

TALON

Published in support of
Operation Joint Forge
August 8, 2003
Volume 10, No.20

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The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the servicemembers of Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of the *Talon* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is published weekly by the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, APO AE 09789. DSN Telephone 314-762-0190. Email story ideas, and photo to: Donald.Johnson@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. The Task Force Eagle web address is www.tfeagle.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

Commander's Comments

Take precautions to be safe

by Brig. Gen.
James R. "Ron" Mason
*Commander
Task Force Eagle*



Mason

As a result of a fatal accident in Multinational Brigade (North) and in Multinational Brigade (Northwest) the following safety message is directed to all MNB (North) soldiers, support personnel, civilian contractors and their employees, U.S. and local nationals. This message pertains to operating and riding in vehicles, specifically the M1114 Up-Armored Humvee.

Seatbelts are to be worn by all personnel while in any moving vehicle. This is a mandatory Department of Defense requirement.

All personnel who have been issued a Kevlar helmet are required to wear their helmet with the chinstrap fastened at all times while operating or riding in the M1114 or any other tactical vehicle while in this theater.

At no time will personnel operating any vehicle listen to

headphones or use any other device that may distract the driver's attention from the task of vehicle operation. Hand-held global positioning systems, maps, books, Walkmans, radios with earphones, or any other like devices are not to be used by the driver while operating the vehicle. If they are used while the vehicle is not in operation they are to be stowed away prior to vehicle operation.

All leaders are responsible for ensuring that their assigned personnel maintain and follow these standards at all times. This begins with the first line supervisors. Patrol and mission leaders are the first, best line of

enforcement to ensure standards are upheld.

The M1114 is designed to protect soldiers from small arms fire, fragmentary explosives, and mine strikes. The vehicle can withstand significant damage when involved in vehicle accidents and still protect its occupants. Despite the strength of the vehicle's design, it is not indestructible.

Occupants can receive serious injuries in the event of an accident. Driving conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina are very hazardous and soldiers cannot afford to lose sight of this reality.

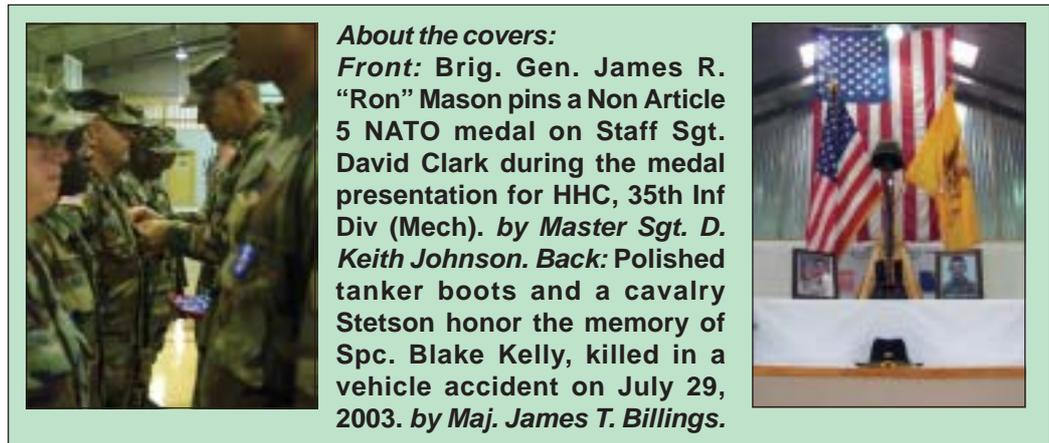
We as leaders must ensure our assigned personnel are safe and use every piece of protective equipment provided. We must ensure we look out for our buddies and the people we work with every day. The difference between a mirror strike and a head-on collision is less than the length of your hand.

This directive is non-negotiable; compliance is mandatory and applies to all personnel within MNB (North).

"It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen."

— *Oliver Wendell Holmes*

Correction:
The story and photo for *Cavalry troopers walk in Relay for Life* in the Aug. 1 issue of the *Talon* was incorrectly attributed. The story was written by Staff Sgt. Troy Andersen. The photo was taken by Spc. John Juricek. Both are members of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment. We regret for the error, and apologize for any inconvenience.



About the covers:
Front: Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason pins a Non Article 5 NATO medal on Staff Sgt. David Clark during the medal presentation for HHC, 35th Inf Div (Mech). **by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.** **Back:** Polished tanker boots and a cavalry Stetson honor the memory of Spc. Blake Kelly, killed in a vehicle accident on July 29, 2003. **by Maj. James T. Billings.**

Get ready to mail packages home

by **1st Lt. Sara Kuhanek**
312th AG Company (Postal)
Commander

Most of us can finally turn to another soldier, breath a sigh of relief, and say "Hey, we go home next month."

Making a plan now for how and when to send personal items home should be a part of every soldier's personal redeployment checklist.

The question of when to mail is easy to answer. Mail items as soon as possible. The Eagle Base Army Post Office will maintain its regular hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday through the transfer of authority.

We are pleased to offer the following additional service options as well:

■ **Service By Appointment:** Units can begin calling now to schedule 90-minute appointments for exclusive service weekdays between 6 and 9 a.m. from Aug. 21 through the TOA. Contact Staff Sgt. Stacey Posey or Spc. Maurice Laney at 762-2231 to make an appointment. Please call with a preferred date, number of soldiers and common destinations of the mail.

■ **Housing Area Services:** You will find a post office from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Education Center in Sapper Point on Aug. 16; Iron Horse Bluff on Aug. 30; and at Sapper Point again on Sep. 6. Lone Star residents will receive exclusive service at the Post Office on Sep. 23 from 6 to 10 a.m..

■ **Additional Services To Forward Operating Bases:** Service to FOB Connor and FOB Morgan was adjusted in late July to include evening service once per week (Tuesdays at FOB Morgan and Thursdays at FOB Connor) with more personnel and more capacity to better accommodate unit schedules.

There are several options of how to mail packages home. For example, Priority Mail packages usually arrive at their destinations within two weeks while space available mail packages average two to six weeks for delivery. Insurance is available for both services.

Our finance clerks can advise you of all your mailing options when you are ready to mail, or you can call ahead to the APO at 762-2232 with any questions.

Please keep in mind some



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

As you prepare for when and how to send packages home, the Eagle Base mail clerks, like Spc. Lamar Riley from Columbia, S.C., above, are ready to answer your questions.

common mailing rules that apply for any items sent through the APO. All items must weigh 70 pounds or less and cannot exceed 130 inches combined length and girth.

Tags with reinforced eyelets or cardboard firmly affixed with nylon tape should be used to address duffel bags.

A paint pen or paper overlaid with clear packing tape should be used to address footlockers.

Old addresses and bar codes should be obliterated when

sending previously mailed cardboard boxes.

When in doubt, use brown paper to wrap the box and hide existing markings. All contents must be declared using customs declaration forms available in the post office lobby.

Keep these simple rules in mind as you pack. Take advantage of the APO services. Plan ahead to avoid a last minute rush.

Your personal belongings should arrive home when you do!

Easy does it



by Finnish Capt. Vilo Jarmo

First Lt. Miika Ylonen, of the Finnish CIMIC, is crossing a ditch on his way to check out the village of Kutlic in Srebrenica. Recent hard rains caused the ditch to overflow.

Know the regulations when preparing packages for home

Here are a list of customs guidelines on what can leave Bosnia. For information, contact Sgt. Mark Newgent, Eagle Base's customs agent, at: DSN 762-2296 or cell 061-195-638. He is also on the global as MPCustoms.

■ Rugs and carpets can be mailed home but must be clean and free of all dirt and insects

■ No straw baskets or any straw products

■ No meat products

■ Wood products will be clean and free of any insects, spider webs, dirt and any other foreign materials.

■ CDs bought on the economy: you can take as many CDs or DVDs as you want as long as no two CDs or DVDs are the same.

■ All military equipment and OCIE will be factory clean. Boots must be spotless!!

■ You are allowed to take one carton of cigarettes, 10 cans of chewing tobacco, and 10 American-made cigars only. No Cuban cigars are allowed.

■ No alcohol is allowed to be taken out of Bosnia.

■ No fruits or vegetables

■ No war trophies

■ No ivory

145th MedLog keeps Med Eagle running



Staff Sgt. Joseph Case takes readings on the CAT scan machine used at the hospital on Eagle Base.

**Story and photos by
Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson
343rd MPAD**

When most soldiers think of preventive maintenance, checks and services, or PMCS, they think of vehicles, weapons or other large equipment. For one group of soldiers, it's a little more delicate.

Members of the 145th Medical Battalion (Logistics) perform PMCS on all of the U.S. medical equipment used in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as handling all of the medical supplies for Task Force Medical Eagle.

The six-person crew consists of five soldiers from the 145th, based in Seagoville, Texas, and one from the 4224th U.S. Army Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Both are units from the U.S. Army Reserve.

"Our mission is to provide medical supply support to all U.S. forces in Bosnia and Tazsar," said Sgt. Wayne King, from Canyon, Texas.

That includes medical supplies, maintenance of equipment, and turn-in of excess medical equipment and expired supplies, King added. King and Staff Sgt. Ramon Guerrero handle the supply duties for the 145th. King is the customer assistance sergeant. Guerrero, from Sanger, Texas, runs the warehouse for Medical Eagle. The warehouse stocks 370 different items in stock and handles over 5,000 pounds of medical supplies each month.

Task Force Medical Eagle has used approximately \$600,000 in expendable supplies and equipment this rotation, according to Maj. Thomas Welch, the officer-in-charge of the 145th.

The medical maintenance team consists of Staff Sgt. Joseph Case and Sgt. Vonda Bateman. Case estimates that he and Bateman will complete 1,000 maintenance services during their rotation, scheduled to end in September. "That includes PMCS, repairs and technical in-

spections when equipment is setup or turned in," said Case.

Case, from Des Moines, Iowa, had a short deployment time. He received a phone call asking him to deploy to Bosnia and three weeks later was on the ground at Eagle Base.

Case and Bateman, from Arp, Texas, saved the U.S. Army over \$65,000 by turning in excess equipment back to the supply system for reissue.

"We have a great team environment," said Welch.

That was echoed by Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Alvarado, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "I have very good, knowledgeable soldiers to work with," said Alvarado, from Dallas. "It makes my job a lot easier."

Welch, from Irving, Texas, is pleased by how his soldiers are performing and what they have learned.

"We can take lessons learned and apply them to our units. We are pleased with our accomplishments throughout this mission," said Welch. "We're just here to make a difference."



(Above) Sgt. Vonda Bateman checks out a Propac patient monitor with a patient simulator during an equipment check.

(Left) Maj. Thomas Welch, right, surprises his wife during a video teleconference by asking her to renew their vows for their 13th anniversary Saturday evening. First Lt. Rodney Kelley helps out by reading the vows. Welch had made arrangements for his wife to be present by VTC for the pinning of his major's rank, which was accomplished immediately after the vows were renewed.



New chief takes Army's helm

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON—In a small, inconspicuous Pentagon ceremony, Gen. Pete Schoomaker came out of retirement Aug. 1, and swore to uphold the duties as the Army's 35th chief of staff.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was the first to make remarks during the ceremony, which was held in the office of Les Brownlee, the acting Army secretary. More than once Rumsfeld thanked Schoomaker and his wife, Cindy, for returning to duty.

"I'm absolutely delighted that General Schoomaker is going to undertake this responsibility," Rumsfeld said.

Before retiring in August 2000, Schoomaker served 31 years in the military. He said that he knows this Army is very different from the one he entered. "I truly feel blessed to be part of the Army's future," Schoomaker said.

"I have the opportunity to contend and help the Army as it becomes more relevant and ready."

Schoomaker will lead the

Army on the heels of retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, the former chief of staff of the Army. Shinseki started the move toward Transformation and later oversaw an Army transforming while at war.

The War on Terror is not a new war, according to a statement Schoomaker released shortly after his swearing-in ceremony. Twenty-three years ago in the Iranian desert during Operation Desert One, Schoomaker said he lost eight of his comrades. Schoomaker said he knew grief, but he didn't know that he was in the opening engagements of this country's long struggle against terrorism.

"Our enemies have been waging [this war] for some time, and it will continue for the foreseeable future," according to the statement.

Schoomaker's vast experience in both conventional and special operations, along with his genuine care and concern for soldiers and their families qualifies him to lead the Army at a very critical time in history, Brownlee said in a press release.

The Army's newest chief of staff is the first retired four-star



by Jerome Howard (Army News Service)

New Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker is sworn in by Les Brownlee, acting Secretary of the Army, in the Pentagon Aug. 1. Schoomaker's wife, Cindy, is holding the Bible.

officer ever to be called back to serve as the U.S. Army chief of staff.

Schoomaker comes from a household of career military men. His father, Fred Schoomaker, who also had a long-standing military career, was the assistant to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold Keith Johnson from 1964-1968. His younger brother, Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, is the chief of the Southeast Regional Medical Command.

Before hanging up his uniform in 2000, Schoomaker spent three years as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Prior to that he commanded the Joint Special Operations Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Then he became commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg until October 1997.

Soldiers receive Non-Article 5 NATO Medal



by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Murphy



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

MNB (North) soldiers received recognition recently for their deployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Top left) Spc. Brad Jessen, from Freemont, Neb., is presented the Non-Article 5 NATO Medal by MNB (North) commander Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason during a ceremony for TF North soldiers. (Above right) Mason presents the medal to Task Force Eagle soldiers from the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) during another ceremony on Eagle Base.

Specialist Blake Charles Kelly

May 7, 1982 to July 29, 2003

Lamentations 3:19-26, 31-33

*“The LORD is all I have,
and so in Him I put my hope.
The LORD is good to everyone
who trusts in Him,
so it is best for us to wait in patience
to wait for Him to save us.
The LORD is merciful and will not
reject us forever.
He may bring us sorrow,
but His love for us is sure and strong.
He takes no pleasure in causing us
grief or pain.”*

– read at the memorial service at Camp McGovern Aug. 1, 2003



by Sgt. 1st Class Ray Simmons

Soldiers on Eagle Base salute as the casket carrying the body of Kelly is loaded onto a C-130 for a flight to Ramstein Air Base in Germany in preparation for a final flight home.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

A 21-gun salute is fired at the memorial service honoring Kelly.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Stetsons from members of the 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment are aligned on a table near the entrance to the gym at Camp McGovern where the memorial service was held.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

A soldier from Task Force North renders a final salute at the memorial service at Camp McGovern, offering a show of respect to a fallen comrade.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

“Taps” is played by Spc. Chris Anderson at the end of the memorial service.

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Georgia



Athens may get new toll road

ATLANTA – The University Parkway Alliance has an \$850 million plan that soon may change the face of a familiar road while changing the fortunes of many of its members.

After almost eight years of urging state government to alter the character of Ga. 316 between Lawrenceville and Athens, the alliance is waiting to see if a recently enacted state law will prove to be the final link between their long-held dreams and reality.

The alliance is a 150-member nonprofit organization seeking to convert 40 miles of Ga. 316, also known as Uni-

versity Parkway, from a four-lane intercity highway to a limited-access toll road similar to Ga. 400 between Atlanta and Cumming.

Its membership includes two former Georgia Department of Transportation commissioners — engineering consultants Tom Moreland and Wayne Shackelford — as well as large landowners in the corridor and government officials. Pavers, contractors and consultants associated with road building also are members.

– Atlanta Journal-Constitution



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

All in the family – Incoming Task Force Wolf commander Portuguese Army Lt. Col. Luis Fonseca, right, hugs his brother, outgoing commander Lt. Col. Cesar Fonseca, during the recent transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Dannevirke. “I am here to fulfill my duty,” said Luis. “We are here to help people; that’s our mission.”

Kansas



Second GOP candidate to run

Republicans now have a race to see who will face U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore, a Lenexa Democrat, in next year’s election.

After a two-year stint with the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C., Kris Kobach said July 31 at a campaign rally in Olathe that he was a candidate for Moore’s 3rd District seat.

Adam Taff, Moore’s GOP challenger last year, is campaigning for a second chance

to unseat the three-term congressman.

Kobach, 37, a former Overland Park councilman, said Moore’s voting record was “out of touch” with the district, which comprises Johnson and Wyandotte counties and part of Douglas County.

“The positions of President Bush, not those of Dennis Moore, reflect this district,” he said at the rally.

– Kansas City Star

Massachusetts



Pie man accused of stealing

OAK BLUFFS — For years, locals have shelled out \$15 a pop for the homemade berry and peach pies Peter J. Koines sells from his summer stand at the West Tisbury Farmers’ Market. What they didn’t know was that they had likely already paid for the pies’ ingredients and the equipment he used to make them. Koines was arraigned earlier this month for allegedly stealing \$7,000 in kitchen equipment

from the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, where he has taught culinary arts for 14 years. He also allegedly ordered \$4,000 in berries, flour, and premade pie crusts on the school’s tab. The whole island has been buzzing about the pie man caper, which came to light when a state trooper-turned-culinary arts teacher wondered why Koines’s truck was parked outside the high school during off-hours.

– Boston Globe

News You Can Use

Wolf aces PLDC

Our item last week on Primary Leadership Development Course graduates omitted **Spc. Jennifer Wolf** of the 635th Military Intelligence Battalion. She was named to the Commandant’s List for the class conducted at Grafenwoehr, Germany, July 5-19.

MPs eye bike thefts

Eagle Base Military Police are stepping up efforts to stop bicycle thefts.

MPs will be conducting random spot checks to verify that bikes are being registered on post with the Military Police Desk. If they are not registered, registration will be done on the spot.

The MPs also will seize any bike that is left unsecured. The bike will then be placed into safekeeping and held at the MP station until the owner is located.

Have you ever been approached by anyone asking for information on SFOR?

Do you have any information regarding threats to SFOR personnel or facilities?



Are you aware of any acts of subversion or espionage conducted against SFOR?

If so, please call the Task Force Eagle Counterintelligence Team at 762-0177 or 061-721-315.

Reporting security violations is everyone’s responsibility!

