

TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, August 4, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



TFME Conducts SERE Training
Engineers Train With Demining Flail
Studying the Environmental Impact of War

The Love of God

In his book, When Bad Things Happen To Good People, Harold S. Kushner tells the story of the youngster who came home from Sunday school where he had been taught the biblical story of the crossing of the Red Sea. His mother asked him what he had learned in class, and he told her: “The Israelites got out of Egypt, but Pharaoh and his army chased after them. They got to the Red Sea and they couldn’t cross it. The Egyptian army was getting closer. So Moses got on his walkie-talkie, the Israeli air force bombed the Egyptians, and the Israeli navy built a pontoon bridge so the people could cross.” The mother was shocked. “Is that the way they taught you the story?” “Well, no,” the boy admitted, “but if I told it to you the way they told it to us, you’d never believe it.”

That’s how the love of God is. His love is so great it’s hard to believe, but it’s true. Sometimes he works in our lives, marriages and families in such a way that it’s hard to explain to other people. In fact, sometimes his love, goodness and grace is so amazing, we can’t even understand it ourselves much less explain it to someone else. When talking about the ways of God, the prophet Isaiah explains it like this: “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9 KJV)

As men and women of faith, sometimes it isn’t so important for us to understand exactly “how” God works in our lives, as it is to understand “why” God works in our lives. God loves each and every one of us. “We love him, because he first loved us” (I John 4:19), and it is his desire that we would simply trust in him and be the recipients of his wonderful grace and love. And as we do that, we can become like Moses and the people of ancient Israel. We will experience the deliverance and salvation of God in our lives in such marvelous ways, that it will be almost too good to believe and even harder to explain! This is the love of God. See you in Chapel!

Thoughts For The Week

Saturday: “There are three things that remain — faith, hope, and love — and the greatest of these is love.” (I Corinthians 13:13)

Sunday: “Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand.” Mother Teresa

Monday: What a vast distance there is between knowing God and loving Him!” Blaise Pascal

Tuesday: Live with men as if God saw you, and talk to God as if men were listening.” Athenodorus

Wednesday: There are two things to do about the gospel; believe it and behave it.” Susannah Wesley

Thursday: Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.” William Shakespeare

Friday: Love looks through a telescope; envy, through a microscope.” Anonymous

Chaplain (Capt.) Bill Sheffield
Eagle Base

TALON

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648th Engineers hold exercise featuring a small piece of equipment that does big things. (Photo by Spc. Daniel W. Lucas)



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What Does Honor Mean to You?

By Spc. Gregory Atkins
Camp Comanche

This essay was the winning submission in the Task Force Eagle Army Values Essay Contest, sponsored by the Equal Opportunity Office. Spc. Atkins is a member of Company A, 148th Logistical Task Force, Georgia National Guard. He is assigned at Camp Comanche as the driver for the camp's Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Allen. He wrote and submitted the essay to improve his writing skills and compare his abilities with other soldiers'. Spc. Atkins has been active in continuing his education; he has earned 38 semester hours toward a bachelor's degree in psychology.

As I sat in a seat at the Eagle Base theater, munching on some heavily buttered popcorn, I realized the deadline was near for the essay contest. "What should I write about?" I pondered. The movie started and the audience rose for the playing of the National Anthem. I stood at attention and watched the screen as images of the world's best military flashed before me. I started to get goosebumps when the cymbals crashed and the tempo of the song exploded toward a finale. I was overcome with a great sense of pride of knowing that I belonged to a great army. Then I realized another feeling I was experiencing was that of honor.

Honor is one of the Army core values that exist in all of us. It is shown through our appearance and manner in which we carry ourselves. Our honor shines through when we stop and salute the colors at reveille, or at a funeral, honoring the fallen soldier that lies underneath the draped flag. We exhibit honor by the manner at which we work, knowing that the Army does not function without 100 percent of our effort. Honor is a characteristic we hold within.

We also display Honor as an act of respect toward others. We honored our parents and spouses with a card or a phone call on Mother's and Father's Day, showing our appreciation. We honored our founding fathers when we celebrated the Army's birthday, and we honored our fallen brethren when we placed a wreath at the flagpole on Memorial Day. Honor is an act of respect.

I think of honor as both a valued characteristic and as an act of respect. Every time I see Old Glory wave in the great blue sky, I am overwhelmed with a great sense of pride and honor. Every moment I see myself in this distinctive uniform, I feel honor from within. Every time I stand at attention before the playing of a movie, the goosebumps that appear during the playing of our anthem reminds me of the great honor I have for our flag and country. I have great honor, and it lies within me.

The Thrill of Victory and Agony of Injuries

By Capt. Sam Gethers
Eagle Base Safety Officer

When it comes to recreational sports everyone has their favorite, whether it's volleyball, weightlifting, softball or basketball. They are all fun and help us relax. However, having a referee officiating the game is only one way of receiving a penalty. The other is suffering from a sports injury. Most of the time these debilitating injuries take us away from the game we love most.

There are ways to "call a time out" from sports injuries. We have all heard of precursors to sports and exercise such as proper stretching, warm-ups, wearing the proper gear and good sportsmanship. However, there are more involved aspects to proper preparation before beginning your exercise or event.

There's hardly an athlete alive — "weekend warrior", amateur, or professional — who hasn't known the pain, disappointment and frustration that can result from a fitness-related injury. Even though some accidents are beyond our control, following these guidelines for exercising safely can prevent the majority of fitness injuries.

WARM UP/COOLDOWN

The most important times for preventing fitness injuries occurs while

you're not even engaged in your activity! The period before and after exercise are critical times for preventing unnecessary pain and injury.

By warming up for five-10 minutes prior to exercise with gentle activities like running in place, you can increase your blood flow to inactive muscles and gradually raise your heart rate to its target zone. Similarly, you can gradually lower your heart rate by simply walking for five-10 minutes after exercise.

STRETCH

Gentle static stretching is actually a part of the warm-up/cool-down process. Stretching before exercise limbers tight muscles and improves joint flexibility thereby reducing your risk of sprains and tears. Concentrate on stretching those muscles used in your particular activity. For example, runners will want to concentrate on stretching of the legs. Static stretching for a few minutes after exercise is also recommended to prevent muscle soreness.

USE OF PROPER EQUIPMENT

Improper equipment, worn exercise shoes, a bicycle too small/large, etc., can cause more harm than is generally realized. Always check your equipment before and after your activity and be sure to make replacements or repairs promptly. Your worn out running shoes may bring "good

luck," but they can also bring you an ankle or leg injury if they fail to support your foot properly. Even though cycling places less stress on bones and joints than other high-impact sports, not using the proper equipment can lead to debilitating injuries.

USE SAFETY DEVICES

Helmets, goggles, mitts, braces, guards, pads, even sunscreen, are just a few of the numerous safety devices available for today's active servicemember. Each activity carries its own risks, and which devices you use will depend on your particular activity. The point, however, is to use them. While some safety gear may feel awkward or "look funny," keep in mind that these minor inconveniences are far outweighed by the risk reduction you will enjoy.

USE COMMON SENSE

The most important factor in fitness injury prevention is common sense. Make sure your muscles are conditioned before engaging in vigorous activities and use the right equipment and available safety devices. Fitness should be fun. The best way to enjoy your activity and prevent unnecessary injuries is to use your common sense.

Remember, play it safe and keep your head in the game.

Water, Safety and the Soldier

714th Prev. Med. tests water, soil and air, ensuring safety

Stories by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz
Eagle Base

It's a humid August afternoon and you're out of bottled water. The connex is all the way at the other end of Iron Horse Bluffs, and the latrine is just a few feet away. Do you walk all the way across the dusty gravel just to haul back a case of water? Or do you sneak some from the tap in the nearby latrine?

If you're like most soldiers, you'll walk to the connex before you drink water from the tap.

Many soldiers here believe the tap water on base is unsafe to drink, but this is not the case.

"At any base camp you could stop drinking bottled water tomorrow and drink the water straight out of the tap; it's been treated, it's potable and safe to drink," said Lt. Col. Robert Carlson, environmental officer for the Base Camp Coordinating Agency, 416th Engineer Command.

We all know that war and industry can damage the environment and leave potential threats to soldiers. Those who venture off base have seen rivers riddled with trash, and locals that don't seem to be too environmentally savvy.

The Army makes sure an area is safe before sending soldiers there.

"Before we open a base, we conduct an assessment. We look at force protection concerns, past chemical and environmental

hazards, and any area that could pose an environmental threat. In theory, you don't want to open a base camp where signs of environmental hazards are present," said 1st Lt. Michael Terry, executive officer for the 714th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine), Ft. Bragg, N.C.

"Bosnia has been studied since 1996 because of what happened in the Gulf War. Because of these studies we now know that there are little to no environmental hazards posed to the soldiers stationed here," he said.

"We can work with government organizations to improve the way things are processed and disposed of. We want to improve the environmental control methods to reduce the threat of environmental hazards to soldiers and civilians," he said.

Case in point: water safety.

"When a new camp opens, we take a sample of the water supply and bring it back to test it. We use a chemical to detect fecal and urine contamination, and we also test for its chlorine content," said Pfc. Kelly Hester, a preventive medicine specialist with the 714th.

"In some cases the tap water is safer to drink than bottled water. The tap water on base has chlorine in it and bacteria can't grow. There is no chlorine in the bottled water. If bottles are left open, new bacteria can form," she said.

Pfc. Hester advised that the water outside the base camps was not suitable for consumption.

"Drinking contaminated water can lead to cholera, other forms of dysentery and diarrhea. These can make you very sick,"

she said. "If you drive through the local towns, you will notice people carrying bottled water. The water outside the base camps is dirty and contaminated and the people don't trust it," she added.

All MND(N) base camps take measures to provide soldiers with safe drinking water.

"Every base camp has means of making water potable by Army and Environmental Protection Agency standards. Brown and Root complies with these standards, and we do the quality control to make sure they are maintaining these standards," said 1st Lt. Terry. "All base camps have a water treatment plant. Most of the installations have wells – Eagle Base alone has nine. If these become contaminated, we can use water from Camp Coyote," he said.

"The water from Coyote's large treatment plant is shipped by truck to the other base camps. It is then stored in big bladders throughout post. These bladders are connected to the faucets in the latrines and kitchens" said. Pfc. Hester. "When we first arrived here, the water was not safe, so IFOR issued bottled water. The water is safe now, but we keep bottled water around in case something happens in the shipping process," she said.

Soldiers with the 714th have other duties besides surveying base camps and testing water. They also conduct tests on air and soil to make sure the base is safe.

In addition to ensuring our environmental safety, the 714th performs health inspections of dining facilities, snack bars, gyms, barbershops and sea huts. They also offer field sanitation classes and monitor sexually transmitted diseases and food-borne illnesses.

War's Environmental Toll

All too often we have heard stories of the casualties of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tales that bring to mind disquieting and vivid images of homeless mothers, murdered fathers and buildings riddled with bullet holes. But there remains another casualty: the environment.

For example, something as simple as cutting down a few trees can lead to the erosion of soil. Without soil you have nothing to plant crops on, and without crops you have nothing to harvest and nothing to feed livestock with. This trickle-down effect ultimately leads to a shortage of food, according to Lt. Col. Robert Carlson, environmental officer for the Base Camp Coordinating Agency, 416th Engineer Command.

The Army isn't standing idly by while the environment gets trashed. The military is taking measures to assist in environmental protection and awareness, according to Lt. Col. Carlson.

One such measure is an environmental presentation on the impact of war in BiH. The presentation, given last month by Dr.

Hajrudin Simicic, professor of environmental sciences and environmental engineering at the University of Tuzla, covered aspects of Bosnia's pre-war environmental state, as well as effects during and after the war.

Prior to the war, environmental conditions were very poor. "Problems with air pollution include the impact on human health, water acidification, the impact on natural ecosystems, depletion of the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect," said Dr. Simicic.

The war here caused dramatic events to occur, affecting both the people of BiH and their surrounding environment. Ironically, some of the effects of war actually had a positive affect on the environment, according to Dr. Simicic. Prior to the war, there were few environmental regulations. Industries and factories dumped waste freely. During the war, electricity was lost and industries shut down. As a result, the rivers became cleaner and the air had fewer pollutants, Dr. Simicic said.

Continued on Page 12

Mini-Flail Cuts Path to Safety Dur

Story and photos by
Spc. Daniel Lucas
Camp McGovern

A victim lies motionless in the center of a suspected minefield at Bedrock, an old engineer base during Implementation Force and early Stabilization Force rotations. The only hope he has for survival is an extraction team from the 648th Engineers.

Minutes after they are notified at Eagle Base, helicopters take off with two mini-flails, which are remote-control demining vehicles, and two rapid-extraction crews from 1st and 2nd platoons, 648th Combat Engineers, to save his life. Within the hour, the wounded soldier is airlifted via Blackhawk with the help of Task Force Medical Eagle to the nearest hospital.

This was the scenario for a mine-victim rapid-extraction exercise conducted July 6 by Company C, 648th Engineers, a National Guard unit from Georgia.

"This was a demonstration of engineer skills for a minefield extraction," said 1st Lt. Jason Ball, executive officer of Co. C, and acting commander of the exercise. "This is a practical exercise because

there are soldiers still working in minefields in the country. This a task the engineers could be called upon to perform." There are drills every week to ensure the engineers' readiness," he said.

"We have done this type of training in the Mission Readiness Exercise," said 1st Sgt. Charles Crews, first sergeant of Co. C. "We had some of the highest scores that any National Guard unit that has ever had at the MRE."

He said his unit was the first to sling-load a mini-flail and have it lifted by helicopter. "Normally we just put them on trailers and drive them to where we are going," said 1st Sgt. Crews. "But this way we can get it hooked up and enroute to the site in a matter of minutes."

The remote-controlled mini-flail clears about a one-meter path through a minefield by pelting the ground with metal chains, setting off mines in its path.

It can withstand the blasts of up to four anti-personnel mines and still be functional, said 1st Sgt. Crews. The mini-flail can be controlled from up to 100 meters away if it is clear



(Above) **Sgt. Duwayne Foret controls the mini-flail** (above right) **from a distance as it beats a path to the victim.** (Near Right) **A Blackhawk airlifts a mini-flail to the location of the exercise.**



ing Demining Exercise



(Above) **Sgt. Bruce Williams, Co. C, 648th Eng.,** makes sure that the flail didn't miss any of the mines.

ground and there are no obstructions. But, the operator can stand as close as 30 meters away to operate the remote control and still be a safe distance away. However, the controller needs to be wearing all of his protective gear to be that close to the flail.

"Driving them around is really no problem," said Sgt. Duwayne Foret, a combat engineer from, Co. C, and operator of the mini-flail during the exercise. According to Sgt. Foret, the only problem is that as the flail chains hammer the ground, they do so at an angle, dragging the remote control deminer off course.

"Usually I just have to do just a little bit at a time to make sure that it goes in a straight line," he said.

Every soldier in the combat engineer unit gets to drive the flails around during the routine weekly 'exercise' the vehicles need to stay in operational condition.

The mini-flail isn't fool-proof, said 1st Lt. Ball, which is why there is always a back-up.

"These mini-flails are only 99 percent effective at destroying mines," said 1st Lt. Ball. "That is why we follow the mini-flail with mine detectors."

After the mini-flail has cut a path to the victim and has

cleared an area around him, Sgt. Bruce Williams, a combat engineer team leader with Co. C, and mine-detector operator for the exercise, checks the cleared path with a metal detector. Sgt. Williams uses the metal detector to make sure that the path to the victim is cleared.

Following the mine detector is Spc. Anthony D. Dean from Co. C, marking the path cleared by the flail and double-checked by Sgt. Williams and the mine detector.

Spc. Michael C. Levasseur and Spc. Tanya M. Bradley, from Task Force Med. Eagle's 141st Medics, can then go to the victim and administer first aid.

"Our job is to maintain life support to the victim until he can make it to an aid station or a hospital," said Spc. Bradley.

As soon as immediate first aid was administered, a helicopter was called to airlift the victim off the scene. A smoke grenade was used to signal the helicopter of

the exact location of the downed victim and Sgt. Scott Dewitt from the 1022nd Air Evacuation unit was lowered by a cable from the helicopter above to help the

lifted.

"I think that the training went extremely well," said 1st Lt. Ball. "Sure there were a few small snags, but that is to be expected. But the

wounded soldier be

mission went very, very well. The medics we had attached to us were the best teams of medics that those units have. The teams from 1st and 2nd platoons that went out to recover the mock victims were the best

teams that we have. I wish that the mini-flail had more power to tear through the tough rock, but it is worth it if it saves soldiers lives."

(Left) **Spc. Tanya Bradley** reassures the "victim", **Sgt. Michael Hodge, Co. C, 648th Engineers,** before placing a mock tourniquet on his leg.



Learning to Live the Code of Conduct...

Med Eagle Holds Survival, Evas

Story and photos by
Spc. Lewis Hilburn
Eagle Base

As they scrambled through the woods the soldiers could hear the distant barking of dogs. Not sure if the dogs were being used to track them they took cover. The soldiers applied camouflage and covered themselves with leaves.

They held up in their position until a rescue aircraft came to extract them.

Task Force Medical Eagle held a Survival, Evasion, Rescue and Escape class July 17-20.

Col. Rhonda Cornum, commander of TFME, recommended the training for the soldiers in her command, because she felt her soldiers would benefit from the training.

There are three levels to SERE training — levels A, B and C. Level A deals with the code of conduct and level C is a 19-day training exercise

where soldiers are in a simulated crash and they survive, evade, resist, escape, and finally become rescued from capture. TFME trained on level B, which is survival and evasion. Soldiers were split up into groups that each contained a pilot, a crew chief and medical personnel.

1st Lt. Janine Allbritton, assistant operations officer for TFME, said that TFME wanted the units that go ‘outside the wire’ a

lot, like Aviation, 714th Preventive Medicine, 248th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services and Combat Stress Control, to take this class. They had additional soldiers who worked in the hospital request the class as well.

There were two days of classroom work, during which Senior Master Sgt. William Welch, an Air Force SERE instructor, taught them how to survive if their aircraft was ever shot down.

He told them what bugs

(Bottom) Capt. Joe Davis, 714th Preventive Medicine, sends out a distress call.

(Lower Left) Chief Warrant Officer Jeremy Sehler, 1022nd Air Ambulance, hides in a bush to avoid capture. (Right) Staff Sgt. Patrick O'Malley, 1022nd Air Ambulance, and Sgt. William Rea, 714th PM await the arrival of the rescue helicopter. (Below) Spc. Travis Zarndt, 714th Preventive Med. exits the helicopter at the beginning of the exercise.



and plants to eat and what not to eat. As a rule of thumb, don't eat anything bright colored, because they tend to be poisonous, he said. The students were shown slides of survival and evasion techniques.

“We had them prepare for this by giving them a practical exercise and having them plan an evasion plan,” 1st Lt. Allbritton said.

The groups were taken to a training site outside of Tuzla, in the town of Kisejlac, and were put into a scenario: evade capture after the aircraft was shot down, find cover and establish fighting positions.

The groups were given radios to call for an extraction aircraft.

For the protection of the soldiers and in

ion Segments of SERE Training



(Top) Soldiers scramble to the search and rescue helicopter for extraction. (Above) Pfc. Brian Robinson, 714th Preventive Medicine, uses cover and concealment to effectively evade capture.

case they got hurt the International Police Task Force was on hand to assist.

They also help provide the land that the training was conducted on, by talking to the landowner and explaining the training that TFME wanted to conduct.

TFME originally planned to use IPTF tracking dogs to add realism to the scenario, but at the last minute decided not to, fearing soldiers would get scared and go farther into the woods.

The dogs, although remaining back at the extraction point, ended up providing realism anyway, because one group of soldiers did travel back farther into the woods than anticipated after hearing the dogs barking.

“We wanted to place them in a realistic environment and the place we designated as the training site was a typical Balkans environment, the wood lines and open fields,” said 1st Lt. Allbritton, “It was ideal.”

Once the groups were put into the scenario, Senior Master Sgt. Welch emphasized to them the importance of being silent, not being bunched together in case the ‘enemy’ decided to lob rounds into the forest, and ways to find cover.

The soldiers then had to wait an hour before they could call for a pick up from the aircraft flying overhead.

Toward the end of the exercise the groups had to make their way back to a designated extraction point and radio a helicopter with their coordinates and wait for them to be picked up.

“We taught them the basic skills needed to survive in the Balkans,” said 1st Lt. Allbritton.

Sgt. Ralph Minton, flight medic for the 1022nd Medical Company, said that he enjoyed the training.

Each group member had a specific role to play in the scenario. Sgt. Minton’s role was to find a suitable place to establish a fighting position and communications.

“I had to establish a line of communications with our (Search and Rescue),” he said.

His team, he feels, did really well in evading the ‘enemy’.

Sgt. Minton said, “We were hiding so well that it was hard for our instructor to find us. He finally had to yell for us to come out to get ready to meet the rescue aircraft. We dispersed when we got into the woods and we were able to keep in contact with each other through sounds and sight,” he said.

Sgt. Minton felt that this was worthwhile training and everyone should take part in it even if part of the rear echelon.

Engineers Repair Route Georgia

Story and photos by
Pfc. Michael Bennett
Eagle Base

The Division Engineers set out last month with a mission, to rebuild a road whose partial collapse had created what was termed a “dangerous choke point” and help re-establish freedom of movement in the area.

In April of this year, part of Route Georgia caved in about 15 kilometers south of the town of Priboj, limiting travel to a single lane, except for a narrow strip along the side where cars could – barely — get past each other.

In an official memo from Maj. Monteith Stewart, executive officer, 648th Engineers, the repairs were described as “critical to the safety of Stabilization Force personnel and civilians.”

On July 16, members of Company C, 648th Engineers started the repairs, which were just completed July 27.

“We’re using a layer system,” said Sgt. Kelly O’Conner, Co. C, 648th Eng., the site noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “We’re using wire ‘baskets’ adding a blanket of Geo-Synthetic fabrics, and then covering that with a layer



A truck dumps its load of heavy rock into the bed of the new road construction. The final layer was a much finer grade of rock to allow it to compact to a smoother surface.

of rocks. We estimate it will take eleven layers to complete the job.”

“What Geo-Synthetics is,” said 1st Lt. Luis Gonzalez, Co. C, 648th Eng., the site officer in charge, “is a very strong fabric used in construction. It’s primarily used either to separate layers or to reinforce them. We’re using it both ways, to separate the soil from the rocks, and the rock layers, and to

strengthen the whole construction.”

However, before they could start building up, the engineers had to tear down even further to find a stable base from which to build.

“Before we could start laying down the layers, we had to excavate the whole thing out. The hole now measures about three meters deep and 50 meters wide,” said 1st Lt. Gonzalez.

“When repairs have been made in the past, they haven’t compressed the rock down hard enough. If you look, you can see this area has failed more than once in the past.

“What probably could have caused this is water seeping down into the road and washing out the dirt, destabilizing it,” said Sgt. O’Conner.

Once the

hole was complete, there was still the task of leveling it out, which was done by Brown and Root workers on a small bulldozer and a steamroller.

“We needed to contract Brown and Root because our equipment is too large for a job like this. This is a very narrow area to work in, and our equipment would have had a hard time down there,” said Sgt. O’Conner.

But, in the end, this was seen as a welcome challenge for the engineers.

“This is a new type of project for us. We’re using an entirely new method to rebuild this road,” said 1st Lt. Gonzalez.

“If this works well, it could have a lot of impact on what the next rotation does,” he continued.

“Normally back home, they just want me to level out or widen existing roads,” said Spc. Robert Steese, a heavy equipment operator with Co. C, 648th Eng. “This is the first time I’ve been able to do this kind of work. This really is a total training experience. It’s a chance to do some real-world stuff.”

“Repairing this road is a freedom of movement issue,” said 1st Lt. Gonzalez, “both for us and the locals.”



Members of Co. C, 648th Eng. take hold of wire “baskets” used to form the edge of each layer of the road repair. The project was estimated to require eleven layers to complete. Layers of construction were composed of wire “baskets”, covered by geo-synthetic materials, and then covered in rock.

The Chaplain's Corps: 226 Years with the Army

By William Hourihan, Ph.D
Chaplain Branch Historian
Photo by Sgt. John Carter
Eagle Base

The Chaplain's Corps is credited as founded by a resolution of the continental congress voted into use July 29, 1775. This new resolution, which established pay rates for those officers and soldiers not covered by the earlier resolution, passed July 16.

This first reference was simply the job title, "Chaplain" and a dollar amount, indicating monthly pay, of \$20. The pay was equal to that of a captain or a judge advocate.

However, chaplains served in combat from the very beginning of the war, starting with Joseph Thaxter, Edmund Foster and Rev. (Dr.) Philips Payson, all of whom served as ministers and soldiers during the fighting at the battles of Lexington Green and Concord Bridge. William Emerson, served in battle solely as a chaplain, and is held to be the first American Revolutionary War chaplain.

The Chaplain's Corps distinguished itself numerous times, and by the time the Continental Army gathered under Gen. George Washington near Boston, there were 15 chaplains serving actively with the 23 regiments.

Almost a year after the resolution that officially allowed for the services of chaplains in the military, Gen. Washington issued a general order, that reads, in part:

The Colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure



Pfc. Jason Pohlsen, chaplain's assistant, HHC 3rd ID, Brig. Gen. Robley Rigdon, assistant division commander, MND(N) and Capt. Robert Marsi, chaplain for 3-7 Cavalry, cut the anniversary cake July 26.

chaplains accordingly; persons of good character and exemplary lives – To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon religious exercises. The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially in times of public distress and danger – The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavor so to live, and act as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his

country.

Since then, chaplains have served at the regimental level, and have fought, died, and suffered greatly in order to serve and minister among the soldiers of the United States.

Despite the fact that at the end of the revolution war, only two chaplains were not protestant, the U.S. Army Chaplains Corps now has representatives of most major religions practiced in the U.S.

Happy 226th anniversary!

(Left to Right) First Lt. Cassandra Mims, 28th Combat Support Hospital, Spc. Tim Anderson, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, and Spc. Sarina Gibson, 223rd MP Co., model fashions by BOSFAM during the "Soldiers for Soldiers Fashion Show." The July 22nd event was the first show to feature only soldiers as models, and was coordinated by Marcus Wheeler of MWR, who estimated that more than 450 people attended the show. Also featured were the Bosnian "Valentino Dancers," a local dance troupe. (Photo courtesy of MWR)



Environment

Continued from Page 5

However, not all of the war's effects were as positive. It had a severe impact on the land here, namely, the act of deforestation. During the war people chopped down trees for heating and cooking, leading to erosion. Besides deforestation, there are other implications that adversely affect the environment. There are hundreds of uncontrolled landfills, and roadsides, riverbanks and forests are often used as dumping sites. This introduces new health hazards to the population, said Dr. Simicic.

"Anyone who has been off base has seen the garbage on the sides of the roads. They don't have a systematic disposal system like we do in the U.S.," said Lt. Col. Carlson.

"In addition, most municipal water treatment plants were damaged or destroyed and so an increase in organic and bacteriological is to be expected," said Dr. Simicic. "Waterborne diseases have been becoming more and more common. The international committee of the Red Cross confirmed cases of hepatitis in certain areas," he said.

The presentation also shed light on current areas of concern. "The primary areas deal with drinking water, wastewater treatment facilities and disposal of solid waste, said Lt. Col. Carlson. Currently, Bosnia has few federal regulations governing environmental practices. A plan is in the works for the government to adopt polices and procedures similar to the rest of Europe, according to Dr. Simicic.

Unfortunately, forming committees, applying new implementations and enforcing new standards all cost money. The World Bank estimates environmental and social infrastructure restoration costs as high as 5.1 billion dollars, according to Dr. Simicic. The problem is, the government of BiH has limited funding to accomplish this, he said.

"From a personal point of view, its depressing traveling the countryside seeing such beautiful terrain, only to see a creek clogged with trash running through it. For me, that's a sad sight," said Sgt. 1st Class Roy Marchert, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry. Roughly 40 soldiers attended the hour-long presentation.

The U.S. military, as a visitor here, is doing its part to prevent further damage to our surroundings.

"There are waste collection points all over post. We place drip pans under vehicles to collect potential oil leaks. We also take trash bags in all our vehicles leaving post, so we can pick up our mess when we're out there," said Sgt. 1st Class Marchert.

The Army is also monitoring its impact on the current environmental situation. The BCCA has a joint contract with the University of Sarajevo to conduct soil, water and air sampling at disposal areas. "If there are signs of damage, we do what is necessary to restore the area as close to its original condition as possible," he said. "We're not just going to up and leave a mess behind. By doing so, we are being as environmentally conscientious as possible," said Lt. Col. Carlson.

The presentation gave the soldiers a newfound appreciation and understanding of the environment. "I think we should have more of these. It keeps the soldiers informed," said Sgt. 1st Class Marchert. "As far as our long-term relationship with BiH, it's important for us to understand our environmental impact."

Lt. Col. Carlson also thought the presentation was beneficial to soldiers. "It gives soldiers an awareness of their surrounding environment that they might not have otherwise. When you drive along the countryside and see the garbage piled up and toxins spewing into the air you can't help but wonder what the dangers are. These exchanges assist soldiers in learning about their environment and what is and isn't harmful," Lt. Col. Carlson said.

Soldier on the Street

"Who has most influenced you during this deployment?"



Spc. Heath Rudisall, because he has always been there to bring me back up when I was down."

Spc. Michael Krogh
Co. C, 1-121
Camp Comanche

1st Lt. Jim Morris. He's made the work area very comfortable and made it so we can all work together very easily."

Spc. Jason Doell
Co. A, 103rd MI
Eagle Base



My daughter, because it helps me cope knowing that I am providing for her."

Spc. Mark E. Wendel
Troop B, 3-7 Cav.
Camp McGovern



My wife Tami, who has made far greater sacrifices but without the recognition and rewards."

Capt. Brian Harlan,
SJA, 3rd ID,
Camp Comanche



There was no one person in particular who stood out for me. I just keep faith in the good Lord."

Sgt. Bill Jones
Co. B, 108th Armor
Eagle Base



My dad has been the most important person because he has always wanted me to be in the Army and it makes him proud to see me here."

Spc. Charles Hallbauer
HHT, 3-7 Cav.
Camp McGovern

