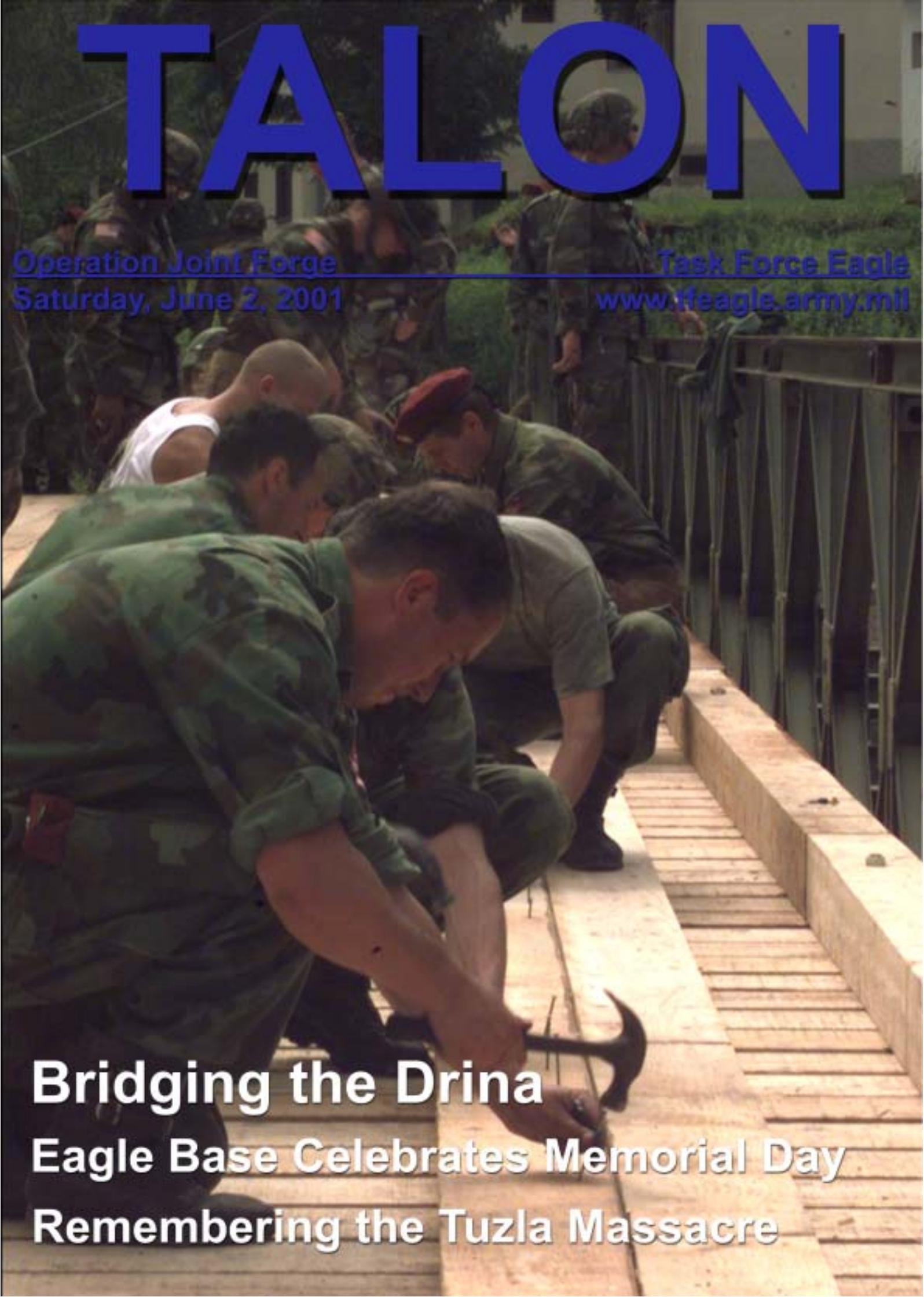


# TALON



Operation Joint Forge  
Saturday, June 2, 2001

Task Force Eagle  
[www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)

**Bridging the Drina**  
**Eagle Base Celebrates Memorial Day**  
**Remembering the Tuzla Massacre**

# Praying For Others

While deployed to Cuba, I had the opportunity to become a certified open-water scuba diver. My instructor was a permanent-party Marine sergeant stationed at Guantanamo Bay. He told me something just prior to my first “real” ocean dive that I’ll never forget.

“Chaplain, when you go down into the sea, remember, you become part of the food chain!”

Those words reminded me, in a very vivid way, that we all live in a very competitive world. Within our “food chain” we try to live and co-exist with others. Sometimes it’s easy. Sometimes it’s hard. Sometimes we feel and act like sharks – aggressors seeking prey. Other times, we feel like shrimp – looking over our shoulders to see who may be preying on us! I guess this all has to do with relationships and how we see others and how others see us.

In Philippians 2:1-3, we find some godly guidance that will help us survive in our “food chain.” Instead of looking around for someone to devour, the Bible encourages us to “be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let each esteem (value) one another better than themselves.”

You see, if we value others more than we do ourselves, we might find ourselves “praying” for them instead of “preying” on them!

Have a great day. See you in chapel!

## Thoughts for the Day

**Saturday:** “God is not greater if you reverence him, but you are greater if you serve him.”  
(Augustine)

**Sunday:** “It is high time that the ideal of success should be replaced by the ideal of service.”  
(Albert Einstein)

**Monday:** “Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

**Tuesday:** “I can live for two months on a good compliment.” (Mark Twain)

**Wednesday:** “Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.” (George Herman “Babe” Ruth)

**Thursday:** “Courage is the mastery of fear, not the absence of fear.” (Mark Twain)

**Friday:** “Courage is doing what you’re afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you’re scared.” (Eddie Rickenbacker)

**Chaplain (Capt.) Bill Sheffield**  
*Eagle Base*

# TALON

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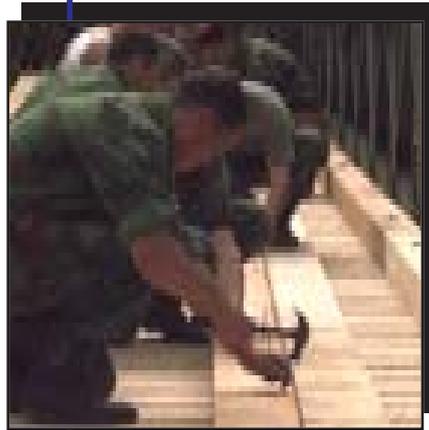
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American and Bosnian Serb soldiers rebuild a bridge over the Drina River. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)



## EAGLE BASE CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY 6

Sporting events, cookouts and ceremonies were the order of the day. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)



## THE TUZLA MASSACRE 10 REMEMBERED

Seventy-one people died when artillery blasted Kapija Square. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy)

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# Ammo Safety – It's No Game!

Story by Lt. Col. Kevin Aven  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4

The ammunition you carry is not a toy. It is not to be tampered with, marked on, and most of all, it is not to be held together with tape.

Task Force Eagle's Ammunition Safety Office has a collection of M-16 ammunition accumulated over the last several Stabilization Force rotations. The bullets tell a tale of mishandling, neglect, ignorance of accepted procedure and in some cases, malicious abuse.

People are afraid of losing things. Or more accurately, they're afraid of the consequences of losing something such as one round of ammunition. Fear that they will lose a round or two motivates people to commit the first venal act of sin against their ammunition.

The solution makes sense — it seems logical and shows inventiveness. Nearly everything that is in danger of falling out or coming loose can be fixed in place with olive-drab "hundred-mile-an-hour" tape.

Sadly, a seemingly brilliant solution loses all validity upon further analysis. Look at a round of ammunition after it has been bound by a commercial-adhesive product such as duct tape. Feel it between your fingers. The casings are covered with a sticky, gooey residue left behind by the tape. The tolerance of the M-16 chamber for such external substances is ZERO.

In the event that a soldier might be called upon to fire such a round, he or she is at an increased risk of stoppage, misfire or possible explosion when the gummy substance on the projectile heats and builds up inside the tube of the rifle.

Less inventive, perhaps, but equally as disruptive to the operation of a weapon is the practice of marking the first round in a magazine so that one can tell at a glance whether a round has fallen out. When properly stored inside the magazine-carrying pouch of the utility vest, ammunition is very unlikely to fall out of the magazine, making creative approaches a wasted effort.

The Ammunition Safety Office has seen such materials as 'white-out' and felt-

**Ammunition that is taped together (Top right) can cause misfires or explosions due to the gummy residue left by adhesives. Marking or tampering with ammunition (Right) can also cause malfunctions to the weapon when fired.**

tip markers showing up on ammunition. Again, these substances cause a build up of foreign matter on the outside of the bullet and casing which conflict with the mechanical functioning of the weapon.

In only a few instances have rounds been found illegally tampered with.

But some soldiers have used a plier tool to separate the round from its brass cartridge, probably to extract the gunpowder, God only knows for what purpose.

Such a round creates a potentially deadly hazard when fired, because the primer in the butt of the bullet does not have sufficient strength to push the slug through the barrel of the rifle. An obstacle lodged in the barrel creates a backfire situation for the firer, which will literally blow up in his or her face.

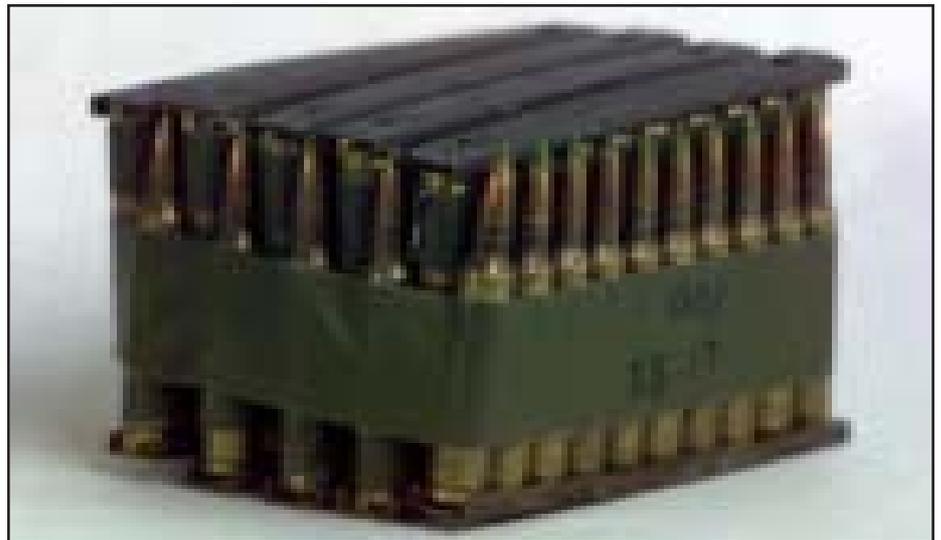
The entire chain of command of Task Force Eagle is being educated in proper ammunition storage, maintenance and

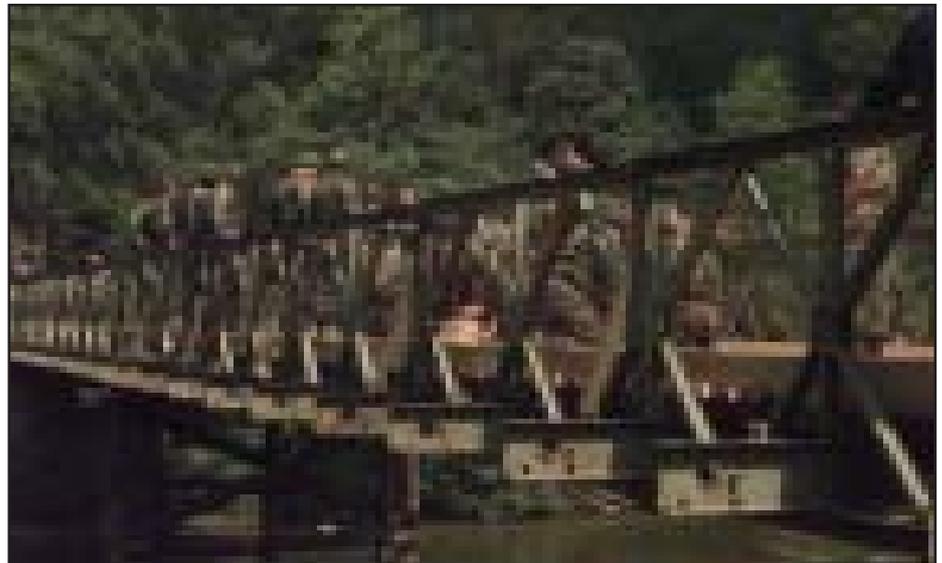


Lt. Col. Kevin Aven

accountability.

Our job won't truly be done until every last soldier serving in Bosnia knows that nothing should be "applied" to his or her ammunition to mark it or retain it; that standard measures are more than sufficient; and that knowingly altering or tampering with a round of lethal ammunition is a punishable offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.





(Above) A Bosnian Serb soldier toils in the afternoon heat during a bridge-reconstruction project over the Drina River. (Right) American and Bosnian Serb forces team up to rebuild the two heavily-damaged bridges.

## U.S., Bosnian Serb Troops Bridge Drina

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

In the quiet riverfront town of Kuslat, in the eastern Republic of Srpska, the unmistakable sound of gunfire could be heard echoing throughout the valley. Soldiers at work in the town looked up toward the wooded hillside, smiled, and continued working. There was no trouble, just the townsfolk firing weapons in celebration of two newly rebuilt bridges over the Drina River.

The second bridge was completed May 23. Members of the 648th Engineer Battalion and the Bosnian Serb 55th Reconnaissance Detachment, the 'Drina Wolves,' also had good reason to celebrate. After six days of four-hour drives and toiling under the hot afternoon sun, the bridge renovation mission was complete.

"This mission was significant, because for the first time, we were working side-by-side with Bosnian Serbian soldiers," said 2nd Lt. David Henderson, leader of 1st Platoon, Company C, 648th, an Army National Guard unit from Douglas, Ga.

Interestingly enough, the Bosnian Serb soldiers working on the bridges were not engineers. They were a special forces unit, assigned the unusual task of assisting with the bridges' repair. They were giving back what the war had taken, according to 2nd Lt. Henderson.

In spite of the differences in language and background, the 648th Engineers and Drina Wolves came together as a team. The Bosnian Serb requirement for higher headquarters approval of interviews prevented the soldiers from speaking with media. But the American and Bosnian Serb troops were able to speak to each other through the language of comradery, using gestures and hand signals when interpreters were busy. "I am used to working with anyone that's willing to work, and these guys were willing to work," said Sgt. John E. Richardson, a squad leader's driver with the 648th. "We all filled in where we were needed."

The bridge was rebuilt because it posed a danger to the local populace, according to the engineers.

"There were some big holes in those bridges. Civilians took chances every time they drove across them," said 2nd Lt. Henderson. You could easily get stuck or damage a vehicle trying it, he said.

With the combination of manpower and hand tools, rotting wood was stripped off the 20- to 30-year-old bridges. All that remained of the Bailey bridges after they were stripped was a

sturdy steel frame to rebuild upon.

"A Bailey bridge is a standard Army metal truss bridge with wooden decking. They are utilized by the military because they can be set up and ready to go in about 24 hours," according to 1st Lt. Jason Ball, Company C's executive officer.

The second aspect of the mission was to 'redeck,' or lay wooden planks across, the existing 'stringers,' the steel support beams of the stripped bridges. Curbing and a treadway were added to wrap up the assignment. A treadway consists of wooden planks laid parallel along the length of the bridge; a vehicle's tires ride in the treadway, so the deck of the bridge does not wear out as quickly, said 2nd Lt. Henderson.

The new bridges are now stable and meet their maximum capacity requirements of 30 tons, said Sgt. John D. Barnard Jr., a heavy equipment operator with the 648th.

The completion of the bridge-rebuilding mission proved to be an asset to both soldiers and local civilians, said the troops.

"In building a bridge, the squad leaders and officers were given a chance to see that young soldiers are knowledgeable and ready to step forward as the leaders of tomorrow if given the opportunity," said Sgt. Richardson.

2nd Lt. Henderson also felt the bridges were valuable. "If we need to move troops to conduct patrols or inspect areas, it provides them safe access. A lot of people are trying to move back into the Republic of Srpska; these bridges give the civilians their freedom of movement," he said. "You have a lot of people that would like to return to their homes. Having the Stabilization Force come out here to build bridges shows the citizens we are here to support them," said Sgt. Richardson.

Bridges were not the only things built that week in Kuslat. Soldiers of both armies forged partnerships, proving that differences in culture can fade when working towards a common goal, they said.

"I think we learned what our capabilities are and what we can accomplish together with teamwork," Sgt. Barnard said.

Even though the Bosnian Serb soldiers weren't engineers, it was beneficial to work with them and share experiences, said 2nd Lt. Henderson.

"They were real anxious to get in and help us. Even though we spoke different languages, we were still able to help each other," said Sgt. Barnard.

"Being a National Guard soldier, it was a positive experience to work with other nations' forces hand-in-hand," he said.



# Memorial Day Celeb

**Horseshoes**  
 1st – The “Mac Daddies”  
 2nd – 3-7 Cav. Team #2  
 3rd – DragonSlayers

**Volleyball**  
 1st – Russian Brigade  
 2nd – Finland  
 3rd – Automatics, 223rd MPs

**Tug-of-War**  
 1st – Sappers  
 2nd – Russian Brigade

**Softball**  
 1st – Hellraisers – Camp McGovern  
 2nd – Task Force Med Eagle  
 3rd – Law Dogs, 223rd MPs

**10k Run**  
 Overall  
 Male: Danish Lt. Peter Emtenjfer  
 (Time 37:08)

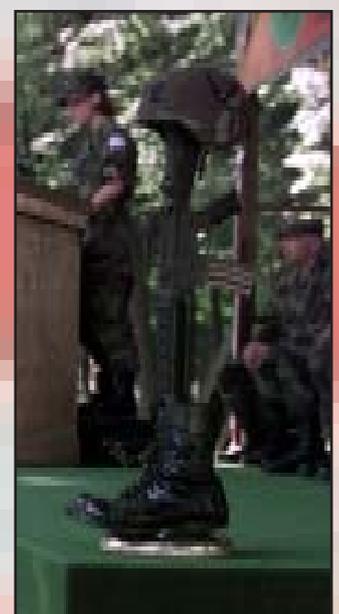
Female: 1st Lt. Kahn Diep (Finance)  
 (Time 45:17)

**Female Age Groups**  
 20 and Under: Spc. Barbara Hayes  
 (TFME)  
 21-29: 1st Lt. Diep  
 30-39: Sgt. Maria Leto (TFME)  
 40-45: Maj. Reva Thoroughman  
 (TFME)  
 46 and Up: Col. Rhonda Cornum  
 (TFME)

**Male Age Groups**  
 20 and Under: Koustatin Kudinov  
 (Russian Bde)  
 21-29: Petty Officer 2nd Class Phil  
 Hasenkamp (AFN)  
 30-39: Mosin Mikolay (Russian  
 Bde)  
 40-45: 1st Sgt. Manuel Portes  
 (TFME)  
 46 and Up: Lt. Peter Emtenjfer



Photos compiled by Talon staff (Clockwise from top) HEAVE-HO! Sgt. Barry Tunstall with 648th Engineer Battalion, strains to edge the Russians over the line. (2) Israel Graulau and Elizabeth Rogers with the American Red Cross participate in the wreath-laying ceremony. The ceremony is held in remembrance of those who have served. (3) Displaying the helmet, rifle and boots serve as a tribute to soldiers who have died in previous conflicts. (4) Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp congratulates Danish Lt. F. Snitgaard for placing third in the “46 and over” age group, with a time of 45:12. (5) SERVES UP DUDE—Sgt. Michael Widhalm blasts the ball over heads and over the net during the Memorial Day competitions.



# ration

Photos compiled by Talon staff (Clockwise from top) **AND THEY'RE OFF!** One hundred twenty four participants round the corner during the Memorial Day 10k run. (2) More than Peter Emtenjfer's heart rate was up at the finish of the 10k run. Emtenjfer earned first place with a time of 37:08. (3) The Russian team pulls with all their might-and weight. The seven-man team weighed in at 1,620 pounds. (4) Catcher, Spc. Donald Parson, hopes for a strik-out. (5) Sgt. William Waters tosses the horseshoe and hopes for a "ringer" during the Memorial Day activities.(Center) **TO THE MOON ALICE**—Well maybe not that far, but Chief Warrant Officer 2, Reed Greenwood takes a crack at softball during the Memorial Day events.



# Nordic, Polish Soldiers Earn NATO Medal

By Sgt. Rhonda K. Morgan  
Eagle Base

Troops from the six countries making up the Nordic-Polish Battle Group came together May 20 to receive the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal.

Soldiers from Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden gathered for the ceremony, attended by dignitaries from Multinational Division (North).

Individuals serving for a minimum of 30 days under NATO command or operational control in direct support of NATO operations in the former Republic of Yugoslavia earn the medal.

Lt. Gen. Czeslaw Piatas, chief of the Polish defense staff, addressed soldiers about the pride and gratefulness he feels for them and their accomplishments.

"It is a pleasure seeing all the different soldiers arm-in-arm working for peaceful nations. You soldiers truly represent our nations with pride. We are learning how to work together and strengthen our ties," said Lt. Gen. Piatas.

Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, commanding general, MND(N), shared his thoughts about the effects of partnership.

"Our work results show what is possible with a framework of peace. Participants of SFOR 9 are committed to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said.

Salutes were rendered as members of the Hungarian Air Force Band played the national



(Clockwise from top) V. Eszpre`m, along with the rest of the Hungarian Air Force, participates in the ceremony. (2) Anette Lorentzen, with the Headquarters Co. of the Nordic-Polish Battlegroup, was one of the more than 200 recipients of the NATO Medal. (3) The NATO Medal is given to soldiers who serve more than 30 days under NATO command or operational control.

anthems of each country present.

As soldiers continue to work together, a future for BiH continues to form, Maj. Gen. Sharp said.

"We are here building a democracy and peace," he added.

Although the future of BiH is the military's focus, soldiers constantly build a future for those who will replace them, the commander said.

"The lessons learned here can be used to achieve a better future," said Lt. Gen. Piatas.

Maj. Gen. Sharp assured recipients that the award symbolizes more than just having spent a 30-day period in the former Yugoslavia.

"I understand the capabilities, commitment, pro-

fessionalism each of you hold. This award is not just a hanging ornament," he said. "It represents to others that you answered the call of duty, it is a symbol of your individual service. It allows each of you to share a bond with soldiers before you, now, and soldiers to come."



# Follow the Yellow Strip Rows

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

Some stop to smell the roses; Ben stops to smell the minefields.

That might be surprising to some, but not if you're talking about an 80-pound German shepherd trained in mine detection.

Dusty and Ben are mine-detecting dogs working with the Federation army's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team at a minefield site in Podvolujak. The dogs were supplied to the Federation by Multinational Division (North).

The EOD team marks off areas known as "dog boxes" so the dogs can run in lanes sniffing for mines. The boxes have an area of 100 square meters and have nine lanes, each one meter wide. Once Dusty and Ben have gone through all the lanes, the team rotates the box 90 degrees, and the dogs go through the routine again.

A box must be rotated 16 times before the dogs finish every square inch of a lane, said Maj. Andy Hanna, of the British army's Engineer Branch Mine Cell, located at Headquarters, Stabilization Force in Sarajevo.

"I am proposing to make the lanes two meters wide and the boxes only four lanes long. By doing this it speeds up production time," Maj. Hanna said.

"Also, the dogs won't get complacent. Each time the dogs go through the lane they leave their scent, and after a while, that will be all they smell," he said.

Maj. Hanna said that by changing the dimensions of the lanes, the dog boxes would only have to be rotated eight times instead of 16; the dogs would need to clear four lanes instead of nine. Maj. Hanna said the dogs are clearing 600 to 800 square meters of land per day and the Federation army soldiers are clearing two to three square meters a day; he feels production will increase dramatically under the proposed system.

"We have to work the dogs early in the morning, because once the temperature gets past a certain centigrade, the dogs' ability to smell becomes affected," he added.

Once the temperature warms up at midday, he said, the dogs tend to smell more of the pollen and fragrances emitted by vegetation, so they give the dogs a break.

The other problem the de-mining team was having, Maj. Hanna said, was that grass was growing back faster than the dogs and soldiers could clear the land. Before any soldier or dog is allowed to enter a minefield a flail is sent in, said Maj. Kjjajim Sejmeni, Federation battalion commander.

A flail is a remote-controlled machine with chains mounted on a rotating drum on the front. As the drum spins, the chains are whipped against the ground, setting off mines in their path, Maj. Hanna said. Plants, grasses and weeds growing back make it difficult for the soldiers and dogs to detect mines not exploded by the flail. The field had been flailed two months before this clearing operation. It's hard for soldiers to probe in an area with heavy plant growth, since they have to constantly cut the grass away, slowing their progress. Maj. Hanna said once the area is flailed, the soldiers must work fast to clear the land so that grass growing back isn't a problem.

With sweat beading on his eyebrows, Mevludin Mustafic, a de-miner with the Federation army's 1st Platoon, 1st Company, probes the ground. To make sure he doesn't miss any mines, he probes side to side in one-inch intervals.

Maj. Hanna said even though the soldiers need new equipment such as Kevlar helmets with face protectors, vests, and mine detectors, they are very motivated. "The soldiers know the de-mining they are doing is something they can benefit from," he



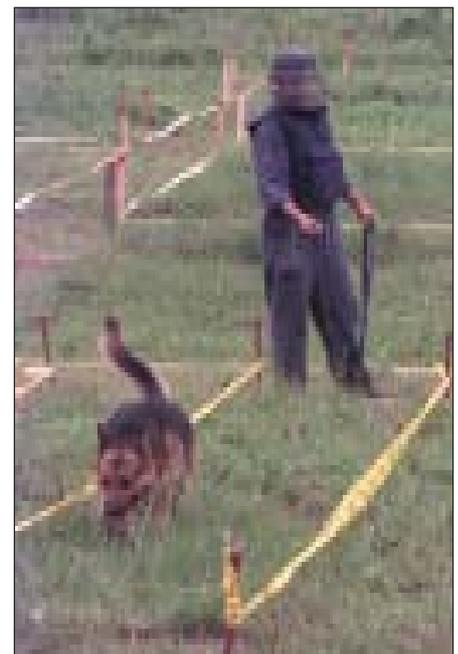
**Steady-handed Mevludin Mustafic probes for mines.**

said. "I am doing everything I can to get the men what they need to perform their jobs properly."

Maj. Sejmeni said that his troops go into areas where machines and dogs can't go and manually de-mine them. The work they are doing is routine for them. "For us, we have been doing this for years and it's not a problem," he said. "Problems will occur if someone steps on a mine."

Maj. Sejmeni said the experienced de-miners have no fear left, because they have been doing this for a long time.

"But, when no fear is left, there's no more caution and that's when accidents occur," he said. "I constantly remind my troops to practice safe techniques."



**Ben follows the yellow strip lane while his trainer, Edin Salihovic, watches closely.**

# The Tuzla Massacre: Everything Lost but the Memory

Story by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy

Photos by Staff Sgt. Lisa M. Dunphy and  
Sgt. Rhonda K. Morgan

*Eagle Base*

“From the blood of those who died grow the most beautiful flowers...” *From a poem read at the Tuzla Massacre memorial service.*

On May 25, 1995, an artillery shell fired from a Serbian fighting position in the hills surrounding Tuzla landed in the center of the city, killing 71 young people and wounding more than 100.

In an instant, the singing and dancing of a Youth Day rally was replaced with screaming and panic. Kapija Square in downtown Tuzla was a chaotic jumble of bodies, shards of glass and shocked, bloody survivors, according to Andre Lommen, international liaison officer to the Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly in Tuzla.

A city named one of six “safe areas” in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the United Nations lost its fragile status. A war known for the calculated practice of ethnic cleansing was rocked by an indiscriminate act. Most of those killed were Bosnian Muslims; Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Serbs were also among the dead and wounded.

On the sixth anniversary of what’s known as the Tuzla Massacre, scores of relatives and friends marked the day with prayers, poems and songs to remember the dead and to celebrate their lives.

Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins, wives and husbands came to the cemetery to pay their respects and lay flowers upon the graves of those killed. The youngest to die in the blast was a three-year-old boy, Sandro Kolesic.

A memorial service was held near the point of the shell’s impact; it included performances by a violin duet and a choir from Tuzla Music High School. At 8:55 p.m.

– the exact time the shell exploded in the town square – the haunting echo of Mozart’s “Requiem” faded to a close inviting a moment of silence to remember those killed and wounded.

Although six years have passed, it was clear from the slumped shoulders, weeping eyes and tissues clasped in the hands of those present that the unexpected death of their loved ones still weighs heavily upon the minds – and hearts – of the citizens of Tuzla.

“It’s really hard to believe after all this time – we still don’t believe it,” said Soldat Mila, who came to her sister Pera Martinovic’s gravesite to lay flowers. Ms. Mila’s other sister, also in the square that evening, was lucky enough to sustain only minor injuries.

“I remember it like it was yesterday, of course,” said Maneueva Husic, whose nephew was killed in the blast. “I was having coffee with my husband on the

**A choir from Tuzla Music High School sings Mozart’s “Requiem” during the remembrance ceremony.**



balcony, and he waved to us as he was walking by. We heard the explosion, and 10 minutes later we found out he died.”

Civilians in the area weren't the only ones caught by surprise.

Soldiers came home to catch just a glimpse of the celebration. An time that they expected to be filled with laughter and happiness was instead choked by loss and misery.

“They came home after pulling seven days at the firing line just to get together,” said Aleksandar Ilic, an interpreter for Task Force Eagle. “All these soldiers were from Tuzla. It is sad to me that they were soldiers, killed in civilian clothes.”

Ms. Husic and her husband come to the cemetery almost every day, she said. But although the pain she feels is still fierce, she feels safer now than she did six years ago.

“I doubt something like this could happen again,” she said. “Especially with SFOR here and the international and American troops here.”

Some, however, are less optimistic. After losing three “good friends” in the town square that evening, Jasmin Arapovic said he is still uneasy about the safety of his city and country.



“Knowing Bosnia-Herzegovina and her surroundings, anything could happen again,” he said. “After the war (World War II), our old people were saying ‘Never again’. But it happened again.”

Mr. Arapovic was a soldier “fighting in the mountains” and his whole family was in the city when he heard of the Tuzla shelling. None of Mr. Arapovic’s immediate family perished in the blast, he said. “All of



(Left) Roses, carnations and candles are placed on Sandro Kolesic’s grave. Sandro, the youngest victim of the shelling, was three years old when he was killed. (Above) Grieving Tuzla residents gather at a fountain as a violin duet plays to honor the dead.

some, including neighbors, cousins, friends,” said Dzorote Ristic, 40, a Bosnian Serb who lives in Tuzla with his wife and son.

“I’m not 100 percent sure that it won’t happen again if American forces move from this area,” he said.

“The European community was here for four years and they did nothing – still we continued to kill each other. When the Americans came here we stopped all those war activities.”

(Left) A young boy bends to kiss the memorial to a loved one. (Right) Two women stand at the memorial. Every night at 8:55, a light atop the memorial is turned on, honoring the slain.

As a Serb, Mr. Ristic said he carries a particularly heavy burden stemming from the massacre. “The day after the shelling I heard on Serb radio from the mountains how they congratulated themselves on (disrupting) Youth Day,” he said. “It made me very frustrated, disappointed and embarrassed (for) myself.”

A light rain fell as the procession of Tuzla residents steadily made its way uphill to the cemetery. “Look at this,” Ms. Mila said as she motioned to the other mourners. “This proves that something like this should never happen again.”

“I feel something like this could happen again,” said Mr. Ilic, the translator. “as soon as the Stabilization Force leaves.”



# Bosnia in Brief

## *Displaced persons go back to pre-war homes*

Multinational Division (North) officials report that during the week of May 18-24, a number of Displaced Persons and Refugees visited their pre-war homes in the MND(N) area. In Majdan and Beksuja, located in the Eastern Republic of Srpska, Serb and Bosniac families are returning to visit their pre-war homes from the Tuzla area. In Studenci, Bosnian Croats made return visits from Drvar.

The return of DPRES to their pre-war homes is at the heart of the Dayton Peace Accords and is one of the main goals of SFOR. The war displaced many people, uprooting them to areas where they have no family, friends or jobs. Many men and women in Bosnia-Herzegovina desire to return to their former homes and communities. Initial visits to one's pre-war home is the first step in returning to one's rightful home on a permanent basis. Successful returns are growing in number. SFOR strongly supports the return of DPRES.

SFOR works closely with the International Community to ensure a safe and secure environment for the return of DPRES.

It is, however, the responsibility of local authorities to promote law and order as well as to foster a climate of security and reconciliation.

## *Three men sentenced in Zvornik house bombing*

A Zvornik trial court convicted three men May 10 for the July 25, 2000, rocket-propelled grenade attack on the Zvornik Joint Commission Observer House. The three men were retried after their cases were reversed by the Regional Court in Bijeljina following an appeal by the prosecutor.

Vukasin Nikolic was convicted, in absentia, of causing general endangerment and illegal possession and manufacture of weapons and explosives. He was sentenced to 2 years, 9 months of confinement. Ljubo Rakanovic was convicted of causing general endangerment. He was sentenced to one year of confinement. Nedeljko Jovic was convicted of causing general endangerment and illegal possession and manufacture of weapons and explosives. He was sentenced to one year, 10 months of confinement.

## *Nordic-Polish base to close*

MND(N)'s Patrol Base Raven in Bocinja Donja closes June 20. The NordPol Battle Group established the patrol base in January to ensure a safe and secure environment and to facilitate two-way returns. Progress toward final closure June 20 begins immediately.

The decision to close Patrol Base Raven was made by the Commander of MND(N), Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, this week. Closure of the patrol base indicates that the successful return of DPRES in the area has been very smooth and uneventful. The success of Patrol Base Raven has virtually eliminated tensions and the likelihood of contentious activity in the Bocinja Donja area is very low. Routine presence patrols will be ongoing by the NordPol Battle Group to ensure a safe and secure environment in the area. Residents should be assured that SFOR's presence will be consistent. It is expected that local police will have an increased presence as well. SFOR continues to be committed to providing a presence that enables local authorities to be ultimately responsible for a lasting peace in BiH.

*Compiled from Coalition Press Information Center releases*

## Soldier on the Street

### "What does Memorial Day mean to you?"

I think about soldiers in the past, and how all the work they did makes our society what it is today."

**Staff Sgt. Robert Daniels**  
Co. A, 3-7 Cav.



Memorial Day honors the soldiers who have made America the nation it is today; a nation where, based on their sacrifices, (anyone) can be president."

**Maj. Greg Grimes**  
CIMIC Bn

It is a time to reflect on past experiences, and to think about those who went before us."

**Staff Sgt. Shawen Stolz**  
Air Force Security Police



It is a time to remember all the people you've cared about. A time to think about all the good things they've done for you, all the wisdom they've passed to you, all the things they've done to inspire you."

**Sgt. Shaquita Thomas**  
COMSEC