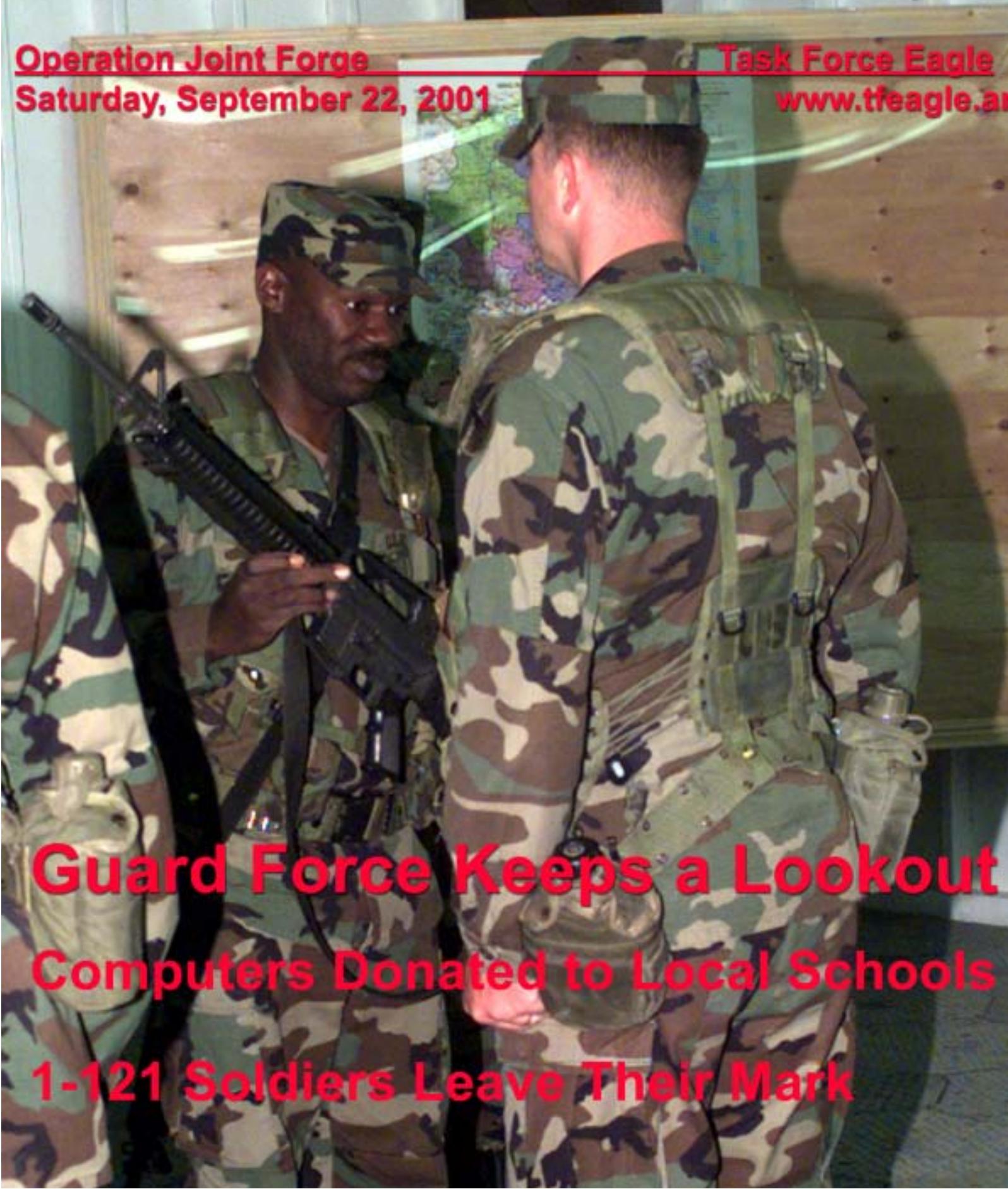


TALON

Operation Joint Forge
Saturday, September 22, 2001

Task Force Eagle
www.tfeagle.army.mil



Guard Force Keeps a Lookout
Computers Donated to Local Schools
1-121 Soldiers Leave Their Mark

Be Fair and Share!

In the Jan. 25, 1988, issue, Time magazine provided an insight on selfishness and its antithesis, **sharing**. Speaking about the introduction of the videocassette recorder, the author wrote,

“The company had made a crucial mistake. While at first Sony kept its Beta technology mostly to itself, JVC, the Japanese inventor of the VHS (format), shared its secret with a raft of other firms. As a result, the market was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the VHS machines being produced.”

This willingness to share the information drastically undercut Sony’s market share. The first year, Sony lost 40 percent of the market, and by 1987 it controlled only 10 percent. As we all know, Sony also jumped on the VHS bandwagon. While it continues to make Beta-format VCRs, Sony’s switch to VHS, according to the Time article, sent Beta machines to “the consumer-electronics graveyard.” Even in a cutthroat business, sharing has its rewards.

Stabilization Force 9 is quickly ending. We are all dealing with inventories, property books, packing our sections up and getting our personal items together. It is very easy to draw a circle around ourselves and disappear emotionally and mentally to our “happy place.”

There are appropriate times to concentrate on just “you”, but I want to encourage everyone to resist this temptation during our transition from SFOR 9 to SFOR 10.

I believe God has a special blessing in store for those who have a “sharing” attitude. II Corinthians 9:6 states, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” I think a fair modern day translation of this verse is, “you give what you get, and get what you give.” This does not mean we share because we will be blessed. We share because God tells us to share. We share because we want to take care of our buddy.

I believe this concept is applicable to all of us here in the Balkans. Almost every branch of service is represented here. My branch may have something yours does not, or yours may have something mine does not. What a wonderful blessing we can be to each other if we pull our resources together! So, I encourage everyone to share in areas such as our time, our knowledge, our resources, etc.

Let’s not go to our “happy places” quite yet. Don’t be like Sony. Let’s be like JVC and share. My little boy asked me many months ago a question regarding this topic. He asked me when he grew up if he still had to share his toys with his friends. I told him, “No, you don’t.” He looked very surprised and somewhat relieved. I paused and then said, “However, if you don’t share, you won’t have any friends.” He paused and then looked up at me and said, “Here Daddy, you play with my blue car, and I’ll play with the green one, okay?” **Sharing... it’s a good thing!**

Thoughts For The Week

Saturday: “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift; that’s why they call it the present.” (Source Unknown)

Sunday: “Experience is not what happens to a man. It is what a man does with what happens to him.” (Aldous Huxley)

Monday: “Never let the fear of striking out get in your way.” (Babe Ruth)

Tuesday: “Always hold your head up, but be careful to keep your nose at a friendly level.” (Max L. Forman)

Wednesday: “Behold the turtle. He only makes progress when he sticks his neck out.” (James Bryant Conant)

Thursday: “We boil at different degrees.” (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Friday: “Desire nothing for yourself which you do not desire for others.” (Spinoza)

By Chaplain (Capt.) Keith Croom
Eagle Base

TALON

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

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Michael Birmingham
762-3353

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

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor
Staff Sgt. Lisa Dunphy
762-5230

Editor
Sgt. Rhonda Morgan

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

Webmaster
Spc. Lesley Newport
762-8207

Staff Writers

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

Camp Comanche
Spc. Grant Calease
768-1027

Camp McGovern
Spc. Daniel Lucas
763-2041

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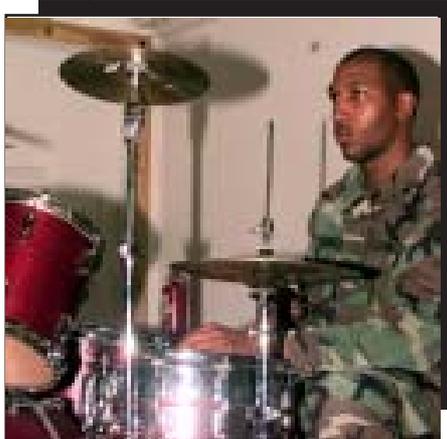
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CONTENTS



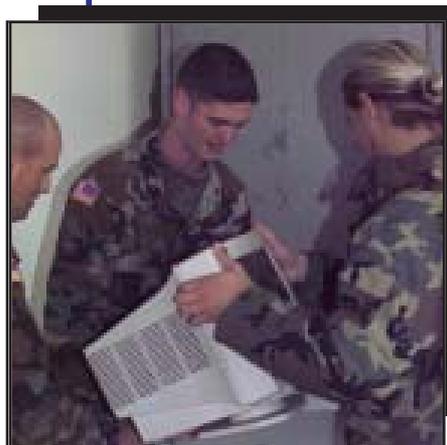
ON THE COVER 11

Sgt. Robert James squad leader with 1-12 3rd Platoon, conducts inspection arms on his troops before heading out to Gaurd Force for the night. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE 5

Soldiers in MND(N) get a little taste of gospel during the vocalists' tour. (Photo by Spc. T.S. Jarmusz)



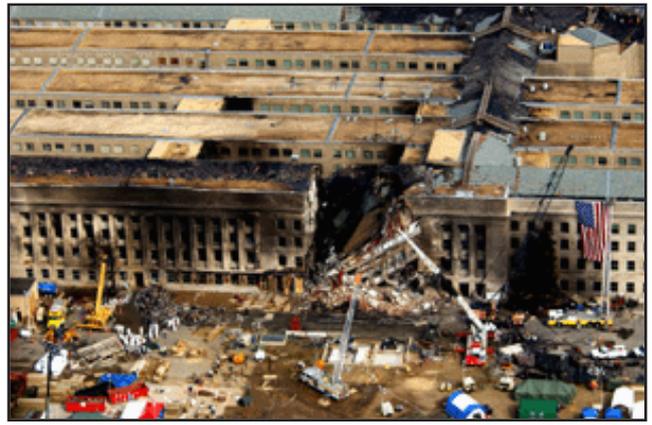
ENHANCING EDUCATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY 6

Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs units delivered donated computers to local schools. (Photo by Spc. Grant Calease)

President Bush authorizes National Guard activation	4
NCO of the Rotation	9
TFME donates blood to Bosnian Hospital	10



The effects of the blast and the fire are evident in this Sept. 14, 2001, photograph. The office was in the section of the Pentagon slated to be renovated next. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Larry A. Simmons, U.S. Air Force)



FBI agents, firefighters, rescue workers and engineers work at the Pentagon crash site Sept. 14. (DoD photo by Tech. Sgt. Cedric H. Rudisill)

Bush calls on U.S. to Defend Freedom; Authorizes Guard and Reserve Call-ups

Compiled from articles written by American Forces Information Service Staff Writers

"Now that war has been declared on us, we will lead (America) to victory," President Bush said following a conversation with New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani and New York Governor George Pataki Sept. 13.

The following day, the president authorized the call up of up to 50,000 National Guardsman and reservists to active duty to support national security efforts in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"A national emergency exists by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center (and) the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States," Bush said.

Bush also led the nation in mourning the expected thousands of people lost in the attacks in D.C. and N.Y., and in Pennsylvania.

The service was an example of American unity: All faiths, races, political persuasions were one at the more than one-hour-long service. Billy Graham, often called "America's Preacher," touched on this as he delivered the sermon at the service.

"A tragedy like this could have torn our country apart," Graham said. "But instead, it has united us and we have become a family. So those perpetrators who took this on to tear us apart, it has worked the other way. It has backfired and we are more united than ever before."

The military services reviewed mission requirements and so far have recommended a call-up of around 35,000 Guard and Reserve members, officials said. DoD has named the military response to the terrorist attacks "Operation Noble Eagle."

Craig W. Duehring, principle deputy assistant secretary of

defense for reserve affairs, told reporters Sept. 14 that volunteers would fill the majority of positions requested under the call up.

Service members will conduct port operation missions, medical support, engineering support, general civil support and homeland defense operations.

Participation under the call-up as of Sept. 14th is: Army, 10,000; Air Force, 13,000; Navy, 3,000; Marines, 7,500; and Coast Guard, 2,000, officials said.

As calls of support come to Washington from around the globe, Bush said, he and his security team are working on a campaign to win the war on terrorists. He told Gov. Pataki and Mayor Guiliani that his "resolve is steady and strong about winning this war that has been declared on America."

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sept. 12 that Americans must understand that this war won't be quick strikes and over. It won't end with a single counterattack against one individual, he said.

"It's going to be a long-term conflict, and it's going to be fought on many fronts – the military front, the intelligence front, the law enforcement front, the diplomatic front," Powell said.

An army of firemen, rescue workers, police and troops

continue to work together to sift through wreckage at the Pentagon's west wall.

The Defense Department's headquarters "took a big hit" Sept. 11, said John F. Irby, director of the Pentagon's Federal Facilities Division, at a Sept. 14 news conference. Two-thirds of the Pentagon, however, can be operated in a normal manner, he said, attributing that fact to the building's reinforced concrete construction.

"The Pentagon is an amazing building," he said.



A wall of the E-Ring of the Pentagon leans inward and other walls show fire damage in this Sept. 14 photograph. The terrorist attack caused extensive damage to the west face of the building. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Larry A. Simmons, U.S. Air Force)

Soldiers Stop, Pray for Victims

Story and photo by
Cpl. Anthony Koch
Eagle Base

A memorial prayer service was held Sept. 15 at the Eagle Base Chapel to remember those lost in the recent terrorist attacks against the U.S.

Members of Multinational Division (North) were invited to come in remembrance of the victims and support of the families whose lives have been changed by this tragedy.

In his invocation, Chap. (Maj.) Mike Durham spoke of prayer for the families, both here and at home, who lost loved ones during the attacks.

Chap. Durham also called us to pray, "for ourselves, and for all people in every nation, whose lives were forever changed by what happened on Sept. 11th, 2001."

The division ministry team was on hand to lead the memorial service.

Also, Maj. John P. Cole, 3rd Infantry Division, headquarters company commander, played the piano and provided



During a moment of silence (from left) 2nd Lt. Frank Poovey, Capt. Joanna Pierce, Brig. Gen. Robley Rigdon and Capt. Laura Coppens bow their heads. A memorial service was held to commemorate the tragic events of Sept. 11.

special music for the service, while Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, commander MND(N), was on hand to offer words of inspiration.

The sympathy and concern given by others in and around MND(N) was also noted. "I want to thank our allies within Multinational Division (North), (Stabilization Force) and around the world

for their show of solidarity with Americans," said Maj. Gen. Sharp.

He also thanked the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina for their condolences and prayers.

Since the tragedy, soldiers of MND(N) have continued to do their jobs with steadfast resolve and the general noted that it was crucial for them to maintain their focus.

"The best thing we can do for America, for our countries, for our Armies, for our families and for those who have died is to remain professional and steady," emphasized Maj. Gen. Sharp.

Chap. Durham closed his prayer with a call for all of us to remain steady and vigilant.

"As we fulfill our responsibilities as peacekeepers, may you find us faithfully doing our duty. May we never forget how blessed we are, or how much we need... each other."

The service ended with words from the chaplains, the playing of Taps and a moment of silent reflection.

Recreation Area Dedicated to WWII 1-121 Medal of Honor Recipient

Story and photo by Sgt. Rhonda Morgan
Eagle Base

The newly renovated recreation area on Eagle Base was dedicated to a World War II Medal of Honor winner who served with 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, and 8th Infantry Division, Sept. 16.

Staff Sgt. John Minick was awarded the medal "for gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life," in Hurtgen, Germany, Nov. 21, 1944.



Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Glass (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Kegley, both with 1-121, unveil the sign.

allion commander of 1-121, Maj. Jeffrey Breor, executive officer with 1-121, Norman Marcus, Morale Welfare and Recreation Chief and Col. Thomas Stewart, deputy brigade commander, 48th Inf. Bde., and ground forces commander MND(N) were just a few of the attendees at the ceremony.

"His actions were the epitome of the citizen-soldier ethic that time and again has made America great," Maj. Gen. Sharp said.

Continued on Page 12

Staff Sgt. John Minick Medal of Honor Citation



"He displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, in action involving actual conflict with the enemy on November 21, 1944, near Hurtgen, Germany. Staff Sgt. Minick's battalion was halted in its advance by extensive minefields, exposing troops to heavy concentrations of enemy artillery and mortar fire. Further delay in the advance would result in numerous casualties and a movement through the minefield was essential. Voluntarily, Staff Sgt. Minick led four men through hazardous barbed wire and debris, finally making his way through the minefield for a distance of 300 yards.

When an enemy machine gun opened fire, he signaled his men to take covered positions, edged his way alone toward the flank of the weapon and opened fire, killing two members of the gun crew and capturing three others. Moving forward again, he encountered and engaged single-handedly an entire company killing 20 Germans and capturing 20, and enabling his platoon to capture the remainder of the hostile group. Again moving ahead and spearheading his battalion's advance, he again encountered machine gun fire. Crawling forward toward the weapon, he reached a point from which he knocked the weapon out of action. Still another minefield had to be crossed. Undeterred, Staff Sgt. Minick advanced forward alone through constant enemy fire and while thus moving, detonated a mine and was instantly killed.

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Psychological Operations and *Compute*



Sgt. Jesse Pruett of the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion shakes hands with Marko Dominkovic, a principal of Fejljia Starcevic Elementary School in Orasje. "These computers will make a lot of difference in our courses," he told the soldiers. Computers were donated to the Vlasenica, Zvornik, Srebrenica, Bratunac, Crenelevo Donje, Bresso Polje, Celic and Kravica school systems. The goal was to send the computer systems to the more economically challenged areas of the region. Numerous electronic gifts were sent to schools with Bosnian-Serb, Bosnian-Croat and Bosniac students. The PC's were declared surplus and turned over to the U.S. State Department for donation to the local schools and authorities. A total of 27 computer were donated.

Story and photos by
Cpl. Anthony Koch
Eagle Base
Spc. Daniel Lucas
Camp McGovern
Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

Soldiers from Task Force Eagle recently helped bring Bosnia into the 21st century by delivering computers to local schools.

The 486th Civil Affairs Battalion distributed 18 computers to schools near Camps Comanche and McGovern, giving three computers apiece to schools representing the Croat, Serb and Muslim populations of each area, said Maj. James Green, 486th Civil Affairs stationed at Camp McGovern.

Meanwhile, the 307th Psychological Operations Company, from Eagle Base, has also been allotted seven computers to donate to local schools. On Sept. 6, they donated the first to a school in Crnjelovo Donje. It was the first computer to be installed in that school.

The Division Automation Management Office gave the Civil Affairs unit the computers from stock they considered obsolete.

"These computers will make a lot of difference in our courses," said Mr. Manko Dominkovic, one of the principals of an elementary school in Orasje that received three systems. "Now we can allow more of our students to take the computer course."

According to the 307th's Sgt 1st Class Chris Lowery adding computers to the curriculum raised the level of

education children in northern Bosnia could receive

"The bottom line is that we want the country to be able to make life better for itself," said Maj. Michael Birchfield, the commander of the 307th. "If the children get a better education, become more tech-



The 486th Civil Affairs stationed at Camp McGovern and the 307th Psychological Operations Company from Eagle Base distributed 18 computers to schools near Camps Comanche and McGovern.

Civil Affairs Work to Donate... Computers for Kids

nically aware and have a chance to learn some computer skills, then that's going to help bring them up to par with kids from other countries."

The schools receiving the computers from the 307th did not have any prior to this delivery.

Dragan Maksimovic, the director of the school in Crnjelovo Donje, said that the computer was an important addition to the school's technical information program, which already includes computer-science classes.

"Hopefully, by having computer-literate people, they'll be able to create better jobs, which makes the economy better in the long term and helps improve the situation in Bosnia," said Sgt. 1st Class Lowery.

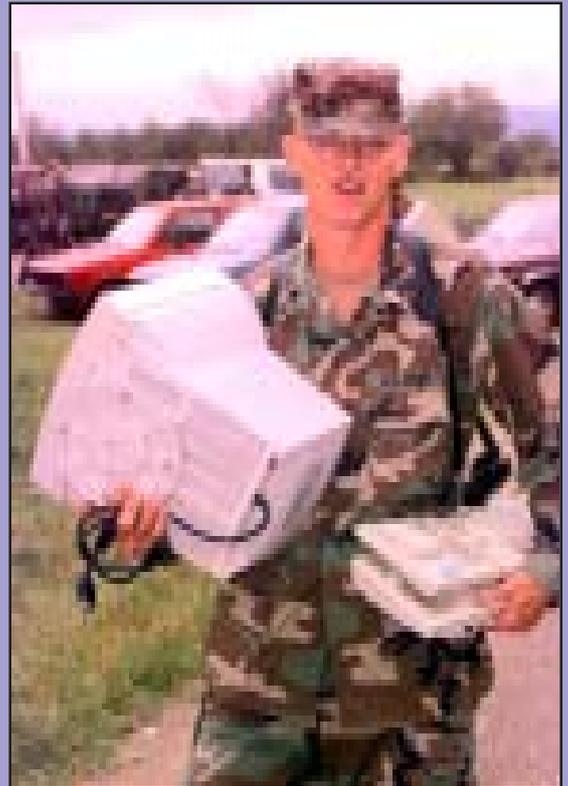
The schools chosen to receive the computers were decided upon with

assistance from those who would know best — people who live in the towns.

"We wanted to send computers to more economically challenged areas," said Sgt. 1st Class Danny Ray Martin, 486th Civil Affairs. "And we had the help of our interpreters to find the areas that needed more help so that we could give these computers to students who need them the most."

The Civil Affairs soldiers had positive hopes for the outcome of their own mission.

"In most of the rooms of these schools, there is nothing," said Maj. Green. "These computers will be a great help. It's like Christmas coming early for these teachers and students. We have talked to DAMO, and we can make requests for systems that have been cleaned off and deemed obsolete. If they have them, then we can give them to schools."



(Above) Staff Sgt. Ted Vytlacil with 307th Psychological Operations Company, carries one of the many donated computers into an elementary school. (Right) Staff Sgt. Vytlacil helps install one of the 18 computers donated. These computers will help further education at the Crnjelovo Donje school.



Computer Statistics

"In the past decade ... the number of jobs requiring computer skills has increased from 25 percent of all jobs in 1983 to 47 percent in 1993. By 2000, ... 60 percent of the nation's jobs will demand these skills — and pay an average of 10 to 15 percent more than jobs involving no computer work."

Todd Oppenheimer, "The Computer Delusion", *The Atlantic Monthly*, July 1997

Percentage of American Schools Wired to the Internet

	1995	1996	1997
All schools:	50	65	78
Elementary:	46	61	75
Secondary:	65	77	89
City:	47	64	74
Rural:	48	60	79

"Wired to the World," *Newsweek*, December 14, 1998, pg. 20

Choir Tours To Lift Soldiers' Spirits

Story and photos by Pfc. Michael Bennett
Eagle Base

The Multinational Division (North) Gospel Choir began its first-ever tour of American bases in Bosnia Aug. 31.

The choir is a combination of smaller choirs from Eagle Base and Camp Comanche. The group's 45 members performed concerts at Forward Operating Base Conner Aug. 31, Eagle Base Sept. 2, Camp Butmir Sept. 7 and Camp McGovern Sept. 9.

Soldiers in the choir represent a wide range of units including the 648th Engineer Company; 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment; 1st and 2nd Battalions, 121st Infantry and the 3rd Infantry Division. The vocal groups also consist of soldiers from previous rotations and new leadership from the beginning of the Stabilization Force 9 rotation.

Each of the musicians brought unique viewpoints and ideas into making the gospel choir a successful ministry.

"Before we left Ft. Stewart (Ga.), I (was told) I was going to be in charge of the gospel services at Camp Comanche," said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Artie Maxwell, 2-121. "I asked Sgt. (Clinton) Shaw to organize the choir when we got here, and he's just taken it from there."

"I'm using the gift God gave me," said

Sgt. Shaw, 2-121, the director of the choir at Camp Comanche. "He gave me a gift, and if I don't use it wisely, he might take it back. So I use it to glorify him. I'm using his gift to draw others to him."

Sgt. Shaw said that he was called to the music ministry about a year prior to the deployment and started directing his choir back home at that point.

The music the choir uses "I brought with me from home," said Sgt. Shaw. "It's the same music we sing there."

This is the first tour for the singers, but the separate groups have been a part of the gospel ministry at the two base camps since the beginning of the rotation.

According to Chaplain (Capt.) William Sheffield, 3rd ID, the chaplain in charge of the gospel services at Eagle Base, choirs are a basic part of gospel worship.

"Preaching, prayer and song," said Chaplain Sheffield. "Those are the three basic parts of a gospel service."

Chaplain Maxwell agreed. "Each rotation has had a gospel choir (at most of the base camps). We're just extremely blessed to have so much talent. We have several people who can play the guitar and several who can play the drums. We've got quite a lot of very talented people here."

Those talented people run the gamut of experience with the choirs, including some who've never worked with choral music in the past.

Sgt. Michael Sapwell, Co. D 1-58th Aviation Regiment, for example, joined the choir during SFOR 8 although he had never experienced singing in front of others before. Sgt. Diane Haynes, 129th Postal Company, sang with gospel choirs back home, but found the tour to be enlightening. Sgt. Haynes explained that even though the choir was from different back-grounds, those differ-



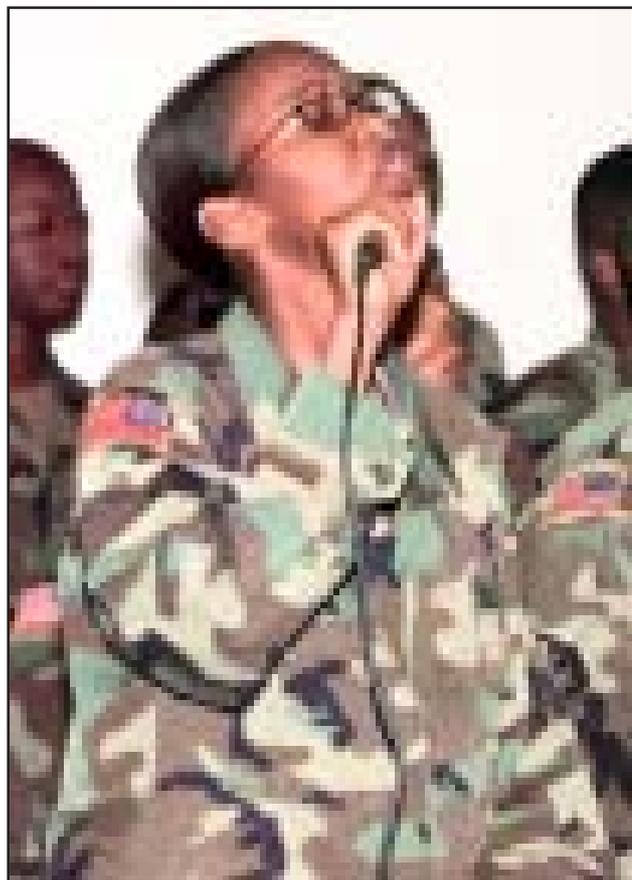
(Above) Pfc. Samuel Berry, 632nd Mechanic Co., Spc. Jose Flores, 148th Logistics Task Force, Sgt. Carl Bobb, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry, and Spc. Karen Norrington, 148th LTF, sing with the choir. (Below) Chaplain (1st Lt.) Artie Maxwell, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, ministers to the gathered audience between songs from the choir.

ences were put aside.

"It was an awesome experience. It's not about who we are or where we come from, it's about praising and worshiping Jesus Christ," said Sgt. Haynes.

Pfc. Melinda Williams, Company D, 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment joined the choir last April, early in this rotation, and feels a strong spiritual connection with the choir. She also feels that they shared this spiritual link with audience members during the tour, inspiring and motivating soldiers at every stop. "I've never sang before with a choir," said the Camp Comanche soldier. "I really feel like I'm getting closer to the Lord because of it."

"I'm not only ministering to people in song, I feel like I've gained a family from this," the musician said. "We've gotten a phenomenal response to the tour. From singing I've felt like I'm not only helping others, but that we've been helping ourselves." **Continued on Page 12**



Spc. Latasha Williams, Co. D, 148th LTF, raises her voice in song during a solo.



LTF Soldier Named NCO of Rotation

Story and photo by Spc. Grant Calease
Camp Comanche

An award was given to a Camp Comanche soldier who provided a shining example for his soldiers to follow and help turn them into better servicemembers.

Staff Sgt. Jon Bates, Co. K, 148th Logistics Task Force aviation platoon member, was awarded the noncommissioned officer of the Stabilization Force 9 rotation. Sgt. Bates is attached to Co. K from the 159th Aviation Maintenance Battalion, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Staff Sgt. Bates' journey toward NCO of the rotation began at lowest level.

"I was chosen to go up for company NCO of the Month in May. (That same month) I went up to the next level and won battalion NCO of the Month," he said.

In July, the previous battalions' NCO of the month winners were brought together for NCO of the Rotation. The winner went to the Camp Comanche NCO of the Rotation competition and finally to Eagle Base to compete for SFOR NCO of the rotation, against winners from Eagle Base and Camp McGovern.

Staff Sgt. Bates, has been in the Army for five years and plans on staying in for many years to come. He was promoted to E-6 just after the luncheon held in the winners' honor.

He explained what the competitions were like.

"We went before a board. We did reporting and facing movements and spoke about ourselves, give a brief history of our service and include our career goals," he said.

"I didn't expect to win. I didn't even study at all," said Staff Sgt. Bates. "I've done boards before and been studying for years, so it's all there."

Command Sgt. Maj. George Ruo, Multinational Division (North) command sergeant major, said while speaking at the luncheon,

"It's an honor, but it doesn't really change anything. I'm still going to be the same NCO and the same person I've always been."

**Staff Sgt. Jon Bates,
NCO of the Rotation**



Then-Sgt. Jon Bates was named NCO of the Rotation after being selected by several boards. Those boards were an initial "Soldier of the Month" board for the 148th, an NCO of the Rotation board for Camp Comanche and a board for all of Task Force Eagle held on Eagle Base.

said that "a great deal of extra time and effort went into studying and preparing for the final board."

"This is a great thing to continue while being deployed, especially in this environment."

Maj. Gen. Walter Sharp, commander, MNDN(N), also attended the luncheon.

Staff Sgt Bates said he is still waiting for the realization that he won the NCO of the Rotation to hit him.

"It's an honor, but it doesn't really change anything. I'm still going to be the same NCO and the same person I've always been," At the end of this month I'll be going home and I'll still be Staff Sgt. Bates and I'll still have a job to do," he said.

For his efforts, Staff Sgt. Bates received an Army Achievement Medal, AAFES coupons, gift packs from Morale Welfare and Recreation and a \$100 gift certificate from AAFES.

Co. K is the direct support maintenance for both UH-60 Blackhawk and OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters stationed at Camp Comanche. The avionics platoon soldiers work on all electrical components, such as navigation and weapons systems, said Staff Sgt. Bates.

"I'm in avionics production control," he said. "When our unit gets work orders, I distribute the work out to the people in the platoon."

Staff Sgt. Bates and his fellow soldiers have been keeping very busy while in Bosnia.

"My platoon alone has done over 1,300 work orders since we've been here. It's been work, work, work," said Staff Sgt. Bates, who has been on Comanche since March.

The troops in Co. K's avionics platoon usually work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. six days a week. Lately, though, their workload has decreased due to soldiers redeploying, said Staff Sgt. Bates.

"It's been slower because the aircraft we have been working on are heading back to the states and the new ones are coming in. It's a gray area," said Staff Sgt. Bates.

The soldiers who work alongside Staff Sgt. Bates feel he is well-deserving of the award he has received.

"He does a great job. He's one always to get out there and get the job done," said Spc. Bernard Wetzel, who works with Staff Sgt. Bates in the Co. K maintenance trailers.

"It didn't surprise me when he won."



Staff Sgt. Jon Bates, Co. K 148th Logistics Task Force, works on avionics equipment for the helicopters stationed at Camp Comanche. Sgt. Bates was named SFOR NCO of the Rotation.

Tuzla Makes Use of Needed Blood

Story by Pfc. Michael Bennett
Photos by Maj. Pekka Turunen
Eagle Base

The average adult American has about seven to nine pints of blood in their system at any given time. Task Force Medical Eagle's 28th Combat Support Hospital keeps a few more than that on hand. But most of it sits, unused, on its shelves.

However, during Stabilization Force 9, a program was reinitiated that had fallen by the wayside during earlier SFOR rotations for unknown reasons, according to Capt. Wendy Bailey, 28th CSH, the laboratory services officer at TFME.

Starting last June, the CSH began donating extra blood to Tuzla University Hospital. Three donations have been delivered since restarting the program, one each also in July and September. They have donated a total of 27 units, or pints, during those three trips.

"We chose Tuzla University because we had to look at local hospitals first. There is a critical time frame before the blood goes bad during transportation," she said.

TFME always makes sure that its own quotas are met before scheduling a transfer, so they can properly provide for any soldier requiring a transfusion.

Donations to TUH are only made when a new supply comes in and the old supply is close to its expiration date, but early enough to give the hospital a reasonable time to use it. "We try to make sure they have at least seven days to use the blood," said Spc. Victor Medina, 28th CSH laboratory technician.

According to Capt. Bailey, the blood rarely lasts that long, though. "This blood is very important to the local hospital. They have to perform a high rate of transfusions every day. With their low donation rate, they go through their normal blood supply weekly," she said.

Local physicians agree that TFME's donations are vital. "Every blood donation is important to us," said Dr. Slavica Divkavic-Mott of Tuzla University Hospital's transfusion department. "We

have a great problem because of poor response by Bosnian citizens."

Dr. Divkavic-Mott explained that the amount of blood needed varies with the type of surgery performed, but often the numbers are high. During one operation alone, a third of the total donations was used.

"The other day we had a boy in with a spine injury, and during his surgery, we had to use eight units of blood," she said.

Bosnian hospitals were never extremely well stocked in the past, but donation rates have been markedly worse since the war. On the other hand, TFME's excess stems from the quiet American mission here.

"We don't see too many traumas here," said Spc. Medina. "That's a good thing, it means nobody's getting hurt."

TFME receives its supply from the United States Army, Europe Blood Donor Center in Germany. Because of the low demand for blood, the center has started sending TFME blood with a longer "shelf life."

"They (the center) maintain a constant update of our supply here through weekly updates we send them," said Spc. Medina. "They'll determine our needs based upon that."

Starting the program again required extra work from members of 28th CSH. "We can't enter into an agreement like this with one of the local hospitals on our own," said Capt. Bailey. In addition to coordinating the donations, TFME had to work out the details with the Staff Judge Advocate, Civil Affairs Battalion, the (Bosnian) Department of

State and the Division Surgeon's office.

"We're also trying to get something worked out with the hospital in Dobo, in the Serbian area," said Capt. Bailey. "We want to maintain... that we are not supporting one group over another. That's why we're trying to get this set up in more than just one area."

In addition to donating the blood, TFME also tracks its use by the hospital, as a means of making sure the blood is used as well as possible, said Capt. Bailey.

"A lot of work goes into one unit of blood, rather than throw it away, I'd (prefer to) see it put to use."

*Spc. Victor Medina
laboratory technician, TFME*



Spc. Victor Medina, 28th CSH, unloads the shipment of blood supplies at the Tuzla University Hospital.



The hospital has donated a total of 27 units. (Photo courtesy of University of Maryland website)

Guard Force Soldiers Keep Watch with...

Eyes Wide Open

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

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

As part of my week-long assignment with the Eagle Base guard force, I was sent out to work third shift at Observation Post 9 with Spc. Matthew Elrod, a guard force soldier with 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 121st Infantry. I arrived just after midnight and looked around at the small confines I would call 'the office' for the next eight hours. Spc. Elrod introduced himself and told me about the job.

"Our job is to observe the perimeter and make sure no one is trying to breach the wire. We also watch the construction gate, and conduct dismounted patrols around the perimeter," he said.

"We listen for things like shots fired. If we hear something, we try to get an azimuth on the direction of the shot, confirm with another OP and call it in to the Base Defense Operations Center," said Spc. Elrod. On third shift, two soldiers work the OP because of reduced visibility and to help fight fatigue, he said.

'Fatigue,' I thought, 'I've had three cups of coffee, and it'll be hard enough to sit still- let alone fall asleep.'

Spc. Elrod advised me that during the day there is only one person in the OP. The guard force soldiers rotate positions occasionally, at the discretion of commander of the relief, but for the most part, they remain stationary.

At around 2:30 a.m. I could feel the fatigue setting in, and we still had more than five hours to go. "Watch out for the 'Z monster,'" he said. "The 'Z monster,' what's that?" I yawned.

"He comes out on third shift and tries to put you to sleep," he said.

"I think I can make it," I said, though I knew I had to do something to stay awake.

I decided now was probably a good time to go do one of those dismounted patrols I heard about. I grabbed my wet-weather gear, M-16 and Load-Bearing Vest, and worked my

way down the flight of slippery, dimly lit steps. Heading out along Perimeter Road, I trudged along through the mud, looking for — even hoping for — something. Anything. On the way back I saw more of the same. Nothing.

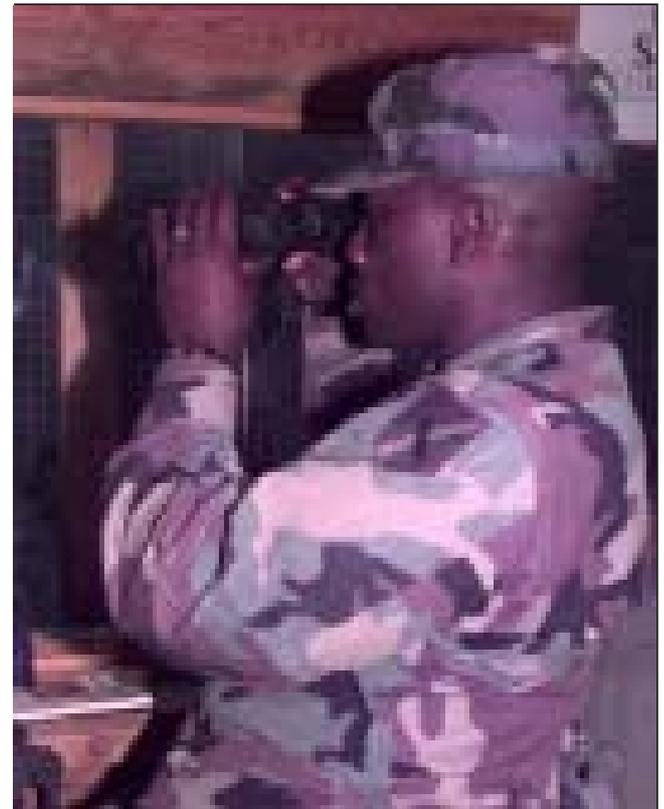
"See anything?" he asked. "Just the rain," I said. We talked some more and I asked him about dealing with monotony.

"A lot of people think this is an easy job, and to be honest, it's not that difficult. Boredom is the hardest part. I would rather be on the outside of the wire than just sitting here," said Spc. Elrod.

I asked him if there was something positive about being a guard force soldier.

"I get satisfaction knowing that I am helping the next generation of Bosnians get back on their feet. That was the reason I came here," said Spc. Elrod.

Around 3:30 a.m. a vehicle pulled into the construction gate. We watched for a few moments, thinking they might be young lovers. After breaking out the Night Vision Goggles, I realized they weren't lovers at all, but just two men sitting in the car talking to



At the break of dawn, Spc. Calvin Bell, with 1-121, scans his sector for anything out of the ordinary.

each other and smoking. I didn't know whether to laugh or be concerned. Spc. Elrod called it back to the Pedestrian Gate, but before the ranger patrol came to investigate, the vehicle sped away. "Well, it looks like we had our excitement for the evening," Spc. Elrod said.

At almost 4:00 a.m., there were lights coming our way. Dinner, or breakfast as it was, had arrived. Since it was still dark I put a scoop of this and that on my tray and hoped it was

anything but grits. I finished the meal just as my replacement arrived.

I thanked Spc. Elrod, and decided to go to OP 12 and speak with Spc. Calvin Bell, a guard force soldier with 2nd Plt.

"So what do you like about this job?" I asked.

"It's rewarding knowing we have been here for four months without having any incidents or breaches in the wire. It's nice to know soldiers on base can sleep peacefully," said Spc. Bell. "Being here in the tower watching the perimeter, I feel like I am protecting the people here," he added.

We watched the fence line for a while; this one had a view of some houses. The light of day finally did manage to show its face. Morning had finally arrived, and it wouldn't be long until we were relieved. "When the civilians open their windows and come out in the morning, they know that we are here for peace. They see us and know that they are safe and that there is hope," Spc. Bell said.

That's a great way to look at things, I thought. And before I could finish the thought, first shift had arrived and was ready to take over the mission. For me, it signified the end of my week with guard force. For the guard force soldiers, it was the end of another night out on the wire.

"Being here in the tower watching the perimeter, I feel like I am protecting the people here. My fellow soldiers depend on my job."

Spc. Calvin Bell
a guard force soldier with 2nd Plt.

DEDICATION

Continued from Page 5

The idea for the dedication came from members of the 1-121 from the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia National Guard and Maj. Alan Morris, former Eagle Base mayor, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Kegley, ground forces sergeant major.

"Several members of (1st) Battalion were talking about leaving something here in Bosnia, so future soldiers would know 48th Brigade and 121st had served here," he added.

Leaving that "something" behind meant a lot of work to find just the right person to represent the Georgia Guardsmen.

"In researching the history of the 121st, it was discovered that Staff Sgt. Minick was a Medal of Honor winner as a member of the 121st, and we all agreed it would be fitting to name the recreational area after him," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kegley.

Approximately 800 soldiers with the 121st are currently working on both Eagle Base and Camp Comanche and are responsible for force protection and presence patrols.

"I am proud to have two battalions of the 121st Infantry Regiment of the Georgia Army National Guard as vital members of our Task Force Eagle team," said Maj. Gen. Sharp.

The recreational area now includes the soccer field, football field and running track. However, there are plans to expand the area to include a 'putting green, driving range and picnic area. The dedication sign is at the entrance of the mile-long track and includes the citation of Staff Sgt. Minick's MOH with both the 'old gray bonnet' and the 8th Infantry Div. insignia on its sides. "It will be a lasting tribute to the memory of Staff Sgt. Minick from soldiers of the 121st Infantry, and a symbol for all to know that the 121st Infantry Regiment lives on," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kegley.

CHOIR

Continued from Page 8

The idea of a MND(N) choir stemmed from a request from 1st Sgt. Sibley Matchett, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry, first sergeant for the soldiers at FOB Conner.

"He said 'we get (rhythm and blues) acts, we get rock acts, we even get country acts, but we don't get anything to minister to the soldiers' spiritual needs,'" said Sgt. 1st Class Lee Mosley, Task Force Medical Eagle's first sergeant.

"From there we got the idea to try bringing the choirs together and traveling MND(N)," said Chaplain Maxwell, the gospel minister at Camp Comanche.

However, joining both choirs again for one last time before the end of the rotation proved to be a bit tricky.

Sgt. 1st Class Mosley explained that the vast majority of the difficulties encountered arose from how busy all of the units are at this point in the rotation, trying to get packed up, cleared, cleaned and ready to be redeployed. Still, once that situation was resolved, there were few other problems bringing the two choirs together for the tour.

"We've combined off and on for services (at both base camps)" on special occasions, said Sgt. 1st Class Mosley. "The only real challenge for this tour was getting everyone released from their jobs for rehearsals."

According to Pfc. Williams, "everything went smoothly. I didn't see any problems bringing this (the tour) together."

At all the camps, the choir made ministry a part of their show as well as music, spreading the gospel and revitalizing soldiers' faith wherever they could.

Sgt. Sapwell explained that six soldiers converted during their performance at FOB Conner, an experience he said made the whole tour feel worthwhile.

"We received a wonderful reaction," said Sgt. Haynes. "People were responding to the music, clapping their hands and dancing. They were very receptive to the music ministry."

Soldier on the Street

"What has been one highlight of your deployment to Bosnia?"

We get a chance to help the people rebuild schools and their houses."

**Sgt. 1st Class
Danny Martin**
486th CIMIC Battalion
Camp McGovern



Turning in two companies worth of equipment plus all the Bradleys and tanks at Camp McGovern very easily."

Capt. Ryan Ussery
HHT, 3-7 Cav.
Camp McGovern

Learning how to communicate in a different language."

Spc. Ashley Neill
Co. D, 3-153rd Infantry
Camp McGovern



Being able to interact and see that we have made a difference here. Actually seeing that we make a difference."

Spc. John McIntyre
Co. D, 3-153rd Infantry
Eagle Base

Seeing a different part of the world, experiencing other cultures."

Spc. Nathan Pennington
Co. D, 3-153rd Infantry
Camp McGovern



Going to the schools to deliver "Mirko" magazines and seeing the children look happy to receive them."

Sgt. Javier Arzola
307th PSYOPS
Eagle Base