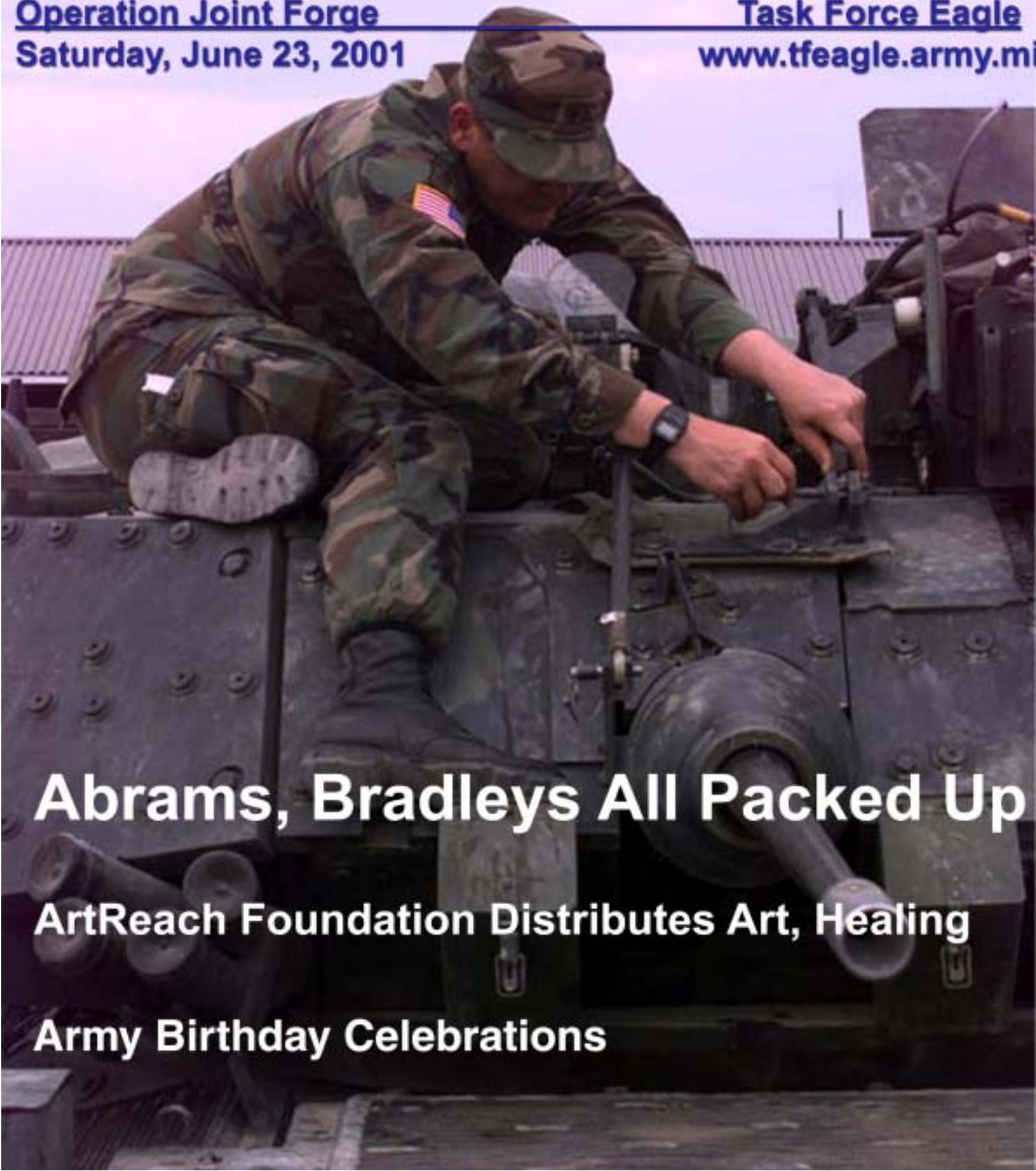


TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, June 23, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



Abrams, Bradleys All Packed Up

ArtReach Foundation Distributes Art, Healing

Army Birthday Celebrations

A “Father’s” Example

“Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”
(Matthew 20:26)

A noncommissioned officer was directing the repairs of a military building during the American Revolution. He was barking orders to the soldiers under his command, trying to get them to raise a heavy wooden beam. As the men struggled in vain to lift the beam into place, a man who was passing by stopped to ask the one in charge why he wasn’t helping the men. With all the pomp of an emperor, the soldier responded, “Sir, I’m a corporal!”

“You are, are you?” replied the passerby, “I was not aware of that.” Then, taking off his hat and bowing, he said, “I ask your pardon, corporal.” Then the stranger walked over and strained with the soldiers to lift the heavy beam. After the job was finished, he turned and said, “Mr. Corporal, when you have another such job, and have not enough men, send for your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you a second time.” The corporal was thunderstruck. The person speaking to him was Gen. George Washington!

The one thing that everyone in the military must remember, regardless of whether we are a private or a five-star general, is that we ALL joined to serve. When we signed on the dotted line we swore to serve our country, those principles on which it was founded, and to not use our positions for personal gain. But it is neither the lowest nor highest that forgets that truth; it’s usually those in the middle ranks that often lose their way.

We have been given a blessed chance here in Bosnia to show that we are true servants of peace. Now is the time to remember that we are here for the same purpose, by the same choice (when we enlisted). As Gen. Washington, the “father” of our nation, helped his soldiers with the most menial of tasks, so too must the soldiers help the general.

For God measures greatness by service. The Lord has set an example, for though he was God and worthy of all honors, he “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28).

To be great in God’s sight, we must serve!

Thoughts for the Week

SUNDAY: *The measure of greatness is not the number of servants we have, but the number of people we serve.*

MONDAY: *The greatest thing in our life is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.*

TUESDAY: *Lord, thank you for your Spirit. Fill us with his love and power. Change us into your own image, day by day and hour by hour.*

WEDNESDAY: *The Lord who made the earth, who made the deepest sea. The Lord who put the stars in place, is the Lord who cares for us.*

THURSDAY: *Fill up each hour with what will last. Buy up the moments as they go. The life above, when this is past is the ripe fruit of life below.*

FRIDAY: *The great thing in our life is not so much who we are, but how we treat each other in our daily mission.*

SATURDAY: *Our times are in our Lord’s hand. How could we wish or ask for more? For he who has our pathway planned, will guide us till our journey’s end.*

By Chaplain (Capt.) Tadeusz Majkut and Chaplain Assistant (Pfc.) George Russell
Camp Comanche

TALON

Published in support of Operation Joint Forge
June 23, 2001
Volume 7, No. 25

**Commander,
Multinational Division (North)**
Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael Birmingham
762-3353

**Public Affairs Noncommissioned
Officer in Charge**
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Hudson
762-3353

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor
Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
762-5230

Editor
Sgt. Rhonda Morgan

**Assistant Editor/
Layout and Design**
Pfc. Michael Bennett

Webmaster
Spc. Lesley Newport
762-8207

Staff Writers

Command Information Supervisor
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Larsen
762-5233

Eagle Base
Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Spc. T.S. Jarmusz
762-8208

Camp Comanche
Spc. Grant Calease
768-1027

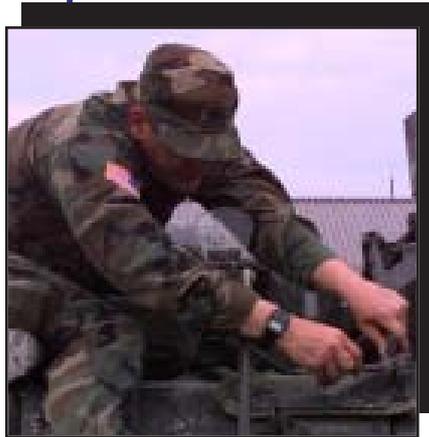
Camp McGovern
Pfc. Daniel Lucas
763-2041

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

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

Visit the *Talon* and other Bosnia and Herzegovina-related items on the Task Force Eagle Home Page:
www.tfeagle.armymil

CONTENTS



ON THE COVER

9

Camp McGovern decreases the number of armored vehicles in preparation for force reduction. (Photo by Spc. Lewis Hilburn)



DANISH CONTINGENT RUCK MARCH

6

Soldiers double their socks and tighten their laces for the 30k DANCON Ruck March June 9. (Photo by Capt. Joe Jackson)



ARMY BIRTHDAY EVENTS

10

Soldiers come together to celebrate a history and a future. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)

Essay Contest Winner-----	4
Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes Visits Troops-----	5
Joint Military conference at Camp Comanche-----	5
ArtReach Uses Art to Communicate and Heal-----	8

'Respect' Essay Winner

The following is the winning essay in the Equal Opportunity Office's "What Does Respect Mean to You?" contest. Sgt. 1st Class John Kent's entry was chosen the best of 16 submissions. While deployed, he works in Task Force 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation, as the Civil Affairs Information Operations NCOIC. He is stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C. with the 82nd Airborne Division. "I feel respect is absolutely an important Army value. It's engraved to us in basic training and is a pillar of our military training," he said. For his efforts, he won a shirt, coffee mug, desk clock, \$50 and a Commanding General's coin. Sgt. 1st Class Kent hails from Luther, Iowa.

By Sgt. 1st Class John Kent
Camp Comanche

RESPECT. A very commanding word. A word that draws your attention from the start. But there is more to it than just being a word.

There is an ideology behind

it, which is the body of ideas characteristic of a particular individual, group, or culture and the assertions, theories, and aims that constitute a political, social, and economic program.

By definition, respect is 'to consider deserving of high or special regard.' Society defines respect as the way one person or group of people treats another person or group of people and also the way they look upon those persons. We in the Army define respect as the common courtesy we give to our peers, subordinates and superiors and the way in which we carry out our orders and our duties on a daily basis within the United States Army.

Respect is a common bond in today's Army because we are all well trained soldiers and it is a building block that our training is based upon. Respect is basically how we treat each other, the actions shown toward other people. Respect is the way in which you help others out whenever they need a hand.

Respect is also the way you take the time to discipline and train your subordinates. And respect is the way you work

extra hard and long and do an excellent job for your commander and your unit. These are all ways of showing respect toward each other, our subordinates, our peers, our superiors, our unit and our country. This is the respect that we have been trained to give and which we show on a daily basis. For us serving here in the Balkans it also represents the sacrifices that we are giving for our fellow man.

The definition is all well and good, but what is respect? What does it mean to me, a soldier in today's Army? Respect is something everyone is capable of achieving, but at the same time it is not a right or privilege. It has to be earned. We as soldiers have been well trained at respecting the ranks of superiors. But is respecting their ranks enough?

All soldiers within the Army must earn the respect of their fellow soldiers. To earn the respect of your fellow soldiers you must do many things! For your subordinates, you must be fair and just and take care of all problems that may arise. For your peers, you must be technically and tactically



Sgt. 1st Class John Kent

proficient and set the standard. And for your superiors, you must accomplish the mission quickly, efficiently and sometimes in the absence of orders. These are just minute examples of the many, many things that can help you earn the respect of your fellow soldiers.

The key to remember is that you must do SOMETHING! You must EARN it. Your rank deserves the military courtesies bestowed upon it, but no more. The rest is up to us as soldiers and individuals. Through our actions we can earn the respect of fellow soldiers, and through the actions of our fellow soldiers, they will earn our respect and all that goes with it.

Sports Safety: Play Hard but Play Smart

By Task Force Eagle Safety Office

"Hello, sports fans! This is Joe 'Safe-at-Home' Soldier coming to you live from The Ball Park at Eagle Base. The MND(N) Eagles are looking good this year, but they've suffered several injuries that may affect their future. Several key players have been temporarily sidelined by sports-related injuries.

Eagle Base coaches and fans are concerned, but feel the team can overcome these problems and finish the season healthy and ready to return home for an extended home stand."

Playing sports is one of the best ways for soldiers to get exercise and have a little fun. It is also the biggest cause of lost-time injuries within Task Force Eagle. Stabilization Force 9 soldiers have been injured in virtually every sport being played on the base camps: basketball, softball, football, volleyball, rugby and soccer. A



soldier hospitalized or placed on restricted duty due to a sports-related injury affects unit readiness as much as one injured in a vehicle accident.

Many sports-related accidents can be eliminated by the use of proper equipment. Personal protective gear (proper footwear, safety glasses, reflective belts, etc.) and sport-specific equipment (batting helmets, shin guards, etc.) must be worn when participating in team sports. The best way to reduce these types of injury accidents

is to make sure that everyone has a positive attitude toward sports safety.

Most people follow rules they understand and tend to ignore rules that make no sense. Commanders, coaches and sports directors should explain the logic behind the rules.

Rules must be known and understood before the game begins. Playing a pick-up game of "combat basketball" may be fun, but it is also a good way to get someone hurt.

"If you're not bleeding, it's not a foul," shouldn't be part of any game. Always appoint someone to be a referee or umpire. Unsportsmanlike conduct should never be tolerated.

Evaluate the playing area for surface conditions and hazards. Either mark the hazards, or adjust the playing field to avoid them.

A proper warm-up period before the game is always a good idea. Stretching the muscles before playing will help to reduce or eliminate muscular injuries.

Chief of U.S. Army Reserve Visits

Story and photo by Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

Pay problems, extending for additional rotations and pre-deployment training were some of the questions Army Reservists asked the Chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, during his visit to Eagle Base June 17 and 18.

Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes ate breakfast and supper with Army Reserve troops at Eagle Base and answered many questions regarding a variety of topics.

Lt. Gen. Plewes was promoted in a ceremony at the Pentagon June 13. Previously, the head of both the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve has been a two-star position, but the recent National Defense Authorization Act upgraded the position.

He stopped in Germany and in Taszar, Hungary, before arriving in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"I try to get here once each rotation to see the reservists stationed here, to make sure they are being used correctly and getting their jobs done," he said.

Lt. Gen. Plewes conducted a question-and-answer session in which Reserve soldiers stationed at Eagle Base asked him questions about the future of the USAR.

Much of the discussion was geared toward the pre-deployment training received at the CONUS Replacement Center at Fort Benning, Ga.

Soldiers talked with him about the need

to update certain training that is conducted at the CRC. Making some changes would eliminate the differences between what soldiers are taught there and the way things are actually done in Bosnia.

"In my experience, some of the training at the CRC is good stuff, but some of it needs to be updated," agreed the general.

Bringing CRC personnel to Bosnia see how things really are would be beneficial, he said. They need to go out into the countryside with the soldiers, he added.

Soldiers volunteering to stay for additional rotations was also a topic Lt. Gen. Plewes addressed.

Several soldiers are having trouble extending for additional tours in Bosnia. Present policy requires that soldiers deployed from their home station more than 400 days in a 700-day period must be paid an additional \$100 a day while deployed. A U.S. House subcommittee has set up a very bureaucratic way to keeping soldiers from hitting that \$100 a day, Lt. Gen. Plewes said.

"My position is, go ahead pay the troops the extra \$100 a day. It's either pay the \$100 or yank someone else away from his or her family and job. I'd rather pay the



Lt. Gen. Thomas Plewes spent part of his morning enjoying breakfast with several USAR soldiers, including Maj. Edward Smallwood, U.S. Army Reserve liaison officer (left) and Maj. Jack Matthews, safety officer.

\$100," he added.

The committee is also trying to cut down on multiple deployments and extended deployments, said Lt. Gen. Plewes.

The visit by the Chief of the Army Reserve also showed the importance of Reservists in today's military.

"The things we do for the Army, there just is not any other substitute. The Army Reserve is a full player," said Lt. Gen. Plewes.

"The Army can't do anything without the reserves anymore," he added. "That's the bottom line."

Following his visit to Eagle Base, Lt. Gen. Plewes headed to Kosovo to talk to the Reserve soldiers stationed in that theater.

AF in BiH Meets with 2-121 Commanders

Story and photo by Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

Commanders of the local Bosnian military met with leaders of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, for a Joint Military Commission Conference at Camp Comanche June 12.

Commanders of the Federation Army (VF) and the Republika Srpska (VRS) met with Lt. Col. Reed Dunn, commander of TF 2-121, and several of his staff and company commanders.

"The main reason for the visit was for our company commanders and Lt. Col. Dunn to meet with the VF and VRS commanders to further enhance our relationship with the AF BiH (Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina)," said 1st Lt. Nick N. Vivian, JMC officer for TF 2-121. The AF in BiH commanders were shown a static display of American weaponry prior to a briefing in the Camp Comanche conference room.

Many American weapons were on hand, including an M1A1 Abrams tank, an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle and an M1114 up-armored Humvee.

"The purpose for the static display was to entertain the (AF in BiH) commanders as well as a show of force, letting them see the weapons we have out our disposal" said 1st Lt. Vivian.

After a group photo was taken the commanders from both countries filed into the conference room for the briefing.

"The purpose was to get their commanders at brigade level in sync with ours so we can work together better," said Spc.

Demetrius Durden, a JMC specialist for TF 2-121.

Weapons storage sites consolidation was another main topic of the discussion.

"A big part of the meeting was to get the ball rolling on the consolidation of weapons storage sites," said Spc. Durden. "We let them know how it was going to happen and explained to them why it has to happen. Also we suggested that they should start taking care of it together so we can get off their backs," he said.

"They were very supportive to the idea of closing some of the weapons sites, because it is good for the country," said 1st Lt. Vivian.

Another JMC Conference is planned for Sept. 21.

An AF in BiH (left) commander examines an M203 grenade launcher. The weapon was on display at the JMC conference at Camp Comanche.



DANISH CONTINGENT

Marching to Dannevirke

Story and photos by Capt. Joe Jackson
Eagle Base

Twenty-six pounds may not sound like a heavy load. But try telling that to the American service members who loaded up their rucks, tightened their bootlaces, and went for a 30-kilometer hike. It would take some hikers more than eight hours to complete, under a hot Balkan sun.

The route took soldiers, airmen, and members of the International Police Task Force over a variety of terrain – from hardball roads to gravel trails – and of course, no ruck march would be complete without hills – lots of hills.

Hiking the mountain roads around the village of Sevarlije, many trekkers stopped to take photos of the towns and valleys below.

Maj. Hans Lundgaard, the Danish base commander, welcomed the marchers to the base and got the event quickly underway by waving his hand and ordering the gates opened. The march provided useful training for soldiers; the 18-mile route stretched their legs and wore on their feet as well as their determination.

The American team was made up of several groups, including members of the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, Arkansas Army National Guard troops from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized); and 38 soldiers from Task Force Medical Eagle.

By the halfway point, the lively pace of the trek's beginning had given way to steady plodding as the uphill and down-trail roads took their toll on the participants. To complete an event like this takes more than physical stamina; healthy feet are vital.

Capt. Kriestin Kleinschmidt, a nurse with TFME, jokingly said, "I don't think I'll volunteer for another thing like this!"

That was a common theme with the soldiers who had just finished the leg-numbing hike. Another soldier, on her second ruck march, said, "I swore I'd never do this again!" It was important for her to improve her time from a march last September, she said.

"You have to push yourself," said Spc. Tanya Koop, of 3rd ID.

Continued on Page 12



Spc. Mary Brown stuffs last-minute items into her ruck. Spc. Brown, with the 1022nd Med. Co., TFME, finished the march. (Below left) Numerous hills surround the Camp Dannevirke area. (Below) 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Hoettels-Kelso, CIMIC, and a Danish soldier take advantage of fresh fruit provided during a break.



Story by Pfc. Daniel Lucas
Camp McGovern

In the words of Confucius, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Hundreds of soldiers and civilians who participated in the 30-kilometer road march in the Nordic-Polish Battle Group began their journey to the finish line with that single step.

The Danish Contingent, known as DANCON, sponsored the march, which began and ended at Camp Dannevirke June 9.

Marchers from different countries interpreted the packing list very differently. Most American soldiers packed the 10 kilograms (roughly 25 lbs.) of required gear, including socks, wet-weather gear, two Meals-Ready-to-Eat, Kevlar helmet and flak vest.

Conversely, Latvian soldiers carried large packs that looked completely full. When asked what they contained, one soldier said, "the weight of one sleeping bag," laughing and continuing on the march.

Italian Carabinieri also had an assortment of packs. Some Italians wore their ceramic body armor and carried even more weight on their backs. Members of the



'Walk t



The rest stop at the 5-kilometer mark. Participants only stop to rest for a minute before continuing.

gent ruck March

International Police Task Force wore only their uniforms and berets.

The medical station at the 15-kilometer mark was equipped to handle any injuries soldiers could incur.

The site was full of barefoot 'ruckers' changing their socks and applying moleskin. A doctor gave feet a quick checkup to make sure none of the

blisters or sores were too serious for the marchers to continue. There was also bread and fresh fruit to provide sustenance.

The Danish medics handled getting

fresh, cold water for the marchers. They had three trucks circling the course stopping and exchanging empty water bottles for full ones.



(Far left) For many, changing socks was a necessary task during the march. (Left) Staff Sgt. Mary Strickland, an S-3 operations NCO for TFME, heads up a hill near Camp Dannevirke. She finished the march.

'this way': An Airman's Perspective



ometer mark. Medical treatment is available, but most change their socks, drink more water, have a snack, or are pressing on — 25 kilometers to go.

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

Thirty kilometers – 18 miles. A long march. Add a full pack and a warm day and it equals a reasonable doubt.

The Danish contingent sponsors a march like this every now and then. It builds camaraderie because it's non-competitive. And it's a chance to see the countryside and get to know some of our fellow Stabilization Force partners in Multinational Division (North).

I sign up. Why not? I'm deployed here for the new experience. For the first time, I am working closely with the Army – trying to solve its cipher. I'm curious. I look for clues in its rituals and ceremony, and the march seems to combine both.

A bus full of troops will represent Eagle Base and the U.S. Army at this DANCON march. Two of us will represent the Air Force – Capt. Paul Langevin, the 401st Expeditionary Airlift Group's aeromedical evacuation liaison for Task Force Medical Eagle – and myself. One of us is well prepared, having done this sort of thing before, and recently, too. But I will rely on optimism more than anything else.

I borrow a ruck and load my kevlar helmet, flak vest, two full canteens, some snacks and aspirin, sunglasses, a camera. We leave Eagle Base at 3:45 in the a.m., bound for Dannevirke, the Danish Army camp in the Nordic-Polish Battle Group area, not far from Camp Dobo.

For the occasion, I wear two pairs of socks – thin cotton and thick wool – and a pair of boots that have four years of wear in them already, but they're trustworthy and comfortable. We line up, with instructions to follow the signs and arrows.

Continued on Page 12

Georgia-based ArtReach Brings Supplies, Hope to Bosnian Children

Story and photos by Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

Growing up in the midst of a war can have a traumatic effect on the children of a battle-scarred land. Fortunately, the children of Bosnia have a helping hand in the form of an American organization.

ArtReach has been visiting the kids of Gorazde, a recovering city in eastern Bosnia. The Georgia-based foundation, consisting of volunteers from across the world, has been in the town helping the children since June 6. The group works with teachers in different areas to give them a new method to communicate with their students - art.

"We came with the idea that education can make a difference," said Susan Anderson, the executive director of ArtReach.

"Art is low on the list of school subjects, but people are learning, through medical research, that your creative process helps when you are in a difficult situation and need to get out of it," said Mrs. Anderson.

"We work with kids that have been affected by war or other disasters. We use art to help these kids express their feelings," said Matthew Morley, a volunteer from Atlanta.

"Last year in Sarajevo we saw some very emotionally withdrawn kids. After two weeks of ArtReach they were laughing and playing," said Mr. Morley, who is on his second trip to Bosnia. "We saw Serb and Muslim kids playing together." This program has been successful in the United States, said Mrs. Anderson, but bringing it into the classroom is a new concept for the group.

ArtReach volunteers come from all over the world. This year,



Art supplies are unloaded at Tuzla Air Base. The supplies were sent from Georgia by the ArtReach foundation for distribution to students in Gorazde.

there are 30 volunteers with some coming from Canada and England, as well as Georgia, California and Massachusetts. There are 22 Americans among the group of ArtReach volunteers.

"The group started in Georgia but we have been growing," said Mrs. Anderson. "A Georgia high school student provides us with our website."

Those who came on this trip had to pay their own expenses. It cost approximately \$3,000 per person for the two-week journey to Bosnia. ArtReach is in its second year of a five-year contract to assist in Bosnia. Mrs. Anderson is on her eighth visit to the Balkan nation. Last summer, in its first trip to Bosnia the organization visited 47 schools in the Sarajevo area.

"Last year, as the teachers began to work with the materials, their feelings began to come out," Mrs. Anderson said.

The organization is hoping to see some of its techniques added to the curriculum of universities where teachers in Bosnia are studying, she added.

"During the first week of the course, we invite teachers and care-givers and teach them our techniques. We use college students as our interpreters.

"The second week, we instruct the teachers to bring in one or two students they are having the most trouble with. Then, with our facilitating them, they work with their students," said Mrs. Anderson.

Given the problems facing Bosnia, ArtReach is hoping its work with the younger generation will provide for a more stable tomorrow.

"We are hoping our program will build a dialogue on ethnic tolerance. It's not something you can run in and talk to people about, because there are such strong feelings about it," added Mrs. Anderson.

"My feelings are, most of these parents don't want their kids to go through anything more than they've already been through. And for the kids born after the war, they don't want them to ever go through what happened here," said Mrs. Anderson.

"If you really want to make a change in a culture you need to stay and keep your promises. A lot of people have come here before and left, but we intend on staying here and fulfilling our promises to these people," she said.

To find out more about ArtReach, their Web address is: www.artreachfoundation.org.



Capt. Alva Hart, from 3rd ID transportation, hands a box of art supplies to ArtReach volunteer Matthew Morley in Gorazde. Mr. Morley traveled to Bosnia to distribute the supplies to troubled children.



Rows of Bradley Fighting Vehicles sit waiting to have their main weapons systems disassembled.

Bradleys, Abrams Sent to Germany

Camp McGovern readies 28 for force reduction

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

Camp McGovern took its first step towards a planned force reduction for Stabilization Force 10 on June 13, when the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, disassembled the main weapons systems on 18 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and 10 M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks, to get the armored battle wagons ready for shipment to Germany.

Chief Warrant Officer Bruce A. Herr, the squadron's automotive maintenance technician, said Camp McGovern was directed by Multinational Division (North) to reduce the number of Bradleys and Abrams there.

It's not a simple thing, he said. Prior to turning in the tracks, the 3-7 Cavalry troopers had to make sure the vehicles were up to snuff according to the operators' and mechanics' manuals. But before the mechanics can do their thing, operators must perform preventive maintenance checks of the vehicles' systems to make sure there's nothing wrong. From top to bottom, turrets to tracks, everything gets checked.

"Because it is such a big turn-in, it takes a lot of coordination and time to make it work," Mr. Herr said. "It took three months to get the vehicles to standard."

Three months isn't an excessive amount of time for this type of operation, Mr. Herr said. The 3-7 Cavalry fell in on the equipment when they arrived at Camp McGovern in March, and the squadron has been performing preventive maintenance

checks and services on the tracks since then to get them ready to go.

Mr. Herr said all but one of the armored vehicles was up to standard; the squadron is just waiting for parts to arrive.

The division property book office inspected the Bradleys and Abrams to make sure they were ready to go. The inspectors checked for basic issue items, such as shovels, axes and tools, and the weapons systems' firing mechanisms were removed.

Once the check was complete, the basic-issue items and firing mechanisms were stored in crates, loaded on palletized-load-system trucks and shipped, Mr. Herr said.

The vehicles and weapons systems are shipped separately as a safety measure to prevent any accidental discharges, he said.

Maj. Robert S. Brown, the squadron's operations officer, said the vehicles are being sent back for storage at a pre-positioned equipment site in Germany.

If necessary, troops coming overseas

can fall in on these vehicles, which can be ready to roll in a short time.

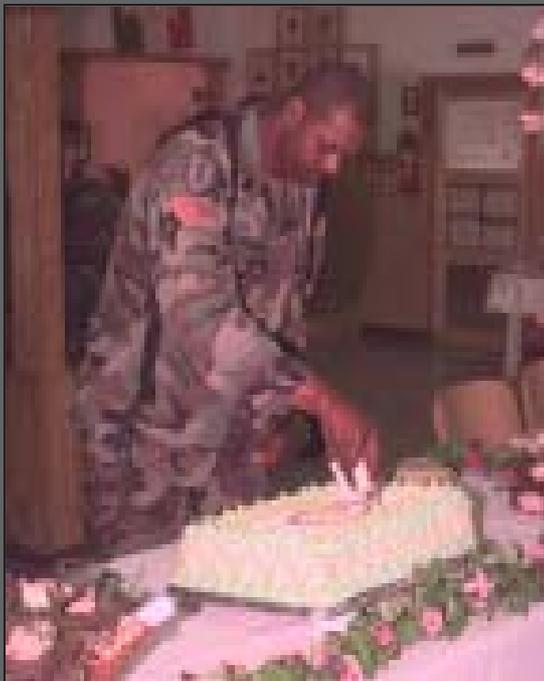
"They are going back for rebuild, repair and redistribution, to manage the Army's equipment structure," Maj. Brown said. They can also be refurbished and sent to units that need their equipment upgraded, he added.

There will also be fewer troops at Camp McGovern, Maj. Brown said. There are plans to send 99 soldiers back to the States, but the reduction won't be very noticeable to the people here. The camp will still maintain a high level of force protection, Maj. Brown said. Nor will the area of operations decrease; there will just be fewer presence patrols. "This is to let the local governments and authorities start taking over their communities," Maj. Brown said.

In addition to the downsizing of armored vehicles and personnel, excess equipment such as computers, cameras, HMMWVs, and other supplies no longer needed are being sent back for redistribution.



Disassembled portions of the main weapons systems of Bradley Fighting Vehicles are arranged 'dress-right-dress' in preparation for turn-in.



Army Celebrates Good Times

Soldiers on Eagle Base began celebrating the Army's 226th birthday in the midst of a downpour June 14. Teams lined up to compete in a 5k guidon run organized by Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Each team consisted of 10 runners, some from the same unit and others intermingled just for the experience.

During lunch at the Balkan Grille, Command Sgt. Maj. George Ruo, command sergeant major of Multinational Division (North), led the traditional cake-cutting ceremony. He spoke about what 226 years means to the Army. Command Sgt. Maj. Ruo also touched on the new mindset soldiers should have, in accordance with the new slogan "An Army of One".

Later in the evening, awards were given to the top three fastest teams in the event.





5k Guidon Run Results

1st	Task Force Med Eagle Team One	Time 23:11
2nd	Danish	25:42
3rd	Task Force Med Eagle Team Two	28:22



Clockwise from Top (1) Command Sgt. Maj. Horris Frazier takes the cake during Camp McGovern's 226th Army Birthday celebration. (2) 2nd Lt. David Henderson, leader of 1st Platoon, Company C, 648th Engineer Battalion, leads the way during the Eagle Base 5k guidon run. (3) The winner of several races running solo, Lt. Peter Emtækjaer, of the Nordic Polish Battle Group, carries the guidon with his Danish teammates. (4) Command Sgt. Maj. George Ruo awards the 2nd-place guidon run trophy to members of the Danish Brigade. (5) The highlight of the festivities, a birthday cake, bears the Army's new slogan, "Army of One". (6) Members of Task Force Medical Eagle show their unit pride by participating in the guidon run. (7) Members of the 28th Combat Support Hospital are awarded the 3rd-place trophy for the Eagle Base 5k guidon run by Command Sgt. Maj. George Ruo.

ROAD

Continued from Page 6

And push they did. Participants took their lumps, bumps and blisters in stride. Danish support for the event was plentiful; every five kilometers, soldiers could rest their feet and refuel with fresh fruit and water. Polish medics, equipped with moleskin and tape, provided aid for blisters.

The march was open to troops from all countries serving in the Balkans. Participants received a certificate of completion, and for a fee of 18 Deutschmarks could purchase the DANCON medal as a memento of their involvement. For many though, blisters and sore feet were enough to remind them of their time on the road.

AIRMAN

Continued from Page 7

And at 6:15 – cool, we're off, cheerful and noisy, comfortable for a while and satisfied.

We're a herd at first; gradually, the pack will thin into a line, many kilometers long, as we thread the hills around the town of Sevarlije. I don't talk much; my eyes are wide open, because here is a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina I haven't seen yet. I don't know why I am surprised that the country is so mountainous, so green and rich, so very picturesque.

Gradually, as the day unfolds, people move out and about; this is their home and their life, and they observe us with curiosity and amusement, and why not? This is us: military troops from different nations, walking with full packs – and from all appearances, we don't seem to be enjoying ourselves. Still, the citizens wave and offer greetings as we march.

Yet everywhere we turn – particularly close to the Danish campsite – are the ugly reminders of war hard-fought. Whole rows of houses have been neatly destroyed, with only the cement-and-rebar skeleton standing amid piles of crumbled brick. There is so much broken, abandoned – the calling cards of war.

But there are signs of spring and renewal too. In some areas, the reconstruction has started – here and there, a lone figure shovels debris out of a foundation, beginning the long process of rebuilding. Chickens poke around yards, laundry hangs from a rope stretched across the porch, a goat or cow or sheep grazes, a hillside is patchworked with gardens.

Walk this way. The march route has built-in stopping points every five kilometers, and I'm always ready for them when they finally appear, a legitimate chance to stop for a minute and drink more water and eat an orange before picking up the load (reluctantly) and trudging onward. By the 15th or 18th kilometer, my "hooah!" has evaporated.

The last eight kilometers are the most difficult, with a startling and undesirably steep hill taunting us. My feet burn and my shoulders complain about the unaccustomed weight pulling me backwards. The salt sweat dams up and stings my eyes. I remind myself that I joined the Air Force for a reason.

The finish line is a welcome sight; I gratefully drop the ruck and myself on top of it and wait in line for my certificate of completion. Proof. Six-and-a-half hours. Not as good as I'd hoped, but satisfactory for a first march. (My Air Force teammate, Capt. Langevin, has bettered my time by more than two hours. Good for him!) My boots earn their money: no blisters, incredibly, and Sunday morning will find me out and about, moving a little more slowly than usual, but still optimistic. Being in war is foreign to us, particularly a shooting war that could kill us and our families, destroy our homes and all our property, alter our lives forever. We can barely imagine such a thing. We walk on.

Soldier on the Street

“What makes a good father?”

I think a father should be loyal to his family. Honest and trustworthy.”

Staff Sgt. Marshon Broomer
HHC 103rd MI
Battalion



Fathers should be happy and lead by example.”

Sgt. Jarier Arzola
307th Psyop Battalion



They should care about their family and want only the very best for his children. He should also be a hard worker.”

Nail Onder
Turkish Force Protection Team #51



I think a father should be loving and a good role model.”

Spc. Matt Beaty
307th Psyop Battalion

