

AUGUST 29, 2003

TALON



Konjuh Cup 2003 **Cooperation through Competition**

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Hall's Town Hall meeting
Kansas governor visit troops

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TALON

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Think safety this Labor Day

by **Gen. B.B. Bell**
*Commander,
U.S. Army, Europe*

Just two years ago, most of us enjoyed a long Labor Day weekend without giving much thought to what is now a household word — terrorism. The tragic events of 9/11 dramatically changed that, placing us all square in the middle of our nation's Global War on Terrorism.

As we fight this war, our mission requires every member of the U.S. Army, Europe family to set an example of leadership, discipline, training and standards both on and off duty. You are setting that example.

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is dedicated to the achievements of American workers and the contributions they have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our great nation.

For our waiting spouses and families, I know you will find time over this period to reflect on the importance of the contributions of your deployed soldiers and civilians, as well as



Bell

your personal contributions. All of us, however, must remain ever vigilant. We must not drop our guard. The Labor Day holiday can turn into tragedy when proven safe practices are ignored or if people use poor judgment and take unnecessary risks.

The off-duty environment continues to be our most challenging area. Based on our accident history, at least one of our soldiers will die in a privately owned vehicle accident over the Labor Day weekend. This is unacceptable. We must do everything possible to prevent this tragic occurrence.

We must prepare our team

for success. Approach this holiday as you would any tough mission: plan ahead, develop controls, and execute to standard. Leaders must engage soldiers and civilian employees in the effort to identify and avoid the primary hazards associated with the Labor Day holiday and convey the idea of personal responsibility.

I charge each of you to prepare your subordinates and your families for this upcoming Labor Day weekend. Mentor junior leaders to follow your example by demonstrating good risk-management practices, both on and off duty. Success can be defined only as zero deaths. Make it your goal not to allow a single soldier, civilian or family member to die on your watch.

I wish each of you a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. Again, I thank all of you for the sacrifices you are making in the Global War on Terrorism. Your nation is very, very grateful for all you do as USAREUR continues to execute with excellence *Any Mission, Anywhere*.

"Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year in any country. All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day ... is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

—Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor



About the cover: Staff Sgt. John Agnew, center, and 1st Lt. Bradley Chaney, rear, playing on the SFOR team, drive the ball toward the goal during a soccer match in the Konjuh Cup 2003. The SFOR team lost to Sekovici 5 to 1. by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.

"If all the cars in the United States were placed end to end, it would probably be Labor Day Weekend."

—Doug Larson

Games spark hope for Bosnia's future

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic
Media Specialist

SFOR soldiers and local Bosnian authorities sponsored a soccer tournament in Kladanj Aug. 23. The event, dubbed the "Konjuh Cup 2003", after the mountain that looms over Kladanj, brought together a soccer team from SFOR, as well as veteran teams from both the Republic of Srpska and Federation municipalities.

About 300 adults and children from local municipalities also enjoyed the all-day activities which included soccer matches, performances by a group from the Children's Theater from Sarajevo, mine awareness classes taught by SFOR soldiers, and music courtesy of SFOR's Radio Mir.

"There was a lot of coordination for SFOR to put this together as well as (local officials) doing their part in providing teams and spectators," said Capt. Bryan Tolar, commander of Company A, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, who spearheaded the preparation and promotion of the soccer tournament.

Mirza Kuluglic, chairman of the Kladanj municipal council, worked closely with Tolar in promoting the tournament. He was happy with the turnout and hoped there would be future gatherings between Federation and RS citizens.

"We in Kladanj will do our best to make this a traditional (event)," he said. "We had the support of municipal authorities that came to our help by sponsoring and covering expenses for the transportation of the teams, and other (expenses)," said Milenko Majstorovic, chief of Milici police station's crime department, who worked with SFOR in advertising the event in Milici and Vlasenica municipalities.

SFOR soldiers also appreciated the day's events. "I think it is a great idea. I think it should be followed up by the next rotation,"



photos by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

(Above) A player from the Sekovici youth team kicks the ball into play for the first game of the tournament between the SFOR and Sekovici teams.

(Right) Sgt. Woody Clark, left, Cpl. Dale Botts and interpreter Tahir Hrnjic teach a mine awareness class to some of the youngsters attending the day's activities. Clark and Botts are members of Company C, 206th Engineer battalion.



said Company A's Spc. Bart Heckel, who played on the SFOR soccer team.

At the end, trophies and certificates of appreciation were presented to the top three soccer teams and other participants.

"I think we were successful before we

even started," said Tolar. "More than the competition, I am just glad that we have children here seeing what their parents are doing, what their leaders are doing. Hopefully, it is demonstrating to them the need for this cooperation."



by Maj. Kirk Slaughter

Moscanica MEDCAP

Sgt. Ahmet Aydir, Turkish Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Maria Martin, Task Force Medical Eagle, prepare to prick a resident from the village of Moscanica during a recent SFOR 13 Medical Community Action Program.

Hall headlines town hall meetings

by Sgt. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

The assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, Thomas F. Hall, recently visited reservists and National Guardsmen to address the concerns of the soldiers deployed to the Balkans as part of Stabilization Force 13.

Hall held an hour-long town hall meeting at Camp Butmir Aug. 19 and another at Eagle Base the following day.

During the meetings, the soldiers expressed concerns and inquired about health, financial, retirement, and educational benefits, as well as the predictability of future deployments.

"There is a rebalancing when it comes to deployments. Should deployments be 'just in case' or 'just in time'?" Hall asked.

Regarding the possible movement of the reserve-component and Guardsmen retirement age to 55 years, Hall said, "We're wrestling with it, but I don't think it is something that's going to happen this year, but I don't think Congress is going to let go of it, either."

As the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, Hall is responsible for the overall supervision of all reserve-component affairs in the Department of Defense.

"I got to my job by serving in the military for 38 years," said the retired Navy rear admiral.

"I had not realized the difficulty of your mission, and I think most Americans don't," Hall said to citizen soldiers at Eagle Base.

"You are doing a magnificent job, and I hope you make it home safely; remember safety is always paramount," he said.

SFOR 13 has Guardsmen and reservists from 22 states, including Kansas, where the 35th Infantry Division is headquartered at Fort Leavenworth.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Spc. Sharmayne Huitt enjoys lunch at the Balkan Grille with Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason, left, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall after the town hall meeting Aug. 20. Huitt is an administrative clerk with HHC, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Eagle Base soldiers listen to responses to questions asked of Hall during the town hall meeting in Peacekeepers Hall Aug. 20.

Kansas governor travels to Bosnia

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

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius recently visited Kansas Army National Guardsmen who are currently deployed as peacekeepers in Bosnia.

During her two days in Bosnia, Sebelius visited soldiers at Eagle Base, as well as those at Camp Butmir, near Sarajevo.

“Coming to Bosnia gives me an opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to these citizen-soldiers,” said the governor.

The 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized), headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., took authority of U.S. forces in Bosnia on March 24, as Task Force Eagle, and is scheduled to remain in country until the end of September when the 34th Infantry Division from Minnesota replaces them. Task Force Eagle is commanded by Brig. Gen. James R. “Ron” Mason and is currently made up of soldiers representing 22 different U.S. states, including approximately 400 soldiers from Kansas.

“By coming here, (the governor) shows that what we are doing is for a good cause,” said Spc. Amanda Zishka, of Fort Leavenworth, Kan. “Her visit shows she cares about the soldiers,” she said.

“Spending time in Bosnia-Herzegovina, I’ve gotten a look at life in the service, as well as the sacrifice and discipline of real soldiers,” said Sebelius.

The governor also visited the soon-to-be-opened memorial and cemetery at Potocari, which was the site of mass executions during the country’s civil war in the early to mid-nineties—an estimated 8,000 Bosnian Muslim and Croat men were executed by Bosnian Serbs at the site.

“The visit has provided an opportunity to learn about Bosnia. I followed the situation and read about it, but it is much more real to actually be here. It’s been a very meaningful visit on all levels,” she said.



Capt. Darien Wade, executive officer, Company C, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry, gives a situational update briefing to (from left) Kansas State Sen. Lana Oleen, Kan. Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, and Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Gregory Gardner.



(Left) Multinational Brigade (North) Command Sgt. Maj. David Wright, right, and MNB (North) Deputy Commander Col. Calvin Johnson greet Sebelius upon her arrival at Eagle Base Aug. 22.



(Right) Sebelius shakes hands with Kansas Army National Guardsman Spc. Amanda Zishka, from Fort Leavenworth.

Snapshot

Photos capture soldiers at play

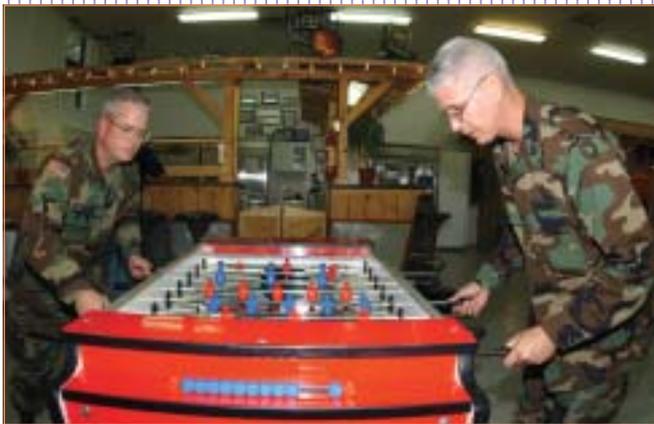
by 2nd



Capt. Benjamin Wiener, 34th Infantry Division, prepares a combination shot during a pool tournament at Triggers Aug. 20.



Maj. John Nelson collects his winning sponsored Casino Night Aug. 23 at Triggers.



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Golden, left, and CW2 Mark Momeyer pair up against each other at a foosball tournament Aug. 21.



Hit or hold – Sgt. Maj. Adolphus Parker dons a dealer hat during a blackjack game at Casino Night Aug. 23. (From left) Sgt. Jose Rosa, Spc. Sara Childs, Spc. Melissa Herren and Staff Sgt. John Speer.



Sgt. Daniel Murphy, left, and Maj. Francisco Batlle battle it out during a pingpong tournament at Peregrory Fitness Center Aug. 20.

2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



...s during MWR-
...ggers.



Some soldiers preferred the outside air at Triggers during the Aug. 23 MWR-sponsored spades tournament. (From left) Capt. Keith Taylor, Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Deghand, 2nd Lt. Pamela Stephens and Spc. Amanda Zishka.

News You Can Use

Oklahoma Guard heading for Afghanistan

OKLAHOMA CITY—Oklahoma National Guard officials confirmed Aug. 14 that elements of the 45th Infantry Brigade will be deployed to Afghanistan later this year as the command element for a training task force of as many as 1000 American soldiers.

The task force will be comprised of National Guard soldiers from Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Rhode Island and Maine and will be known as Task Force Phoenix. The number of soldiers from each state required for the mission is yet to be determined.

The mission of the task force will be to train and mentor soldiers in the new Afghan national army. The brigade has been given the task of having one corps (division) of the army stood-up by June 2004, when Afghanistan will hold its first national elections.

Soldiers of the 45th may begin training for the mission as soon as mid-September and will

deploy to Afghanistan sometime after Thanksgiving. Most of the pre-deployment training will take place at Fort Carson, Colo., home the 45th's higher headquarters, the 7th Infantry Division.

In addition to being the command element for Task Force Phoenix, the 45th will also mentor Afghani officers and non-commissioned officers in the new army and may provide part of the operation's security

force.

The 45th has already begun to identify soldiers who will be deploying to Afghanistan, most of which will be officers and senior NCOs.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Maj. Gen. Lloyd E. Krase, 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) commander, left, and division Command Sgt. Maj. David Wright, unveil the newly named Spurrier Hall on Eagle Base Monday. The building, which houses the division civil affairs section, is named after World War II soldier Staff Sgt. James Spurrier, the first Medal of Honor recipient of the 35th ID.

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Arkansas

Governor sheds 50 pounds

LITTLE ROCK – With sweat forming at his brow on a brisk 5 a.m. walk, Gov. Mike Huckabee said Aug. 21 that he has found the willpower to step out of the buffet line and toward a healthier lifestyle to drop 50 pounds.

“I’ve prayed many times, ‘Lord, install in me that kind of metabolism where I just can enjoy every single thing that’s on the buffet,’” he said. “This isn’t my first time being heavy. I’d keep it off for a few

years and slowly it would creep back on.”

Governor of a state that ranks third in obesity, Huckabee said Thursday in the middle of his now-regular early morning walk that his attitude changed after he was diagnosed with adult-onset diabetes last year. He said he dropped the weight since starting a medically supervised diet on June 10.

– Associated Press

Washington

12-year-old boy packs pistol

A 12-year-old Kirkland boy charged with pointing a loaded gun at classmates and threatening to kill his school principal pleaded guilty yesterday to six criminal counts, including second-degree assault and three felony harassment charges.

He had initially faced 10 criminal charges. Prosecutors recommended that he spend about a year to a year and a half in detention.

The boy, who doesn’t yet weigh 100 pounds, is a sweet child, according to his grand-

mother.

But in June, police found a loaded .357-caliber Magnum in the boy’s backpack at Alexander Graham Bell Elementary School. Students said the boy had been bringing the gun to school for a week. Three girls said he had pointed it at their heads, according to police.

Another classmate said the boy showed him the gun at recess and said, “I think I’m going to shoot you,” according to court records.

– Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Wisconsin

Group: Bishop should resign

GREENBAY — Criminal charges may not be warranted, but Green Bay Bishop Robert Banks should resign for his role in the Archdiocese of Boston abuse scandals, says a member of a victims support group.

Banks, who served for six years as second-in-command under Cardinal Bernard Law, failed to investigate cases of priest sex abuse of children and hampered criminal investigations into priest abuse

cases, according to a July 23 grand jury report issued by Massachusetts Atty. Gen. Thomas F. Reilly.

“It is very frustrating as you read this report and it states clearly the gross negligence of Bishop Banks and yet nothing can be done to take legal action against him,” said David Schauer, a member of the Wisconsin chapter of Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

– Appleton Post-Crescent

Open wide



by Capt. Kim Larsen

Maj. Walter Lee, Task Force Medical Eagle dentist, works on a patient with the help of interpreter Sandra Horvatinovic during a MEDCAP in the village of Zepce on Aug. 2.

What is this?



by Sgt. James Grosdidier

A Task Force South patrol came upon this bull being hoisted out of a six-foot deep concrete culvert recently. The bull had been there quite a while when assistance arrived in the form of a passing truck with a hydraulic arm. Despite its ordeal, the bull walked away, having suffered only minor cuts and scrapes. Moo.