

JUNE 6, 2003

TALON



RMC departure

Inside this issue:

VTC wedding

Faces in the Crowd

Task Force Eagle www.tfeagle.army.mil

TALON

Published in support of
Operation Joint Forge
June 6, 2003
Volume 10, No.11

**Commander,
Multinational Brigade (N)**
Brig. Gen.
James R. "Ron" Mason

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Jeff Coverdale

**Deputy PAO/
Media Operations Chief**
Maj. Kirk Slaughter

**Commander, 343rd MPAD/
Command Information Officer**
Maj. James Billings

Information OPS Officer
Capt. Deborah McCoy

**Managing Editor/
Media Operations Officer**
2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

NCOIC, 343rd MPAD/Editor
Master Sgt.
D. Keith Johnson

Assistant Editor
Sgt. 1st Class
Ronald D. Covington

Journalist
Spc. Guy D. Choate

Broadcast NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Stribling

Broadcaster
Spc. John C. Graves

Media Specialists
Aleksandar Ilic
Nedima Hadziibrisevic
Dunja Vujadinovic

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.

Combat Stress Control Mission mentality is critical

by Capt. Nancy Martin
Task Force Medical Eagle

"Gone crazy. Back in 5 minutes."

It's funny on a bumper sticker, but in a forward deployed environment, maintaining mission mentality is critical to achieving mission safety, completion and success.

Providing the Combat Stress Control component to Task Force Medical Eagle for Stabilization Force 13 is a team from the 1493rd Medical Detachment, based in Durham, N.C.

The team consists of clinical psychologist Capt. Nancy Martin, clinical social worker, 1st Lt. Rodney Kelley, and behavioral health technicians, Staff Sgt. Kurtis Cherry and Spc. Willie Johnson.

While most soldiers' first reaction to CSC is that we deal with "crazy" people, the main thrust of CSC is actually prevention and performance enhancement.

With suicide being the second leading cause of death in the U.S. military, our team works a very aggressive schedule of briefings and clinics with the goal of preventing stress and problems from building up



Martin

to a point where soldiers feel "crazy."

We work very closely with the medical staff as well as the chaplains to reach as many soldiers as possible.

By educating troops on how to identify and deal with stress, we enable them to perform at their best when situations worsen.

We provide instruction in other areas, including anger management, tobacco cessation, communication and other areas of performance.

Our goal is for soldiers to know what their resources are if problems do develop. We are available to assist individuals with a broad range of concerns and problems in a confidential environment.

One unique program that CSC currently supports is "Pet Therapy with Sasha." Almost everyone on Eagle Base knows Sasha from the USO.

Her owner, Linda, graciously allows us to borrow Sasha one day per week so that she can visit patients at the hospital, or visit soldiers at work, such as at the post office, or the air ambulance flight line. She can also be signed out to go for walks. Many soldiers miss their pets at home and Sasha adds something special.

CSC also supports humanitarian projects to a local orphanage and a refugee camp. These are opportunities for soldiers to see the interaction we can have on the community, as well as share time with the children at the orphanage.

These are huge morale boosters and we enjoy sponsoring the projects because of their positive impact.

Soldiers come to us from a variety of military backgrounds. Everyone's goal is the same: to perform well in their jobs and successfully return home.

At CSC, borrowing from the 3M Co., our motto is: "We don't make the warriors. We make the warriors perform better."

Soldiers and children play an impromptu soccer game during one of the Combat Stress Control-sponsored trips to a local refugee camp.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



"To be free of destructive stress, don't sweat the small stuff and realize that all stuff is small."

— Author Unknown

About the cover: Members of the Russian Military Contingent lower the flag at the departure ceremony at Camp Ugljevik May 28. by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy.

Soldiers explore faith at Medjugorje

Story and photo by
Maj. James Billings
343rd MPAD

Soldiers from Multinational Brigade (North) joined worshippers from around the globe last week on a visit to Medjugorje in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don

Davidson led 38 Task Force Eagle soldiers on a spiritual fitness retreat to the renowned site, where Mary is reported to have appeared to six children since 1981.

"It's very easy, in today's world, to see God as something far off, unknowable, untouchable," Davidson said. He called

the visit to Medjugorje "a catalyst to experience God in an entirely new way."

On June 24, 1981, six children in Medjugorje reported seeing a vision of Mary, known as the Blessed Mother to Roman Catholics. Most of the visionaries continue to report daily messages from Mary. The basic messages urge followers to conversion, prayer, fasting, faith, peace and reconciliation.

"Those are very solid themes that can do good in everybody's lives," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Thomlison, chaplain assistant for Task Force Husker at Camp McGovern.

Thomlison said Mary's messages – especially those calling for a return to daily prayer – led him to seek peace "not only between God and myself, but between myself and others."

The group arrived at Medjugorje just in time to attend the English Mass at St. James' Parish Church. Worshipers, many elderly, some in wheelchairs, crowded the sanctuary to hear the Mass celebrated by priests from several

different nations.

"I love 'standing room only' at a Mass," said Capt. Robert Kadavy, of Lincoln, Neb., adjutant for Task Force Husker.

Kadavy said the trip was personally meaningful for him because his parents have visited other sites of Marian apparitions such as Lourdes, France; Fatima, Portugal; and Guadalupe, Mexico.

"It brought me closer to my family," Kadavy said.

Most important to him, though, was reciting the rosary while climbing Apparition Hill, where the children first saw the vision of Mary.

The Mass – with its different accents and powerful devotion – was a highlight of the trip for Davidson.

"The unifying factor was the body of Christ," he said.

More trips planned

Three more trips to Medjugorje are planned during SFOR 13. The dates are:

– June 16-18

– July 21-23

– Aug. 10-12

For more information, see your task force chaplain.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Don Davison of the 35th ID's Information Operations section looks at a statue of Mary on Apparition Hill in Medjugorje. The site, a shrine for Roman Catholics, is where six children have reported visions of Mary since 1981.

Missouri couple says 'I do' via VTC

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

At Eagle Base's 24-hour Cyber Café across from the Balkan Grille, many soldiers are chatting with their loved ones who are back in the United States. Everything was normal when the clerk came in at 9 p.m. to settle in for the night shift. But things began to get a little strange around 9:30 when soldiers came in saying they were part of the Luethe wedding party.

Friends of the groom filed in towards the video teleconferencing room with cameras in hand. At five minutes until the wedding was to begin, the groom still had not shown, which sparked the regular wedding jokes, "I guess he changed his mind."

Finally, Spc. Calvin G. Luethe, of the 35th Infantry Di-

vision (Mech.) G-3 section, showed up to wed his bride, Patricia Hutchison.

As Patricia stood at an altar with a chaplain at the armory at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., she looked into a television screen to see her man in uniform.

The Luethe's wedding had all of the details of a normal wedding; vows were exchanged, tears were shed, and of course, the preacher was asked to repeat some things because some of his sermon was inaudible due to VTC connections. That's not normal?

So, why would anyone ever want to have their wedding over VTC?

"It was my idea," said the groom. "We are still going to have a full-blown wedding when I get back," he said.

Calvin is from Belton, Mo., while Patricia is from Kansas City, Mo.

Their lives crossed when Patricia and her sister were returning home from work when their car had a flat tire.

As luck would have it, Calvin was on his way to work

when he came across a couple of damsels in distress. Being the good gentleman that he is, Calvin stopped and mended the problem at hand. And the rest is history.



Spc. Calvin G. Luethe smiles in Eagle Base's Cyber Café as he watches his bride, Patricia Hutchison, take her wedding vows at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The two were married recently via videoteleconference. The couple plans a "full-blown" wedding when he returns this fall.

Russian Military Contingent heads home

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson
343rd MPAD

The Russians are going home. After seven years of peacekeeping in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russian Military Contingent lowered its flag for the last time during a departure ceremony here on May 28.

The Russians started their mission in 1996 with approximately 1,500 soldiers, but those numbers have been dwindling in recent years.

Several dignitaries addressed the contingent during the ceremony.

“Your successful activities not only supported the prestige of the Russian Federation armed force, but also demonstrated the effectiveness of cooperation with military contingents of different countries, including the cooperation of Russia and NATO,” said Col. Sergey Mikhailovich Shakurin, the current Russian commander.

Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, Stabilization Force commander, commended the soldiers for their effort. For the Russians to be able to leave, according to Ward, was “a very positive sign of the progress of this country.”

Ward expected the transition to be “very smooth and seamless to the population.”

“In no way does this mean that the commitment of NATO to ensuring a safe and secure environment here is any way at all reduced,” said Ward.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

(Above) Dignitaries attending the departure ceremony salute the Russian soldiers.



(Right) Lt. Gen. William E. Ward presents a plaque to Russian Military Contingent commander Col. Sergey Mikhailovich Shakurin.

by Spc. Guy D. Choate



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

(Above) Adm. Gregory Johnson, commander, Allied Forces Southern Europe, talks to several Russian soldiers after the departure ceremony.

(Right) Russian Military Contingent soldiers stand in formation during the departure ceremony.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

PLDC preparatory class

Tomorrow's sergeants prepare today

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

"No one is more professional than I," begins the creed of the noncommissioned officer, and it was also the theme to Sgt. Joseph Beasley's four primary leadership development preparation classes on Eagle Base May 24 and 29.

PLDC is the initial class taken by all NCOs. It teaches the principal skills and leadership needed to perform at the squad level, which calls every NCO to "Be, Know, and Do".

"PLDC prepares prospective and newly promoted sergeants to perform the duties and execute the responsibilities of junior noncommissioned officers," said Beasley of Olathe, Kan.

"Sergeant Beasley takes 'Be, Know, and Do', and the NCO creed very seriously," said Capt. Bradley Burns, Beasley's supervisor at the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) G-2 intelligence section. Burns said that these soldiers who are Beasley's subordinates today would be his peers tomorrow. "This is his chance to be part of their development."

As an example of putting soldiers needs above his own, Beasley took his time to put the class together after many soldiers brought him concerns about reading maps and leading formations. The class was offered to all soldiers assigned to Multinational Brigade (North) who are planning to attend PLDC.

Burns said the class would give the soldiers direction on the areas they should study.

More than 65 students were taught an overview of land navigation, drill and ceremonies, and physical fitness. Beasley and



Spc. Phillip Weaver, left, Sgt. Matthew Barnes, and Spc. Jennifer Wolf plot coordinates during the land navigation part of the training.

his assistant instructor taught four intensive three-hour classes between the two days.

As an assistant instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Bernard L. Deghand, G-3 operations NCO from Hoyt, Kan., shared his land navigation and map-reading skills with the classes. He brought with him first-hand experience as a past instructor and many years as a field artilleryman.

The students were attentive to the instruction, and reached steps toward their goals. "I found the class informative, and the kind of training you can never get enough of," said Cpl. Michael St. Jacques, from Derby, Conn., a member of the 645th Personnel Service Detachment. "I will take

what I learned today and use it to prepare for PLDC."

In addition to the hands-on training, the soldiers also learned which publications they will need to use for future references to allow them to be the best they can be.

"This class is to help alleviate any concerns, and build the confidence of these future leaders," said Beasley.

In hopes that these students go on to be the best possible leaders, Beasley said he would like to see his entire class pass PLDC.

"These soldiers are the future leaders of the Army, and I want them to be successful now and in all their future endeavors," said Beasley.

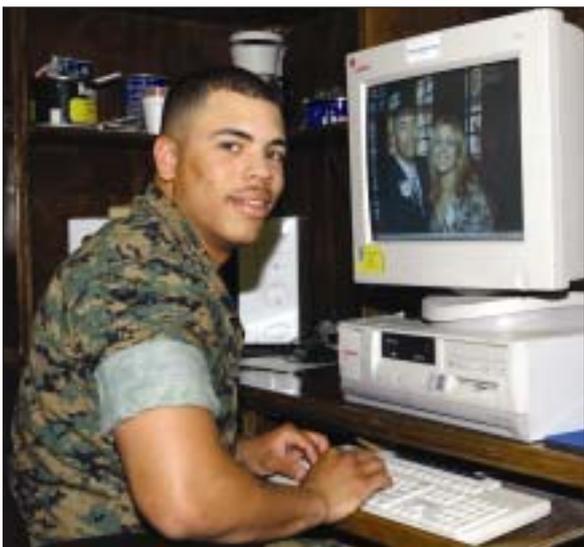


by Capt. Bryan Tolar

Easy does it

Staff Sgt. Hershel W. Scruggs, left, and Spc. William D. Ross secure hand grenades during Operation Active Harvest in the Task Force South area of operations. Scruggs, of Gaffney, S.C., and Ross, of Spartanburg, S.C., are members of Company A, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment.

A look at some of the Faces in the Crowd



Lance Cpl. Wiljason Miller

Job: System administrator for CRONOS and SFOR Wide Area Network. Miller is one of four military technicians – two U.S. Air Force airmen and one German Army NCO — within the Headquarters SFOR Operations and Maintenance Team Detachment in charge of maintaining NATO/SFOR secure computer networks in MNB (North).

Family: Wife, Michelle, and daughter, Bryanna, 3.

“Learned a lot”: Miller enjoys his job and lifestyle on Eagle Base. “I have learned a lot about how a computer network runs,” he said. Being the only U.S. Marine stationed on Eagle Base, one may think Miller would feel a bit uncomfortable, but he doesn’t mind standing out. “It’s actually pretty cool being the only one representing the Marine Corps,” he said.

Goals: Once his tour in the Balkans ends, Miller would like to visit his family in New York and Florida. He plans on continuing his service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and pursuing an education in information systems.

Hobbies: “Martial arts, basketball – I love playing sports.”

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

2nd Lt. Jarmo Jortikka

Hometown: Oulu, Finland

Military Job: Jarmo Jortikka is an engineer and a project officer in the Finnish Army Reserves in charge of reconstruction projects to include roads, bridges, and houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His position deals with the contracting of the donating companies and the builders.

“I like how everyday is different. I don’t have to be in the office all the time. I will be out dealing with the contractors daily,” said Jortikka.

Civilian Occupation: Back home, Jortikka is a college student studying polytechnics, similar to our school of business.

Hobbies: “I miss the midnight sun in Finland summers. We are so north it is sunny all the time in the summer,” said Jortikka. The Finnish don’t work in the summer and if he were home he said he would be “fishing and relaxing”.

Experience in Bosnia: Jortikka has spent fifteen months here. He finds being at Eagle Base “a good experience working abroad with good people. As an officer, I now have quite a bit more freedom but more responsibility too.”

by Spc. Felicia Whitley



Staff Sgt. Frank Ambriz

Unit: 1st Platoon, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment, Nebraska Army National Guard.

Family: Ambriz, his wife Rebecca, and their two children, Anthia, 13, and Elia, 9 months live in Omaha, Neb.

Military service: Ambriz is a patrol leader. He and his seven soldiers speak to the populace and community leaders promoting peace to ensure stability here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ambriz supported a peacekeeping mission during Desert Spring in 2001. He said he appreciates the facilities and assistance the soldiers receive in Bosnia. He remembers the lines that were created from having two phones between 40 people.

Civilian Job: Ambriz is a director of environmental services in an Omaha hospital.

Goals: He said he plans to take a head start class to learn the new culture and experience Bosnia. “I want to improve my skills and make better soldiers of my squad,” said Ambriz. He also has an educational goal to complete his degree in management.

Hobbies: Ambriz enjoys martial arts, swimming, jogging, reading, and hopes to be the strongest person in his power lifting weight class before the end of this rotation.

by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington



On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Alabama



Riley urges tax plan support

BIRMINGHAM – Gov. Bob Riley urged dozens of black religious and community leaders Sunday to support his \$1.2 billion plan to create a premier education program, a fairer tax system and greater public accountability.

He exhorted members of the United Fellowship Breakfast Forum, who gather weekly to address civic and social issues, to seek the same excellence in education and government demanded of Alabama football.

The Republican governor flanked by Democrat congressman Artur Davis, state Rep. John Rogers of Birmingham, Jefferson County Commissioner Shelia Smoot and Birmingham City Council president Lee Loder called for blacks and whites regardless of party to unite for reform.

Riley said he was tired of seeing Alabama consistently ranked near the bottom on a range of issues and hoped to give his grandchildren something better than excuses.

– Birmingham News

Texas



Lawmakers hurry to pass bills

AUSTIN – In the last hours of the legislative session, state leaders scurried through the Capitol on Sunday like a team of emergency doctors trying to save important patients. They managed to resuscitate a dead ethics bill, transplant money and supply oxygen to a college tuition deregulation plan.

Leaders and their staffs huddled with lawmakers into the evening, working out compromises and lending their muscle to deals that

helped pass a budget, tighten ethics rules, let colleges set their own tuition rates and create a multistate lottery game.

The Legislature juggled more than 150 bills on Sunday – about a dozen of them significant pieces of legislation designed to raise hundreds of millions of dollars and drastically trim social services. The state budget hinged on agreements tucked into some of the measures.

– Dallas Morning News

Washington



Tacoma university eyes future

TACOMA – The University of Washington Tacoma this week will unveil its latest vision of the future: an updated master plan that includes on-campus housing, more green space and the demolition of a dilapidated icon.

The university will hold two information sessions today about its latest campus master plan, which will guide

development of the campus for years to come.

One of its chief features is a proposed \$21 million housing and parking complex at South 17th and Market streets. UW officials have been negotiating with Lorig Associates of Seattle to build about 94 apartments and a 300-space parking garage.

– Tacoma News-Tribune



Sp. Joshua R.F. Harris plays reveille for his fellow soldiers at Camp McGovern.

Tuba player blows reveille early – and low

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

343rd MPAD

Reveille comes early at Camp McGovern – and a little bit lower.

Sp. Joshua R. F. Harris of Lincoln, Neb., wakes Task Force Husker up with his tuba before heading off to make sure each soldier receives his mail. Harris is an administration specialist who serves as the mail clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Battalion, 167th Cavalry Squadron. He said it is a real moral booster for the troops to receive their mail promptly.

Harris said his tuba hitched a ride from Fort Riley, Kan., in a shipping container.

“At first, many people didn’t even know me by name, only the tuba player,” he said.

Once he was recognized in Germany as the tuba player, he was asked to play reveille in January. After many mornings of being awakened by the low, shallow tones, many soldiers retaliated with snowballs.

Even though the tuba is a large instrument, it is still a very sensitive one. It did not take many shots with snowballs in Germany before the commander put the tuba on the endangered-species list: “no snowballs.” Harris was safe from the snowball attack as long as he carried his tuba.

Harris said that his tuba has become much lighter over the years and is much easier to carry than when he started in the seventh grade. He said his high school music teacher, Terry Rush, really inspired him. Harris said that Rush not only opened his band room to all his students, but also his heart as he helped the students through the trials of adolescence.

Harris opens his own talents to others. He is part of the chapel band, which includes saxophone, trumpet, guitar, percussion, and bass players.

“I enjoy playing in the chapel band – it is a blast. It is an organized group performance and we perform live. Playing live helps the musician get better,” said Harris.

News You Can Use

Regular Army applications sought

Enlisted Reserve Component soldiers, activated in support military operations – such as SFOR – who are interested in applying for the Regular Army enlistment must meet all enlistment/retention eligibility criteria as outlined in Army Regulation 601-210, Regular Army and Reserve Enlistment Program, and AR 601-280, Army Retention Program. This procedure does not include soldiers on extended active duty in accordance with AR 135-210, AGR soldiers or soldiers on active duty for training only.

Request for enlistment must be submitted and approved prior to being processed for redeployment to home station. To facilitate timely processing, submit applications to arrive at PERSCOM within 90 days but not later than 30 days prior to scheduled date of demobilization. Request will be mailed to: Commander, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, ATTN: TAPC-EPR-P, 2461 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22331-0451. The request must include the following:

- a. DA Form 4187 or DA Form 160-R (include date soldier is scheduled to demobilize, to include any extensions).
- b. Chain of command recommendations (at least LTC (O-5) or above).
- c. Current ERB and DA Form 2-1.
- d. A completed DA Form 1696R (Enlistment/Reenlistment Qualifying Application). A copy of this form is available in the back of AR 601-210 for reproduction purposes.

The servicing active duty career counselor, primary military occupational specialty 79S, will complete the form and verify all active duty service. The retirement points worksheet must also be included, if available.

e. A copy of the orders placing the soldier on active duty in support of military operation XXXX.

f. All DD Form 214 and/or NGB Form 22. Forms must have annotated in the appropriate blocks proof of military occupational specialty training and NCOES level completed, or provide copies of DA Form 1059 (Academic Evaluation Report).

g. Applicants must obtain a conditional release from the reserve component (RC) using DD Form 368. If not available, a statement from the commander stating that the soldier will be released and has no remaining obligation with current RC unit will suffice. The losing RC commander will advise the soldier in writing of the proper disposition of assigned equipment prior to entry into RA.

h. If the application is favorably considered, the soldier will be enlisted into the RA and given assignment instructions with a report date not earlier than 30 days from the demobilization date. Upon enlistment in the RA, the soldier will be transferred to the nearest reception station for further assignment processing.

For more information, contact PERSCOM at DSN 312-221-5400.

Education



University of Maryland

Weekend Seminars

June 14-15

⌘ Introduction to Microcomputers: Desktop Operating Systems

June 21-22

⌘ Communication Skills for Supervisors

June 28-29

⌘ Personal Investment

July 5-6

⌘ Introduction to Microcomputers: Databases (Microsoft Access)

⌘ U.S. Stock Market

WANTED

A **\$5000** reward is being offered by the 286th Military Police Detachment (CID), Eagle Base, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of person(s) responsible for placing an explosive device inside a tunnel between Kladanj and Muska Voda.

Anyone with information pertaining to this incident is urged to contact the Bosnia CID office at : 35-302010 or 061-727-072.

Your identity can remain confidential. Reward expires April 10, 2004.



by Spc. Guy D. Choate

I got it

Sgt. Nicole S. Garrett, a resident of Moore, Okla., catches a softball before her team, "The Ultimate Ladies," competes in a game against an all-male team at the Tuzla softball field here on Memorial Day.