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TALON



Finnish colors headed home

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TALON

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Maj. Henry Plawer
35th ID SJA

Every new cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is required to memorize various pieces of military knowledge – some very useful and some not.

One such piece of important information and guidance is Worth's Battalion Orders issued before the American Civil War. Brevet Major William Jenkins Worth stated, in part:

"But an officer on duty knows no one – to be partial is to dishonor both himself and the object of his ill-advised favor."

He continues by contrasting the officer who overlooks offenses by one person that he punishes in another with the officer who does his duty faithfully.

Worth's concerns are inherent in the provisions of AR 600-20, Army Command Philosophy, which prescribes policy on basic responsibilities of command, military discipline and conduct, and enlisted aspects of command.

Paragraphs 4-14 through 4-16 discuss military relationships, commonly known in the



Plawer

Army as fraternization.

If you believe that the behavior prohibited by these paragraphs only applies to the dating/male-female situation, you need to read these provisions as well as DA Pam 600-35, Relationships Between Soldiers of Different Rank.

Paragraph 4-14.b. prohibits relationships between soldiers of different ranks, if they:

- *Compromise, or appear to compromise*, the integrity of supervisory or the chain of command

- *Cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness*

- *Involve, or appear to involve*, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain

- *Are, or are perceived to*

be, exploitive or coercive in nature

- Create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale, or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

Paragraph 4-14.c. addresses certain types of relationships between officers, including warrant officers, and enlisted personnel. It discusses the rules for business dealings, gambling, borrowing or lending money and commercial relationships. It also prohibits dating or sexual relations, with certain defined and spelled out exceptions.

May a company or battalion have a poker night for the personnel in the unit? May a golf scramble be scheduled with entry fees and prize money from the fees based on results? May the first sergeant in a mixed unit date a junior enlisted from his unit? What is the proper relationship between the newly promoted sergeant and his former squad mates?

To answer these questions, and any others, you have two resources readily at hand – DA Pam 600-35 and your Staff Judge Advocate.

"Your purpose in relationships is simply to be your best self, regardless of the circumstances."

– Rosalene Glickman, Ph.D.



About the cover: Finnish soldiers salute their flag as it is lowered for the last time on Eagle Base during their departure ceremony on Monday. by Sgt. Guy D. Choate.

Nebraska's Guard sows hope in Bosnia

by Patrice McMahon

The writer, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has traveled and lived in east-central Europe since 1986. In 2000 and 2001, she conducted research in Bosnia under the auspices of grants from the National Research Council in Washington, D.C.

Recently, I traveled to Bosnia to interview soldiers working with the NATO forces. As an academic who has been doing work on Bosnia, I wanted to know more about the military's work. As a Nebraskan, I wondered what my neighbors were doing.

What I learned exceeded the narrow scope of my academic interests. My conversations with soldiers stationed at Camp McGovern helped me better understand the mechanics of nation-building. The visit also opened my eyes to the strength and goodness of my fellow Nebraskans.

Since the peace treaty was signed in 1995, the international community has spent \$7 billion trying to put Bosnia back together and has stationed military forces in the country. Today, 13,000 foreign troops are in Bosnia. The United States provides some 1,500 troops, and about 500 are from Nebraska.

In my mind, there is no denying the need for these troops – then or now. More than 200,000 people were slaughtered and the country collapsed in every way imaginable.

The legacies of the war are quite apparent, but there are signs of progress, especially in the area our Nebraskans currently call home.

Most of Nebraska's Guard is in the Brcko district, a region so affected by war that it was given special status. It has since been governed by an international supervisor and secured by foreign troops.

As you wind through the countryside with roses distracting your view, you can hardly believe that the towns were once an explosive mix of ethnicities. Homes are being



by Air Force Capt. Kevin Hynes

Sgt. Darren Thompson, left, interpreter Sonya Knezevic, and Spc. Timothy Williams continue to foster good relations as they stop and enjoy a cup of coffee with a local shop owner during a patrol in the village of Tinja. Thompson and Williams are members of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment, a Nebraska Army National Guard unit assigned to Task Force North.

built at such a rapid rate, it seems impossible that the unemployment is more than 50 percent.

Sitting in a cafe, I felt completely at ease. The military is not the only reason for the economic development; it cannot explain why Bosnians are rebuilding their homes next to land-mine fields. Yet a look at what the Guard does every day indeed provides insight into the achievements thus far.

The Guard is there to provide a safe and secure environment. At a minimum, this means providing security, establishing rule of law and building communities. At a maximum, it means restoring hope. Central to this mission is the Weapons Harvest Program. To get weapons out of the hands of the locals, the soldiers spend their days in a local park.

I imagined that the soldiers would be seen as imposing, threatening figures. I was wrong. Bosnians see them as a cross between knights and rock stars.

Soldiers also go door to door to collect weapons. For too many hours, we walked through a village. To my amazement, families did have spare grenades and guns lying around.

At every house, families smiled; at every house, they thanked us.

Nebraska's Guard spends a lot of its time at the local markets, trying to get vendors to stop selling their goods on the black market; the mission here is to strengthen the state and regulate the economy.

Soldiers remind the media of its unique role in checking negligent politicians. The soldiers work closely with the police force. Now, the police are handing out tickets rather than delivering nationalist messages.

Establishing rule of law means that the Guard must keep high standards; the men rarely leave base, and alcohol is prohibited. Other peacekeepers drink and move about with ease.

Patiently, Nebraska's Guard is also building communities. One afternoon, I followed soldiers as they met the locals. Shop-owners bought them ice cream. When we visited a school, the kids swarmed the soldiers; they practiced their English, and the soldiers gladly played soccer.

In previous visits, countless Bosnians had relayed to me their gratitude for U.S. involvement. This trip only reinforced

my suspicions – Americans were essential. I wondered, though, how the soldiers felt. While these “weekend warriors” had been away, 22 babies were born, parents had died and marriages were at risk. Yet, I'd say not one soldier doubted the importance of this mission.

Bosnia had embraced them; grandmothers had cried to them; children chased after them. They could see progress. Like me, they were eager for the United States to use its power to instill hope.

I returned home with a better understanding of what the military does and how the Army National Guard can build nations. Nebraska's Guard is building trust on a practical level. To me, the Guard is furthering faith in America's desire to help others and make peace in the world.

Task Force Husker is due home soon. When they return, tell them that you have some idea of what they have been doing. Thank them for their sacrifices and the football games they have missed.

(Editor – This opinion article originally appeared in the June 18, 2003, edition of the Omaha World-Herald.)

SFOR soldiers ensure security at Srebrenica

by Dunja Vujadinovic
Media Specialist

Two hundred and eighty two bodies of Srebrenica victims were buried in Potocari on July 11, exactly eight years after their massacre. Some 10,000 Bosnians came to attend the burial ceremony and to pay respect to their beloved ones.

The Srebrenica massacre has been known as the worst atrocity in the 1992-1995 war. In July 1995, the Bosnian Serb Army seized the city of Srebrenica, a U.N. declared "safe zone", and killed 8,000 Bosnians, mostly men and boys. So far, some 1,600 victims have been identified by DNA analysis out of 5,000 bodies recovered from numerous mass graves.

The Potocari ceremony was highly secured by police forces from the Republika Srpska as well as by members from the NATO Stabilization Force. SFOR soldiers were directed to avoid the actual burial site but their increased presence in the area was aimed to ensure a safe environment by providing immediate reaction in case of any incidents.

In addition to soldiers on alert in Srebrenica was a platoon of "reserve" Task Force South personnel and Multinational Support Unit soldiers, placed at nearby Camp Connor, who were ready to converge on Potocari in the event of a riot or civil disturbance.

"Our role here today is to provide immediate reaction to any incident within the Potocari area. We're an infantry company, and we can be called for anything, from ground control to medevac or any kind of



Photos by Sgt. Guyt D. Choate

First Lt. Jeff Joslin, Platoon leader of Company C, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, addresses his platoon just before the Potocari ceremony last week. The platoon, based at Camp Connor, was ready to serve as the extraction team and a crowd control element if needed.

bomb threat," said 2nd Lt. Donald Bigham, platoon leader for Company A's Ready Reaction Force, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, South Carolina Army National Guard.

MSU soldiers were also well prepared for quick reaction. Capt. Csaba Bakos, officer in charge from D Coy (Company) of the Multinational Specialized Unit Hungarian Contingent, came from Sarajevo to help secure the event.

"We came from the 1st MSU Battalion. We're a quick reaction force and we have

equipment used for civil disturbance operations and equipment that is common for cavalry units," said Bakos, who added that his unit was more than ready to act upon a moment's notice, and with equipment fitting the level of disturbance.

Luckily, there were no reported incidents and the ceremony remained a calm and dignified event.

The Potocari Memorial Center is expected to open this September and will be the biggest graveyard for victims of the Bosnia and Herzegovina war.



The remains of 282 Bosniak victims of genocide were lined up in rows in a warehouse across from Potocari memorial where they rested until the burial ceremony the following day. (Left) Staff Sgt. Curtis Suber, Company A, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, patrols the Potocari cemetery looking for hindrances that might occur during the ceremony.

Eagle Base hosts FINCON farewell

by **Nedima Hadziibrisevic**
Media Specialist

The Finnish Contingent conducted their departure ceremony July 14 in Camp Mara on Eagle Base. The ceremony marked the completion of FINCON's seven-year mission with the Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina – the first NATO-led operation Finland's participated in.

Finland launched its peace-keeping operations in Bosnia in 1996 with approximately 500 soldiers as part of the Implementation Force, or IFOR. The unit composition and strength changed during the different phases of its operations from an engineer to an infantry battalion, before evolving into its current status as a Civil/Military Cooperation company in the Spring of 2001, when it moved from Dobojo to Eagle Base.

"I know of no other nation that has contributed not only to the peace but the restructuring of this nation in such a unique way," said Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason, commander of Multinational Brigade (North).

During the ceremony Mason awarded 11 Finnish soldiers with the Kansas National Guard Meritorious Service Ribbon and Commendation Ribbon, and



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

The Finnish Contingent's soldiers and a joint Finnish/U.S. color guard march into formation at the beginning of the FINCON departure ceremony Monday.

presented to FINCON Commander Col. Kari Pohjala a certificate recognizing the Finnish CIMIC's support to SFOR 13. The Finnish CIMIC, which includes personnel within the Finnish G-5 section, is credited with completion of 150 infrastructure projects in Bosnia,

funded both by the European Union and Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for a total of more than 2.8 million Euros.

"For us, it is time to go home. FINCON has accomplished its mission with the hope that this part of Europe is a better place to live than seven or eight years

ago," Pohjala said.

The Finnish CIMIC company's responsibilities will be assumed by U.S. personnel, which, for the last two months, have conducted joint patrols with the Finnish to familiarize themselves with their areas of operation.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

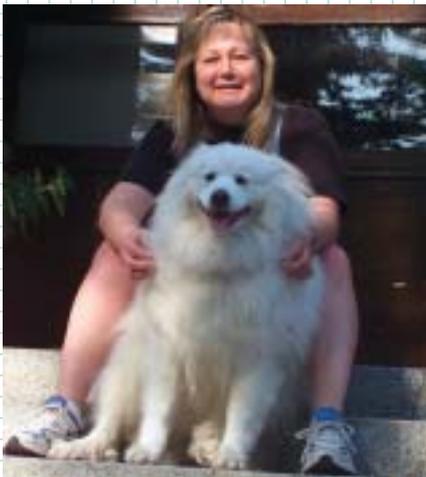
MNB (North) Commander Brig. Gen. James Mason awards FINCON CIMIC Company's Executive Officer Capt. Jarmo Vilo the Kansas Meritorious Service Ribbon during Monday's ceremony.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

The Finnish Contingent soldiers march off in step, officially ending their departure ceremony, and seven years of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A look at some of the Faces in the Crowd



Linda Lorenzana poses with her pet, Sasha, in front of the USO office on Eagle Base.

Linda Lorenzana

Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.

Occupation: Has been the USO director on Eagle Base for five years.

Children: Ed, Deborah, Stacy and Nicole.

Job: Lorenzana first went to work for the USO in Hanau, Germany, as an information/referral specialist. Within a couple of months, Lorenzana was promoted to office manager, then bookkeeper. After doing both positions, she was offered the job as director in Taszar, Hungary. After two years in Taszar, Lorenzana started the wheels turning to have the USO moved to Eagle Base. "I run a center for the soldiers where they can escape from the stress of being deployed in a comfortable atmosphere," she said. Soldiers can participate in various recreation activities. The USO provides snacks, popcorn, sodas and water to participants at no cost. The USO and MWR work together to provide big events on Eagle Base.

Hobbies: Cooking, hiking, tennis and traveling.

Goals: To stay in Europe with the USO, and to be promoted. "After being in the Balkans for four years, I'd like to have the opportunity to use what I have learned about planning and executing programs in a deployed environment in other countries."

by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Spc. Jake Baker

Hometown: Ventura, Calif.

Job: Mechanic/Crew Chief on a UH-60A Blackhawk

Unit: Company A, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.

Reason for joining the Army: Baker is a former U.S. Marine and after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001, he knew he still had a lot of training left over from his time spent in the Marine Corps, so he said, "I thought I should put it to good use."

Thoughts on Bosnia: Spending a lot of his time getting a Blackhawk's eye view, Baker thinks that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a beautiful county. "I think it's a shame that it's been reduced to what it's become," he said.

Advice for SFOR-14: Baker advises future SFOR persons to make sure they have their finances in order before they deploy to Bosnia because once they get here, it is hard to control. He also says that they should be ready to work once they touch ground.

Plans after Bosnia: Baker is looking forward to going back to school when he returns to the States because he is tired of "jumping around on the job."

by Sgt. Guy D. Choate



by Spc. John C. Graves

Spc. Jake Baker gets ready for a flight in a UH-60A Blackhawk.

Spc. Mark Bayne

Hometown: Lincoln, Neb.

Unit: Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment

Civilian job: Hot tub technician. "There are 1,200 hot tubs in Lincoln," said Bayne. He also is a part-time bartender.

Military job: Medic with HHT. A high school teacher "inspired me to go into the medical field," said Bayne. Bayne feels he has had good training at Fort Riley, Kan. and here. He obtained his emergency medical technician qualification, was able to take suture classes, and did rotations in emergency rooms.

Goals: "I'm still trying to get E-5." He also plans on taking the flight aptitude test to be a pilot.

Take on the deployment: At first, Bayne was pessimistic about the deployment. But after thinking about it for a while, he decided, "I can either (complain), or I can suck it up and drive on."

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Murphy

Spc. Mark Bayne checks the blood pressure of a patient at the Task Force North aid station.

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Kansas

Wichita cuts maintenance spending

WICHITA — Nearly 20 percent of the proposed cuts in the city's 2004-05 budget, more than \$1 million, are maintenance-related.

City officials say the maintenance cutbacks shouldn't be immediately noticed by residents, but that city crews will be patching potholes instead of repaving streets and putting other repairs off for another year.

If this cut is made, Lackey said, door repairs and roof replacements will have to wait while crews work to fix more

urgent problems, such as flooded floors or electrical shorts.

Maintenance cuts can create a pressure situation for workers, said Harold Schlichtweg, a business representative for the Service Employees International Union.

Many of the union's 1,000 members work for Wichita's public works and parks departments.

"We're all going to have to work harder and smarter," he said.

— *Wichita Eagle*

Kentucky

New African-American museum planned

RUSSELLVILLE — A building that has been the center of Russellville's black community since it was built in 1920 will be getting a facelift as part of a new African-American museum.

"While this has long been a hub for the black community, the building will be for the entire community," said Doris West, who is the volunteer director of Concerned Citizens.

The remodeling project will make restrooms accessible, give the exterior and other rooms in the building a lift as well as set-

ting up a computer lab for afterschool learning. There already is space for recreation.

The buildings that are to be restored include the oldest standing brick house in Logan County; one constructed by a freed slave in the late 1870s; and a shotgun-style house built in the 1940s. The addition to the KP hall is actually being constructed on the footprint of the community's first black library, Clark said.

Work on the projects should begin in November.

— *Bowling Green Daily News*

Washington

Homes Evacuated Near Wildfire

YAKIMA — About 20 houses were evacuated Sunday in a remote area of south-central Washington and officials were concerned about others as a wildfire spread rapidly in nearby timber.

The fire near Tampico, 20 miles west of Yakima, had burned 1,200 acres Sunday, up from 300 to 500 acres the day before, said David Widmark, spokesman for the Northwest Interagency Coordinating Center in Portland, Ore.

The fire near Yakima jumped

control lines Saturday. No homes or buildings had been lost since the fire started Friday night. Fire trucks were stationed around the homes that were evacuated Sunday.

There was concern the fire could threaten 50 to 60 more buildings if it crossed a nearby ridge, but fire officials said they didn't know Sunday if it had spread that far.

The cause was under investigation, but officials said fireworks are suspected.

— *Associated Press*

From the desert to Bosnia, NCO takes care of soldiers

by Capt. Deborrah McCoy
Information Operations

Sergeant First Class Ricardo Nixon serves as the Task Force Medical Eagle first sergeant, where he brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the job.

Nixon was an active-duty soldier for 10 years serving with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. as a nuclear, biological, chemical – or NBC – NCO before becoming a member of the United States Army Reserve.

While on active duty, Nixon served in the Persian Gulf War. According to Nixon, his unit was the first in during Desert Shield, parachuting into the desert near Kafji where along with the marines, his unit was involved in combat.

Being an NBC NCO at that time meant being joined at the hip with the brigade commander, since the threat of chemicals being used against the coalition forces was considered high.

Whenever the coalition moved out his unit was there with them to test for chemicals or at a location within 3-4 minutes of being able to respond to a NBC threat.

This isn't Nixon's first time being in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also served with Stabilization Force 4.

Speaking of the differences between that rotation and SFOR 13, Nixon said "the first thing that comes to mind is battle rattle everywhere you went – even just to go to the latrine – kevlar, vest, LCE, everything."

He also recalls that there were tents and not the wooden buildings that we now live in. Where the PX, Burger King and the White House are located



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Nixon

was at one time just an open area. Nixon noted that he is glad to see the living conditions have improved for the soldiers and it's no longer "tent city."

Nixon believes in helping soldiers by making sure they are MOS qualified, and taking care of the basics to include their mental and physical needs, keeping them mentally alert and physically ready.

"With the rise of athletic injuries, you don't want the sol-

Nixon believes in helping soldiers ... keeping them mentally alert and physically ready.

diers to hurt themselves but you do want them to do things and have fun," said Nixon.

The advice Nixon would

give to young troops is know your job, do your job, set the example, and be a leader – not a follower.

He also suggests that soldiers research the history of the United States Army, going back to its roots as the Continental Army. Nixon said it's important for leaders to be aware of the tradition and history behind the Army's uniform.

It is a tradition that he has passed along to his children, Nicole and Ricardo Jr., who are both in the regular army.

News You Can Use

Remember the basics – adhere to uniform, safety regulations

Command Sgt. Maj. David L. Wright –

I've recently noticed that standards are not always being adhered to. As usual, it is not the majority of soldiers who fail to meet standards, but the few who think the standards don't apply to them. And in some instances it is just normal forgetfulness.

The following addresses particular problems I've observed:

- Wearing of cell phones on the holster is not authorized.
- Wearing of chains, bands or ribbons on eyeglasses is not authorized at all unless it is for safety purposes.
- Eating at a dining facility following physical training or sporting events in the Army physical fitness uniform is not authorized unless the soldier is carrying his/her weapon. The uniform must not be soiled either from perspiration or dirt.
- The Army physical fitness uniform T-shirt will be tucked into shorts.
- Hands tucked into the PFU uniforms is not authorized.
- Wearing seatbelts is mandatory in all vehicles.

Yes – we have a Web site.

Check out Task Force Eagle photos on the Web. You and your friends can access photos you've seen in the Talon and other public affairs photos taken of soldiers within MNB (North). Just go to www.tfeagle.army.mil/tfetalon and click on the Web gallery.

New ePIN feature goes live for Army myPay users

Arlington, Va. –

Army personnel can now obtain their myPay personal identification numbers – PINS – by using a new online feature called ePIN. myPay is an online system operated by Defense Finance and Accounting Service. ePIN is available to active, reserve, Guard, civilians and military retirees with Army Knowledge Online accounts.

ePIN greatly simplifies the process of gaining access to myPay. Personnel can visit the myPay Web site at: <https://myPay.dfas.mil> and click on the "New PIN" button. The system will verify the identity of the user through their Social Security Number. The user can elect delivery of the PIN by e-mail or regular mail.

Eagle Base Talent Show July 25 at Peacekeepers Hall

First, second and third place prizes awarded. First place prize: color TV/VCR combo. July 23 is the last day to sign up.

Sign-up by contacting 762-0059/3635/5233.

"Ready?"

Spc. Ryan Broadstone, from Omaha, Neb., prepares to serve to Lincoln, Neb.-resident Spc. Russ Fruhwirth during a Ping-Pong match on Camp Connor July 11. The soldiers belong to the 134th Long Range Surveillance Detachment, a Nebraska Army National Guard unit from Crete, Neb.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy