

MAY 31, 2002
TALON

**Soldiers honor fallen comrades
while preserving Balkan peace**

Inside this issue:

**Army fields pocket sandwich
Denver Nuggets tour the Balkans**

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TALON

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“What was the best part of your Memorial Day Weekend?”



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Medic
225th FLE

“The 21-gun salute in the general's ceremony and the softball game.”



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Driver
Co.A , 1st. Bn., 163rd Inf. Regt.

“Providing security on guard duty so soldiers can enjoy the day.”



Task Force Eagle
Stabilization Force
SFOR XI
Bosnia-Herzegovina



CG speaks...

Physical, mental readiness key to success



**Maj. Gen.
Charles H. Swannack, Jr.
Multinational Division (North)
commander**

We've completed roughly the first one-third of our rotation here in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

You've worked hard on behalf of our nation, and I'm proud of your achievements. Thank you for your magnificent efforts.

But there are still three and a half months to go until the Transfer of Authority.

To quote Winston Churchill, we're not at the end yet, or even the beginning of the end. But we may be at the end of the beginning. So, let me offer you a few timely comments about keeping our heads in the game.

Our Army puts a lot of emphasis on developing and maintaining soldiers' physical strength. Rightly so.

The lifestyle we've chosen is not an easy one; it takes strength and stamina to hold up under the demanding conditions we face.

I've learned, though, that mental strength is equally important.

When the going gets tough, the tough – the mentally tough – can keep on going until they reach their goal, whether that's completing a run, passing a physical fitness test, digging a foxhole or taking a hill.

Tomorrow, Task Force Eagle will conduct the first of our monthly four-mile division runs.

I like division runs, because a division run is a microcosm of life. It's tough, it's challenging and you can't bypass the hills.

You can finish the run! Finishing requires 10 percent physical toughness, and 90 percent mental toughness – just as life does. You can't quit life either! It's all a matter of willpower.

Thomas Edison said, "Many of life's failures are people who didn't realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

In life, you don't get far by giving up when the going gets tough. You become a success by keeping your focus on the objective, believing in yourself, and tenaciously climbing toward your goal even when there are obstacles in the way.

That pretty much describes my philosophy of life. After 30 years in the Army, I'd have to say it's worked for me so far.

We also need to keep this focus, and refuse to allow boredom or routine to blunt our mental sharpness.

Complacency is the biggest threat we face here. That brings me to my next point: **safety**. As I write this, Stabilization Force 11 has had 58 vehicle accidents or incidents in 71

days.

Compared to other SFOR rotations, this is far above the norm this early in the rotation.

The average number of accidents has been 14 in the first 45 days, leveling off to an average of about five per month.

Clearly, the current trend is unacceptable.

Fortunately, we've had no serious injuries or fatalities – yet. I'm calling on all of you as leaders to put a stop to this trend before we have a tragedy.

Most of these accidents were preventable.

In many of them, soldiers drove their vehicles into objects or other vehicles either through failure to use a ground guide or just not paying attention, or they drove too fast for environmental conditions such as weather or treacherous roads.

In almost all cases, the root cause was a failure by soldiers and leaders to enforce standards.

According to the Army Safety Center, some 65 percent of the ground accidents in Fiscal Year 2001 were caused by leaders failing to enforce safety standards.

Improving our safety record starts with noncommissioned officers knowing the standards, training the soldiers to standards and ruthlessly enforcing those standards by making on-the-spot corrections and conducting additional training as necessary.

It continues with all soldiers being responsible and knowing they will be held accountable if they choose to ignore the standards.

The Army can and will hold soldiers liable for the damages caused by their willful neglect or disobedience.

I expect leaders at every level to take immediate action to correct the current trend.

It's up to every one of us to do the right thing, and ensure your buddy is doing the right thing, too.

At the end of our six months here, it's my intention to bring every one of you home to your loved ones.

I'll meet you on the high ground.
"People First, Mission Always!"

"In life, you don't get far by giving up when the going gets tough. You become a success by keeping your focus on the objective, believing in yourself, and tenaciously climbing toward your goal ..."

***— Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr.
MND (N) commander***

Pocket sandwich among future foods

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A sandwich that lasts up to three years without refrigeration is only one item that shows the Army's Combat Food Program is also on the move to transformation.

After receiving more than 100 media inquiries on how they were able to develop such a sandwich, representatives from the Natick Soldier Center in Massachusetts gave the media a chance to taste for themselves the revolutionary item May 23 at the Pentagon.

"People seem to think that we're just about food, so we have to work a little harder to show how our research and development affects the soldier," said Janice Rosado, with the Office of the Joint Project Director.

The Combat Feeding Program's research led to a sandwich that can survive on a shelf for up to three years at 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

"There's nothing like it around the globe," said Gerald Darsch, joint project director for the Department of Defense Combat Feeding Program.

The sandwich is shaped and packaged similar to a honey bun, and comes in three flavors - barbecue chicken, pepperoni and Italian sausage. It was designed to provide eat-on-the-move capability at the request of soldiers.

"Like David Letterman, we have our own top 10 list, and a pocket sandwich kept landing on that list," Darsch said. "So we went to the drawing board."

The Combat Food Program already had a patent on its shelf-stable bread, which was the foundation for the pocket sandwich, Darsch said. Then through what is referred to as "water activity", the amount of water in the sandwich is controlled. This is done so that there isn't enough in the sandwich for mold or yeast to grow, he said.

The sandwiches are also slightly acidic, which is another way microorganisms are prevented from growing, Rosado added.

Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., were the first to give Natick their opinion of the sandwich.

"We've gotten a lot of positive feedback from the Fort Drum soldiers," Darsch said. "We can now use that information to help us refine the sandwich to make it even better. By the time the Objective Force warrior hits the field, our sandwiches will be there to provide him fuel."

Meals, Ready to Eat have changed drastically since Operation Desert Storm, Darsch said. To compare what rations were then, to what they are now, is like comparing a Hugo to a Lincoln, he said.

"I will admit that not too long ago we lost



Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

Janice Rosado, from the Department of Defense Combat Feeding Program, holds up a chicken pocket sandwich for media during a DoD press briefing at the Pentagon.

focus of the soldiers' needs, wants and desires, but I'm proud that we have regained that focus and our entire effort is directed toward providing the best rations we can."

Since the MRE was introduced, more than 120 items have gone into it and over 50 items have come out, Darsch said. Some of those items that have been taken out are chicken a la king, pork chow mien and smoky franks. Items to be introduced are pot roast, clam chowder and Cajun rice and sausage.

"What we have now is clearly a customer-focused MRE," Rosado said. "We don't try to decide what soldiers want. Food can be a big morale booster, and we're working hard to make life in the field better for our soldiers. What goes in and comes out will be dictated by the individual soldier."

Determining what soldiers want are done by survey teams that go to the field with prototype rations to have soldiers rate the meals on a scale from one to nine, Darsch said. Items that rate high are eligible for inclusion into the MRE, he added.

To meet the needs of the lighter, more mobile warfighter, a food pack the size of a regular MRE, but with enough food to replace three MREs has been designed, Darsch said.

The First Strike ration will contain two pocket sandwiches, peanut butter, crackers, a high energy drink, beef jerky, dried fruit and zapple — an apple sauce that will provide a source of energy to help the soldier maintain physical performance, Darsch said.

The First Strike is not meant to replace the MRE, Rosado said. The Army's chief said that the Objective Force will be able to deploy within 96 hours, and the First Strike is the meal that will hold the troops over until logistics can get more rations on the ground,

she said.

The pocket sandwich and the First Strike ration is scheduled to be fielded in 2006, Rosado said, along with a kitchen that will require no open flame.

"The battlefield kitchen will basically be a mechanical room with commercial burners that will heat by using steam," Darsch said. "It will reduce logistics, fuel consumption and still provide 550 to 800 soldiers a quality meal."

What the food program tries to do is achieve a balance of taking care of today's soldiers with the product improvement program, while at the same time investing in science and technology for the Objective Force warfighter, Darsch said.

One innovative idea in the works, which will probably never be used by today's soldiers is the food patch, Darsch said. The food patch would deliver nutrients and minerals through the skin, as an energy supplement, but it's now a far-reaching concept.

"We're working with two universities to see if it is achievable or cost effective. But the research is necessary in case it's a chance that the nutrients in the patch could give a soldier the energy to duck a microsecond sooner, or digest the information he gets on the battlefield and understand it the first time," Darsch said.

Along with working with academia in the development of new combat rations, Darsch said, the combat feeding community consists of the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia, and the commercial sector.

"We can't do this alone because of budget constraints," Darsch said. "If it isn't related to Army Transformation in any shape, then you won't find it being done in the combat feeding program."

Division 'commo' shop keeps Eagle talking

By Spc. Vincent Oliver

Assistant Editor, 305th PAD

"Shoot, move and communicate" is one of the Army's most popular mottos. While each component of this motto is important, communication, if removed from the equation, would make the others incredibly difficult, if not impossible for Stabilization Force soldiers deployed here in Bosnia and Herzegovina to accomplish.

Anytime a unit deploys on a mission, whether tactical or otherwise, one advance party element sent forward is always the "commo." The same is true for the Task Force Eagle G6 or communications element.

"Next to the commanders, I would say the G6 is equal in importance to anyone else," said the deputy G6, Capt. Gregory Johaneck. "The commanders are obviously number one, but if a commander cannot clearly communicate his intent to his subordinates, things don't happen."

Every element of communication used both inside and outside the wire of Eagle Base is controlled and facilitated by the Communication Cell. Whether it's phones, desktop computers used for sending and receiving email, cell phones, fax machines or the single channel ground and airborne radios, or SINCGAR (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio), used in HMMWVs, the G6 is directly or indirectly involved.

"There is no mission that I can think of that doesn't involve communication, whether it's a briefing or an actual tactical mission," Johaneck said.

The G6 has three basic missions where Task Force Eagle is concerned. One, they are the liaison between the Directorate of Information Management, or DOIM, and the 25th ID (L). In general, when the DOIM needs to communicate with the division staff, it does so through the G6.

Secondly, it provides all the elements required for tactical communication. For instance, when a patrolling unit goes out on patrol the unit's SINCGARs, are loaded with encrypted frequencies that are provided by a communication security manager at the division level. In addition, the convoy of vehicles can be monitored and tracked from Eagle Base, no matter where those vehicles are located.

Finally, as does any other unit, the G6 has a staff, which handles administrative and managerial functions.

One of the critical objectives of a successful mission is to be able to communicate between elements in a secure manner. To accomplish this requires specialized equipment and a highly capable manager of a secure communications system. For Task Force Eagle, that person is Sgt. 1st.



Staff Sgt. Kanessa Mynett

Members of the Task Force Eagle retransmission team surveys and inspects communications equipment on a Bosnian hillside.

Class Darrell Ball, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of COMSEC management.

"Our daily responsibility is to make sure all of the units in Multinational Division (North) are aware of the COMSEC standards and procedures," said Ball.

To maintain tight control of the security management in all of MND (N), Ball and his staff conduct monthly audits of communications equipment and the soldiers responsible for that equipment.

When it comes to automation issues such as printers, fax machines, email or tactical web pages, Sgt. Lloyd Param makes sure things get done.

"I work directly for Maj. McMullen. Any automation issues that need to be handled ASAP, I take care of them," said Param, who is also the task force Webmaster.

Param also holds the title of information assurance officer liaison. Every task force soldier that uses a computer had to be certified to use Army computer equipment. Param was one of the key people responsible for ensuring that everyone using a computer in the network had the proper credentials.

Video teleconferencing has been responsible for helping SFOR soldiers connect with their families while here at Eagle Base. Of course none of it could be done without the help of people like Spc. Jeff Granberry. Granberry is a VTC specialist who handles the coordination of scheduled VTC sessions between soldiers deployed to Eagle Base and their families back at Schofield Barracks as well as the commanding general's VTC sessions with various SFOR elements.

"It's fun," said Granberry, a native of Waco, TX. "I learn a lot around here. I've been on multiple exercises, and I don't think it ever stops for my MOS. I'm constantly busy."

The retransmission team gives tactical support to the soldiers out on patrols, as well as maintaining clear and unbroken lines of communication throughout the vast mountainous Bosnian countryside. The retrans team uses state of the art communications systems to include satellite-tracking equipment.

"Anything to do with signal communications, we handle it," said Spc. Linda Stafford. "Anything from setting up PA systems for briefings to setting of the communications system for the VTC suite."

The retrans team has very specific roles that generally require them to be outside the confines of Eagle Base, but when they are inside the wire, they are the "go to guys" when any of the other G6 sections are shorthanded. Stafford even helped put together the all-important Eagle Base phone list when she first arrived on the ground. However, when not on Eagle Base, she can usually be found on any number of the Bosnian hilltops the retrans team uses to bridge the communications gap between the outlying forward operating bases and Eagle Base.

Behind every high-speed unit that operates like a well-oiled machine, there is always a cadre of highly professional, spit and polished NCOs. In the case of the G6, this would include Sgt. 1st. Class Cassandra Spann, the platoon sergeant and operations NCOIC, and Master Sgt. Thomas LeMasters, the G6 NCOIC.

Spann handles overall operations, to include soldier accountability and making sure missions that come down from above are accomplished.

LeMasters oversees it all. "This is a very easy job. I've got great soldiers that don't drop the ball, so the job gets done," said LeMasters. "We're a team."

"I could see him for only a minute a day and still be ecstatic."

- Pfc. Katie Potvin



Pfc. Katie Potvin and Pfc. Alson Lee, both of the 549th MP Co., spend their honeymoon in Bosnia. The "best friends" married on Feb. 14, 2002, a month before they deployed.

Spc. Michelle Lunato

Honeymoon in the Balkans

By Spc. Michelle Lunato

Photo Editor, 305th PAD

Two young lovers sit and dine on lobster, steak and champagne by candlelight. They glance into each other's eyes and laugh about how the day turned out. It may not have been their image of the perfect European honeymoon, but it was an event they won't forget. It was "Operation Honeymoon."

This covert exercise began with the torture of the 549th Military Police Company newlyweds Pfc. Alson Lee, 1st platoon, and Pfc. Katie Potvin, 3rd platoon, who married a month before deploying to Bosnia to ensure their togetherness.

A month after they arrived at Eagle Base, they were still living in the single-soldier style barracks that they were originally assigned before they married on Feb. 14.

On April 6 things would change for the happy couple. Only they were under the impression the changes would be bad.

Potvin and Lee were informed that the Multinational Division (North) command sergeant major wanted to see them in his office. And for a few days, "They had us sweating," said Lee. Everyone was in on the conspiracy, except for the newlyweds.

"I had built it up for several days, like I was clueless on why the division command sergeant major wanted to see two of my soldiers in his office," said 1st Sgt. Norman Hampton, 549th MP Co. first sergeant. "I told them, whatever they were hiding, they better tell me before we go into his office and it all comes out and I hear it from Command Sgt. Maj.

Etheridge first. They obviously had no idea."

So, in perfect military demeanor, the couple, their supervisors, and Hampton filed into Etheridge's office for a talking to. But at first, no one spoke – or moved.

"Time stood on end," said Lee. Then, Etheridge asked, in his "best command sergeant major voice," if they were going to talk about what they did.

After minutes of painful questioning, Etheridge rolled his collar in, hiding his rank, and said it was time for a "daddy talk." The talk was short and to the point as he said, "No babies" and threw the keys to a joint room over his desk to Lee. This room, which was filled with the basic furniture by Etheridge and a handful of MP NCOs, was to be the new home for the newlyweds.

After that, the mood was lightened and the couple was informed about their one night to stay at and eat a five-star meal at the Eagle's Nest Inn in celebration of their marriage. The next day they were given off so that they could move into their new honeymoon suite.

The couple said they were relieved how the meeting with Etheridge went, but were shocked. "The command sergeant major really went out of his way for us," said Lee. "He's really out there for the enlisted soldiers," said Potvin.

But for the experienced command sergeant major, it was just part of his job. "I get paid to take care of soldiers, and these were two young newlyweds that didn't have the same privileges that other couples here get," said Etheridge explaining why he cooked up "Operation Honeymoon" for the two MPs that he caught making "googly eyes" at each other in a dining facility during the January Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Ft. Polk, La.

But besides just being "the right thing to do," Etheridge said, "Young lovers make

easy targets ... and honestly, it was fun."

This fun for Etheridge, brought true happiness to the young soldiers who had no place to spend any personal time together since they work in separate platoons, keep their work interaction completely professional and often have opposite schedules.

"In the room, there is no work – just us," said Lee as he looked at his best friend.

This is a good thing according to Potvin though since her and her new husband have completely different styles of work. "I'm nicer about things than he is. I kill them with kindness. He kills them with rules."

But there are no worries about this 'good cop' and 'bad cop' team from the MP company.

"Their marriage is seamless in respect to their job performance," said Hampton who never knew the couple was even dating until they were engaged.

"They arrive on duty as two individual soldiers with a mission to accomplish and they do it very well."

But as these two soldiers end their shifts, they are like any other young couple. "I am just really grateful that I get to see him," said Potvin with a glowing smile. "There are a lot of married couples that don't get to see each other at all. I could see him for only a minute a day and still be ecstatic."

And with their new room and an upcoming six-day pass to Hungary the new couple will be able to spend some quality time together while enjoying their tax-free paid honeymoon in the Balkans.

EMT course teaches life-saving techniques

By Spc. Michelle Lunato

Photo Editor

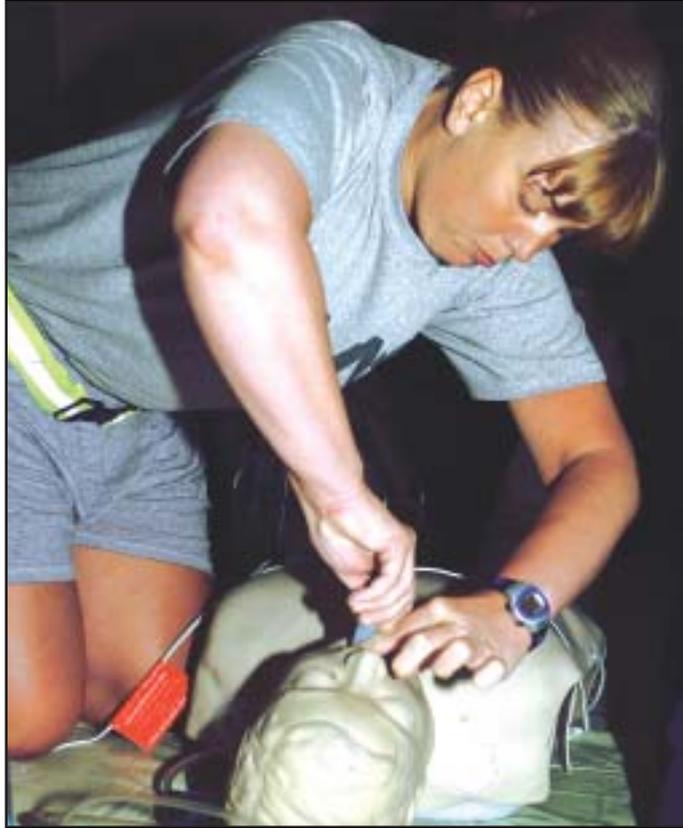
Task Force Med Eagle held a National Registry Emergency Medical Technician basic course April 22 - May 10.

Upon completion of this 110-hour course, the 18 student-soldiers were nationally certified EMTs, earned six hours of course credit with the University of Maryland and completed half of the requirements to convert their job titles from medics to health care specialists.

The course was held Monday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. and for many students, it was an extension of their regular workday.

The seven modules of instruction included learning the skills of administering oxygen to an airway, extracting patients, performing emergency room deliveries and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, assessing traumas, operating ambulances and knowing the signs and treatments of diabetic reactions, anaphylactic shocks, overdoses and strokes.

They were given eight



Photos by Spc. Michelle Lunato

Sgt. Lori Miller, licensed practical nurse, TFME, practices emergency airway management.

written exams, 12 homework assignments, four take-home exams and a two-page case study on an ER situation before they were officially tested.

This rigorous course load

was challenging for many of the students, especially the three nonmedical infantry soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

“The amount of knowledge you have to learn in a

short time was hard,” said Sgt. Joshua Cesavice, team leader, Co. B., 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., who wants to be a pediatrician someday, as he explained that all the medical soldiers had an advantage by already being familiar with the common terms and tasks in the class.

“Our (infantrymen) medical knowledge was zero to none. We were behind the power curve.”

But, as most good soldiers, the infantrymen were up to the challenge. “It was nothing that we couldn’t handle though, being the high-speed infantry soldiers that we are,” said Staff Sgt. Chris Rose, squad leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., who wants to be a paramedic and firefighter in the future.

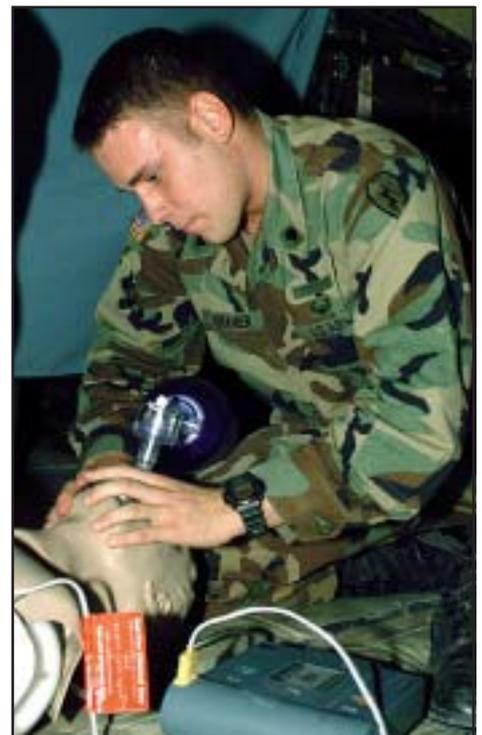
For those students who were already EMTs and medics, there were still things to learn, said Staff Sgt. Kurt Holzer, flight medic, 1085th Air Ambulance Co. who has been an EMT in South Dakota for 10 years.

“With the medical field, anytime you do a class or a hands-on exercise, you are going to learn something.”



Above, Spc. John Ashton, medic, HHC, 1st Bn., 151st Inf. Regt., and Staff Sgt. Kurt Holzer, flight medic, 1085th Air Ambulance Co., practice neck stabilization techniques.

Right, Spc. Brian Kramer, radio transmission operator, HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., demonstrates how oxygen would be given to a patient.





Above, MND (N) Commander Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr., and MND (N) Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Ethridge carry a memorial wreath during the Memorial Day ceremony Sunday.

Right, soldiers and members of Task Force Eagle enjoyed a barbeque at Minue Park Sunday. Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for fallen comrades who fought for America's freedom and beliefs.



The commanders game Sunday. TH





Photos by Staff Sgt. Kanessa Mynett

ride atop the Task Force Eagle fire truck as they arrive to face the sergeants major during the Stars and Stripes softball the commanders team crushed the sergeants major team 19-1.

Memorial Day in the Balkans

Peacekeepers honor fellow Americans while 12,000 miles away from home.

By Spc. Christina Davis

Talon Editor

Growing up in America, people sometimes don't realize exactly how much bloodshed went into making the United States into the "freedom capital" it has become in the past 200 hundred years.

As a child of Army soldiers, I was always surrounded by war veterans. My father fought in Vietnam. My grandfather fought in World War II and my uncle fought in Korea.

No matter how many stories I heard, or photographs I saw, I never really grasped the meaning of Memorial Day.

It wasn't until I joined the Army myself that I truly understood what they were fighting for.

Something about wearing the uniform brought a new pride to my heart. I learned about the wars my family had not only participated in, but had become a part of.

No matter how many years go by, my father will never forget the Vietnamese people he killed during his two-year tour in Vietnam. He will never forget his best friend who died a few foxholes away from him during a night attack.

No matter how much time goes by, I will never forget the people here in Bosnia and Herzegovina with their houses full of bullet and

mortar-round holes.

Being here on Memorial Day just reinforced the love I have for my country and the people who have made it possible for me to have the life I have.

Being here on this peacekeeping mission also reinforced the importance of our presence here.

These people deserve to have the same freedoms we have. They deserve to have the same lifestyles we have.

So, while I sit here at Eagle Base, I will go through our rotation with a new found pride for the American flag that I wear on my right shoulder, and the people who have carried it through conflicts and war for the last few hundred years.



Intramural Sports Volleyball

Team	W	L	Record
HHC, 25th ID (L)	4	2	.667
556 PSB	6	1	.857
HHC, 25th ID (L) G-Shops	7	0	.100
1st. Bn, 25th Avn. Regt.	4	2	.667
CIMIC & NSE	5	2	.714
TFME 1	4	4	.500
TFME 2	0	7	.000
TFME 3	4	2	.667
Co. C, 1st Bn., 25th Avn.	2	3	.400
S & M DUST OFF	2	4	.333
AIR FORCE	5	1	.833
B&R, MWR	0	7	.000

Softball

Team	W	L	Record
HHC, 25th ID (L)	1	0	1.00
Co. B, 1st. Bn., 14th Inf.	2	0	1.00
549th M.P	0	2	.000
TMB 1st. Bn., 163rd Inf.	0	1	.000
Co. D, 1st Bn. 25th Avn.	1	0	1.00
TFME 1	1	1	.500
JMA	1	1	.500
Co. A, 1st Bn., 163rd Inf.	2	0	1.00
225th FLE	1	1	.500
Southern Comfort	0	2	.000
HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf.	2	0	1.00
ASG	2	0	1.00
Air Force	2	0	1.00

Volleyball



Photo by Spc. Vincent oliver

Sgt. Wayne Ames, HHC 25th ID (L) plans and operations NCO, goes airborne during the Memorial Day weekend volleyball tournament. His team won the first place trophy for the three-day competition.

Denver Nuggets score points with Stabilization Force soldiers

By Spc. Vincent Oliver

Assistant Editor, 305th PAD

A small contingent of Denver Nuggets players, coaches and management staff visited Multinational Division (North) while on a Goodwill Tour throughout Europe May 22.

The Nuggets visited soldiers at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo; Camp McGovern; Forward Operating Bases Morgan and Connor; Hilltop 1326; and Eagle Base.

“We’re here to support the troops here in Bosnia, and to let them know we appreciate what they’re doing,” said Denver Nuggets assistant coach Clyde Drexler. “We support them and we wanted to come over first hand and let them know we care about them.”

Drexler visited Stabilization Force soldiers at Camp McGovern. “The troops are awesome,” Drexler said. “The morale is really high, and you can tell things are going along very smoothly here.”

“It’s been a great experience seeing the soldiers doing their job,” said Nuggets forward Donnell Harvey, who was one of three players that helped put on a small basketball clinic for the Eagle Base men’s basketball team. Soldiers got the chance to run passing and lay-up drills as well as play two-

“We wanted to make sure that you guys know that we believe in you and a lot of people back home believe in you.”

— Kiki Vandeweghe, Denver Nuggets General Manager

on-two against Harvey, NBA newcomer Chris Anderson and point guard George McCloud.

“It felt good being on the same court as an NBA champion,” said Spc. Otis Godfrey of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment. “I would have like to go one-on-one with them but I need a few more inches.”

McCloud visited soldiers stationed at Hilltop 1326, a retransmission station on a remote Bosnian hilltop. The soldiers there got the opportunity to meet McCloud, get

See Nuggets , page 11



Photo by Spc. Vincent Oliver

Sgt. Celestine Davis, JMA Logistics NCO, makes a move towards the hoop against the Denver Nuggets’ Donnell Harvey during a goodwill visit to Eagle Base by the Nuggets May 22.

Memorial Day weekend sports fest yields Task Force Eagle champs

By Spc. Vincent Oliver

Assistant Editor, 305th PAD

Stabilization Force soldiers stationed at Eagle Base kicked off their Memorial Day weekend sports fest May 24 with the first games of weekend-long sand volleyball and softball tournaments.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 25th Infantry Division (Light)'s G-shops took home the first place trophy in the volleyball tournament, winning seven out of their seven games played.

The 556th Personnel Service Battalion secured the second place trophy, with the Air Force team bringing home the bronze.

Twelve teams competed in the three-day softball tourney, but by Sunday afternoon, only two teams remained to fight it out for the top spot. Unfortunately, the weather turned sour after the Stars and Stripes softball game, causing the tournaments championship game to end earlier than the anticipated seven innings.

The team from Camp McGovern eventually took home the championship trophy for the weekend tournament.

In the Stars and Stripes softball game between the command staff and the Task Force Eagle sergeants major, the SFOR 11 rotation sergeants major were humiliated



Photo by Spc. Vincent Oliver

MND (N) Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Etheridge takes a big swing in the first Task Force 'Stars and Stripes' softball game at the Eagle Base softball field May 26.

in front of a packed grandstand, by the command staff 19-1.

"This was a well fought competition, and this is a fitting trophy for the sergeants majors," said the Multinational Division (North) Commander Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr., with a broad grin on his face, as he presented Command Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Etheridge, MND (N) Command

Sgt. Major, with a toilet seat with his picture under the lid as a trophy.

"You didn't beat us sir. You gave us an old fashioned country-@\$\$ whippin,'" Etheridge responded.

Each of the 5K run participants that finished within four minutes of their predicted time was given a congratulatory mug. All in all, a good time was had by all.

Denver Nuggets shoot hoops with Balkan peace keepers

Nuggets , from page 10

an autographed T-shirt and pose for photos with two of the Denver Nuggets cheerleaders.

"To actually experience and see what the guys here go through, gives the Denver Nuggets a newfound respect for what the soldiers put into this," said McCloud. "If it weren't for them protecting us, we wouldn't be able to do what we do. This experience will last a lifetime."

The Nuggets toured Eagle Base, stopping in at the Task Force Medical Eagle clinic as well as grabbing a bite to eat at the Longhorn dining facility.

The players and coaches

took time out to chat with soldiers and pose for pictures.

The Denver Nuggets mascot, Rocky, was a big hit during the basketball clinic, pumping up the crowd by passing out T-shirts, posters and miniature Rocky dolls. For a grand finale, Rocky performed an acrobatic flip over five soldiers kneeling on their hands and knees, one of which was MND (N) Commander, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack Jr.

"We wanted to make sure that you guys know that we believe in you and a lot of people back home believe in you. And we wanted to bring a little slice of home here to show you how much we appreciate all of you guys," said Nuggets General Manager, Kiki Vandeweghe.



Photo by Cpl. Matthew McClelland

Spc. Joshua Chastain of Co. C, 1st Bn., 151st. Inf. Regt., gets an autograph from former NBA all-star, now Denver Nuggets assistant coach, Clyde Drexler.



Spc. Michelle Lunato

Mt. Vis offers a spectacular view of a village at the bottom of the mountain. Mt. Vis is a retransmission site for communications.

Soldiers keep Mt. Vis open for communications

By Spc. Michelle Lunato

Photo Editor, 305th PAD

Climbing steep mountainous grades of up to 45 percent and working around an unexploded 500-pound bomb is just another normal day for the group of soldiers who monitor the retransmission site of Mt. Vis.

Two times a week, four Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment soldiers ascend up the 453-meter rocky path of the mined mountain that was mainly occupied by Serbs during the war because of its useful vantage point. The soldiers make this challenging ascent to provide routine maintenance to the unmanned radio equipment that sits on the mountaintop.

These small communications systems, which sit meters away from an unexploded United Nations bomb, support 20 to 50 daily patrols that cover over 5,000 square kilometers of terrain everyday, said Capt. Michael Campbell, battalion signal officer.

The task of making sure communications go through is crucial. "With the reduced force structure, these patrols have to talk greater and greater distances to reach back to the base camps that command and control them. This long dis-

tance communication is not easy, but it is expected," said Campbell.

'Not easy' is an understatement on some days though said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Grimes, battalion communications chief. "It is a struggle to get here



Staff Sgt. Kanessa Mynett

Soldiers of HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. put up an antenna on Mt. Vis, which supports communications for patrols in the area.

on bad days," said Grimes as he explained how the vehicles slid around in mud and on ice in the earlier months of the rotation.

But struggling a little on Mt. Vis., which is only 25 minutes away from Eagle Base, is better than struggling at the old Retrans site at Kula Grad castle, which is near Zvornik.

"To provide communications support (at Kula Grad), the Retrans team had to leave early in the morning before the first patrol and return late after the last patrol was complete," said Campbell.

The change in sites was only recently approved in February and was due to a TWR interpreter's idea. "Retrans missions are typically dangerous but boring," said Campbell. "Since the interpreter was frequently tasked to travel with this daily mission, he was more than willing to help find a solution."

The interpreter suggested that they reopen Mt. Vis, which had been a manned site during many previous Stabilization Force rotations.

So with some work, Mt. Vis was the answer. It was reopened with Brown & Root maintenance personnel and infantry support.

Now, the communications of Stabilization Force soldiers can be heard far and wide throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Memorial Day somber for many nations here

By Russian Staff Sgt. Igor Shcherbakov and Cadet Anton Semenov

1st PRSAB

The ways of God are strange. The way of Russians is to fight for their independence, to shed blood, but to win. The history of Russia is the history of courage. Russian people remember the courage of their people on June 22, the Russian Memorial Day.

Three invasions – Khazars, Mongols, and Napoleon – were repelled by valor of its defenders. But the most tragic and he-

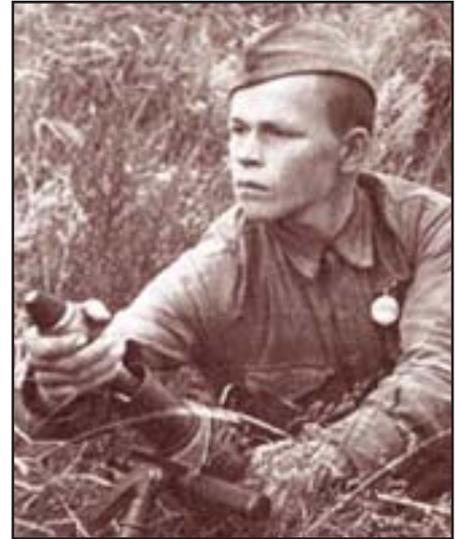
roic page of our history is The Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. Time passed, and the world changes, but those who fought in this war, those who raised the country from the ruins after it will be never forgotten.

That's how it was...

June 22, 1941 – Hitler's invasion without declaring a war. The Nazi troops plunged deep into Soviet Territory. This caught government and population alike by surprise.

The Brest fortress. The border fortress

See War, page 15



Courtesy photo

A Russian soldier fights in World War II.

Russian soldiers share Memorial Day thoughts

By Russian Staff Sgt. Igor Shcherbakov and Cadet Anton Semenov

1st PRSAB

During its long and dramatic history, Russia had to fight many powerful enemies. But the enemy we fight today is a different one.

This is the enemy that stabs in the back, hijacking planes, kidnapping civilians and blowing up houses in cities. Chechnya is sometimes called the sore of Russia. We cannot forget those who spare no efforts to cut the sore off. They are among us.

Almost everyone in our Brigade has been to Chechnya. They are living testimonies of our determined struggle against terrorism.

The Russian people remember their fallen comrades June 22. In somber remembrance, they honor those people who have fought in wars for the people of Russia.

The following are the views of three Russian soldiers assigned to Camp Ugljevik, in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Photo by Russian Maj. Jury Saranchev

1st Lt. Alexey Baglayenko,
Engineer Platoon

Is there any difference between your missions in two hot spots: Chechnya and Bosnia?

Sure there is. I'd rather call it a contrast. In Chechnya, I was doing all this demining stuff all the time, removing dozens of mines every day, sometimes doing it under snipers' fire. But here, in Bosnia, that's not within my obligations. So, I just monitor demining activities of the former belligerents. Sometimes I automatically stretch my hands to a mine I see... but actually I did it myself only on some urgent occasions. I wouldn't say that the deployment in BiH is kind of a rest after the Caucasian War. Not for me. What is specific about my profession is that it's dangerous wherever you are. A sapper doesn't make mistakes but once. In 1999, three Russian sappers were injured by explosions of mines in Bosnia. They were decorated with VRS medals, two of them posthumously. We revere their memory.



Photo by Russian Col. Nikolay Basharimov

Sgt. Irina Smirnova,
Logistic Company

A woman in the war – how do you feel about it?

It's true that nature made a man and a woman different. A real lady always stays one. But, I have the right to defend my country and I do. I used to go with convoys through narrow mountain passages, and our convoys were fired at. You get out of a vehicle, shelter behind it, try to find your invisible enemy, fire in response... but you know, that was kind of routine. Mass casualty situations were really terrible. When a chopper brings a dozen wounded, and everyone starts rushing and doing something like carrying litters or applying a dressing or doing EMT, even though some of them are not medics. When you turn over to be responsible for someone else's life – then you begin to fear, until you get used to it. In a couple of years my elder son will join the Army, so, I fought and will fight in Chechnya for him not to fight there.



Photo by Russian Col. Nikolay Basharimov

Maj. Jury Saranchev,
Military Journalist

You took part in both Chechnya Wars. What has changed?

These are absolutely different wars. I mean, during the first one, we really lacked support of our media, which were paid for by terrorists. And our politicians prevented us from doing our job and fighting the enemy. Sounds strange. Well, life is strange... Our new government seems to be more competent and determined. The most odious terrorist leaders: Dudayev, Bassayev, Raduyev and Bin Laden's associate, Khatab have already been liquidated. So, as our President announced, the counter-terrorist operation in Chechnya came into its final stage.

And my modest role in it is to try to reveal the truth even if it's kind of unpleasant. What is more, I don't want our heroes to stay unknown. Let everybody know... We'll remember everyone who fights and suffers for our Motherland.

Army post office takes care of peacekeepers

Mail travels to many places before reaching families

There are many services offered by the Army post office here in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The services include free mail, official mail, as well as certified and registered mail.

Free mail applies to all soldiers deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Free mail is limited to letters, postcards, and sound recordings, such as audio and videotapes, having the character of personal correspondence; and also includes bill payments.

The word "Free" must be handwritten in the upper right hand corner of the item; the name of the sender, and a complete military mailing address must appear in the return address.

All postcards must include a return address. Free mail is not entitled to any special services, e.g., registered, certified, etc. and is limited to 13 ounces.

The most commonly asked question is "Why does it take so long for my mail to arrive here at Eagle Base?" Well, currently it is taking an average of between six and seven days for mail to travel from the United States to Bosnia.

Now remember this is an *average*, sometimes it takes longer and sometimes it doesn't.

When people consider how many times the mail is handled it is really amazing that it takes as short a time as it does.

When mail is dropped into one of the mailboxes here on Eagle Base, it is picked up and brought to the post office for processing.

The letter is postmarked and placed in letter trays along with the other cards and letters received that day. The mail is then loaded on a truck and at 2 a.m. and then the truck departs for Frankfurt, Germany.

At 1 a.m. the next day, after passing through Croatia, Hungary, and Belgium, the mail truck arrives in Frankfurt.

The truck is off-loaded and the letters are then placed in an airmobile container and put aboard a plane for the JFK International Airport in New York.



Photo courtesy of the 342nd Postal Company

The truck full of mail from the central region arrives in the early morning hours each day at Eagle Base.

When the plane lands at JFK, the mail is then unloaded and the mail is sorted electronically. From there, the letters are massed with other letters going to the same destination. For example, all letters to Hawaii will then fly to San Francisco where they would again be massed with all of the other mail destined for Hawaii.

From San Francisco, the letters then travel to Honolulu where they will be sorted by zip code and delivered to the local post office.

Then, after nearly a week and thousands of miles of travel, loved ones finally receive the letters sent from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The best thing about the whole process is it's free.

Inta- and inter-theater delivery service of correspondence and parcels weighing up to 70 pounds is available, postage free, to all individuals who are authorized use of the Military Postal Service within the European theater, APO 09XXX series, and many APO AE 96XXX.

Those who live in the continental U.S. are not eligible to use IDS services. IDS is an internal service of the armed forces and is not a service of the U.S. Postal Service. The USPS has indicated that correspondence or IDS parcels transported through IDS are not regarded as "mail" or "parcel post," rather it is "correspondence" and "IDS parcels."

Standard delivery features of IDS include all the privileges and priori-

ties currently applicable to items in the Military Postal Service bearing postage, however, the MPS or USPS will entertain no claim for the loss, failure of mail to reach its destination, or negligent transmission of correspondence and IDS parcels sent postage free.

This includes protection and security against theft and destruction, service standards, search and seizure procedures and customs requirements.

Individuals print "MPS" in the upper right hand corner of their envelope or parcel instead of placing postage there.

"MPS" correspondence and IDS parcels are not eligible for any special service offered by USPS, such as certified, insured, registered, return receipt, and etc.

If these special services are needed, then the full rate of postage and fees must be paid. Postal customers mailing high value items should request insured or registered mail. This will give indemnity for articles damaged or lost.

If soldiers are having problems getting their mail from their unit mailrooms, they should address the problems with the unit mail clerk or chain of command.

The unit mail clerk can then provide feedback to the postal officer who then will notify the commander of the dissatisfaction. The commander is responsible for the unit's mailroom hours.

(342nd Postal Company)

News Briefs

Asia Pacific Islander Heritage Month — The Equal Opportunity office is looking for volunteers for the committee for Asian Pacific Heritage Month. They need help planning a formal ceremony and luau. Meetings are at the EO office on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call 762-0033.

Football and Soccer field restrictions — Morale, Welfare and Recreation is asking for all Task Force Eagle personnel to observe the football and soccer field restrictions. Posted signs will clearly mark whether the field is opened or closed for use. No physical fitness formations or any other activities are permitted on the field when it is closed. For more information, call Tony Mullings at 762-3004.

TFME class — There will be a Field Sanitation class June 11 - 14. This class is open to all soldiers, not only medics. For more information or to sign up for the class, call Sgt. Wayne Ames at 672-4709.

McGovern medics 'stick' with OHR staff

By Sgt. Charles Dosset

*Camp McGovern,
Public Affairs
Correspondent*

As part of a good working relationship with the Office of the High Representative for the Brcko District, a Task Force Warhawk medical team from Camp McGovern helped train several key OHR staffers Saturday.

Two medics led the OHR's Close Protection Unit, personal security specialists, through basic life-saving procedures.

Task Force Warhawk, OHR, liaison officer Capt. Christopher Lee coordinated the training at the request of Hal Poff, the close protection unit's detail leader.

"This was training they needed," said Lee. "I wanted to help them out anyway I could, and I was sure Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Baker felt the same way."

Baker, a registered nurse and cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor, was glad to take on the challenge.

"They wanted me to teach



Sgt. Charles Dosset

Spc. George Bocking demonstrates how to administer an intravenous catheter on Hal Poff during CPU training class May 25 at Camp McGovern.

adult CPR, and administering an IV," Baker said. "I knew who I had to bring along my assistant, Spc. George Bocking, a medic with HHC, 1st Bn., 151st Inf. Regt..

"Bocking, having as many 'sticks' as he has, and myself being a CPR certified instructor, I knew we were ready for the task."

After quick greetings between the seven members of the CPU team and the medics, Baker got down to business. The first point of instruction was to go over the

recent changes that the American Heart Association has applied to adult CPR training.

Baker then split the group into two, with Bocking taking three of the guys for IV training, and Baker giving a more in depth one-on-one CPR class to the other four people.

One at a time, Baker showed the students the proper procedures of administering adult CPR, and then he tested them. The men had learned CPR at some point before, but they needed to recertify their training and update their CPR card.

All the while Bocking was teaching the proper procedures for administering an IV to the three other members of the CPU team. After watching Bocking, each member of the team had to stick an IV and demonstrate to the medics they knew how to do it properly.

The training session ended successfully. The OHR team got a valuable refresher and recertification of life-saving skills.

"These McGovern medics gave us the most help than any others in previous SFOR rotations. Our guys really appreciate it," said Poff.

"We hope we can continue to work together. It's great."

Russians honor their history, fellow soldiers

War, from page 13

was assaulted on the very first day. Desperate fighting behind enemy lines. The last defender was killed in December, at the same time the Nazi troops were stopped 27 kilometers away from the heart of Russia — Moscow.

Moscow — The defensive operation, which resulted in the counter offensive Dec 5. This was the first defeat suffered by the III Reich in World War II.

The heroic epic of Sevastopol — Bombed in the first hours of the war, Sevastopol, the Crimea, was beating off endless violent attacks, inflicting heavy losses to Nazis and paralyzing troops of the Army Group South. Hitler demanded to capture the city as a Christmas gift, but it was taken July 4, 1942, after the Soviet troops had left it intentionally. By that time, a total of four buildings stood undestroyed in Sevastopol.

The Stalingrad Victory — Two-

month-long hard fighting against overwhelming adversary for every inch of land in the streets of the city. From a Nazi soldier's diary: "...They are not human..." By Feb. 5 the enemy troops, more than 1 million soldiers, had been drained of blood, entirely encircled and defeated.

The battle of Kursk — a thoroughly planned defense operation, which resulted in the titanic tank battle, included more than 6,000 tanks. It was a turning point of the war. Nazis had suffered a crushing defeat after which the III Reich never recovered forces.

The Dnepr river operation — the seizure of the "Eastern Rampart" which was considered inaccessible. The liberation of Kiev was Nov 6, 1942.

The siege of Leningrad — After the 900-day-long struggle, the blockade, so-called "Iron Ring," was cracked. A combination of enemy's bombing, shelling and food shortages resulted in 200,000 people dying between January and February 1942. The epic of Leningrad stands a testament to the

resilience and determination of the ordinary Russian soldier and civilian.

The Visla-Oder operation — the largest-scale military operation ever conducted took place two weeks earlier than planned in order to disrupt Nazi determined offenses through the Ardennes. They threatened to divide and defeat the Allies. Bad weather conditions made it difficult for the Soviet troops, but the urgent necessity to conduct this operation overruled. As a result, Poland was liberated.

The Berlin operation — following the slogan "Finish the beast in its den," the Soviet army surrounded Berlin with a million Nazis inside and after a street combat they captured the city. At 1 a.m., May 9, 1944 the Nazi command signed the unconditional surrender.

In a decade the last witnesses of the Great Patriotic War will probably leave this world.

People reverently bow their heads to those who gave their lives.

Know the SFOR 11 Units ...

81st RSC- Army Reserve Command, Fort Jackson, S.C.

The history of the U.S. Army 81st Regional Support Command began on August 25, 1917, when the 81st Infantry Division was organized at Camp, now Fort, Jackson, S.C.

It adopted the name, "Wildcat" Division, from Wildcat Creek which flowed through the reservation.

The 81st Division began a practice which was unheard of in those days. A distinguishing shoulder patch, a black wildcat on an olive drab circle, appeared on the 81st Infantry Division uniforms, causing other units to protest loudly. The matter reached the attention of General John J. Pershing, who approved the Wildcat trademark.

Those same World War I "Wildcats" distinguished themselves in the fighting in France, participating in the occupation of the St. Die sector and the offense at Meuse-Argonne. Again, the 81st received the personal commendation of General Pershing.

On January 20, 1946, the division was inactivated.

The 81st was reactivated as a Reserve division on November 10, 1947, in Atlanta, Ga. It was considered for recall to active duty during the Korean War, but was not activated. In December 1965, the division was again inactivated.

Two years later, in December 1967, the Headquarters of the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command was established.

In May 1968, the Wildcat patch appeared in combat once again as three ARCOM units were mobilized and deployed to Vietnam for a year.

In August 1990, 81st ARCOM units were some of the first Reserve units to be called up in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Fifty-two units and 5,902 soldiers from the 81st ARCOM served as an integral part of the Army's resources, most of them serving in the Middle East.

In January 1993, volunteers from numerous units again answered the call of duty and provided support to Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. Additionally, in March 1994, members of

the ARCOM's 421st Quartermaster Company prepared and rigged humanitarian relief items in Rhein Mein, Germany, for air-drops into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In April 1995, as part of the restructuring of the Army Reserve to better meet the Army's changing global missions, reduce command overhead for a down-sized reserve force and enhance federal military support for domestic assistance missions, the 121st ARCOM was officially reorganized as the U.S. Army 81st Regional Support Command. The full reorganization process was completed 30 September 1996.

Under this restructuring, the 81st became the largest Army Reserve command in the United States. It encompasses an eight state area which includes Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee and Florida. The command exercises command and control of more than 30,000 soldiers and provides support to over 40,000 soldiers.

The redesignation is directly attributable to the successes the command has in achieving maintenance excellence, command



achievement, strength management and training awards.

The Distinctive Unit Insignia has a gold color metal and enamel device consisting of a blue octagon bearing a vertical gold stripe throughout the center charged with a blue star at the top and overall in base a black wildcat and extending over the left side of the octagon a gold eight-rayed sun and over the right side a gold fleur-de-lis; arched across the top on a gold scroll the inscription "TRAIN" and convexly arched in base, terminating on each side in back of the sun and fleur-de-lis, a gold scroll inscribed "MAINTAIN" on the left and "SUSTAIN" on the right, all in black letters.

The distinctive unit insignia was originally authorized for the 81st U.S. Army Reserve Command on June 12, 1970. It was reassigned to the 81st Regional Support Command on April 16, 1996.

(The information for this article was submitted by the 81st RSC.)

D-Day marks victory, loss for Americans during WWII

A great invasion force stood off the Normandy coast of France as dawn broke on June 6, 1944: nine battleships, 23 cruisers, 104 destroyers, and 71 large landing craft of various descriptions as well as troop transports, mine sweepers, and merchantmen — in all, nearly 5,000 ships of every type, the largest armada ever assembled. The naval bombardment that began at 0550 that morning detonated large mine fields along the shoreline and destroyed a number of the enemy's defensive positions. To one correspondent, reporting from the deck of the cruiser HMS Hillary, it sounded like "the rhythmic beating of a gigantic drum" all along the coast. In the hours following the bombardment, more than 100,000 fighting men swept

ashore to begin one of the epic assaults of history, a "mighty endeavor," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt described it to the American people, "to preserve ... our civilization and to set free a suffering humanity."

The attack had been long in coming. From the moment British forces had been forced to withdraw from France in 1940 in the face of an overwhelming German onslaught, planners had plotted a return to the Continent. Only in that way would the Allies be able to confront the enemy's power on the ground, liberate northwestern Europe, and put an end to the Nazi regime.

(The information for this article can be found at www.army.mil.)

"Soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere are with you."

*— Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower
June 6, 1944, D-Day*
