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TALON

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Commander,
Multinational Division (North)
Maj. Gen. H Steven Blum

Chief, Public Affairs
Maj. Drew Sullins
762-3353

Director, Command Information
Maj. Christopher D. Simpson

Senior Public Affairs Supervisor
Sgt. 1st Class David Moore
762-3353

29th ID (L) Division Historian
Master Sgt. Jon S. Guttman
762-3353

Talon Staff
382nd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Editor
Sgt. Cheri Priestino
762-5233

Assistant Editor
Spc. Tonya Vlahos
762-5230

Eagle Base Staff Writer
Spc. Christopher McDowell
762-5230

Camp Comanche Staff Writer
Pvt. Jim H. Moreno
768-1027

Camp McGovern Staff Writer
Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis
763-2041

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Happy holidays

Laura and I are honored to send our greetings and best wishes to America's finest, our men and women in uniform. America is protected by the best military in the world. What makes our armed forces so great are the men and women in uniform who bravely serve their country.

This holiday season especially, America is proud of you and what you're doing. We pray for your success, and we look forward to the day when you can come home to your friends and your families.

This is a time of conflict and challenge. This is also a season of hope and joy. We continue to pray for peace on Earth even as we fight so that oppression may end. And we continue to give thanks for what you have done to defend American ideals.

On behalf of all Americans, Laura and I want to express our deep appreciation to you and your families for your service and sacrifice. Happy holidays. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

President and Mrs. George W. Bush

Chaplain's Corner

During the final days of 2001, people will make dozens of promises envisioning how life should be in 2002. It is common, a tradition if you will, for people to make plans to live life better than they did in the past and not to repeat the mistakes of yesterday. "I am going to do better in my personal relationships than I did last year." "I am going to seek new job opportunities 2002." "I am going to spend more time with my children next year." "I am going back to college." "I am going to lose weight." "I am going back to church." "I am going to quit smoking or drinking in 2002." At the beginning of every year an incalculable number of New Year resolutions are made in an attempt to start anew, re-focus, gain courage, and to overcome the paralyzing effects of past failures.

While the origin of New Year resolutions is unclear, it is certainly worthwhile, particularly if one's resolutions are in light of God's love and forgiveness. The Apostle Paul writes an enlightening letter to the people at Philippi. He writes, "I don't mean to say that I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that the Lord...wants me to be." He goes on to say, "I am still not all I should be but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling me heavenward."

Whether or not Paul's letter has anything to do with New Year resolutions

is not significant here. The important message is that God helps us to forget the past and reach for our goals even when we fail to keep a resolution or a promise. T. Jones of the Presbyterian Tribune says: "One does not forget by keeping his or her mind on things he or she desires to forget, but by engaging his or her attention with something else...forgetting doesn't eliminate...the necessity of some remembering...but we must forget in the sense of ceasing to give primary attention to certain things...Perhaps, if we will only forget ourselves, we will probably forget all things that ought to be pushed far out of the field of consciousness. For dwelling too much upon successes, failures, sins, sorrows and unpleasantness is simply thinking too much about ourselves."

Resolve not to think too much about yourself. Start the New Year with God's help. God does things for us that we cannot do for ourselves: He forgives our sins. He gives us power to live as we should. When we fail, God nurtures and points us in the direction we ought to go and when we succeed, God keeps us humble by reminding us that his grace is sufficient. The key to our success is forgetting the past and reaching forward. With God's help, we will succeed.

Resolve to make this your prayer and say it as often as you need to during the New Year:

Oh God of second chances and new beginnings here I am again.

Chaplain (Maj.) William Green
Eagle Base

ON THE FRONT COVER: A Christmas tree overwhelmed with snow stands in front of the Eagle Base Chapel. Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh.

ON THE BACK COVER: Staff Sgt. Kevin Bradley, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry, poses as Santa. Bradley says he misses playing Santa for his nieces and nephews back home, but he is here for his soldiers - "the best in the world." Photo by Master Sgt. Mike Welsh.

Artillery units honor Saint Barbara

Master Sgt. Jon S. Guttman
29th ID Historian

As long as there have been formal armies with specialized branches, soldiers have formed bands of brothers within bands of brothers, the smaller groups finding a common, international bond within their profession. Among those specialized arms is the artillery, which has a tradition of gathering in December for the day of its patron saint, St. Barbara.

Alleged to have lived in Nicomedia in Asia Minor in the 3rd or 4th century A.D., Barbara was tortured and killed by her father, Dioscorus, for abandoning the pantheon of ancient Roman gods and converting to Christianity. As he came down from the mountain where he had killed her, Dioscorus was struck by lightning, leaving only his scorched sword as a reminder of divine retribution. Catholics have since regarded St. Barbara as a protector from thunderstorms, fire and explosions. Given the danger of explosions from early artillery pieces, she was soon adopted as a special protector by gunners as well.

On Dec. 21, representatives of 10 artillery regiments—as well as other selected guests from [what artillerymen refer to as] “expendable” branches—met at Comanche Base for the annual St. Barbara celebration. For the first time since the Stabilization Force arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the participants included members of the Armed Forces of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The officers were Col. Nijaz Vrabac, a Bosnian Muslim who commands the 228th Artillery Brigade, 2nd Corps,

and Col. Zdenko Maric, commander of the 4th Guards Division Artillery, I Croatian Guards Corps.

Other special guests included Col. Jeffrey E. Marshall, ground commander for Multinational Division (North); Lt. Col. David O. Smith, executive officer (XO) of Task Force Eagle’s Joint Military Commission (JMC); Maj. Lee S. Smithson, XO of Task Force Rifles; Command Sgt. Maj. Michael F. Case of Task Force Eagle and Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Marlow of Task Force Rifles. Both Smith and Marlow were former Redlegs, had seen previous service at Starkville, Miss., home base of the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery of the 155th Separate Armored Brigade (Enhanced).

Hosted by Capt. Michael Hunter, officer in charge of Task Force Rifles’ Joint Military Committee at Comanche Base, the ceremony began with an invocation by Chaplain (Capt.) Gary H. Killen. There was also a reading of the legend of Fiddler’s Green, a junction on the road to hell where the souls of departed artillerymen join their comrades at a canteen.

“Though others must go down the trail to seek a warmer scene,” concludes the poem, “No Redleg ever goes to hell ere he’s emptied his canteen. And so returns to drink again, with friends at Fiddler’s Green.”

Dinner was accompanied by a slide show of SFOR in Bosnia and a focus on current artillery, to the tune of “For Those About to Rock (We Salute You),” by AC/DC. That was followed by the traditional, ceremonious mixing of Artillery Punch—unfortunately deprived of its traditional



Master Sgt. Jon S. Guttman

Having been volunteered as “the most expendable King of Battle,” Maj. Kenneth S. Thomas bravely tests the Artillery Punch.

authenticity by General Order No. 1’s ban on alcohol—and the selection of the first man to sample the elaborate concoction, an “honor” that ultimately fell on the capable taste buds of Maj. Kenneth S. Thomas of 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery. Once the Artillery Punch’s survivability was established, it was doled out to all and toasts were drunk to the United States of America, to the President of the United States, to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Army National Guard, to the Field Artillery, to Field Artillery Soldiers, Past and Present, and to St. Barbara. Next came an awards ceremony, during which 2nd Lt. Dennis K. Daniels received the Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding work as Information Operations Officer for Task Force Rifles. Army Achievement Medals were awarded to Maj. Kenneth S. Thomas and Staff Sgt. Steven Bush, and Case gave Staff Sgt. Timothy W. Oswald an SFOR10 coin. Finally, Bush presented a 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery coin to Vladimir Mijatovic for his outstanding work as an interpreter. After Hunter recounted the artillery related exploits of Mary Hays McCauly—better known as Molly Pitcher—during the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, Smith made the closing remarks, with special thanks to the guests from the Bosnian artillery. “They,” Smith said, “are what our mission in Bosnia is all about.”



Master Sgt. Jon S. Guttman

Aided by interpreter Goran Asonja, left, Col. Nijaz Vrabac, commander of the 228th Artillery Brigade, II Corps, Armed Forces of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, compares notes with Lt. Col. David O. Smith.

News briefs

Guard soldiers join security efforts for Olympics

A significant increase in the number of Army National Guard soldiers committed to keeping the XIX Winter Olympics safe for international spectators, athletes and others bound for Utah is one way to measure how the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have changed life as we know it.

Nearly 5,000 Guard soldiers from 19 states, from as far away as Florida and Massachusetts, will support local, state and federal agencies at the Games in and around Salt Lake City during February, according to National Guard officials.

Utah will easily contribute the lion's share -- nearly 1,700 citizen-soldiers.

That is the approximate number of Army Guard troops who were scheduled to support the games before Sept. 11. Since then, the National Guard's part of the mission has increased nearly three fold.

The Games will open on Feb. 8 and close on Feb. 24, and organizers have vowed they will be safe and secure.

--National Guard News

New transit center opens at Pentagon

Metro bus service returned to the Pentagon on Dec. 16, and will operate from a new Pentagon Transit Center.

The larger, brighter and more security-conscious transit center will bring regular bus service back to the Pentagon for the first time since Sept. 11. The Pentagon Transit Center, a \$36 million project funded by DoD, was designed and planned long before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

It is Phase One of security upgrades set for the Pentagon's Metrobus and Metrorail facilities. Based on security assessments, the Pentagon wanted to increase the distance between buses and the Pentagon, as well as eliminate the existing Metro escalator and elevator entry points into the Pentagon. This required the relocation of the existing bus terminal. Other security upgrades involve the construction of a new Pentagon entrance building and new elevator and canopy at the metrorail entrance with an expected completion by fall 2002. About 29,000 people a day will use the Pentagon Transit Center, which will have 1,571 bus arrivals and departures each weekday on 84 different bus routes using the center's 24 bus bays.

--AFPS News

With a new year comes uniform policy changes

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
ARNEWS

More than 10 changes in the Army's uniform policy are currently being staffed for an update of Army Regulation 670-1. Items being revised include hair, nails, contacts, cell phones, pagers, bloused boots, headgear, "camelbacks", desert battle-dress-uniform insignia, regimental distinctive insignia, physical fitness uniform wear and pregnancy, the explosive ordnance detachment badge and the black mess uniform.

Other items that will not undergo a policy change will have their wording changed to give a clearer picture of what the policy is, said Master Sgt. Kittie Messman, the uniform policy noncommissioned officer at the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Items that will be re-worded include those governing tattoos and body piercing, identification bracelets, civilian bags, and uniform policy based on religious practices.

Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, was last revised in 1992, but in order to keep up with the pace of changing times the regulation is periodically reviewed.

"The regulation has to change with time," Messman said. "If not, we'd still be wearing uniforms from the Civil War."

Until the revised regulation is signed by the secretary of the Army, Messman said, the regulation last updated in 1992 is still in effect.

A new policy regarding cell phones and pagers is one addition to the regulation that was generated by technology, Messman said. Under the upcoming regulation, only one electric device will be authorized for wear on the uniform in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4 X 2 X 1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, bag or in some other carrying container. Messman is the principal advisor for changes to the uniform policy, but she said the changes that are being staffed came from recommendations.

"We depend a lot on leadership in the field," Messman said. "They know the young soldiers of today. I get their input on when it's time to allow something that wasn't allowed before, or when something starts becoming a distraction and needs to be addressed."

The policy change authorizing braids and cornrows is an example of items that were once seen as inappropriate in the workplace, but now considered conservative and business-like, Messman said. And the policy clarification that prohibits two-toned manicured nails is an example of a growing trend that has no place in the work area, she added.

Highlights of the changes are:

- Dreadlocks are prohibited for all soldiers. Prohibited hair dye colors include purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright fire-engine red, and neon colors. Applied colors must look natural on the individual soldier. Women are authorized to wear braids and cornrows; baldness is authorized for males, either natural or shaved.

- Males are not authorized to wear nail polish and they must keep nails trimmed to the tip of the finger. Females must keep nails trimmed no longer than 1/4 inch, as measured from the fingertip. Two-tone or multi-tone manicures and nail designs are prohibited. Prohibited nail polish colors include bright fire-engine red, khaki or camouflage, purple, gold, blue, black, white, and neon colors.

- Tinted or colored contacts, and contacts that change the shape of the iris are prohibited, as they are not medically required. The only contacts authorized are opaque lenses (when prescribed for eye injuries) and clear corrective vision lenses.

- Cell Phones and Pagers: One electronic device is authorized for wear on the uniform, in the performance of official duties. The device may be either a cell phone or pager - not both. The device must be black in color and may not exceed 4x2x1 inches. Devices that do not comply with these criteria may not be worn on the uniform and must be carried in the hand, in a bag, or in some other carrying container.

- Bloused Boots. Soldiers will not blouse boots any lower than the third eyelet from the top of the boot.

- Black beret: The Army flash is the only flash authorized, unless authorization for distinctive flashes was granted (i.e., OPFOR) before June 14, 2001.

Commanders may authorize the use of a camouflage hydration system (commonly called "camelbacks") for field duty or on work details. Soldiers will not use these devices in a garrison environment, unless directed by the commander.

Soldiers distribute school supplies

Spc. Tonya Vlahos
382nd MPAD

School children in Bosnia will find it easier to perform their studies, courtesy of Task Force Rifles and a Mississippi Army National Guard soldier at home. Soldiers of B Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry, were met with smiles as they walked through the doors of three Bosnian schools with boxes in their hands. A tear rolled down the face of a teacher at the Kulagrad elementary school, the first school the soldiers visited in Zvornik City, with a school population of 12.

Inside the boxes were school supplies donated from children of Oxford Middle School, in Oxford, Miss., taught by Arlene Dowd, who is also a Mississippi Army National Guard member. At this time, Dowd herself is serving a year of duty for the Homeland Defense.

Soldiers also visited two other elementary schools, one in Kamenica in Southern Zvornik, with 15 students, and one in Krizevici in Northern Zvornik, with 40 students. The Serbian teacher at Kulagrad elementary school, Ljiljana Marinkovic, said most of the children were very poor.

"They don't have school books. The school supplies mean a lot to them, because they don't have the money to buy them."

The students study from pages copied from books.

"The teacher's tears made me feel good and bad at the same time," said 1st Lt. Scott M. Caldwell, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry. "I felt great to be able to do something, even though so small. We're not giving computers. We're giving pencils, pens, paper and basic school supplies that people take for granted in the United States. To see how much it meant to them, that we were able to donate, made me feel warm all over. It touched me deep inside. I felt very proud to be able to help them and just wish I could bring more."

This is the first time since the war that children have been able to go to school in the Zvornik area. The three schools were all opened as multi-ethnic schools this year.

Caldwell, the man behind the mission, is an English and Spanish teacher at Oxford High School. He said that when he first arrived in September, someone mentioned how the schools here were in need of



Spc. Tonya Vlahos

Staff Sgt. Michael D. Cullop, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry distributes candy to children during a visit to a local school to deliver donated school supplies.

supplies, including such simple things as pencils, paper and art supplies. Caldwell then contacted some teachers from Oxford. One teacher in particular Dowd, started a drive with her students to gather some of the needed materials. "My commander, Capt. Summers, was thrilled with the idea of donating the packages," said Dowd.

Capt. Plez Summers, commander of B Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry, from Tylertown, Miss., who is also the area of responsibility commander for Zvornik, said the success of those schools means a lot to the area.

"I enjoyed delivering the supplies," said Summers. "We'd like for the people back home who made the donations to know how much they were appreciated here. I think this was important what we did today and I think we made a lot of progress today with kids and that's where you have to start."

Caldwell explained that the only question during the school supply drive was which schools would benefit. That's when United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) entered the planning. The UNHCR in the Zvornik area chose three schools that seemed to be in the greatest need.

"Today was probably the best day I've spent in Bosnia so far," said Caldwell. "It was a very meaningful day, not just for the children, but also for the troops. I hope we

can do more of this in the future. I firmly believe as a teacher, schools are the foundation of any civilization. The students and the young people are going to grow into tomorrow's leaders. It touched my heart to see how much a little gift meant to that teacher."

The local population simply cannot afford to buy books. Many students have to walk long distances to school and some live in homes that are still damaged from the war or have not been completely rebuilt. Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth V. Anthony of Task Force Rifles, from Tupelo, Miss., where he teaches fifth and sixth grades at King Intermediate School, remarked, "One teacher said she doesn't even have a roof on her house."

"After being here and seeing how one pencil or one piece of candy or one box of crayons will make a child's day and be so happy to get something we take for granted has really opened my eyes to knowing how blessed I am and how blessed most Americans are," said Caldwell. "We made an impact. I know we made an impact by talking with the teachers at all three schools."

The students at Oxford Middle School are really the ones who should be noted for their time and effort. They bought the much-appreciated school supplies with their own time and money; some of them even spent their allowance money for the donation.

Soldiers visit Selo Mira orphanage

Maj. Christopher D. Simpson
382nd MPAD

Soldiers from Task Force Eagle and students from Lakeview High School in Saint Clair Shores, Mich., shared the Christmas spirit with kids at the Selo Mira Orphanage located about 20 miles outside of Eagle Base.

The trip was organized by Richard Kent, Deputy Political Advisor for Multi-National Division (North) and 1980 graduate of Lakeview High School.

According to Kent, Selo Mira means "Peace Village." It is the home to about 95 children, two-thirds of whom are from the Drina River valley in the eastern part of Bosnia. Many of the kids are war orphans.

Students from the Michigan high school sent about 130 gifts for the orphanage, each one wrapped and tagged to tell who it came from.

According to Kent, students from Lakeview have two tons of clothing that are being prepared to be shipped to Selo Mira.

Though loaded with gifts, the children weren't the only ones to get a surprise. Soldiers were treated to children, aged 3 to 5, performing a Bosnian song - complete with solo performances.

The musical number was followed by a skit from a boy and a girl dressed as a butterfly and a ladybug. The teenagers also performed to the enjoyment of soldiers and children alike.

Following the theatrics, the gift giving began in earnest. There was something



Maj. Christopher D. Simpson

Spc. Jennifer Pascall and Sgt. Issac Mass dole out presents at the Selo Mira orphanage during a recent visit. The gifts were bought, wrapped, and donated by students from Lakeview High School in Michigan. The high school students have already collected more than two tons of clothing to be delivered to the orphanage in the early part of the new year.

for everyone, for the older boys there were soccer balls and American footballs.

Sgt. Seth Holland, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Division (Light) from Oklahoma City

enjoyed the gift giving.

"To be able to see the joy on their face when you give them a present; it's really good."

Once the presents were opened some of the soldiers and kids went outside to play. One boy asked if the Americans wanted to play "football". Expecting to hit the gridiron, the soldiers were surprised to see the boys return with a soccer ball. After mixing up the teams with soldiers on both sides the fun began, complete with five inches of snow on the field.

Meanwhile, other soldiers were creating new friendships. Pfc. Rose Kowalchuk, from Bristol, Conn., who works in the Joint Visitors Bureau at Eagle Base, made a connection with Fatima, a teenage girl who recently arrived at Selo Mira.

"Fatima Cekric and I took to each other right away," she said. "Only having been at Selo Mira for a few months, she is still adjusting to the new life."

Kowalchuk plans to stay in touch with her after she leaves Bosnia. The soldiers came with gifts to give, but many came away with gifts more intangible.

"A little girl touched my heart," said Spc. Brian Zapien, who spends his duty hours working with the Civil Military Operations section of the 29th ID. "She has been here since she was 14 days old, I'm willing to put in over 110 percent to help them."



Maj. Christopher D. Simpson

Boys from the Selo Mira orphanage clown around in the snow and pose for the camera during a recent visit to the orphanage by MND(N) soldiers.

ASG soldiers support orphanages

Maj. Christopher D. Simpson
382nd MPAD

'Tis the season for giving and soldiers of the Area Support Group (ASG), are doing their part.

Over the past week the ASG has been to on two separate visits to local orphanages in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"I love the interaction with the children, especially the younger ones, said Lt. Col. Scott Meadows, director of Security, Plans and Operations in the Area Support Group Eagle. "To see the looks of joy and unconditional love on their little faces makes the planning and the gathering of gifts worthwhile."

The ASG visited both the Tuzla area and Gracanica's Kinderdorf orphanage in three days to hand out a little joy along with the Christmas presents they had collected.

During these visits the soldiers of the ASG were able to sit down and spend some quality time with the children.

"It was good to spread holiday cheer. It is rewarding to see the children with

smiles." said Staff Sgt. Stephen Porter, the non-commissioned officer of the support operations section for the ASG Directorate of Logistics.

One of the soldiers cared for the children in a different way. Spc. Michael Surles, the ASG chaplain's assistant, from New York City, wanted to know what shape the building was in.

While the other soldiers were busy handing out gifts, Surles walked through the Tuzla area orphanage building giving it his own inspection. He wanted to know if the building was safe to live in, so he looked for missing plaster, holes in the walls, and the general livability of the building.

"I want to see if the Orphanage needs any repairs. Also, I was looking to see if the Orphanage could use a coat of paint in certain areas. We could help them in the areas where they receive no help from an aid agency or government assistance program."

His gift would come in the form of

helping fix the building.

Prior coordination had to be made to gather gifts for the children. Ages and gender of all the children were received from both orphanages. Toys were bought, collected and sorted by age and gender to make sure every child received a gift and no one was left without a gift.

"It was nice seeing how much the children wanted us there. It was good to get an exact list of supplies they need," said Spc. Joseph Clare, a driver for the ASG from Boston, Mass. "The ASG soldiers plan on supplying the exact needs."

After the presents were given and the soldiers went back to their bases, Capt. Burton, support operations officer for ASG, from Greenwood, Ind., summarized the visits.

"Someone told me a long time ago "...you can't change the world..." this is true, however, I can change my little corner of it."

The ASG is changing the world, their little corner of it, one person at a time.

Operation Joulupukki called success

Maj. Christopher D. Simpson
382nd MPAD

On a cold December day, the children from the Tuzla area orphanage had a visit from Joulupukki (Father Christmas) and *tonntu* (elves) who live on Korvatunturi (Ear Mountain), Finland.

Task Force Pegasus soldiers, in conjunction with the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Company, played Santa and his elves and warmed not only the hearts of the Tuzla area orphans but theirs as well.

Operation Joulupukki left from Comanche base with approximately 200 presents to hand out to all the good boys and girls of the orphanage.

Joulupukki's caravan arrived at the orphanage as several children were outside waiting for them. A couple of boys wanted to make sure they were on Joulupukki's good list by helping carry the presents inside.

One by one, the children came over to Joulupukki (1st Lt. Janne Riipinen, of the CIMIC) and *tonntu* (Saldic Husein, a Bosnian interpreter) as he handed out gifts to more than 100 orphans with help from Joulupukki's American elves.

"Just the look on the children's faces says it all", said Spc. Jamie Rushing, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry.

After Joulupukki and his elves handed out the presents, the soldiers received a tour of the children's rooms.

One of the soldiers had brought a large box of homemade cookies and handed them out, much to the delight of the children. One three-year-old boy, in particular, seemed to enjoy the cookies so much, the soldiers called him "Cookie Monster," after the popular muppet character on Sesame Street.

"He had so many cookies in his mouth, he looked like a chipmunk," said Staff Sgt. Steven Bush, of 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry. "The little boy wouldn't quit. Just one after another."

Several of the soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation played soccer with the children.

"I enjoyed being outside with the kids playing soccer," said Spc. Danielle Dreager, from Barrington, N.J.

Dreager summed up what the day meant to the soldiers far from home and family this

holiday season.

"The entire day was perfect."



Maj. Christopher D. Simpson

Joulupukki, played by 1st Lt. Janne Riipinen of the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Company poses with a child at a local orphanage during a recent gift giving visit.



NORMANDY 1944



Heroes of the Blue & Gray

Sgt. Abe Sherman
"C'mon you ***** let's go!"
1898-1987

One of the most esteemed soldiers in the history of the 29th Infantry Division, Abe Sherman grew up in Baltimore amid a world of hard reality.

Like many in his generation, he was forced to go to work at an early age and begin selling newspapers in downtown Baltimore.

When the United States entered World War I, the 19 year-old Sherman enlisted in the Army outfit that promised to get him into the fighting with the least amount of stateside duty. It was with the 28th Engineers that Sherman earned three battle stars on the Western Front.

Returning to Baltimore in 1919, he invested his veteran's bonus by building a newsstand at the foot of the Battle Monument next to Baltimore City Hall. Sherman's newsstand quickly became a Baltimore institution where governors, mayors and other prominent politicians met to buy Abe's papers and magazines, and receive some earthy counsel from the war veteran.

The day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, despite having a successful business, a wife and two young sons Sherman tried to reenlist, but the Army rejected him because he was 43 years of age. Refusing to accept the Army's initial answer, Sherman turned to the many politicians he knew and asked them to help get him into to Baltimore's famed 175th Infantry Regiment of the newly mobilized 29th Infantry Division. Through his political connections, his wish was granted and the veteran of the Great War was enlisted as a 43 year-old private to fight in World War II.

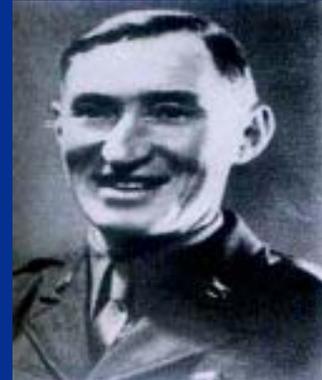
By D-Day Sherman had earned a sergeant's stripes and when he landed in France on June 7, 1944, he was serving in the regimental headquarters personnel (S-1) section. Being assigned to the regimental headquarters, however, didn't cost Sherman an opportunity to be decorated for gallantry in combat.

On July 30, 1944 as the 175th was fighting near Percy, France the regiment found itself surrounded by elements of the 2nd Panzer Division. Shortly before noon that day, a crippling blow was dealt to the regimental command post when during a 15-minute artillery barrage a shell landed directly on the operations (S-3) tent, killing 12 of the 13 soldiers inside. When the fire lifted, two squads of German infantry supported by tanks, came to within one hedgerow of overrunning the command post.

That's when Sherman leapt into action and began organizing a defense of the command post. Recklessly exposing himself to enemy fire, Sherman rallied the soldiers of the "Dandy Fifth" who succeeded in repulsing the attack. For that action, Sherman was decorated with the Silver Star.

Maj. Gen. William Witte, the 29th division's operations officer during World War II, remarked years later, "They would have overrun the headquarters of the 175th if Abe hadn't shouted at the normally noncombatant headquarters soldiers, 'C'mon you ***** , let's go!'"

After the war Sherman returned to his newsstand in Baltimore, which he operated until his death in 1987 at the age of 89. His two sons carried on his legacy of service, with one retiring as a colonel and the other as a brigadier general.



McGovern chapel hosts open house

Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis
382nd MPAD

Camp McGovern held an open house to celebrate the re-opening of the renovated chapel Sunday. The Chapel at Camp McGovern received a face-lift during the holidays.

"I think its great the Chapel is being renovated, said Sgt. 1st Class Joe Cheeks, of the 194th Engineers, Tennessee Army National Guard.

Cheeks, who works with the Mayor's Cell at Camp McGovern added, "we could tell right from the beginning of SFOR10, it [the chapel] could use some help."

The building has received a new metal roof, windows and new doors. Because of

its age, the building also received insulation in the new walls and ceiling.

The building was originally built in November of 1996, as a combination post office and supply room. At that time, church services were being held in a small room behind the PX.

In March 1997, McGovern decided to let one half of the building serve as a chapel for conducting religious services.

According to construction workers, who have been at the base since early 1996, a post office was built in 1999, and the chaplain was given the old building to use exclusively as a chapel.

Because of a lack of funding, the chaplain and soldiers removed the wall that

separated the building into compartments and cleaned the building themselves.

When Task Force Courage arrived for SFOR10, the Chaplain and church members noticed the building was in need of repair.

According to Chaplain (Capt.) Sean Wead, of Task Force Courage, the improvements made to the chapel show soldiers that SFOR, and Multinational Division (North) commanders support and care for their spiritual well being.

During this holiday season soldiers far from home now have a newly renovated place for comtemplation, prayer and meditation as they continue their mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Happy Holidays



Blessed are the Peacekeepers