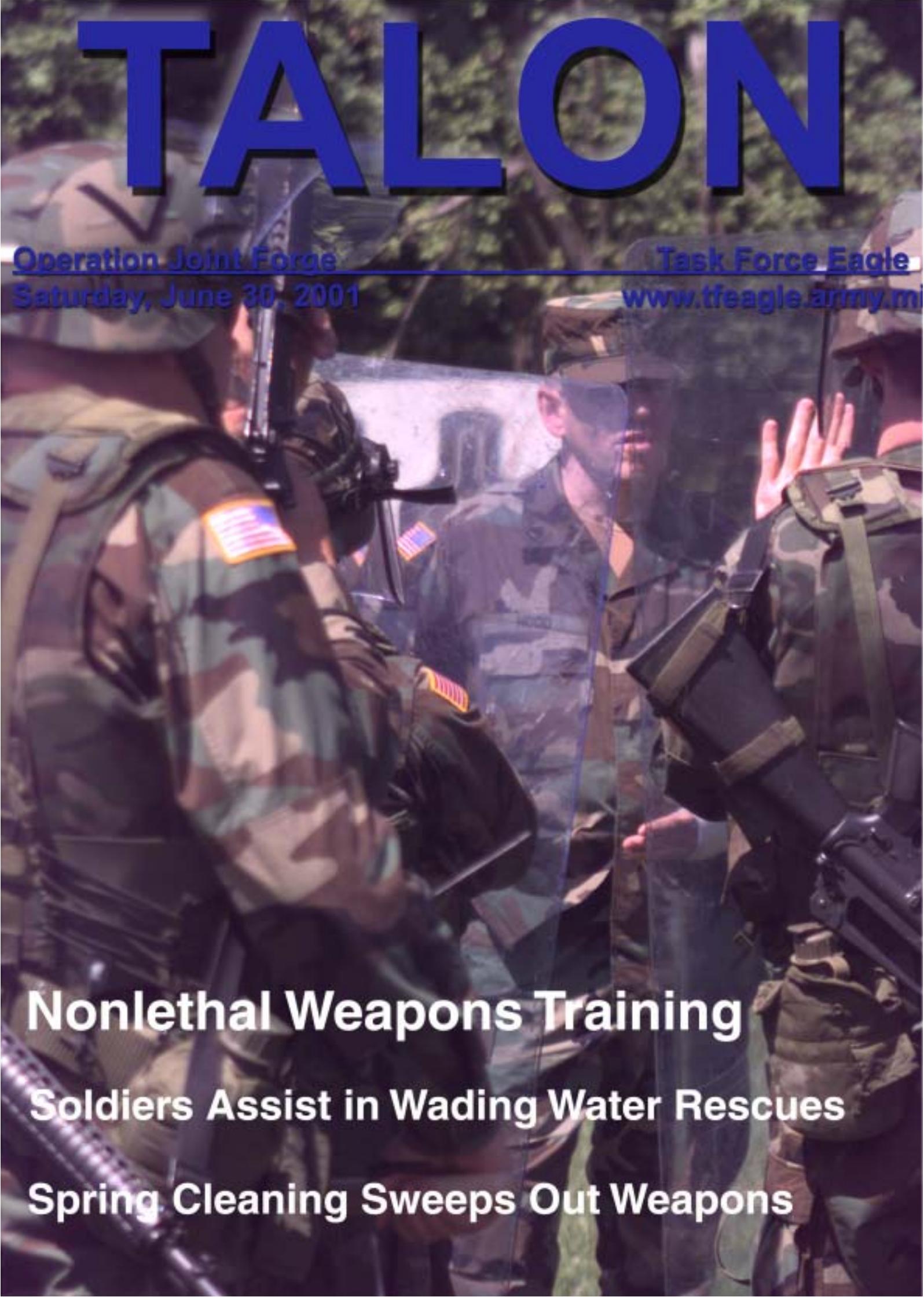


TALON



Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, June 30, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil

Nonlethal Weapons Training

Soldiers Assist in Wading Water Rescues

Spring Cleaning Sweeps Out Weapons

A Voice in a Distant Land

Jehosaphat's question, "Is there not a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?" (I Kings 22:7) is a question that should concern each of us. We live in a time when people seek the counsel of the worldly, rather than a prophet of God. We seem to look more to Hollywood, politicians, and to the educators of this world rather than to a belief system that has its roots in the word of almighty God.

Micaiah, standing alone, was the man of God for that hour. To whom do you turn when you face the difficult issues in life? When your world is crumbling and you are forsaken, from where will your help come? We need to seek the advice of God in his word and his faithful servants. Micaiah was just such a man.

Micaiah did not go the way of the crowd. Micaiah was determined to go God's way. As our society continues to lower the standard of godliness and morality, there is a greater need to speak and stand for the things of God. The Micaiahs of our day will stand for biblical truth, selfless service, and moral integrity. His day of testing came when he chose to follow his faith rather than succumb to the whims of an evil king. We too have our days of testing. We face them every day here in this distant land, this land that is not our own. Will we stand the test? Will we remain faithful? We need to remember, as God was with Micaiah, that he is here calling to us, a voice in this distant land.

Thoughts for the Week

Sunday: "...I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holy day." (Psalm 42:4)

Monday: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Psalm 95:7)

Tuesday: "...his sheep follow him because they know his voice." (John 10:4)

Wednesday: "But Micaiah said, 'as surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me'" (I Kings 22:14)

Thursday: "...hearken unto the voice of his word." (Psalm 103:20)

Friday: "Thy watchman shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing..." (Isaiah 52:8)

Saturday: "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelations 3:20)

Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Myers
Camp Comanche

TALON

Published in support of Operation Joint Forge
June 30, 2001
Volume 7, No. 26

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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:
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CONTENTS



ON THE COVER

6

From pepper spray to live-fire exercises, soldiers engage in four days of nonlethal weapons training on Eagle Base. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)



AFN TAKES ITS SHOW ON THE ROAD

8

Armed Forces Network broadcasters travel to 10 locations in as many days. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy)



SPRING CLEANING

10

During Spring Cleaning locals voluntarily turn in 23,259 pieces of ammunition. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Vivian Strupp)

Tax Advice-----	4
Rally Lifts Spirits-----	5
Russian and American Troops Exchange-----	9
Independence Day Events-----	12

Commentary

SJA Advises Deployed Soldiers About Advance Tax Payment/Credit

by Capt. Mike Larson
Eagle Base
Staff Judge Advocate's Office

You may have heard that the Internal Revenue Service will mail checks next month to taxpayers, due to the recently signed tax cut legislation. Rest assured that your status as a deployed soldier will not cause you to lose your Advance Tax Payment, even if you have not yet filed your taxes for 2000. The following questions and answers are intended to explain this process.

Q: What exactly is the Advance Tax Payment / Credit and who does it apply to?

A: The IRS and the Treasury Department will begin sending out advance payments later this summer under a new tax law passed by Congress and signed by President Bush. This is separate from your regular tax return refunds. This payment is a reduction of tax and is not taxable income on the federal tax return. Single taxpayers who paid Federal income taxes for 2000 could receive up to \$300.

Heads of households could get up to \$500, and married couples could receive up to \$600. Anyone who could have been claimed as a dependent on another person's 2000 tax return is not eligible for a check. Individuals who have not yet filed a tax return for 2000 will not get any advance payment check until the IRS processes that return. The law states that Treasury may not send out any advance

payments after December. Taxpayers will not have to complete applications, file any extra forms, or call the IRS to request their payments. Taxpayers who have moved should file a change of address form with the U.S. Postal Service to ensure the checks go to the correct address. Taxpayers may also notify the IRS directly by filing Form 8822, "Change of address."

Q: If I qualify for the 2001 Advance Tax Payment / Credit, will I lose it if I extend filing year 2000 tax returns?

A: No. Taxpayers who would have received the credit but for having not filed their 2000 tax returns (due to deployment extension or any other legitimate reasons) will still be entitled to the credit. A taxpayer entitled to the advance payment for this year may claim a credit on their 2001 tax returns.

Q: What is the time frame for mailing the 2001 advance payment checks?

A: It will take the Treasury about three months to mail checks to those who have already filed their 2000 Federal tax returns. By mid-July, the IRS will send taxpayers a letter describing the amount of the advance payment check, the week it will be sent and the possibility of an offset for an outstanding debt.

Recipients should keep the letter for reference when completing their 2001 returns.

The IRS will also send a letter of explanation to taxpayers who are not

eligible for the payment.

Q: Do I need to file my taxes from Bosnia?

A: The IRS affords soldiers deployed to a Combat Zone or Qualified Hazardous Duty Area an automatic filing extension.

Since Bosnia is considered a QHDA, soldiers and spouses are automatically given the filing extension.

The extension is 180 days, plus one day for everyday that the soldier is here during the filing season up to a maximum of 285 days.

Q: How do I apply for the automatic extension?

A: You do not need to fill out any IRS forms or apply for the automatic extension. It is *automatic*.

When you do eventually file your return or if you receive any correspondence from the IRS, you must write across the top of your return or correspondence, "Qualified Hazardous Duty Area Bosnia-Herzegovina." This is all that you have to do.

Q: How do I file from Bosnia?

A: Both electronic and paper filing is done at the tax center free of charge. Unit Tax Advisors are available at the base camps to assist with tax preparation and to send returns to Eagle Base for Electronic filing.

Please call Cpl. Amber Mutter at 762-0325 or Capt. Mike Larson at 762-2122 for more information or an appointment.

Army's Old Slogan was All it Could Be

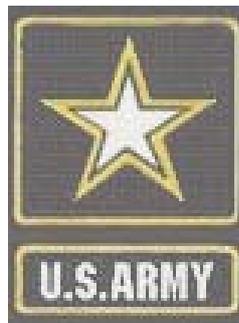
by Maj. Gen. L.D. Gottardi
Chief of Public Affairs

Change is never easy. We're grateful many people loved our previous advertising campaign. But careful research found that "Be All You Can Be" simply lost some of its appeal with America's youth over two decades.

The real question remains whether America's youth will find the new Army advertising appealing.

Ads now feature real soldiers discussing 212 ways they serve in the U.S. Army and 180 ways in the U.S. Army Reserve.

American youth learn in these ads about men and women their own ages serving our nation proudly. The campaign discusses camaraderie and core values. The ads stress overcoming challenges and achieving a solid transformation



for a better life.

In fact, "An Army of One" unites two messages: the teamwork that makes our Army powerful and the importance of our greatest strength — the American soldier.

The initial response to these ads is highly encouraging, and we'll continue regular assessments to determine the campaign's effectiveness.

We are confident with the results so far and optimistic that time will tell whether this campaign reaches its most valued audience:

patriotic young men and women who wish to learn, grow and serve the United States.

(Editor's note: Maj. Gen. L.D. Gottardi wrote this commentary as a letter to the editor of *USA Today* in response to an article critical of the new "An Army of One" slogan.)

Soldiers Make High-Water Rescue

Story by Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Eagle Base
Photos by Maj. Wesley Girvin
Camp McGovern

A team of American soldiers stationed at Camp McGovern came to the rescue June 19, helping a number of Bosnian nationals trapped in their homes by floodwaters. Three days of unending rain had left roads washed out and residents stranded.

Sixteen people were trapped in their homes in Srebrenik by the rising waters. The Tactical Support Team at Camp McGovern, troops from 1st Platoon, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, from Camp Coyote, and the Bosnian Civil Protection Unit joined forces to help rescue the families.

Maj. Wesley Girvin, a member of the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, College Park, Md., is the TST's S-5. He said the team received a phone call from the police chief in Srebrenik, asking for their help.

"The police chief of Srebrenik Opstina sounded desperate and said they were in need of assistance for these people that were trapped by the river that had risen so quickly," he said.

When the TST arrived at the scene, they found 1st Lt. Don Smith, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lane, and the rest of 1st Platoon, who had been sent to find the best route to bring the civilians across the rising waters, said Maj. Girvin. "They already had a rope in the water and started bringing people across," he said. "They had tied the rope to a tree on the safe side of the floodwaters, and then on the other side where the families were."



Soldiers of Company D, 3-153rd Infantry control a guide rope to help Donji Potpec residents escape floodwaters.

People weren't the only thing rescued, Maj. Girvin said. A cow, the family's only source of income, had to be led across the rushing waters.

"I am just as proud to have helped with that," he said.

Capt. Eric Baumgardner, a team chief with the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, said the people weren't aware of the danger caused by

the rising waters. He helped bring the children and adults through the floodwaters to safety. He remembered one little girl he helped across.

"I told the interpreter to tell her to hold on tight," he said. "She was hold-ing on to me so tight I c o u l d n ' t breathe.

"I remember on the way across, she was humming a song; this calmed her, and me as well," Capt. Baumgardner added.

After 14 people and the cow were rescued, only an elderly couple remained. The group spent 30 minutes trying to convince them to go across because the water was rising, Capt. Baumgardner said. The woman was an invalid, and her husband didn't want to risk moving her because of her medical condition. After a discussion between the TST, Company D, the Civil Protection Unit and the husband, they decided to leave them behind and the Srebrenik Police would check on them later, he said.

"I went to shake his hand, and he reached out with both hands and grabbed mine and shook them. He patted me on the shoulder and smiled," Capt. Baumgardner said, "as if to tell me everything was all right."

Staff Sgt. Richard S. Caldwell, infrastructure projects noncommissioned officer for the 450th, said the team tried everything to convince the elderly couple to get out, but they couldn't force them to go. Staff Sgt. Caldwell said they were genuinely concerned about the elderly couple, and intended to check up on them to make sure they were all right.

Staff Sgt. Caldwell said that the waters had risen a foot in two hours.

"We found immediately that once the water was waist deep and cold, that there was a possibility of people going into hypothermia," he said. "Some had no shoes on, and very thin clothing." The families stayed with friends and relatives that lived nearby until the waters receded enough to get back to their homes, said Staff Sgt. Caldwell.



Staff Sgt. Richard Caldwell, a Tactical Support Team member from Camp McGovern, carries a child to safety after heavy rains flooded areas around Donji Potpec, Bosnia.

Chaplains Sponsor Spiritual Fitness

Story by Chaplain (Maj.) Thomas Durham
Eagle Base

Time is our most precious resource, and every month the Unit Ministry Teams supporting Eagle Base invite soldiers and civilians to set aside a bit of that resource to focus on spiritual fitness.

The monthly Spiritual Fitness Rally begins early, at 6:30 a.m., in Minue Park. In the event of bad weather, the rally moves into the Chapel.

Singing, scripture reading, words of

encouragement, prayer and fellowship make for a meaningful start to the day.

As Brig. Gen. Robley Rigdon, assistant division commander of Multinational Division (North), said, "the first things we do in the morning really set the stage for the rest of the day. I can't think of a better way to start the day than to take time for my spiritual fitness."

The rally is like the unit prayer breakfasts offered by UMTs back home, only without the breakfast!

It provides an opportunity to pause from

the rush of the "Joint Forge Express" and reflect, with others of faith, on our core values – the very values that are the foundation of our Army Values.

As Brig. Gen. Rigdon said, "I am grateful for the opportunity that this event provides." He continued, "It says that we share some common spiritual values that make a difference in our daily lives and as we do our mission."

The next rally is scheduled for July 24. Those that attend will find it time well invested!

Soldiers Train with Nonlethal

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

Anyone running the track at Eagle Base June 22 may have noticed a group of soldiers crying nearby.

Soldiers? Crying?

The tears weren't of sadness or joy, but from a healthy dose of pepper spray, delivered right between the eyes.

As part of a four-day nonlethal weapons training exercise, soldiers from the 223rd Military Police Company, the Personal Security Detail, 1st and 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, and 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry became familiar with weapons and tactics designed to subdue and control riots.

According to a Department of Defense policy letter, nonlethal weapons are those that are explicitly designed and primarily employed so as to incapacitate personnel or material, while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury to personnel, and undesired damage to property and the environment.

"Unlike conventional lethal weapons that destroy their targets principally through blast, penetration and fragmentation, nonlethal weapons employ means other than gross physical destruction to prevent the target from functioning. They have relatively reversible effects on personnel or material, and they affect objects differently within their area of influence," the policy states.

"To the novice, nonlethal weapons means no one will die. Nonlethal weapons are not a replacement for deadly force," said course instructor Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hood, a platoon sergeant with the 92nd Military Police Company, Baumholder, Germany. "They can cause serious injury or even death."

Nonlethal weapons enhance the capabilities of U.S. forces to accomplish the following objectives:

- Discourage, delay, or prevent hostile actions.

- Take military action in situations where use of lethal force is not the preferred option.
- Better protect our forces.
- Temporarily disable equipment facilities and personnel.

The need for nonlethal weapons training increased considerably after a civil disturbance in Sevece, Kosovo, in April 2000.

Soldiers from the 709th MP Battalion successfully used nonlethal measures to disperse a hostile crowd. Since then, nonlethal tactics have been included as part of civil disturbance training, Sgt. 1st Class Hood said.

"In the long run, these capabilities will save lives, both ours and theirs," said Sean Strate, nonlethal capabilities program manager for United States Army Europe. "It gives leaders another tool in their toolbox."

Other course instructors felt the same way.

"This is an asset to the commander on the levels of force he can employ," said Capt. James Meredith, operations officer for the directorate of training, 7th Army Training Command, Grafenwoehr, Germany.

"We're training them on levels of force. Nonlethal is one level that is available to them," he said. "There is no magic boundary line deciding when to use lethal force; it's at the commander's discretion if he or she are supported by the rules of engagement."

"It increases their capabilities in fighting against land forces and builds their confidence," said Sgt. 1st Class Hood.

The four-day training period consisted of tactical considerations, a classroom overview of nonlethal operations, open-hand control techniques designed to restrain and control individuals, baton and shield training, and platoon movements, in which riot control formations worked together as a central force, according to Capt. Meredith.

"This training teaches us how to disperse crowds and regain law and order in an area of operations," said Sgt. Frank Mulder, a team leader with the 223rd Military Police Company. "We learned how to remove an instigator from what would otherwise be a peaceful crowd."

"If you can take someone down and cuff them safely, it saves time, energy and ammo," he added.

Day four of the training, "judgment day," put all the new skills into practice with a leaders' scenario and live-fire exercise. It concluded with a rite of passage – Oleoresin Capsicum (also known as pepper spray) certification, according to Capt. Meredith.

During the live-fire exercise, soldiers used sponge grenades and stinger balls, which are small, rubber-tipped projectiles fired out of conventional weapons, and designed to incapacitate individuals, according to Sgt. 1st



Loaded with nonlethal rounds, Spc. Steven Powell with 1st Platoon, Company A, 2-121st Infantry, takes aim with an M-16 rifle during civil disturbance training.



Soldiers from the 223rd Military Police Company, the Personal Security Detail, 2-121st Infantry, 1-121st Infantry, and 3/7th Cavalry, participate in riot-control formation movements during nonlethal weapons training on Eagle Base.

al Weapons

Class Hood.

“A sponge grenade is designed to hit someone and knock them down. At 20 meters or more, it can knock a grown man right off his feet,” he said. There are other nonlethal measures used in civil disturbances. Tactics include using K-9 units to handle rioters, the use of fire hoses to scatter crowds, and firing beanbags out of shotguns to subdue violent individuals, according to an Army video.

Near the end of the exercise, soldiers were sprayed with pepper spray, made from habanero peppers – the hottest in the world, Mr. Strate said.

“The pain has been described as feeling like hundreds of needles going into your eyes,” he said.

After getting sprayed, soldiers had to run a triangle-shaped route, ‘attacking’ soldiers wearing padded clothing, using the open-hand techniques learned in the course.

“The best part of the course was the open-hand combat training. It gives you a few simple but effective techniques that could save your life if you find yourself separated from your unit in a hostile crowd,” said Sgt. 1st Class Doug Tanner, platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Company A, 2-121.

“The course teaches you the skills you need, but it is up to the soldiers and leaders that complete the course to continue to practice these skills and rehearse the unit formations until they have mastered them,” he said.

“In a hostile, confusing, noisy and distracting situation, such as a demonstration, you can’t take time to think. Every action has to be synchronized, coordinated and therefore second nature for all the soldiers to be effective,” he said. During the exercise, soldiers barked orders such as, “Get back!” “Get down!” “Cross your legs now! Spread your arms now! Put your palms up! Don’t look at me, look forward! Do it now!”

The red-eyed soldiers thought the OC spray was the most unpleasant aspect of the course. “At first it felt like a fine mist, but almost immediately after, you felt an extreme burning sensation in your eyes, nose, mouth, and face,” Sgt. Mulder said. “It burns to the point where it’s almost unbearable. It’s about 10 times worse than the gas chamber in basic training.

“A good shot of OC will incapacitate most people and stop them in their tracks,” he added. “If you don’t have the motivation to move on it would make you want to just lay on the ground and curl up in a ball.”

Other soldiers agreed. “It’s almost impossible to describe being sprayed with OC pepper spray. Words just don’t seem to even come close,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tanner. “The longer you are exposed to the OC, the worse the pain becomes. After a minute or two of exposure you are virtually blind, and in extreme agony. The worst part is that removing the contamination does not bring immediate relief. For five minutes after removing the OC with water, I struggled painfully to open my eyes and it was virtually impossible to stand still or concentrate,” he said. “Even several hours later, my face and eyes were red and felt sunburned, my lips were numb and swollen, and my eyes were sensitive to direct sunlight.”

Soldiers thought everyone worked together well and adhered to the Army value of personal courage.

“The most amazing thing, really, is that people will voluntarily let this be done to them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tanner. “We didn’t force anyone. Everyone stepped forward without hesitation, even after watching others suffer through the entire process,” he said.

“Different groups had to come together and merge into one working team,” said Sgt. Mulder.

The course instructors were also praised for their time and efforts.

“The instructors were clearly subject-matter experts,” said Sgt.



Spc. Eric Barrett, 2-121st Infantry experiences OC spray right between the eyes during nonlethal weapons training.

Mulder. “Some of them have been in Kosovo during actual riots. They never hesitated to answer any of our questions, and all showed a great deal of professionalism.”

The five-member instructor team, recognizable by their black t-shirts, will train soldiers at Camp McGovern before returning to Eagle Base to teach another group of soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Hood, who served in Kosovo during the riots, said, “Quelling a civil disturbance involves showing up with a reasonable amount of force and knowing how to use that force. A lot of crowds will disperse based on military presence alone.

“This platoon is now among the best trained on nonlethal tactics than anyone else in the Army.”



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Hood readies rubber-tipped sponge grenades, used to take down unruly rioters, during nonlethal weapons training.

(Right) Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Finks, also known as 'Phat Boy', enjoys the Italian national anthem, as sung by the Carabinieri, live at Camp Butmir.



(Far Right) Petty Officer 1st Class Monica Fisher does last-minute checks on the sound cables before the Camp Butmir remote broadcast.



AFN Goes for "Remote" Access

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy Eagle Base

Ten locations, 10 days.

That's what the Armed Forces Network Balkans team did during their recent remote-broadcast sweep, visiting all base camps and achieving something never attempted by any Stabilization Force rotation: take radio personalities to their fans from Camp McGovern to Kosovo.

Although the number of AFN's listeners tops 12,000, the majority are a great distance away from the Eagle Base-based AFN Balkans. So it was decided to take the show to the people.

The servicemembers behind the voices of the popular "Phat Boy Morning Show" and the "Mark and Michele All-Request Afternoon" got a chance to see and speak with their audiences and the technicians got to show-off their skills in field-type environments, according to Sgt. 1st Class Rich Greene, AFN Balkans detachment commander.

"It's a way for us to actually see our audience, to see their living conditions and let them know we are here for them," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Angie Pianga, a broadcaster. There are listeners who call during her program whom she was eager



Senior Airman Alia Naffouj-Ward (left) and Air Force Staff Sgt. Angie Pianga arrange promotional give-aways.

to meet face to face, she said.

Remote radio broadcasts themselves are nothing new for AFN broadcasters and technicians. Last October a team did a show from a haunted house set up on Eagle Base, and during this year's Eagle Base Memorial Day picnic, AFN personnel broadcasted from Minue Park. The latter show was the tune-up for the ambitious plan set for the team by Sgt. 1st Class Greene.

"I got to thinking, 'Why can't we do it - let's take the show on the road,'" he said.

The remote broadcast idea may have been his, but for it to work, Sgt. 1st Class Greene knew he needed help, both externally and from within his detachment. An evaluation of his current team - a mix of Air Force, Navy and Army personnel - told him he had the right blend of talent and enthusiasm. AFN Balkans is an affiliate of AFN Europe, and due to different deployment lengths of the services, the personnel in the detachment changes almost monthly.

Calls to Morale, Welfare and Recreation and American Red Cross representatives at Eagle Base were met with cooperation and interest. "Casey [Malloy, MWR Chief] contacted the MWR reps at the base camps. He got us access to [phone] lines and arranged for us to be set up in good locations," Sgt. 1st Class Greene said. MWR let the AFN Balkans team borrow public-address at each site, and both MWR and ARC donated give-aways.

"For us, working with AFN is a partnership," said Mr. Malloy. "Even at the last minute, they are always willing to help us get a spot on the air. It's a 'one team, one fight' situation, and we were happy to help them."

A slightly different mix of broadcasters and technicians made the drive or flight to each location, so everyone at AFN Balkans had the experience of doing a remote broadcast. Once on site, the PA equipment, mixer and phone line to Eagle Base were connected, and the team was ready to air.

"We had the right equipment, the right

amount of desire and the right people," Sgt. 1st Class Greene said of the success of the endeavor.

The plan of 10 remotes in 10 days seemed in jeopardy when bad weather turned AFN back before they could get to Tazsar, Hungary. They landed instead at Camp McGovern a day earlier than planned, where the first remote was conducted in the pouring rain. The next broadcasts were at Camp Comanche, Forward Operating Base Connor and Camp Butmir in Sarajevo.

A bigger challenge, if only because of the logistics required to travel there, was visiting the Kosovo Force area, when the team dropped in on its listeners at Camp Bondsteel twice, and Monteith, Pristina, and Vitina, Kosovo. The remote-broadcast project was complete June 16.

Senior Airman Michele Boyd, half of the All-Request Afternoon show, said she had a real desire to do the remotes.

"I know it was a lot of work, but it was great to actually meet some of the people I speak to when they call in," she said. She was especially motivated by the reception the team received at FOB Connor.

"It was unbelievable, really," she said. The soldiers at the base were thrilled at the attention, and were eager participants in the trivia games and other contests AFN Balkans team put on, she said.

"If you weren't sold on the idea [of remotes] before, you were after going to FOB Connor," said Petty Officer 1st Class Monica Fisher. She and Army Staff Sgt. Isa'ac Peterson comprise the "tech" portion of AFN. Their reception was so warm, Sgt. 1st Class Greene said, that there are plans to visit the forward-operating base monthly if logistics allow.

But why do so many remotes in such a short period of time? Aside from the challenge factor, there are other reasons as well, Sgt. 1st Class Greene said.

"One of the biggest reasons is the pressure factor, the sense of immediacy," he said. "When you turn up the heat, a lot of times people will shine."

U.S., Russian engineers:

Trading Places for 10 Days

Story by Sgt. Rhonda Morgan

Eagle Base

and Cadet Alexei Kornilov

1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade

Photos by 2nd Lt. David Hunter

Ten soldiers from both the 1st Peacekeeping Russian Separate Airborne Brigade and Company C, 648th Engineer Battalion were given the opportunity to switch places June 5-15.

Soldiers with the IPRSAB were brought to Eagle Base and stayed in Sapper Point barracks. Once the duty day was finished on Eagle Base, Russian and American engineers alike joined together to shoot pool, drink cappuccinos and even catch a flick.

“One of my highlights was having them stay on Eagle Base. There is a big difference in the living quarters and dining facilities here in comparison to theirs,” said 2nd Lt. David Hunter, platoon leader, 648th.

Meanwhile, engineers with the 648th, alongside the other members of IPRSAB, stayed in tents in Priboj, but not for too long, due to flooding. The soldiers were then brought back to Eagle Base for the remainder of the exchange.

“It was neat to look at how they live everyday. For example, for breakfast they had hard-boiled eggs and rice and chicken,” said Sgt. 1st Class Danny Deese, a 648th combat engineer.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Deese, many of the Russians enjoyed the facilities on Eagle Base. “I think they didn’t want to go back,” he said.

“Eagle Base is really different from all of our bases,” said Cadet Ilya Ignashev, a member of the information analysis group, IPRSAB, “particularly Camp Uglevik. We do not have things such as the cinema or cafes that makes things more comfortable. We are accustomed to more field-like conditions.”

During the exchange, soldiers integrated ideas for the reconstruction of a bridge in the town of Kravica, just a few miles from Forward Operating Base Connor. The reconstruction itself was expected to take a week but was finished in three days.

For most of the soldiers, this particular project was a chance to reunite with former co-workers and friends.

“Personnel were chosen from enlisted in my platoon who participated in the building of the bridge in Janja,” said Capt. Aleksei Elagin, IPRSAB commander. That project was the first of several U.S.-Russian engineer collaborations.

“It was very enjoyable. We worked with these same soldiers on the Janja bridge and it was nice to see each other again,” said 2nd Lt. Hunter.

The idea for the exchange came during a bilateral meeting in May between Lt. Col. Victor Zhuk, IPRSAB chief of engineers, and Lt. Col. Archie Pollock, commander of the 648th. The project was brought to life to forge partnerships, friendships and

strengthen mutual understanding, according to Lt. Col. Zhuk.

The teamwork and common bond of being both an engineer and soldier made it easy for the two groups to accept the individuals into their platoons. “They accepted us (those traded) right from the start,” said Sgt. 1st Class Deese.

Soldiers from both countries felt the exchange was an excellent change of pace. “The experience was good — because of the exchange, we helped the local people and got out of our usual routine,” said Capt. Elagin.

During the 10-day trade, soldiers learned about work ethics, communication, team-work and overcoming obstacles.

“I feel the exchange went very well. Personally, it gave me more respect towards the Russians, they are very hard workers,” said Pfc. Joshua White, 2nd platoon, 648th combat engineer.

Language wasn’t the only difference between the uniformed engineers, Pfc. White explained. “They are much more manual than we are. They use hatchets whereas we use chainsaws.”

“The only tools most of them brought to tear down the bridge were pry bars and shovels,” said Sgt. 1st Class Deese. “They are extremely hard workers; that’s what they’re taught.”

Soldiers traded more than physical labor. They also traded ideas on building

techniques, opinions on what tools to use and advice on making the reconstruction go more smoothly.

The 648th tried to demonstrate to the Russians some easier methods of getting the job done, Pfc. White said.

“We showed them how we use a crane to break apart the bridge, making it much more simple and easy,” said Sgt. 1st Class Deese.

“We got to see different ways to work, such as tools and techniques,” said Cadet Ignashev. “We also got to exchange different experiences we have each had.”

The exchange was more than just a project and a one-week education. For both Russian and American soldiers, it was an opportunity to gain insight.

“Everything I learned from this experience I can take back to my unit and use,” said Pfc. White.

The engineers hope to see more transactions occur in the future and include more assignments, including different types of reconstruction and building roads, according to Capt. Elagin.

Teamwork and partnership are just a couple of reasons the engineers want to continue events such as this.

“You never know who you’ll be working with. Doing this, you would know their good and bad areas. Peacekeeping is what we’re about,” said 2nd Lt. Hunter.

“I recommend we do this more often — the only improvement that I can see, is the tent be resituated,” stated Sgt. 1st Class Deese, with a chuckle.



The new Kravica bridge aids in surveillance and reconnaissance operations, combined patrols and freedom of movement.

'Spring Cleaning' Brings Month Brings Push for Weapons Collection

Story by
Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

"Spring Cleaning" are words that usually mean cleaning up one's house to get it ready for the approaching summer months. Here in Bosnia, they have an entirely different meaning.

Collecting weapons is a year-round effort, but for a month in the spring, a special emphasis is placed on it.

"Spring Cleaning" is the annual collection of weapons from the local population of Bosnia.

"It's an effort to make cities and villages safer for everyone by getting rid of all the weapons," said 1st Lt. Nick Vivian, the Joint Military Commission officer for Task Force

2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry at Camp Comanche.

"It's a program that is supposed to be led by the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina," he said.



Stockpiles of Russian AK-47's wait to be destroyed as part of "Spring Cleaning."
(photo by Staff Sgt. Roosevelt Alston)

"Our job is to track and monitor the destruction of the weapons," 1st Lt. Vivian said.

"All we do from a task-force level is use radio shows to encourage local officials, the local population and the AFBiH to harvest the weapons," said 1st Lt. Michael Freunden, Task Force 2-121's information operations officer.

"In the spring, Information Operations promotes "Operation Spring Cleaning," said 1st Lt. Freunden. "It's a surge period."

According to 1st Lt. Vivian, the local populace can turn their weapons in to AF in BiH or Stabilization Force soldiers at Forward Operating Base Conner or Camp Comanche.

"Some of the people are leery about giving up their weapons. They have lived so long relying on their weapons," said 1st Lt. Freunden. "They don't have a problem turning in mines and grenades, the stuff that can hurt them. With the

3-7 Cavalry Leads Weapons Collection Charge

Story by
Spc. Lewis M. Hilburn
Eagle Base

Task Force 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, was heavily involved in the recently concluded Spring Cleaning, or weapons turn-in program.

A report written by the Joint Military Commission states that the 3-7 Cavalry information operations campaign to promote Spring Cleaning and the turn-in of weapons for Operation Harvest was very successful in influencing the populace to turn in military weapons.

With the help of local mayors and police, local citizens turned weapons in large amounts. The towns of Gradacac, Samac and Orasje set up weapon turn-in points so that people could turn in the weapons they had.

Staff Sgt. Steven Currie, information operations NCOIC of the 3-7 Cavalry, said, "Working with the troop commanders, we were able to schedule dozens of meetings across the AOR (area of responsibility) to influence the mayors and police to take charge of Harvest."

The cooperation of the mayors, police and the Armed Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina

enhanced the creditability of the program and demonstrated the continued professionalism of the leadership in Bosnia. This program contributed significantly to the safe and secure environment of BiH, the report stated.

JMC reported that the 3-7 Cavalry put out press releases and conducted radio broadcasts on the turn-in sites, locations and times. Troop commanders of the 3-7 Cavalry did joint radio and TV shows with mayors and police speaking about the importance of the spring cleaning.

On the report it noted that mayors and police spoke on local radio shows and news broadcasts about Spring Cleaning. Ten community mayors helped spearhead the promotion by recording commercials that promoted the weapon turn-in. Police representatives from Orasje and Samac spoke on the Radio Mir Morning show, at Camp McGovern.

Brown and Root made signs and donated them to Orasje and Samac to attract attention to the sites. Psychological Operations made posters to put up near the sites and handbills, which were disseminated through patrols.

1st Lt. Robert Riley, in-

formation operations officer for the 3-7 Cavalry said, "Many communities are continuing harvest on their own and are very excited about it. I believe it has a greater impact on the people to have support from their elected officials rather than SFOR. This one change will likely make the program more successful than ever before."

JMC said that during the radio broadcasts, the 3-7 Cavalry focused on the dangers of weapons.

Emphasis was high on the fact that the weapons may fall in the hands of children and they may hurt themselves accidentally with them. Furthermore, old explosives are dangerous and there is a chance of unexpected detonation if not handled correctly.

The JMC report illustrated how well the Spring Cleaning program accomplished its mission. Prior to the program's promotion, small-arms ammunition turned in numbered less than 2,000 rounds per week. During the promotion, ammunition was turned in at a rate greater than 5,000 rounds per week, increasing to nearly 10,000 rounds per week toward the end of the month.

In other examples, anti-



Fifty-caliber barrels fall to the ground in pieces as they are cut with acetylene torch. Weapons collected from Operation Harvest are destroyed.
(photo by Staff Sgt. Vivian Strupp)

personnel mines were turned in at an exceptional rate during Spring Cleaning but none turned in prior to it, and the grenade turned-in number increased from 30 to 80 per week.

"The difference between this year's Spring Cleaning as compared with previous years was that the local municipalities ran most of the show," 1st Lt. Riley stated. "This is a great sign of improvement when the local communities start to run programs that were previously 100-percent SFOR," he said.

in Harvest of Weapons

weapons and ammo, though, they are a little more reluctant," he said.

A stockpile of several years' worth of weapons is scheduled for destruction in the coming months.

"A new memorandum has been put out to the AF in BiH saying all harvest weapons on inventory must be destroyed by the end of July," said 1st Lt. Vivian.

The AF in BiH has been hasn't destroyed harvested weapons for three years due to lack of funding and manpower, he added. "Multinational Division (North) feels it's time to get rid of the harvest."

SFOR currently has a large cache of weapons and ammunition scheduled for destruction. Six tons of weapons and 220,000 rounds of mixed-caliber ammunition are on the destruction block.

"It's a slow process, but it should pick up because we collected over half of their harvest," 1st Lt. Vivian said.

The soldiers at Camp Comanche add harvested weapons to their inventory each time they check a weapons storage site, he said.

"The AF in BiH then has three months to destroy those weapons," he added.

"On June 19, I went to all of the weapons



A T-55 tank runs over rifles, snapping them in pieces. (photo by Staff Sgt. Vivian Strupp)

storage sites that had inventories. We collected all the weapons and non-explosive harvest items," said 1st Lt. Vivian.

"On June 29, we are going to a steel mill in Zenica to melt down the weapons," he said. "The weapons will be palletized and transported by a HEMMTT (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck) to the Turkish sector."

Before the weapons are melted down, they are destroyed. Methods of destroying the weapons include running them over with a tank, cutting them with a blowtorch and blowing them up with explosives, said 1st Lt. Vivian.

"The raw materials will be given to the owner (of the mill) as thanks for letting us use the steel mill," said 1st Lt. Vivian.

Weapons Turn-In Program a Success

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Farrell
Eagle Base

Multinational Division (North) Stabilization Force and the Armed Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina continue to work and progress toward a safe and secure environment. This progress is illustrated through a program – Operation Harvest.

Now a Bosnia-led effort, the program encourages the constituent people of BiH to turn in any illegal or unwanted weapons and ammunition, and to report ordnance.

Operation Harvest is promoted year-round, but there is a Fall Harvest and Spring Cleaning period each year during which SFOR places extra media emphasis on the programs, and tries to get the local population to stress them also.

"Weapons harvest is an ongoing process," said Staff Sgt. Brian Green, G-3 operations NCO of MND(N), 48th enhanced Separate Brigade. "Twice each year, once in the spring and once in the fall, Information Operations and the Coalition Press Information Center launch a campaign," he said.

Spring Cleaning kicked off May 15th and concluded June 15th.

Originally, Operation Harvest started off as an SFOR-led and promoted program to encourage the populace to turn in weapons and ordnance.

Today, SFOR 9 is placing its main emphasis on getting authorities

to take ownership of the program.

"It has had very good success," said Maj. John King, G-3 chief of current operations, 48th eSB.

"The Armed Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the local police are the lead agencies," said Maj. King.

As part of the Harvest program, civilians turn in weapons and ammunition voluntarily, to any local authority, or to the International Police Task Force or SFOR personnel. The program has been in place since the first SFOR rotations, so the numbers collected have been decreasing, said Sgt. 1st Class Green.

During the Spring Cleaning timeframe this year, the total number of munitions collected in MND(N) include 102 weapons, 23,259 pieces of ammunition, 795 grenades, 70 land mines 293 kilograms of explosives, 99 fuses and 11 rocket engines.

Task Force 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, located at Camp McGovern, assisted in the collection of 44 weapons and 21,957 pieces of ammunition, 323 grenades and 45 land mines.

From areas around the Nordic-Polish Brigade, 28 weapons and 1057 pieces of ammunition were harvested, along with 442 grenades, 24 land mines and 11 rocket engines.

"Our focus and the focus of this program has been child safety," said Maj. King. "All persons, regardless of ethnicity, have participated in this program and it appears to be a unifying effort. Perhaps that is the reason for the program's success."

Independence Day Events

Eagle Base

Saturday, June 30

- 7:00 a.m. – 5k Fun Run, starts, Sports Complex
- 10:00 a.m. – Volleyball tournament, Minue Park
- 10:00 a.m. – Softball tournament, Softball Field
- 10:00 a.m. – 3-on-3 Basketball tournament, Air Force Gym
- 11:30 a.m. – 3-point shootout, Air Force Gym
- 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. – BBQ, Softball Field
- 4:30-8:00 p.m. – BBQ, Softball Field
- 6:00 p.m. – Enlisted/ Officer softball game, Softball Field
- 8:00 p.m. – “FYNE”, Triggers

Sunday, July 1

- 10:00 a.m. – Volleyball, softball and 3-on-3 basketball continues
- 10:00 a.m. – Tug-of-war and horseshoe competitions, Minue Park
- 12:00-4:00 p.m. – Dunking Booth, Minue Park
- 12:00 p.m. – Egg race, egg toss and balloon toss, Minue Park
- 12:00 p.m. – Spades and dominoes tournaments, Minue Park
- 4:00 p.m. – Independence Day ceremony, Minue Park
- 4:30 - 8:00 p.m. – Picnic, Minue Park
- 4:35 p.m. – Army awards presentation
- 5:00 p.m. – MWR awards presentation by Brig. Gen. Rigdon for Independence Day activities
- 7:00 p.m. – USO comedy show, Minue Park

Monday, July 2

- 12:00 p.m. – Deadline for Meaning of Freedom writing contest

Wednesday, July 4

- 7:00 p.m. – God and country celebration with Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Zimmerman (Ret), Chapel
- 8:00 p.m. – Danni Leigh USO show, Softball Field (rain location: Sports Complex)

Camp McGovern

Sunday, July 1

- 10:00 a.m. – 4-on-4 sand volleyball
- 1:00 p.m. – 1-pitch softball, officers vs. NCOs
- 2:00 p.m. – Horseshoe tournament
- 3:00 p.m. – 3-point basketball contest
- 4:00 p.m. – Awards ceremony
- 8:00 p.m. – USO comedy show

Camp Comanche

Sunday, July 1

- 8:00 a.m. – 5K Fun Run, Flag Pole
 - 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Dunkin’ Booth
 - 10:00 a.m. – Sit-up/push-up competitions, Gym
- Following Events In Comanche Park
- 10:35 a.m. – DJ Doug & Rock’n Rob all-day music
 - 11:00 a.m. – Pie Auction ONLY 20 PIES
- Comanche Belly Walk competition, hula hoop, egg race, egg toss, water balloon toss
- 12:25 p.m. – Opening ceremony, cake cutting, horseshoes, volleyball, tug-o-war, ‘Round the World basketball-3 point shoot-out
 - 1:00-7:00 p.m. – Comanche BBQ
 - 1:00 p.m. – Dunkin’ Booth hit list
 - 3:00 p.m. – Turn in all game stats to Bill Kirk
- Move party to Falcon Street for “Gator-Bike-HumV” parade
- 4:00 p.m. – Dunkin’ Booth open for volunteers
 - 5:00 p.m. – Retreat, Flag Pole
 - 5:10 p.m. – Move to Town Square
- Independence Day Awards ceremony
- 6:00-8:00 p.m. – “FYNE”, Cappuccino bar
 - 9:00-9:30 p.m. – Laser show, Comanche Field
 - 8:00 p.m. – Special occasion at Chenoa

Soldier on the Street

“What did you do while you were on R&R?”

I spent Christmas with my family and went on a spiritual retreat.”

1st Lt. Malinda Williams
103rd MI Battalion



I went home to see my fiancée. I also went home to see my sister’s dance recital. I casually planned the dates around that.”

Sgt. Robert Crawford
HHC 1-121 In

I went to see my son graduate. I also placed a new floor in my house, and spent my second week fishing.”

Staff Sgt. Philip White
Co. A, 148th LTF



I went to Germany, and my family flew in. We stayed in Garmisch, Germany, together”

Spc. Bruce Garcia
223rd MP Co.