceremony occurred May 2 in the Air Force multi-purpose building. The ceremony, brief but significant, marks an ending and a beginning. For departing commander Eflein, it means an ending twice over—the conclusion of his six-month tour as commander of the 401st and a return to his home base, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to begin out-processing. His Air Force retirement takes effect June 1, concluding a distinguished 30-year career. "It's been a quick six months," Col. Eflein said to the assembled 401st. "The assignment has been truly rewarding for one reason: the people, on and off base." Eflein is proud to have been part of the mission. "We work hard and we play hard, but never lose site of the fact that we are here to support Multi-National Division (North). Peace can be a reality in the Balkans, and we can help provide a safe,

peaceful transition to a better nation from this part of Bosnia," he said. "My last Air Force assignment has been an exciting and rewarding one," he concluded. "I've met my personal challenge: to make Tuzla a better place for the next Air Expeditionary Force."

Following Eflein's comments, Col. Robert Parker briefly addressed the assembly. "To the men and women of the 401st—I've been absolutely 'wowed' by what you've accomplished here. It's nothing short of amazing."

At the beginning of his six-month tour, he offered his own challenge: "My charge to you is to support MND(N) and the mission and make our home here a better place by the time we leave. If we can do that, we'll go out of here in style."

Members of the Army general staff also attended the ceremony, as well as distinguished visitors from communities surrounding the base. An informal reception followed, an opportunity for the troops to bid farewell to their departing commander and say hello to their new one.

Col. Charles Rogers, commander of the 16th Air Expeditionary Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy, officiated at the ceremony. The 16th AEW is the parent unit of the 401st EABG.

All Along the Watchtower

Story and photo by Spc. Lewis M. Hilburn
Eagle Base

The 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, a Georgia Army National Guard unit, provides Multinational Division (North) with the perimeter security for Eagle Base. Guards are posted at the wire, the gates, and regularly patrol perimeter roads. They, along with augmentees from every unit on the base, protect the force from acts of terrorism and violence.

The 1-121 soldiers ensure force protection by following the three basic General Orders every soldier learns at Basic Training.

1. I will guard everything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved.

Soldiers of the 1-121 pull shift at the wires and on moving patrols. They guard everything within the wire and inspect everyone coming on and off Eagle Base. Spc. Travis Harris, a guard working the main gate, said, "I check every badge and make sure that seat belts are worn at all times when leaving Eagle Base."

Many would think he would get relaxed in his job but he doesn't. "There is no room to get relaxed, we have to stay on our toes," he said. The soldiers in Spc. Harris' platoon always make sure that their relief is in place before they leave their posts.

2. I will obey my special orders and perform all my duties in a military manner.

Before each shift soldiers report to a building, referred to on Eagle Base as the "Pole Barn," to be briefed on current events, their commander's critical information requirements, and all intelligence that may affect their duties.

The Pole Barn, about the size of a two-car garage, is bare inside except for a few signs on the wall and a large terrain model of the base camp. The sign that stands out is the one depicting the three General Orders. The group of soldiers going on shift is briefed in formation. Their squad leaders do pre-combat inspections to make sure the soldiers have all the tools they need to do their jobs effectively and safely. They then receive orders



Sgt. Bruce Raymond, a primary guard for HHC 1-121, scopes out the perimeter with binoculars.

for their shift, and are told what to expect, and what is expected of them.

3. I will report all violations of my special orders, emergencies and anything not covered in my instructions to the Commander of the Relief.

After shifts are completed, soldiers meet with their platoon leader and give oral reports of shift events, copies of all incident logs kept at gates and in towers, and copies of hand receipts for the equipment signed over to the next shift. Nothing ever happens, according to Spc. Harris, but there is always that possibility.

Lt. Col. Harve Romine, commander of the 1-121, said, "every rotation up until now has had at least one breach of their perimeter. I hope that will not happen with us."

Ordnance Team Keeps Roads Safe

Pfc. Daniel W. Lucas
Camp McGovern

An explosion shakes the ground, lighting up the sky above it. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from the 760th Ordnance Company gathers around to watch the fiery blaze. While handling munitions is dangerous work, it is commonplace for these soldiers.

"Six days a week I am stuck in my office doing paperwork, and Wednesdays, they let me go out and blow things up, said Sgt. 1st Class Randall M. Kaehne, team leader with the 760th Detachment at Camp McGovern.

"We check the weapons storage sites for anything that has become unsafe," said Sgt. 1st Class Kaehne also noted that it is their job to check for "booby traps".

A team also goes out everyday to investigate incident reports. Incident reports occur when a piece of hazardous ordnance is brought to the attention of a passing patrol and it is reported to the EOD. This report includes the location, type and condition of the ordnance.

"If we find something new and it is in good condition, we will take an X-ray of it," said Spc. Michael White, member of the EOD. "We then try and take it apart to find out how it works. The next guy that encounters the same type of explosive can build on it for future reference," said Spc. White.

"We usually can handle all the incidents that we get in one day now," said Sgt. 1st Class Kaehne.

But it wasn't always that way. "I remember when I was back here a few years

ago," said Staff Sgt. John Idler, also a team leader. "We went from house to house pulling out and getting rid of the ordnance all along Cappuccino Street. As we finished with one house and moved on, people would come and start rebuilding them right behind us," said Staff Sgt. Idler.

Each member of the team is capable of handling any type of ordnance that any country has to offer. There are even two members of the Navy present on the detachment to handle the waterways in the area, increasing force protection.

Since arriving at Camp McGovern, the team has removed approximately 2500 pieces of ordnance, and enjoyed every bit of it.

"Being in EOD is the best job in the Army," said Sgt. 1st Class Kaehne. "As long as you don't get easily scared."

K-9 MPs Sniff Out Explosive Hazards

Story and photos by
Pfc. Michael V. Bennett
Eagle Base

Think of the movie dog, “Lassie”; loyal, dependable, willing to do anything for his master. Now, think of Stephen King’s “Cujo”; large, aggressive, and able to tear a fully grown man to shreds very quickly.

Military Working Dogs fall somewhere in between—trained for controlled aggression and the ability to stop an intruder, crossed with a strong loyalty to its handler.

The dogs help ensure force protection by sniffing out explosives, so that the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team can come and remove it.

The dogs, and their handlers, make up the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Headquarters and Headquarters Company K-9 section.

“(MWDs) are trained in two different areas, patrol and detection,” said Sgt. George Link, an MP handler from Ft. Irwin, Ca.

“Our primary mission here is explosive detection, not patrol.”

“We have seven dogs, and they all are dual certified for patrol and detection. Five are trained for explosive detection, and two are trained for narcotics,” said Sgt. Link.

“We do searches every day, all over the base. There are some locations we’ll check multiple times in a single day,” said Sgt. Link. “Patrolling is about obedience and controlled aggression,” said Sgt. Link.

“Dogs are trained to bite on command, search for fleeing suspects over short to medium distances, and to locate hiding suspects in buildings.”

Detection, the other area working dogs are trained in, is also divided into two sections, narcotics and explosives detection.

“MWDs are only trained in one of the two areas, because when a dog reacts to something, we need to know what it’s reacting to,” said Sgt. Link.

Staff Sgt. Melissa Burson, from Ft. Riley, Kan., is quick to



(Above) “Ronnie,” a narcotics-sniffing dog, sits next to a “find” during training at the Eagle Sports Complex. Ronnie and his handler, Spc. Shane Belleville, are from Ft. Stewart, Ga.

point out that working dogs need special treatment from the people it encounters during the day. “These are working dogs, not mascots, not pets,” said Staff Sgt. Burson.

“People need to maintain a 15-foot distance to make sure they’re not attacked.”

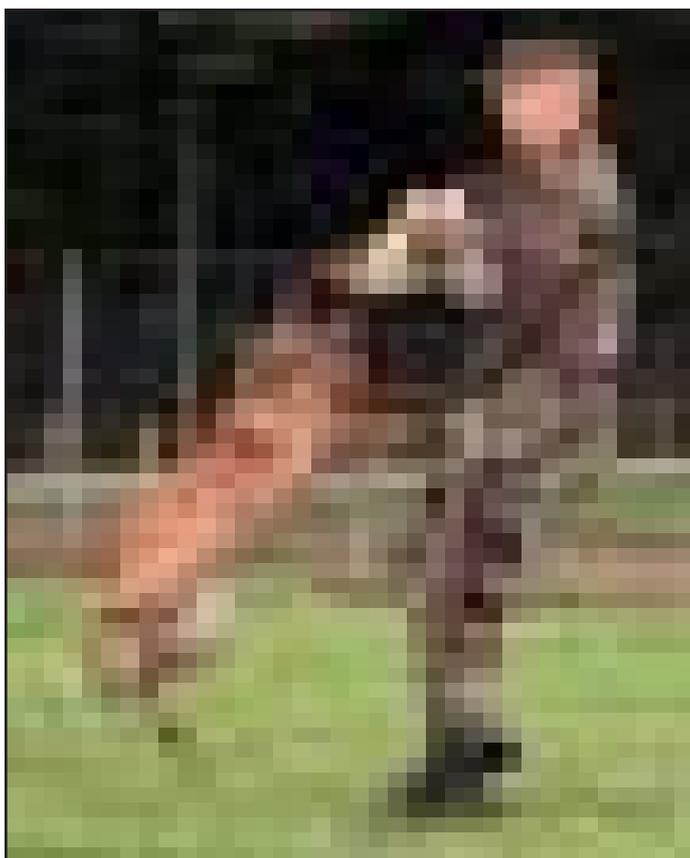
However, an attack from a working dog is unlikely, even if someone gets too close.

“A dog is trained to protect its handler, if he’s attacked, and to protect itself. Or if it’s given the command to aggress, it will. Those are the only reasons a working dog should bite anyone.”

Staff Sgt. Burson understands the urge to show affection to the dogs, however. “We understand that people miss their dogs back home. But these dogs are here to work, not to be petted,” said Staff Sgt. Burson. “It detracts from the dog’s ability to do its job.”

“Contact any of us, and we’d be glad to arrange a tour, or a demonstration, however,” said Staff Sgt. Burson.

(Below) K-9 “Lady” practices controlled aggression tactics against Spc. Belleville. Lady’s handler is Sgt. James Dillon.



Facility Engineer Team Sheds Light on Force Protection

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

When the term “force protection” is mentioned, weapons and armor are perhaps some of the first examples that come to mind. But there are many more subtle examples, such as fencing, proper lighting and building hardening, which contribute to the total force-protection package.

Employing those less obvious methods to protect service members theater-wide is part of the job of the 416th Engineer Command’s seven-member Facilities Engineer Team from Fort Eustis, Va.

The 416th ENCOM, Facility Engineer Group is unique to the Army. The FEG is comprised of nearly 40 FETs made up of true engineering professionals.

“Most of our membership are practicing engineers, or work in associated fields. Our soldiers typically have registration or licensing in their field and most hold advanced degrees,” said Lt. Col. Jean Hecimovich, Base Camp Coordination Agency Chief and FET team leader.

Five members of the 416th FET work in the BCCA. With the Mayor’s Cell, they ensure all force protection work orders meet standards, which include physical security and “hardening” of facilities.

“The BCCA Force-Protection Engineer and the Task Force Force-Protection Officer work as a team,” said Lt. Col. Hecimovich. “It is a cooperative effort. We advise commanders on the appropriate responses to mitigate risks. We always start with the question, ‘What is the threat?’”

But evaluating lights and barricades is just part of the 416th’s mission. The team members are also facility engineers, which means they manage existing facilities and

contribute their expertise to both new construction and renovation on the base camps.

According to Maj. H. Shindle, the BCCA operations officer, the Department of Defense’s and Europe’s force-protection criteria and standards define whether the structure is permanent or temporary, and

dictate the level of security required.

“New construction incorporates force-protection measures in the design, such as lighting, fencing and hardening of the structure,” he said.

The big push in force protection, Maj. Shindle said, is in such places as troop billets, primary gathering areas, inhabited facilities and retail/franchise operations.

“There are ways to mitigate risk based on how the camps are laid out and constructed,” Maj. Shindle said. He used the example of “stand-off distance,” which is the distance buildings sit back from roadways.

The farther away from roads, the less vulnerable the structure. Residents of SEAhut villages, for example Iron Horse Bluffs and Sapper Point, will notice that gates restrict vehicle access.

Another way to reduce the risk is to construct buildings strong enough to limit the damage—not to the structures themselves but to the occupants inside.

“There are things we can do to retrofit existing buildings for blast resistance, such as padding out the exterior walls, to name one example,” said 1st Lt. Ian Doiron. “Typically, the existing concrete buildings have a redundancy in the

structure in the form of interior masonry block walls which will prevent any kind of progressive collapse—in a mortar attack, for instance.” But 1st Lt. Doiron, a Washington, D.C.-area resident notes, “from a structural perspective, a building is not going to take a blast without being damaged. We design them to take a blast



Staff Sgt. Don Zasada, the facility engineer team NCOIC, uses a light meter to measure the amount of illumination at the base of the perimeter fence.

without a loss of life.”

Another force protection measure to which the 416th Engineers contribute their skills is ensuring base camp perimeters are properly lit. Members of the team, accompanied by Lt. Col. Harve Romine, Eagle Base garrison commander, used a light meter recently to ensure proper illumination.

Too little light, as determined by force-protection standards, is potentially hazardous to guard-force soldiers patrolling the fence.

A light level is measured in foot-candles with a standard light meter, with the optimum level being 0.4 foot-candles or higher. Maj. Shindle believes the skills team members have in their civilian jobs add practical experience to the team’s endeavors in Multinational Division (North). For example, Maj. Shindle is a licensed mechanical engineer; Lt. Col. Hecimovich is a nationally certified architect, and 1st Lt. Doiron is a licensed structural engineer.

“Our technical expertise in our civilian jobs enhances our military technical capabilities here,” Maj. Shindle said.

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*—Maj. H. Shindle,
BCCA Operations Officer*

User Awareness Key to Computer Security

Story by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy
Eagle Base

This is the information age. Through every radio, receiver and computer are thousands of bits of data traveling across airways and through wires every minute. Commanders at every level rely on their Information Assurance Officers to oversee the systems, and make sure no viruses wreak havoc or hackers obtain vital information.

The most effective weapon in force protection is not a machine, a software package or a technician – it's a well-informed computer user. "The first line of defense in information security is the user," said Lt. Col. Jennifer Napper, the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) G-6.

Information security encompasses much more than computer warfare. It can include electronic warfare, psychological operations, physical attack, denial and deception, computer network attack and the use of more exotic technologies such as directed energy weapons or electromagnetic pulse weapons.

IAOs are certified on two levels of information security, but there are user-level responsibilities everyone can employ daily. Actions such as installing the Norton Antivirus updates (found on the Eagle Vision web page), staying away from shared folders, changing passwords frequently and avoiding unauthorized Internet sites are just some, Lt. Col. Napper said.

Training also plays an important part in protecting the force from hackers and viruses. In addition to training received by IAOs, every soldier who uses a computer must take a computer-user test. "Each soldier is also required to answer questions about virus awareness and how to take care of them if they find them," said 1st Lt. Anthony K. Baker, IAO at Camp McGovern.

There are reporting procedures soldiers can use if they suspect a virus on their computer. The user needs to contact their IAO, who will then alert the Division Automation Management Office. A list of IAOs can be found on Eagle Vision, under the Information Assurance quick link. Lt. Col. Napper also urged users to disconnect from the network immediately but not to turn off the system.

One way that viruses spread on computers is by soldiers using the "automatic forward" feature on e-mail, according to Lottie Camp, Fort Stewart's information security manager. "It can send a message-borne virus without the user even being there," she said.

All computers on the network are "accredited" which means they are registered by unit, location and user, Lt. Col. Napper noted. Information can be traced back to a specific computer, logon and time, she said.

"The risk of using shareware and freeware is that it leaves hidden 'back doors' for hackers," Lt. Col. Napper said. "When you are on the Internet, you leave an electronic 'signature' and downloading software leaves an 'open path'—a vulnerability," she said. Lt. Col. Napper said that just a few days ago, there were two attempts by outside sources to illegally access the network. Both were rebuffed by firewalls, which are security measures emplaced on the network to keep hackers out.

All must be aware of the significant role they play in keeping the computer system safe and secure. "Adversaries recognize our civilian and military reliance on advanced information technologies and systems," said Vice Adm. Thomas R. Wilson, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. "And (they) understand that information superiority provides the United States with unique capability advantages."

Contributors to this article is Pfc. Daniel Lucas, Camp McGovern, and Sgt. Eric Reinhardt, Fort Stewart "Frontline"

Soldier on the Street

"What does 'force protection' mean to you?"

Not taking the complacent attitude. Taking note of our surroundings. Making sure the ID is showing for the civilian employees on base. Making sure your soldiers have their weapons."

1st Lt. Janine Allbritton,
Task Force Medical
Eagle



Safety. Making sure there are no unacceptable threats to life or materials."

Chief Warrant Officer
William Herr
3rd ID G-6 DAMO



It means a lot of things, not just the people up there on the wire, guarding the perimeter. It means obeying laws, and abiding by the force protection measures on and off base. It's general safety on a day-to-day basis."

Sgt. Trish Henderson
1022 Medical
Detachment



It means keeping my buddies alive, and making sure they come home alive."

Staff Sgt. Michael Sonen
Co. C, 1-121
Camp Comanche

