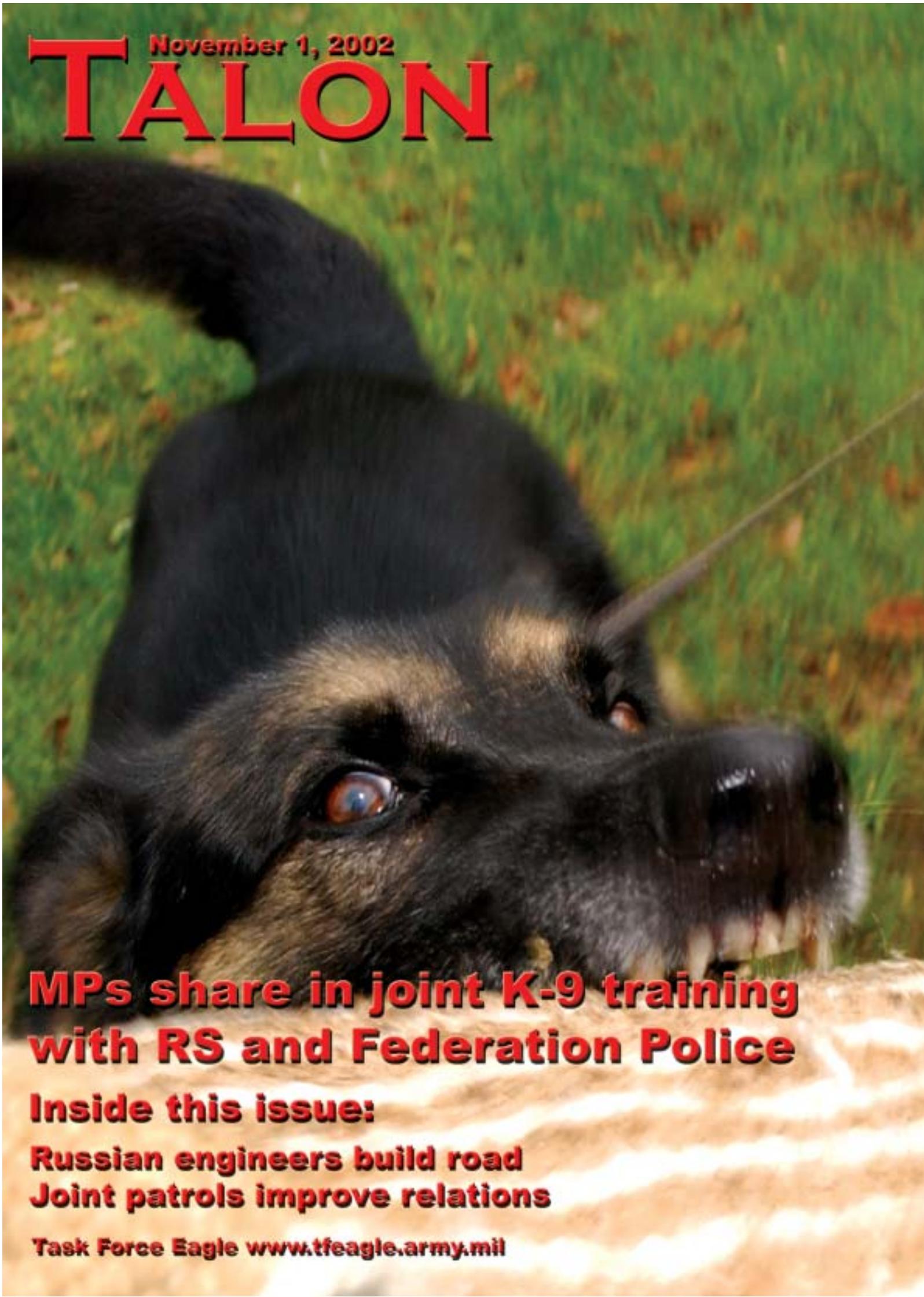


November 1, 2002

# TALON

A close-up photograph of a black and tan dog, possibly a German Shepherd, lying on a grassy field. The dog's head is resting on the ground, and its eyes are looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred green field with some brown leaves scattered on it.

**MPs share in joint K-9 training  
with RS and Federation Police**

**Inside this issue:**

**Russian engineers build road**

**Joint patrols improve relations**

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

# TALON

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## Word on the street...

“What items would you like to see at the PX?”



**Cpt. Robert Fredricks**  
HHC Commander  
1-183rd Aviation

*“More accessories for the electronic items that are sold at the PX.”*



**Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Williams**  
Postal 1st Sgt.  
336th Postal Det.

*“When I shop for music I would like to see a wider variety of gospel music.”*



**Sgt. Trevor Taylor**  
Customs NCO  
560th MP Co.

*“Clove cigarettes and Boo Berry cereal.”*

**“The customer is the business and the business is the customer.”**  
~ Michael Beverly, Chief Operating Officer, AAFES



**Grant Bell**  
Security Supervisor  
ITT Force Protection

*“PT uniforms are available for soldiers. I would like civilian training clothing available for the civilians working on Eagle Base.”*



**Sgt. Stephen Waterbury**  
Avionics Mechanic  
1159th Med. Co.

*“Long sleeve PT shirts because they have been sold out for at least four weeks.”*



**Staff Sgt. Gerry Ortiz**  
Actions NCO  
HHC, 28th Inf. Div.

*“It would be nice to choose from a wide selection of greeting cards that included Spanish messages.”*



**About the covers: Front**, A criminal’s perspective of a K-9 soldier. Sgt. 1st Class Dan attacks under the guidance of his handler. *Photo taken by and wrap worn by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster.* **Back**, U.S. and Russian Military Contingent soldiers mount a BTR-80 for a recent joint patrol. *Photo by Maj. John Dowling.*



# Russian engineers build roads and relations into mountain communities

by Maj. Valeriy Kovalenko  
Photos submitted by RMC

*Russian Military Contingent*

**UGLJEVIK-SKAKOVICA**, Bosnia — The Sapna Opstina suffered great damage during the war. The destruction was so severe that refugees hesitated to return to small villages like Rastošnica and Skakovica because of two reasons.

First, they no longer had houses there and there wasn't much left of the villages except for a heap of ruins. And second, they didn't have money to start a new life.

Nowadays, things have changed substantially. There are active cleaning and building reconstruction projects in these villages. Local authorities and the international community have contributed a great deal to this process by providing assets for construction projects.

Despite these efforts, the work stagnated this summer due to difficult terrain conditions, which simply made it impossible to get construction materials to this mountainous region. There were no roads capable of allowing heavy trucks through for support. With limited options, local authorities turned to Russian soldiers for help...and they delivered.

During the course of 10 days in August, Russian Military Contingent engineers gnawed through rock, cutting way for a new road 1850 meters long. Beginning on the mountain near Rastošnica and

Skakovica, the winding pathway glides through the slope in the opposite direction to Snjeznica and enters a picturesque valley, opening to the village of Bozica.

The road construction was conducted in extremely tough conditions. The situation was aggravated by the fact the engineer obstacle clearance vehicle, which had exhausted all its resources a long time before, had been constantly overheating. Considering the average daily temperature reached 104 F, the crew inside the hull operated the vehicle at a temperature of 140 F. This was not an easy job for Lt. Col. Nikolai Shulga, Russian chief engineer; Sgt. Alexander Popovkin, obstacle clearance vehicle driver; and Sgt. Alexander Sklyar, excavator operator; who came to Bosnia and Herzegovina from the relatively cold Karelian Isthmus.

However, the road had to be completed by all means as soon as possible to facilitate the return of displaced persons and refugees by the end of the summer. That explains why Sgt. Sklyar was still digging ditches along the sides of the road after the road opening celebration had started.

The relatively small construction project drew a great deal attention from many officials. There were local authorities from Sapna, Teoëak, Ugljevik and Zvornik Obstinas, the Office of the High Representative, RMC senior officers, and leaders of several local political parties.

"We've been anticipating the completion of this road with great enthusiasm,"



**A Russian engineer obstacle clearance vehicle moves earth for the new road.**

said Nedo Prelovac, chairman of the Skakovica administration.

Along with the possibility to deliver construction materials, local officials were also concerned about villagers getting back to their old places of residence, according to Prelovac.

"They just didn't have the physical opportunity to return to their houses—for the post-war period the existing roads had been washed out," said Prelovac. "But even if the returnees had decided to use them, they would have had to bypass a mountain ridge. The majority of them simply didn't have the nerve to take on such a difficult and dangerous journey."

That will not be a problem now, according to one local official, who thanked the RMC for their responsive assistance in building the road.

"Bosnia and Russia have very strong ties and we are glad that the Russian contingent takes an active part in the peace-keeping operation in the Balkans," said Dragica Ladic, mayor of Zvornik.

"This road built by Russian military engineers is very important to us. Soon there will be an established bus route connecting the centers of two main Bosnian Opstinas—Tuzla and Zvornik. Up until this time, the road communication was crippled and vehicles had to make a long bypass."

During the opening ceremony there were no long and pompous speeches. The table was set, and according to an old custom, a traditional mutton dish was prepared.

Language barriers did not interfere with the spirit of the festivities. As Prelovac was showing the road to the journalists from Bijeliina, he was overheard saying "Nikolaev put," which means "Nikolai's Road."

Lt. Col. Nikolai Shulga, project engineer could not have imagined 11 months ago when he departed Russia for Bosnia and Herzegovina, that his name would remain not only on the map of the Balkans, but in the hearts of the people of Opstina Sapna.



**C. Bozic, a local man, says "Hvala" or "Thank you" — to Sgt. Alexander Sklyar, an excavator operator with the Russian Military Contingent.**

# MPs join Republika Srpska and local Tuzla police in joint canine training

Story and photos by  
Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

**TUZLA, Bosnia,** — In all the modern wars, from World War I through Vietnam, to Bosnia and now including Afghanistan, dog handlers and their canines have served with distinction. Eagle Base's Military Police, along with police officers from Republika Srpska and the Federation, and Tuzla participated in an international joint canine training exercise. They met at a car impound in Tuzla to share and evaluate techniques.

According to Staff Sgt. Christopher Ricciardi, 98<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, Bamberg, Germany, dogs such as the German Shepherd are bred to assist MPs in missions such as detecting drugs and explosives. "Shepherds are in the 'working class' and easy to train," said Ricciardi. The canines use their sense of smell to detect drugs and explosives.

"Ever since U.S. troops have been rotating in and out of Eagle Base, it's been a tradition for the dog handlers to help the local national dog handlers get their training programs together," said Spc. Paul Del



**A Tuzla police dog swiftly crawls under a low, narrow obstacle as part of the training exercise between his fellow canines and SFOR military police dogs.**

Vecchio, narcotic dog handler, 104<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group, Hanau, Germany. "We try to introduce some of the training that we do with our dogs to the local nationals and fine-tune what they already know."

Dogs are trained to work in one of three categories – patrols, explosives, or narcotics. U.S. military police dogs attend a six-month training course at Lackland Air Force Base in Dallas, Texas. Most of the military

working dogs on Eagle Base are Belgian Malinois, a breed that shares many traits with the German Shepherd.

Tuzla police officers and military dog handlers pair up with their animal counterparts and go through commands that each animal is expected to know. Dogs then demonstrate their athletic ability to their handlers by maneuvering an obstacle course. The course, made up of barriers, tunnels, walking beams, and inclines, were donated by SFOR 11. The obstacles are implemented to introduce canines to real life obstacles such as a low tunnel or a nar-



**Canines complete the obstacle course by jumping over a barrier.**



**Making his way through a tunnel, the dog works toward the obstacle's finish point.**

row beam, so the animal will not be afraid or hesitate when it encounters real-life barriers.

“The quality of the training is very high,” said Gadzo Alen, assistant commander of the Tuzla police support group. “Also, the American troops help us a lot and the proof is the obstacles here.” The animals made their way to the finish point to be rewarded by their handler and then moved on to the next exercise.

The “wrap,” a simulated arm made out of burlap, was placed over the arm of an RS police officer. The purpose of the “wrap” is to protect a person from injury while the dog practices his attack. These techniques are used when the dog is chasing a suspected criminal or when he is protecting his handler. The dog is trained to attack and hold the criminal until the handler calls him off.

Selected cars in the impound were lined



**Wearing the “wrap,” an RS soldier roleplays a criminal as an RS canine practices his attack techniques.**



**An RS dog handler runs through obedience training commands with his canine counterpart.**

up side by side and had explosives and illegal drugs placed in them for training the canines. The dogs were expected to follow their noses and lead the police to each item. A time limit was in effect to give the local national police an idea of where their dogs stood in comparison to the U.S. canines. Weaving in and out along the sides of the cars, each dog pointed the authorities in the right direction by sitting as soon as they detected drugs or an explosive.

According to Riccairdi, the canine’s keen sense of smell makes them ideal for this type of work. “A dog’s ability to detect odors is 100 times better than humans.” For example, a person might walk into a restaurant and smell a hamburger that was

just cooked. However, a dog would smell the hamburger and all the food that was previously cooked on the same grill.

During the exercise, the handlers discussed issues such as proper training equipment in order to facilitate the local national’s future dog training needs. “We requested support from our boss in Germany hoping to receive some additional training equipment to distribute to the local nationals,” said Del Vecchio. “It’s a good opportunity for all involved and just shows good will.”

For years, dogs have been trained to work at the sides of mili-

tary and civilian law enforcers. These dogs detect substances that are harmful to civilians, soldiers, and law enforcers. From back home in the U.S., to right here in Bosnia, canines have something in common; they work to make the world a safe place for us, their human counterparts, to live in.



**Spc. Paul Del Vecchio, 104th Area Support Group, discusses canine training with the RS and Tuzla police.**

# Joint patrol breaks down barriers

Story and photo by  
Maj. John Dowling

354th MPAD, Commander

**UGLJIVEK**, Bosnia — For nearly half of his 18 years in the military, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Keith McKeon trained for an imminent confrontation with the Soviet Army while stationed in Europe. Now the 104<sup>th</sup> Cav. platoon leader surprisingly finds himself on the same side with the next generation of Russian soldiers.

Recently, McKeon and other soldiers from Troop C at Camp McGovern participated in joint presence patrols with members of the Russian Military Contingent from Camp Ugljevik. The SFOR partnership sends a powerful signal to the ethnic parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina that even the frigidness of Cold War rivals can be thawed to build a better future by working together.

“I come from the era where they were still the bad guys,” said McKeon, who enlisted in the infantry in 1984 and spent several years guarding sensitive facilities in Germany. “I spent the first part of my military career trying to find ways to stop those guys.”

Things have changed drastically since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 as the two countries now find themselves allies once again in this peacekeeping mission.

“Its real interesting to ride next to them and get to talk with them to find out we are on the same side. We’re both trying to just keep everything calm here,” said McKeon.

He led a squad of soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plt. on patrol with four other Russian soldiers. After brief introductions at Ugljevik, the troops departed for the hills surrounding Tuzla while riding in the Russian BTR-80 armored personnel carrier.

The colorful countryside and warm sunshine were a perfect setting for melting cultural barriers.

Recalling the chilly U.S.-Soviet relations of more than a decade ago, the infantry soldiers discovered they have much more in common than one might expect.



**Russian Military Contingent 1st Lt. Michail Daremilov and 104th Cav. 2nd Lt. Keith McKeon introduce themselves before a joint patrol near Ugljevik. Infantry soldiers worked together recently to demonstrate SFOR cooperation.**

“I think we have differences between American and Russian cultures. But the relationship between soldiers is the same. Both have missions to do and do it well,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Michail Daremilov.

The rolling countryside of Bosnia reminds him of his home in Pskov, where he is a member of the Second Special Forces Brigade. Pskov lies in Northwest Russia near Estonia’s border. It is one of Russia’s oldest cities and contains ancient fortresses and monasteries, rich in cultural heritage.

Daremilov has been in the Russian Army for seven years and also spent five years at the Military University in Moscow where he learned English. He also practiced the language while studying in England.

Those skills were important

as he translated for his fellow soldiers — Sgts. Adik Merkulov, Advard Kadushev, and Anatoliy Kobzev — during the patrol, which allowed them to get to know a little more about their American counterparts.

“Many Americans talk about American life and culture. We

Muslims and Serbs see that Americans work with the Russians. That is very good,” said Daremilov, who had previously patrolled the region during the previous 11 months of his year-long tour with SFOR.

Daremilov demonstrated his extensive familiarity of the many challenging rural routes between Ugljevik and Gornja Tuzla where the joint patrols dismounted to visibly show their partnership to local residents.

“It’s interesting how in our area it seems a lot of Muslim people really like us, but don’t like the Russians while they don’t like us too much but do like the Russians in the Serb controlled areas,” said McKeon. “Seeing us together helps the civilian populace by sending a positive message that if we can get along, so can you.”

The cooperative spirit was clearly visible among the soldiers.

“Look at my guys. They are joking and laughing with them. It brings down all of

those old barriers that may still remain. I think it helps us realize we are all on the same playing field,” McKeon said.

Both squads both also realize the importance of their mission, expressing concern about the potential for future hostilities without SFOR participation. However, they also realize their cooperative effort help.

“I believe we are making a difference because a lot of people want us here and are concerned about what will happen if we’re not here,” said Pfc. Walter McIntyre, grenadier, Troop C.

For the time being that is not a concern as Russian and U.S. soldiers continue to carry on the mission of contributing to a safe and secure environment by working together here as part of SFOR’s continuing commitment to the Balkans.

# Combat lifesavers pass the test

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Editor, 354th MPAD

**TESLIC, Bosnia** — “I never expected to use this training,” said Spc. Eric Forbes, liaison driver, Joint Military Affairs, speaking about the combat lifesaver training that was tested while returning from a mission recently.

Fortunately for a young Bosnian child, Forbes and fellow soldier, Sgt. Shane Pulig, liaison driver, JMA, were returning from a mission when the pair came upon stopped traffic. After investigating, Forbes and Pulig saw a small child lying on the road outside the town of Teslic.

“When we saw the little girl, we didn’t think, we reacted,” said Pulig. The two soldiers ran to the girl who was in obvious need of medical attention. As they arrived, two men began loading the girl in a car. Once the people around the accident saw the soldiers were there to offer help to the child, they gave them room to work.

“They had already loaded the little girl into their car,” said Forbes. “We checked her out as best we could without moving her again.” He said the first thing they noticed was that she was unconscious and having some trouble breathing.

“We started by checking her airway to see if it was be obstructed,” said Forbes. Upon doing so the little girl screamed. The scream assured everyone she was breathing and that nothing was blocking her airway.

The soldier team then checked her over



**Spc. James Forbes**

— one starting at the head the other at the feet.

“I applied a field dressing to her head wound while sergeant Pulig worked on her broken arm,” said Forbes. “Sergeant Pulig made a make-shift splint from the little girl’s sweatshirt.” According to Pulig, the splint contained within the combat lifesaver bag was too big for the girl’s arm.

After treating the girl as best they could the soldiers, speaking through a translator, gave instructions to the men who were taking the child for medical treatment. “We told one of them to sit in the back seat and keep pressure on the head wound and try to keep her as still as possible,” said Pulig.



**Sgt. Shane Pulig**

He also instructed the men to make sure they talk to her to keep her awake in case she had suffered a concussion.

According to Maj. John Little, I and III Corps, Military Republika Srpska LNO, the pair acted quickly and efficiently. “I am extremely proud of my two soldiers. The training they received for combat lifesaver qualification served them well. They are excellent examples of SFOR soldiers doing good in the towns and communities of Bosnia,” said Little.

“It makes me feel good. I think we helped her,” said Forbes. “Whether we were here or in the states, we did what we had to do.”



**Brig. Gen. Jon T. von Trott, MND (N) commander, Col. Douglas Maser, TFME commander, and Lt. Col. Tim Pfanner, TFME, hospital commander, cut a ribbon to officially commemorate the opening of a new wing of the Eagle Base Hospital.**

The new wing more than doubles the patient care space in the hospital and includes a new outpatient treatment room.

“The addition adds a new dimension of care for soldiers of MND (N),” said von Trott. The addition was designed and overseen by Larisa Delic, architect, DPW. Completed in five weeks, the new wing encompasses more than 2,400 square feet.



ВОЕННАЯ ПОЛИЦИЯ  
РОССИЯ