

TALON



Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, June 16, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil

**Army Celebrates 226 Years
of the Dog-Face Soldier**

The Story of Four Immortal Chaplains

A Moment of Army History

A convoy of three ships and three escorting Coast Guard cutters passed through “torpedo alley” some 100 miles off the coast of Greenland at about 1 a.m. on Feb. 3, 1943. The submarine U-223 fired three torpedoes, one of which hit the midsection of the *Dorchester*, a U.S. Army troopship with more than 900 men on board. Ammonia and oil were everywhere in the fast-sinking vessel and upon the freezing sea.

The four chaplains on board – two Protestant pastors, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi – were among the first on deck, calming the men and handing out life jackets. When they ran out, they took off their own and placed them on waiting soldiers without regard to faith or race. Approximately 18 minutes from the explosion, the ship went down. They were the last to be seen by witnesses; they were standing arm-in-arm on the hull of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700 died, making it the third largest loss at sea of its kind for the United States during World War II.

The Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* was able to escort the other freighters to Greenland. Meanwhile the cutters *Comanche* and *Eschanaba*, disobeying orders to continue the search for the German U-Boat, stopped to rescue 230 men from the frigid waters that night. The four chaplains who died that night, were Father John Washington (Catholic), Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed), Rabbi Alexander Goode (Jewish) and Rev. George Fox (Methodist).

Congress and presidents later honored these four chaplains. They were recognized for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith. According to the first sergeant on the ship, “They were always together, they carried their faith together.” They demonstrated throughout the voyage and in their last moments, interfaith compassion in their relationship with the men and with each other.

In 1960 Congress created a special Congressional Medal of Valor, never to be repeated again, and gave it to the next of kin of the “Immortal Chaplains.”

As we offer ourselves in the service of our great nation and Army, we give thanks for the example of these and others whose selfless service inspires us even today.

Thoughts for the Week

Saturday: “No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.” (Charles Dickens)

Sunday: “The impersonal hand of government can never replace the helping hand of a neighbor.” (Hubert Humphrey)

Monday: “Double – no triple – our troubles and we’d still be better off than any other people on earth.” (Ronald Reagan)

Tuesday: “A man can be no bigger than the number of people for whom he genuinely cares.” (Sherm Williams)

Wednesday: “Character is what you are in the dark” (D.L. Moody)

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

Friday: “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” (Theodore Roosevelt)

Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Durham
Eagle Base

TALON

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American assault troops in a landing craft huddle behind the protective front of the craft as it nears a beachhead, on the Northern Coast of France June 6, 1944. More historic images inside. *(Photo from Center of Military History)*



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Federation Army soldiers 'ruck-up' and get ready for the March and Shoot competition in Tuzla. *(Photo by Spc. Patrick Tharpe)*



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More than seven million rounds of ammunition given a home at Orasje. *(Photo by Pfc. Daniel Lucas)*

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2001 Army Birthday Message

By Gen. Eric K. Shinseki,
United States Army, Chief of Staff

Two-hundred-twenty-six years ago, the Continental Army formed with the goal of ending tyranny and winning our freedom. Since the end of the Revolution, American soldiers, imbued with the spirit of the original patriots, have pledged their allegiance to our nation through their sacrifices in uniform.

Today, all our forces — heavy and light, Active, Guard, and Reserve — share the heritage of the Continental Army. Whether standing a dangerous watch in Korea, safeguarding schoolchildren in Bosnia, or fighting wildfires in Idaho, you are the finest men and women the nation has to offer.

The thousands of you on point around the globe ensure the freedom our forefathers fought and died for, and do the tough jobs that maintain our American way of life. In the remotest corners of the world, you command respect because you are American Soldiers. The key to the Army's success has always been its reverence for the traditions that make our nation great and its flexibility and willingness to change.

Our Army is transforming to an Objective Force that will meet the challenges of the 21st Century. This new force will be as

lethal and survivable as our heavy forces, but also as responsive and deployable as our light forces. Our transformation will thus ensure that The Army remains the best fighting force in the world: unchallenged and unparalleled.

On this, the first Army birthday of the new millennium, as a tangible symbol of our transformation, our unity, and our commitment to excellence as the Army, we will begin wearing the black beret. The color black represents the heritage of our heavy and our light formations. It is the black of night that hid Washington as he crossed the Delaware and the black of the grease that kept our tanks on track in Operation Desert Storm.

The Army flash commemorates our heritage as an Army, bearing both the colors of

George Washington's Continental Army at the time of the deciding victory of the Revolution, as well as the 13 white stars of our nation's 13 original colonies.

You represent what is most noble about our nation: liberty, freedom and unity. As the symbol of our transformed Army, you are, and will continue to be, respected by your allies, feared by your opponents, and esteemed by the American people.

Your courage, dedication to duty and selfless service to the nation will remain the hallmark you, the soldiers of the United States Army, carry into the 21st Century.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Using the 'Belt' Reduces Pain

Story and photos by
Task Force Eagle Safety Office
Eagle Base

Everyone should be aware of the military regulations that require the wearing of seatbelts while operating a government motor vehicle. However, some soldiers seem to forget the obligation to their families.

We seldom think of how much impact our death or serious injury would have on our loved ones. In the United States, it is estimated that more than 9,500 people are saved each year by using seatbelts.

Here in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the roads are narrow and in poor repair. The civilians driving on these roads may have had some form of drivers' education, or none at all, which may account for their sometimes-erratic behavior.

This is where the use of seatbelts and defensive driving habits come into play. We may be driving the larger vehicle most of the time here in BiH, but that does not mean

we are immune from being hit by a logging truck, dump truck or other large vehicle.

In a recent accident, a HMMWV was unsuccessful in its attempt to pass another vehicle. Fortunately, everyone was wearing their seatbelts, and there were no serious injuries. Had they not been wearing their seatbelts, there could have been serious head injuries, caused by contact with the windshield or other parts of the interior.

Within the past two weeks there have been three HMMWV rollovers in the Balkans. One resulted in a fatality; one resulted in paralysis, and the other was less tragic. The senior occupant in each vehicle could have easily prevented the accident, simply by enforcing basic safe driving standards.

Commanders are reminded of their responsibility to investigate all accidents within their unit to determine the root cause.

Accidents should be investigated to the degree necessary to identify the immediate mistakes, errors, failures, and system inadequacies which may have caused or

contributed to the accident. All accident reports are reportable to the TFE Safety Office. So, buckle up! After all, it's not only required by regulation — it's also meeting your obligation to your family.

Go home in the condition in which you came!

Defensive driving tips:

- * Always maintain good vision ahead and around your vehicle.
- * Stay alert and be prepared to react to the unexpected.
- * Maintain a safe distance around your vehicle.
- * Anticipate the mistakes or unsafe maneuvers of other drivers.
- * Check your rear view and side mirrors frequently.
- * Always wear your seat belt and make sure others in your vehicle do the same.
- * Remember that the right-of-way is something you give.

Vehicle rollovers such as these can result in paralysis and even death. Soldiers are required to wear seatbelts while riding or driving in military vehicles according to AR 385-55, 2-16a, Prevention of Motor Vehicle Accidents.



Hats Off to the Beret

Story by Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Eagle Base

“The Army must change to maintain its relevance for the evolving strategic environment,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley.

The Army transitions to the black beret as its standard headgear June 14, the Army’s 226th birthday.

Soldiers in Bosnia and Kosovo won’t be wearing them, since they’re not worn on deployments.

They will also not be worn in the field, in training environments, work details, or when the commander

determines that wear of



the beret is impractical.

Soldiers not assigned to unit positions that are authorized to wear the tan, green, or maroon berets will wear the black beret.

The patrol cap (formerly called the battle dress uniform cap) is worn in field environments and on deployments when the Kevlar helmet is not worn.

Soldiers may find more information on wear and usage of the beret at the Army home page, www.army.mil.

In units without a distinctive flash, berets with the Army flash will be worn. The flash, approved in November 2000, is in the shape of a shield, and is blue with 13 stars lining its edge, representing the original colonies.

Officers and warrant officers

will wear non-subdued grade insignia centered on the beret flash, and chaplains wear their branch insignia.

Enlisted personnel wear their distinctive unit insignia centered on the beret flash. General officers may wear full, medium, or miniature size stars on the beret.

The beret is worn so the headband is straight across the forehead, one inch above the eyebrows.

No hair may be visible on the forehead beneath the headband.

The flash is positioned over the left eye, the excess material is draped over the right ear, to at least the top of the ear, and no lower than the middle of the ear. Personnel will cut off the ends of the adjusting ribbon and secure the ribbon knot in the edge binding at the back of the beret.

When worn properly, the beret is form fitting to the head; therefore, soldiers may not wear hairstyles that distort the beret.

“To symbolize the Army’s commitment to transforming itself into the Objective Force, the Army will adopt the black beret for wear Army-wide,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Tilley.

“It’s not about increasing recruiting; we achieved our recruiting target of 180,000 recruits last year – without the black beret,” he said.

“It’s not about retention; for the second year in a row we exceeded our reenlistment goal by a wide margin – without the beret.

“It’s not about morale; soldiers are ready today to go into harm’s way. It is about our excellence as soldiers, our unity as a force, and our values as an institution,” Sgt. Maj. of the Army Tilley said.

Turning Heads to Beret History

Story by Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Eagle Base

In 1924, the British Royal Tank Regiment adopted the first modern military beret, based on a Scottish bonnet and French Bretonne beret. The regiment selected the headgear for its practicality – brimless for use with armored vehicle fire-control sights, and black to hide grease stains.

In the Army from 1973-79, commanders were permitted to encourage morale-enhancing distinctions, and armor and armored cavalry personnel wore black berets as distinctive headgear until Gen. Bernard W. Rogers, the Army chief of staff, banned all such unofficial headgear. Rangers received authorization through Army Regulation 670-5, Uniform and Insignia, on Jan. 30, 1975, to wear black berets.

The maroon beret has been the international symbol of airborne forces since its selection for use by the British Parachute Regiment in 1942. Novelist Daphne Du Maurier, wife of the British airborne commander, Maj. Gen. Frederick Browning, reportedly chose the color of the beret. In 1943, Maj. Gen. Browning granted a battalion of the U.S. Army’s 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment honorary membership in the British Parachute Regiment, and authorized them to wear British maroon berets.

During the Vietnam War, U.S. Army advisers to Vietnamese airborne forces wore the Vietnamese maroon beret. In addition, after Headquarters, Department of the Army encouraged the unofficial use of morale-enhancing headgear in 1973, airborne forces chose to wear the maroon beret until Gen. Rogers’ ban. However, on Nov. 28, 1980, HQDA revised its ban on berets, authorizing airborne organizations to again wear the maroon beret.

During World War II, Army special forces personnel wore a variety of headgear. Those who served with the Office of Strategic Services in Europe often adopted whatever headgear their French or Belgian resistance compatriots wore. This was often a beret, since many of the OSS teams served in France. The beret, worn in

a variety of styles and colors, even showed up on OSS personnel in the Far East. Many of the first members of the Army’s 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), formed at Fort Bragg, N.C., in June of 1952, were veterans of the OSS. Berets of various types and colors began being worn unofficially as early as 1954.

The color green was favored because it was reminiscent of the World War II British commando-type beret that had been adopted by the commandos on Oct. 24, 1942.

After testing in 1955, the 77th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg specified, still unofficially, that its soldiers wear a beret of Canadian army design in rifle green. Special forces troopers first wore the green beret publicly at Fort Bragg during a retirement parade in 1955. In 1957, however, Fort Bragg’s post commander banned the wearing of the beret. This ban was reversed on Sept. 25, 1961, by DA message 578636, which authorized the green beret as the official Army headgear to be worn by the special forces.

The first official wearing of the newly authorized green beret was at a special forces demonstration staged for President John F. Kennedy at Fort Bragg on Oct. 12, 1961. Kennedy was instrumental in the approval by DA of the green beret for U.S. special forces. Currently, all qualified soldiers assigned to special forces units wear the green beret with the authorized flash of their group.

While HQDA’s morale-enhancing order was in force from 1973-79, there was a proliferation of berets, in rainbow hues. Members of the 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry wore their beret with a light blue flash insignia. It was dropped when the Army standardized headgear policy in 1979, limiting the beret to special forces, airborne, and ranger units.

“Effective 14 June 2001, the first Army birthday in the new millennium, the black beret will become standard wear in the Army – active and reserve components,” Sgt. Maj. of the Army Tilley said.

“Soldiers remain the centerpiece of our formation. We will march into the next millennium as the Army – the strategic joint force of choice for the 21st century,” he said.

Happy Birth



(1) Rough Riders, 1898 – photo by William Dinwiddle. (2) Rock of the Marne, 1918. (3) World War II, 1944 – U.S. Army Archives. (4) “Crossing the Delaware” – painting by Emanuel Leutze. (5) Korean War – photo by David Douglas Duncan. (6) Vietnam, 1966 – Hulton-Getty Archives. (7) Vietnam, 1968 – photo by Don McCullin. (8) Battle of the Chippewa, 1814 (9) Civil War, 1862 – photo by Alexander Gardner. (10) Operation Desert Storm – photo by Steve Elfers. (11) Haiti, 1994 – photo by Carol Guzy.

thday Army



Our House, in the Middle of Their Streets

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

Colorful posters in two languages adorn the walls. “*Raditi zajedno,*” urges one – “working together.” It’s a suitable – and suitably encouraging – mission statement for CIMIC: Civilian and Military Cooperation.

The posters decorate the walls of a modern house located at 38 Klosterska Street in Tuzla. Since March 2000, this address has been home to a CIMIC office, one of four such offices located in Multinational Division (North), which are staffed by the Eagle Base CIMIC Battalion.

Five days a week and a half a day on Saturday, the house in Tuzla is open for business.

“Our mission is to try to help anyone who walks through the door, whatever their problems,” says Col. Chuck Stutts, officer in charge of CIMIC House. The compact staff also includes Spc. Kevin Jackson and a translator.

CIMIC’s open-door policy means that anyone can come inside and discuss any concern. Displaced persons who return home may encounter a variety of difficulties as they attempt to return to their pre-war homes and re-assimilate into the community. With the translator’s help, the colonel interviews the visitor to get a detailed description of the problem.

Significant issues include threats, harassment, basic human needs such as food and clothing, and school for the children.

Difficulties over property rights and eviction of illegal occupants are prime

concerns as well, and the office also gets requests for medicines or medical treatment and eyeglasses.

“We see about 25 people a week,” the colonel says. While CIMIC cannot provide aid directly, the office can facilitate problem-solving by enlisting the help of non-government agencies as well as the local police or other offices in town.

“We provide a non-threatening place for people to make contact with the Stabilization Force. We’re a clearinghouse of information,” the colonel says. “We also counter misinformation about SFOR.”

The house serves as the rally point for the CIMIC “presence” patrols that occur six days a week in Tuzla. Small groups, usually two to four soldiers or airmen, walk through town from mid-morning until late afternoon, providing a visible SFOR presence in the community. “It’s good for the citizens to see us out and about,” the colonel says.

The soldiers might be ordinary American tourists – enjoying the interesting sites of an unfamiliar town – except for their conspicuous battle-dress uniforms and U.S. flag patches.

CIMIC was activated in Tuzla in March 1996, only four months after the Dayton Peace Accords marked the end of the Bosnian civil war.

Originally known as “Civilian and Military Operations,” the CIMIC mission is now oriented more toward cooperation and integration – by fostering a more active involvement in all ethnic communities, with input from NATO.

The Tuzla office has assisted over 130 people since Col. Stutts’ unit arrived in February of this year. Deployed from the



On a road overlooking the city of Tuzla, (Left to right) Staff Sgt. Don Morgan, Senior Airmen Dewayne Haferkamp and Tracy Breitenkamp with 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group, pause during a CIMIC patrol.

360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the colonel finds his line of work here to be particularly rewarding.

“It’s being able to assist somebody in need,” he says. “When they’ve exhausted every other avenue, they come to see us, and we’re able to make a difference in their lives.”

The posters on the wall of the house at 38 Klosterska Street promise that tolerance means a brighter future. CIMIC puts that dream into action by working together with the local citizens, making a difference for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Senior Airmen Dewayne Haferkamp and Tracy Breitenkamp and Staff Sgt. Don Morgan examine a World War II memorial in Tuzla during a CIMIC patrol. The airmen are attached to the 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group at Eagle Base.

Soldiers 'Relax' with Rucksacks

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Brandi Schiff

Photo by Spc. Patrick Tharpe

Eagle Base

What's your idea of a fun day? Is it a relaxing day on the beach, curling up with a good book?

Well, how about starting it off by loading a 33-pound rucksack on your back, marching seven-and-a-half miles, sprinting a couple hundred yards with the ruck still on, then getting into a prone position to fire at your target, with a 58-second time limit to get all your targets down before it's all over?

Members of the Bosnian Federation did just that during the 'March and Shoot' competition with an intense sun blazing on their backs the entire time. The contest, coordinated by the II Corps Federation's Headquarters, was held at the Posha Bunar live-fire range in Tuzla May 24.

Multinational Division (North) Commander Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp attended the competition, showing his support by joining II Corps Federation Army Commander Brig. Gen. Refik Lendo, in rooting his troops on.

"I am very impressed with your professionalism and your skills," stated Maj. Gen. Sharp when he addressed the VF troops. "Everyone out here is a winner today."

Competitions like the "March and Shoot" are great tools for testing soldiers' combat readiness skills.

"I believe the Army should show during peacetime, the skills that are needed during a war," said Brig. Gen. Lendo about why his troops were participating in the event.

When asked how he felt about having the MND(N) commander at the competition, Brig. Gen. Lendo stated, "I would like to thank Maj. Gen. Sharp for being here today because his presence shows that we are friends with MND(N).



Soldiers with the Federation Army make their way off the live-fire range in Tuzla. Thirteen teams participated in the March and Shoot competition.

"Our basic goal of achieving long-term peace here in Bosnia is made a lot easier when MND(N) and MND(SW) show us their support," Lendo continued, "and I am grateful for that."

The competition was no walk in the park. In fact, one team was disqualified because they had a member pass out and the entire team had to administer first aid, thus taking them out of the competition.

Though the competition was very physically demanding, Maj. Gen. Sharp saw plenty of benefits for Bosnian Federation soldiers after their participation in the event.

"If there ever is another conflict here, the soldiers will be much better off now because they have demonstrated that they know their soldiering skills, and are better for it," said Maj. Gen. Sharp. "In fact," he said, "I would like to see more competitions like this in the future."

"Soldiers always like to compete against each other and demonstrate their skills and what they have learned, and I believe this is a good thing because by making the individual soldiers better, it makes the entire

unit better," Maj. Gen. Sharp stated.

Winning didn't come easy as there was a tie for first place. However, the team that scored the most points during the road march – the most challenging part of the day's events – was deemed the winner of the competition.

The first-place team, with a total score of 100 points, was the 214th Military Police Battalion. The winners were granted 10 days of leave for their success; the second- and third-place teams were given seven and five days of leave respectively for their efforts. The winning units' team leader, Capt. Subasic (first name unavailable), was very proud of his team's skills.

"The combat readiness that my unit and myself displayed was pretty much the most important aspect of this competition," stated Capt. Subasic.

Most people would never think of participating in an event as grueling as this one once, much less twice, but Capt. Subasic is actually looking forward to a third similar event coming up in September.

"Another competition is being planned on a level of joint command and I think SFOR (Stabilization Force) units and RS (Republic of Srpska) units will participate too. I will be ready to do this again because I am willing to show the readiness of my unit to my American colleagues," said Capt. Subasic.

Well, proud or boasting? Either way, Capt. Subasic definitely deserves it after taking first place in a most demanding competition as the 'March and Shoot'. Capt. Subasic summed up his feelings in one word when asked how he felt now that the competition was over: "EXCELLENT!"

Maj. Gen. Sharp had one parting request for Brig. Gen. Lendo's troops. "I ask you all to please take what you learned back and share that with the rest of the soldiers in each one of your units, so that all the units can be winners as well," he said.

Squadron Keeps Eyes on the Skies

Story and photo by

Maj. Richard C. Sater

Eagle Base

Today's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a chance of afternoon thunder-showers and high temperatures reaching the 70s. . . . Oh, yeah? Says who?

Look no further than the 401st Expeditionary Weather Squadron. Seventeen people spread across five locations make up the squadron, headquartered on the Army

side of Eagle Base, in the White House. The mission of the EWS is to provide direct weather support to the task force here and to all of Multinational Division (North).

"We're here primarily for the Army – for the aviation assets at Camp Comanche – but we support the Air Force as well," says chief weatherman Lt. Col. John Egentowich, whose home unit is the Air Force Weather Agency Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

The backbone of the flying

operation here are the UH-60 Blackhawk and OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters at Comanche. Rotor aircraft fly in and out of the Eagle Base airfield on a regular basis as well, providing routine transport of troops and supplies, and medical evacuation when necessary. Naturally, weather conditions are a prime concern for all
Continued on Page 12



Tech. Sgt. Gary Stevenson (Left) and Lt. Col. John Egentowich check the temperature with a sling psychrometer and a TH550.



(Left) The weapons storage site in Orasje, which is patrolled by troopers of Task Force 3-7 Cavalry. (Right) Heavy weapons and ammunition are stored at the Orasje weapons storage site.

Task Force 3-7 Cavalry

Working for Safe and Secure Brcko,

Stories by Pfc. Daniel Lucas
Camp McGovern
and Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
Eagle Base
Photos by Pfc. Daniel Lucas

If Eagle Base can be compared to a city, and Camp Commanche is a suburban town, then Camp McGovern is a rural village.

Perhaps it's due to the unique country "wildlife": On any given day on Camp McGovern are Apaches, Bonecrushers, Crazy Horses, Dragons and Diamondbacks, just to name a few. These are the troops from Task Force 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, which includes soldiers from the 153rd Infantry Regiment from Arkansas Army National Guard

Along with additional support elements, the 758 soldiers who make up the Task Force have an area of responsibility that stretches from the Croatian border south to Srebrenic, sandwiched by the Nordic-Polish Battle Group in the west and the 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade in the east. All told, Camp McGovern's troops keep watch over 631 miles.

The importance of the Dayton Peace Accord's goal of a "safe and secure environment" is not lost on the Task Force Commander, Lt. Col. Terry Ferrell.

"Our primary mission, of course, is to ensure compliance with the Accords and its mandates, which include freedom of movement and creating an environment safe

for people to return to their homes," Lt. Col. Ferrell said.

His troops have already overseen the consolidation of weapons sites from 13 to one and provided logistical and security support for the April 6 Hercegovacka bank raid in Orasje.

"It has been more contentious than I had imagined," he said. "There is much more potential for hostile actions."

He points to the Brcko District, however, to explain what gives the Camp McGovern AOR its "uniqueness." Brcko is a demilitarized, multi-ethnic town which, according to Lt. Col. Ferrell, is a model being built for all of Bosnia to emulate.

"It's critical that we work there specifically to integrate the District. It's designed to be a true democracy," he said.

The police force, the government, legal system and other key components of Brcko are already integrated, with a big hurdle coming up – integration of the school system. On September 1, children from all three ethnic groups – Bosniacs, Serbs and Croats – will attend school together for the first time since the war.

1st Lt. Gabriel West, Troop C, 3-7 Cav., sees a different aspect of the school integration since the "Crazy Horse" troops frequently patrol the Brcko area.

"Some people (in Brcko) are anxious about the schools becoming multi-ethnic, but the young people want to get on with their lives," 1st Lt. West said. "They aren't concerned with being around Bosnians or Serbs, for example – they just want to go to school with their friends."

Recently, the reconstruction of a Serb Orthodox church damaged during the war proceeded without incident, according to 1st Lt. West, and construction of a mosque is planned shortly.

The Arizona Market is another area 'tamed' by some of Camp McGovern's wildlife. Originally created in the "zone of

separation" as a means for the different ethnic groups to intermingle, the open-air market was a breeding ground for the buying and selling of black-market goods, and violence erupted frequently.

Today, thanks to regulations put in place and SFOR's continued presence, the market has become a veritable tourist attraction, with hundreds selling their wares in safety and relative calm.

The unique issues surrounding the return of displaced persons to their pre-war homes are becoming much more commonplace across Bosnia-Herzegovina. And although local authorities are responsible for ensuring successful and safe returns, many of them are occurring in the western portions of Camp McGovern's AOR, in Modrica and Samac. Lt. Col. Ferrell is pleased with the way the returns are proceeding.

"If you move in today, you don't get your house burned down tonight or get beat up tomorrow," he said.

The 1st and 3rd battalions of the 153rd Infantry augment the Fort Stewart-based 3-7 Cavalry. Approximately 350 soldiers at Camp McGovern are from the reserve components, but according to Capt. Todd Spafford, commander of Company D, 1-153, there is no discernable variation in the expertise between the 3-7 Cav. troops and his "Dragons" of the 153rd.

"You are always apprehensive when trying to determine how you will be treated," Capt. Spafford said. "There is no difference in this task force."

Lt. Col. Ferrell agreed. "My (3-7 Cav.) guys may be active duty, but we had to train up on 'peacekeeping' skills just like the reserves did. We all went through the same training," he said. The area has a bright future, Lt. Col. Ferrell believes, as long as the Task Force at Camp McGovern is patient. "The northern towns will continue to flourish. The returns will continue to proceed well," he said. "We can create problems if we go out and rush the solution."





Arizona Market, Munitions Sites

Weapons Consolidation Positive Move

When the consolidation of weapons from multiple sites began April 4th, troops of Task Force 3-7 Cav. knew they were going to have better accountability and control of the weapons and munitions by having fewer sites to 'overwatch'. An added benefit to the consolidation is that the troops were able to get back to keeping the Camp McGovern area of responsibility safe and secure by having fewer troops at the sites and more out on patrols. The consolidation was completed May 25th.

There used to be 13 weapons storage sites guarded by the 4th Guards Brigade, Federation Army, with an 'overwatch' provided by Task Force troops and soldiers. Their mission at the sites was straightforward: ensure the weapons didn't fall into the wrong hands. But what was a huge undertaking in both time and manpower has been simplified by the recent consolidation. All weapons are now housed at two sites: Orasje and Camp McGovern.

The site in Orasje, known as "29-A", houses the heavy weapons and ammunition – more than seven million rounds of small-arms ammunition and 250,000 tank rounds, according to 1st Lt. George Woods, Joint Military Commission chief. The tanks rounds stored at 29-A are enough to outfit more than 140 U.S. tank battalions.

At Camp McGovern, the small arms and crew-served weapons are stored. There are 9,321 weapons housed there, 6,625 of which are assault rifles. Separation of weapons and ammunition was done purposely, said Lt. Col. Terry Ferrell, Task Force commander at Camp McGovern. "If anyone wants to try to steal something, they'll have to travel to both locations to get what they need," he said.

Weapons Storage Site 29-A is about the size of the Eagle Base Sports Complex. More than 49 CONEXs line the road next to the building – also full of munitions. All have been gathered from turn-ins through Operation Harvest.

Keeping tabs on the sheer numbers of weapons and ammunition collected is no easy task, but inspections occur every so often. Additionally, there is a strict system in place that allows the 4th Guards Brigade to sign out weapons and ammunition should their members wish to use them for training. "We know every weapon by serial number, and have every piece of ammunition accounted for," said Lt.

Col. Ferrell.

So why the consolidation, and why are the "guards" in Orasje being guarded? The consolidation was a win-win event for all parties involved, according to Lt. Col. Ferrell. "It definitely reduced our risk," he said, referring to the significantly less number of "deterrence presence" personnel he needed at multiple sites. Besides, Lt. Col. Ferrell said, the 'overwatch' portion of the Task Force's mission was at the request of the 4th Guards Brigade. "(The 4th Guards Brigade) brought it to our attention that they wanted our assistance in watching the sites," Lt. Col. Ferrell said.

Their request was not because the 4th Guards wanted SFOR troops to assume responsibility for the sites. The Federation Army, which is made up of Bosniacs and Bosnian Croats, has experienced instability among its Croatian members. A splinter group, known as the 3rd Entity, has broken away and wishes to be recognized as the third armed force in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This goes against the Dayton Peace Accords mandate of two armed forces in BiH – the Federation Army and the Republic of Srpska, which is comprised of Bosnian Serbs. Furthermore, the 3rd Entity advocates a separate government and a separate political platform in addition to a separate fighting force.

So members of the 3-7 Cav., and 153rd Infantry Regiment stepped in to help, but not without cost. For example, responsibility for guarding and patrolling eight of the former sites fell on the soldiers of Company D, 1-153.

Capt. Todd Spafford, commander of Co. D, told of 18-20 hours days for the 12 soldiers required to over watch each site. Another platoon was attached to 1-153 to assist with the mission.

"It was pretty tough for the guys. The consolidation has really helped. Now we can get back to doing the other missions we came here for," he said. Those other missions include the vehicular and dismounted patrols — part of the Task Force's job in ensuring the "safe and secure environment" SFOR soldiers are here in Bosnia to uphold.

The United States Flag

I am Old Glory! I am your flag! I was born on June 14, 1777, more than 200 years ago. I have been that banner of hope and freedom for generations of Americans. I was born amid the first flames of America's fight for freedom.

I am the symbol of a country that has grown from a little group of 13 colonies to the united nation of 50 sovereign states, planted firmly on the high pinnacle of American faith. My gently fluttering folds have proved an inspiration to untold millions.

Men have followed me into battle with unwavering courage. They have looked upon me as a symbol of national unity. They have prayed that they and their fellow citizens might continue to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness which have been granted to every American, the heritage of free men and women.

So long as men love liberty more than life itself; so long as they treasure the priceless privilege bought with the blood of our forefathers; so long as the principles of brotherly love, justice and charity for all remain deeply rooted in human hearts, I shall continue to be the enduring banner of the United States of America.

WEATHER

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aircrews, particularly for the low-flying helicopters.

Modern communication has greatly increased the reliability and timeliness of weather forecasting.

Weather satellites, as well as telephones, electronic mail, and the Internet define the "architecture of data collection" today, the colonel says.

The systems at the Eagle Base tower are all automated, but the human touch is still required to harness the data into a useable and useful format. EWS observers monitor temperature, wind speed and direction, precipitation, cloud cover, barometric pressure, dew point, and more.

They update their forecasts around the clock from Eagle Base and four other camps in MND(N): Comanche, McGovern, Zenica, and Dobj.

"We collect as much information as possible so that we can insure safety of flight operations," Lt. Col. Egentowich says. The weather staff briefs up-to-the-minute information to the aircrews.

Forecasting can only be as accurate as the tools used to measure it.

That's where the 401st Meteorological-Navigation Equipment Shop enters the picture. The four-man METNAV shop – under the 401st Communications Flight – maintains and repairs the equipment used to measure weather conditions.

"We couldn't do it without them," admits Master Sgt. Chris Stanziano, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 401st EWS, on tour here from Detachment 5, 7th Weather Squadron, based at Katterbach Army Air Field, Germany.

You've noticed how quickly the weather changes around here, from hour to hour and day to day, but Lt. Col. Egentowich has full confidence in his equipment and his crew.

"As you know, our forecast is always 100-percent accurate, all the time," he says with a straight face.

But don't take his word for it. You can check the accuracy of the 401st's forecast yourself online through Eaglevision. Just click on "weather" for the latest updates.

Soldier on the Street

"What does the American flag represent to you?"

To me the flag represents freedom. That's what people gave their lives for."

Staff Sgt. Terry Gilbert
31D



Freedom is the first thing everyone thinks of, including myself. The flag is self-symbolic."

Cpl. Audrey McIntee
HHC 31D

The sacrifices people have made and the conflicts we've been involved in. It makes me proud to wear the flag."

Spc. Freeman Nlandul
HHC 31D



It represents patriotism, previous soldiers who have fought and esprit de corps."

Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Smith
HHC 31D