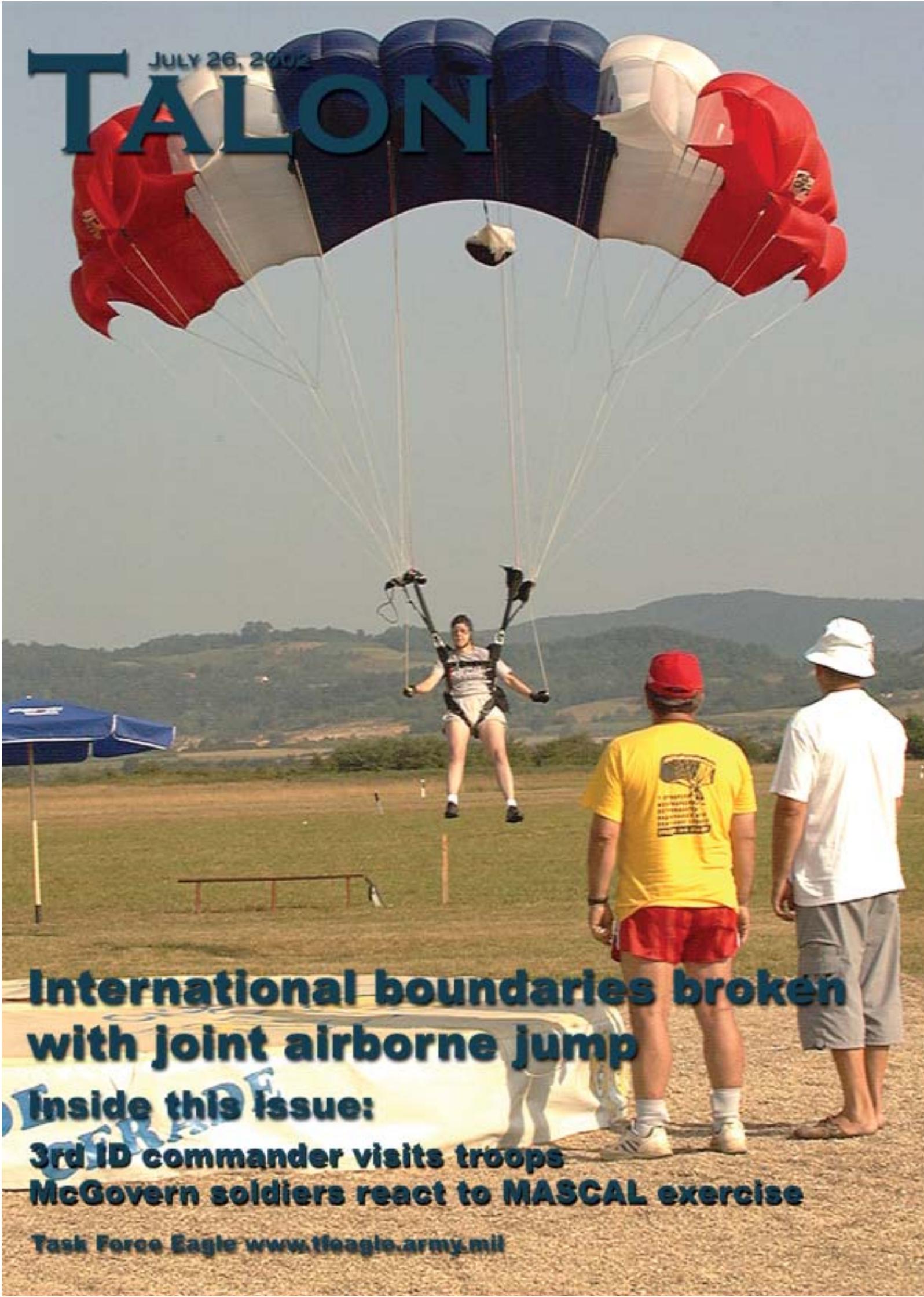


JULY 26, 2002

TALON



**International boundaries broken
with joint airborne jump**

Inside this issue:

3rd ID commander visits troops

McGovern soldiers react to MASCAL exercise

Task Force Eagle www.tfeagle.army.mil

TALON

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On the Cover — Task Force Med Eagle dentist Lt. Col. Cheryl Riley participates in an international jump competition in Prijedor. See page 4 & 5 for story.

(Photo by Sgt. Kelly Whitteaker, SFOR Informer staff writer)



Page 7 — Task Force Warhawk soldiers participate in mass casualty exercise.

(Photo by Cpl. Matthew McClelland, Camp McGovern Public Affairs Correspondent)

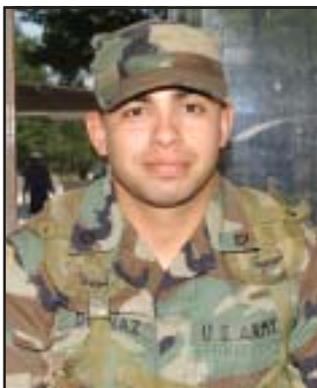
Page 8— Army aviators help to patrol and direct traffic in the skies above Eagle Base.

(Photo by Spc. Vincent Oliver, Assistant Editor)



Stabilization Force 11 Voices

“What has impacted you most during this deployment?”



Pfc. Albert Duenaz
Rifleman
Co. B, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt.

“The hands on (portion) of the Active Harvest weapons collection effort was pretty important for me.”



Spc. Martha Griffis
MP
549th MP Co.

“Working with infantry soldiers, because they get a different view of a female soldier’s role in the Army.”

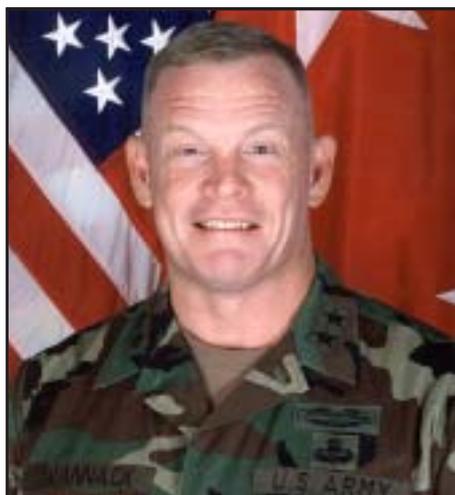


Spc. Victor Cortijo
Infantryman
Co. B, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt.

“I was amazed by the fact that some people don’t actually want us here.”



Task Force Eagle
Stabilization Force
SFOR XI
Bosnia-Herzegovina



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

It's hard to believe that we're already well past the halfway point of our six-month rotation here.

The work you've accomplished to this point is an impressive body of achievement – from the phenomenal success of Active Harvest, to the peaceful memorial observances at Srebrenica and the former Vuk Karadzic school, to the professional OPRES air mission support to COMSFOR, to the remarkable partnerships each unit has built with schools, orphanages, sports clubs, and local citizens, old and young – you are making a real difference in the lives of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The success of these efforts is a testimony to your dedication, skill, compassion, and professionalism. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do.

Duty important to great soldiering, leadership

By Spc. Juan Ponce

549th MP Co.

Duty is one of the U.S. Army values that is instilled in each and every soldier today. The Army's characteristic of duty is, "Fulfill your Obligations." The word duty can mean so many things to a soldier.

For example, I asked two of my fellow soldiers what they thought duty meant to them. One of them said, "It's to be where you need to be on time, in the right uniform and to conduct yourself in a military manner in what ever you do." The other soldier said, "Serving your country with courage, honor, and pride no matter what the consequences." I believe that any answer that is given is right.

CG speaks...

"Keep the mission focus"

But we can't rest on our laurels yet.

There's still an important mission before us. That is to prepare ourselves and our counterparts in 28th Infantry Division (Light) for a smooth transition to SFOR 12. The division staff has already begun intensive planning for the arrival of SFOR 12, and for our own redeployment back to our home states and our loved ones.

It's important that we don't lose our focus. My aim is to conduct that mission as we've conducted the others – to a high standard of excellence.

I have a motto that I'm fond of repeating – "People first, mission always." Let me explain what that means to me.

"People first." Taking care of soldiers always comes first. As we start to bump up against deadlines for submitting end-of-tour awards, I'd like to remind everyone that part of taking care of soldiers is recognizing them with an appropriate award for their service and achievements.

Likewise, OERs and NCOERs should be given careful consideration in preparation, and must be submitted on time. Performance counseling in conjunction with these reports is an important aspect of professional development. You owe it to the soldiers who look to you for mentorship.

The personnel folks in the unit S1 shops, as well as in G1 and 556th PSB, have an enormous task in processing these documents for some 2,000 members of Task Force Eagle.

Don't shortchange your soldiers by failing to meet established deadlines for submitting awards and efficiency reports. Give these important documents the special handling that they deserve.

"Mission always." Everything that Task Force Eagle has done in this historic deployment has set the standard for follow-on rotations to emulate. Now is not the time for half-stepping or adopting a short-timer's attitude.

I'm determined that SFOR 11 will leave Task Force Eagle in a better condition than when we found it.

Every unit and staff section has a role to play in that effort. It involves conducting inventories and accounting for property; developing good left-seat/right-seat plans to ensure our replacements are fully trained; capturing lessons learned in continuity books and SOP's to keep institutional memory from leaving on the last plane out; and in short, taking every step possible to set up our replacements for success.

Every soldier in basic training learns his general orders. One of them is, "I will guard everything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved."

SFOR 11 has not been relieved yet. Until it is, we will continue to do the nation's work with pride, and we'll continue to improve our foxhole for future rotations of SFOR.

"People first, mission always!"

Soldiers have their own definition of the word duty. All know what duty is, but very little know what it means. Duty is a part of everyone in some way or another. I strongly believe duty could not have its meaning without the other Army Values.

Duty to me is not just an obligation that just needs to be fulfilled. Duty is a sense of pride, honor and devotion sacrificed by many American soldiers. The American soldiers who sacrificed themselves and who still to this very day make the same sacrifice to our country and all the American people despite color, nationality, or ethnic background. Duty is leaving family and friends to travel 10,000 miles to provide a safe and a stable environment for third world countries who don't care for Americans. Looking after your fellow soldiers despite the fact

that you dislike them or their unit. I believe I know what duty means. I look at the soldier creed and I understand that it was written to teach soldiers that duty isn't just a word but a way of life.

Lastly, I am proud of my country and its flag. I want to look back and say that I am proud to have served my country as a soldier. You'll know when you've found the true meaning of duty. When you look up at old glory flapping in the wind with your hand over your heart grasping your chest as if it were in pain, your hand trembles as you hold a salute while tears run down your cheek. Think about the fallen soldier who sacrificed blood, sweat and life to make our country the greatest of them all. That's when you know you've found the meaning of duty.



Sgt. Kelly Whitteaker



Ivana Avramovic

Above, Lt. Col. Cheryl Riley, U.S. Army, begins the essential task of flat packing her chute as she prepares for yet another jump at the Prijedor airfield July 13. Left, Lt. Col. Cheryl Riley Team Friends team member, gives an all American salute as she drops out of the back of an MI8 helicopter during the Peter's Day international jump competition in Prijedor.

International parachute competition unites one team, three nations

By Sgt. Kelly Whitteaker

SFOR Informer Staff Writer

Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina – Parachute jumpers from around Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as neighboring countries descended upon the drop zone of the Prijedor jump club July 12–14 to participate in the annual Peter's Day competition.

A number of teams, to include Team Friends, made up of two American SFOR soldiers from Tuzla, an Irish KFOR soldier and a local Serbian man, took part in the weekend competition. Other countries competing in the event included Hungary and Slovakia.

A mass of multi-colored parachutes covered the drop zone at the Prijedor airfield as jumpers from around the country gathered together to take part in the hobby they love doing best – jumping out of aircraft.

The weekend event brought together teams of four to contend in an accuracy competition. For Team Friends, the event marked the first time Americans took part in a non-military related jump in the BiH region.

For U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cheryl Riley, Eagle Base, prosthodontist, getting the chance to meet people from other countries who share the same passion for jumping is what brought her to Prijedor.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams I'd be able to be in a competition like this in Bosnia, doing what I love to do as well as

representing the Army," said Riley. "People are people, you go anywhere in the world and we're all the same. It doesn't matter what nationality we are, what color we are or what sex we are, we're all the same. If people would support more things that would draw people together in a friendly, family oriented area – it's about friendship and camaraderie, that is the best thing about it. I'm glad I had the opportunity to do this."

One by one the jumpers fell from the sky trying their best to land directly on a small black circular target placed in the center of a landing pad, or tuffet as it is called. The purpose of an accuracy jump is for parachutists to land on or as close to a five-centimetre disk as possible. The lowest aggregate distance from the disc over a number of jumps wins.

According to U.S. Army Maj. Michael Tachias, theater security officer for SFOR headquarters, there was another larger purpose for the jump. Helping promote positive community relations within BiH was the most important reason for taking part in the jump. Tachias, who attended the Civil Military Cooperation course in June, befriended a few soldiers from the Republic of Srpska who were taking the same class. With troops talking and sharing histories, one thing led to another and the idea of a combined jump was born.

"The reason why we're here is to promote CIMIC nation building, creating a friendship and a relationship with all the international environment that's here," said Tachias. "We're also trying to break the barriers, so that these folks can feel

comfortable with different issues a where we need to make things better

For Irish Defe Buttimer, motor m ing with people ree rience.

"It's good to se that has been war t back to peace, bac

For Friends tear having the U.S. so joy.

"I am really gla the organizers of have been invited they have been her before but they Markovic.

The sheer love petition was all a Muller, electronics

"It's very addic you absolutely lov Muller.



Ivana Avramovic

us and they can speak to us about the
nd problems that are going on and
go with the direction with CIMIC to
r for the country.”

ense Forces soldier, Cpl. Seamus
echanic, Camp Clarke, Kosovo, jump-
covering from war was a unique expe-

e competitions in a country like this
orn,” said Buttimer. “It’s a way to get
k on track.”

n member Slobodan Markovic, Serbia,
ldiers compete in the event was a real

d the Americans are here, I heard from
the competition that the Americans
since 1997 but this is the first time
e. I believe Americans would’ve come
have been busy with tasks,” said

of jumping is what the weekend com-
about for U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Chad
s repairman, Eagle Base.

ctive, it’s one of those sports where
ve it or you’ll never do it again,” said



Sgt. Kelly Whitteaker

Above, Ltc. Col. Cheryl Riley, Task Force Med Eagle dentist, walks out of the target area with her teammates Slobodan Markovic and Army Staff Sgt. Chad Muller, Co. C, 25th Aviation Regiment platoon sergeant, during an international parachute competition at the Prijedor jump club July 12-13.

Left, Slobodan Markovic makes a flashy exit from the back of an MI8 helicopter during the Peter’s Day jump; he is the fourth member of Team Friends and is from the Serbian province of Vojvodina.

3rd ID commander visits military police, shares thoughts on mission, morale

By **Spc. Christina Davis**

Talon Editor, 305th PAD

The keepers of peace, law and order for Task Force Eagle were visited by the 3rd Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Bufford C. Blount III July 12.

The general visited the soldiers of the 549th Military Police Company to check on their well being and to let the soldiers know folks from their home station care about them and are waiting for their return home. He also talked about each MP's role in the peace-keeping mission and how important each soldier is.

The MP's mission is to enforce military compliance in accordance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace, maintain a focused military presence and support the international community to ensure a safe and secure environment for the civil implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords.

"The soldiers here represent the U.S. government and the Army's role with the UN here," Blount said. "As MPs they are here performing various func-

tions – K-9 missions, force protection, personal protection and patrols."

"It is real important that the local people see the presence here – stability," he said. "They have trouble living together. Our presence enables them to have stability. As time goes on they will hopefully learn to live together without our presence."

During many distinguished visits, the soldiers have meet and greets, but this day was a little different. Blount didn't just greet the soldiers; he promoted and reenlisted a handful of hard-working military police officers of the 549th MP Co.

Showing his concern for the soldiers, the general talked openly to them about family, upcoming missions of the 3rd ID and his views of all the hard work in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The commander said his concern for his soldiers, whose home station is at Fort Stewart, Ga., was safety and morale.

After he pinned staff sergeant, sergeant and specialist ranks on the soldiers, he took a walk to the Cyber Café to check out the facilities.

"The Internet seems to be



Spc. Christina Davis

Maj. Gen. Bufford C. Blount, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division visited troops July 12. He talked to the 549th MP Co. soldiers about the current mission and future missions of the 3rd ID. He also asked the soldiers about their ability to communicate with their families while deployed.

the way of the future for communicating to families back home," he said to the troops as they gathered around the general to hear him speak about what is going on in Georgia and with the 3rd ID.

He asked the soldiers if they had families, if they had the opportunity to keep in contact with them and what needed to be done to make things better. The soldiers all responded the same – for a deployment, things

couldn't get much better. The general said he was glad to hear that.

"My first concern is safety," he said. "Making sure they have good quality of life while they perform their mission (is also important)."

Blount said he was pleased with what he saw in his soldiers here. "We appreciate the great job they are doing here," he said. "We look forward to getting them back to Fort Stewart."

PAT team improves task force DFACs

Compiled by **Spc. Vincent Oliver**

Assistant Editor, 305th PAD

The Area Support Group hosted Stabilization Force 11's second Process Action Team forum at the Balkan Grille July 16. The PAT serves as the forum for soldiers to address food service issues and concerns with the dining facilities managers and the task force leadership.

Mark Orthmann, Brown and Root Services Regional Food Service Manager, explained that adding new items to the prime vendor catalog take from 45 to 60 days after the item has been approved and ordered.

Capt. Jon Tevebaugh, 248th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services commander, explained the procedures that are used to inspect food products coming into the theater. Sampling inspections are commonly used because of the large quantities inspected. Of the 11 mil-

lion pounds inspected this rotation, only 1,500 pounds have been rejected as unsafe.

In an attempt to satisfy concerns raised earlier about fresh baked bread, ASG Food Service representatives reminded meeting attendees that they are researching the possibility of using a local source for bread products. Coordination with U.S. Army Europe and task force food inspectors is ongoing.

Takeout trays are available at the Longhorn DFAC, however small plastic bowls with covers are not available for salads and desserts. Brown and Root Services representatives explained that removing the bowls was a cost saving measure. Small bowls with covers will be placed in same the location as takeout trays.

Another issue raised was the fact that during the Longhorn DFACs recent renovation hooks that were used for weapons were removed and never replaced. Soldiers requested to have some type of weapons rack installed. BRS repre-

sentatives indicated that they would research the possibility of installing some type of weapons rack.

Soldiers raised issues concerning operational differences between Balkan Grille and Longhorn Cafe. Differences such as, condiments on tables and Philly steaks and chicken salad being served at Balkan Grille and not at Longhorn were discussed. BRS Regional Food Service representatives are aware of the differences and have already informed managers of both facilities to correct the situation.

Members asked if dining facilities could provide sport or energy drinks. CW2 Veronica Brooks, ASG Food Service Advisor, said she would check with USAREUR to see if sports or energy drinks are authorized, but advised if an addition to the catalog were authorized, the change would not take effect for at least 45 days.

Task Force Warhawk hosts MASCAL exercise

By Cpl. Matthew McClelland

Camp McGovern Public Affairs correspondent

“MASCAL–MASCAL–MASCAL” rang out over the loud speakers across Camp McGovern on July 13 as soldiers inside the dining facility rushed out to find themselves in the middle of a Mass Casualty exercise.

Injured soldiers lay all around crying out in pain, the result of an uparmored HMMWV which had run into the side of the deck in front of the dining facility. One soldier lay trapped between the truck and the deck. First lieutenant Charles Mohr was the first soldier on the scene and quickly sent runners to the aid station and the Tactical Operations Center to summon help. Mohr then began pulling the victims out of the danger zone and into a better-protected area.

Medics quickly arrived on scene and established a command and triage point.

A Brown and Root fire crew arrived about the same time and extinguished the fire. Medics were forced to use the Jaws of Life, a device used to extract people pinned in vehicle wreckage, to rip open the doors of the HMMWV to give the medics more room to treat the injured.

Medics quickly immobilized the soldiers to minimize any further injury. They placed a tourniquet on an amputated arm, and bandaged a sucking chest wound.

With speed and precision, the medics and firefighters pulled the patients from the truck and secured them on stretchers. The injured soldiers were loaded onto stretchers and into a Field Litter Ambulance and taken to the aid station. With the triage center already set up, they immediately started separating the patients and began treating them.

“We got the right patients in at the right times, and were able to provide the proper treatment to the patients,” said Spc. George Bockting, a Task Force Warhawk medic.

Sgt. Jay Febish and Spc. Jose Sandoval, combat medics with Task Force Warhawk, work to stabilize a patient during a mass casualty exercise at Camp McGovern July 13.



Photos by Cpl. Matthew McClelland

Medics from Camp McGovern extract a soldier from a gun turret during a Mass Casualty exercise. Task Force Warhawk medics were faced with multiple victims with a large scope of injuries during the exercise.

One medic worked to splint a broken arm while another treated a soldier with third degree burns. Inside the aid station, the doctors worked to stabilize a soldier with a sucking chest wound and a troop with a possible spinal injury.

During all this commotion, other sections around the base camp quickly sprang into action. The Base Defense Operations Center quickly notified the quick response force and the platoon security detachment and had them secure the area. The TOC sent a nine line medical evacuation report to Task Force Med Eagle

and had the Air Ambulance notified.

“The teamwork and interaction between the different elements that come together to make this happen was tremendous. It definitely helped it run smooth,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Baker, Task Force Warhawk medics NCOIC.

Medics loaded critical patients into the air ambulance to be transported to the Eagle Base hospital where they would receive more comprehensive care, and prepared to transport other injured soldiers to Eagle Base by ground.

Three hours, and a good deal of stress later, Camp McGovern had recovered from the MASCAL.

The medics and other emergency personnel gathered in the waiting area of the aid station and conducted an after action review. With the assistance of 1st Lieutenant Soraya Esmaili, 25th Infantry Division (Light) medical planner, they talked over the good and bad of the day with the overall goal to improve their operations in the future.

“This was a great exercise overall, everybody did a great job and we got a good idea as to the key tasks that we need to improve,” said Maj. Ed Newington, Task Force Warhawk physicians assistants.

Now all that is left is for the medics to do is to resupply and continue preparations, always with the hope that the next MASCAL will only be another exercise.

Army aviators help direct Eagle Base air traffic

By Spc. Vincent Oliver

Assistant Editor, 305th PAD

Eagle Base airfield handles a lot of aircraft traffic, and contrary to popular belief, the Air Force is not the only service here at Eagle Base maintaining communication and control.

The soldiers of Company G 58th Aviation Regiment work right alongside Air Force personnel during flight control operations in the flight tower as well as at other key areas both inside and outside of Task Force 1-25 Aviation.

Sgt. Gene Garrett is a shift supervisor with the G/58 Eagle Radio flight following section. The flight following section is responsible for tracking aircraft performing flight operations in Multinational Division (North) by maintaining radio contact, and following them from one point to the next.

"We provide a valuable service to the task force. If an aircraft ever gets in trouble, for instance during inclement weather, we help make sure they can be assisted because we know where they are," said Garrett.

In a country littered with unexploded ordnance, flight following can be critical to saving the life of pilots who survive an aircraft crash. Soldiers who follow flights are in a position to give pilots in a downed aircraft invaluable information about their surroundings, as well as important weather information during in-flight operations.



Photos by Spc. Vincent Oliver

Spc. Leah Meyers, G/58 air traffic control operator, and Senior Airman Jessica Simpson, 401st EABG nonradar air traffic controller, consult an air traffic chart during tower control training at Eagle Base.

G/58 has the capacity to establish both fixed base air traffic control operations, in a flight control tower, and tactical air traffic control operations in a field environment. The Eagle Base flight control tower is controlled by the Air Force but Co. G 58th Avn. Regt. commander, Capt. Michael Krause, has gone to great lengths to establish a strong working relationship between the Army and Air Force air traffic control elements.

"At first I thought there would be animosity between us and the Air

Force, but it's really been an awesome experience," said Spc. Leah Meyers, an air traffic control operator with G/58. Meyers is one of two soldiers training with Air Force airmen for an ATC tower operations certification.

"We enjoy working with the Army. We don't get this opportunity all that often," said Air Force Technical Sgt. Mark Coleman, 401st EABG chief of training.

Since the beginning of the rotation the G/58 has gone from just two soldiers qualified for air traffic control tower operations to a total of nine soldiers rated for tower operations presently.

For tactical operations, the G/58 uses a Tactical Terminal Control System, which is essentially a modified HMMWV with 10 different radios and a remote terminal control unit that can be disengaged from its mount for operations away from the vehicle.

In addition to the TTCS, the ground control approach team uses various radar equipment that allows it to assist distressed aircraft in landing. "We can get a call and be in place here on the airfield and landing a distressed aircraft in 30 minutes or less," said Staff Sgt. Tiffani Edwards, ground control approach chief.

"The training we've gotten with this equipment has been invaluable," said Spc. Brandon Elliot, ground control approach supervisor. "I've learned a lot that's going to help me as a leader and will help me train soldiers that I'll have in the future."



Spc. Brandon Elliot, Co. G 58th Avn. Regt., ground control approach supervisor, and Pvt. 1st Class Nestor Robles, G/58 air traffic controller, monitor a tactical terminal control system at the Eagle Base airstrip.