

AUGUST 15, 2003

TALON

HAZARDOUS VOLTAGES
EXIST IN THIS EQUIPMENT
GROUND ALL EQUIPMENT
BEFORE OPERATING

ATCs bring in the aircraft

Inside this issue:

**645th PSD takes care of the paperwork
Off duty on Eagle Base**

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TALON

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Letters to the Editor



We have received several e-mails with poetry pertaining to our deployment. We thought we'd share some of those with you. – Editor

I wear no uniforms, no blues or Army greens.
But I am in the military in the ranks rarely seen.
I have no rank upon my shoulders. Salutes I do not give.
But the military world is the place where I live.

I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get.
But my husband is the one who does, this I cannot forget.
I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line.
But my job is just as tough. I'm the one who's left behind.

My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man.
And the call to serve his country not all can understand.
Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free.
My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.

I love the man I married. Soldiering is his life.
But I stand among the silent ranks known as the Military Wife.
– Anonymous

Questions

*For a long while
I Have Loved you.
How would I know?
Other than it's true.
You Are the One
The One I Love.
No matter how far or high above.
You are an Angel that keeps me alive.
An Angel I need when I die.
No matter where you are, you are never far.
It is that, because you are next to me.
In my heart as close as can be.
The closest one in my heart.
But am I close or far apart?
– David Paul Ferrer*

“One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words.”

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



About the cover: Staff Sgt. Casey King (rear) and Sgt. Zak Shirley man the radar screens on Eagle Base. King and Shirley are air traffic controllers with Company E, 245th Aviation Battalion (Air Traffic Service). by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.

Soldier's ancestry leads to new friendships

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

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Indulis Dambro, legal administrator of the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.), knows what it's like to be a displaced person. He was born in a displaced persons camp in Oldenburg, Germany, shortly after World War II, in 1949. Both his mother and father were Latvian; their family was displaced by the war.

His mother moved to England with her parents and three children. Later, she and her children moved on to the United States, where she soon married. Her husband adopted Dambro, making him a naturalized citizen.

Many Americans have the desire to understand the culture and roots of their families before they came to the United States. Being a part of Stabilization Force 13 has helped satisfy that desire in Dambro.

"I knew when I came on this deployment that there would be soldiers from the Baltic states," said Dambro. "My goal was to make contact with these people and hold a few conversations of interests."

Dambro achieved his goal, making contact with three soldiers – two from Latvia and Estonia, and a training officer from Lithuania.

"I more than achieved my goal," said Dambro, who said the conversations he's held with the soldiers tended to veer toward the casual – hobbies, family.

"I thought I would meet one person; I ended up meeting all of the current soldiers from these countries as well as their replacements, so the connection continues."

One of those soldiers was Estonian army Capt. Madis Toompalu. Toompalu is one of the MNB(N) G-4 battle captains from Tallinn, Estonia.

Dambro said he has spent much of his time with Toompalu and regrets his leaving, but hopes that communication continues to grow with the next rotation.

"Talking helps unite us," said Toompalu. "It breaks the ice. Military missions are completed more easily if everyone tries to communicate and learn more about each other. We have all developed a deeper appreciation for each other as fellow soldiers and now, friends."

Toompalu is preparing Estonian army Capt. Tonu Mil to carry on his duties when he is gone.

Latvian army Capt. Talis Ducis is a battle captain in the G-4 section and is preparing Capt. Karlis Silkians to carry on his duties in his absence.

Lithuanian army Capt. Egidijus Timinskas is an intelligence officer and is preparing Capt. Vladimir Asaciov to replace him.

"There are political leaders and there are soldiers – we are soldiers. Working together and learning about each other will help us unite and help to complete any multinational mission," Timinskas said.

Dambro said he hopes the



A link to the past -- Chief Warrant Officer Indulis Dambro pauses for a photo with fellow MNB (North) soldiers. (From top, left) Capts. Tonu Mil, Madis Toompalu, Egidijus Timinskas and Vladimir Asaciov. (From bottom, left) Capt. Talis Ducis, Dambro and Karlis Silkians.

bonds he's forged on Eagle Base with Toompalu, Ducis and Timinskas continue after redeployment.

"We'll probably have a lot of e-mail traffic for a while," he said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what happens."



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Job well done

Enes Gacanin, chief of staff of the Bosnia State Border Service, or SBS, presents Sgt. 1st Class Anielle Burr, 35th MP Company, a gift of thanks for his efforts in training SBS officers and their police dogs in techniques used for detecting explosives at airports throughout the country. Three other 35th MP soldiers received gifts from Gacanin in gratitude for the training. They were: Staff Sgt. Joseph Maks (to left of Burr), Sgt. Michael Crerend and Sgt. Thomas Prim. The gift consisted of the SBS patch and Bosnian flag.

645th gets the paperwork done

Story and photos by Sgt. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

Being in the military, soldiers are constantly doing paperwork to keep their files and records updated. The work that accompanies such tasks is multiplied for those soldiers with a spouse and children. Keeping track of yourself on paper requires quite an effort. Now, imagine that you have to keep track of all of the American soldiers in Multinational Brigade (North)'s area of responsibility, as well as those in Camp Butmir.

The 13 members of the National Guard's 645th Personnel Service Detachment from Oklahoma City, Okla., do that and much more. Their mission is to handle personnel functions such as record changing, awards or decorations, flight manifests, casualty reporting, promotions and demotions.

They are the Guardsmen who issued each soldier his Stabilization Force badge, and a more enjoyable experience for most soldiers, they'll be the ones who cut them up.

"Our job is to keep the Army in a high state of readiness, as far as personnel goes," said Chief Warrant Officer James Matlack.

With the recent departures of the Russian, Finnish, and Danish military contingents, the 645th has been extremely busy keeping track of people.

"We've spent a lot of man-hours out-processing the foreign contingents and keeping track of their SFOR badges," said Maj. Rhonda Nee, the 645th's commander



"I like my job because it lets me communicate with the customers," said Spc. Jarrett B. Chrz, right, from Perry, Okla., taking care of Maj. Chris Collier. **"It requires people skills and that is something that I have."**

while in uniform, but back in Oklahoma, a high school guidance counselor — not to mention a Sooners fan.

"We have to keep track of the people in this theater and their SFOR badges because the badges are considered sensitive items," said Sgt. 1st Class John Peek, of Oklahoma City, Okla. "An SFOR badge is like a passport that lets (soldiers) travel across national borders, so it's important not to lose track of them," he added.

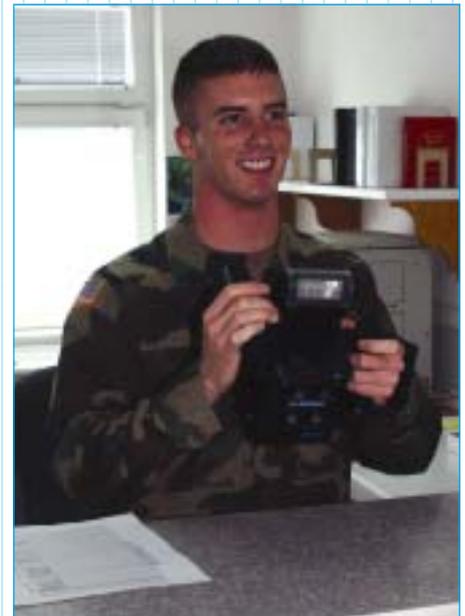
With SFOR 14 soon arriving, and SFOR 13 leaving, the 645th is entering a crucial

stage of their job. The number of people entering and exiting MNB (North) will cause things to be very hectic. To ensure things go smoothly during this time, Nee advises departing soldiers to attend all of the necessary out-processing activities and have all of their necessary paperwork with them.

Just as important, SFOR 13 soldiers should resist yanking their SFOR 14 counterparts out of the Fest Tent area before they have been through all of the necessary in-processing briefings.



(Left) "It is our job to keep track of all of the people in the Balkan theater," said Oklahoma Army National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class John Peek, NCOIC of the 645th Personnel Service Detachment. Peek works for the Oklahoma state Department of Education and lives in Oklahoma City. **(Right)** Sgt. Mark Janoe, from Antlers, Okla., takes a photo in order to issue a soldier's Stabilization Force identification badge.



Air traffic controllers bring 'em in



Sgt. Tim Hunt makes an adjustment to get a voltage reading on a radar set used on Eagle Base. Hunt, from Lexington, Okla., is the maintenance chief for Company E, 245th Aviation Battalion (Air Traffic Services).

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

In case you haven't noticed, aircraft arrive and depart the Eagle Base airfield every day. Even though it's not La Guardia International, air traffic controllers still have the responsibility of landing all the aircraft.

Company E, 245th Aviation Battalion (Air Traffic Services) handles ground control approaches on Eagle Base.

They also have soldiers at Camp Butmir near Sarajevo.

During good visibility, aircraft land by visual reckoning and ground control approach for training. During limited visibility, such as rain or fog, aircraft that aren't equipped with instrument landing systems are brought in to the airfield by the ATCs. Aircraft with ILS can also be brought in if requested.

"We're set up to do recovery ops with the aircraft" to bring them in, said Sgt. 1st

Class Keith Edge. Edge, from Boswell, Okla., is Company E's noncommissioned officer in charge.

The ATCs man the precision approach radar seven days per week, 16 hours per day.

"We're on call for the midnight shift," said shift supervisor Staff Sgt. Robert Arrington. Arrington, from Norman, Okla., is a full-time flight support specialist with the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

This is the second deployment to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the unit.

The first was in 1998.

"This has been a very good deployment," said 1st Lt. Clinton Ward, here on his first deployment.

Ward, from Purcell, Okla., is Company E's commander. "This has been an eye-opening experience," he added.

Part of operating the radar includes getting a rating for the controllers. The rating process includes a series of written tests followed by a series of running aircraft ap-

proaches. "The young guys have gotten a lot of practice," said Edge. "We've gotten several rated."

The radar system used at Eagle Base is the same Army-wide, so ATCs only have to learn the airfield when they go to other locations, according to Edge.

The unit has also been involved with a community project. They took over supporting a school in Tabacci from Stabilization Force 12.

During SFOR 13, they were able to replace a pump for the school's water system, and donated a lot of school supplies, soccer balls and backpacks for approximately 65 students.

For some troops, the deployment hasn't been too bad. Sgt.

Daniel Deering said, "The deployment has gone by a lot faster than I thought it would." Deering, from Norman, Okla., is an Oklahoma University student.

Ward has been very impressed by his soldiers. "I could not have asked for anything better from them."

"I could not have asked for anything better from them."

— 1st Lt. Clinton Ward

One step at a time

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matt MacDonald performs pre-flight checks prior to a flight to Mostar Saturday. MacDonald, from Tulsa, Okla., is a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot with Company B, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Snapshots

Base hosts hymns and harmonies



photos by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Tuba player Spc. Josh Harris and bassist Staff Sgt. Michael Ballard keep time with their fellow Nebraskans from the Task Force Husker Praise Band.



Three bands performed Gospel and religious-themed music Sunday on Minue Park. (Above) Staff Sgt. Brian Sermeno, front man for the Task Force Husker Praise Band, sings one of the opening numbers.



Singer Cheryl Graves, right, leads fellow members of the Eagle Base Gospel Service Choir, as Spc. Vincent Farr, left, directs.



Soldiers get caught up in the rhythm of Sunday's concert.



Brian Dosch, left, Lt. Col. Mark Stevens, Maj. Charles Lawhorn, and Sgt. 1st Class Alvie Davis harmonize during one of the Eagle Base Praise Band's medley of tunes. The Band was the last to perform Sunday evening.



Eagle Base Praise Band guitarist Sgt. Benjamin Shunko takes center stage.

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Alabama



Rain keeps Lake Purdy full

Birmingham's weird rainfall pattern can be seen at Lake Purdy, which has now stayed full for almost a year, the longest such stretch in 26 years of records.

In normal years, the level of the Lake Purdy water reservoir steadily drops from mid-summer through late fall as the city draws water for drinking, washing and sprinkling. Then the lake starts to refill, a rebound that can take until February.

But thanks to heavy rains which stretch back to last September, the water reservoir has stayed full for 312 days through Friday, said Bill Guier, the supervised control and data acquisition operator for the Birmingham Water Works.

Lake Purdy reached its present full level last Sept. 28 after more than 7 inches of rain fell between Sept. 20 and 26.

- Birmingham News

Mississippi



West Nile rate lower in state

JACKSON - Mississippi health officials say that while the West Nile virus is somewhat subdued here so far this summer, it's too early to tell whether the state has missed the spreading nationwide epidemic.

As of Friday, 10 cases had been reported statewide, just a fraction of the 41 cases that had been confirmed at the same time last year.

"I still think it could go either way at this point," said Sally Slavinski, a state epidemiologist.

While Mississippi has seen fewer cases this year, the mosquito-transmitted virus is spreading fast nationwide and will likely break last year's record 4,156 cases, said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health officials won't know until late September whether the national outbreak has bypassed Mississippi.

-Associated Press

Washington



Wildfire costs \$35 million

The price tag for the state's largest wildfire, the 7-week-old Farewell Creek blaze in the federal Pasayten Wilderness in north-central Washington, has reached \$35 million and it's climbing.

"Yes, it's pretty expensive," spokesman David Widmark of the Northwest Interagency Fire Coordination Center in Portland said Sunday. "It's very expensive."

Operations officials for different agencies pegged the

exact figure for fighting the lightning-caused fire at \$35,334,490 Sunday.

Meanwhile, the blaze that began June 29 increased to 81,000 acres Sunday from 79,950 acres Saturday.

There were 954 firefighters battling the fire, down from 1,053 Saturday. Containment remained at about 65 percent. Crews were aided by 13 helicopters dropping water and retardants.

- Associated Press

News You Can Use

MWR



Tonight

8 p.m. - Apollo Night talent contest, Peacekeeper Hall
8 p.m. - 8-Ball Pool Tournament, Triggers

Saturday, Aug. 16

2-8 p.m. - Unit-Level Basketball Tournament
8 p.m. - Dominos/Spades Tourney, Old School Music, Triggers

Sunday, Aug. 17

10 a.m.-8 p.m. - Unit-Level Basketball Tournament

Correction

In the postal article by postal commander 1st Lt. Sarah Kuhaneck in last week's Talon, the date for Lone Star residents to receive exclusive service at the Post Office was incorrect. The correct date is Aug. 23, NOT Sept. 23. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Education



University of Maryland Term 1 Seminars

Aug. 18-22

Vocabulary and Word Usage

Sept. 1-5

Introduction to Microcomputers: Word Processing (Microsoft Word)

Sept. 8-12

Introduction to Microcomputers: Spreadsheets (Microsoft Excel)

Sept. 13-14

Introduction to Microcomputers: Presentation Graphics (Microsoft PowerPoint)

Sept. 15-19

Grammar Review

Bosnian Headstart classes offered

Classes in Serbo-Croatian are being offered by the Education Center at Eagle Base.

Bosnian Headstart provides basic language instruction and cultural orientation to the local official language, culture and customs.

The program promotes oral comprehension of common phrases associated with social courtesies, basic personal information, shopping, eating out, asking for directions, using public utilities and getting help in emergency situations.

Dates and times for the classes are:

- Aug. 25-Sept. 1, 9-11:30 a.m.

- Aug. 25-Sept. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- Sept. 22-29, 9-11:30 a.m.

- Sept. 22-Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Education Center at 762-7077.

\$250

REWARD

A reward of \$250 has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for the theft of a platinum ring and a gold band with the symbol "L" all around. The incident occurred between July 28 and Aug. 3 at room 106, Building 3323, in the Lone Star housing area on Eagle Base. All information provided will be kept confidential. If you have information, contact the Bosnia CID office at DSN 762-5138 or civilian 061-727-072, or your local military police at DSN 762-5151.

Top soldiers named

Two task forces announced this week results of their NCO/Soldier of the Month boards for August.

Sgt. John Dale of the G-6 section of Task Force Eagle headquarters was named NCO of the Month for Task Force Wagon Wheel. **Spc. Amanda Zishka** of the G-3 section was named Soldier of the Month.

At the Military Intelligence Task Force, **Sgt. David Kroupa** of the 134th Long Range Surveillance Detachment was named NCO of the Month. **Spc. Arcenio Cruz** of the 260th Military Intelligence Detachment was named Soldier of the Month.

Off duty ...



(Left) Oh, no you don't – Sgt. Charity Summer attempts to block Staff Sgt. John Speer's throw during an Ultimate Frisbee match on Sunday. (Below) Staff Sgt. Brian Mires dives for a catch, while opponent Sgt. Beth Carriere trails close behind.

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Dental Clinic OIC Lt. Col. Richard Fixott practices a favorite hobby, juggling, during a few moments of leisure on Eagle Base Sunday.

“The most memorable moments in life can be enjoyed by doing nothing.”

— *Sheila Edenfield*



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Maj. Augusto Batlle (left), Master Sgt. Luis Figueroa and Maj. Edgar Fike get ready to start carving on two pigs cooked during a pig roast Sunday afternoon on Eagle Base. Batlle, Figueroa and Fike are members of Task Force Medical Eagle.