

MAY 9, 2003

# TALON

# WELCOME TO TUZLA EAGLE BASE



## Deployed moms

Inside this issue:

**Tuzla International Airport dedicated  
Faces in the Crowd**

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

# TALON

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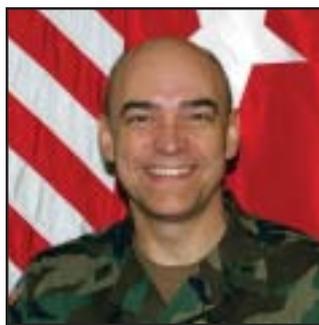
## Commander's Comments

# Moms' 'eyes' have it

By Brig. Gen.  
**James R. "Ron" Mason**  
Commander,  
Task Force Eagle

As a son, and a general officer, I can tell a great deal by looking into the eyes of a mother. Last January at Fort Riley, I was profoundly aware of the emotion behind the eyes of the mothers of our soldiers. In the eyes of a mother I could see clearly the apprehension as we began our mission, and the pride in her soldier daughter and son.

Mothers are givers and sustainers of life. Julia Ward Howe – who authored the Battle Hymn of the Republic – first suggested a day honoring



Mason

mothers in 1872. She held organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston every year of her life. We share this holiday with many of our SFOR partners including Turkey, Australia, Denmark and Finland.

Many of our dedicated soldiers are dedicated mothers as

well. Their unique perspective contributes to our peacekeeping efforts and reminds us that every child is precious, and brings new hope to this part of the world.

One of our earliest memories are the watchful eyes of our mothers. Through our triumphs and mistakes, those eyes were upon us.

Our mothers shaped our formative years, and even now influence us to never lose sight of the values given to us.

On behalf of our soldiers, here's a personal message to all of our Mothers: Your sons and daughters are serving with pride and we all extend to you our thanks and our wish for a Happy Mother's Day.

**A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take.**

--Cardinal Mermillod

## Bush OKs disaster relief

**KANSAS CITY**—President Bush issued a federal disaster declaration Tuesday for Missouri and Kansas, including the Kansas City area, triggering federal assistance to victims of Sunday's ferocious tornadoes.

Special federal assistance will be available for victims in 39 Missouri counties and seven Kansas counties, including those in the metropolitan area.

In addition to pounding parts of Wyandotte, Leavenworth, Platte, Clay and Cass counties, storms ripped through southern Kansas and southern Missouri, leaving 25 persons dead and untold mil-

lions of dollars in damage. Payton said it would be some time before disaster assessment teams could put a dollar figure to the destruction.

In the Kansas City area, nearly 1,700 structures were reported damaged or destroyed. Liberty reported damage to 600 homes and 48 businesses, raising the damage estimate there to between \$50 million and \$60 million.

The severity of the twisters that swept through Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties and through Gladstone and Liberty prompted the National Weather Service to request the assistance of University of Oklahoma tornado expert Charles A. Doswell.

Kansas City Power & Light spokesman Tom Robinson said as many as 33,000 customers in Parkville, Riverside, Northmoor, Gladstone and Kansas City, North, were without power after the storms Sunday night. By Tuesday morning, crews had restored power to all but 350 customers.

All KCP&L customers whose power could be restored were back on line Tuesday night, spokesman Tom Robinson said.

Richard Coleman of the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department estimated repairs at Pleasant Valley Road Athletic Complex in Kansas City, North, could cost several hundred thousand dollars.

— courtesy Kansas City Star



**About the cover:** Moms deployed to Bosnia pose with photos of their children and grandchildren in front of the "Welcome to Eagle Base" sign. by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.

# Moms to spend Mother's Day on Eagle Base

by **Dunja Vujadinovic**  
Media Specialist

Mother's Day is a time of celebration for moms all over the world. It is a time to show your mom how much you love her or thank her for all the things she's done for you. A typical start of Mother's Day is breakfast in bed prepared by her kids and husband. It consists of mom's favorite meal. What a nice beginning of the day, isn't it?

However, this Mother's Day is going to be a bit different for the mothers serving with Stabilization Force 13 at Eagle Base.

For 1st Sgt. Audrey McCaskill, from the 312th Adjutant General Company (Postal) of Charlotte, N.C., Mother's Day is one of the biggest holidays she and her daughter, Adrian, celebrate.

"Mother's Day to me is very special, but Mother's Day can be every day when you (want) to tell your mother that you love (her). But I'll tell you that birthdays and Mother's Day are the two biggest holidays we celebrate," said McCaskill, who said that her Mother's Day consists of Adrian cooking the dinner, then going to church and visiting amusement parks afterward.



**Sgt. 1st Class Alice M. Smelley, 1009th/1310th Engineer Company, peers with pride at images of her children and grandchildren.**



photos by Spc. Guy D. Choate

**Maj. Carla F. Hale, left, and Sgt. Patricia A. Leihy, both of HHC, 35th Infantry Division, share stories and photos of each of their sons.**

Capt. Deborah McCoy, of the 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment from North Little Rock, Ark., misses her mother most of all during Mother's Day. McCoy said she and her children, Brian Foster, 14, and Saysha, 6, always spend Mother's Day with their grandmother.

"Basically, Mother's Day is really for my Mum," said McCoy. "My children and I just hang out with my Mum, (because she) is such an inspiration for me and my children."

According to Maj. Carla Hale, from the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.), Fort Leavenworth, Kan., being a soldier means sometimes having to miss holidays and other special occasions, and she said she's always been prepared for that inevitability. But she has taken precautions. Her 2-year-old son Douglas is always present on her computer screensaver. And she communicates with him often on the phone or in letters.

"He's always excited to get photos from me," she said. "When we talk on the phone he usually tells me 'hello', 'bye', or some of the (other) new words he's learned."

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the "mother of the gods." Philadelphia resident Ana Jarvis is credited with initiating the campaign to make Mother's Day a national holiday. She felt children often neglected to appreciate their mother enough while the mother was still alive. She hoped Mother's Day would increase respect for parents and strengthen family bonds.

Nowadays, Mother's Day is celebrated in many countries in the world on the second Sunday of May. In some countries it's celebrated on a different day and in some it is not celebrated at all. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Mother's Day celebration has not been a tradition. Instead, Bosnians celebrate Women's Day on March 8.



by Staff Sgt. Tony Redden

## Room with a view

**Chief Warrant Officers Leo Blasi and Matt McDonald, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, pilot their UH-60 Blackhawk through the Neretva River Valley near Mostar recently.**

# Demining initiative saves time

by Dunja Vujadinovic  
Media Specialist

An initiative to clear mines from Bosnia and Herzegovina was the focus of Stabilization Force 13's first Joint Military Affairs conference in Orasje April 24. JMA conferences are meant to foster communications between the Bosnian Armed Forces and Multinational Brigade (North).

The demining discussion centered on the merits of the MNB (N) Proposal for Demining Brigade Initiative.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world. This fact presents a major obstacle to its economic development, political reintegration and social stability. More than 2,000 square kilometers of Bosnia and Herzegovina is considered mined. The current method SFOR uses for demining that amount of land would take between 50 to 200 years.

According to JMA's chief, Col. James Head, the Demining Initiative, which was first discussed during SFOR 12's rotation, can be an important legacy for SFOR 13.

"One thing that we identified is that SFOR rotations come and go and the people of Bosnia are always here. People die every day because of mines. What we want to do is leave a legacy — something that each rotation can (continue to) work on," Head said.

"That could be our contribution, not only to the people of Bosnia but to (the) Partnership for Peace program."

The Demining Initiative would consist of a brigade of approximately 1,200 soldiers, and state-of-the-art technology capable of demining and operating globally. Head said the brigade would report directly to an organization called the Standing Committee of Military Matters and would be overseen by NATO. He said the savings in time and costs are significant.

Head said that will make the initiative a success is the technology the brigade would have at its disposal.

"The (equipment) is called the Mine Guzzler and it costs about \$2 million each. Like a



by Staff Sgt. Ray Simmons

**MNB (North) commander Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason and Bosnian Armed Forces commanders gather for a photo during the April 24 Joint Military Affairs conference in Orasje. From left: Maj. Gen. Novak Djukic, I Corps VRS; Brig. Gen. Refik Lendo, II Corps VF-B; Gen. Maj. Dragan Lalovic, V Corps VRS; Mason; Col. Martin Jurkic, 4th Guards Division VF-H; and Brig. Selmo Cikotic, I Corps VF-B.**

tiller it (digs) 30 inches into the ground," Head said.

"With the new program, we can (complete) the demining in 15 years. So it really has a very positive impact on Bosnia," added Head. (That) would be an (important) legacy for SFOR."

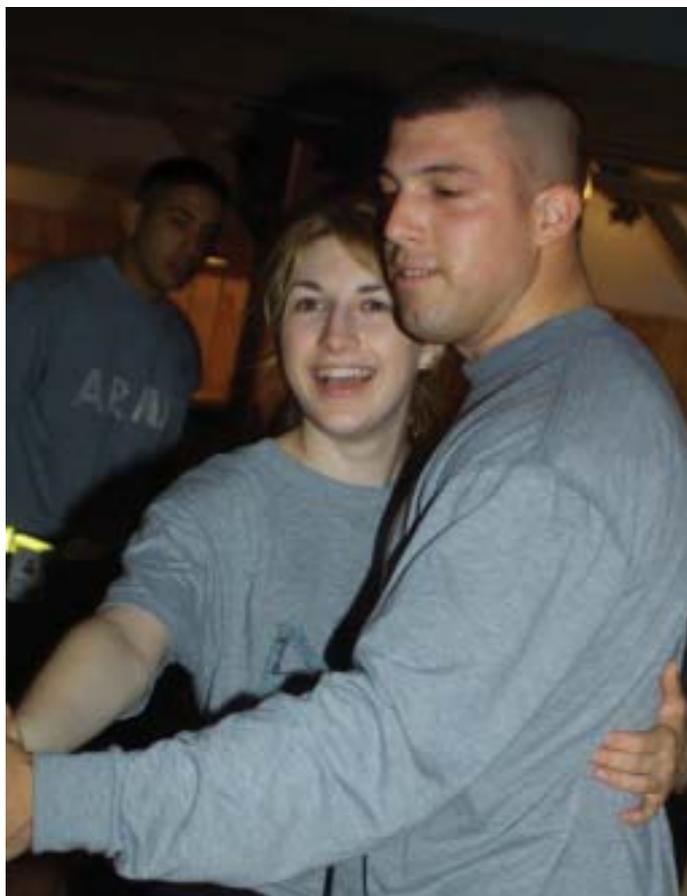
"Funding is going to be the biggest part of this," said Head. "If you look at how much money has been spent (here) and you look at what could have been (and) has not been done, I don't see how you can't afford to fund this.

"And I don't see why it can't be obtained. This is a kind of generic humanitarian effort in which all of the people can get involved. From movie stars to rock singers to everybody. It is a total force for good."

Head said all of the Bosnian Armed Forces commanders present at the conference expressed admiration for the initiative.

"One of the corps commanders (at the conference) mentioned yesterday that he wants a safe place for his grandchildren to play. They all see the need," said Head, who added that he himself is very enthusiastic about this initiative because it's going to be a win-win situation for everybody, especially for the people of Bosnia.

## 'Dancing in the dark'



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

**Spcs. Jessica Stinglemeyer and Moises Cantu dance the night away recently at Triggers.**

# Regarding Father Don

## Former radio announcer finds his voice as Army chaplain

by Spc. Felicia Whatley

312th AG Company (Postal)

Don Davidson wasn't always sure that he wanted to be an Episcopalian priest and a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

"In fact, instead of accepting it, the more I tried to escape it, the more I was drawn to it," Davidson said.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Davidson tried everything from being a radio announcer to being a high school speech and English instructor, before entering Seabury-Western Seminary in Evanston, Ill., in 1981. He joined the Kansas Army National Guard in 1984 and was ordained a priest in 1985. He is now the deputy command chaplain for Stabilization Force 13 on Eagle Base.

"It was not a religious experience with bolts of lightning coming out of the clouds. I just knew that this is what I'm about. This is what I have to do," said Davidson.

Davidson has always had a strong desire to lead people, but he sometimes finds it hard to do wearing the uniform of the U.S. military. He said that often the values of love, peace and harmony conflict with being a soldier.

"Those values collide and my life is in the midst of it," he said.

For example, Davidson finds it disconcerting that the peacekeeping soldiers here

on Eagle Base are armed with weapons and ammunition. "I want people to think about what it means to have that kind of power," said Davidson.

Explaining what it is like being a chaplain in a religiously war-torn country, Davidson said there are many roles to being an American soldier.

"Whatever job I'm in, the role of the chaplain does not change much. Ultimately, we are here to preserve religious ideals. Here, the unique part of my job is telling the command about the different sects of religions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and helping them understand the problems they face by understanding their culture," he said.

Davidson said that SFOR plays an important role in showing how cultural differences can be overcome. There are many nations represented in SFOR 13, he said, and at least seven of them are here on Eagle Base. Each successful rotation demonstrates peace in progress. "We show that it is possible to live in a multicultural society," said Davidson.

Davidson and his wife, Emily, reside in Overland Park, Kan. He received his doctorate in theology from Seabury-Western in 1996. He has been "Father Don" at St. Thomas Church in Overland Park for almost seven years.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Davidson is known for using humor during his sermons. "I believe a person should leave church feeling better than when he came in," he explains.**

## Security measures in place, airport reopens

Story and photo by Spc. Guy D. Choate

343rd MPAD

Tuzla International Airport was officially reopened April 30. Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason, commander of Multinational Brigade (North), and TIA Director, Mustafa Terzic, opened the airport by updating a 1998 agreement between Stabilization Force and the Bosnian government.

The airport closed after the terrorists' attacks on the United States Sept. 11, 2001, and is finally getting to the point of reopening.

The main concern to be addressed before TIA's reopening was the safety and security of the airport employees, passengers, Tuzla Air Base, Eagle Base and Stabilization Force personnel, Mason said.

Both Terzic and Mason spoke during the ceremony, and both attributed the success of preparations made regarding the airport's reopening to SFOR's and the local community's ability to cooperate so well.

"Our combined goal here today is the



**Mustafa Terzic, director of Tuzla International Airport, and Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason, commander of MNB (North), applaud their signing of documents to reopen Tuzla International Airport.**

continued move towards normalization of the civilian and commercial interests within Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Mason.

The first commercial flight is expected to arrive from Frankfurt, Germany and arrive at Tuzla sometime this month.

# A look at some of the Faces in the Crowd

## Staff Sgt. Richard E. Jackson

**Hometown:** Leavenworth, Kan. Back home, Jackson works as a training technician for the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) on Fort Leavenworth.

**Job title:** Imagery Analyst. Jackson provides “in-depth” analysis of imagery, or photographs, for the Multinational Brigade (North) area of responsibility, “eight days a week, 25 hours a day, 367 days a year.”

**“Logical thing to do”:** Jackson volunteered to deploy to Bosnia and Herzegovina with his unit because “it seemed to be the logical thing to do” at the time. Jackson said traveling to Bosnia provides him the opportunity to enjoy another culture, people and place. “I’m enjoying my time here,” he said.

**Personal deployment goals:** Jackson looks forward to completing his original arrangements for his two-man band with personnel sergeant and drummer, Orville Thompson. The band, called *UXO*, will be performing this Sunday at 5 p.m. in front of the Rendez-vous Coffee Bar.

**Best thing about Eagle Base:** “The people.”

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Staff Sgt. Richard Jackson practices for his two-man band, *UXO*.



## Maj. Charles W. Neack

**Family:** Neack’s wife, Therese Dyce, is a full-time Army reservist from Fort Lewis, Wash. They have two children; Robert and Cindy.

**Hometown:** Steilacoom, Wash.

**Job title:** Neack, an Army reservist from the 7729th Medical Support Unit in Fort Lewis is the Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander for Task Force Medical Eagle. He is in charge of training and “general soldier business”.

**Civilian occupation:** Managing executive for Yellow Transportation Trucking Co.

**Hobbies:** Tired of memorizing the items on the PX shelves, Neack misses playing golf, single malt scotch and having the freedom to get in his car and go wherever he wants. Neack misses his children and wife, too, who encouraged him to “suck it up and drive on.”

**Goals:** Neack’s ultimate goal for the deployment is to “safely take everyone home.” Neack is proud that most of the medics are volunteers. “They believe in the mission,” he said. “We are good health officials and we are happy to be here.”

by Spc. Felicia Whatley

Maj. Charles Neack addresses his unit during the Task Force Medical Eagle Initial Operability Ceremony in March.



## Spc. Shawn C. Bly

**Unit:** Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division (Mech.).

**Family:** He’s very close with his parents and brother. “You never know how important your family is to you until you’re six months and 5,000 miles away,” said Bly.

**Hometown:** Kansas City, Mo.

**Military service:** Bly works in the G-6, or communications section, and operates and repairs the military radios used to communicate in Multinational Brigade (North).

**Civilian Job:** Bly works for a company in Independence, Mo., that makes M-16 ammunition.

**Goals:** Bly plans to go back to school, but is undecided about a major.

**Pastimes:** Bly enjoys getting off the base on the long drives during his retrans operations. Though Bly is quiet, he enjoys having a good time and talking to others.

by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Spc. Shawn Bly assembles an antenna during a recent mission.



# On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

## Alabama



### Sloss fined for creek pollution

**BIRMINGHAM** – Sloss Industries has agreed to the largest restitution package in the history of Alabama environmental enforcement, promising to pay fines and conserve land on Five Mile Creek to end its years of legal problems over polluting the stream, officials said Monday.

Under the agreement, Sloss will pay a penalty of \$675,000 and donate land appraised at \$2.6 million. The land includes 34 acres at the headwaters of Shades Creek,

to be donated to Ruffner Mountain, and 326 acres along Five Mile Creek that would protect three stream miles.

– courtesy Birmingham News

#### High School Girls Softball May 3 Class 1A-3A Rankings

1. Pisgah, 31-6
2. Alabama Christian, 22-13
3. Sylvania, 23-7
4. Lynn, 35-14
5. Elba, 21-2
6. Tanner, 26-7
7. Pleasant Valley, 24-12
8. Waterloo, 23-7
9. Colbert Heights, 31-13
10. Ider, 36-17

## Nebraska



### Mayor plans budget cuts

**OMAHA** – Police and firefighters face possible layoffs next year under preliminary budget targets set Monday by Mayor Mike Fahey.

All city departments - including police and fire - were ordered by Fahey to begin planning their 2004 budgets with 10 percent fewer dollars than this year.

Given that a majority of the City Council has consistently ruled out raising property taxes, Fahey has little option

but to come up with a budget that leaves tax rates as they are.

– courtesy World-Herald

#### High School Girls Soccer Class A Standings

1. Omaha Marian, 13-1
2. Millard South, 11-3
3. Lincoln East, 13-1
4. Omaha Burke, 11-3
5. Omaha Westside, 13-2
6. Millard North, 9-3
7. Columbus, 12-2
8. Bellevue West, 8-5
9. North Platte, 10-3
10. Papillion-LaVista, 7-6

## Washington



### City manager takes paid leave

**TACOMA** — City Manager Ray Corpuz Monday offered to be put on paid leave as outside agencies investigate the city's handling of events surrounding police Chief David Brame's fatal shooting of his wife and his suicide.

Corpuz's request, which would require City Council approval, comes after the council voted informally Saturday not to put him on

leave.

– courtesy Post-Intelligencer

#### High School Girls Softball Class 4A Standings

1. Inglemoor, 13-0-0
2. Eastlake, 5-0-0
3. Emerald Ridge, 4-0-0
4. Marysville-Pilchuck, 3-0-0
5. Shorecrest, 5-0-0
6. Lake Stevens, 2-1-0
7. Snohomish, 1-0-0
8. Kamiak, 6-1-0
9. Enumclaw, 11-2-0
10. Jackson, 5-1-0

# Sweet



by Air Force 1st Lt. Kevin Hynes

**Sgt. Kevin Lugenbeel hands out candy while out on patrol with Sgt. Darren Thompson. Both are members of Task Force North.**

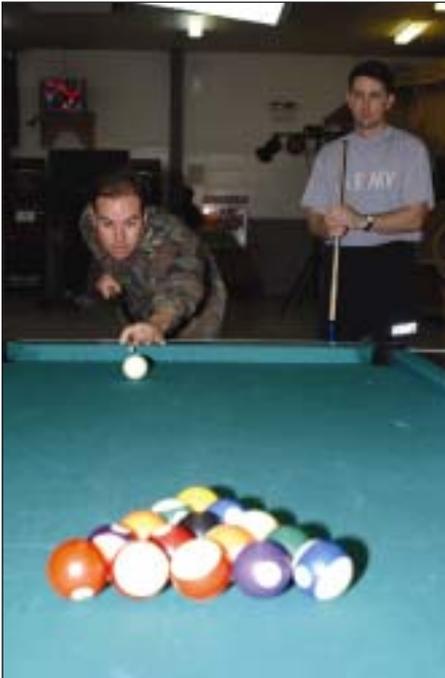
### Humvee at sunset



by Slavik Army Maj. Igor Sperka

# News You Can Use

## Break



As 1st Lt. Chad Dunham watches intently, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott Flavelle, Company C, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, lines up his break for round two of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored "Eight Ball Pool Challenge," May 1 at Triggers on Eagle Base. Nine soldiers from Stabilization Force 13 competed in the event. Dunham, Detachment C, 260th Military Intelligence Battalion, won the tournament.

## "That's 'yes, ma'am'"

Capt. Holly Hileman helps instructor Sgt. Anthony Brown demonstrate a hold during training in Chinese Kung Fu. Brown teaches the class 7:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Peregory Fitness Center. Offensive and defensive tactics are taught during the hour-long workouts.

## Notes



## So when should I salute?

Basic training may have been a long time ago for you, so maybe you aren't sure when you are supposed to render the hand salute. Here's a refresher straight from Field Manual 22-5, *Drill and Ceremonies*:

☞ Soldiers in uniform are required to salute when they meet and recognize persons entitled to a salute – in most cases, a warrant or commissioned officer. The only exceptions are if you are indoors or have both hands full, such as carrying a large package. **Keep in mind the PT uniform is an Army uniform.** Don't forget to give the greeting of the day – your salute is incomplete without it.

☞ When **reporting to an officer** in his office – and under arms (carrying a weapon in your hands, by a sling or holster) – the soldier knocks and enters when told to do so. He approaches within two steps of the officer's desk, halts, salutes, and reports, "Sir (Ma'am), Private Jones reports." The salute is held until the report is completed and the salute has been returned. When the business is completed, the soldier salutes, holds the salute until it has been returned, execute the proper facing movement and departs.

☞ The practice of **saluting officers in official vehicles** – recognized individually by grade or identifying vehicle plates or flags – is considered an appropriate cour-

tesy. But if you're driving the vehicle, don't salute.

☞ If you are in formation, only salute at the command, "Present, ARMS."

☞ If not in formation, **the first person noticing an approaching officer calls the group to attention**, and all come to attention and salute. This doesn't apply to soldiers participating in games or on a work detail. In that case, only the person in charge salutes.

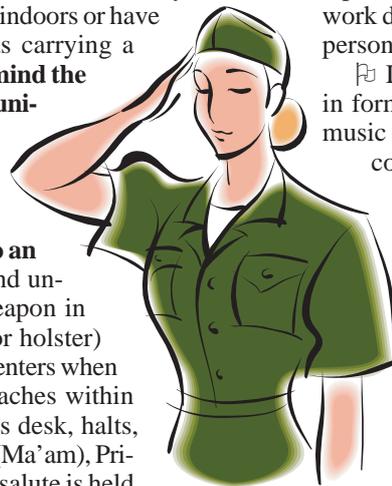
☞ If you are outside and not in formation, **face the flag** – or music if you can't see the flag – come to attention and salute at the following music:

- the U.S. national anthem
- "To the Color"
- "Reveille"
- "Hail to the Chief"

**Note that "Taps" is not on this list.** Vehicles in motion are brought to a halt. Soldiers riding in a passenger car – or NTV

– **dismount and salute.** Occupants of other types of military vehicles and buses remain in the vehicle; the individual in charge dismounts and salutes. Tank and armored car commanders salute from the vehicle.

☞ It is improper to salute with any object in the right hand or with a cigarette, cigar or pipe in the mouth.



photos by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy