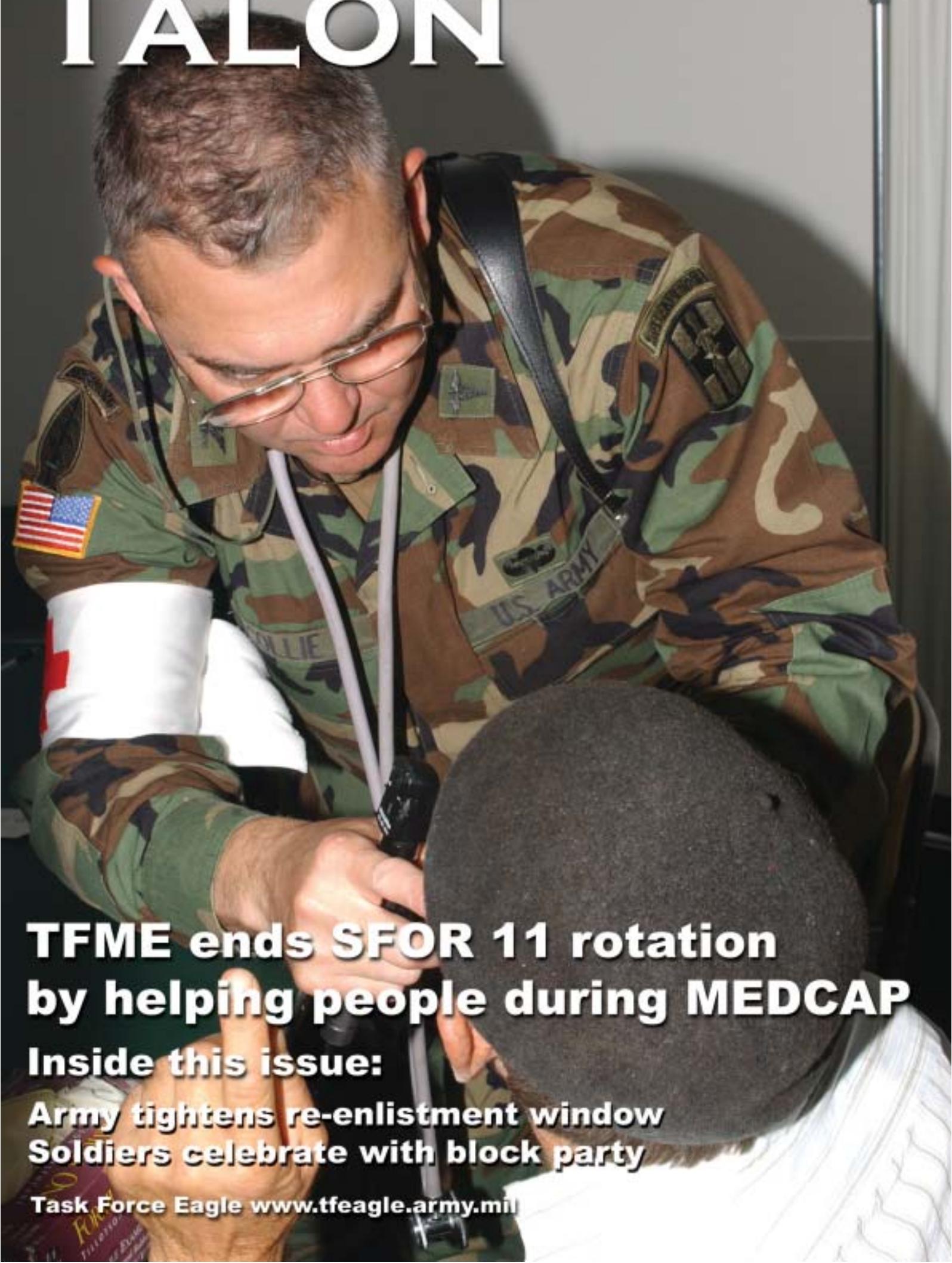


SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

TALON



**TFME ends SFOR 11 rotation
by helping people during MEDCAP**

Inside this issue:

**Army tightens re-enlistment window
Soldiers celebrate with block party**

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TALON

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Contents...

On the Cover – Col. Lamar Collie, Task Force Med Eagle deputy chief of clinical services, examines a local Bosniak man during SFOR 11's last and SFOR 12's first MEDCAP. See pages 4 and 5 for story. (Photo by Spc. Vincent Oliver, 305th PAD)



Page 7 – Spc. Matt Casaubon, information operations specialist, HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt. dances in front of Peacekeepers Hall. Soldiers eat, dance and celebrate during the International Block Party at Eagle Base. (Photo by Spc. Christina Davis, 305th PAD)

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

– Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.

Stabilization Force 12 Voices

"What personal goals do you hope to accomplish during during SFOR 12?"



Sgt. Brian Leonhard
Armorer
HHC 28th Inf. Div.

"Making sure safety standards are fully enforced and looking out for your fellow soldier."



Staff Sgt. Amy Weaver
422 Medical Detachment
NCOIC Veterinary Services

"The pull-up bar .I went to get down from the pull-up bar and broke my leg on the frame."

Staff Sgt. Clyde Walker
Supply Sergeant
B Co. 142nd Military Intel.
"Reflective Belts. What I would like to know is why we have to wear the reflective belts with the new reflective PT uniforms."



Task Force Eagle
Stabilization Force
SFOR XI
Bosnia-Herzegovina



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

CG speaks . . .

"Thanks for a job well done, SFOR 11"

violence. The safe and secure environment to which you contributed made these observances possible.

Our demining program, too, was highly successful. Over 300,000 square meters of land were cleared of mines, doubling last year's totals. That allowed people to return to their villages, and normal life in the countryside to resume.

The return of displaced families increased significantly during SFOR 11's watch, rising more than 30 percent over last year's numbers. More than 2,400 families in the Multinational Division (North) sector came back to their prewar homes, primarily because they felt safe in doing so.

Our work with the Armed Forces of BiH produced very encouraging results. The number of weapon storage sites was reduced from 49 to 32, and the Armed Forces made great strides forward in downsizing their arsenals. We also implemented a groundbreaking noncommissioned officer course, attended by Bosniak, Croat and Serb military officials, aimed at increasing the level of professionalism in their armed forces.

SFOR 11 showed a great sense of responsibility as stewards of the taxpayers' money. We executed a budget of over \$82 million, and in doing so, we found innovative ways to be more efficient and fiscally smart. We were able to return \$7.7 million to USAREUR to fund other important command priorities, without sacrificing soldier care or quality of life.

We finalized the movement of all units and equipment from Camp Comanche and the Russian camp at Priboj. Both of them were successfully turned back over to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Defense. Doing so reduced the task force footprint in keeping with the progress our mission here has produced.

During our watch, we got rid of mountains of excess equipment that accumulated through previous rotations. We reduced the fleet of tracked vehicles by more than 80 percent; wheeled vehicles by more than 50 percent; and MILVANS by more than 40 percent. All told, more than 200 pieces of rolling stock were shipped out of here, back to Central Region. This helps to set up our replacements for success, as future downsized rotations inevitably would be hard-pressed to handle all the accumulated excess.

In big ways and small, over the past six months you've sustained the safe and secure environment that this nation needed in order to rebuild and to heal, and you've left a bit of yourself with the people you've met here.

As the SFOR 11 watch comes to a close, you can look back on what has been accomplished during this rotation, and feel justifiable pride. We did it all together, as a team.

Only time will tell the true measure of our success - that is, what Bosnia-Herzegovina becomes in ten or twenty or fifty years - but the people of this country now have a chance at peace and prosperity that they wouldn't have had without your presence. You were part of an extraordinary Stabilization Force mission and a great success story. Your work has made a true difference in the lives of the people here.

I couldn't be more proud of this division. My sincere thanks to each of you, and may God bless each of you.

I'd also like to formally welcome our counterparts in SFOR 12 and wish you continued success. And if I may, I'd like to offer you a little wisdom, born out of experience, as you begin your rotation. It's this:

Be positive, be disciplined, be skilled, take care of one another and have fun.

Make the most of this deployment. Deployments can be dull if you let them get that way. There are plenty of activities available here to offset the absence of home and family, so I urge you to take advantage of the opportunities.

Set some goals for yourself over the next six months. Whether you'd like to train for a 10K, take some courses at the Education Center, travel to unique locations, compete in sports, or just catch up on the current movies, there are programs and facilities here that can help you achieve your goals and provide much-needed stress relief.

It's easy to become so focused on the mission that you forget to balance work with your other needs. Balance is important to your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, and that ultimately determines whether your time here is a joy or a chore.

SFOR 11 had a great rotation. We wish the same for you, SFOR 12. Good luck!

"People first, mission always!"

In this, my last column in the Talon, I want to thank each and every member of Multinational Division (North) for making this SFOR 11 rotation the great success that it's been.

We came together as a team - a team made up of more than 4,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians, including active-duty, Reserve, and National Guard, from over a dozen states and 11 different countries. You made that diversity a source of strength, and gained successes across a wide range of endeavors.

Here are a few of the successes we shared as a team:

We retooled the annual Harvest weapons collection program to make it more effective. This first-ever door-to-door "Active Harvest" produced astonishing and unprecedented results. In Multinational Division (North)'s sector, we've so far collected thousands of weapons and several tons of ammunition, equivalent to the disarmament of an infantry division. The stuff we collected was crushed, blown up, and smelted to make sure it would never be used to harm people, thus making the communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina safer for everyone.

We facilitated the peaceful memorial observance at the former Vuk Karadzic School in Bratunac through cooperation and teamwork with local police and civic officials. At the annual Srebrenica observance, more than 5,000 visitors from across Europe and the world gathered to peacefully honor the dead. In the very recent past, these kinds of observances could not have taken place without ethnic



Photos by Spc. Vincent Oliver

Sgt. 1st Class Darryl Walker, TFME optometry technician, examines a local Bosniak woman during a MEDCAP mission in the village Brda Aug. 29. Stabilization Forces 11 and 12 partnered with the Srebrenica Public Health Center and the Tuzla Public Health Center for SFOR 11's final MEDCAP mission.

SFOR 11 Med Eagle wraps up last MEDCAP mission

By Spc. Vincent Oliver

Assistant Editor, 305th PAD

Stabilization Force 11's Task Force Med Eagle completed its eighth Medical Civilian Action Program mission in the mountain-top village of Brda Aug. 29.

After traveling by bus for four hours and making an arduous trip up a winding and narrow mountain pass, a team of approximately 30 soldiers set up eight separate medical stations in a small six-room building which usually houses the village day care center.

Nearly 200 people were examined and diagnosed throughout the day and prescription medicines were passed out at no charge.

This MEDCAP was important because it allowed SFOR 11 Med Eagle to "pass the baton on" to

SFOR 12 Med Eagle according to Col. Princess Facen, SFOR 11 TFME chief of nursing.

"We wanted to do this one together with SFOR 12 to help make the transition easier for them," said Facen. "SFOR 10 set the ground work for us and that allowed us to improve on the process along the way, and that is why it is so important that we set the ground work for SFOR 12."

Med Eagle partnered with various other health care agencies such as the Public Health Center of Srebrenica and the Public Health Center of Tuzla for their final MEDCAP for this rotation.

"This is a very important mission—to provide health care to these people," said Dr. Svetozar Marinkovic, director of the Tuzla public health center. "Refugees returning to their

homes don't have health insurance and they are very far from any health care centers, so MEDCAPs are very helpful to our people."

"There's a lot of satisfaction in doing these kinds of missions," said Staff Sgt. Maxenia Bowers, SFOR 11 Med Eagle Intensive Care Ward/Intensive Care Unit NCOIC.

"It gives peace of mind because you're helping. The medical field is a field where we want to help other people, so these kinds of missions help fulfill our professional dreams," said Bowers.

"These types of missions are most beneficial to the populace," said Col. Douglas Maser, incoming SFOR 12 Med Eagle commander. "We benefit from them as well. There's something about giving that's unmatched."





Left, Col. Princess Facen, SFOR 11 TFME chief of nursing, helps establish the floor plan along with doctors from the Tuzla Public Health Center during a recent MEDCAP mission in the village of Brda. Below, Col. Lamar Col-lie, SFOR 12 TFME deputy chief of clinical services gives an eye exam.



Soldiers of TFME unload medical equipment and supplies from trucks in the village of Brda during a MEDCAP Aug 29. The MEDCAP was a joint effort between Stabilization Forces 11 and 12 as well as the Public Health Centers of both Tuzla and Srebrenica.

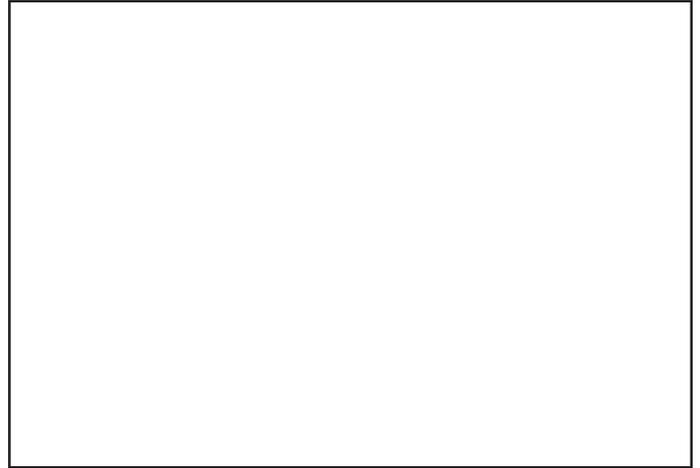


Residents of the village of Brda patiently sit and wait to be seen by the medics and doctors of Task Force Med Eagle during a MEDCAP Aug. 29. Nearly 200 people showed up for the free medical treatment. SFOR 11 used the event to augment its left seat/right seat ride training.

Recognizing Multinational Forces

Story and photo by
Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant Editor, 354th MPAD



Senior Lt. Timo Gromberg, Finnish CIMIC team leader, discusses issues with a returnee in a village in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

TF Eagle hands over key to Camp Comanche

At a ceremony at Camp Comanche, Sept. 5, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr., commander Multinational Division (N) officially returned control of the post back into the hands of the Bosnian Federation army ministry of defense.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has reduced the number of forces here in Bosnia and Herzegovina due to the success of the Stabilization Force mission in establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment.

"This transfer of Camp Comanche to the federation ministry of defense is a reflection of the success of our mission, and of the progress of this nation toward a peaceful, prosperous future," said Swannack.

The base belonged to the Yugoslavian Air Force before the Dayton Peace Accord was signed in January 1996. A short time later Implementation Force soldiers, who renamed the post Comanche, occupied the post and established it as a base of operations.

Camp Comanche, originally known as Tuzla West, consisted of 225 acres, including a runway, eight bunkers, one road, and a set of unused railroad tracks.

The 642nd engineer company out of Fort Drum, New York, took on a 1.5 million project building helipads and taxiways in Sept. of 1999.

Soon after the Engineers arrived, they were clearing a patch 200 meters wide and four kilometers long and hauling off 80,000 cubic meters of soil to make a work area safe for the aviation units stationed here. During the winter months they turned a

frozen swamp into an airfield. Finally, the post expanded as the home of the aviation, infantry and logistics task forces.

The engineers built more than 200 buildings at Camp Comanche. These included barracks with space for 2,500 soldiers, motor pools large enough to accommodate 700 vehicles, helipads that could hold up to 54 aircraft. Nearly five miles of fencing surrounded a container holding storage facility, a fuel farm, a forward area refueling point, and an army material command facility.

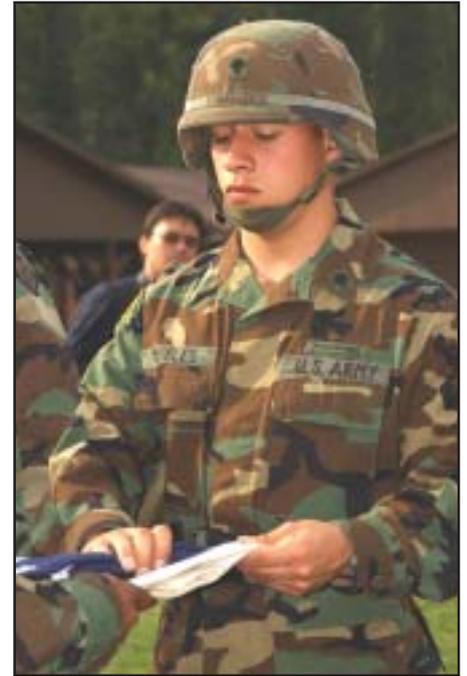
The prominent 90-foot flagpole that SFOR used to proudly fly the American flag every day, is the tallest flagpole in the Balkans.

"Today, we'll lower the American flag that flew over this point for the last time," said Swannack. "After today, this facility will belong to the armed forces of BiH, and will fly the flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina just as proudly."

"This is the first base turnover of its kind to local military and serves as a pattern for other facilities," said Clifford G. Bond, U.S. ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina. "We began talking about consolidation of Camp Comanche and Eagle Base last November."

"We hope to strengthen state level oversight of military here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is essential if Bosnia and Herzegovina is to qualify as a candidate for the Partnership for Peace and ultimately membership in NATO," said Bond. "PPF membership is a realistic goal. It will only be attained with strong leadership by all leaders at the state and local level."

The crowd stood at attention and saluted the American flag as it was lowered and removed from the flagpole. Afterwards, as the VF army escorted their flag to the pole, the order to attention was



Photos by Spc. Jessica Abner

called once again as they raised their flag. Although the VF ministry of defense plans to change the name of the camp, "The name of the base will be remembered and will always remind us of the great contribution of the U.S. soldiers to enforce peace here in Bosnia and Herzegovina and heal the injuries of the war," said Ferid Buljbasic, deputy federation minister of defense. "Thank you, U.S. government for giving back this land in excellent condition where so much investment has been made. We will continue to maintain it."

Bosnian Federation army Soldiers salute while they raise their flag during the transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Comanche Sept. 5. Multinational Division (North) no longer required the use of Camp Comanche due to downsizing and consolidation of forces.



Personal courage premier value for great soldiers

By Maj. John Farr, III

Task Force Med Eagle

Personal Courage is the seventh of the Army's values, but some would say that it is the foundation upon which the Army is built. In fact, the Army has said that Personal Courage is "the premier military value that enables us to conquer fear, danger or adversity be it physical or moral."

Possessing Personal Courage does not imply that one is not scared or afraid. It refers to having the ability to put your fears aside in order to get the job accomplished be it on the field of battle or the field of life.

Personal Courage has long been prized in this country beginning with our founding fathers who had the Personal Courage to fight for their independence and forge a new democratic nation.

The tapestry of our history is richly woven with stories about those who displayed great physical Personal Courage when called upon to do so.

Indeed, such names as Audie Murphy, Sergeant York, Jimmy Doolittle and George Patton have been immortalized in military lore due to their courageous exploits. History has also demonstrated the impact that people who possess great moral Personal Courage can have on our society. Martin Luther led the Protestant Reformation and Susan B. Anthony fought for women's

sufrage. Martin Luther King, Jr. championed civil rights and Billy Graham has spread the gospel to millions.

These great acts of Personal Courage greatly impacted our world and are to be admired. However, I would submit to you that acts of Personal Courage on such a large scale are rare. Even more important to the Army and society are those who display Personal Courage in their lives daily.

Important acts of Personal Courage take place every day in the Army and the civilian world.

Consider the troop who conquers his fear of flying to earn his jump wings or the soldier who does not turn a blind eye to known fraud, waste or abuse. Take, for example, the policeman who puts himself in harm's way routinely while doing his job or the social worker in the inner city who works to rid a neighborhood of drugs.

All of these individuals have a positive impact on those they come in to contact with and the institutions in which they work. However, more is needed. It is our obligation to teach the importance of Personal Courage to others. I have a daughter. I want her to grow up with the confidence to say "no" to such things as drugs and premarital sex.

It takes Personal Courage to do this as well. I want her to be empowered to do the hard right instead of the easy wrong. Society needs her and those of her generation to be able to demonstrate such Per-

sonal Courage. We must show them the way.

As we quickly approach September 11 and pause to reflect on a day a year ago that changed the way we live, we will remember those who displayed great Personal Courage that day.

We will recall the 343 firefighters who lost their lives while doing their jobs. We will remember the passengers of United Airlines flight number 93 who died while fighting to take control of their airplane from terrorist hijackers. A plane that, due to their efforts, crashed in a field in Pennsylvania instead of Washington, D.C.

These men and women stepped up and answered when called to do so. The question is, "Will we?" The answer, I pray, is "Yes."

The bottom line is that those who possess Personal Courage make the best leaders in the Army and the civilian world. These leaders are loved and admired by those who follow them because they know that the leader with Personal Courage will not back down when faced with daunting moral or physical challenges.

They will fight the good fight and will instill in their troops the confidence to do the same. Therefore, it is no wonder that Personal Courage is one of the Army's most treasured values.

(Editor's note: This is the last Leadership essay in a seven series essay contest. Congratulations to all the winners.)



All hands

Co. B, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., celebrate a job well done after the company's awards ceremony Aug. 31. Col. Mark Milley, SFOR 11 ground forces commander, congratulated the soldiers on their many successful missions and accident-free rotation.