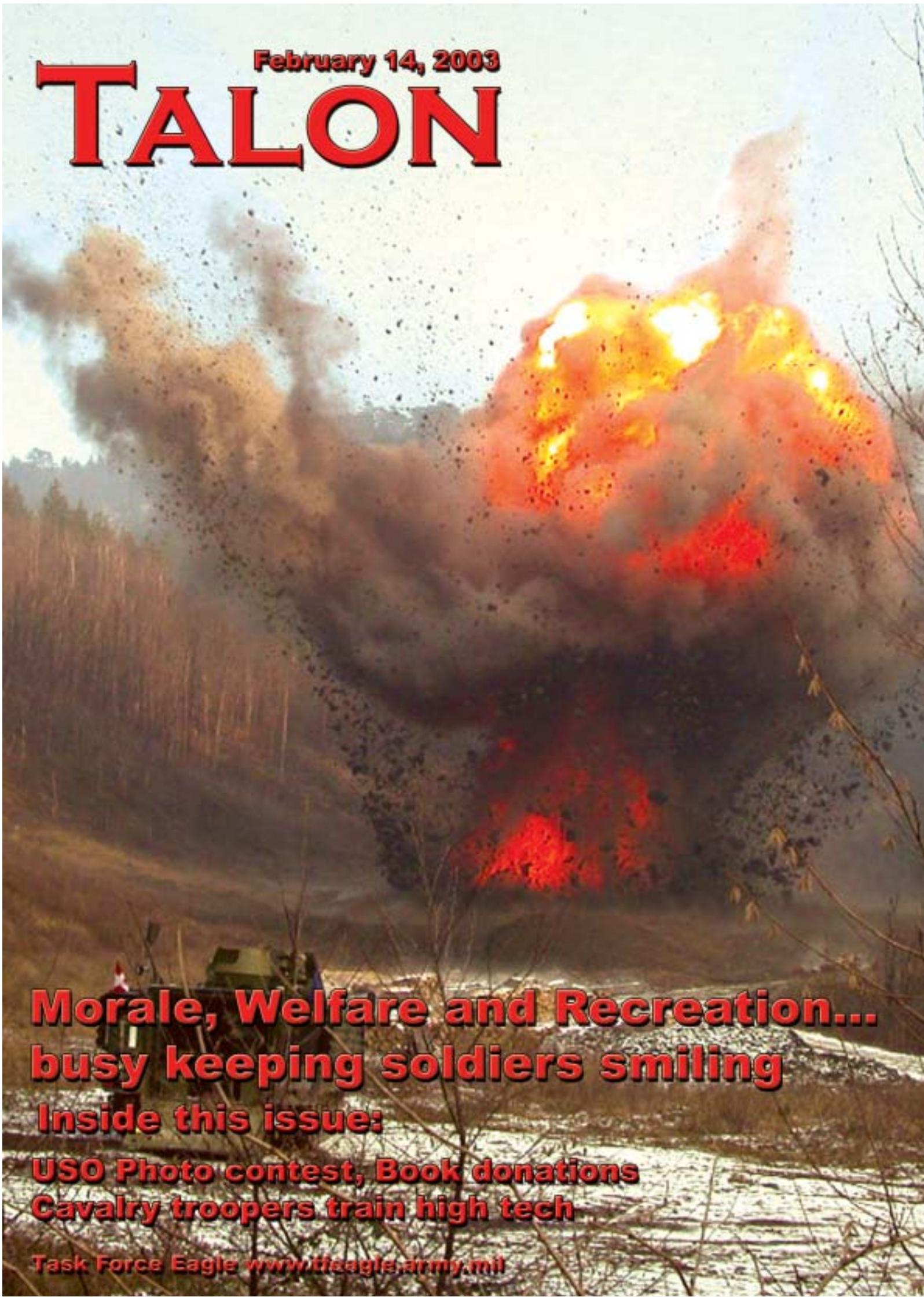


February 14, 2003

TALON



**Morale, Welfare and Recreation...
busy keeping soldiers smiling**
Inside this issue:

**USO Photo contest, Book donations
Cavalry troopers train high tech**

Task Force Eagle www.tfeagle.army.mil

TALON

Published in support of
Operation Joint Forge
February 14, 2003
Volume 9, No.21

Commander,
Multinational Brigade (N)
Brig. Gen.
John T. von Trott
762-9700

Command Sergeant Major,
Multinational Brigade (N)
Command Sgt. Maj.
Horace Pysher
762-3493

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Shawn Mell
762-5239

Media Operations Chief
Maj. John Dowling

Public Affairs NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class
Kelly Luster

Command Information Chief
Sgt. 1st Class
Marty Collins

Webmaster
Sgt. Ivan Russell

Talon Staff
354th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Editor
Sgt. 1st Class
Kelly Luster
762-0190

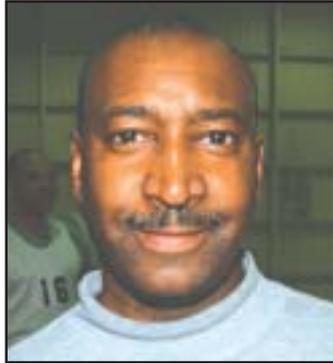
Assistant Editor
Spc. Jessica Abner

The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the service members of Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of the *Talon* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle.

The *Talon* is published weekly by the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina APO AE 09789. Email at Kelly.Luster@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. The Task Force Eagle web address is www.tfeagle.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

Word on the street...

"If you could personalize a candy heart with your own message, what would it say?"



Staff Sgt. Anthony Hatcher
Training/Movement NCO
Joint Military Affairs

"Be my brown sugar — that would be for my wife."



Senior Airman Heather Quincy
Air Traffic Controller
401st EABG

"Air power, because the Air Force is the best."



Spc. Anthony Eglesia
Combat Medic
HHC, 1-109th Inf.

"Ja volim te — to honor the host country for Valentine's Day."

"Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love."

~Charlie Brown



Sgt. Tonia Wills
Team Leader
28th MP Co.

"Respect my authority!"



Otis Hawes
Task Force Eagle
Force Protection Officer

"Get some..."

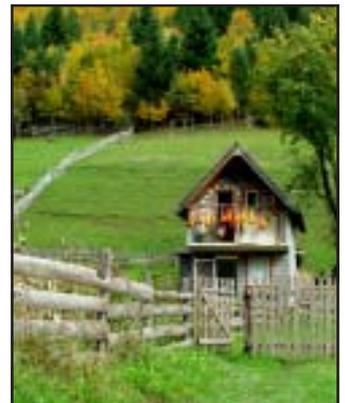


Sgt. Karl Wilson
Apache Crew Chief
A Co., 1-183rd Avn.

"Jolynn, Jacob, and Tyler — that's where my heart is."



About the covers: Both covers this week were entries in the USO Photo Contest to celebrate its 62nd birthday. **Front**, Taken by Helinka Papison, civilian media analyst. Danish soldiers destroy confiscated Harvest ammunition. **Back**, Taken by Capt. Nina Dipinto, veterinarian, TFME. Photo entitled *Farmhouse* won second place.



Soldier, kids leave mark from home

by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Editor, 354th MPAD

TUZLA, Bosnia — Most of the U.S. troops on a six-month peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina work hard on leaving the country in better shape than when they arrived. Some do it through the Harvest programs or patrols ensuring peace in this war-torn nation, but some of them go the extra mile to make personal contributions. Maj. Lauren Muglia, Deputy Political Advisor, Multinational Brigade (North), is one such soldier.

During her time deployed with the 28th Inf. Div. as part of Stabilization Force XII, Muglia has kept in close contact with her sister, Carolyn, a second-grade teacher at Watchung School in Middlesex, N.J. As a result of Maj. Muglia being stationed in Bosnia, Carolyn's students "adopted" the country as the focus of their studies this year. Maj. Muglia has sent home various and numerous items for the children — a Bosnian flag, anthem, cooking pots, currency, photos, dolls with native dress, stories, recipes — anything to help them more closely *experience* Bosnia and learn as much as possible at their young age.

Through many communications and e-mails, the sisters discussed the conditions in Bosnia and how so many children do without many of the common comforts and "luxuries" like paper, pencils, or even heat in some cases. Carolyn wanted to help, but in a way that would not only benefit the Bosnian children, but would be a great experience for her students as well — everyone would reap the rewards. She thought that her students could send school supplies, books, or whatever might be the greatest need for the Bosnian children. So her class decided to hold a bake sale to collect as much money as possible. They planned to buy the school supplies and, with Maj. Muglia's assistance, send them to Bosnian elementary school pupils.

Maj. Muglia suggested it would be best if Carolyn sent her any money the students collected and she would buy the supplies directly in Bosnia. By doing so, they would save on postage and maximize the effect of the funds. Little did anyone know, interest in the project would grow. Not only did Carolyn's second-grade class raise more than \$200 with their bake sale, but additional contributions from the generous faculty and parents of Watchung School students resulted in a total contribution of nearly \$500.

Muglia sought advice from her inter-



by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Maj. Lauren Muglia, Deputy Political Advisor, MNB (N), talks to students at the Tusanj Elementary School, Tuzla, Bosnia. The books were purchased locally with money raised by students of the Watchung School, Middlesex, N.J.

preter, Ed Nukic, a resident of Tuzla and father of two young children, on the best way to spend the money. Nukic said the nearby Tuzla Elementary School was one

school and its library before passing on the suggestion for approval to Carolyn and her students. "Not only do they have so few books, what they have are in really terrible shape — I could hardly believe it," she said. "No child should have to endure some of the conditions endured by kids in this country — especially in their schools. It's bad enough that the actual school buildings are in such poor shape physically, but the conditions of the learning environment and tools lacked by the teachers and students make it so much more challenging," said Muglia.

Carolyn's students agreed to go ahead and buy new books for their

"I cannot think of a more enduring gift to a child than a book — especially from another child."

*Maj. Lauren Muglia
Deputy Political Advisor*

of many in very bad shape and in desperate need of reading books. Muglia said she was told the school was used as a shelter during the war and many of the books were either lost or destroyed, or simply burned for heat.

Many of the books in the library and on the school's mandatory reading list, like those used by Nukic's fourth-grade son, are in extremely poor condition. Many have entire chapters missing. Some are so yellowed with age that the pages are disintegrating. Several are more than 30 years old, and date back to the school's opening in the 1960s. In addition, the school, like most in the area, receives very little help, if any, from the local Ministry of Education. So any help they get is welcomed.

Muglia said she personally visited the

Bosnian peers as soon as possible. Maj. Muglia delivered more than 30 new books to Tusanj Elementary School in Tuzla, a school with more than 1,100 students ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade. Maj. Muglia said she plans to buy more to bring the total to at least 50.

"As a child, I was an avid reader," said Muglia. "I cannot imagine being without books to escape to. Much of the reading material is so outdated in some of these schools that it's actually an impediment to learning. Fortunately, Carolyn and her kids share that sentiment and decided they wanted their contribution to be as long lasting as possible. I cannot think of a more enduring gift to a child than a book — especially from another child."

MWR keeps soldiers smiling

by Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia—“Morale is as important as ammunition and is just as legitimate a charge against the public treasury.” That statement by Dr. Raymond Fosdick, a 1918 presidential appointee, stressed the importance of the Army’s MWR program.

The Morale Welfare and Recreation program was born on the battlefields of World War I with the Red Cross and Salvation Army catering to the soldier’s needs. The waiting period during war plagued soldiers with boredom, homesickness, depression, fear and fatigue. Later, in 1940, the Special Services was designed within the Adjutant General’s office and soon recreation centers were established, according to an article by U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office. The program went through numerous titles before settling on MWR, however, the mission remains the same.

“MWR’s mission is to better the quality of life for soldiers, airmen, marines, sailors and civilians assigned to MNB (N) by enhancing their welfare with quality recreational activities,” said Tony Mullings, tours and marketing director. “We do this by providing them with an excellent gym, sports leagues,

trips and ongoing entertainment.”

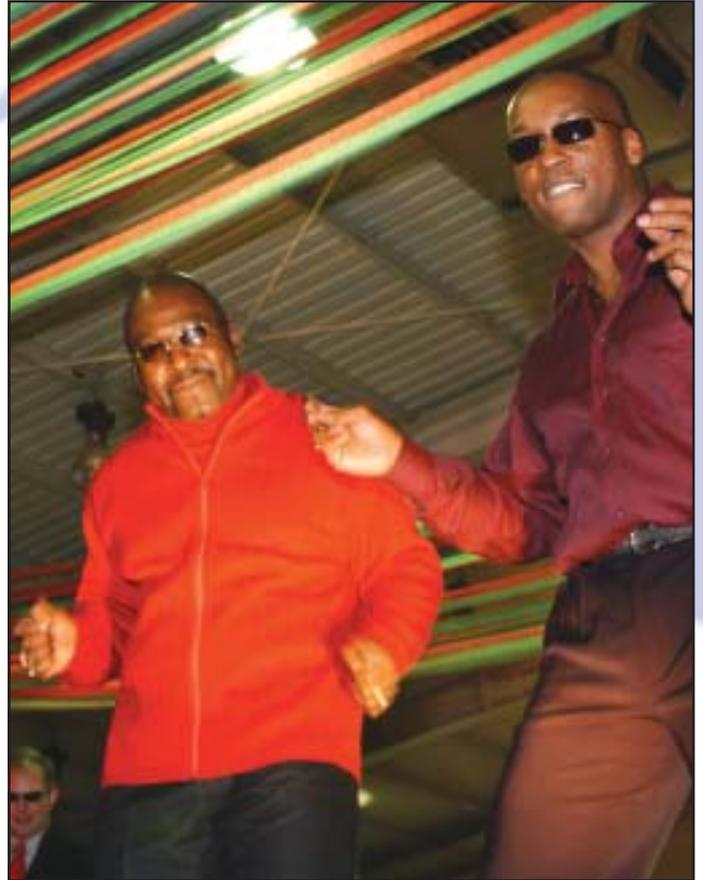
With activities and time for recreation, soldiers actually perform better in the workplace, according to Ed Winters, MWR programmer.

“The MWR mission revolves around the morale of the soldiers,” said Winters. “We want to give them something to do during their time off.” He said MWR actually helps the soldiers do their jobs better because the activities allow soldiers to take their minds off the mission and just relax.

There is something for every soldier, according to Rayvaun “Smitty” Smith, MWR programmer. “There’s always something to do. If MWR wasn’t here, then what would soldiers have to do — play Nintendo and watch television? Anything you can think of, we have it.”

MWR events also build esprit de corps and gives troops a chance to meet soldiers from different units.

“MWR offers some type of recreational activity every single day and coordinates off-post activities a few times a month,” said Spc. Sherrie Bowen, JMA. “By MWR scheduling so many different events during our rotation, it has given me the opportunity to stay busy and to get to know civilians and soldiers from other states who are also participating in the events, whom I oth-



by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Ed Winters and Maj. Shawn Jones strut their stuff on the runway during the fashion show held at Peacekeepers Hall.

erwise probably would not have met.”

The MWR team is a great group of people, according to Bowen.

“They have great personalities and are people who I would love to have running the MWR program anywhere I am stationed,” said Bowen. “They have exactly what they need to be successful, the three P’s — people person personalities!”

By supporting soldiers during their missions, MWR has a positive effect, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Horace Pysher.

“I think MWR has done a great job in supporting all of the soldiers, airmen and civilians who make up SFOR XII. They have tried to accommodate everything that we have asked for and then some,” said Pysher. “They want to give us the best support they can.”

Pysher said they are always willing to listen to new ideas or

suggestions for the purpose of making a pleasant environment for those serving here. “MWR has been an important part of our success in providing great service to everyone and I know they will continue to do the same for SFOR XIII.”

The military community is comprised of people from all walks of life and MWR provides events and activities accordingly. Ranging from sporting events to celebrity entertainment, the program offers something for everyone.

According to the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office, prisoner-of-war stories recall survivors playing chess, creating imaginary baseball teams, reciting Shakespeare and calling up memories of family recreation activities. Traditional recreation activities, as well as new programs, encompass today’s MWR.

“Of course, sports like bas-



by Spc. Jessica Abner

Allen McNeill signals to the entertainers and ensures their arrival at Eagle Base.

ketball and volleyball are always going to be here, but some of the things we do are things that we incorporate from our own ideas and even television," said Smith. "If I'm watching the news and I see a triathlon or something, I think that would be great to set up."

Smith said they also get their ideas from simply talking to the soldiers. "If you ask the soldiers what they want, you get a whole spectrum of ideas."

Some of the most recent activities stemming from the programmer's imagination have been introduced to the soldiers.

"We came up with the indoor football. They have indoor Frisbee and we modified it with a football and they really enjoyed it," said Winters. "There's other things like the old school basketball tournament to give the older guys an opportunity to play with their peers and not have to run with the young guys all the time." Another recent activity included the 'Survival Challenge' implemented by Smith. Winters said the soldiers really liked it and look forward to the next one.

Soldiers also look forward to entertainment. Entertainment is Allen "Mac" McNeill's specialty. With celebrities ranging from Drew Carey to James Avery and musical stars such as Coolio and Joan Jett (who visited prior to SFOR XII), the soldiers are bound to meet a celebrity to their liking.

"We want to keep the soldiers happy and we have fun doing it," said Mac. "We try to make you forget about being away from home. I think that seeing soldiers smiling for an hour-and-a-half with comedians here takes their minds off of being in the workplace and being so far away from home."

Every genre of musical acts and entertainment is represented at Eagle Base during a soldier's six-month tour, according to McNeill. With that in mind, people often come up to him and say "I wish I had your job," however, there is more to the job than just hanging out with the stars. McNeill ensures that the entertainment groups have a place to eat and sleep while visiting the troops. Although he's been doing his job for five years, he said time has flown by.

"It's fun and I'm having a good time doing it as long as the soldiers are having a good time at the shows," said McNeill.

Soldiers let the MWR staff know how they are fairing through surveys and by word of mouth. According to Winters, they receive a great deal of positive feedback.

"We get feedback from the sergeant major and from officers. It's a good thing. It lets us know how we're doing," said Winters. "As far as the programs, gym and fitness center, it's all been positive."

With so much positive attention, the MWR programmers said they feel good about what they do. "It feels great. When I leave here at night I feel good about my job,"



by Spc. Jessica Abner

MWR is responsible for the entertainment that brought smiles to these soldiers' faces. The troops participated in the Drew Carey and the Improv All Stars comedy hour at Eagle Base.

said Winters.

Some of the things MWR provides are right at the soldier's disposal, according to Marcus Wheeler, MWR director.

"MWR provides free newspapers, paperback-books, video lending, Internet service, first-run movies, personal trainer service, trips and tours, transportation for FMPP, fitness and weight rooms, and entertainment," said Wheeler. "You see, we don't want our soldiers worried about money, while they are taking care of our freedoms and those of our nation."

For the MWR team, it's not 'all work and no play,' though. They also participate in recreational activities, just like the soldiers. The rotation has proven to be a positive experience, according to Smith. During the flag football season, the MWR civilians competed with the JMA soldiers and took home the gold medal.

"All the major events have been good," Smitty said. "But out of all the events the most memorable time was when we won the football tournament over JMA. We laugh and we joke about the rivalry, but it's fun."

Another successful event was the fashion show held at Peacekeepers Hall which will be hard to top, according to Winters.

"I've done fashion shows before, but this fashion show is one that's going to go down in history," said Winters. "It's going to take a brainstorm to top this one off."

Throughout military history, soldiers have always been MWR's biggest fans. With MWR programs available for soldiers, in the States and overseas, they can count on MWR to be part of their mission.

The dedication of the SFOR XII Morale Welfare and Recreation staff is best captured in the words of Mullings who said, "We are very proud to serve each and every one of you, hooah!"



by Spc. Jessica Abner

Rayvaun Smith distributes medals earned during the flag football championship. The MWR team won the match against JMA.

Postal Reminder

SFOR XII is soon approaching completion. With that in mind, the Eagle Base Post Office would like you to keep a few things in mind when shipping duffel bags or foot lockers.

All bags must be clearly marked with TO and FROM addresses. (The FROM address **MUST BE** an Army Post Office (APO) address).

Use a black or white paint pen to write directly on duffel bags and footlockers, or use a white piece of paper and secure it to the bags.

If you decide to use paper, it must be securely fastened to duffel bags and footlockers.

Another option available is to secure an address label to the handle.

Ensure that all duffel bags and footlockers are secured with a lock and that all the information is correct before you bring the bags to the APO for mailing.

Place a copy of the mailing address and a contact phone number inside the

bag or footlocker in case the outside address labels fall off in transit.

The postal finance clerks will check each duffel bag and footlocker to ensure they are properly addressed. If the clerk finds a problem, the item will not be accepted and the sender will be informed as to what the he or she needs to do to correct the problem.

When you're packing all those things to send home, keep in mind, every package leaving Eagle Base is X-rayed. If you are caught trying to ship illegal items home, the postal commander will make one phone call — to the Provost Marshall — from there it's all down hill. There are already provisions in place for anyone violating shipping policy. Don't take the chance — it's not worth it.

Here are a few things you may not ship:

Alcoholic beverages

Flammables

Batteries

Firearms

Firearm parts

Weapons magazines

Ammunition

Explosives

Pornography

Medication

Cuban cigars

Cavalry Troopers train high-tech, keep skills sharp

Story and photo by Sgt. Max Romano

Cavalry Scout, 104th Cav.

CAMP McGOVERN, Bosnia — Gunnery is the time for soldiers to prove their weapon systems firing capabilities as individuals, crews, and platoons. But, how does someone learn to be a highly proficient member of a tank-killing team?

In any established Cavalry squadron, you'll have mortar, scout and tank elements that are essentially fitted for their own type of tank-killing team. The best way to learn the systems of an M1 Abrams tank as a fire team has always been hands-on experience. However, many Reserve and National Guard units have problems funding for fuel and munitions.

This is where the Mobile Conduct Of Fire Trainer (MCOFT) comes in. MCOFT is the gunner's primary training tool for tankers to keep their skills tuned and sharpened to a fine edge. The MCOFT consists of a command station where an Instructor/Operator (IO) presents scenarios to the current fire crew and a compartment that represents the turret of the M1 Abrams tank.

In this simulated turret, fitted with all of the controls, lights, and optical components of an actual tank, the IO can present any number of situations to the crew including both European and desert land-

scapes. The IO has the ability to simulate multiple scenarios in which the crew is in offensive or defensive positions. He can also present a combination of single or multiple targets such as tanks, BMPs, BTRs, trucks, HIND-D and Havoc helicopters, and troops.

There are three weapons systems on the M1 Abrams tank — the primary gun (120mm cannon), a .50 caliber machine gun, and a 7.62 coaxial loader's machine gun. The M1 also has grenade launchers fitted to the outside of the turret that uses 40mm smoke grenades for cover and concealment purposes. This may also be simulated through the MCOFT system.

The 1/104th has performed an untraditional cavalry role through civil presence patrols here in Bosnia. The MCOFT is a powerful tool for the tankers in Bosnia for whom the past five months have dulled their tank skills. This can be a dangerous situation for any mechanized troop.

Last year, the unit qualified seven of their eight tanks. They ranked 85 percent — exceeding the active Army's standard — winning top awards at the division level.

Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Haines, master gunner and senior IO for MCOFT, 104th Cav., attests to the MCOFT effectiveness.

"This is an awesome training device. You don't have the big logistical problems. You don't have to have fuel, bullets, or



Sgt. 1st Class Peter Bower, 104th Cav., oversees MCOFT training recently at Camp McGovern.

training areas and you can do a lot of training in a short period of time."

MCOFT is now a required element for gunnery. Soldiers must pass nine exercises on the simulated trainer before they are allowed to prove their abilities in the field.

Tank crews have used MCOFT for more than 20 years, especially in field environments like Bosnia and Herzegovina where actual hands-on training is impossible and impractical given the nature of the mission.

Well accepted by combat crews, MCOFT is a welcome addition to their training. Due to this unique training tool, it keeps them proficient and highly trained Cavalry troopers.

USO Photo contest a huge success



From Top left, clockwise. Night falls, 1st Place winner. Photo by CW3 David L. Guzzetti. Tied for third place were, How cute, photo by Capt. Bill McClelland, and Modrac Lake, photo by Maj. Igor Sperka. Icey Tree and Sheep both entered by Lt. Col. John Maietta.

More than 80 photos were received by the USO for the contest. According to Linda Lorenzana, the photo contest was an overwhelming success.

Prizes were awarded to those entrants placing in the top three positions. The USO would like to thank everyone for making the contest a success.

