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TALON



Survivor Games

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**Medical Eagle MEDCAP
Snapshots**

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TALON

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Letters to the Editor



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON DC 20310

April 16, 2003



Letter to the Editor
Tobias Naegele, Executive Editor
Army Times Publishing Company
6883 Commercial Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22159-0500

Dear Mr. Naegele:

Over the strongest possible objections by Army leaders and the soldier's parents to *Army Times* executives, *Army Times* chose to publish a photo in their April 21 issue that showed and identified a mortally wounded U.S. Army soldier on the battlefield near Karbala, Iraq.

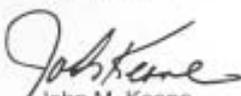
The *Times* editors' callous disregard for basic standards of decency and the emotions of the family and loved ones of this brave soldier in their time of grief is -- by any reputable standard -- a poor editorial decision. We in the profession of arms cannot comprehend what supposed good was served by publicizing the dying moments of this fallen hero. The photo wasn't part of the "news." It wasn't "essential" to the accompanying story.

Your appalling decision to publish the photo is all the more harmful because some of your readers erroneously believe the *Army Times* is an official Army publication.

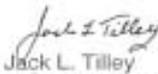
At a minimum, we believe you owe the family and loved ones of the soldier shown and your readership the sincerest of apologies in an attempt to rectify the effect of your deliberate action. We hope your future editorial decisions give more consideration to the personal suffering and heartache your decisions can cause.


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


Thomas E. White
Secretary of the Army


John M. Keane
General, United States Army
Vice Chief of Staff


Les Brownlee
Under Secretary of the Army


Jack L. Tilley
12th Sergeant Major of the Army

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To the editor:

I do not know if the Talon accepts letters to the editor, but I feel I must make a statement on behalf of my soldiers. I understand that the command has made recent cuts in cleaning services around Eagle Base. Unfortunately, this decision has impacted the gym. The gym is filthy and cleaning it once a day is not sufficient. There are serious health and sanitation issues that should be considered by the command. The facility is open 24 hours a day and used extensively by my soldiers. I sincerely hope that the leadership can look again at this decision.

Maj. Rhonda L. Nee
645th Personnel Services Detachment (Fwd)

The Talon welcomes letters to the editor. The letter reprinted above was sent to the editor of Army Times by the command staff of the U.S. Army. If you have something to write about, send us an e-mail or drop off a letter at the Talon office, Building 1, just inside the pedestrian gate. Letters should be limited to 150 words and include the author's unit and phone number. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. -- The editor

About the cover: Task Force South's 2nd Lt. Donald Bigham leads the "P-Nasty Warriors" across the finish line during the "Survivor Games." by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy.



SFOR 13 survives 'Survivor Games'

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic
Media Specialist

"Only the strong will survive" was the slogan of the first "Survivor Games" for Stabilization Force 13. The three-hour competition April 27 consisted of five timed events with one Russian, two Danish and six U.S. teams competing.

The challenge began with a 5-kilometer, 60-pound rucksack run. Following were a Pole Carry, "Hummvee" Pull and Sand Bag Carry – muscle-straining events that raised the temperature of the six-member teams as well as the spectators.

The final event, the Tire Flip, revealed the "Survivor Games" front-runner, and overall winner: The Russian Military Contingent's "Russians."

"We are happy to take part in these games," said Capt. Denis Denisov, 1st Airborne Company, RMC.

"Soon, we will go back home to Russia and we will remember this day for a long time."



Photos by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Task Force South's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor Regiment, also known as the "Burninators", prove that there's strength in numbers as they inch toward the finish line during the "Hummvee" Pull portion of the recent MWR-sponsored "Survivor Games." Nine teams participated in the grueling three-hour event April 27.

The "Task Force Medical Eagle" team placed second.

"It was a blast. It was really fun — much better than the last 'Survivor (Game)' though it was a lot harder,"

said TFME's Staff Sgt. Sylvia Gomez, who also participated in SFOR 12's Survivor Games.

Lance Cpl. Joe Andersen, Danish Contingent, also had

fun, despite the day's weather.

"It was bad that it was raining, but (that actually) made it more fun," said Andersen, whose team "The Vikings" won third place.

Task Force South's 1st Lt. Kris Morlen, a member of the "Burninators", also appreciated the opportunity to associate with soldiers from other countries.

"I enjoy the opportunity to get to meet people from other nations.

"For me that has been one of the most interesting parts of my experience here in Bosnia," said Morlen.

Moral, Welfare and Recreation is organizing two more "Survivor Games" for SFOR 13 and invites all units to compete.

"The more teams participating the better," said Lavon Washburn, MWR lead specialist.

"It makes it more interesting and a lot of fun for everybody."



The 35th Military Police Company "Law Dawgs" push the limit carrying a pole during the April 27 event. Two more "Survivor Games" are planned for Stabilization Force 13's tour.

Retrans team keeps the signal going

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington
343rd MPAD

It takes more than a good radio or antenna for Stabilization Force 13 soldiers to communicate in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It takes the proficiency of the retransmission team of the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized) signal group. It's the retrans team that sets up and maintains the radio signal retransmission sites that increase the radio signal's range of effectiveness.

"You can talk about us, but you cannot talk without us," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Olmstead of Bolckow, Mo. "Retrans receives the signal, cleans it, boosts it and sends it on its way."

The retrans team ensures Multinational Brigade (North) has the ability to communicate on the Operational Intelligence Net, and the Command Net, two of the most important nets in this mission.

"Without communication, command and control is extremely difficult," said Olmstead, noncommissioned officer in charge of the retrans team. "It is similar to a chess game. One must be able to manage all his pieces on the board to be effective"

Many factors affect FM communication, which is the preferred system used by the military. The average radio's range is about 20 kilometers on flat terrain, said Sgt. Christian Cordell, of Marshall, Mo..

Distance, weather, terrain, and even trees can lessen that range. Therefore, retrans sites are positioned on the highest terrain available to better receive and send out radio transmissions.

Cordell said this means they sometimes find that the road leading to their site is little more than a billy goat's trail.

"I like being the billy goat that gets sent up the mountain to do my job," said Cordell. "If you don't hear about us we are doing



Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Olmstead, left, from Bolckow, Mo., and Sgt. Christian L. Cordell, from Marshall, Mo., assemble an OE254 antennae during the retrans mission.

our job. It is when the communication is down that we become the center of attention."

Once these sites are established, the group performs its maintenance on a regular basis, checking each piece of equipment,

and the building structure to ensure its operating properly.

The success of any mission hinges on the ability of good communication and the retrans team delivers the service that makes communication possible.



by Maj. Kirk Slaughter

Finnished

Members of the Finnish CIMIC and local officials dedicated a new bridge in the village of Trakilovici April 26. From the left, Trakilovici spokesman Miodrag Miljanovic, Finnish project officer Senior Lt. Tommi Kohonen, Tuzla Deputy Mayor Zdravko Djuranovic, and Finnish contingent commander Col. Kari Pohjala cut the ribbon to officially open the bridge. Funding for the bridge and two miles of road were donated by The Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and gravel and other required material were provided by the city of Tuzla.

TF Med Eagle MEDCAP meets medical needs

Story and photo by
Spc. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

— A team of Multinational Brigade (North) soldiers conducted a Medical Community Action Program in Janjari, Ugljevik Municipality, on Saturday, April 26. Community leaders and SFOR's Finnish Civil Military Cooperation coordinated the project.

The MEDCAP provided free medical and dental care to civilians in the area. The medical personnel checked the patients' vital signs and then sent them to the physician who could best treat their ailments.

Although not all illnesses could be corrected on location, the patients were given initial treatment for conditions like hypertension, diabetes and arthritis. Those suffering from more serious conditions, such as extensive cancers, were referred to local physicians.

After the patients visited with the doctor or dentist, a pharmacist and Bosnian physician provided them with final instructions and medications.

Not only did the MEDCAP benefit the community; it also proved worthwhile for those who volunteered their time and services.

"(The MEDCAP) was a blast," said Maj. James W. Halliday, a dentist with Task Force Medical Eagle, and resident of Moses Lake, Wash.

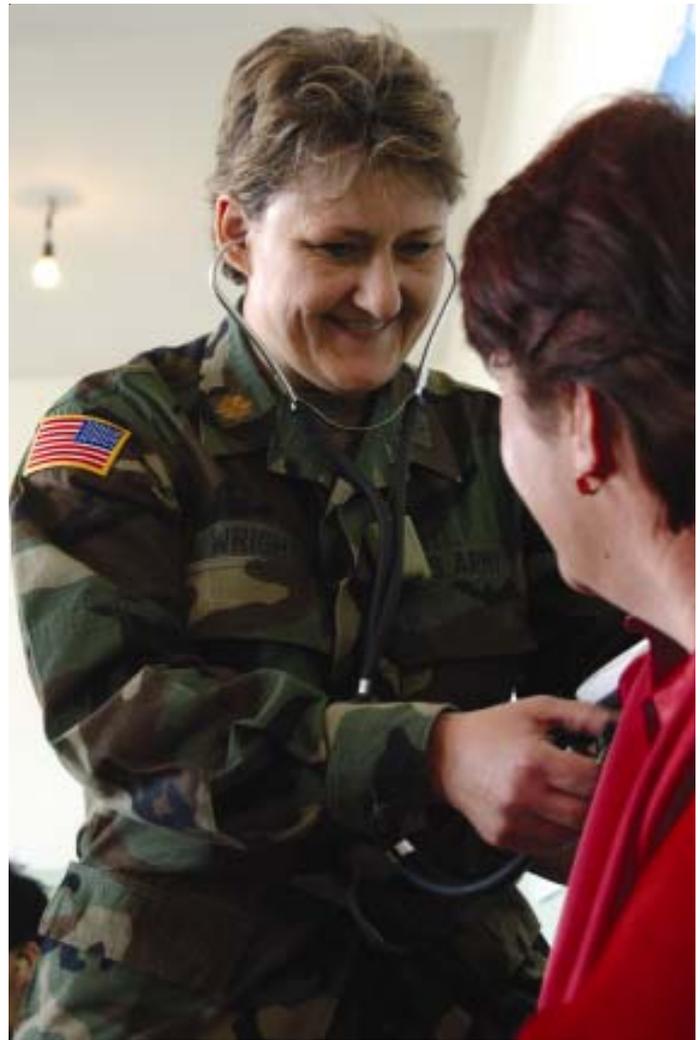
"It's the best thing I've done since I've been here."

The school that served as a temporary medical clinic is a school that was reconstructed last year using funds from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to Capt. Jarmo Vilo, of the Finnish CIMIC.

However, the schoolbooks were put aside for a day as 115 patients came to the school to have their aches and pains relieved by the multinational team of caregivers.

"We had a big turnout," said Maj. Ilona Wright, civil/military operations officer-in-charge for TFME. Wright originally expected to service only 75 people.

The next MEDCAP is scheduled for May 31.



Maj. Ilona Wright, civil/military operations OIC for Task Force Medical Eagle, checks a patient's vital signs during the recent MEDCAP in Janjari.



Maj. James W. Halliday, a dentist with Task Force Medical Eagle, treats locals at the April 26 MEDCAP. Approximately 115 citizens were treated during the free service. The next scheduled MEDCAP is May 31.

Snapshots

Photos capture MNB (North) days and nights



(Left) Mina Halilëviæ serves a cup of authentic Bosnian coffee for Staff Sgt. Timothy Olmstead at the Balkan Grille last week. The employees appeared in traditional Bosnian attire and cooked local cuisine to show the soldiers on Eagle Base a little taste of the local culture.

by Spc. Guy D. Choate



(Below) A 2-year-old child reaches out to receive a bag of candy from Air Force Master Sgt. Jennifer Wilson's helping hands during a recent visit to Simin Han Refugee Center.

(Right) Mersiha Muminovic and Azra Basic are ready to help you find the perfect video or book at the post library.

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by Spc. Guy D. Choate



by Maj. Kirk Slaughter

(Left) Capt. Daniel Evasco, U.S. liaison officer for the Turkish Battalion, enjoys a cup of Bosnian coffee with the Stefanovic family near the town of Zavidovici in the Turkish Battalion's area of responsibility.



by Sgt. Robert Childs

(Left) Spc. Sara Childs poses with Sasha the Easter Dog during the MWR/USO Easter activities at Minue Park on Eagle Base.

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Colorado

No-fault insurance approved

DENVER — Motorists would be able to continue buying no-fault auto insurance coverage under a plan approved April 25 by the Colorado House.

It would allow drivers to reject additional coverage for lost wages and benefits and would provide discounts for people older than 65, low-income residents and rural residents.

The measure — Senate Bill 78 — was one of three auto

insurance bills before lawmakers as they worked to pass a bill before the current auto insurance law expires July 1.

— *courtesy Daily Camera*

High School Baseball Class 5A Standings

1. Centennial
2. Colorado Springs Metro
3. Continental
4. Denver Prep
5. Front Range
6. Jeffco
7. Northern
8. Southwestern

Oklahoma

Mayor vows to fight sales tax

OKLAHOMA CITY — Mayor Kirk Humphreys announced April 23 he will lead an organized campaign to defeat a two-fifths-cent sales tax being sought by Oklahoma County Sheriff John Whetsel.

Humphreys, joined by Richard Burpee, president of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, announced they are starting "Citizens for Responsible Taxation" to inform voters about a tax they say would make Whetsel the most powerful official in the state.

"It's too large in the amount of money, it's too loose in accountability and it goes on for too long," Humphreys said.

— *courtesy The Oklahoman*

High School Baseball Class 6A Standings

1. Union, 22-3
2. Owasso, 26-4
3. Jenks, 21-7
4. Putnam North, 22-8
5. Edmond North, 17-7
6. Norman, 21-10
7. Muskogee, 21-11
8. Tulsa Memorial, 21-11
9. Sand Springs, 20-11
10. Putnam West, 18-10

Maryland

Crisfield Guard unit departs

SALISBURY — Soldiers with a Crisfield National Guard unit departed for the Middle East early Monday.

Members of the Maryland 1229th Transportation Company from Crisfield were set to depart from a New Jersey Air Force base, a military spokeswoman said.

The Crisfield unit's departure comes nearly two months after the soldiers were called up before the start of war in Iraq. Since March 6, the group

has been stationed at Fort Lee, Va.

— *courtesy Daily Times*

High School Baseball April 22 State Rankings

1. Severna Park, 8-1
2. Mount St. Joseph, 13-2
3. Old Mill, 8-2
4. St. Paul's, 10-4
5. Calvert Hall, 9-3
6. Parkville, 6-1
7. River Hill, 5-2
8. South Carroll, 5-1
9. Atholton, 6-3
10. Mount Hebron, 6-1

Ouch!



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Spc. Mark A. Swett doesn't relish the idea of being stuck with a needle by fellow Combat Lifesaver Course student Sgt. Nicholas Carter during training given by Task Force Medical Eagle.

This week in SFOR history

May 3, 1996

Soldiers from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, have begun training on the ranges in Hungary, practicing their skills by qualifying with their tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

May 1, 1998

SFOR's National Ordnance and Amnesty Program, a plan in which citizens could turn in unexploded ordnance and weapons without fear of repercussion, officially ended April 15.

May 7, 1999

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert Hall came to Bosnia to talk to soldiers. Hall traveled to Eagle Base, camps Comanche, Demi, Dobol, McGovern and Hill 722.

May 6, 2000

The 70-voice Music Youth Association of Zenica performed Easter Sunday at Eagle Sports Complex. The choir includes males and females of different nationalities from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina between the ages of 14 and 24.

May 5, 2001

Quality of life and employer issues for National Guard and Reserve soldiers were some of the topics discussed by Acting Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal during his visit to Multi-National Division (North) April 27 and 28.

May 3, 2002

Soldiers from the Task Force Eagle Area Support Group traveled to Srebrenic April 25 to clean up trash around the grounds of a 13th-century castle.

News You Can Use

MWR



Eagle Base Unit Level Volleyball League April 28 standings

- League A**
1. Airforce 1, 401st EABG, 7-0
 2. Law Dawgs, 35th MP Co., 6-0
 3. Elfen Magic, JMA, 7-1
 4. The Vikings, DANSQN, 5-1
 5. Kelly's Heroes, TF Orphan, 3-2
 6. No Names, 1-108th Aviation, 4-3
 6. Demons, A/4-118th Infantry, 4-3
 6. Mad Medics, TF Medical Eagle, 4-3
 9. Ruffnecks, E Co, 245th AT5, 4-5
 10. Postal Inspectors, 312th Postal, 2-2-1
 11. IO-IO, HHC, 35th ID, 2-5
 11. Witch Doctors, 86th Med Co., 2-5
 13. Slusher Crushers, HHC, 35th ID, 2-6
 14. Shutterbugs, PAO, 1-4
 15. LOGSU, HHC, 35th ID, G4 Ops, 1-5
 16. Dawgs, 645th PSD, 1-7

League B

1. FINCON, 7-0-1
2. House of Pain, MWR, 6-2
3. Vipers, ITT, 5-2
3. One Each, 1-108th Aviation, 5-2
3. Latin Connection, 260th MI Bn, 5-2
6. Night Shifters, TFE White House, 4-2
6. Aceholes, 35th ID, 4-2
8. Sappers, C Co, 206th Eng Bn, 6-4
9. Good Ol' Boys, 3-4
10. Falcons, 6250th TFME, 2-4
10. Team Sabot, TF Orphan, 2-4
10. Airforce 2, 401st EABG, 2-4

13. Dominators, 35th ID (G1, SGS, JVB) 1-3
14. G6 Freqs, HHC, 35th ID, G6, 0-4
14. Medic Mutts, TFME, 0-6
14. Eagles, ASG, 0-5

Dining



Bosnian Dinner Friday, May 9, 5-8 p.m. Balkan Grille

Menu

Fried mixed vegetables, baked peppers, musaka, Bosnian rice, turkey schnitzel, okra stew, beef sausages, beans with meat, beef pie, cheese pie, fresh lemonade, Bosnian-style coffee.

Salad Bar

Green Onion Salad, Cabbage Salad, Bosnian Salad

Pastries

Hurmasice, Nutma, Halva, Tulumbe, Tufahije

Chapel



Eagle Base Chapel 762-7089/7090

Sunday

- 9 a.m. Liturgical (Lutheran/Episcopal)
11 a.m. Collective Protestant
1 p.m. Gospel Protestant
3 p.m. Latter-Day Saints
7 p.m. Catholic Rosary
8 p.m. Danish Protestant

Monday

- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

Tuesday

- Noon ASG Bible Study, Conference Room
7 p.m. LDS Fellowship
7:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study, ISSO (Building 3307)

Wednesday

- 11 a.m. Bible Study, USAF Rock Conference Room

- Noon Episcopal (Anglican) Eucharist
Thursday
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Rosary
6:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Education Night
Friday
6 p.m. Gospel Choir and Praise Team Rehearsal
8 p.m. Joy Service
Saturday
1 p.m. Protestant Praise Team Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m. Gospel Praise Team Rehearsal
FOB Connor
761-2211
Sunday
6 p.m. Protestant Service
Monday
5 p.m. Bible Study
6 p.m. Catholic Communion

Let's dance!



photos by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Sgt. Matthew Barnes of the Analysis and Collection Element and Sgt. Tina Beller of the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion enjoy an impromptu dance during the Soul Note performance last week.

Not in my basket!



Sgt. Nicholas Carter blocks a shot by a Tuzla University "Student" player during Saturday's basketball game at Peacekeeper Hall. The Bosnian team beat the American team 50 to 40.