

AUGUST 9, 2002

# TALON



## **TF Aviation creates 'Hellfire' at Glamoc during Pacific Resolve**

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**Task Force Eagle [www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)**

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**On the Cover — 1st Bn., 25th Aviation Regiment shoots ‘hellfire’ on Glamoc Range. See pages 4 and 5 for story. (Photo by Spc. Christina Davis, 305th PAD)**



**Page 6 — Civil Affairs soldiers help people of Bosnia return to state of normalcy. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tarina Reed, Combat Camera)**

**Page 7— Task Force Dragon soldiers welcome new leader with the 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. change of command. (Photo by Spc. Christina Davis, 305th PAD)**



## Stabilization Force 11 Voices

“What is the first thing you plan to do when you re-deploy?”



**Sgt. 1st Class Luis Espinoza  
First Sergeant  
225th FLE**

“Hit the beach with my 1969 Volkswagon van and surfboard. I will also play with my son.”



**Sgt. Laurie Pimentel  
MND (N) CSMAide  
HHC, 25th ID (L)**

“Get in my jeep and drive to the beach.”



**Capt. Matthew Jeffries  
IO officer  
HHC, 1st Bn., 151st Inf. Regt.**

“Drink six cold ones in civilian clothes at a sidewalk cafe.”



Task Force Eagle  
Stabilization Force  
**SFOR XI**  
Bosnia-Herzegovina



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

## CG speaks... *“37 days and a wakeup”*

the role civilian contractors will play in taking over some jobs. A civilian guard force will take over base security operations next week after a training and validation period. I ask everyone to welcome these security guards, befriend them and make them members of our world-class team. As such, soldiers will no longer perform guard duty on our bases.

Likewise, aviation maintenance has also been contracted out to a civilian firm, and these workers will assume their responsibilities this month. The ASG will finalize the housing plan in August, and units will move soldiers into temporary quarters to prepare for the arrival of soldiers from SFOR 12.

SFOR 12 will conduct its Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Hohenfels training area in Germany from 13 – 20 August. Their soldiers will start arriving here in significant numbers beginning August 22. Every unit will have a comprehensive 14-day left-seat/right-seat ride program to ensure our replacements have plenty of time to learn their jobs, orient to the new environment, practice drivers training, conduct inventories, and retrain if needed. This is a task in which we must succeed!

Through August and early September, we'll complete all our admin requirements for OERs, NCOERs, awards, and supply actions, and finalize plans for loading out containers and aviation equipment from the Croatian port of Rijeka.

An advance party will depart in mid-August to allow us to “right-size” our units for SFOR 12 and reduce the need for base lodging, but the majority of Task Force Eagle will fly home in the week prior to TOA.

At the other end of your journey, our intent is to ensure soldiers have a nice welcome-home ceremony to reunite you with loved ones, give you the recognition you deserve for supporting our nation's work in the Balkans, and get you smoothly reintegrated into your new units or back into the civilian workforce. Home station units, Rear Detachments and Family Readiness Groups will be key players in making the arrangements on the receiving end.

In addition, I'm committed to ensuring that you have adequate time to recover from this deployment under the scope of a

fair and reasonable leave policy. Because you've supported me so well, I'll support you by doing everything I can to ensure that you receive a well-deserved break upon your return.

There are a lot of moving pieces in this operation, from start to finish.

But, at every step of the way, I'm focused on some simple principles.

The first is to take care of soldiers. Safety is paramount. As for every operation, I expect leaders to conduct risk assessments and take the appropriate steps to mitigate risks. There's never a good reason to get somebody hurt.

Another aspect of taking care of soldiers is to minimize the disruption and inconvenience in requiring soldiers to move and stay in temporary quarters. For that reason, we're going to manage the billeting plan very carefully. I don't like to see soldiers being jerked around and I'm going to make sure we take pains to avoid it.

We're going to conduct a seamless transition and orderly redeployment, from start to finish, maintaining strict accountability of equipment and sensitive items.

SFOR 11 will leave this place in a better condition than we found it. We're going to go the extra mile to posture our replacements for success, because that's what professionals do.

*“People first, mission always!”*

### **SFOR 11 yearbooks to become available in August**

For those Task Force Eagle soldiers that are anxiously awaiting SFOR 11 yearbooks, they will be available at AAFES outlets for \$19.95 and should be in stores around mid-August. Advance sales are also available for reserve copies.

The goal is to have copies of the yearbook available by August 10 so the first planeload of soldiers re-deploying will have an opportunity to buy them while here. We'll keep you posted.

It's become a popular past time around Task Force Eagle: counting down the days until the transfer of authority on Sept. 16.

But we're not just tearing a page off the calendar every day. Every unit and staff section in Task Force Eagle has critical tasks to perform in getting our soldiers headed home in a safe, orderly, well-organized way.

A lot has to happen between now and Sept. 16 – and for many soldiers the work continues even after that date, as Task Force 1-14 remains in place a couple weeks more to provide continuity of operations through the national elections on Oct. 5. During our transition with SFOR 12, there will be a seamless continuation of the safe and secure environment that the local populace has come to expect here.

I'd like to give you a status report on the progress of our redeployment planning, and let you know what to expect as we move further along in this process.

Our redeployment preparation has already begun, with the reorganization of our units to mirror the smaller force structure of SFOR 12. Soldiers will be identified by unit and date for redeployment to their home stations, whether that's Fort Stewart, Fort Gordon, Indiana, Hawaii or any of the dozen or so states that have contributed troops to SFOR 11. During this phase, units will be turning in excess equipment, again with the intent to mirror the smaller structure of SFOR 12, so that our 28th Infantry Division counterparts fall in on a “right-sized” organization.

One of the biggest differences between our rotation and SFOR 12 will be



OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilots of the 25th Avn. Regt. perform live-fire qualifications with Hellfire missiles, rockets and .50-caliber machine guns at Glamoc range in western Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Lightning continues to strike on target during Pacific Resolve

By Spc. Christina Davis

*Talon Editor, 305th PAD*

The insertion team moved into the target area, via three UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters. This target, placed on a hill at Glamoc range in western Bosnia and Herzegovina, was the center for a massive live-fire gunnery qualification called Pacific Resolve.

Pilots of the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters fired 83 Hellfire missiles, 300 practice multi-purpose submunitions, and 5,200 .50-caliber rounds deep into the valleys of the mountainous Glamoc range.

The task force took advantage of their plentiful ammunition supply and time by having more than 70 soldiers qualify on their assigned weapons, which include the M203 grenade launcher, MK-19, M2 and the M249 squad assault weapon.



**A OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot fires a rocket down range at Glamoc during Pacific Resolve.**

As the results of the small arms ranges came in and leadership learned that many soldiers were able to qualify expert on their assigned weapons, Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester, Stabilization Force commander said, "It's called training — ain't it magic?"

Sylvester said that he was happy to see commanders taking advantage of the supplies, ranges and time by training their soldiers.

The purpose of the week-long event was for

gunnery qualifications, though.

There are 10 tables that encompass a gunnery qualification. Each step or table is a different level to prepare the pilots and support elements for qualification. Pacific Resolve included tables IX and X. Table IX was platoon level dry-fire training, table X was the live-fire qualification. The previous levels were conducted earlier in the rotation with Baltic and Joint Resolve.

"Task Force Aviation successfully completed its annual gunnery at Glamoc using both a stability and support operations and warfighting scenario by which we were able to qualify all four Kiowa Warrior platoons and two UH-60 Blackhawk platoons on tables IX and X day and night aerial gunnery," said Maj. Fred Choi, plans officer for Task Force Aviation.

"Selfless effort by all the task force enablers made this operation a success," Choi said.



TALON

# Pacific Resolve



Photos by Spc. Christina Davis



OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter flies low over the field as the pilot prepares to fire a rocket.



Above, rockets are fired continuously from a OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter. Left, armament soldiers load a Hellfire missile onto the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior at FOB Bandit, just outside the range in Glamoc.

# Civil Affairs: the Army's middlemen

By Spc. Michelle Lunato

Photo Editor, 305th PAD

Armed with a cell phone, a vehicle and the drive to make a difference, Civil Affairs soldiers are helping people displaced as a result of the Bosnian War return to their communities.

They need homes rebuilt, utilities installed and roads paved before they can return.

Without help, the 1,140 displaced people of the Sucaska village will not be able to return home.

CA is not armed with tools or manpower to do the construction, but, in their own way, they are critical in the returns process.

"The only thing we can do is contact the international community," said Maj. Lewis Gaiani, CA officer, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment. "All I have is a cell phone and a list of numbers."

They work with the Finnish Civilian Military Cooperation to find the needs of an area, then, set out to find groups that can help. Spending numerous hours a day on the telephone and in vehicles, CA soldiers contact several nongovernmental organizations in an effort to find the hopeful returnees some assistance.

"We act as a facilitator and bring different groups together," said Gaiani.

On one visit to the village of Sucaska, the CA team brought an organization offering micro-economic loans. The group met with over 50 villagers to explain the program and how it could help them. The soldiers also obtained a list of displaced people who are trying to return to the village. This list was crucial in their efforts since it proves to potential donors that there is a need and a reason to help this



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Tarina Reed

**Staff Sgt. Jo Beth Thomsen, 1st Bn. 14th Inf. Regt. civil affairs NCOIC, loads up a donated backpack with school supplies for her young friend in the village of Sucaska.**

particular village.

As the CA team builds relationships between their 13 opstinas and a wide variety of organizations and the infantrymen pound the streets gathering CA information, the returns process mission is progressing, slowly, but surely.

"Civil affairs is the most important mission here," said 1st Lt. Spencer Harris, civil affairs officer, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt.

To assist the mission even more, CA began bringing several organizations to the Medical Civil Action Programs. While local nationals waited to be seen by Task Force Med Eagle soldiers for health care, they had the opportunity to gather information from

groups such as World Vision, Mercy Corp and Bauern Helfen Bauern who offered help in loans, home rebuilding and legal advice.

This new idea went over well and will be continued in future rotations, said Gaiani.

"For a MEDCAP to be a success and have long lasting impact, there needs to be host nation participation."

And that is what defines the essences of the CA mission – the detective work of bringing together the right organizations with the right people in need. Their complicated mission may not be fast, but it is making a difference, said Gaiani.

"If I left tomorrow, I would be happy that we've been able to help a lot of people."



**Maj. Lewis Gaiani, civil affairs officer for the 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. chats with a representative from an Austrian nongovernmental organization that helps people displaced as a result of the war return to their homes, during a visit to the Sucaska Valley. Soldiers of 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., delivered 2.25 tons of supplies to the people of this small community during the visit.**

# Army tradition continues ...

## Task Force Dragon changes command

By Spc. Christina Davis

Talon Editor, 305th PAD

Following Army tradition, Lt. Col. Michael Coss passed on command of Task Force Dragon to Lt. Col. David Miller in a change of command ceremony at Peacekeepers Hall Tuesday.

In attendance were guests not only here in country, but family and friends from Hawaii via video teleconferencing.

"Changes of command are never easy for a unit," said Col. Lloyd Miles, 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light), commander, "especially when the commander has been of the caliber of Mike Coss.

"Under his leadership, the Golden Dragons have deployed on several company, battalion and brigade field training exercises. During his command, Lt. Col. Coss was known throughout the division as a warfighter who focused his efforts on developing lethal squads and platoons and conducting aggressive and realistic training. Addi-

tionally, the company live-fires executed under his leadership set the standard in the 25th Infantry Division."

"I was honored to walk among you, particularly in this volatile environment, and I leave knowing you remain prepared for war and that your service will long endure even after you yourselves leave these ranks," Coss said. "You have preserved your reputation of enduring excellence, and our nation will continue to call the Golden Dragons to front in battle whenever needed."

Coss takes his command memories and leadership skills to a higher level with his new assignment at the Pentagon.

Taking over the mantle of command, Miller came to the Tropic Lightning Division from the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. He served as the Army operations readiness officer with the operations and plans division.

Miller received his Reserve Officer Training Corps commission as an infantry officer in 1986.



Photos by Spc. Christina Davis

**Soldiers of 1st. Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. take part in the task force's change of command ceremony at Peacekeepers Hall Tuesday.**

He earned his bachelor of science degree in forestry from the University of Montana.

After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne and Ranger schools at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Germany. From there he has held positions with the 7th Inf. Div. (L), Fort Ord, Calif., and Fort Lewis, Wash., as well as with infantry units at Fort Benning, and 10th Mountain

Div., Fort Drum, N.Y.

Now the soldiers of Task Force 1-14 have a new leader.

"To the impressive Task Force Golden Dragon soldiers standing before us, and all those you represent, you are living the latest chapter in the Golden Dragon's great history," Miller said. "We are honored to be joining your team and look forward to serving with you as we experience the chapters to come and keep our place at the right of the line."



Above, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr., MND (N) commander and other guests salute during the U.S. National Anthem.

Far left, Lt. Col. David Miller accepts the colors and responsibility of the battalion.

Left, Miller watches his troops during the ceremony.

# An excerpt from winning essay: Selfless service

By Sgt. John Govaerts

*Eagle Base Chapel NCOIC*

From the trenches of the Western Front to the deserts of Southwest Asia, Americans regardless of creed, color, gender, or race have always given their lives in the defense of freedom and that is the distilling of selfless service. The very act of giving one's life for another without thought of recourse is the epitome of selfless service. It was Jesus who was quoted as saying, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Recently my wife and I stood with our youngest son in the toy aisle at our local PX and cried as we read the inside box-flap of a commemorative G.I. Joe doll. It read, "Sgt. Benavidez volun-

tarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move a pickup zone." The excerpt continued to describe how Sgt. Benavidez was wounded over and over continually exposing himself to enemy gunfire in order to save the lives of a few wounded and dying soldiers. His selfless service that day kept eight more names from being etched onto the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Thirty years after his actions in Vietnam, Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez was awarded the Medal of Honor by the President of the United States. In an article printed in 1998, Master Sgt. Benavidez stated, "The real

heroes are the ones who gave their lives for their country, I don't like to be called a hero. I just did what I was trained to do." When told his actions were extraordinary, he replied: "No, that's duty." To a soldier duty and selfless service are inseparable. Committing to that which needs to be done will, ultimately lead to putting the needs and welfare of others before your own.

America has seen, first hand, that selfless service is not limited to those who wear green and fight in steamy jungles or in arid deserts. We have experienced the grief and loss of war, not from some exotic faraway land but in our front yard. The terror of war has come knocking on our door and our heroes have come out to meet it. No

longer can we simply pause Hollywood's version of war on our VCRs, for it is engraved in our hearts forever. America has found a new reason to embrace the axiom of selfless service. It was born on Sept. 11, 2001, the Pearl Harbor of our generation. From the twisted wreckage of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, has resurrected a spirit of patriotism. This spirit is alive not just in the hearts of the countless soldiers who have fought, died, and continue to serve our great nation but also in the hearts of all Americans.

Sept. 11, baptized all Americans as "veterans" of the tragedies of war. Like Master Sgt. Benavidez not only are Americans now veterans of a war, the war of terrorism, but of selfless service as well.

## Common sense advice on mailing excess baggage home

By Capt. Patrick Murphy

*ASG Legal Advisor*

"We follow orders, son. We follow orders or people die. It's that simple. Are we clear? – COL Nathan Jessup, *A Few Good Men*

The above quote is a great line in cinema history, and is lived daily by the men and women of SFOR 11. Whether it's a soldier following the rules of engagement on patrol during Operation Active Harvest, or a nurse following the SOP during surgery, we all follow orders in one's daily service to our country.

Whether orders are life-or-death, the Army does not allow a smorgasbord of what orders we can pick and choose to follow. With SFOR 11's upcoming departure, there are standing orders and prohibitions against sending certain items through the mail, as well as the method of shipment.

**Prohibited Items** – General Order #1 prohibits shipment of any alcohol, privately owned firearms, ammunition or explosives, any weapons, munitions, military article, or property that was seized during military operations. Therefore, although war trophies are good conversation pieces, if you violate this order you may be prosecuted under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This applies to all civilian contractors as well via the terms of their contract.

Furthermore, U.S. Customs and Title 18 of the U.S. Code prohibits the shipment of tobacco, drug paraphernalia, certain obscene materials (including magazines, videos, CDs, pictures), and prescription medicine (must be hand-carried and verified). Cuban cigars especially, while flavorful and profitable on the black market, are banned from the United States. Not only could you face criminal prosecution, but civil fines of up to \$55,000 per violation. This sanction against the Cuban government has been in place since 1963.

**Methods of Shipment** – With the Transfer of Authority to take place in less than a month, many of us need to prepare to ship our goods and equipment back home. There are three methods of shipment: CONNEX, MILVAN, or through the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), all three of which must meet customs guidelines. Items must be free of dirt, soil, plants or plant products such as seeds, fruits or vegetables, and the previously mentioned prohibited items.

A CONNEX or MILVAN will ship organizational equipment, and it will take a little longer for these materials to arrive back home. One's personal cargo may be shipped, but only on a space available basis. If there is space available for your personal gear, be aware that you are waiving government liability if damages occur. If there is no space available for shipment of personal gear, plan on shipping it via the

USPS. It is important to note that your TA-50 is considered your personal gear, and not organizational equipment. For readiness reasons, you need this equipment immediately when you arrive back home and therefore should plan on carrying it as personal baggage.

When sending materials via USPS, it can be through Space Available Mail or Priority Mail. Both of these methods require a customs form, either PS Form 2976 or PS Form 2976A if more than 3 items are being sent.

SAM cannot exceed 130 inches and 70 lbs, and a 30 lbs footlocker will cost between \$11.10 and \$33.94 to ship back to Hawaii.

Priority Mail cannot exceed 108 inches and 70 lbs, and the same footlocker will cost between \$19.05 and \$53.55. Contact the post office to find out what delivery method would work best for you.

Lastly, you can insure your items by filling out PS Form 3813-P, and it is recommended that you use a paint pen or permanent marker when addressing your footlocker/duffel bag/shipment. You should also put your address on the inside of your shipment in case the outside is damaged.

It's imperative you plan ahead before departure. It would be a shame if SFOR 11 lost a few good men because they disregarded the above prohibitions.

If you have questions on current prohibitions, contact Staff Sgt. Davis Teems at 762-2232 or Cpt. Thomas Gunnings at 762-8025.