

SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

TALON

A soldier in camouflage gear is shown from the waist up, focused on using a power drill on a wooden structure. He is wearing a tan t-shirt and a camouflage cap. The structure he is working on is part of a playground, with blue safety netting visible. The background shows a clear sky and some blurred structures.

**Aviators bring joy to children
with new playground, supplies**

Inside this issue:

**Camp Comanche returned to BiH
TFME Immunizes Children of Maoca**

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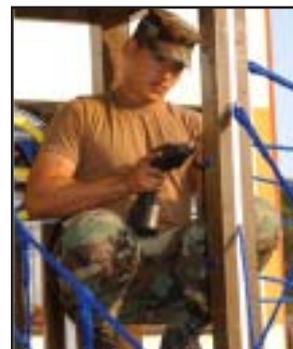
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On the Cover — Spc. Gabriel Cisneros, crew chief, Co. B, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., drills fasteners into a playground set that was built by his company. (Photo by Spc. Michelle Lunato, 305th PAD)



Page 6 — Kids fill the hallway and stairwell waiting their turns with TFME for Hepatitis A immunizations. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster, 354th MPAD)

Page 7 — Camp Comanche is turned back over to the Bosnian Federation Army Ministry of Defense in a ceremony held Sept. 5. (Photo by Spc. Jessica Abner, 354th MPAD)



Stabilization Force 12 Voices

“How will the anniversary of September 11th affect how you approach the deployment?”



CW2 Brenda Jones
Personnel Technician
281st PSD

“My job here is not affected because I’m here on a peacekeeping mission.”



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Larson
Battle NCO
HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt.

“Even though we are away from home we must never forget this terrible act that has changed our lives forever. It shows the world how united we are.”



Pfc. Alex Cooksey
Apache Mechanic
Co. E, 1st Bn., 183rd Avn. Regt.

“It struck close to home with me being in Virginia at the time. Now I feel like I can do something about it.”



Task Force Eagle
Stabilization Force
SFOR XI
Bosnia-Herzegovina



**Command Sgt. Maj.
Thomas Lee,
Multinational Division (North)
command sergeant major**

CSM Speaks...

To the Members of Task Force Eagle, Rotation XI and MND(N)

counseled, comforted, day after day, week after week, month after month. We have lived and served with each other, in a more intense and intimate setting than some families enjoy. We have depended on each other for life and limb. We've had an experience that we cannot duplicate, but we can use it as a model. We have earned, now we must be careful not to squander.

As a start, I am compelled to thank each of you for your efforts. Your unwavering dedication to duty and near flawless execution of each task has been the core of our success. You are all great citizens, doing the work of your nation, advancing the interest of the civilized world in this arena. You have truly made a difference, and I'm proud to have served with you.

Let me close with a poem. It is entitled "Clear Day," by William Allen Dromgoole. These words have been an inspiration to a very special man, that I've had the privilege of knowing, only as an acquaintance. His mother read this poem to him frequently as a child, and he has attempted to live the life of "The Bridge Builder." This man is retired Sgt. 1st Class Sammy Davis, a patriot from

the little town of Mooresville, Ind., who, as a result of his actions on the morning of November 18, 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

CLEAR DAY

by William Allen Dromgoole

*An old man traveling a lone
highway,*

*Came at the evening cold and
gray,*

*To a chasm vast and deep and
wide,*

*Through which was flowing a
sullen tide.*

*The old man crossed in the
twilight dim,*

*The sullen stream held no fears
for him.*

*But he turned when safe on the
other side,*

And built a bridge to span the tide.

*"Old Man," cried a fellow pilgrim
near,*

*"You are wasting your time in
building here."*

*"Your Journey will end with the
closing of this day,*

*"You will never again pass this
way.*

*"You have crossed this chasm
deep and wide,*

*"Why build you this bridge at even
tide?"*

*The builder lifted his weary old
head.*

*"Good friend, in the path I have
come," said he,*

"There followeth after me today,

*"A youth whose feet must pass this
way.*

*"This stream which has been
naught to me*

*To that fair-haired youth may a
pitfall be.*

*"Good friend, I am building this
bridge for him."*

Our time in Bosnia and Herzegovina draws to a close. The enlightened and visionary leadership of our Commander, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack Jr., coupled with the hard work and commitment of our team members has made our mission an unprecedented success. Like all victories, there is an exhilarating, but fleeting moment, that will ultimately be defined by what we the team members do with lessons learned.

Although much like a college athletic team whose members experience the elation of the championship victory, only to part for the last time after the game, there is a contrast.

We have a unique opportunity to plant the fruits of this victory as seeds for a lifetime of bountiful harvests. The youngest of our soldiers and leaders can use this experience as a foundation for a fast track to success. Those who are mid-career can take our lessons, and can readjust or reaffirm as required. Those of us who are senior leaders may well find this as the capstone of our careers. Nevertheless, each of us has the opportunity to depart, better for the experience.

For those we have encountered during our rotation, we have left an indelible mark on their very essence. This includes the local citizens of Bosnia & Herzegovina, our visitors, and especially each other. We have formed bonds of trust, and friendships, each strengthened and reinforced as we went about our daily routines. We have led, followed, mentored,

*We have lived and served
with each other, in a more
intense and intimate setting
than some families enjoy.
We have depended on each
other for life and limb.
We've had an experience
that we cannot duplicate,
but we can use it as a
model.*

— *Command Sgt. Maj.
Thomas Lee,
MND (N)
command sergeant major*

Right, Staff Sgt. Robert Payne, 1st platoon, platoon sergeant, Co. B, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., digs a hole for the swing set legs to sit in. Payne was the main designer for the swing set.

Below, Spc. Victor Gonzalez, crew chief, Co. B, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., pushes a Kuljan elementary school boy on the swing set he helped install.



Soldiers help

By Spc. Michelle Lunato

Photo Editor, 305th PAD

As the sun rose, the sounds of banging hammers and pounding pick axes filled the small village of Kuljan, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was not the locals rebuilding their homes this time though, but Stabilization Force soldiers installing playground equipment at the elementary school.

On their last visit to the school, a few soldiers of company B, 1st Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, finished a project that started as an idea that surfaced during the company's first visit in March.

The school needed supplies, which was easy to give, but the company first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Bruce Robertson, said he thought the children would enjoy a playground set as well.

So after the company supplied the school with their needs of paper, crayons and two radios, the idea was set into motion.

My two platoon sergeants designed the swing set, purchased the assembly kit with their own

money and built the jungle gym, said Robertson.

"I worked on it after work," said Staff Sgt. Robert Payne, platoon sergeant who was the main designer for the swing set. "It was a few hours here and there."

These hours of work included gathering ground equipment on the Internet for a swing set on paper, and the soldiers donated wood from Brownwood, a unit of Public Works and Fire.

The four months of work was worth it according to both sides.

"I think it's great to give the children of Bosnia just a little something that makes them smile," said Sgt. 1st Class Bruce Robertson, 2nd platoon sergeant who coordinated the chasing of the jungle gym.

Seeing the smiles on the children's faces was the payment Payne needed.

"It feels awesome. It is worth the time, said Payne. "Next time, I'll get a bigger one though."



Left, Sgt. 1st Class Duane Dohrmann, 2nd platoon, platoon sergeant, Co. B, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., builds the swing set that he helped design. Dohrmann was the main researcher and purchaser for the playground set. Below, 1st Sgt. Bruce Robertson, Co. B, first sergeant, 1st Bn., 25th Avn. Regt. ties the knots on a swing seats.

Photos by Spc. Michelle Lunato

kids be kids

gym on their own time,

work and on my days off,"
 me, 1st platoon, platoon
 n designer of the swing
 e and a few hours there."

cluded researching play-
 nternet, drafting up plans
 gathering up a stash of
 n and Root and Depart-
 nally, building the equip-

crifices made were all
 of the platoon sergeants.
 e the future generations
 hing and see how happy
 Class Duane Dohrmann,
 did the research and pur-

children's faces was all
 for his time as well.

worth all the labor, all the
 ne, I will have to make a



Before the playground equipment could be installed, Co. B soldiers had to do some tough work on the school grounds.



TFME Immunizes Children Of Maoca

By Sgt. 1st Class
Kelly Luster

Editor, 354th MPAD

MAOCA, Bosnia — The innocent faces of dozens upon dozens of children as well as parents and teachers fill the hallway, stairwell and a room where Task Force Med Eagle has set up shop.

As the children filter into the room, some appear frightened, while others gaze up at the soldiers in awe. Each child checks in and eventually takes a seat at a station where he or she is injected with the life-preserving vaccine for Hepatitis A. In fact, more than 300 children are being vaccinated here.

Although the primary job of TFME is maintaining the health of soldiers, there is a lot to be gained through these types of humanitarian efforts. "Our first job is to keep soldiers healthy, working with these kids is bonus," said Lt. Col. Joseph Warren, chief nurse, 5501st General Hospital.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Spc. Edward Prince, medical specialist, HHC, 1st Bn., 151st Inf., Reg., takes special care while vaccinating children at Maoca.

According to Warren, the soldiers of the 5501st are trained in trauma at the Brooke Army Medical Center where they wouldn't ordinarily deal with immunizations. In addition to helping the kids of Maoca, soldiers build on their skills and learn some new ones. "This works two ways — it is good for the kids, but it is also good training for the soldiers."

Vaccinating many children at a local school isn't something

that happens overnight and requires substantial planning. This series of vaccinations has been in the works for some time, according to Col. Princess Facen, SFOR XI, chief nurse.

"This was actually started back during SFOR IX," said Facen. "Once it was determined there was a need in the area, it had to go through several channels before it was finally approved."

Once approved the immunizations were scheduled for September 2001. However, due to reluctant parents the event never happened. According to Facen, anyone would be leery of strangers sticking needles in their kids' arms containing who knows what. In order to build a trusting relationship TFME worked with teachers and local public health officials to

educate the parents. Once again immunizations were scheduled, and once again, leery parents had it canceled. Finally, local health care workers came to the sight and assisted with the vaccinations.

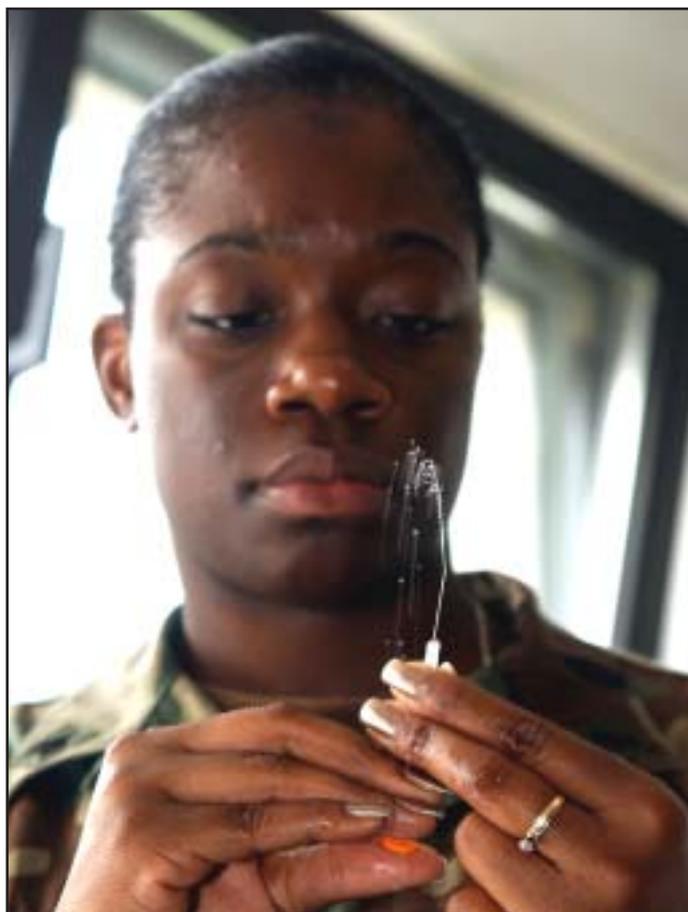
During vaccinations, translators and Bosnian medical personnel, as well as TFME personnel participated. "One of the greatest things for us is to work with the Bosnians. The main focus here is the patient or in this case the child. You can say that in medicine, although we are using different words, we are essentially speaking the same language," said Warren.

In addition to protecting the children from disease, TFME went one step further. They used this opportunity to educate the kids and to protect their future. "To me, preventative medicine is more than just immunizations," said Maj. Susan Traylor, logistics, TFME. A former psychological operations officer, Traylor said she knew PSYOPs would have some items concerning mine awareness for children. She also acquired stickers for the kids that showed what to do if they came across weapons.

"It's about protecting the kids from other dangers." TFME was also able to give T-shirts, hip packs, soccer balls, basketballs and hats. "Some of these are things we take for granted back home," said Traylor.



Above, Children fill the hallway and stairwell while waiting their turn for immunization. Left, Sgt. Crystal Singer, NCOIC, patient administration division, prepares dose specific syringes for the immunizations.



TF Eagle hands over key to Camp Comanche

By Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant Editor, 354th MPAD

At a ceremony at Camp Comanche, Sept. 5, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr., commander Multinational Division North officially returned control of the post back into the hands of the Bosnian Federation Army Ministry of Defense (VF).

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 Accords were 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 September of 1999.

Soon after the engineers arrived, they cleared a patch 200 meters wide and four kilometers long and hauled 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 fro-

zen 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 and 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 flag pole 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. "PfP 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 called once again as they raised their yel-



Photos by Spc. Jessica Abner

Spc. David Mireles, driver, HHC, 1st Bn., 14th Inf. Regt., assists in folding the American flag after it was removed from the Camp Comanche flagpole for the last time during the transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 5.

low, white and blue 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 Buljubic, 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. MND(N) units no longer require the use of Camp Comanche due to downsizing and consolidation of forces.





Sept. 11 commemoration message to soldiers

One year after the events of September 11th, 2001, The Army pauses to remember and honor the victims of the attacks against our Nation in New York City, in Washington, D.C., and in Pennsylvania.

September 11th is a day to reflect on their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families as we pay respect to our fallen comrades, our dearest friends, colleagues, loved ones both military and civilian, and others who lost their lives in those senseless acts of terrorism.

And we also remember those who have been lost in operations since that date in the war against terrorism, a necessary and successful campaign quickly mounted in response to those attacks. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have given their last full measure of devotion to our great country, to the defense of freedom, and to the fight

against tyranny. We will not forget, and will long honor, their devotion to this country and the principles we hold dear.

For over 227 years now, soldiers have defended freedom. And today, Soldiers are again fighting on behalf of the Nation as part of America's joint warfighting team prosecuting the war on terrorism.

We can all be justifiably proud of The Army's achievements as the vanguard of democracy and liberty. Those achievements included the actions of Army civilian employees and family members who reacted so bravely and without hesitation to the attack on the Pentagon. They included the actions of our Army Special Operations forces — first on the ground in Afghanistan — as they linked up with leaders of the Northern Alliance and launched our

campaign against terror by creating the conditions for our joint and combined victory — ridding Afghanistan of Taliban and al-Qaeda oppression. They were apparent as Soldiers from the Guard and Reserve mobilized for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, in the determined actions of Soldiers fighting in previously unheard of places like the Shah-e-Kot Valley during Operation Anaconda, and in all of the sacrifices and the selfless service of all members of the Army Team both at home and abroad over the past year.

So today we honor those lost a year ago, those lost in the long days since September 11th, and all of their families — we know we do not soldier alone. We acknowledge the enduring contributions of the Army during the past year, and we look forward with determination and resolve as

we continue to fulfill our nonnegotiable contract with the American people — to fight and win our nation's wars, decisively. You are respected by our allies, feared by our opponents, and honored and esteemed by the American people. Your courage, dedication to duty and selfless service to the Nation are the hallmarks of the United States Army.

We will never be able to tell you enough how very proud we are of you; the well-being of our army family — soldiers, civilians, retirees, veterans, and their families are always foremost in our prayers and in our actions. Thank you for your service, for your sacrifices, and for your abiding devotion to duty.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, God bless our magnificent Army, and God bless America.

Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Thomas E. White
Secretary, United States Army