

MAY 23, 2003

TALON



Town Hall meeting

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Russian water project
Faces in the Crowd

Task Force Eagle www.tfeagle.army.mil

Chaplains' Corner

Actions speak louder than words

by Chaplain (Col.)
Ron Cobb

*Task Force Eagle
Command Chaplain*



Cobb

The theme of this meditation is, *A person's actions tell who they are more than their words.*

I just finished reading a book about a discovery in Jerusalem. An ancient limestone ossuary — burial urn — was recently found engraved with the words, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus."

Part of the book talked about the Epistle of James. James was the author of this epistle that bears his name. With the Apostle Peter he was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

James is one of the shorter books in the Christian Scriptures. He teaches us that faith in God automatically proves itself by the actions of our lives.

Whenever a person be-

comes a follower of God I encourage them to begin giving time and money to God's kingdom work on earth.

Look at how you spend your money. What you spend your money on each day and each month — that is a direct indication of where your core values are.

Look at how you spend your time each day and each month. This too is an indication of where your values lie.

I'd encourage you to spend time each day in meditation. Start your day with prayer and meditation and end your day with prayer and meditation.

Continue to send your tithes and offerings to your synagogue, church, or mosque from Bosnia. I would also encourage you to give chapel offerings here in Bosnia.

At the end of Stabilization Force 13, 100 percent of what is received will be given directly to the people of Bosnia. Representatives from each participating group will form a committee to determine where this gift to the people of this country will go.

Spend time with those who are trying to follow God and to improve their lives. Always look at your actions in time and your actions of spending money rather than at your words.

A person's actions tell who they are more than their words.

Ordinary school shows progress

by Maj. James Billings
343rd MPAD

Just off Route Arizona, towards Brka on the road to Camp McGovern, there is a school. It seems to be an ordinary school. Outside there is an asphalt playground, complete with basketball hoops. Standing there recently on a sunny Sunday afternoon, I could almost hear the shouts and laughter of children at play.

An ordinary school. Except I remember it differently.

I first stepped onto this ordinary piece of ground in July 1996. It was Camp Kime, headquarters of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division. I was venturing out from the relative safety of Eagle Base to an unknown. It would be my home

for the next four months.

There was no playground then, although it had been a schoolhouse before the Ready First Combat Team occupied it. The building doesn't look too much different now, except there are no sandbag walls or plywood on the outside.

The site was rimmed, of course, with concertina. Soldiers — not ITT guards — manned the gates and tower 24 hours a day. And every morning at 0630, we manned our posts for stand-to — an old Army tradition meaning every rifle pointed out from the perimeter, ready to engage an attacking enemy.

From the tower overlooking the plum orchard, you could see a shell-damaged church tower. It is now gone.

So are the mess tent and latrine conexas. Where our tents once stood, there is now a freshly tilled field. An ordinary field.

There are times when I wonder how much progress we are really making in Bosnia. The Inter-Entity Boundary Line still separates the country, with many on each side considering it a border. We still need a demining initiative to figure out how to get rid of the millions of mines still lying out there beyond our wire.

Still such a long way to go.

But then I stand on the playground. No more soldiers, no more tents, no more sandbags. An ordinary playground at an ordinary school, next to an ordinary plum orchard and an ordinary field.

Ordinary. Normal. Slowly but surely, this country is getting back up on its feet. There's progress — and more importantly, there is hope.

You'll find it at an ordinary school just off Route Arizona, on the road to Camp McGovern.



About the cover: Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz talks to troops during a Town Hall meeting. by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.



Published in support of
Operation Joint Forge
May 23, 2003
Volume 10, No.9

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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**. The Task Force Eagle web address is **www.tfeagle.army.mil**. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

Army lawyers offer variety of services

by Spc. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

There are many different opinions regarding the reserve components' abilities to take on a more dominant role in the Balkans. Some may ask: Will 'weekend warriors' be able to cope with the everyday Army lifestyle that Eagle Base provides? Are National Guardsmen and reservists up to par with their active-duty counterparts?

The staff judge advocate office is a working example proving that not only can these part-timers live up to full-time standards, but they also bring something to Stabilization Force 13 that an active-duty component simply cannot — a multitude of civilian experience.

Most of the 12 persons in SJA have almost 20 years of legal experience, said Staff Judge Advocate Lt. Col. Thomas D. Arnhold.

Like many other soldiers, Arnhold is taking a pay cut in order to serve his country in the Balkans, but the Hutchinson, Kan., resident said that meeting people in the Guard has brought a lot of interesting cases to him, and he is glad to be here now. "Our job is to provide legal advice to commanders of SFOR 13 and to provide legal assistance, military justice, and operational law support to soldiers," said Arnhold. "This is what we like to do — soldiers are our number one focus."

The SJA has five branches working under him in five different legal fields, to include: Claims and Legal Assistance, Administration Law, Criminal Law, Operations Law, and Joint Military Affairs. The members of these legal branches can properly handle any legal matter.

While most of the sections don't get to interact with the everyday soldier, Claims and Legal Assistance does, said Lt. Col. Robert L. Bell Sr., from Louisville, Ky. "We get a chance to see everybody," he said.

Although the SJA is located on Eagle Base, there is still a need for legal services at the various forward operating bases. A legal assistance



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

Spc. Steven Collins and Lt. Col. Robert Bell Sr. review paperwork in the Legal Assistance office.

team travels to these places every couple of weeks, or more if there is a desperate need, said Arnhold.

Visiting the FOBs is not the only SJA interest outside the wire. As a community service project, SJA has made it a point to visit the school that their interpreter's son attends in Tuzla.

At the school, they visited the primary levels where a classroom full of smiling children graced them with a song they had recently learned in English. Following the sing-a-long, they were the guest speakers in a high school English class. After being peppered by the younger children as to what their favorite col-

ors were, the older, more inquisitive students inquired as to where the soldiers' loyalties were placed when it came to World Cup Soccer teams.

Although the SJA members may like different sports teams, they all operate as one team when it comes to conducting business. "This is a good crew full of great people," said Arnhold. "I'm very lucky to have such a top-notch staff."

The SJA office also has a trial defense service representative in Spc. Steven E. Collins, a resident of Belton, Mo., who is there to help soldiers should they need to put together a defense. "Basically, I get to help a lot of people and learn a lot about cultures."

Doctors welcome farewells

by Spc. Felicia Whatley
Contributing Writer

Task Force Medical Eagle provided an award and farewell ceremony May 8 to health-care providers heading home after the end of their deployments in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The unit also welcomed its replacements during the dinner held at Brown and Root's Camp Fiala dining facility near Eagle Base.

"Expecting the unexpected, I was pleasantly surprised how people pulled together to make things work," said departing surgeon Maj. George Eapen.

Maj. Linda Yee, a nurse anesthetist, expressed mixed emotions during the event.

"The unit worked well to-

gether as a team. I am looking forward to seeing my kitty-cat Thumbs, but I'm going to miss the camaraderie in the unit and the Bosnians I met," said Yee.

Arriving nurse anesthetist 1st Lt. Christine Obendorfer thinks her deployment will be an "experience to adapt to and surprise herself with."

Food eaten and awards given, the departing personnel offered advice to the newly arrived.

"You will find yourself somewhat out of your comfort zone, but you'll adapt and do fine," said Eapen. "Make the most of the experience by setting goals for yourself: Whether it be PT, educational or military, there are many opportunities."



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Col. Daniel Dire (left) and Sgt. Maj. Mark Espinoza (right) present Maj. George Eapen with the Army Commendation Medal for his service as a physician with Task Force Medical Eagle.

Wolfowitz talks to soldiers at Eagle Base

by Maj. James Billings
343rd MPAD

Despite the world's focus on Iraq, the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains important, Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defense, told Task Force Eagle soldiers May 16.

Wolfowitz visited Eagle Base to thank soldiers for preserving peace in Bosnia. During a 45-minute Town Hall meeting, he listened to soldiers' concerns on a variety of issues.

Recalling the horrors of the war in Bosnia, Wolfowitz told soldiers, "That dying has stopped because of what you and your predecessors have done."

He also said the mission would continue as long as necessary.

"We're not going to leave until this mission is finished," he said. Wolfowitz noted that the current U.S. force is 10 percent of what it was in 1996 and that NATO has successfully reduced its presence in Bosnia.

The deputy defense secretary praised the National Guardsmen of the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) not only for its role in peacekeeping missions, but for homeland defense as well.

"Everything the Guard does is every bit as important as what the active duty does," Wolfowitz said.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz answers questions from Eagle Base soldiers during the Town Hall meeting May 16.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Wolfowitz receives a dulcimer as a gift from Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason after the Town Hall meeting.



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

(Above) Wolfowitz shakes hands with Turkish Cpl. Sadik Sami Demir during a tour of Zenici.

(Right) Lt. Gen. William E. Ward does pushups with Spc. Brock McCooe, HHC 2/123rd Armor Regiment, prior to the Town Hall meeting at Peacekeepers Hall on Eagle Base.



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

RMC engineers reconstruct town's future

by Alexander Ilic
Media Specialist

Water is now available to the citizens of Janja, thanks to Stabilization Force soldiers from the Russian Military Contingent.

Janja, a town located in the RMC area of operation has one of the highest percentage of returning displaced persons or refugees, or DPRES, in Multinational Brigade (North).

"Water supply became the biggest problem for the town (as the DPRES returned), said Maj. Aleksey Vikulov, chief engineer for the RMC. "They used a special truck to bring water to these people every day."

Local community representatives tried to find a solution by asking RMC and Bijeljina municipality officials for help.

"Unfortunately, the RMC was not able to fund the water pipes, but after talks with Bijeljina mayor, Dragomir Ljubovic, we found a solution," said Vikulov.

"Bijeljina municipality purchased the water pipes and we provided the engineer machines and experts."

"We laid 1.5 kilometers of pipes and more than 1,000 households will be supplied with water through this system," said Sgt. Aleksandar Sklar from RMC's engineer platoon.



by Alexander Voznesenskiy

The RMC's first step in constructing Janja's water supply was to reconstruct its drainage system.

The water system was only the second stage of the project. Russian engineers had to reconstruct the drainage system first, in order to build an effective water supply system.

"We accomplished 99 percent of the work. We still have to place the pipes across the town's road, but this will be completed very soon," said Sklar.

"We had problems with this because the project had to be done backwards. Usually, you dig the trenches and lay the pipes and then you build a road.

"In this case we had to dig trenches in the road, so the machines had to dig a lot of gravel."

This would not have seemed such a monumental achievement if except for the fact it was all completed by just two persons: Sklar, the head of the project, and Pvt. Aleksandar Popovkin, the machine operator.

"This is not the only engineer project we are doing in our sector. We have our (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team checking for mines and UXOs in the Priboj area where we plan to reconstruct a 3 kilometer-long road," Sklar said.

"Even though there were no war activities in this area, it's better to check and be sure forever. Sometimes we find UXOs in a river, thrown away by locals.

"This is one of the reasons why we increased our Harvest activities under 'Turn Your Weapons to Us' motto. We also have a road project in the village of Lugava."



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

'Nice to meetcha'

Maj. Gen. Kenneth Herbst greets dental assistant Spc. Heather Rodgers, while Sgt. Wayne King, customer service representative for the 145th Medical Logistics Detachment, looks on. Herbst, the deputy surgeon general for reserve affairs, visited Task Force Medical Eagle recently.

Bosnia's junior officers prep up on peacekeeping ops

by Nedima Hadzibriševik
Media Specialist

Officers from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were brought together on Eagle Base last week for a daylong course on peacekeeping operations.

Col. James Head, Joint Military Affairs chief for Multinational Brigade (North), provided the course's opening remarks, followed by presentations from Turkish, Russian,

Portuguese, Finnish and Danish liaison officers.

The course is provided annually to lieutenants and captains from the Federation Army and Army of the Republic of Srpska.

"Basically, the purpose is to talk about peacekeeping missions other than in (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and to give the young officers a perspective different (from their own)," said Head. He said the course also allows the officers from the two

armies the chance to interact and build on their trust and friendships.

"The program enables us to strengthen the aspect of trust, and give us a positive experience (as we build new) types of cooperation," said Capt. Nevenko Vranjes, Republic of Srpska ministry of defense.

"I think this is the best way to assume our role in creating a new future for Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Mladenko Marijanovic, Federation Army

Joint Command. "Especially toward its joining the Partnership for Peace, and one day NATO."

"Everything (here) was totally oriented toward trying to get the (officers and soldiers) to understand this is their country and they need to work together," added Head.

As part of the course the officers were given a tour of Eagle Base including the Danish Squadron, where they were familiarized with its equipment and maintenance procedures.

A look at some of the First Sergeants in the Crowd



First Sgt. Ron Crump shoots pool at the Eagle's Nest recreation area.

1st Sgt. Ron Crump

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

Family: Crump, his wife Brigitte, and their four sons, Bobby, 20, Mark, 17, Daniel, 15 and John, 14 live in Lansing, Kan.

Military service: Crump is currently taking the non-resident Sergeants Major Academy studies. Crump enjoys being a first sergeant because it allows him to help soldiers and their leaders use the correct resources as they go through the decision-making process. "This allows the soldiers and leaders to make their own decisions, and learn from it."

Civilian Job: Crump is a postman with a letter carrier route in Leavenworth, Kan. He covers nine miles every day on foot. He said he has filled in for driving routes and has many reasons to prefer his walk route.

Goals: "It is my hope to retire from both the post office and the Guard at the age of 55," Crump said, who would then like to travel with his wife.

Hobbies: Crump enjoys playing pool and reading. He umpires little league baseball up to the High School level. He said it allows the kids something to do besides getting in trouble.

by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

1st Sgt. Audrey McCaskill

Hometown: Cheraw, South Carolina

Job title: McCaskill is the first sergeant for the 312th Adjutant General Company (Postal) from Charlotte, NC. "I enjoy getting to know the soldiers and helping them when they need help," said McCaskill.

Civilian profession: As an office manager for Centralina Council of Governments, she works with older adults that need long term care. She also coordinates job training for disadvantaged youth and adults that have lost their jobs.

Hobbies: McCaskill enjoys bowling, reading, dancing, working out and talking with people. What she misses most is her daughter. "I miss our conversations. I miss her saying 'Momma, can we talk?' I miss spending the weekends with her, shopping or going to amusement parks. I just miss the things we do together," she said.

Goals: "My goal is to retire as a sergeant major, obtain my master's in psychology and to encourage my daughter to obtain her master's," said McCaskill.

by Spc. Felicia Whatley



First Sgt. McCaskil and Administration Clerk Sgt. Nicole Benson tackle some administrative duties recently.

Warrant Officer 2 Soeren Alexanderson

Hometown: Aalborg, Denmark

Family: Alexanderson is married to Anna-Grethe, and has two daughters, Susanne, and Christina.

Job title: Senior noncommissioned officer for the Danish Military Police Detachment on Eagle Base.

Military service: Alexanderson joined the Danish Army in 1975. He has been a military policeman for most of his career. He was assigned to Supreme Headquarters in Belgium for four years, and spent time in Cyprus. He is here in Bosnia for his third rotation.

Hobbies: Alexanderson gardens in his spare time. "It's a good way to get rid of your agressions," he said. He has a 900 square-meter garden at home. He also plays the game of petanque, a game involving rolling metal balls at a wooden ball.

Goals: He plans on staying in the Danish Army until he reaches the age of 60.

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Kansas

Sunday liquor sales discussed

Now that the Kansas Legislature has refused to settle the issue of Sunday liquor sales, the matter will be left to cities and the courts.

Beginning next week, some Johnson County cities are expected to begin moving forward with laws allowing liquor stores to sell alcohol on Sundays.

Lenexa already has passed an ordinance allowing liquor stores to sell alcohol as early as June 21.

Overland Park, Prairie Village and Mission are planning to discuss the issue.

Overland Park, the state's second-largest city, appears

poised to pass an ordinance allowing liquor stores to open for business on Sunday.

The Overland Park proposal would not extend to the sale of alcohol at groceries, which are governed by a separate state law.

— courtesy Kansas City Star

High School Baseball Class 6A Rankings

1. Lawrence Free State
2. Wichita Heights
3. Manhattan
4. SM Northwest
5. Blue Valley West
6. Wichita Southeast
7. Hutchinson
8. Olathe South
9. Maize
10. Lawrence

Kentucky

Lakes, streams threatened

Five streams and three lakes in southcentral Kentucky are on a list of the state's impaired waterways released this month by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The report is released annually under the federal Clean Water Act, which requires states to identify streams that fail to meet EPA-mandated water quality standards, said Tom VanArsdall,

a spokesman for the state Division of Water in Frankfort.

— courtesy B.G. Daily News

High School Baseball State Rankings

1. Paul Dunbar
2. Lexington Catholic
3. Elizabethtown
4. Pleasure Ridge Park
5. West Jessamine
6. Larue County
7. Trinity (Louisville)
8. Covington Catholic
9. Pulaski County
10. Ballard

Nebraska

Seng new Lincoln mayor

An organization Coleen Seng has both battled and embraced at different turns over the past 30 years — Lincoln city government — officially became hers to mold Monday.

After Seng took the oath to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of mayor, about 200 people who attended the inauguration ceremony at City Hall erupted into applause.

Council members

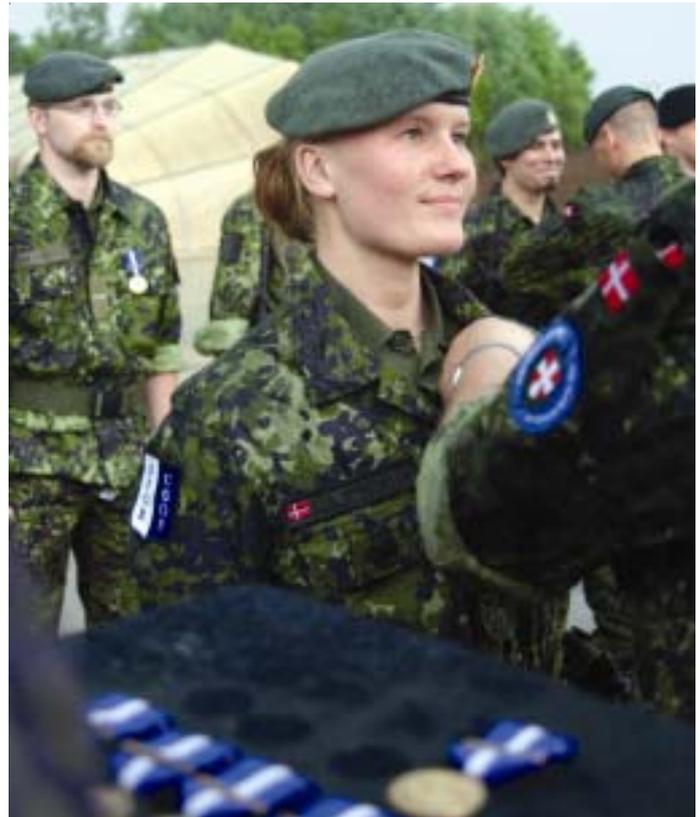
Jonathan Cook, Jon Camp and Annette McRoy were all re-elected.

— courtesy Journal-Star

High School Baseball State Rankings

1. Omaha Westside, 28-3-1
2. Millard West, 26-8-2
3. Omaha Crescent Prep, 19-8-4
4. Omaha Gross, 15-7-8
5. Nebraska City, 18-4-7
6. Grand Island, 20-7-6
7. Papillion-LV, 20-08-3
8. Millard South, 16-12-10
9. Millard North, 19-10-5
10. Omaha Burke, 17-9-9

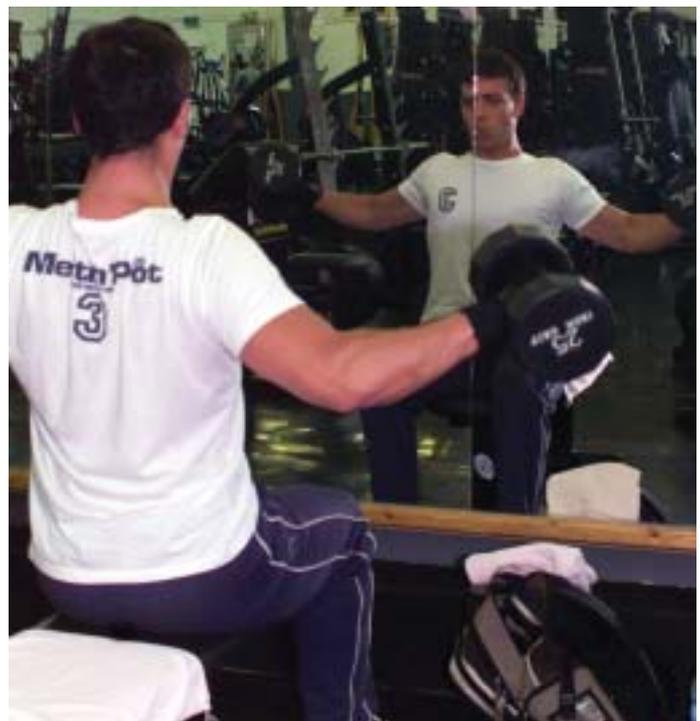
Accolades



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

Tasja Jorgensen, a civilian clerk with the Danish Contingent, receives the Danish Non Article 5 medal during the DANCON Medal Parade, which was held recently in front of the Fest Tent.

Pumping iron



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

“Mens Sana in Corpore sano” is Latin for “a sound mind in a sound body,” said Italian army Capt. Fabrizio Seni, during a recent workout at the Peregrino Fitness Center.

News You Can Use

Guard to combine HQs at state level

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Adjutants general from the 54 states and U.S. territories accepted the chief of the National Guard Bureau's concepts for transforming the National Guard into a force that is more responsive for the American people here on May 18.



Blum

The National Guard's state military leaders reached consensus with the ideas put forward by Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the National Guard Bureau's new chief, to consolidate the separate state-level headquarters for the nation's 460,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard into joint, or single, headquarters.

The move would eliminate 108 of 162 headquarters at state

level, Blum said, by eliminating separate departments for the state command, Army National Guard and Air National Guard.

The National Guard generals agreed to support the requirements for the 21st century that Blum presented during the spring conference of the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

Blum has ordered the National Guard Bureau to become a joint headquarters by July 1 of this year. He has asked the states to establish joint headquarters by Oct. 1.

The adjutants general also discussed many other ways to make the National Guard more responsive to the needs of the governors and to the active Army and Air Force and how to work more closely with the nation's five other reserve components to support the global war against terrorism.

"Homeland defense is the National Guard's most important priority. Make no mistake about that," Blum said.

Education



Registration for the University of Maryland's next term begins May 26 and ends June 6. Classes begin June 9. The following courses are offered:

Monday/Wednesday 6-9 p.m.

- ☐ Introduction to Serbo-Croatian
- ☐ Fundamentals of the Accounting Process
- ☐ Software and Hardware

Tuesday/Thursday 6-9 p.m.

- ☐ Advance Features of

- ☐ Software
- ☐ Taxation of Individuals
- ☐ Pre-Algebra
- ☐ **Friday/Saturday 5:30-8:30 p.m.**
- ☐ Political and Social Philosophy
- ☐ Elementary Spanish
- ☐ **Monday/Thursday 11:30 a.m.-1:05 p.m.**
- ☐ Personal Financial Management

For information on how to register, contact Majda at 762-7074.

Notes



Here's an update on some of the theme park special offers reported in last week's issue:

☐ In case you were worried about not being able to take advantage of Disney World's "Armed Forces Salute" because you will be released from active duty when you get back, have no fear. David Brady of Walt Disney World Media Relations told the Talon this week, "As long as a reservist can demonstrate proof of an active

duty assignment during the eligibility period – Sept. 1, 2002 to Dec. 19, 2003 – he or she will be able to take advantage of Disney's offer."

☐ The offers keep coming. Sandals and Beaches Resorts is offering a three-night travel certificate to servicemembers who fill out an application on line. Check it out at www3.sandals.com/general/operation-relax.cfm.

More to come next week.

Celebration

Music and dance highlighted the Turkish National Sovereignty Day and Children's Festival in Zenica last month. Students and teachers from schools throughout Zenica, Zavidovici and Vares, and soldiers from the Turkish Battalion and other SFOR nations participated in the annual daylong event April 23.



by Turkish Army 2nd Lt. Omer Citter