

# TALON

Operation Joint Forge  
Saturday, May 26, 2001

Task Force Eagle  
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***Cut, Saw, Weld***  
**Coalition EOD Team in Zenica**

**Peace Officers' Memorial Day**

**Mechanics Take out all the Wrenches**

# Remembering What Matters

What comes to mind when you remember Memorial Day weekends past? My thoughts run immediately to two precious memories. The first is the many Mondays that we spent at the lake or pool with a picnic lunch! All the cousins would join my three brothers and me for a day of swimming, playing ball and eating watermelon. Those were great times. The second was the Saturday morning of Memorial Day weekend. My father, a Marine and veteran of two tours in Vietnam, would take his four sons to the local cemetery and we would put flags on the veterans' graves. That was an important time.

Memorial Day is a time set aside to remember. It is a time to give thanks for the sacrifice of more than one million Americans who selflessly served their God, their country and their comrades on the battlefield. For many people back home, this Memorial Day weekend will be nothing more than another day off and an opportunity to take advantage of a sales extravaganza. But for some, it will be a time of sorrow, flags and flowers, because it was their loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. For them it will be a time of remembering what matters.

The psalmist reminds us, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." (33:12). From the birth of our nation until today one truth has remained – we are a "blessed nation" because our values are determined by the character of God.

That is my encouragement this Memorial Day weekend – to make it a day for remembering what matters. God has indeed blessed America with patriots who loved their neighbor more than themselves and He has given us the same opportunity. God has given us this opportunity to be peacemakers in a world that so desperately needs and wants peace. Let us remember what matters and give our best to the task at hand as we walk in the steps of those who served so well before us.

## Thoughts for the Day

**Saturday:** "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings of eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (**Isaiah 40:31**)

**Sunday:** "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky shows his handiwork!" (**Psalms 19:1**)

**Monday:** "Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O Lord, my strength and my redeemer." (**Psalms 19:14**)

**Tuesday:** "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." (**Psalms 23:1**)

**Wednesday:** "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (**Psalms 27:1**)

**Thursday:** "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart: have confidence, I say, in the Lord." (**Psalms 27:14**)

**Friday:** "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." (**Psalms 46:1-2**)

**Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Durham**  
*Eagle Base*

# TALON

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Warrant Officer Ralph Lovett, wearing a Turkish work uniform, lets sparks fly as he cuts the receiver out of a Bosnian weapon. (Photo by Turkish 1st Lt. Serkan Yatak)



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A Bosnian police officer demonstrates his country's canine-unit capabilities during the event. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Richard Sater)



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# Don't Lose Your Leave

## Special Leave Accrual Program in place for select soldiers

Story by Lt. Col. Calvin Carter  
*Assistant Chief of Staff, G1*

Accrued leave is like money in your pocket. But just like money, you have to use it to receive the benefit. Military leave is like having a paid vacation in a civilian career.

So accrued leave days really have a dollar value equal to pay. Using leave is sometimes difficult when you are assigned to units that have a very aggressive training program.

### Why is the program in place?

Most soldiers in the Multinational Division (North) are assigned to units with demanding training programs and busy schedules; therefore, many soldiers may have deployed for the Stabilization Force mission with a large accrued leave balance.

Soldiers in MND(N) can take one R&R leave of up to 14 days during a 12-month period. Soldiers can earn up to 30 days of leave during the same 12-month period. So what about soldiers who have a large leave balance on October 1? Will these soldiers lose the leave they have earned because they could not take it while deployed? The answer is "No!"

The Army has established a Special Leave Accrual Program which allows soldiers to carry-over leave that they could not use because of a lengthy deployment. Army Regulation 600-8-10 outlines the program.

Leaders should study the program and help educate their soldiers about it.

Special Leave Accrual is authorized to any soldier who spends 120 or more continuous days in Bosnia.

### How is it organized?

MND(N) is organized under Operation Joint Forge guidelines. This operational guidance automatically allows company commanders to request Special Leave Accrual for their eligible soldiers. Soldiers

of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve who are members of the Active Guard and Reserve Program may also qualify for Special Leave Accrual.

Local commanders should begin to identify eligible soldiers now.

### Soldiers have responsibilities

Soldiers also have a responsibility to inform their unit leaders that they may require Special Leave Accrual.

This type leave cannot actually be authorized until after October 1 for soldiers participating in SFOR-9.

### How is it processed?

Processing the request for Special Leave Accrual is simple. Chapter 3, AR 600-8-10 shows the steps to follow.

Here is a brief overview of the process:  
·Unit identifies soldiers who served in a hostile-fire zone for at least 120 consecutive days.

·Unit determines soldiers within the list that may require Special Leave Accrual. Unit then develops a list of eligible soldiers. Company commander approves and forwards to battalion commander.

·Battalion commander develops a memorandum approving the list and forwards it to the servicing Finance and Accounting Office. An example of the memorandum is found in Chapter 3.4, AR 600-8-10.

Special Leave Accrual authorizes soldiers to carry forward up to 90 days of leave at the end of the fiscal year.

These 90 days consist of the normal 60-day carry-over plus additional leave up to 30 days.

### Who can approve the request?

The first lieutenant colonel in the chain-of-command can approve Special Leave



**Lt. Col. Calvin Carter**

Accrual for soldiers who have served in MND(N) for 120 days or longer. The servicing FAO then takes action to adjust the soldier's leave.

Once Special Leave Accrual is granted, a soldier has three years to use the special accrued leave over the normal 60-day carry-over limit.

### How does the program work?

You need to understand how the leave system works or you could end up using your Special Leave Accrual before you realize it. The last leave earned is the first leave charged.

For example, suppose you were authorized 20 days Special Accrued Leave in October 2001 but do not use any leave until May 2002. In May 2002 you decide to take 14 days leave. Is this leave drawn from the Special Leave Accrual category? The answer is no. From October 2001 through April 2002, you would have earned 17.5 days leave. The 14 days leave in May 2002 are charged against the 17.5 days leave you have built up after returning to home station.

However, suppose you take 14 days leave in October 2001. Since you have not earned any days leave for the new fiscal year, the 14 days leave will be charged against the 20 days of Special Accrued Leave. The leave system will always charge leave days against your most recently earned leave.

# A Starting Line for Finnish

## Ceremony held welcoming army to MND(N)

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

A ceremony was held May 14 at Eagle Base's Minue Park to honor the Finnish army contingent arriving to serve with Multinational Division (North).

1st Lt. Michelle Martinez, adjutant and logistics officer for the 10th Engineer Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga., and Capt. Heikki Hernesmaa of the Finnish army began the ceremony by singing the American and Finnish national anthems.

Maj. Charles Simmons, Civil-Military Cooperation battalion adjutant, introduced the first speaker, Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, commanding general of MND(N). Maj. Gen. Sharp welcomed the new group to

Eagle Base.

Lt. Col. Martti Kari, Finnish army contingent commander, said, "This is a great day for the Finnish contingent."

Maj. Gen. Sharp said that Adm. Leighton Smith, commander of Implementation Force in 1995-96, had never heard of CIMIC before NATO operations in the Balkans.

"Afterwards, they couldn't live without them," Maj. Gen. Sharp said. The CIMIC coordinates with local, international and non-governmental organizations to promote civil-military operations.

Maj. Gen. Sharp said, "The lesson we learned in IFOR is that civil-military affairs assets have an important, timely role to play in achieving overall objectives of peacekeeping operations."

The Finnish army has already demonstrated on numerous occasions the critical importance of civil military affairs while assigned to the "

**Continued on Page 11**



Finnish soldiers salute as dignitaries arrive at the ceremony honoring the Finnish army.

## Italian Police Prep for Potential Brcko Unrest

Story by Pfc. Daniel W. Lucas  
Camp McGovern

Photo by Spc. Grant L. Calease  
Camp Comanche

In the streets of Brcko, the Carabinieri, the Italian riot police, don their gear and get ready for trouble in the streets. Bulletproof

vests with ceramic plates cover their chests and tough knee and ankle pads cover their legs. Batons strike their eager palms as they wait for the signal to come in. Gloves and riot helmets are pulled out of bags; fiberglass shields are pulled out of their sheaths. Everything is placed at the ready.

From a distance, they appear loud, restless and aggressive. However, once close enough to see what the Multinational Specialized Unit is doing, one realizes the Carabinieri are waiting around telling jokes. The fire in their eyes, though, can't be hidden. For them, this is a normal day at the office.

The day's events are plain and simple. There is a planned Orthodox Church dedication within the Brcko city limits and it is up to the three platoons of Carabinieri to make sure that anything bad, such as a demonstration turning into a riot, doesn't happen. They are there to assist the international police force in any way possible.

"If things get tough, then we go in with all of our gear and make sure there is a safe way for our people (SFOR personnel and officials) to get out," said Warrant Officer Gattano Gaetano, the team leader of a group of four in the vehicle.

"But for the most part we are just here as support. If the platoon of Carabinieri on the scene can't handle it, then we go in. But, we only go if there is trouble. If they have problems then they call us and we clear a path for all of us to leave," Warrant Officer Gaetano said.

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Italian soldiers, known as Carabinieri, practice marching towards a hostile crowd. Carabinieri, as well as soldiers from Argentina and Romania, make up the Multinational Specialized Unit.

# ITALIANS

## Continued from Page 5

Just before the ceremony begins, a call crackles over the radio which alerts the Carabinieri to don their gear. After a half an hour, another radio call allows them to relax again — there are no angry mobs at the church dedication.

“When we get that (second) call, it is very good,” said Sgt. D’Alessandro Massimo, a Carabinieri soldier. “It means that we are not needed here and that is a good thing.”

The only locals that sustained casualties from the Italians fists and batons were the countless mosquitoes that suffered the fate of standing their ground.

“The Carabinieri are a Italian police force

specifically trained for their jobs,” said Sgt. Massimo. He also said the group present in Brcko specialized in handling crowds. “We are not trained as soldiers like you are,” he said. “We are trained as police officers. We go all over the place, but we really want to go home,” he said with a laugh.

The Italians are based out of Sarajevo and work directly for the Stabilization Force command.

“Our orders don’t go from your base commander to us,” said Sgt. Massimo.

“Your commanders ask for our assistance. If it is accepted then that is where we go.” The MSU’s job is not to be confused with the International Police Task

Force’s job either. The MSU is there to supplement the forces of whichever SFOR presence requires their expertise and to provide added manpower and presence where it is needed most.

“We don’t work for any one group,” said Sgt. Massimo. “We go where we are needed and stay there for a few days and then head back to home.” He also said that the soldiers in his unit are from all over Italy. “We even have a soldier that lives 800 kilometers away,” he added.

As the ceremony ends and more laughs are shared, the MSU enter their vehicles and travel to Camp McGovern and then to their base in Sarajevo. “It’s a hard job but I like it,” said Sgt. Massimo.

## 223rd MPs: Happy Nothing Happened

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

Following the civil war in Bosnia, memorial ceremonies held to commemorate the dead have become a part of putting the war behind.

In these situations, American peacekeeping soldiers find themselves in the middle of a nation torn apart. Their readiness for any possible scenario helps the local police keep the people safe.

Task Force 2nd Battalion-121st Infantry spent the last week preparing its soldiers for these situations. A memorial service commemorating the Bratunac massacre was to take place on May 10.

Although the memorial was canceled at the last second, soldiers in areas surrounding Bratunac were ready for anything.

“A women’s group from the Bosnian Federation had planned to hold the ceremony to honor their dead from the war,” said Maj. Thomas M. Carden, operations officer for Task Force 2-121, Georgia National Guard. “Our role was to keep a safe and secure environment, allowing the women to hold their ceremony,” said Maj. Carden.

American presence in the area included aviation and ground forces but they were not the first line of peacekeepers if

the situation went bad. The plan was to let the local authorities and the International Police Task Force handle any unruly protestors, said Maj. Carden.

“What we didn’t want was to go in and take control. If we would have gone in, taken control and lined the streets with soldiers we would have been sending the message that the local police couldn’t handle it.”

Prior to the memorial service, soldiers along with the IPTF and local police went over what might happen. Units attached to Task Force 2-121, such as the 223rd Military Police Co., involved in the ceremony were present.

“We trained in civil-disturbance control and held a rock drill for this mission,” said Sgt. Clifford A. Marbrey, a Military Police Officer, with the 223rd Military Police Co. “A rock drill is when we lay out all the situations that might happen. We laid out the town and where we were all going to be,” said Sgt. Marbrey, a Louisville, Ky., native.

They had the proper time to plan, the right people and



Spc. Brandon P. Bisig, 223rd Military Police Co., waits with a convoy on the outskirts of Bratunac. The soldiers were there to react to any problems at a memorial ceremony. The ceremony was cancelled at the last minute.

sufficient equipment to put on a first class preparation phase for the operation and in most cases the benefit of a proper preparation is a safe ceremony, added Maj. Carden.

“We can’t define success as no rocks being thrown and no demonstrations. That’s not our job. If something happens we want to see the local police go in and regain control. To me it would have been a failure if we would have had to go in,” said Maj. Carden.

“We were briefed on the mission, worked on our riot control and watched the Multinational Specialized Unit

forces practice their procedures for dealing with the crowd,” said Spc. Wesley M. Wilson, also with the 223rd. “We were the back-up for the MSU. They weren’t going in with riot gear so our goal was to protect them if the crowd got out of hand.”

Before the scheduled ceremony, MPs performed a route reconnaissance so each knew where to go and what to do, said Spc. Wilson.

After a long day the troops surrounding Bratunac headed home to Camp Comanche. The ceremony never took place, but the soldiers from Task Force 2-121 were ready.

# Law Enforcement Community Celebrates and Remembers

Story by Air Force Maj. Richard C. Sater  
Eagle Base

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a resolution declaring May 15 of each year "Peace Officers' Memorial Day" to honor the service and commitment of law enforcement officers.

The Air Force's 401st Security Forces Flight held a ceremony on that day at Eagle Base to celebrate and remember. Members from all base military police units as well as local national policemen attended the event.

Staff Sgt. Ken Abner, 401st SFF noncommissioned officer for operations, coordinated the occasion and served as its master of ceremonies. "Each day, over 700,000 federal, state and local police officers put their lives on the line to ensure the public's safety and protection," he said in his opening remarks. "For that reason, we are here today to recognize and salute the entire law-enforcement community."

The Memorial Day event was truly international as well as joint service. A demonstration of military canine capability featured Army policemen as well as officers – and dogs – from the city of Tuzla's police force and the International Police Task Force.

After the demonstration, Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis Hanley offered an invocation. The solemn flag ceremony followed, conducted by three members of the Air Force and three from the Army National Guard. The mournful sounding of "Taps" offered a salute and a farewell to peace officers – more than 15,000, Staff Sgt. Abner said – who have been killed in the line of duty.

The honor guard included the following members: Spc. Jeromy Lynton and Sgt. Michael Watts, both from the 1st Platoon, 223rd Military Police Company, Louisville, Ky.; Spc. Matthew Johnson, 1st Platoon, 438th MPC, Murray, Ky.; Senior Airman Mark Jones and Airman 1st Class Lauren Kresse, both from the 100th Security Forces Squadron, R.A.F. Mildenhall, England; and Airman 1st Class John Palomo, 48th Security Forces Squadron, R.A.F. Lakenheath, England. Staff Sgt. Abner is also assigned to the 100th SFS.

The week of May 15 is National Police Week back home, so Staff Sgt. Abner decided to organize the event. "The ceremony is a reminder of the job that police officers do on a day-to-day basis around the world," he said. "It's also a chance to remember those who have died performing that job."

With the encouragement of Capt. Erik Bruce, 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group chief of security forces, Staff Sgt.

Abner began planning and coordinating the event a month ago. "I wanted all the police agencies on this base to get a better understanding of what each of us does on a daily basis," he said.

Honor guard members volunteered their time and effort, and all expressed their willingness to participate.

Airman 1st Class Palomo said, "I'm proud to be a cop and represent the security forces out here. It's right that we should honor those who have died in the line of duty." He carried the U.S. Air Force flag in the ceremony.

Spc. Lynton carried the U.S. Army flag. Such ceremonies are important to honor the memory of police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, he said. "They were doing their jobs. People appreciate what they've done," Spc. Lynton said. "They're not forgotten."

Senior Airman Jones carried the American flag for the ceremony. "I like participating in special events like this," he said. "I'm here to represent the cops."

Airman 1st Class Kresse, one of two rifle guards in the ceremony, was more specific. "I'm here to represent the *female* cops," she said, "and it's a good chance to get together with other cops from the base."

The ceremony held special significance for Spc. Johnson, who carried the NATO flag. "My father is a retired state police officer," he said, adding that it was a dangerous job. "Growing up, I remember wondering sometimes if he would come home or not."

Army Sgt. Watts, rifle guard, had prior experience as a member of the Honor Guard and he was pleased to volunteer his services. "It's a good cause," he said. "Police officers deserve the recognition."

Peace Officers' Memorial Day also holds special significance for Staff

Sgt. Abner. Several members of his family are police officers in the civilian world.

"Sometimes I think the police community is taken for granted," Staff Sgt. Abner said. "This is a way I can say thanks."

Deployed members of the 100th SFS (U.S. Air Force) and 223rd and 438th MPC (U.S. Army National Guard) are part of Task Force Eagle, the American component of the multinational force that is Operation Joint Forge, the ongoing stabilization force here.

The task force was formed in 1995, following the NATO-imposed cease-fire that brought an end to the destructive four-year Balkan conflict.



Members of the honor Guard are (from left) Airman 1st Class Lauren Kresse, rifle guard; Airman 1st Class John Palomo, Air Force flag; Senior Airman Mark Jones, American flag; Spc. Matthew Johnson, NATO flag; Spc. Jeromy Lynton, U.S. Army flag; and Sgt. Michael Watts, rifle guard.

# Welded Weapons on Safe

Story by  
**Spc. Lewis M. Hilburn**  
*Eagle Base*

American and Turkish soldiers joined forces May 3 to make sure that more than two dozen weapons housed in a Bosnian museum and officers club in Zenica could never be used again.

Warrant Officer Ralph Lovett, Joint Military Commission compliance special projects officer, and the Turkish Brigade Explosive Ordnance Detail, part of the Turkish Brigade at Fatih Sultan Mehmet base camp, discussed whether the weapons posed a threat.

The Multinational Division (North) soldiers came to the conclusion that the weapons being displayed were, in fact, museum pieces. But since the weapons were still functional they had to be demilitarized, or rendered useless, said Warrant Officer Lovett. There were 26 small arms and one mortar on

display in the museum. The weapons, part of Bosnian military history, are from various wars, Warrant Officer Lovett said.

"The Turkish Brigade would have to go to the museum each month to inspect the weapons that were on display," he said. The Turks would inspect the weapons to make sure none were missing, or had been fired. Warrant Officer Lovett and members of the Turkish Brigade EOD discussed how to make the weapons safe for display.

To demilitarize the weapons, receivers are cut out with an acetylene torch and the chambers welded shut so ammunition can't be fired, Warrant Officer Lovett said. "We only make cuts that aren't noticeable, so they (the weapons) can be displayed again," he said.

The weapons were removed from the Bosnian officers' club and taken to the Turkish Brigade to be demilitarized.

Upon arrival, the group sat down with Capt. Ahmic Nevzadim, the Bosnian Federation Army's site commander, and explained how the weapons would be altered so the Turkish Brigade wouldn't have to inspect them every month.

Once weapons were loaded onto vehicles, the team went back to the Turkish base camp and started the demilitarization process. Warrant Officer Lovett showed the group how to properly cut the weapons with an acetylene torch and weld metal into the chambers. The Turkish soldiers quickly caught

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1st Lt. Meulut Ozdemir brings comfort and joy to a young child.



During the demilling process, a civilian railroad worker cuts a hole in a mortar. (Photo by Warrant Officer Ralph Lovett)

## Turkish Soldiers Experience

Story by  
**Spc. Grant L. Calease**  
*Camp Comanche*

Serving in the American military in Bosnia presents soldiers with a unique opportunity to experience Bosnian culture, and those of other nations participating in Stabilization Force 9.

Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry had a rare opportunity to work with a group of Turkish soldiers for three days last week. "The purpose of the visit was for them to get familiar with our area of responsibility and the way we do things," said 2nd Lt. Billy Chau, leader of Company A's 4th Platoon.

A joint dismounted patrol was conducted, allowing the Turkish soldiers to see

Company A's area of responsibility. The patrol went to the towns of Banovici, Zelijova and Kladanj.

"It was a presence patrol. The purpose is to let the (Bosnian) people know we are here," said Sgt. 1st Class William J. Cox, platoon sergeant of 4th Platoon.

"The Turks were impressed by how the people responded to us," he said. "The Turks were very good with the people."

Prior to the patrol, American soldiers were given a demonstration of Turkish weapons. Several



Staff Sgt. Richard [Name] of the 121st Infantry Battalion, as Sgt. Soner Yalcin attaches a night vision device to a night vision goggle. (Photo by Spc. Grant L. Calease)



Young girl at a Refugee Camp in Zenica. (photo by Maj. Mike Birmingham)

## ence Camp Comanche

were on display, including a Russian-made rocket-propelled grenade and an American-made M-79 grenade



rd M. Colvin (left), Company A, 1st Infantry, looks at a Turkish machine gun Ciukaya (right) from the Turkish Brigade division-telescope. (photo by Spc. Grant

launcher. Heckler & Koch MP-5 submachine guns and G-3 rifles, the Turkish soldiers' main battle weapons, were also demonstrated. The next day, the Turkish troops accompanied their American counterparts to Forward Operating Base Conner to patrol Bratunac and Srebrenica.

This was not a first for some of the soldiers. The Turkish and American soldiers have worked together before, 2nd Lt. Chau said.

"We went to the Turkish Headquarters and stayed with them for three days in April," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Cox said soldiers experienced each other's patrol areas and weapons. "We fired their weapons and they fired ours," he said.

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*From Babies to Bridges...*

# Turkish Task Force Makes a Difference

Story by  
Maj. Michael G. Birmingham  
Public Affairs Officer

Ask a member of the Turkish Battalion Task Force their greatest accomplishments here and there is a good chance they will tell you about their civil affairs projects.

That was the answer readily and proudly given during a recent visit to their sector.

"We feel we should encourage the infrastructure reformation, said Maj. Yildirey Cevik, Turkish liaison officer to Multinational Division (North).

More importantly, the projects support the General Framework Agreement of the Dayton Peace Accords to provide a safe and secure environment, freedom of movement and the right of people to return to their prewar homes, according to Lt. Col. Kudret Erkan, commander, Turkish Task Force. The projects reflect a diverse array of infrastructure improvements, housing, religious and education construction. Construction includes 39 schools, 17 mosques and seven churches.

"As you can tell, the Turkish Battalion is giving its impartiality," said Maj. Cevik, referring to the support to different ethnic groups. The ethnic makeup in their sector is more than 75 percent Bosniac, 10 percent Croatian and 10 percent Serbian. They built a cultural center for each over the last year.

Their engineering projects over the last eight months have added up to nearly 2500 hours of work. Most of the nearly 40 village road and bridge improvements have come in the rural areas.

Their hard work has encouraged nearly 2000 displaced persons to return to the area to recover pre-war homes as is their right under the Dayton Agreement.

More importantly, the infrastructure improvements in a region more stable from constant Turkish presence patrols have encouraged business investment. Private and international community investments have led to start-up businesses including chicken farms, bee-keeping and a dried fruit factory. The capital and jobs will improve the economy with the intent of providing a more stable place to live according to Lt. Col. Erkan.

The Turkish Battalion is also concerned about the environment. Recent area beautification efforts include the construction of the Zenica Turkish Park and fountain. Turkish soldiers planted 500 pines in the park on March 4, 2001.

The battalion also has a program where soldiers donate a percentage of their salaries to a fund used by the Turkish Civil Military Cooperation to pay for local projects. The donation amount is based on rank and Lt. Col Erkan sets the example, according to the Turkish soldiers. Since their arrival in 1994, that amount has nearly topped three million Deutsche Marks according Maj. Cervik. "We donate from the deepest of our hearts," he said.

The Turkish Battalion could easily rest on their accomplishments to date, however, their list of future projects is just as impressive. The Turkish soldiers have plans for electrical systems, water supplies, and still more roads, bridges and schools.

"It's a question of money," Maj. Cevik said. "If there is a means, there is a will and a way."



Turkish soldiers planted 500 pine trees in Zenica Turkish Park. (Turkish Battalion file photo)



## *The Red Cross:*

# Not Just Blood Drives, Goodies

Story by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz  
*Eagle Base*

“We don’t want your blood. We don’t want your money. Come in and see us, we’re here for you,” said a smiling Jacqueline Lackney, reflecting on some common misconceptions servicemembers have of the Red Cross here.

As an assistant station manager with the American Red Cross, Bosnian Station, Miss Lackney performs a number of duties; the least of which is drawing blood or collecting money. “We work with soldiers, not for them,” said Miss Lackney.

According to Miss Lackney, the American Red Cross, founded in 1881 by Clara Barton, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the American people. The Red Cross is chartered by Congress to provide emergency communications for military members and their families, and to provide disaster services by preventing, preparing, and responding to them.

Emergency response works like a relay system. A family member notifies the local chapter of the Red Cross of an emergency, such as a death in the family. The local chapter notifies the Red Cross where a soldier is stationed; the message is passed on to the soldier’s unit, and to the soldier.

But that’s not all the Red Cross does here in Bosnia. The four-person team, including Miss Lackney, Kevin Madden, the team leader and station manager, Israel Graulau, station manager, and Elizabeth Rogers, an assistant station manager, host a number of events to help soldiers pass the time. Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., there is trivia night at the Balkan Grille. There are birthday parties at the end of each month, and special activities like the recent Kentucky Derby party, said Ms. Rogers.

For this Memorial Day, the Red Cross has put up memorial boards, posters for soldiers to sign the names friends and family members deserving to be honored for their military service. They are placing wreaths for fallen soldiers at Minue Park and Thonstad Garden during the Memorial Day ceremony. In addition, the Red Cross is hosting an Indianapolis 500 party at Triggers on May 27, starting at 4:00 p.m. Two pairs of tickets to next year’s race will be given away.

There are Red Cross centers on most military installations; Miss Lackney said they also provide soldiers with the

following services:

- Information referral
- Odds and ends services, such as toiletry items, edible goodies, games, books and movies
- Sponsoring and participating in holiday events and morale functions
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid classes
- Volunteer programs
- Informal and confidential counseling referral
- Awareness about emergency leave and other services

Servicemembers also have the added perk of having a sympathetic ear in times of need.

“We’re here to listen to anyone, anytime, no matter what,” said Ms. Rogers, who hails from Lexington, Ky.

“Sometimes, servicemembers may have a hard time talking with their chain of command about personal issues. They feel more comfortable talking with us because we offer them a confidential, relaxed atmosphere, where they can feel free to vent their concerns,” she added.

Ms. Rogers, who has a bachelor’s degree in international relations, took a job with the Red Cross because she wanted to travel and promote humanitarian efforts in the world. Miss Lackney, a native of Greensboro, N.C., held similar sentiments.

“To do this job, you have got to enjoy traveling and helping people. I wanted to give something back for what I had received,” said Miss Lackney, a Navy veteran. Miss Lackney has worked with the Red Cross for one year, and has enjoyed the opportunity it has given her.

“One year ago, I never would’ve thought I would be sitting in Bosnia wearing military fatigues,” she said, “but we’ve all made friends here that we’ll keep for the rest of our lives.”

Despite providing smiles 24 hours a day, the job is not without its drawbacks. “I’ve been serving for two years now, and for me, one of the hardest things is knowing that soldiers who want to go home to see their families can’t,” said Ms. Rogers.

Caring, smiling and listening; these are just part of the job requirements for the American Red Cross worker, for as their vision statement declares, they are “...always there...touching more lives in new ways...under the same trusted symbol.”



(far left) **Spc. Andrew M. Long, Company B, 148th LTF, works on a Humvee.**

(near left) **Sgt. Ernest B. Martin, 148th LTF, lowers an engine into a vehicle. A chain-and-pulley system is used to allow one person to handle the job.**

## Start 'em Up!

# 148th LTF Keeps Humvees Humming

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

Looking across the Camp Comanche motor pool is like seeing a sea of Humvees. Camouflage vehicles stretch to the horizon like ships on the waves.

Keeping the fleet up and running is an important task, but Company B, 148th Logistics Task Force, Georgia Army National Guard, is up to the challenge, according to the unit's soldiers.

"We are the direct-support maintenance for Camp Comanche," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry J. Rittenberry, Co. B's maintenance control NCOIC.

"We have 65 soldiers on the ground with 12 different shops, including some at Eagle Base and Camp McGovern," he added.

The shop works on all sorts of military vehicles from Humvees to five-ton trucks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Most of their work is done on the M1114 up-armored Humvees, said Sgt. 1st Class Rittenberry. The large number of vehicles being used, combined with the age of the fleet and the high mileage it racks up, keep the mechanics busy, he said.

"We have been replacing a lot of the engines," he said. "But we also replace transfer cases and transmissions."

Sgt. 1st Class Rittenberry said the turn-around time on an engine is about four days. A transfer case, the gearbox that controls the Humvee's four-wheel-drive, takes about two days to replace, he said.

Spc. Edgewood Baker, a heavy-wheeled vehicle mechanic, said Co. B handles maintenance on M998-series Humvees along with a variety of larger vehicles. Five-

ton trucks, HEMTTs and CUCVs are serviced at the shop. So are Task Force Eagle's tracked vehicles.

"We work on any tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles that break down. We get them combat-ready," said Sgt. Harry Moore, a tracked-vehicle mechanic with Co. B. "We take care of anything and everything that they need to keep moving."

Sgt. Moore said he is enjoying his deployment. "A lot of these guys I have known for a long time. I grew up with some of these guys and we've been training together for years back in Georgia."

Sgt. 1st Class Rittenberry agreed. "This deployment has gone really well. Everybody is working well together, our production level is way up and morale is out of sight," he said. "I couldn't ask for a better bunch of people to work with," he added.

## FINNISH

Continued from Page 5  
 Nordic-Polish sector, Maj. Gen. Sharp said. The MND(N) commander highlighted their achievements, such as working with Displaced Persons, Returnees and Evacuees, Bailey Bridge projects, the successful Bocinja Donja returns and the extensive Bosnian-Croat returns.

"The Finnish presence in the Eastern Republic of Srpska will provide both aid for the present and hope for the future," Maj. Gen. Sharp said. "You will help set the conditions that will further aid in self-determination, self-governance and the eventual withdrawal of multinational forces."

Lt. Col. John Irvin, CIMIC battalion commander, said it was a great honor for the CIMIC battalion to have the opportunity to work in a multinational environment with the Finnish contingent.

"For the last six weeks we have been working together on a limited basis with the right seat/left seat ride and preparing our units for this combined mission," Lt. Col. Irvin said.

"Again, welcome to Eagle Base and God bless Finland and the United States," he added.

"We have left the Nordic-Polish battle group and Dobojs not exactly knowing what is ahead of us as a part of the MND(N) staff and CIMIC

battalion," Lt. Col. Kari said.

A fact-finding period was held from February to April, Lt. Col. Kari said.

That period, and the last few weeks spent acting as the operational staff officers and the CIMIC company, have made MND(N) and Finland realize that the decision to deploy the Finnish army to MND(N) was the right one, he said.

Lt. Col. Kari said cooperation within the G-5 section and CIMIC battalion went smoothly, without any friction. "Even though we Finns are not native English speakers, we have found a common language with American soldiers and the other soldiers representing

various nations," he said.

"Messages from the sector have been extremely positive and my personal impression is that the key players and the individual CIMIC officers of different nations have found each other and they are ready for our mutual challenge," said Lt. Col. Kari.

"Now it is our turn to show you that the decision to deploy the Finnish contingent to Tuzla was right," Lt. Col. Kari said.

At the end of the observation, as the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) song, "Dog Face Soldier" played, Lt. Col. Kari saluted the MND(N) commander. "Sir," he said, "This completes the ceremony."

## WELDED

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on and began the process of demilitarization, he said.

“The Turkish soldiers formed an assembly line and began welding the weapons,” Warrant Officer Lovett said.

After the weapons alterations were complete, weapons went back to the museum and were replaced on the wall.

Turkish Navy Capt. Oktay Celeb, EOD team leader, said it was a real pleasure working with Warrant Officer Lovett.

“He helped with the demilitarization of the weapons and he was real professional,” said Capt. Oktay. “I enjoyed talking with him and hope that someday we have the opportunity of working together again,” he said.

Warrant Officer Lovett said the demilitarizing process took about three-and-a-half days to complete, and had praise for his Turkish counterparts. “It was a great experience to work with the Turkish EOD, because I saw how well they conducted themselves in a military fashion,” he said.

## COMANCHE

Continued from Page 9

“As a group we learned what they are responsible for. It’s good to know what the other units are doing out there,” he said.

Sgt. Calvin C. Slaton, a 4th Platoon squad leader, liked the reception the Americans received from the Turkish troops. “They rolled out the red carpet for us,” he said. “They are very well-trained soldiers with a lot of patriotism,” said Spc. Robert P. Furlong, from 4th Platoon. “They really put a lot of effort into helping these people,” Spc. Furlong added.

This was a chance for Turkish soldiers to see a different culture. “I wanted to know the Americans better,” said Sgt. Soner Yalciukaya, Turkish Brigade. “I wanted to see (the American army) with my own eyes and form my own opinion. A lot of things are the same with our armies. We have a lot of the same rules. We wear the same boots,” he said jokingly.

## Kick the Butts

Story by Maj. Rob Ensley and Capt. Mike Dupree  
*Task Force Medical Eagle*

In recent years, public awareness and funding have turned tobacco use into a socially undesirable activity. The Army has responded in similar fashion by providing smoke-free workplaces, and has taken the additional step of offering professional assistance to help soldiers quit. For the past several Stabilization Force rotations, tobacco-cessation programs have been very popular and conducted on most bases. In the first two months of SFOR-9, Eagle Base alone (via Task Force Medical Eagle) has enrolled 58 soldiers, with the average individual having smoked one pack per day for 14 years.

The TFME program combines education, behavioral counseling, support and (if desired and indicated) nicotine replacement or medication (Zyban). New classes are held every three weeks in the Medical Education Center at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. In these sessions, we explore soldiers’ individual reasons for smoking, as well as their reasons for wanting to quit.

In addition to our normal program, May 31 we will recognize the 14th World No-Tobacco Day, sponsored by a subsidiary of the World Health Organization. Information booths will be set up at both dining facilities during the lunch hour, and a special class will be held at 3 p.m. in the Medical Education Center.

The goal of this event is for all tobacco users worldwide to go a full 24 hours without using tobacco. During this day of abstinence, soldiers are encouraged to find out more about tobacco use and its hazards, and to consider making a pledge to quit.

## Soldier on the Street

### “What helped you quit smoking during this deployment?”

I planned to start getting into shape on this deployment. I knew I would have a lot of time on my hands for PT and quitting smoking went hand-in-hand with this.”

**Sgt. Brent J. Novak**  
HHC, 3rd ID/Canine Section



Being in Preventive Medicine, it would be hypocritical to keep smoking. The Zyban helps by taking away the craving. It’s taking a little bit of Zyban and a lot of willpower.”

**Pfc. Brian Robinson**  
714th Medical Detachment



The Zyban helps a lot. With the Zyban, when you smoke a cigarette it doesn’t taste the same. If you don’t like the taste anymore, you don’t want to smoke.”

**Pvt. Kim Barberry**  
Co. A, 3rd SSB



I was smoking for seven years. I figured it was a good time to quit because the Zyban was free here, but very expensive in the States. It works wonders.”

**Spc. Michael Levasseur**  
TFME

