

MAY 16, 2003

# TALON



## Russian Victory celebration

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Farewell from Secretary of the Army  
Non-lethal weapons training

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

# TALON

Published in support of  
Operation Joint Forge  
May 16, 2003  
Volume 10, No. 8

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The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the servicemembers 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, APO AE 09789. DSN Telephone 314-762-0190. Email story ideas, and photo to: [Donald.Johnson@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil](mailto:Donald.Johnson@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil). The Task Force Eagle web address is [www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil). Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

## Letters to the Editor



**Secretary of the Army  
Thomas J. White**

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as your secretary these last two years, the absolute high point of my professional life.

Our soldiers and civilian employees have distinguished themselves in peace and war befitting our heritage and reputation of service to the nation since before its founding.

I could not be prouder of the outstanding contributions you have made to our nation's defense and the honorable manner in which you have shouldered the immense sacrifices required of you and your families.

The Army remains at war and transforming. We have significant challenges ahead. We will win the War on Terrorism as part of a joint team regardless of duration and difficulty.

Additionally, it is absolutely vital that we build on our successes and sustain our momentum to realize the vision of Army Transformation as part of the Joint Force.

America's Army turns 228 years old next month. Our enduring commitment to our fellow citizens is to be ready to defend the United States and her allies when called.

As I conclude my duty with you I am proud to report to the American people that their respect and admiration for their Army is well founded.

God Bless you, the United States Army and the United States of America.

Tom White  
74th Army Secretary

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**"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on."**  
**--Walter Lippmann**

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**About the cover: A member of the Russian Military contingent breaks a bottle of water held by a fellow soldier during a ceremony in Ugljevik. by Spc. Guy D. Choate.**

## This week in SFOR history

### May 16, 1997

The 502nd Engineer Company conducted rafting and bridging operations on the Sava River near Slavonski Brod during the first week of May.

### May 15, 1998

Cpl. Sullivan Billander, 22, of Kayenta, Ariz., a combat engineer with the 84th Engineer Company from Fort Polk, La., reenlisted for three more years atop a partly destroyed castle that towers above the port city of Zvornik. The castle was built atop a 1,600-foot hilltop during the Ottoman Empire in the 14th Century.

### May 13, 2000

It's been five years since Capt. Scott O'Grady made headlines worldwide when the F-16 Falcon he was piloting was shot down over Bosnia and Herzegovina. On April 19, O'Grady's F-16 was found in a remote, heavily-wooded, mountainous area in northwest BiH, populated only by wild boar and minefields.

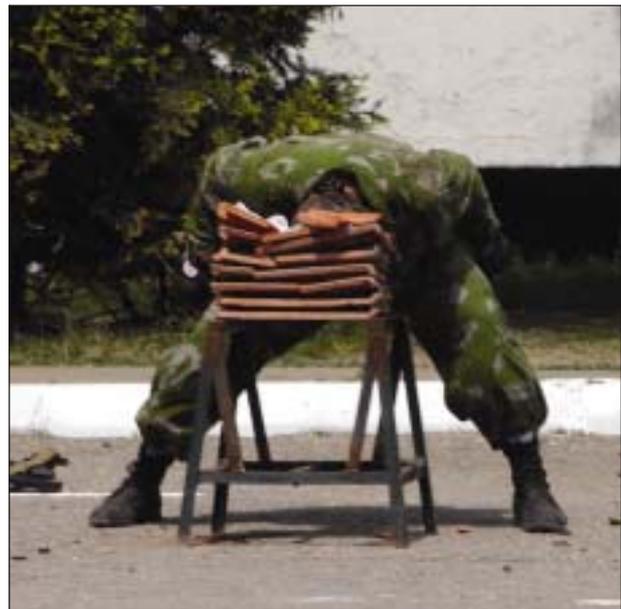
### May 19, 2001

The lights were turned off, the antennas were taken down, and the gates were locked shut, as soldiers from Company D, 123rd Signal Battalion, bid a final farewell to Hilltop 722, the morning of May 10. After five years of service, Hilltop 722 was shut down. The official closing date is May 16.

### May 17, 2002

Soldiers from 5th Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, joined together May 3 with soldiers from 2nd Coy, 2nd Battalion of the Portuguese Army for a UXO mission at Camp McGovern.

# Russians celebrate Victory Day



**R**ussian troops celebrated Victory Day with an awards ceremony, followed by folk dances by a group of Bosnian children from the neighborhood around Camp Ugljevik. To top off the days' activities, a group of Russian soldiers awed the crowd with a martial arts and weapon performance.

Victory Day is the Russian holiday on May 9 of each year to celebrate the official end of World War II in 1945.

photos by Spc. Guy D. Choate

# Non-lethal training builds confidence

by Spc. Felicia Whatley  
Contributing Writer

Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area Support Group, the 35th Military Police Company and 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment (Mech.), participated in a non-lethal weapons training demonstration April 30 on Eagle Base. The event included civil disturbance training, weapons familiarization, and use of dogs for riot control.

The ASG soldiers kept their dogs busy demonstrating their detaining techniques as they chased after and, often, tackled some of the soldiers.

"The dogs don't know who is good and who is bad," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Maks, ASG K-9 kennel master. "They only know that the handler is good and that all else is bad."

Staff Sgt. William Simpson, 4-118th, volunteered to wear a 50-pound protection suit and act as a decoy for one of the dogs.

"The suit is cumbersome," said Simpson after being chased and pulled down by nine-year-old Belgian Malamute Dax.

"The suit is very heavy and hot and you *can* feel the teeth through the suit," said Simpson, who added that being attacked while wearing the suit does build one's "confidence working with the dogs."

Weapons training followed the K-9 demonstrations.

"I am hoping the soldiers expand their knowledge with situational awareness, pressure point techniques and verbal

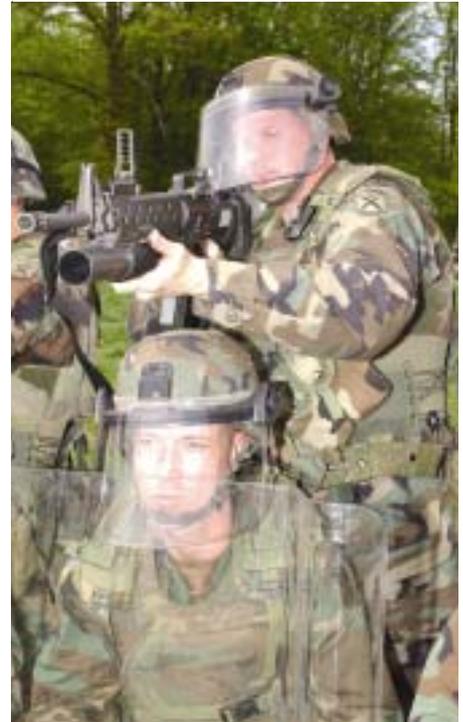


photos by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

skills," said Capt. Courtney Prewitt, 35th MP Company commander. Prewitt supervised the weapons training portion, which introduced rubberized ammunition for the single barrel shotgun, M203 grenade launcher and M-16A2 rifle.

Plastic shields were issued for basic crowd control training, which consisted of the soldiers lock stepping toward plastic silhouettes yelling, "Move back! Move back!" in unison.

Whatever type of training the soldiers took part in, "safety and confidence" was stressed at all times, said Prewitt.



**(Above and right) 35th MP Company Commander Capt. Courtney Prewitt addresses soldiers before engaging in riot control training April 30.**



**(Above and right) Being attacked while wearing the suit does build one's "confidence working with the dogs," said Staff Sgt. William Simpson. Here, Simpson is helped into a protection suit before being taken down and held during a "controlled aggression" exercise with patrol dog Dax.**



# SFOR provides K-9 training support

by **Nedima Hadziibrisevic**  
Media Specialist

Stabilization Force 13 soldiers are conducting a joint K-9 training exercise on search and detection techniques for members of Bosnia and Herzegovina State Border Services.

Currently, the dogs are being trained to search out major explosive odors that have the key ingredients of dynamite. The dogs are encouraged to sniff boxes to try and identify and mark the one containing the explosives.

"The first phase that we are doing is protocol on (the) different odors we have," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Maks, K-9 kennel master for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area Support Group. Maks' responsibility is to observe, critique and recommend training for the SBS working dogs.

"Once we've (taught the) dogs protocol – to learn the odors – we will move on to the other phases that deal with buildings, warehouses, aircrafts, luggage, something that is going to relate to their jobs."

Because of the lack of specialized K-9 training institutions in Bosnia, SBS personnel went to the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo, which requested SFOR's training support.

"Since in Bosnia and Herzegovina there



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

**SBS officer Novak Peno stands by to offer hugs and a ball to play with as reward after Mark the dog sniffs out explosive material during recent training conducted on Eagle Base.**

were no proper (training) institutions, our superiors (asked assistance) from SFOR," said Enver Mesanovic, SBS dog handler

in-charge for the training.

Sgt. 1st Class Aniello Burr, who is assisting with training the handlers and their dogs, is very optimistic with the advancement shown so far.

"The training is going well," said Burr, 35th Military Police Company. "We had five dogs to start with. (Only) two of those had to be cut (from training) because they just were not showing any sniffing behavior."

Maks also likes how the training is progressing.

"They (the SBS officers) are great. They are very positive and motivated. I think, it is going to work out really good," he said.

"Cooperation is on a high level. It could not be better," agreed Mesanovic.

Once the training process is complete, the U.S. Army will not certify the SBS working dogs. The intent behind the training is to help the SBS officers develop their own guidelines and system to validate their dogs.

"Hopefully, they will be able to initialize the system themselves, where they can start training dogs on detection," said Maks.

"So they can (then) work in airports and do various other things that will make their environment a little safer, a little better."

## Frost: SFOR success means more AAFES jobs

by **Spc. Guy D. Choate**  
343rd MPAD

As Stabilization Force 13's area of responsibility becomes more stable, local Army and Air Force Exchange Services civilian employees will take on more jobs with increasing responsibility, said AAFES Commander Maj. Gen. Kathy Frost, during her recent visit to Eagle Base.

Frost's visit here was one of many stops during a European tour of AAFES facilities in Italy, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Frost said that one of the main reasons she wanted to visit AAFES facilities in the Balkans was to see recent improvements and show her appreciation to the employees, which are now mainly comprised of local nationals.

"The employees have proven that they can provide uncompromising services," agreed Stephen Hills, general manager of AAFES in the Balkans, who visited with Frost.

Frost has noticed several significant improvements since her first Balkans visit in 1998: Namely, the Post Exchange sizes and product availability and the arrival of Cinnabon and Taco Bell.

"Even though soldiers have a wonderful dining facility where they can eat for free," said Frost. "Sometimes they just want that name-brand food they grew up with."

There are not any significant changes planned for AAFES in the Balkans, said Frost. She said that AAFES is flexible and everything depends on troop strength.

Frost and her team are currently looking at facilities here as a model for setting up operations in Iraq.

Before finishing her visit to the Balkans, Frost also visited Forward Operating Base Conner, Camp Morgan, and Camp McGovern, which all host AAFES mobile operations.

AAFES is headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

## Ringer



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

**Sgt. Gregory Kline, G-2 Plans NCO, pitches horseshoes with Lt. Col. Jerry Sanders, 35th Infantry Division Engineer, May 11 at Minue Park.**

# Snapshots

## Photos capture MNB (North) nights



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Stribling

In case you didn't know, there are people that work the night shift to ensure operations flow as smooth as possible. Making sure that we are secure, keeping the 'dust-offs' flying, taking care of patients, and getting us our mail are more than just 9-to-5 jobs. Here's a look at some of those people.

*Clockwise, from upper left:* Sgt. Thomas Prim, narcotics dog handler with HHC, Area Support Group, and Dax conduct a nightly patrol at Sapper Point recently; The moon rises over the Lone Star barracks; Sgt. Raymond Crowley, left, and Pfc. Benjamin Lowell, members of the 86th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), at work in the Medical Eagle TOC; Staff Sgt. Michael Sepal, left, and 1st Lt. Anh Black take care of overnight patients in the hospital at Eagle Base; Spc. Angela Guice gets a pre-dawn start recently as she cuts the seal off of a trailer to start processing the days' mail.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

# On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

## Florida



### Boycott threatened over test

**MIAMI**—Dozens of South Florida’s community activists and politicians on Sunday threatened a boycott of several major industries if Gov. Jeb Bush doesn’t rectify recent FCAT results that could keep thousands of high school seniors, mostly blacks and Hispanics, from graduating.

The targets: the state’s tourism, sugar and citrus industries.

The plan: to spend the next 10 days traveling the state and informing communities, then begin a boycott May 22 if Bush doesn’t find a

way to scale back the numbers of students who may not graduate.

“We will not continue to support a government economically that will not educate our children,” Bishop Victor Curry said.

— *courtesy Orlando Sentinel*

#### High School Tennis Finals Boys Team Standings

1. Miami Sunset
2. Dr. Krop (Miami)
3. Olympia (Orlando)
4. Spruce Creek (Port Orange)
5. St. Petersburg
6. Douglas (Parkland)
7. (tie) Miami Springs, Spanish River (Boca Raton)

## Maryland



### Pond may hold anthrax clues

**FREDERICK** — The FBI might drain a pond in the woods near Frederick in hopes of finding physical evidence to help identify the person who mailed anthrax-laced letters that killed five people and sickened at least 17 others in 2001, Frederick Mayor Jennifer P. Dougherty said Sunday.

She spoke in response to news reports Sunday that FBI investigators found anthrax spores and other evidence in

their search of ponds in the area northwest of Frederick several months ago.

— *courtesy Baltimore Sun*

#### High School Lacrosse Boys Top 10

1. Calvert Hall, 13-3
2. Loyola, 10-2
3. Boys’ Latin, 13-2
4. St. Mary’s, 9-5
5. Gilman, 7-5
6. Dulaney, 11-2
7. Severna Park, 15-0
8. Severn, 9-8
9. St. Paul’s, 6-7
10. Mount St. Joseph, 6-7

## Vermont



### Teacher pay cuts proposed

**MONTPELIER** — In a year of record school budget defeats and heated debate about legislative efforts to alter the state education funding formula in Montpelier, some taxpayers are looking closer to home for cost controls: They’re asking local teachers unions to renegotiate promised raises downward.

Requests to reopen contracts that guarantee fixed pay increases have surfaced this

year in communities such as Essex, Burlington and Colchester. Many teachers oppose the idea, and so do some school board members.

Observers say requests to reopen contracts occur around the state periodically.

— *courtesy Free Press*

#### High School Tennis Boys A Division Standings

1. Hartford, 3-0-4-1
2. Rutland, 3-1-6-2
3. Brattleboro, 1-1-4-1
4. MSJ, 1-2-2-3
5. Mount Anthony, 0-4-1-7

# Set



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

**Chapel NCOIC Sgt. Patrick Conklin prepares to return a shot during a volleyball game May 11 at Minue Park.**

## Tornado troopers called to help

by **Master Sgt. Bob Haskell**  
*Army News Service*

**WASHINGTON** — National Guard troops answered the call to help civil authorities deal with the devastation of violent tornadoes that hammered the Midwest and flooding in Alabama during early May.

Nearly 200 Army Guard soldiers were on duty in Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee and Alabama by May 6 after a massive tornado system tore through those states May 4.

Missouri fielded the largest force of 173 citizen-soldiers after the severe weather system killed 18 people in that state and at least 40 in all, according to newspaper accounts. Guard aviation personnel also helped in the recovery effort

One of the victims was

Wanda Sue Handley, 46, the wife of Missouri Army Guard Spc. William Handley. She was killed in her home in Monett, Mo., Guard officials reported. Spc. Handley is a member of the 203rd Engineer Battalion that is on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., after being mobilized in March.

Handley was talking with his wife on his cellular phone, the Associated Press reported.

“She told him ‘I see it,’ and then the phone went dead,” said Company C 1st Sgt. Randy Mackey. “He was in shock.”

About 125 of the 203rd’s soldiers were allowed to leave Fort Leonard Wood to help their families and communities recover from the damage. They were expected to return to the fort on Thursday to await their deployment to Iraq within the next two weeks.

# News You Can Use

## Notes



## MWR



### Theme parks offer free tickets to military

Start making your reservations now to take advantage of some good offers when you get home in the fall.

To honor America's servicemen and women, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts is offering active members of the U.S. military a complimentary five-day "Disney Armed Forces Salute" Ticket, valid for admission to Disney's theme parks, water parks and more at the **Walt Disney World Resort**, through Dec. 19.



The ticket is valid for admission by the active member of the military to the following Walt Disney World parks: Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney MGM Studios, Animal Kingdom, DisneyQuest indoor interactive theme park, Blizzard Beach and Typhoon Lagoon water parks, Downtown Disney and Wide World of Sports.

Active members of the U.S. military may also purchase five-day "companion tickets" for \$99 each (plus tax) for up to five family members or friends.

The offer includes activated members of the National Guard or reserves.

To purchase the tickets, you must present your active military identification card at the ticket window. Activated mem-

bers of the National Guard or reserve also must show their active-duty orders.

Find details at <http://disneyworld.disney.go.com/waltdisneyworld/reservations/reservationsindex?id=MilitaryOfferRoot>

A similar offer is available at **Disneyland** in southern California for those in the western part of the United States. The park is offering a ticket valid for three days' admission to each active member of the U.S. military, including activated members of the National Guard or reserves.

For more information, see <http://i.disney.go.com/wdpro/media/dlr/content/eng/promos/military/index.html>.

This offer follows one made last month by Anheuser-Busch, which will give free single-day admission to its **SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place** parks to active-duty military, activated reservists, National Guardsmen and up to four of their direct dependents beginning on Memorial Day and ending on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

The parks include Busch Gardens in Tampa Bay, Fla., and Williamsburg, Va.; SeaWorld in Orlando, San Diego and San Antonio; and Sesame Place in Langhorne, Pa.

More information at [www.anheuser-busch.com/news/OperationSalute.com](http://www.anheuser-busch.com/news/OperationSalute.com).

- 8 p.m. Dominoes/Salsa, Triggers
- Saturday, May 17**
- TBA Basketball Challenge: Team Eagle vs. McGovern
- 3 p.m. International Soccer Tourney
- 8 p.m. '80s & '90s Music, Triggers
- Sunday, May 18**
- 3 p.m. International Soccer Tourney
- Monday, May 19**
- 8 p.m. Dart Tourney, Triggers
- Tuesday, May 20**
- 7 p.m. Foosball Tourney, Triggers
- 8 p.m. Spades Tourney, Rally Point
- Wednesday, May 21**
- 8 p.m. Karaoke, Triggers
- Thursday, May 22**
- 7 p.m. Ping-Pong Tourney, Fitness Center
- 8 p.m. Pool Tournament, Triggers
- Saturday, May 24**
- TBA Softball Tournament
- 8 p.m. Dominoes, Spades Tourney, Old-School Music, Triggers
- Sunday, May 25**
- 8 a.m. 5K Fun Run
- TBA Softball Tournament
- Monday, May 26**
- TBA Softball Tournament
- Wednesday, May 28**
- 8 p.m. Karaoke Competition, Triggers
- Thursday, May 29**
- 7 p.m. Ultimate Spades Tourney, Peacekeepers Hall

### Long distance gift

Lt. Col. Judy Adams, from Gig Harbor, Wash., was surprised with Mother's Day roses from her husband, Stewart, and her two children, Chelsea and Summer. Adams' husband contacted Stephen Hills, general manager of AAFES in the Balkans, and a plan was devised for him to present the Task Force Medical Eagle physical therapist her roses, which has become a Mother's Day tradition in the Adams family.



by Spc. Guy D. Choate