

MAY 30, 2003

TALON



Memorial Day on Eagle Base

Inside this issue:

**Guard sergeant major visits troops
Snapshots**

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TALON

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Money Matters Finance provides pay support

by **Capt. Michael J. Diaz**
249th Finance Detachment

In finance, we often hear that all we do is pay soldiers. While military pay support is a crucial mission of the Finance Corps, it is only a portion of what the 249th Finance Detachment does during daily business.

Hopefully, you've had the opportunity to interact with one of the 25 finance soldiers on Eagle Base, Camp Butmir and Taszar Base. If not, this article will serve as an introduction to the unit.

The 249th Finance Detachment, Texas Army National Guard, is one of the subordinate units from the 49th Finance Battalion.

The detachment has been called to active duty three times within the last twelve years for Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and most recently for Stabilization Force 3.

Several current members of the 249th are serving a second tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their prior experience has been invaluable to our mission success for SFOR 13.

As far as the facilities are concerned, it is much better here the second time around according to the soldiers.

The two main focus areas for a deployed finance unit are military pay support and disbursing. It is important to note that the Defense Finance & Accounting Service actually makes electronic payments to individual soldiers. However, the 249th acts as a liaison for soldier pay support issues.

Our military pay customer



Diaz

service window is located in Bldg. 1021 on Eagle Base on Salute Alley. They are committed to providing excellent customer service and timely follow up.

The disbursing mission encompasses all cash operations including check cashing services, foreign currency conversions, casual payments, cash collections, accounting classifications and contract payments.

Commercial vendor services encompass the payment of all contracts for everything from electricity for Eagle Base to movies at the Fest Tent.

Our cashier cage is also located in Bldg. 1021. It provides finance support to all U.S. soldiers, NATO soldiers, DA Civilians and contractors. Its hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturdays. We have extended our hours on Wednesdays until 8 p.m. to support FMPP and to provide soldiers an additional opportunity to visit finance.

Don't hesitate to visit our friendly finance staff. We are dedicated to customer service excellence. We hope that we will be able to "Make your day."



About the cover: Capt. Chris Cline plays Taps during a Memorial Day service at Minue Park on Eagle Base. by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy.

This week in SFOR History

May 31, 1996

Live-fire scenarios were executed last week as the first artillery unit under the 1st Armored Division rotated through a new artillery range in Glamoc in IFOR's British sector.

May 30, 1997

Pvt. Shannon Oxford, a medic with HHC, 2nd Battalion/2nd Infantry Regiment, was the first female soldier to drive the M-577 armored personnel carrier and is only one of three females in the entire battalion.

May 29, 1998

Camp McGovern became a hive of activity May 11, as a detachment of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 and employees of Brown and Root began work on the expansion of the camp.

May 27, 2000

Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted air assault training May 11 and 12 at Camp McGovern in preparation for Operation Joint Resolve later this month.

June 2, 2001

Troops from the six countries making up the Nordic-Polish Battle Group came together May 20 to receive the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal. Soldiers from Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden gathered for the ceremony.

May 31, 2002

Stabilization Force soldiers stationed at Eagle Base kicked off their Memorial Day weekend sports fest May 24 with the first games of weekend-long sand volleyball and softball tournaments.

It's better to give and receive

by Spc. Felicia Whitley
Contributing Writer

The Eagle Base post office is kept running by the 312th Adjutant General Company (Postal) from Charlotte, N.C., 4 a.m.-midnight seven days a week, processing outgoing mail and unloading, breaking down, sorting, directing and dispersing incoming mail for soldiers.

"I like to see everyone get mail. I enjoy seeing care packages come in for soldiers. It demonstrates the support and love from back home," said operations NCOIC Staff Sgt. Christopher Pugh.

Pugh supervises the breakdown of the incoming mail. He oversees the 4 a.m. shift unloading the mail truck from Frankfurt, Germany, which often carries 200 parcels.

"My responsibilities extend to sorting, locating and distributing mail to the outlining base camps: Camp Dobojo, Sarajevo, Connor, McGovern and Taszar."

Pugh said the job can be hectic and laborious – especially during rotation transitions and major holidays, but he likes the pace.

Spc. Cheryl Racki is a finance clerk with the postal company. She meets and greets each customer with a smile.

"It's all about the people," she said. "I love working with people. I try to approach each customer with a positive attitude so they can leave with a smile. That is what makes being a finance clerk at the post office nice."

The postal soldiers emphasize the closeness of friends and camaraderie of shift crews when they're asked what makes working in the post office so unique.

"I wish all of us could be together instead of



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

"It's all about the people," says Spc. Cheryl Racki, shown here taking care of postal customer Spc. Carlos Gutierrez.

spread out at various base camps," said finance clerk Spc. Maurice Laney.

"I look forward to all of us coming together and heading home."

The postal detachment currently has members mobilized throughout the Balkans and in the Middle East.

"It's a good experience," said operations clerk Spc. Eddie Whitaker.

"Yes we miss home, but seeing the people (when they receive mail) reminds us why we

are here."

Whitaker said he's enjoying his tour in Bosnia, and appreciates the opportunity to serve in a country that has seen so much devastation and turmoil. He feels he's making a difference, on Eagle Base and elsewhere, just by lending his presence to Stabilization Force 13.

"We are here to keep it from happening again – and that makes us proud of what we do. It's an experience that not everyone has the chance to do."

Benefits, deployments hot topics for base Guardsmen

by Spc. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

Health insurance, retirement and pay were the top concerns of soldiers who had breakfast with the Army National Guard's top enlisted soldier recently.

Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III visited with the junior enlisted soldiers on Eagle Base as part of an eight-day tour of Armed Forces in Europe.

Lever answered questions from the soldiers about their various concerns at Eagle Base and within the Army National Guard.

"The depth of the questions asked were remarkable," said Lever. "The level of thinkers that the Guard has is an indicator of how important of a role (the Guard) plays in the military."

Among the topics discussed during the breakfast were health insurance legislation on Capitol Hill, the possibility of Guardsmen retiring at the age of 55, and the pay con-

trast between civilians working for the military and soldiers who do the same job as those civilians.

Another topic broached by the Guardsmen to Lever was the subject of mobilization, and the hardships faced during long-term or consecutive deployments.

"We need to be able to give soldiers some sort of predictability in order for them to try and juggle their civilian lives," Lever said.

Although Lever agreed that the current level of predictability is not where he'd like it to be, the Army is getting better, he said. He cited as evidence the efforts being made planning future deployments.

Lever said that manning for future Stabilization Forces are already planned in Bosnia and Herzegovina through September 2006. Operation Noble Eagle 3, the homeland defense operation, is already planned as well, he said.



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard A. Frank Lever III, presents a coin to Spc. Brandon Schatz during the May 22 breakfast.

Memorial Day weekend

A time for leisure, activities, and remembrance

Eagle Base celebrated Memorial Day weekend May 24-26 with a variety of sports activities, a memorial service and, finally, a barbecue at Minue Park Monday.

Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer. But it is also a time of remembrance.

Memorial Day is the day America pauses to pay tribute to the men and women who have fought and died for this country while serving in the Armed Forces. From the snow and cold of Valley Forge to the sand and heat of Baghdad, they made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation. In doing so, they preserve the privileges of freedom, democracy, and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States today.

Remember. This is for them.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

(Above) Col. Larry Wilson and Master Sgt. Pat Pierson salute during the playing of the national anthem at the Memorial Day service at Minue Park.

(Left) Sgt. Michael Howell plays Taps at the end of the service.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

(Above right) From the left: Staff Sgt. Martin Schmiedeler, Sgt. 1st Class John Vacca, and Staff Sgt. John Speer bow their heads for a moment of silence during the Memorial Day service.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Timothy Moses pitches during one of the softball tournament games held over the weekend.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Members of Task Force Medical Eagle chill out Sunday afternoon behind the Lone Star Ranch barracks, enjoying the sun, music and cold drinks.

ITT force specializes in protection

by Maj. Kirk Slaughter
35th ID PAO

You're a U.S. civilian who has just recently been hired to protect American soldiers performing peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. You arrive in BiH, and receive two weeks of formal training in weapons, defensive tactics, anti-terrorism, first aid and CPR.

Your first assignment is to perform security operations at one of the entry control points leading into one of the MNB (North) installations. Two weeks have passed and you are encountered by a drunk and disorderly individual who comes at you with an ax. He won't stop. What do you do? Shout, "Stop, or I will shoot"? Right answer, wrong language — you're in Bosnia, the individual does not understand you.

"Stani ... ili pucam!" shout 34 new recruits of the ITT Force Protection Team. The recruits, or force protection specialists, have arrived and soon will be fulfilling their one-year contract with ITT.



photos by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

ITT force protection specialists James Lewis (middle) and Mark Hunter demonstrate their search techniques at Eagle Base's Pedestrian Gate.

ground in law enforcement, which gives them a better use of judgment when dealing with high levels of stress," said Brian Stevens, force protection specialist and a native of Nashville, Tenn. Stevens is the certified instructor for the new recruits' defensive tactics training.

"We have everyone from the basic infantry trained soldier to special forces, as well as police officers and county sheriffs who have extensive SWAT or K-9 training," said Dasse.

New recruit, Nathan Eggleston from Dallas, Texas, is among the ITT force protection specialists receiving training. He recently was assigned in Mosul, Iraq, where he provided security to stateside doctors after the war in Iraq.

"Always remembering that safety is first is the most important thing. Secondly, we must gain the trust of those we will be working with — the trust begins here in training," said Eggleston.

ITT Industries' Systems Division, is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., and employs personnel throughout 19 states and 23 countries, providing a full spectrum of logistical and technical communications support, said Fernando Carreon. Carreon is the operations manager for

the Bosnia Task Force Eagle Force Protection contract.

Carreon said the force protection specialist's duty on Eagle Base involves providing force protection and control at the entry control points leading onto the installation and along the base perimeter.

"Every force protection specialist understands that lives depend on how well we do our job."

— Kenneth Campbell

Force protection specialists are permitted to use force as necessary, as are their military police counterparts, in

accordance with the rules of engagement. They are not permitted to arrest or incarcerate individuals, so, after detaining disruptive individuals the MPs take custody of them.

"We take our force protection mission here in Bosnia very seriously. Every force protection specialist understands that lives depend on how well we do our job," said Kenneth Campbell, ITT project manager.

"This is a unique profession where one seemingly minor oversight can have unacceptable consequences."



Force protection specialist Peter M. Capotosto (forefront) and other new ITT recruits learn self-defense techniques during recent training at Peregory Fitness Center.

Their job is to protect you as you work and sleep during your rotation here in Bosnia.

The incident above recently occurred at one of the gates on Eagle Base. The situation was resolved without incident because the force protection specialists have "a good back-

"In order to get hired by ITT you must have some type of law enforcement, military experience or three years of security experience," said Frederick Dasse, force protection specialist, a native from Orlando, Fla., and assistant instructor.

Snapshots

Photos capture MNB (North) days



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

(Clockwise from top left) Staff Sgt. Joseph Maks congratulates ASG patrol dog Dax on receiving the U.S. Army Commendation Medal; The Protestant Praise Group rehearses at the Eagle Base chapel recently; Sgt. Landice Cutrell and Capt. Trent Player carry the South Carolina state flag across the finish line during the May 17 DANCON 30 kilometer road march; Sgt. Staci Rogers takes it nice and easy at the Lone Star Ranch; Soldiers from Task Force Medical Eagle and the Polish army hoist cups of coffee at Alma's Juice Bar; Sgt. 1st Class Shon Ward (left), Spc. Carlos Benavidez and Sgt. Jarrod Dortch take a liquid break at the Rendez-vous Coffee Bar.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Missouri



Missouri state trooper killed

KANSAS CITY – A Missouri Highway Patrol trooper died May 22 when a pickup slammed into his patrol car in a traffic stop on Interstate 70, causing the car to burst into flames.

The trooper, trapped inside, burned to death. In the passenger seat next to him was the driver of the car that he had stopped, and that motorist was critically burned. The driver of the pickup that hit them also was injured.

Trooper Micheal Newton, 25, of Higginsville, Mo., died at the scene.

The wreck occurred about 7 a.m. on eastbound I-70, about one mile west of Higginsville in Lafayette County.

– courtesy *Kansas City Star*

High School Baseball Class 1 Standings

1. Oran
2. Sparta
3. Morrisville-MCE
4. Newburg
5. Golden City
6. Concordia
7. Dadeville
8. Chaffee
9. Madison
10. Lamonte

South Carolina



State OKs Sunday liquor sales

SUMMERVILLE – Like a bartender working the beer tap on nickel-draft night, the S.C. Revenue Department keeps flipping its rulings on Sunday alcohol sales.

The latest news is that the state agency authorized the sale of off-premises permits May 21, said Summerville Town Administrator Mark Williams.

That means alcohol can be sold on Sunday in stores as well as in restaurants.

The decision comes a day

after the Revenue Department approved the sale of Sunday alcohol permits to restaurants only.

– courtesy *The State*

Track State Championship Class AAAA Boys

1. Spring Valley
2. Berkeley
3. Ridge View
4. Stratford
5. Beaufort
6. Richland Northeast
7. Summerville
8. Spartanburg
9. Westside
10. Northwestern

Wisconsin



GOP pushes property tax freeze

MADISON – Assembly Republicans on May 22 proposed a two-year statewide property tax freeze as a way to shield taxpayers - a plan that was quickly denounced by Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle as an “attack on local government.”

Although Assembly leadership touted the freeze as a way to give homeowners and businesses some needed tax relief, Senate Republicans

stopped short of embracing the proposal.

– courtesy *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*

Boys Track Rankings

1. Milwaukee Marquette
2. Arrowhead
3. Wauwatosa West
4. Brookfield Central
5. Germantown
6. Grafton
7. Hartford
8. Milwaukee Bradley Tech
9. Menomonee Falls
10. South Milwaukee

9/11 spurs teacher back to the military classroom

by Maj. James Billings
343rd MPAD

Tim Flannagan is looking for a few good thinkers.

“Come and think with Flannagan” is a slogan the University of Maryland professor uses to promote his classes in philosophy, science and computing.

There is a reason this Australian native traded in his tweed jacket and wingtips for BDUs and combat boots. Shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, he left his well-paid, comfortable job as a consultant for the Australian military.

“It was an attack not just on the United States, but on me, personally, and everything I’ve ever known,” he says.

Flannagan felt the Global War on Terrorism would be one of brains, not necessarily brawn. As a longtime teacher and with a doctorate in mathematics and logic, he decided there was something he could do – go back to teaching.

“I’ve always loved teaching,” he says.

He had taught with the University of Maryland once before, from 1994 to 1999 at Leakenheath, England – a time he calls “the most satisfying period of my life.”

“I loved those guys and they loved me,” he says of the U.S. military he taught there. “They loved me teaching and I loved teaching them.”

He returned to Australia in 1999, but found he missed teaching and daily interaction with U.S. servicemembers.

After 9/11, he decided he needed to be with them again.

“I didn’t particularly want the comfortable life,” he says. “I felt I had to be in there with them.”

He hopped on a plane to Heidelberg, Germany, went to the University of Maryland office there and said, “I want to come back!”

Last winter, he taught soldiers at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. He has been in Bosnia since March.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

“I’ve always loved teaching,” said Tim Flannagan, shown here instructing a class recently on computing at the Education Center on Eagle Base.

Flannagan says subjects such as mathematics and science should be more than memorizing formulas.

“Mathematics is fundamentally about logic,” he says. “The ability to think well augments the life.”

Teaching people a way of thinking about problems – not

memorizing solutions – is a key part of Flannagan’s approach with his students.

“I tell them to forget everything they’ve ever learned about science and mathematics,” subjects

he says are usually taught wrong.

He uses words such as “elegant” and “exciting” when referring to math – words not normally associated with a subject many find dreary and dull.

While Flannagan faults many educators for teaching math and science to be dry, he’s more concerned with the students in his own classroom.

“The important students are mine,” he says. “It’s a matter of Tim Flannagan doing what he can.”

“It was an attack not just on the United States, but on me, personally, and everything I’ve ever known.”

News You Can Use

Notes



Don't go there ...

Before you head out on your pass to Hungary, pay attention.

Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason has declared the following establishments temporarily off-limits to all U.S. military personnel assigned to Task Force Eagle:

- ☒ Aphrodite Club
- ☒ Mephisto Club
- ☒ District VI
- ☒ Mukatli Espresso
- ☒ Sweet Milk
- ☒ Fortuna Varoskozpont
- ☒ Tropical Bar
- ☒ Pigali Cabaret
- ☒ Piccolo
- ☒ Table Dance
- ☒ Lola (changed to Nirvana)
- ☒ Calligula Bar
- ☒ Dolce Vita
- ☒ Crazy Horse
- ☒ Ecstasy Club
- ☒ Grand Boulevard
- ☒ Showgirls Nightclub
- ☒ Tiamo Nightclub
- ☒ Torony Eatery
- ☒ Captain Jacks
- ☒ Zug-Love
- ☒ Vaci Street Nightclubs
- ☒ after 2300

Members of Task Force Eagle are prohibited from entering or conducting business in these establishments. Those doing so are subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or other adverse actions.

This temporary ban expires June 29, but is likely to be reissued. Watch this space for further announcements.

More offers coming

Special offers for military personnel keep coming. Here's the latest:

Members of the military will be given a complimentary Universal Bonus Pass — good for five days unlimited admission to **Universal Studios Florida** and Universal's **Islands of Adventure** and select Universal CityWalk clubs. In addition, up to five family members and friends of each member of the military will be able to purchase a five-day Bonus Pass for \$50 plus tax each. Tickets available **ONLY** at Universal Orlando Resort theme park front gates.

To get the pass, you must show active ID upon purchase and members of the National Guard and Reservists must show proper ID along with duty papers indicating they are currently active or had been activated sometime in 2003. All tickets in

this program, including additional friends and family Bonus Tickets purchased, must be initially used on day of issue and expire within five consecutive calendar days *beginning* on the day of issue. Ticket expires on December 19th, so first usage must be no later than December 15th. Not valid for separately ticket special events such as Rock The Universe and Halloween Horror Nights. Visiting friends and relatives must be accompanied by the serviceperson to receive discount(s) or their spouse may show photo ID and other proper ID -- such as dependent ID -- to receive up to five discounted tickets at \$50 plus tax each.

MWR



Eagle Base Unit Level Volleyball League May 21 Standings League A

1. Airforce 1, 401st EABG, 15-0
2. Kelly's Heroes, TF Orphan, 13-2
3. The Vikings, DANSQN, 13-2
4. Postal Inspectors, 312th Postal, 9-5-1
5. Mad Medics, TFME, 9-6

MWR



6. Law Dawgs, 35th MP Co, 9-6
 6. Elfen Magic, JMA, 9-5-1
 7. No Names, 1-108th Avn, 7-8
 8. Ruffnecks, E Co, 245th ATS, 7-7-1
 8. Slusher Crushers, HHC, 35th ID, 6-8-1
 10. IO-IO, HHC, 35th ID, 5-10
 9. LOGSU, HHC, 35th ID, G4 Ops, 4-11
 10. Demons, A/4-118 IN (M), 4-10-1
 11. Shutterbugs, PAO, 4-10-1
 11. Dawgs, 645th PSD, 3-9-3
 12. Witch Doctors, 86th Med Co, 2-6-7
- League B

1. FINCON, 13-1-1
2. Vipers, ITT, 13-2
3. Night Shifters, TFE White House, 12-3
4. One Each, 1-109th Avn Bn, 10-4
4. House of Pain, MWR, 10-4
4. Latin Connection, 260th MI Bn, 9-6
5. Aceholes, 35th ID, 8-6
5. Sappers, C Co, 206th Eng Bn, 8-5-2
5. Dominators, 35th ID (G1, SGS, JVB), 7-7-1
6. Airforce 2, 401st EABG, 7-8
7. Good Ol' Boys, TF Warrior, 6-9
8. Team Sabot, TF Orphan, 6-9
9. Eagles, ASG, 5-8-1
10. Medic Mutts, TFME, 2-10-2
11. Falcons, 6250th TFME, 2-11-2
12. G6 Freqs, HHC, 35th ID G6, 1-13-1

Mad dash



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Runners at the May 25 Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored 5k run make a sprint toward the finish line. From left: Spc. James Huff, Capt. Peter Kowalewski, Spc. Todd Partain and Kristine Little.