

MARCH 21, 2003

# TALON



**SFOR 13 arrives!**

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**SFOR 12 soldiers hit the post office  
Croatian connection**

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

# Word on the street ...

“What are you looking forward to the most about going home?”

## TALON

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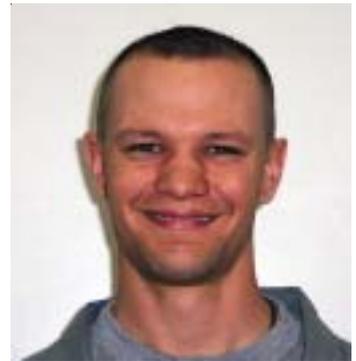
**Maj. Fred Tady**  
SGS  
HQ, 28th ID

*“I’m looking forward to seeing my family.”*



**1st Sgt. Paul Miller**  
HHC, 28th ID

*“McDonald’s Happy Meals.”*



**Spc. Eric Griffin**  
HHC, 1st Bn/109th Inf Reg.

*“I’m looking forward to being with my wife and family, and visiting with my friends.”*



**Cpt. Albert Urban**  
HHC, 1st Bn/109th Inf Reg.

*“I’m looking forward to seeing my wife michelle and two kids, Sarah and Shane.”*



**Cpt. Thomas Meyer**  
Co. C, 1st Bn/109th Inf Reg.

*“I’m looking forward to spending time with my wife Marianne, and three boys, Louis, Caleb, and Jack.”*



**1st Lt. Gary Zembower**  
JVB  
Co. B, 2nd Bn/112th Inf Reg.

*“I’m looking forward to spending time with my daughter.”*

*“Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one.” -- Jane Howard, “Families”*



**About the covers. Front: Members of the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) head for inprocessing after landing at the Eagle Base Airfield. Photo by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson. Back: Cincinnati Ben-Gals liven up Eagle Base. Photo by Sgt 1st Class Ronald Covington**



# New medals approved

WASHINGTON -- President George W. Bush has issued an executive order establishing two military awards for actions in the global war on terrorism.

The president signed the order March 12 establishing the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

A White House spokesman said the medals recognize the "sacrifices and contributions" military members make in the global war on terror.



The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military expeditions to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Operation Enduring Freedom is the prime operation the medal may be awarded for. Personnel assigned to operations in Af-

ghanistan and the Philippines are examples of service members who will receive the award.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to servicemembers who serve in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Operation Noble Eagle is an example of the type of operation the medal may be awarded for.

The awards do not take the place of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, established Dec. 4, 1961, or the Armed Forces Service Medal, established Jan. 11, 1996.

"Any member who qualified for those medals by reason of service in operations to combat terrorism between Sept. 11, 2001, and a terminal date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense, shall remain qualified for those medals," the executive order reads. "Upon application, any such member may be awarded either the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Armed Forces Service Medal."

No one may be awarded more than one of the four medals for service in the same approved expedition or operation to combat terrorism. No one is entitled to more than one award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The medals may be awarded posthumously.

DoD and military service officials, including the Coast Guard, are working on provisions to award the medals.

## This week in SFOR history

### March 22, 1996

Using C-4 explosives, demolition experts from Company B, 23rd Engineer Battalion removed three giant slabs of concrete that were once part of a bridge linking Brcko, BiH and Gunja, Croatia.

### March 21, 1997

Company C, Task Force 1-26 made a discovery during a routine inspection. Hidden in an outbuilding was a stolen and repainted Dutch YPR, similar to a U.S. armored personnel carrier. An M88 recovery vehicle was called and the vehicle was moved to the Camp Dobol impound lot.

### March 20, 1998

A group of 36 Russian infantry officers take part in a joint training exercise on Camp Dobol. The Russians fired a variety of U.S. weapons including the M9 pistol, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, M60 machine gun, and M4 carbine.

### March 19, 1999

Company A, 2nd Battalion/5th Cavalry Regiment, soldiers were conducting a routine checkpoint operation near Brcko when they stopped two trucks loaded with a variety of contraband weapons and ammunition.

### March 24, 2001

A dedication ceremony was held renaming the tactical operations center after the late Staff Sgt. John Gallagher. Gallagher, a member of HHC, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), passed away in Bosnia on Nov. 26, 2000.

## A message from the SJA



It has come to our attention, through communication with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, that Pennsylvania does not give an automatic extension when it comes to the filing and payment of income taxes. Some of you may not be able to complete your Pennsylvania tax returns before the April 15th filing deadline upon our return. If this is the case you must fill out form REV-276 - Applica-

tion for Extension of Time to File. If you believe that you will owe money on this year's return, you must also submit a brief statement stating that due to this deployment your ability to file by the deadline has been "substantially and materially impaired." We have a contact within the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, and will mail all forms received in this office to that POC. Please complete the REV-276 and the letter if needed, and deliver them to Room 95 of the Whitehouse, or to the Tax Center in Bldg 1019 (Hours of operation Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.).

## New Tricare policy changes announced

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, announced today policy changes that will enhance the Tricare Prime and Tricare Prime Remote programs for members of the National Guard and Reserves and their family members.

Starting March 10, 2003, Guard and reserve family members, if their sponsor is on active duty (federal) orders for more than 30 days, will be eligible to enroll in Tricare Prime and enjoy the access standards and cost shares associated with the Prime benefit.

For full story go to:

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/b03122003\\_bt115-03.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/b03122003_bt115-03.html)



## A reminder from the Dental Clinic NCOIC!

There are still SFOR 12 soldiers' dental records in the TFME dental clinic. Soldiers and civilians that were treated and are deploying back to the states in March need to pick up their dental records as soon as possible.

# SFOR 13 arrives at Eagle Base ...

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson  
343rd MPAD

**EAGLE BASE** – It was a week of significant arrivals and departures at the Eagle Base Airfield. Arriving was the final flight of Stabilization Force 13 soldiers. Departing were several flights of SFOR 12 soldiers headed for home.

Brig. Gen. Ron Mason, commander of Task Force Eagle, landed with most of the remaining members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

The 35th is an Army National Guard command headquartered on Fort Leavenworth, Kan., with units from several states. The 35th ID will have the command and control of the Multinational Brigade (North).

SFOR 13 has National Guard and Army reserve units from 19 different states, as well as active compo-

nent units, U.S. Air Force personnel, contractors, and members of armed forces from several countries.

Brig. Gen. John von Trott, and the 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized) from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard have commanded MNB(N) for SFOR 12. The 28th has been tasked with deploying to Kosovo after a short rest at home.



**Right:** Brig. Gen. Ron Mason, left, commanding general of Task Force Eagle for SFOR 13, is escorted by Brig. Gen. John Von Trott commanding officer for Task Force Eagle for SFOR 12, after arriving at the Eagle Base airfield.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

**Left:** U.S. Army National Guardsmen and reservists file off of the plane to begin their peacekeeping mission. The last flight bringing SFOR 13's rotation from Hohenfels, Germany landed on Eagle Base's airfield.

**Right:** New arrivals of SFOR 13 observe their new home as they wait to enter the Fest Tent to begin their in-processing. The 28th Infantry Division's welcome sign, which will soon be replaced with the 35th's, overlooks the new soldiers.



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

# ... as SFOR 12 packs up to leave

SFOR 12 soldiers have been busy packing over the last few weeks, trying to reduce the build up of items acquired over the last six months. "For Sale" signs have appeared on bulletin boards throughout the MNB-N area.

"The line came out of the post office and down to the corner," said Sgt. 1st Class Marty Collins, who had five footlockers packed and ready to mail home.

The feelings were mixed depending on which direction one was headed.

"I'm glad to be here and anxious to get started on the mission," said Maj. Tinagay Riddle, a civil affairs operations officer for the 35th.

Lt. Col. Michael Evans with HHC, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, is headed home. "I'm looking forward to getting home to my family," he said as he taped up packages at the post office.

**Right-- Sgt. Craig Fisher tapes up boxes, getting them ready to send home to Manheim, Pa. Fisher is a member of Detachment 1, Company E, 728th Medical Support Battalion, based in Lancaster, Pa.**



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

**Left -- Lt. Col. Michael Evans puts the finishing touches on a package headed for York, Pa. Evans, a member of HHC, 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, is "looking forward to getting home to my family."**

**Right-- Sgt. Ivan Russell, headed to Toronto, Ohio, and other SFOR 12 soldiers fill out customs declaration forms for their packages going back to the states.**



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



# The Croatian connection

## Rijeka Nine supports SFOR soldiers deploying home

by Aleksandar Ilic

Media Specialist,

TF Eagle Public Affairs Office

RIJEKA, Croatia — Many consider the U.S. military the most advanced and equipped military force in the world. Every military mission is thoroughly planned and supported so the soldiers involved have the best possible conditions to perform their tasks.

The peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not an exception. There are approximately 1,800 U.S. servicemembers within Stabilization Force 13, contributing to this war-torn country's safe and secure environment. Accomplishing their mission involves tons of equipment. Equipment such as office and electronic supplies is shipped in on a steady basis to provide each Multinational Brigade (North) rotation with a maximum of logistic support.

The group of soldiers who provided the equipment for SFOR 12 is called Task Force Rijeka 9, which is commanded by Maj. John Templin. The task force is comprised from elements stationed in Germany as well as supporting units out of Italy. It falls under the command of the 21<sup>st</sup> Theater Support Command, which performs similar operations in Belgium and Romania.

With 150,000 residents, Rijeka is the largest city on the Northwest portion of the Croatian coast known as Kvarner. It is the cultural, political and, most importantly, economic center of the region. With its largest port and shipbuilding yard located on the Adriatic coast, Rijeka was the midpoint of overseas trading for Former Yugoslavia until 1991.

Every time Task Force Rijeka is in the city, a significant amount of money is poured into the economy.

"We are here twice a year, and we stay for several weeks. This time, we'll be here for 28 days. In the past, some of the tours were 45 days long," said 1st Lt. Amanda Breslin, S-3 for TF Rijeka 9 and member of the 21st TSC.

The port operations are arranged through the U.S. government's agreement with the Republic of Croatia. The area of operation is inside the perimeter of the port and the offices are located in a three-story-high building.

"We lease a certain square footage or square-meter-of-operation area and we also lease the third floor of the warehouse. The rest of the port continues to be a commercial, active port," Breslin said.

The U.S. section of the port itself is considered a custom free zone, so the entire



by Aleksandar Ilic

**AH 64 Apache helicopter lands at the port to prepare for shipment back to the states.**

area requires a great deal of security.

The whole port is surrounded with a high fence and there is a joint security at the main entrance, a scene you cannot see anywhere else in the world. U.S. soldiers, Croatian Customs officers and several Croatian Police officers can be seen checking IDs, work orders and other documents

**"I make sure that all the agencies have what they need in order to do their part during the helicopter redeployment."**

-- Sgt. 1st Class Aurora Vartola

on a daily basis.

"We reduced (the) number of American MPs we brought to this mission due (to) the commitment elsewhere. What we lost for U.S. presence, we compensated by upping host nation cooperation and having them actually coming inside the perimeter," said 1st Lt Meghan Giddings, the Force Protection Officer for the TF Rijeka 9 and member of the 95th MP Battalion out of Manheim, Germany.

"We have civilian police forces, military police forces and a whole spectrum of other support that we coordinated in advance in a series of planning conferences. We haven't had any major difficulties. As you expect, as the time goes my soldiers get to know their soldiers and the cooperation builds."

One of the most important tasks of the mission is customs check. You may think that a goal of a custom officer is just to make you nervous while you are trying to get home after an overseas flight in economy class. But that's not the case.

"We try to prevent bacterial and bug infestation, like a Gypsy Moth from Germany. Gypsy Moths have no natural predators in the states," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Roberts, Customs NCOIC for TF Rijeka 9.

"Birds don't eat them. They would just go ramping and eat up all the crops and everything. It would be a full-scale disaster."

The busiest time of deployment for the port operation task forces is when the helicopters need to be shipped back to the States. It's a huge mission that needs to be accomplished in a minimum amount of time and it requires a joint effort by dozens of people. It takes a lot of coordination at the port itself.

Accommodations for helicopter and maintenance crews have to be coordinated. Equipment for DynCorp workers — who shrink-wrap the aircrafts — has to be in place. The landing zone has to be swept and every single movement needs to be scheduled, so the mission gets done on time.

"We are an advance party. We set up equipment, radios and transportation containers. I make sure that all the agencies have what they need in order to do their part during the helicopter redeployment. My job basically consists of a lot of walk-

**continued on page 7**

# Surgeons' conference sets pace for SFOR 13

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic

Media Specialist

Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office

Task Force Med Eagle representatives for Stabilization Force 13 hosted its last surgeons' conference, attended by wide range of multinational experts in different fields of medicine to exchange their knowledge and establish relationships between incoming SFOR members.

"The purpose of today's conference is to introduce all of the new physicians here in MNB(North) to each other. Many of the international community have sent people home and brought new people in just as we are in the process of doing right now," said Col. Douglas Maser, TFME commander for SFOR 12 and MNB (N) surgeon.

"This is a way of getting to know each other so that those relationships will be built for coming months," said Maser.

In addition to SFOR service members, Barbara Gregory, U.S. Embassy medical officer, also took part at this occasion.

"Each time there is a rotation of the Task Force Med Eagle, I try to meet the leadership and be with my colleagues," she said.

"The opportunity came up to meet everyone and be part of this conference." Gregory has been in BiH for two and a half years.

The daylong event consisted of a variety of presentations covering an array of medical issues chosen by presenters significant to their experience in BiH.

The topics ranged from clinical review of amebiasis, which is a gastric disturbance, to combat stress control for the wartime environment, to a parasitic infection in dogs presented by a TFME veterinarian.

Gregory, who discussed challenges facing health care delivery in Sarajevo, talked about effects of the siege on Sarajevo and its impact on medical infrastructure, deficits in funding that influence the capability for society to offer health care, and transition of the medical system in BiH.

"I think that the biggest challenges to the medical system in Sarajevo are the lack of financial support to the healthcare of the citizens and the lack of logistical support," Gregory said. "There seem to be some excellent physicians, some really good doctors, but the ability to support

them in their practice is limited."

The event also included a presentation by Col. Daniel Dire, the TFME commander for SFOR 13, who focused on carbon monoxide poisoning, and concluded the conference with closing remarks.

Maser appreciates the opportunity such conferences provide for medical personnel to exchange ideas and information.

"This is an opportunity for physicians to interact," Maser said. "So, anytime there is that type of interaction, it will make for a better mission for SFOR."

The conference was the fourth held during SFOR 12's rotation in BiH. Future conferences may include participation by local medical experts as well as continued representation from the entire multinational force here.

"It is more international now. We are trying to build international relations here," said Maser. "Health care knows no boundaries."

**Sgt. William Erb, a member of Company A, 1st Battalion/109th Infantry Regiment, enjoys the attention of the Cincinnati Ben-Gals during their show Tuesday at the Peacekeepers Hall on Eagle Base. It was a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation-sponsored show, one of many free events scheduled throughout the year.**

by Sgt 1st Class Ronald Covington



## Connection con't

ing," said Sgt. 1st Class Aurora Vartola, Aviation Operation NCOIC and member of 2-502 Aviation. "I was deployed to Bosnia during rotation SFOR 9. I know how this phase can be frustrating. Our main goal is to make (the) outgoing unit's transition painless as possible."

Croatian coast, sunny skies and the scent of sea are great conditions for an enjoyable time for anyone, but not for

members of TF Rijeka. They are under total lockdown and will have to wait to ex-

**"This is a great mission."**

-- Sgt. 1st Class Aurora Vartola

plore this lovely part of the Adriatic Coast, which is a favorite tourist attraction.

"It doesn't bother us," he said. "We keep ourselves busy and Brown and Root provided us with great facilities. We have everything we need here on post. This is a great mission. It pulled together rail movement, ground movement, vessel movement and aircraft movement all into one mission within a 30-day timeframe. So you really get to see all sides of the picture in a short mission."

