

# TALON

A photograph of a soldier in a Blackhawk helicopter cockpit. The soldier is wearing a helmet and camouflage uniform, looking out the window. The cockpit is filled with various instruments and controls.

Operation Joint Forge  
Saturday, September 8, 2001

Task Force Eagle  
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# Child-Like Faith

The Lord said, "...whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." This verse is found in Mark's gospel, chapter nine, verse 15. What is child-like faith? The following story illustrates this biblical principle.

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc., but the kitty would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb. So the pastor decided that if he tied one end of a rope to his car and the other end to the tree and drove away so that when the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

He did all this, checking his progress in the car frequently. Then he figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he inched further forward, the rope broke. The tree went "boing", and the kitten instantly sailed through the air and out of sight!

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they had seen a little kitten. "No", no one had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I commit this kitten to your keeping", and went about his business. Later, he met one of his church members in the supermarket, and happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food.

Now, this woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?" She replied, "You won't believe this," and told him how her little girl had been begging her for a kitten, but she kept refusing. Then just a few days earlier, the child again begged for a kitten, so the mom finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it." Then she told the pastor, "I watched my little child go out into the front yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a kitten. Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outstretched, and landed right in front of her."

I imagine the mother let her daughter keep that kitten! This story is an excellent example of "child-like" faith. So, no matter how old we get or educated we become, this simple story can serve to remind us of a very important biblical principle; "Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)." Keep the faith, and God bless!

## Thoughts For The Week

**Saturday:** "...The just shall live by faith." (Habakkuk 2:4)

**Sunday:** "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." (Luke 7:50)

**Monday:** "...Being justified by faith, we have peace with God..." (Romans 5:1)

**Tuesday:** "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)

**Wednesday:** "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (II Timothy 4:7)

**Thursday:** "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7)

**Friday:** "...Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)

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

# TALON

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Capt. Stephen Jobson does pre-flight checks on the interior of a UH-60. (Photo by Air Force Maj. Richard C. Sater)



## SOLDIERS REPAIR ROAD RUNNERS

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Their mission is to make others a success. From bad brakes and shocks to broken headlights, Quality Assurance/Quality Control personnel get the job done. (Photo by 1st Sgt. John E. Talbott)



## WILD, WILD WEST

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Members of 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry inspect vehicles coming in and out of Eagle Base for contraband. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)

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## You Can't Take it With You

By Robert Szostek

U.S. European Command Customs Agency

The time has come when soldiers from the Stabilization Force 9 begin shoving their duffel bags full of Kevlars, body armor, uniforms and even those quaint souvenirs bought from the locals.

Before taping that last box or zipping that oversized carry-on, you may want to double check what is and isn't allowed to go home with you. The United States Customs Service prohibits the import of the following items:

\* **Meats and meat products** – This includes European foods like French pâté, German wurst, Spanish chorizo salami, Italian ham and caviar, as well as all dairy products. Also included are all canned meats, soup mixes and pastas that contain meat, such as ravioli and tortellini.

Any of these products could contain spores that could spread foot-and-mouth disease, a viral disease deadly to livestock that has already cost the lives of thousands of animals in Europe, but has been eradicated in the United States.

\* **Fresh fruits and vegetables** – any plant matter is forbidden from export into the U.S. This includes anything stuffed with raw materials like straw and hay and any untreated wood.

These items may harbor parasites and other pests such as the Mediterranean fruit fly.

\* **General Order number 1** – The U.S. Postal Service

prohibits postage of any form of alcohol, even in such small amounts as filled candies. Further, soldiers are prohibited from having any form of alcohol while deployed to Bosnia.

\* **Weapons** – Soldiers are prohibited from shipping switchblade knives and lock-blade knives longer than three inches. Also prohibited are any form of ammunition or other explosive device.

\* **War trophies** – Bullet casings, mine remains, Unexploded Ordnance or other war trophies are strictly prohibited as potential hazards to the traveler and his or her companions.

\* **Pipes** – Water pipes, bongos and smoking devices are strictly prohibited. Even if bought for decorative purposes or smoking of tobacco, the U.S. customs office prohibits import of these items as drug paraphernalia.

\* **Ivory and other animal products** – Whale teeth and elephant bone carvings are prohibited from import. Also, any furs or other animal skin product should contain a certificate of origin to ensure that it is not from an endangered species.

\* **Cuban cigars** – Any products from Cuba are strictly prohibited from import into the U.S. because of economic sanctions against that country.

**Other prohibited items** – Other items prohibited from import into the U.S. include pornography depicting penetration, counterfeit compact discs and lottery tickets.

Violations of these laws could result in fines of as much as \$5,000 and a year in jail. If there are any questions about these laws and regulations, call Sgt. Ramos at 762-5156 on Eagle Base.

## Now More Than Ever

By Lt. Col. Merrill E. Dickinson Jr.

Deputy Safety Director

We're feeling pretty good about ourselves right now. We know our jobs. We have built some confidence knowing we are doing things right. Our areas of responsibility, routes and work environment are familiar. There is very little

that is new. We no longer need to be deliberate and cautious. We know what can hurt us and we can recognize a hazardous condition. We even know how to do risk management.

Our work areas have been evaluated, inspected and assessed. Entire teams descend on our unit's facilities every month to find things that could cause an accident or injury. People come in our rooms to check smoke alarms. The safety of our vehicles is checked and double-checked every time they are dispatched. We've had a few minor accidents but, thankfully, nothing serious. We haven't been lucky; we have been doing things right. Don't get too comfortable.

The reality is that we are still at risk. Even though we have controlled or eliminated nearly all hazardous conditions, we are still exposed to the number one cause of accidents: unsafe behavior. Unsafe

behavior is the root cause of 80 to 96 percent of all workplace injuries. Stress, negligence, recklessness, fatigue and overconfidence all lead to unsafe acts. Unsafe behavior can cause a personal injury in even the safest environment.

Taking shortcuts, ignoring established procedures, horseplay, or disregarding warnings are all examples of unsafe behavior. Unsafe behavior is also exhibited in a leader who fails to enforce standards, fails to supervise, or fails to train his or her soldiers.

Many of us are approaching the end of our deployment and looking forward to going home. We have good reason to feel good and be proud of our accomplishments. But our pride and confidence will quickly vanish if we let our guard down and have a serious accident. Be on the alert. Watch out for unsafe behavior – now more than ever.

### Upcoming Closures

#### Eagle Base Sports Complex and Movie Theater –

The Eagle Base Sports Complex and Movie Theater will be closed Sept. 19 - Oct. 19 for construction and reconditioning. MWR will still operate their video theatre in building 14 along Salute Alley.

#### Balkan Grille –

The Balkan Grille will be closed beginning 9 p.m. Oct. 4, until 5 p.m. Oct. 5 for the transfer of authority reception. Meal hours at the Longhorn Grille will be extended to accommodate the additional soldiers.

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# Spouse Charged in Civilian's Death

## Army sergeant was on terminal leave at time of Aug. 26 murder

Story by Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy  
Eagle Base

The suspect in the stabbing death of U.S. civilian Robert Ruiz was formally charged Aug. 30.

Sgt. Angela Marie Ruiz, 30, spouse of the deceased and a U.S. soldier assigned to the NATO Health Clinic in Brussels, Belgium, was charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice with premeditated murder in violation of Article 118.

The charge is merely an accusation, and military law presumes that a person is innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The incident occurred in a house near Eagle Base. Although Mr. Ruiz was transported to Task Force Medical Eagle for medical care, he died from his wounds a few hours later on Aug. 26.

Mr. Ruiz, 27, was a civilian contractor working for the University of Maryland and had been assigned to Eagle Base since July. Prior to his employment with the education center, he served in the Marine Corps for seven years. His military service included duty as an embassy guard in Nigeria and Brussels.

Military officials charged Sgt. Ruiz since, under the Dayton Peace Accords Status of Forces Agreement between NATO and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO countries have exclusive jurisdiction over their personnel for any criminal or disciplinary offenses allegedly committed within Bosnia-Herzegovina.

U.S. military officials also took the lead investigative role, since Multinational Division (North) military police were the first to be

notified of the incident that resulted in the death of Mr. Ruiz, according to Lt. Col. Michael Dietz, Task Force Eagle provost marshal. Upon notification, military police secured the scene in order to preserve any evidence for prosecution, he said.

"Because (the U.S. was) the only country that could prosecute the case if it involved alleged misconduct by a U.S. soldier, we assumed primary responsibility for the crime scene investigation," said Lt. Col. Dietz. Once the military's initial investigation was complete, local police were able to enter the crime scene, he said.

Lt. Col. Dietz denied an earlier report in the local press that stated that U.S. military police prevented local authorities from entering the house.

"At no time did we refuse local police access to the scene," Lt.

Col. Dietz said. "But we did explain that we needed to minimize traffic until the crime scene was processed for evidence. The local police and prosecutorial officials subsequently visited the site and conducted their own tests and evaluations." Lt. Col. Dietz stressed that U.S. and local Bosnian law enforcement officials are cooperating with one another,

and the investigation continues by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Sgt. Ruiz was on terminal leave status from her active duty assignment in Belgium. While on terminal leave, a soldier is still subject to UCMJ laws because he or she is still on active duty.

Sgt. Ruiz' commander in Belgium revoked her leave and placed her on indefinite active-duty orders. This is standard procedure in criminal cases involving a service member on terminal leave, said Lt. Col. Calvin Carter, Task Force Eagle personnel officer.

Col. Timothy Quinn, the commander of the 80th Area Support Group in Belgium, ordered Sgt. Ruiz to pretrial confinement in

**Continued on Page 12**

**Military officials charged Sgt. Ruiz since NATO countries have exclusive jurisdiction over their personnel for any...offenses allegedly committed within**

## 7th ID commander greets 153rd Bn

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Michael Bennett  
Eagle Base

Noting that with the "growing reliance on reserve component troops...(National Guardsman) prove they can get the job done," the commander of the 7th Infantry Division visited soldiers from the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 153rd Infantry, during his tour of Multinational Division (North).

Maj. Gen. Soriano explained that he was here specifically to visit with the Arkansas National Guard soldiers and hear their concerns.

First and 3-153rd Infantry perform presence patrols outside Forward

Operating Base Morgan and Camp McGovern, and have participated in the consolidation of weapon storage sites. The soldiers also guard the sites.

During his Aug. 21-22 visit, Maj. Gen. Soriano visited Eagle Base, Camp McGovern and FOB Morgan to meet with his National Guard troops.

The 153rd troops are part of the 39th enhanced Separate Brigade, assigned to the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 7th ID. The 7th ID was reactivated in 1999.

Maj. Gen. Soriano was impressed by the current state of the SFOR mission. "The situation is much different from when I was here (in 1995). The quality of life is much better; the soldiers are much better taken care of."

**Continued on Page 12**



**Maj. Gen. Edward Soriano, commander of the 7th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo., shakes hands with Staff Sgt. Gene McCool (left) just before leaving FOB Morgan, as Spc. David Carter looks on. Both soldiers are from 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry.**

# 82nd Aviation Brigade is MND(N)'s 'Air Fly High Free

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

It's not sexy or beautiful, but it's what we do seven days a week." Who says? Capt. Craig Alia, commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Brigade, out of Fort Bragg, N.C. He's talking about his unit's mission, flying. Anyone, anywhere, at any time. The bird? Blackhawk.

Approximately 80 members of Co. A are deployed with their captain, carrying out their usual mission. The difference is the locale – Camp Comanche, a mile or so from Eagle Base, the headquarters for Multinational Division (North), the American sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The operations tempo is very high. The unit provides essential air taxi service – what Capt. Alia calls "general support" to MND(N). In addition to air movement, the 82nd provides airlift for the Quick Reaction Force, the emergency response team standing by for contingencies. Finally, the unit provides transport for theater reserve forces – specifically, the Portuguese Mechanized Infantry Battalion – if its services are required.

The brunt of the work, though, is the regular "air movement," and it requires a substantial effort to keep it going. "The guys are getting a lot of flight time. A lot more than at Fort Bragg," Capt. Alia says.

And not just the flyers. Sgt. Adam Hyland, crew chief, says, "We're flying as many hours in six months as we usually fly in a year back home."

There's a reason for all this activity. The Stabilization Force mission is a serious one: to ensure a safe and secure environment for the local citizens as they strive to rebuild their lives and their country in the aftermath of a devastating war. The fighting ended in 1995, but the reconstruction continues, and the air power provided by the 82nd is critical to the mission's success. Spend a day with a Co. A aircrew and you never know where you might end up. That depends on the day's requirements; you could find yourself anywhere in this country, Croatia, or Hungary. Warrant Officer Stan Koziatek, a pilot, has flown more than 100 missions since his arrival in March, four or five days a week, sometimes twice in one day. "There hasn't been a day or night go by that we haven't flown," he says.

A scheduled mission begins with an intelligence briefing. The crew files a flight plan and then carries out a pre-flight inspection of the helicopter. The inspection takes half an hour to an hour, according to Sgt. Hyland. "If I see something broken, I fix it," he says. After the preflight, the crew suits up, climbs in, fires away, and dusts off, picking up and delivering passengers. Post-flight means refueling, a debriefing about the mission and more inspections.

If you're flying with Co. A, you might meet its guest, an exchange officer from 'Down Under': Capt. Stephen Jobson, on loan from the 5th Aviation Regiment, Townsville, Australia, who is working with the 82nd for two years. The exchange program, he says, is set up so



Sgt. Adam Hyland, crew chief with Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation Brigade looks down on farms and fields in Bosnia.

Chief Warrant Officer Stan Koziatek, with Co. A, 2-82nd Aviation Brigade (left) and Capt. Steve Jobson, from the 5th Aviation Regiment, Townsville, Australia, buckle themselves in and prepare for



# e Bird



**Sgt. Adam Hyland climbs on top of the massive Blackhawk to inspect the condition of the blades.**

soldiers can “observe operational proceedings of each country in order to maintain our interoperability.” An additional benefit, he says, is the “cultural exchange between us and our closest ally.” He’s part of a small Australian presence in Bosnia (currently, the Australian military is more heavily involved in peace-keeping operations in Southeast Asia).

Many of the flights run together, one indistinguishable from another. Others stand out, Capt. Jobson says. He cites the Srebrenica memorial observance, when the 82nd provided air transport support. The unit also provided movement for SFOR troops during raids on the banks in Mostar in MND (Southeast) and for a cornerstone ceremony for the rebuilding of a mosque in Banja Luka in MND (Southwest). Joint training missions – such as last month’s Cerebus exercise, which brought together Spanish, French, German, Moroccan, and American troops – also provide a change of pace and a terrific learning experience, Capt. Jobson says.

Language barriers aside, the crews enjoyed the camaraderie. “It hit the mark. Proved we could respond with a show of force for a contingency operation,” he says. Whether the mission is plain or fancy, flying is flying, and that’s what the crew likes about it – “one of the best jobs in the Army,” Warrant Officer Koziatek says.

And one of the most challenging. Consider the variety of terrain here, quite different from the Fort Bragg area. “We’re working more with landmark navigation,” Warrant Officer Koziatek says. Another difference here is that the potential threat to air activities is decidedly more pronounced; the Balkan region is considered a combat zone, after all. “We have to be more cognizant of where we’re flying. The ‘pucker factor’ is much higher here.” Although the mechanics of flying become second nature to an experienced crew, the situation changes constantly and requires careful attention to detail. “I keep the mission in mind – getting there on time. I’m scanning the horizon. I’m always thinking about what’s outside the aircraft.”

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, that landscape includes “a lot of destruction. It’s a beautiful country, but it’s sad to see the (damaged) houses,” Warrant Officer Koziatek says. The flight crew is in a unique position to observe the aftermath of war: “By providing direct support for the task force, we get to see more of Bosnia.”

And they can see why they’re here. At the end of the tour, “I’ll know I made a difference, and that our presence helped,” Sgt. Hyland says. It’s his first time traveling outside the U.S. “It feels good to fly over (farms) and have people wave to you.” His biggest kick is “fixing an aircraft and seeing it fly again,” and he appreciates his opportunity to do his job here.

“I’ve confirmed that one of my primary vocations isn’t being a warfighter,” Capt. Jobson says. “It’s helping the disadvantaged

people, making a direct difference. It gives me a sense of fulfillment. That’s one of the things you join the army for.”

Company A will continue to put up with long days, a short staff, a double-time operations tempo, the minor inconveniences of camp life, and family separation for another couple of months before it returns home, but that’s the nature of the deployed environment. The company commander is sympathetic. “It’s challenging,” Capt. Alia says. “It’s hectic, but it gives you a real sense of accomplishment.”



**Capt. Steve Jobson does a pre-flight inspection on the interior of a Blackhawk. The inspection can take anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes and assists in preventing complications while in the air.**

# Troops Receive Mmm Mmm Goodies

**H**alloween is a dream come true to small children but bigger kids often enjoy it as well.

**Story by Spc. Grant Calease**  
*Camp Comanche*

Many big kids got to celebrate the holiday early as soldiers of Stabilization Force 9 recently received a large shipment of goodies from businesses in Georgia.

“Operation Thank You” was coordinated through the Georgia National

Guard’s director of logistics in Atlanta.

The donations were made primarily through the Kellogg Company, which has plants in both Atlanta and Rome, Ga. Seven pallets of snack foods such as peanuts, Pop Tarts and NutriGrain Bars arrived for troops, said Master Sgt. Jackie Faulkner, battalion motor sergeant for the 148th Logistic Task Force.

The snacks were designated for soldiers at Eagle Base, and (Camps) McGovern and Comanche, said Sgt. 1st Class Roy Marchert, battalion civil affairs liaison for Task Force 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry.

“The shipment was divided evenly to the camps, based on population,” Master Sgt. Faulkner said. “Eagle Base received 40 percent, Camp Comanche got 35 percent and Camp McGovern 25 percent.” The snacks were then distributed within the camps. “(They) went down to every soldier and even the civilians and military

personnel attached to the units,” he said. “The soldiers really like it and appreciate the people ‘in the rear’ thinking about them,” said Master Sgt. Faulkner.

Once they saw the amount and variety of treats that arrived, soldiers voiced their appreciation for the donation.

“I got some peanuts, Starbursts, Rice Krispies Treats, peppermints, granola bars, Pop Tarts and a little teddy bear,” said Sgt. Gregory Moore, Co. A., 148th LTF.

“It was pretty supportive to take the time out to send this stuff over here,” he said.

“It’s good to know they are still thinking about us,” said Spc. Alan Hughes, also with Co. A. “When they brought in all these goodies everybody was very excited. Once we broke it down, we realized it came from the good people of Georgia. This is the first time since I’ve been here that I received anything like this,” he said. “It was a really good feeling.”

## Soldiers Give Quality Care to Vehicles

**Story by Spc. Grant Calease**  
**Photo by**  
**1st Sgt. John Talbott**  
*Camp Comanche*

To keep a large peacekeeping fleet up and running is a large and important task. The soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry who handle Quality Assurance/Quality Control at Camp Comanche are doing just that.

“We inspect the vehicles and all the equipment before the units go out on a mission. We make sure all the safety devices are operational,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mark McDaniel, the battalion motor sergeant for Task Force 2-121.

“We make sure the vehicles are ok to go out on patrol,” said Sgt. Johnny Layfield, a supervisor with QA/QC.

“We check the vehicles every week because of the road conditions,” he said. Certain parts of the vehicles need more attention than others, such as suspensions, which take a beating on the Bosnian roads and brakes due to the weight of the M1114 up-armored Humvees, said Sgt. Layfield.

A team of four soldiers handle QA/QC, with only two being on duty at a time because

of other responsibilities such as guard duty, said Sgt. 1st Class McDaniel.

Also part of the QA/QC responsibilities are taken up by soldiers who have to bring the vehicles in to get checked every week.

“Prior to bringing our vehicle into QA/QC I perform (preventive maintenance checks and services), clean the vehicle and I write down any problems I’ve had since the last QA/QC,” said Spc. Lance Coffman, 307th Psychological Operations Co.

“We normally don’t have to wait long,” he added. “Its get in, get fixed and get out.”

When the Humvees come in to be checked over by the QA/QC crew they get a full look over to make sure they are ready to travel the Bosnian countryside.

“We check everything, the brakes, lights, fluids, suspension and to see if there are any leaks,” said Sgt. 1st Class McDaniel.

The group handles about 20 vehicles a day, which is down from the 30 a day they had to check when they first arrived in country, he said.

“Due to the reduction in force for (Stabilization Force) 10 we have less vehicles we have to take care of,” said Sgt. 1st



**Staff Sgt. David Minnick, HHC 2-121 looks at a Humvee engine during QA/QC. Vehicles are given a thorough inspection weekly.**

Class McDaniel.

“When we had more Humvees to go over it made the days go faster,” he said. “But it’s nice to have less because these guys are finally getting a chance to take some breaks.”

The soldiers primarily work on the M1114 up-armored Humvees, but have mostly had to learn about the M1114s on the job. “The M1114s are entirely different from the M998 Humvees we are used to working on,” said Sgt. 1st Class McDaniel. The soldiers went through a six-day training course on the M1114s prior to

being deployed to familiarize them selves with the vehicle, he said.

“I like QA/QC days because the op tempo isn’t so high,” said Spc. Coffman, as he waited in line to have his vehicle inspected. “It allows me to be sure all of my equipment is ready to go. It’s very important to get your vehicle checked before you go out on missions,” he said.

“I know I’d rather not go out without my vehicle getting properly checked out and everything that needs it getting fixed.”

# Georgia College Alumni Gather

Story by Pfc. Michael Bennett  
Eagle Base

Alumni of the Georgia Military College stationed in Multinational Division (North) gathered for a dinner with the chief of staff Aug. 25.

Col. Thomas Torrance, chief of staff, MND(N), is an alumni and former instructor at the Milledgeville, Ga., college. He hosted the dinner to create a sense of fellowship among the alumni here, said Capt. Samuel Ochs, commander, Company A, 148th Logistics Task Force. The dinner was a first-time event during a Stabilization Force rotation.

Capt. Ochs, an alumnus of GMC and a recruiter for the school, gave a presentation to show former students some of the renovations which have occurred recently, including new classrooms and offices. "There have been a lot of changes at GMC in the last few years," he added.

Georgia Military College is a public independent coeducational military junior college offering freshman and sophomore years of college. The primary mission of GMC is to prepare young men and women to transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

"We have about 50 alumni from the main campus (who are in Bosnia)" said Capt. Ochs.

"Plus we have soldiers here who took classes at our distance learning centers at Fort Benning (Ga.) and Fort Gordon (Ga.)."

Approximately 25 soldiers attended the dinner; the majority being junior enlisted. During the evening they reminisced about their time at GMC and discussed the mission in Bosnia as both soldiers and leaders.

The younger soldiers saw this as an opportunity to reestablish old friendships and boost their own morale.

"They should have started doing things like this a long time ago," said Sgt. Kevin Wilcox, Company B, 108th Armor. "When you've been taken away from your family and all that's familiar for

such a long time, seeing people you went to school with helps." Spc. Byron Lee, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, agreed completely.

"It's a good idea to get together with the people who went before us (at GMC), to find out what things were like when they went through," said Spc. Lee.

At the end of the dinner, Col. Torrance addressed the assembled soldiers, and exhorted them to remember, "What we do here does matter."

Before the conclusion of the evening, the chief of staff gave soldiers a final charge.

"Spread the word," said Col. Torrance. "Back home, there are two schools of thought about what we're doing here. One group thinks the war is still going on... the other is saying 'We have soldiers in Bosnia? What are they doing there?' Tell people what you've seen, so they understand the good we do here."

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**"When you've been taken away...from all that's familiar...seeing people you went to school with helps."**

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Sgt. Kevin Wilcox  
Georgia Military College alumni  
Co. B, 108th Armor

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## Nordic Polish Battle Group visits Camp McGovern and...

# Takes a Walk in Another Man's Boots

Story by Daniel Lucas  
Camp McGovern

One of the benefits of being deployed to the Balkans is the opportunity to work with soldiers from other countries. For several weeks, multiple platoons of Danish tankers from the Nordic Polish Battle Group came to Camp McGovern to familiarize themselves with the American army's equipment and area of operations. A joint patrol of Gradacac and Brcko was also planned.

"The Danish tankers are here for a cultural exchange between our two armies," said 1st Lt. Damon Durall, platoon leader for 3rd platoon, Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry.

"So far, they have been to the (Fire Arms Training Simulator) where they had the chance to fire the M-9, AT-4 and the M-16."

The U.S. soldiers were happy to do the exchange and get a chance to meet soldiers from a different part of the world. "I am enjoying (being with the Danish soldiers)," said Pvt. Wayne

Gladney, a Humvee gunner from 3rd platoon, Troop C. "I am glad I got the chance to mingle with people from another country." Pvt. Gladney noted that another positive aspect of the Danish visit was it allowed him to get out of his routine for a while.

After an orientation of the camp, the tankers had their first meal at Camp McGovern. "I really like the food here at Camp McGovern, especially the desserts," said Cpl. Jh Johnson, a tank driver. "I am going to have to work out more just to take off the extra weight."

Comparing equipment was just part of the visit as the Danish also paid attention to the other parts of life on the U.S. camp.

"Your camp is really big compared to ours," said Cpl. Jens Heitman Kristensen, a tank gunner.

"At our camp, all the buildings are really close to each other. Here, you have to walk a lot to get where you are going." He liked the gym a lot more than the gym at Camp Dannevirke because it was bigger and had a lot more equipment, he said.

The second night was spent playing softball. Americans soldiers and the Danes

soldiers played together in teams, and the troopers took time to teach the tankers how to play.

The next day, soldiers from the two armies went on a joint patrol of the Gradacac area. Again, the differences in how each army accomplished this type of mission were discussed.

"When we go on patrol, we only have to have to have one sergeant and three privates," said Cpl. Johnson. "We run two patrols during the day and one at night and soldiers can sign up for whichever ones he wants to do." He remembers when the Danish soldiers wore as much equipment as the Americans do, when he was stationed in Sarajevo.

Once back to Camp McGovern, another series of games ensued. Of these, foosball and pool were the most popular. The coming sunrise was the Danish platoon's cue to head back home. After both sides said their farewells, the Danes went back to their base. "Camp McGovern was very cool, but we still have a pool," laughed Cpl. Johnson.

# TFME Holds First Multinational Combat Lifesaver Course

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Anthony Koch  
Eagle Base

Trained first-response medical personnel are valuable assets to all Army units. Proper training and quick treatment can often mean the difference between life and death. The goal of Task Force Medical Eagle's Combat Lifesaver Certification and Commander's Course was to train any soldiers in Multinational Division (North) who wanted to learn these skills.

The first Multinational Combat Lifesaver Course held Aug. 15-18 on Eagle Base gave soldiers from every country in MND(N) an opportunity to improve their medical skills. The course was also the first of its kind in this theater, since it combined additional 'hands-on' training, a multinational atmosphere and a competition not included in the standard combat lifesaver course.

Sixteen soldiers from the Turkish Battalion, the 22nd Separate Parachute Airborne Russian Regiment and the U.S. Army took the course. All of the other nations in MND(N) were invited, including members of the Armed Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but were unable to attend due to mission schedules.

The CLC is designed to educate nonmedical soldiers on how to provide emergency care — intravenous therapy, treating shock, applying splints and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation — as a secondary mission. Army doctrine requires each squad and crew to have at least one member trained as a combat lifesaver.

There are two modes of CL qualification, by correspondence course or video teletraining. The class offered through TFME was the correspondence course, which included self-study materials, classroom instruction and written exams. TFME decided to take their course a step further and add 'hands-on' training not normally included to augment the lessons.

"The differences were the litter obstacle course, litter carry and loading/unloading vehicles," said course noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Gerald E. Smith. Those three tasks were taken from the Expert Field Medical Badge test and incorporated into TFME's combat lifesaver course, he said.

The additional tasks, multinational element and use of the new litter obstacle course were enjoyed by the students, and they felt enhanced the training.

"The person must get wet in training to not lose his life in war," Pvt. Efe Sínàkoglù,



**Soldiers from the Turkish Battalion move under the barbed wire obstacle during the practice run of the litter obstacle course.**

a member of the Turkish Battalion, said of the 'hands-on' training.

This course had much longer hours everyday, than the typical 'duty-day long' CLC, according to Sgt. 1st Class Smith.

Working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. gave troops an opportunity to spend time with each other and learn about the different nations' training techniques, such as loading/unloading ambulances and medical procedures. TFME's course was also four days long instead of the normal three. "Working with the Turkish guys has been great," said Spc. Gregory Atkins, Company A, 148th Logistics Task Force. "They learned a lot about how we train,

especially the different approaches. They also have the same very high standard of training."

"We have not seen what type of equipment and training American soldiers are using in the field before," said Master Sgt. Ömer Yildiz, a member of the Turkish Battalion. He added that it was a good experience because this allows the multinational forces to work better together on joint missions.

The course wrapped up after the three-part competition and final test. In the end, the U.S. team of soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry won first place and received a coin and certificate from TFME commander, Col. Rhonda Cornum. The soldiers of the Turkish Battalion came in second, followed by the 22nd SPARR.

"All 16 soldiers passed," Sgt. 1st Class Smith said proudly. He added that there isn't normally a 100 percent pass rate in the regular combat lifesaver course. It is impressive that all soldiers passed this course, because there was a language barrier issue due to the multinational students, he said.

"Those 16 soldiers go back to their units highly trained and better prepared to integrate back into their squad, or platoon and be the first-line echelon of medical care," explained Sgt. 1st Class Smith.



**Students of the combat lifesaver course offered by Task Force Medical Eagle practice the proper technique for loading a 5-ton truck with litters.**



Spc. David Gardner, with 1-121, uses a mirror to inspect the undercarriage of a truck entering Eagle Base.



Spc. Nicholas Kranites, with 1-121, searches under the hood of a civilian vehicle for bombs, and other potential threats.

# The Wicked Work of the West

***Spc. Jarmusz spent a week with the Eagle Base guard force, working all shifts at multiple locations. This is the third of several articles chronicling his experiences.***

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

It's 95 degrees, and 'humid' is an understatement. You are sweating just standing there, trying to avoid the smell of exhaust fumes coming from the endless rows of vehicles. You are a guard force soldier at the West Gate.

"We make sure that no terrorists come in and no explosives get smuggled in. The soldiers can sleep better at night knowing that the threat has been reduced," said Sgt. Ted Wooten, noncommissioned officer in charge of the West Gate, with 3rd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry.

"We at the West Gate are the first line of defense against anyone who wants to do something subversive on Eagle Base. We act as a deterrent to these acts," said Spc. Nicholas Kranites, with 3rd Platoon.

Duty at the West Gate and Pedestrian Gate is similar, except for one major difference —soldiers at the West Gate have to conduct vehicle searches. "Searching vehicles is the most challenging duty of the West Gate. Soldiers are working outside in the elements regardless of the conditions, and they still have to search every vehicle in accordance with the unit SOP," Sgt. Wooten said.

Spc. Kranites told me about his job at the West Gate.

"Any vehicle that comes on Eagle Base comes through the West Gate. In a vehicle search our responsibility is to check 100 percent identification and 100 percent vehicle access check, (running the plates)," he said. "We search the vehicle interior for contraband, such as compact disc writers, (machines that copy or 'write' information from a computer to a CD) floppy disks, recording devices and anything out of the ordinary (such as drugs, weapons and animals). Guard force soldiers can't allow floppy disks or other recording devices on base because they pose a threat to operational security. We also use mirrors to search the under carriage-of the vehicle (the bottom or underside of a vehicle), for

bombs or anything suspicious," he said. Because it is a difficult job, soldiers who conduct vehicle searches are rotated out after two days, Spc. Kranites said. "Sometimes we will float to different positions at the West Gate, and sometimes they will send us to an observation post. The commander of the relief and noncommissioned officer in charge determine who goes where," he explained. The responsibility of a vehicle search falls under the soldier who is rotated through the position of searching vehicles at the West Gate.

Besides the Joint Readiness Training Center exercise, guard force soldiers don't receive a great deal of instruction on how to do their job prior to arrival. "There is not much special training that goes into learning how to work the West Gate beforehand. It's on the job training. You have to learn the SOP and get a feel for the job as you go along," Spc Kranites said.

As the West Gate is the main entry point, soldiers told me things get hectic sometimes.

"The toughest part of this job is when you're busy and traffic starts backing up. You get on the radio with the VIP's coming through and people are walking back and forth trying to get checked in. Meanwhile, you are searching vehicles and trying to maintain balance and control," said Spc. Kranites.

He went on to say the hardest times are during the morning and afternoon rushes, but soldiers have gotten used to handling the traffic.

"When we first arrived here, we had about 600 vehicles and 1,200 people coming through daily. Since then it seems like it has slowed down significantly. I don't think we're getting complacent. We are getting sharper and more focused," Spc. Kranites said.

Trying to put the job into perspective, soldiers half jokingly told me that people who get in trouble are sent to the West Gate to be punished. Soldiers already at the West Gate who get in trouble are sent to conduct vehicle searches.

"It's just the most uncomfortable place to be," Spc. Kranites said after he finished his shift. "Guard force as a whole is a simple job. But just because it is simple does not make it easy, especially since you have to do it every day. We work hard. We are working here out on the wire so soldiers inside can work safely," Spc Kranites said. "It's a job you can feel good about at the end of the day because you have done something for others. You have kept an eye out for everyone on base," he added.

## SORIANO

Continued from Page 5

Maj. Gen Soriano impressed the soldiers of 1st Battalion during his time with them.

"He's a great general," said Capt. Todd Spafford, commander, Company D, 1-153. "He's very thorough. He's a very caring man, and he's very in tune with his soldiers." Maj. Gen. Soriano equally impressed the soldiers from 3rd Battalion when he met with them.

"He's one of the better generals you'll ever meet," said Sgt. Jody Mallory, the driver for 3rd Battalion's commander. "(Maj. Gen. Soriano) knows a lot about what's going on."

An eSB, like the 39th, is a National Guard unit assigned to an active-duty command to facilitate its training, explained Capt. Spafford. The 7th ID is not the only active duty division with National Guard units under its command. "We're one of two active component divisions with enhanced Separate Brigades under our command," Maj. Gen. Soriano. The other is (the 24th Infantry Division) at Ft. Riley (Kan.)," he said. The 7th ID has two other NG units in Oklahoma and Oregon.

Maj. Gen. Soriano also spoke about the growing reliance on reservists and Guardsmen. "In the next rotation, there will be about 70 percent National Guard and reserve troops here and about 30 percent active component," said Maj. Gen. Soriano. "The troops here are representing the National Guard extremely well. It's proven by the almost seamless integration of this mission."

## CIVILIAN

Continued from Page 5

Bosnia until she could be escorted to the United States Army detention facility in Mannheim, Germany, where she remains in custody, said Maj. Karen Pike, chief of criminal law, Task Force Eagle office of the staff judge advocate.

The NATO Health Clinic, where Sgt. Ruiz was stationed, falls under the jurisdiction of the 80th ASG and the Kaiserslautern, Germany-based 21st Theater Support Command. The commanding general of the 21st TSC, Maj. Gen. William Mortensen, serves as the general court martial authority. He will determine the location of the trial, if one is to be held.

In the next phase of the proceedings, Sgt. Ruiz' commanders will review the charge and recommend disposition. Prior to any charge being referred to a general court martial, an officer appointed pursuant to Article 32, UCMJ, must investigate the charge. An Article 32 investigation is similar to a civilian grand jury, but affords a soldier more rights, Maj. Pike explained. For example, a soldier is entitled to be present and his attorney may cross-examine witnesses and examine and present evidence, unlike in a grand jury proceeding. A commander in Sgt. Ruiz's chain of command will likely appoint an Article 32, said Maj. Pike.

"After the investigation, the commander who appointed the investigation reviews the charges and the recommendation of the Investigating Officer. The commander may resolve the charges or forward them to Maj. Gen. Mortensen for action," according to Maj. Pike.

Maj. Gen. Mortensen would then review the case and take appropriate action, which could include referring the charge to a general court martial. Unless this case is referred as a capital, or death penalty case, the maximum penalty for an Article 118 charge is: a reduction to E-1, a forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement for life without possibility of parole and a dishonorable discharge.

## Soldier on the Street

### "What are you most looking forward to when you redeploy?"

The luxury of feeling the grass in my yard between my toes."

**Sgt. "Meme" Hunter**  
223rd Military Police Co.  
Camp McGovern



I am looking forward to seeing my girlfriend."

**Navy Lt. Michael Mihaly**  
Headquarters SFOR  
Sarajevo

Being able to play with my kids and spending time with my family and friends."

**Sgt. Pete Moulton**  
HHT, 3-7 Cav.  
Camp McGovern



Being able to hold my baby boy for the first time. He was born May 13, 2001."

**Sgt. Corey Smith**  
HHC, 2-121 In.  
Camp Comanche

I look forward to being back with my family."

**Staff Sgt. Ted Ray**  
Co. B, 148th LTF  
Camp Comanche



Reuniting with my wife, because we are expecting our first child."

**Cpl. Edward Thomas**  
HHC, 3rd ID  
Camp Comanche