

JULY 4, 2003

# TALON



## Harvest Reward winners

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Day camp on Eagle Base

Snapshots

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1776 – 2003

## 227 years of liberty and freedom

TALON

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**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

**Journalist**  
Sgt. 1st Class  
Ronald D. Covington

**Journalist**  
Sgt. Guy D. Choate

**Broadcast NCOIC**  
Sgt. 1st Class Brian Stribling

**Broadcaster**  
Spc. John C. Graves

**Media Specialists**  
Aleksandar Ilic  
Nedima Hadziibrisevic  
Dunja Vujadinovic

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*From the U.S. Army  
Public Affairs Center*

There are defining moments in history that shape our sense of who we are as Americans. Today we celebrate one such moment.

On this day 227 years ago, a group of brave American colonists took a bold step: the Second Continental Congress voted to adopt Thomas Jefferson's revolutionary document, the Declaration of Independence.

In celebration of the freedoms set forth by the Declaration, tonight Americans will watch and listen with wonder as exploding fireworks illuminate the evening sky. Their loud explosions and marvelous bursts of color will cascade across the sky, symbols of the many battles our Army has fought in its efforts to protect and preserve our precious freedoms.

Listen to these famous words from the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness ..."

In Jefferson's time, the con-



cepts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness were revolutionary. To presume that government exists to insure the quality of human life was truly original.

And the ideas of liberty and freedom – the right of each individual to seek out personal happiness – these notions were more than radical. They challenged the very heart of most governments – that the individual existed to serve the whims of a monarch and to support the nobility – instead of the other way around.

Our second president, John Adams, once said, "Fear is the foundation of most governments."

But in America, our government would be built on freedom, not fear.

Democracy and the rights of mankind are so much a part of our national identity today that many don't realize, or have simply forgotten how fortunate we truly are.

We must remember that freedom was once only a dream, an

ideal conceived in the minds of a few brave individuals and written down on parchment by a country gentleman from Virginia.

We must remember that some made sacrifices, so that others may live and breathe free.

Today, our Declaration of Independence is enshrined in the National Archives, protected under armed guard. The original parchment is worn, and the ink has faded. Preserving the document requires the latest in technology and well-trained professionals.

So it is that America's Army guards and preserves the very values and freedoms represented in our Declaration of Independence. Thanks to America's fighting forces, that vision – one of freedom and equality for all – has not perished from the earth.

It is right and fitting that as we celebrate our nation's independence today, we also celebrate the men and women of America's Army as they guard and preserve our way of life for all.

On behalf of the U.S. Army, the staff of the *Talon* wants to wish you and your family and friends a happy, healthy and safe Independence Day. May God bless you, may God bless our Army and may God continue to bless America.

**"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"**

**– Patrick Henry**



**About the cover:** Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Murphy, of Task Force Husker, helps unload weapons in downtown Brcko on June 27. The weapons were collected as part of TF Husker's Harvest Rewards program that concluded last week with a ceremony where weapons were destroyed and a car was given away.  
*by Sgt. Guy D. Choate.*

# A successful harvest brings rewards

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic  
Media Specialist

The center of Brcko was a "hot" spot June 29. Harvest Rewards, a month long program that reaped an immense amount of weaponry in the Task Force North, or Husker, area of operation officially ended with an awards presentation announcing the winner of the program's grand prize, a Volkswagen Polo.

The Harvest Rewards show was hosted by Zenit Djozic, a famous comedian in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was broadcast live on TV HIT, a local Brcko District television station.

Col. Thomas Johnson, deputy commander of Multinational Brigade (North), spoke to the audience at the beginning of the show, praising the efforts of the community and community leaders for making the Harvest Rewards program the success it was.

The show also included comments from local mayors, police chiefs and media representatives from the Northern Bosnia Electronic Media Association, an organization credited with initiating the Harvest Rewards program.

"We have formed the Northern Bosnia Electronic Media Association which will prob-

ably continue to work some other projects, some other things," said Resid Ahmetovic, Bet Fratello Radio from Brcko, whose radio station is one of the 10 media comprising the association.

The winner of the new automobile was Zijah Djidic, from Gradacac. The former soldier received 32 raffle tickets for turning in different types of ammunition from rounds to rifle grenades.

"Such operations mean a lot for the future of all Bosnia and Herzegovina. Especially for the children, who not knowing what ordnance can do, may encounter mine fields or find them in their parents' closets and play with them getting injured," said Djidic.

Milenko Milicevic, Brcko District chief of police, said he was satisfied with the results of the number of weapons collected, and plans to continue the collection process.

"When Active Harvest began, the Odzak municipality immediately got involved in it," said Anto Simic, mayor of Odzak.

"And we can see now that Active Harvest is being active."

Lt. Col. Timothy Kadavy, commander of Task Force Husker, said the key to the



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

**Task Force Husker soldiers unload weapons destined for destruction.**

project was everybody working together – local governments, local media and SFOR – to make sure that Bosnia becomes a safer environment, a safer country.

"I would say this success could happen anywhere if you have the support of the people, media and governments. This type of thing can happen anywhere in Bosnia," he said.

## Finnish CIMIC repairs town's water system

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic  
Media Specialist

Soldiers from the Finnish Civil/Military Cooperation have made the lives of returning displaced persons, or refugees, a little bit better in the community of Gornji Svilaj.

In a project funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the soldiers oversaw construction of the community's water system, which was destroyed during the war.

The project consisted of reconstructing 40 damaged wells and the digging of six new wells out of the original 48 that were poisoned by petrol, oil and animal carcasses during the war. The construction company Gradnja-Instalacije, from Odzak, cleaned and rebuilt the manual water lifting systems on top of all of the wells, and installed pressure tanks and pumps in 36 wells. The two-week project was completed in May.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

**Media Specialist Nedima Hadziibrisevic, Finnish CIMIC members Capt. Jarmo Vilo, 2nd Lt. Jarkko Koshinen, and Capt. Panu Kekoni discuss final matters before officially completing one of their community projects.**

So far about 40 families, both Serbs and Croats, have returned to their homes in this community.

"These projects mean a lot for (the returnees) ... in these areas," said Mile Djordjic, Serb representative in Gornji Svilaj.

In order for the project to be declared completed, a final inspection was conducted June 28.

"Basically, the final inspection involves all of the parties that have been involved with the project — the CIMIC, local

authorities, contractor and the spokesman representing local returnees," said Capt. Jarmo Vilo, CIMIC Coy (Company), who said the individuals involved have signed the agreement that they are satisfied with the work.

During the final inspection, the residents expressed their gratitude to the Finnish CIMIC soldiers for their contribution and hard work in completing the water project. One of them, Ana Radman, was more than thrilled to finally have the water problem solved in her household.

"It means a lot to me to get this well. I cannot describe all of my joy and happiness," she said.

"Water is the most important thing to the lives of human beings," said Capt. Eero Mykkanen, project manager for the Finnish CIMIC Coy. "That is why this project was so important."

# Kids, soldiers just want to have fun

Story and photos  
by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy  
Managing Editor

More than 25 Bosnian children, ages 8 to 18, were hosted to a day camp on Eagle Base June 28, mixing with more than 40 soldier volunteers in a variety of all-day activities including soccer, volleyball, face painting and a visit to the base's dental facility.

The day camp was the initiative of 1st Lt. Camella Andrews, a member of the Multinational Brigade (North) Community Service Working Group, a group dedicated to the fostering of children's lives in Bosnia. She's the one who decided to host the event for children from Simin Han, a mother-and-child refugee center outside of Tuzla.

Andrews said it was not easy organizing the event, but credits the assistance she received from others, including Maj. David Futch, who contacted the charitable organization Friends of Bosnia, which provided the children's transportation; Chaplain (Col.) Ron Cobb, who helped gather the miniature Bosnian flags to hand out to the kids; MNB (North) Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Robert Roach, for his support on hav-

ing the camp; and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, which provided specially-prepared T-shirts for the soldiers.

Donations provided by the soldiers also helped purchase T-shirts, food and gifts for the children.

Andrews also credits the soldiers who volunteered to spend time with the kids, for their enthusiastic desire to make the day the fun-filled event that it was.

"I believe they had just as much fun – if not more – than the kids," Andrews said, who added that she received more soldiers than she originally expected, so many more that she ran out of T-shirts.

"I really wasn't surprised, though," she said. "Soldiers just have such big hearts when it comes to spending time with kids."

She said many of the children declared the day "the best day of their lives," which prompted Andrews to ask to have more day camps.

"We are trying to see if we can have one every two weeks," she said, adding that she'd be more than happy to have someone else plan the next one, so she can spend the day just playing with the kids and having fun.



Sgt. Thomas Prim, a narcotics dog handler with HHC, Area S and Nousca, put on a demonstration for the children with a Brian Mires, Task Force Medical Eagle, who agreed to don the suit.



"This was such a great event," said Capt. Lisa Inzone, ASG Eagle, here in an impromptu soccer match with one of the children. "The children seemed so happy and the soldiers did a great job catering to every child."



Capt. Vallie George, HHD, ASG Eagle, paints designs on Kada Huremovic, 10, near the beginning of Saturday's activities in Minue Park.

# Fun during Eagle Base day camp



Support Group Eagle, assistance from Sgt. 50-pound protection



The soldiers and children watch one of the many demonstrations coordinated for their day-long visit on Eagle Base. "Being here really made me miss my 5-year-old son back home," said Staff Sgt. Craig Miller, center, holding 9-year old Mirsada Salkii. Miller, HHC, 35th ID (Mech.), said he bonded so well with Mirsada he wondered afterward how his wife would feel about enlarging their family through adoption.

## MWR tours offer a taste of Tuzla, countryside

by Alexander Ilic  
Media Specialist

Most SFOR 13 soldiers will spend six months deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. But how much of the country will each soldier really know about it, and how much will he or she see of it, other than what is glimpsed through a window of a vehicle or through the perimeter wire? Morale, Welfare and Recreation gives soldiers the opportunity to see the countryside during officially-sponsored trips. One of those trips was a recent tour of Tuzla.

"We are trying to provide a better understanding of why soldiers do peacekeeping," said Marcus Wheeler, MWR chief.

"They (soldiers) are trying to protect the way of life they know and things they are used to. (During the trips) they see people and kids do the same stuff like in the states. We try to show them the culture and history of the country."

A group of students from Tuzla University provided the tour's guide services.

"They are a great group of guys and they can answer any question regarding Tuzla," said Wheeler.

"This is a great opportunity



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

**Spc. Aaron Foster, a resident of Memphis, Tenn., and a member of Task Force Medical Eagle, looks over the city of Tuzla during a recent day trip.**

for us to improve our English language skills even more, meet new people and learn about the USA by discussing similarities and differences between Bosnia and the United States," said Sanja Ahmicevic, a 20-year-old student of computer engineering at Tuzla University.

"In order to prepare for this tour, all of us (tour guides) have done a lot of research," said Nenad Ristic, 21-year-old journalism student.

"Soldiers on this tour got very interesting information about (the) history of Tuzla that even average Tuzla residents are not familiar with. So basi-

cally, this job helped us (also) learn a lot about our own hometown."

During the tour, soldiers visited a World War II memorial and the Memorial Center dedicated to the Tuzla youth killed on May 25, 1995.

Soldiers shopped for souvenirs at stores and markets in the old part of the city, enjoyed their coffee and refreshment drinks in coffee shops and had lunch in a local restaurant.

A tour of the Tuzla War Museum is planned for the next tour. The museum is filled with hand-made weapons and explosives as well as the other equip-

ment used in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia.

"It gave me a chance to get away from the military for a little while. I feel halfway decent today. I feel alive," said Sgt. 1st Class John Peek.

"I admire the architecture here. We need more interaction with the people on the streets (like this)," he added.

Sgt. Mark Widner also enjoyed his time in Tuzla. "Good food, good people, (and) the tour guides did a great job explaining everything we asked them," he said.

"I liked Tuzla very much. There is a lot of history here. I would recommend this tour to everyone stuck inside the wire."

MWR offers day trips to Jahorina, where the 1984 Olympic Games took place, castles in the towns of Gradacac and Srebrenik, a Sarajevo Day Trip as well as Taste of Tuzla, a dinner in one of Tuzla restaurants.

"There is no limit on how many soldiers we can take on these tours. We'll either provide more buses or organize more frequent tours," said Wheeler. "We just want to give soldiers something else so they can change their daily work-sleep

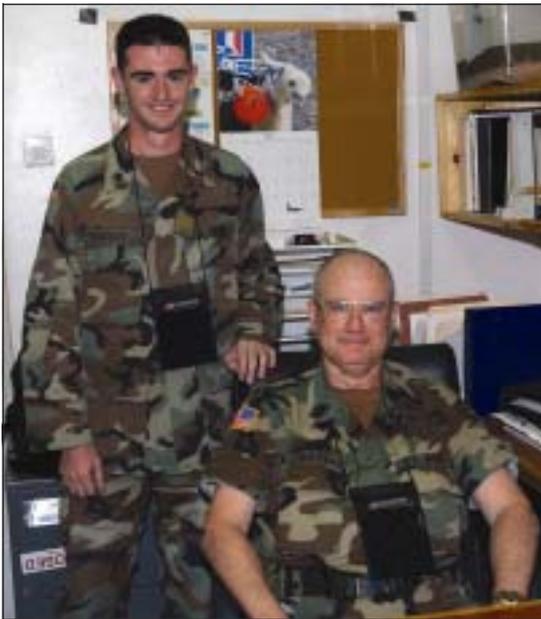
# Snapshots

## Photos capture MNB (North) days and nights

*(Right)* Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason shakes hands with Bozo Novakovic, president of the Tuzla municipality World War II Veterans Association, during a recent meeting. Novakovic and three other veterans visited Eagle Base to invite Mason and his staff to attend a celebration of the 60th anniversary of Bosnia's uprising. Mason, whose father is a WWII veteran, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for their contributions to the allied forces.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

**All in the Family** – Sgt. Maj. Robert Gaiser, right, and son Spc. Eric Gaiser are deployed together for Stabilization Force 13. Robert is with the Provost Marshal Office and Eric is with the 35th Military Police Company.

*(Right)* Command Sgt. Maj. David Wright enjoys a chuckle while Maj. Michael McGovern, of the Task Force Eagle Staff Judge Advocate office, proudly shows off his Broken Spoke Award during a recent situational update briefing, or SUB.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Sgt. Kim Dyer, left, and Staff Sgt. Richard Jackson admire the paintings of Bosnian artist Naiz Omerovic during a recent MWR-sponsored art exhibition at Peacekeepers Hall.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Capt. Bryan Tolar, presents a certificate of appreciation to Munib Saric, chief of police for Kladanj, for his support of Task Force Orphan's Active Harvest campaign for HHC and Company A.

## On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

### Arkansas

#### Jail comes with sticker shock

**CONWAY** – A few jaws dropped June 28 when members of the jail task force saw the estimated price tag for the first phase of the proposed new jail.

“My initial reaction, I wouldn’t say I have sticker shock but we’re going to have to think outside of the box to find this kind of money,” said Justice of the Peace Robbie Wills.

He had in his hands a proposed budget with a bottom line of \$7.4 million.

“Everybody’s had a figure in their mind at about \$4 million, so this is going to shock some people. We need to get some hard numbers on what we can afford. We might be surprised or we might not,” Wills added.

Phase one consists of beds for 200 minimum security men, a female unit that can house 64, an intake and booking area, and kitchen and laundry facilities shelled to expand but equipped only for 200.

– Log Cabin Democrat

### California

#### Senator: No soda for students

**SACRAMENTO** – Citing an increasing number of academic studies that point to sodas and other high-sugar drinks as a major factor in young Americans’ bulging waistlines, a local senator is convinced it’s time to take them out of California’s schools.

But that science is one aspect of the debate as a bill by Sen. Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento, moves through the Legislature.

Soft drink vendors and their supporters, saying so-

das aren’t any more harmful than other snack foods, point to a decrease in physical activity as the primary cause of childhood obesity.

“There are not good and bad foods,” said Mike Burita, a spokesman for the Center for Consumer Freedom. “There are good and bad lifestyles.”

The legislation, SB 677, would phase in a ban on soda and other high-sugar drinks at elementary, intermediate and high schools.

– Sacramento Bee

### Idaho

#### New state laws take effect

**BOISE** – The \$5 fine for not wearing a seat belt doubles.

The amount of money that can be awarded by Idaho juries shrinks.

On Tuesday, most of the 380 laws that came out of this year’s record-setting, 118-day legislative session took effect. The measures that stretched the session out weeks longer

than normal — increases in the cigarette and sales taxes to balance the state’s budget — already are in effect. But other laws kicked in July 1, the start of the state’s new budget year.

The seat-belt law still requires officers to spot some other violation before they can issue a ticket.

– Idaho Statesman



**Sgt. Joseph Beasley (left) and Spc. Phillip Weaver are the Task Force Wagon Wheel NCO/Soldier of the Month for June. TF Wagon Wheel consists of all support units that do not fall under Task Forces Husker, Orphan, Warrior and Medical Eagle.**

## Soldiers best of the best

Story and photo by  
**2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy**  
Managing Editor

Two soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) have been selected as the Soldier and Non-commissioned Officer of the Month for June. It’s an achievement for which 1st Sgt. Ron Crump, the president of the monthly board, said the soldiers should be proud, since their selection stamps them as “the best.”

The soldiers agree. “I was honored,” said Sgt. Joseph Beasley, 35th intelligence NCO, who also admitted feeling a little relieved. “I only had two days before the board to prepare. It was like cramming for a big test, and praying that I’d remember it when it came time.”

Beasley recommends other soldiers appear before future boards, for the board’s ability to “bring recognition and build (a soldier’s) confidence.”

Spc. Phillip Weaver, G-3 operations, thanks his section sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Johnson, for giving him the push to compete.

“Not only was it an opportunity to improve myself and my military career, it got my adrenaline flowing again which helps me keep sharp for my daily mission.”

In addition to studying the U.S. Army Board Study Guide, Weaver also kept abreast of current events by watching CNN and reading newspapers

like Stars and Stripes.

Crump said each board consists of a panel of senior NCOs, who grade each soldier on a variety of subjects including personal appearance, confidence and bearing, subject knowledge, and oral expression.

Regarding confidence and bearing, Crump said he and the other NCOs expect the soldiers to be a little nervous. “Whenever a soldier is not nervous, I will be,” Crump said. He said the soldiers are judged on how they overcome nerves.

Beasley avoided nerves by remembering “that I’m an NCO, a professional, and that was my inspiration to do my best.”

Weaver concentrated on breathing, maintaining eye contact, and “not getting flustered if I couldn’t answer a question.”

The soldiers are now planning their next goals.

Weaver’s set to attend the Primary Leadership Development Course in August. Beasley’s plans stretch past deployment.

“My goals for the remainder of the tour are to continue helping soldiers, and make sure I’m in the best shape possible, so I can catch my wife when she leaps into my arms.”

Beasley resides in Olathe, Kan. with wife Christine, and son, Chance, 6. Weaver lives in Salina, Kan.

Crump said a final board will be held to select a Soldier/NCO of the Rotation. Soldiers wishing to compete before a board should notify their chain of command.

# News You Can Use

## Remember the bottom line on government telephone abuse

### U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs –

Telephone abuse and misuse costs taxpayers thousands of dollars a year. Many soldiers and civilians are unaware of the facts concerning appropriate government telephone use.

Here are the facts:

- Each month, USAREUR spends \$1.2 million for telephone service.
  - DSN is not free.
  - Telephone control officers monitor usage of government phones.
  - Commanders' responses to abuse can range from a warning to repayment to UCMJ action.
  - Reasonable and limited use of DSN phones to briefly contact local schools, domicile, landlord, doctors, etc. are permitted.
  - Personal use of government cell phones is absolutely prohibited.
- Tell your soldiers:
- Desk telephones are first and foremost for government business.
  - Cell phones are for government business only.
  - Tracking software and reporting systems monitor all government phone usage.
  - Embarrassment, letter of reprimand, reimbursement of funds, and/or UCMJ action are possible results of abuse.
- For more information or guidance on managing unit telecommunications in USAREUR contact Eric Melton, DSN 370-8602 or [meltone@hq.hqusareur.army.mil](mailto:meltone@hq.hqusareur.army.mil)

## Know your force protection measures

### Provost Marshal –

Take time during the next few days to review your section's force protection procedures. You and your soldiers should know and understand what they would do, where they would go, or who they would contact if they come under a threat, attack, or observe a suspicious person or situation.

In the next few days leading up to the nations birthdays, all soldiers and DoD civilians should be vigilant and situationally aware of their surroundings.

## Another Reminder

### NCOERs, OERs coming due

Due dates for submission of awards, NCOERs and OERs for Task Force Eagle-deployed soldiers is as follows:

#### Awards

- MSM to G-1 NLT NOW
- ARCOM to G-1 NLT Aug. 1
- AAM to G-1 NLT Aug. 1

#### NCOERs/OERs

- HHC NCOERs to G-1 NLT Sept. 1 with end date of Sept. 30.
- HHC OERs to G-1 NLT Sept. 1 with end date of Sept. 30.
- Suspense dates of NCOERs and OERs for units other than those supported by HHC NLT Aug. 8.

Submission of these awards or reports after these dates may result in not being able to clear Eagle Base for departure to demobilization station or not getting an award.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

## Ladies Night

The USO Ladies Night attracted a full house on Monday. They spent the evening watching movies, giving each other manicures, pedicures and relaxing. (From left) Staff Sgts. Kristina Bueter, Kathrine Normandy, Sgts. Laury Johnston, Beth Carrier and Patricia Leihy.