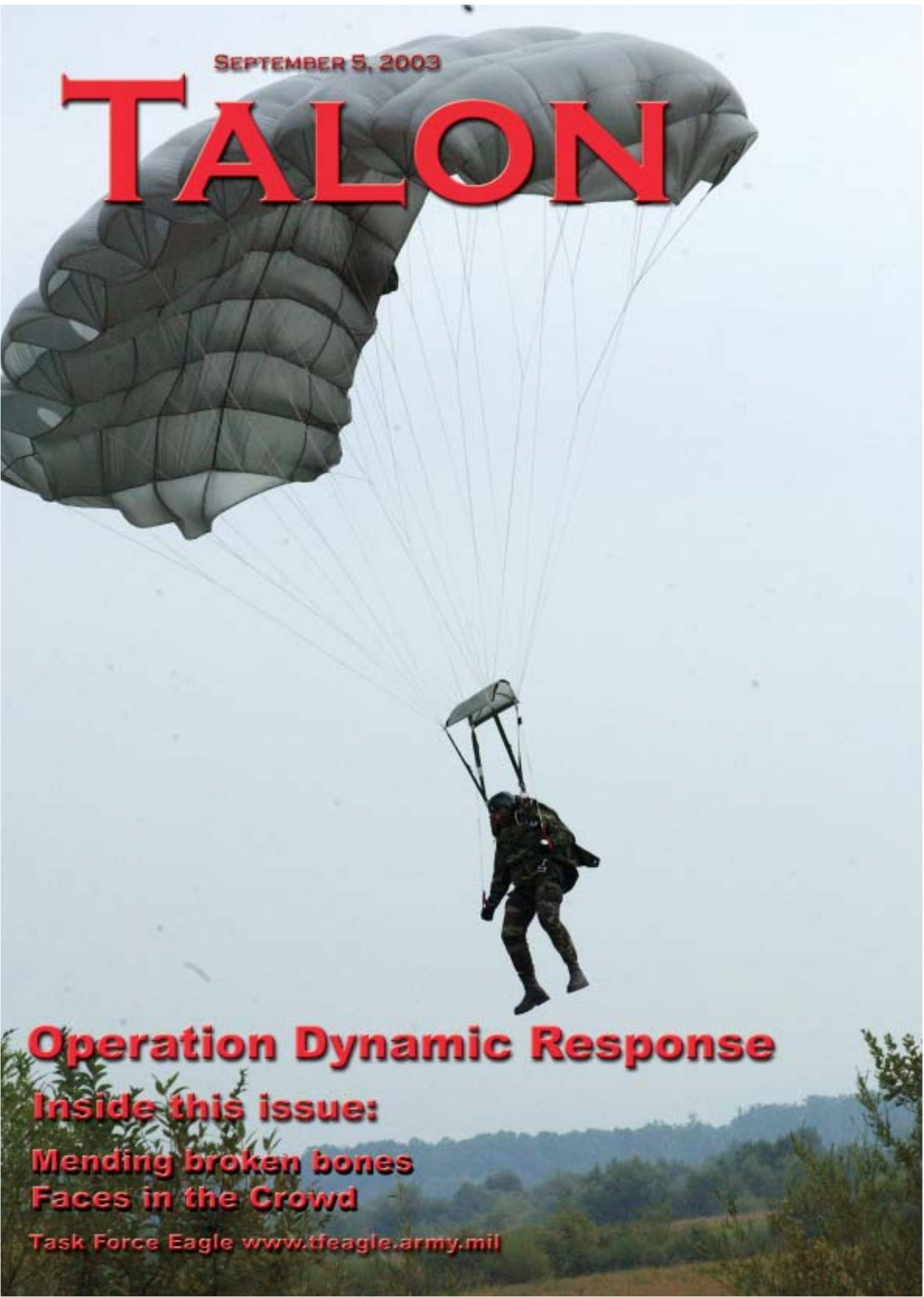


SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

TALON



Operation Dynamic Response

Inside this issue:

Mending broken bones

Faces in the Crowd

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TALON

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Chaplain's Comments

Blessed are the Peacekeepers

by Chaplain (Col.) Ron Cobb
Command Chaplain

We are going to be different people when we return home from Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have changed a great deal more than we may know. You will be more mature and more serious after seeing the results of the Bosnian civil war and the slaughter of innocents.

Some of you may have trauma issues from watching mass grave sites unearthed. We have experienced the tragic death of Spc. Blake Kelly. We have been on active duty during the Iraq War and have watched our fellow soldiers die, knowing we could very well have been one of them.

The Book of Proverbs teaches "wisdom is found in the house of sorrow." It is sorrow to leave our homes and children and family. We have experienced loneliness.

My prayer is that we will each be a great deal wiser because of the sorrow we have gone through and because of the suffering we have seen.



Cobb

The people we are going home to have changed also. They will be less dependent on us. They had to become more independent because we were gone.

It will not be easy to return home. Soldiers in SFOR 13 who have been on other Bosnia rotations say it is harder to redeploy home than it is to leave for war or peacekeeping adventures. Home may seem boring. It may seem stressful. One thing is sure, home will be much different from Task Force Eagle.

Deputy Command Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Davidson and I are concerned about soldiers

returning home. Please feel welcome to contact us at Eagle Base. Chaplain Davidson and I want to go beyond that. If you are back in the United States and feel the need to talk with someone, please feel free to call us, days or even weeks after redeployment home.

Our phone numbers in the United States are Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Davidson (913) 451-0512 and Chaplain (Col.) Ron Cobb (785) 233-4681. We may be miles from you, but we will be glad to talk with you.

Sometimes just talking to someone who understands, who has been on the same mission, can greatly help. We are here for you. Each one of you remains in our prayers.

I am proud of you and the peace you have brought BiH. "Blessed are the Peacemakers." This blessing remains for you, for your children, and for your grandchildren. You have been a key part of bringing peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Be proud of this accomplishment for the rest of your life. Salaam and Shalom with Love.

"None of us knows what the next change is going to be, what unexpected opportunity is just around the corner, waiting a few months or a few years to change all the tenor of our lives."

—Kathleen Norris

Soldier/NCO of the Rotation named

Spc. Jess Duncan of Task Force North has been selected as the Soldier of the Rotation and **Staff Sgt. Steven Johns**, Task Force Medical Eagle, was named NCO of the Rotation. The results were named after an Aug. 30 board.



About the covers: Front: A member of the Italian 186th Parachute Regiment parachutes into a drop zone during Tuesday's Dynamic Response. **by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson.** **Rear:** Capt. Jennifer Flikke, a member of SFOR 14, tosses a bottle of water to Col. Tom Johnson at the end of the Labor Day Weekend 10k race. **by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy.**



Mir's music touches hearts and minds

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

GOOD MORNING, BOSNIA! As Robin Williams and Touchtone Pictures have shown us in their 1987 film, *Good Morning, Vietnam!*, radio has proven to play a salient role in reaching the members of the United States Military.

At Eagle Base, one member of the Psychological Operations Support Element, with the help of five disc jockeys, uses radio as a tool to interact with the local populace that lives within Multinational Brigade (North)'s area of responsibility.

Sergeant James Pangrazio, from Joliet, Ill., is the NCOIC of Radio Mir, which is a fully functional radio station operating on Eagle Base.

The station plays music to a target audience of 15 to 25 year olds, but also includes radio spots to inform its listeners on such themes as Stabilization Force's weapons harvests, terrorism, national pride, and mine awareness.

One hour a week, Task Force South uses the station as a voice to inform listeners of its activities. Task Force Medical Eagle is also working on coordinating a 30-minute show giving listeners a medical tip of the day.

"We have a techno hour, Rock Nation, and play the Billboard top 100, but our main focus is to help the economy by getting the listeners to stay in Bosnia and also to convince listeners to do what is morally correct rather than simply doing what will benefit themselves," Pangrazio said.

Another method Radio Mir uses to promote its FM stations – 106.2, 102.2, and 98.0 – and to increase its audience, is by holding karaoke parties every Friday night somewhere in MNB (North). The parties are usually hosted by a local café with enough room to handle the karaoke machine and all of the station's accompanying equipment.

Once a location has been determined, Radio Mir supplies its host with a poster to hang which promotes its party.

"Some of the café owners have told us we double – and sometimes triple — their regular business," said Pangrazio.

Radio Mir parties have been known to last from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. and are always promised to deliver fun times, he said.

Throughout the night, karaoke participants are rewarded with small gifts such as T-shirts for their willingness to show off their ability, or sometimes inability, to imitate both local stars as well as international music artists.

Whether it's through their radio shows or at their Friday night karaoke parties, Radio Mir tries to show the local communi-



(Above) Shemsedin Kuteshi sings at a recent Radio Mir Karaoke party at Cafe Trend in Orasje. (Right) Radio Mir program director and disc jockey, Sandra Pandurevic, keeps listeners tuned in by playing local favorites, while Radio Mir NCOIC, Sgt. James Pangrazio, listens in. Pandurevic has been working for Radio Mir since 1999.

ties that SFOR soldiers are as human as everyone else.

"It's hard to say whether or not we affect people, but we try to show them that there is a personable, likeable, human aspect to SFOR," said Pangrazio.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Monday stroll – Military police from the 34th Infantry Division take a recent walk on Eagle Base's Salute Alley together. The MPs are part of the newly-arrived SFOR 14.

Division G-4 deals with 'real world missions'

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

From beans to bullets and valuables to vehicles, the 35th Infantry Division G-4 section touches all those that find their way to Multinational Brigade (North.)

"We deal with real world missions," said the G-4 officer in charge, Lt Col. Robert Schmitt. "What we do or do not do directly affects the missions."

A few current G-4 projects are the Dynamic Response exercise, the deployment of Stabilization Force 14, and the re-deployment of SFOR 13.

"We work with the planners, and manage those assets that are available," said Schmitt.

There must be a budget for every project, and funding is another part the G-4 plays in the operations mission.

All projects cost money, and the SFOR budget is limited. Projects must be evaluated and funding set aside to meet the individual financial needs of each operation.

Sgt. Maj. James Brown of the 35th G-4 is a key player in the role of funding. He said an independent government estimate must be done on each



Maj. Millicen Dill and Lt. Col. Robert Schmitt work in the G-4 office on Eagle Base. The two officers are part of a 14-person team Schmitt describes as "excellent," when it comes to getting the important jobs done. "What we do or do not do directly affects the missions," he said.

project. Based on his research, a cost for each project is projected, and then given to the base comptroller, who manages the funds. Contractors then bid on the job independently.

The G-4 section touches every MNB (N) soldier actively by moving personnel and equipment when the unit-issued equipment will not do the job.

Maj. Millicen Dill, G-4 transportation officer, said she loves bringing the logistics and operations together and making them sync by coordinating the individual needs of the units with the organizations that will meet their needs.

The effort has become even

more involved with this rotation, because the units are from so many nations, states, reserve units and active-component commands.

"I coordinate between many different agencies to ensure that people and equipment get to where they need to be on time," said Dill.

"We have to move smart – Larry Green, the air terminal supervisor and Uv Mitchell of the branch management control team help a great deal. I couldn't do it without them, and all the other organizations I work with on a daily basis."

Dill said she deployed roughly 1,500 soldiers to Bosnia

for SFOR 13 and began the re-deployment planning immediately after she arrived.

This is after going through Hohenfels, Germany – transportation involving sea, rail and air.

"My first briefing for redeployment to the chief of staff of the division was four days after I arrived," said Dill.

"Operations, being successful or not, are directly related to their logistical support," said Brown.

"The SFOR mission is logistically heavy, and if any unit resupply is cut off, its ability to accomplish its mission is also cut off."



Dig it – Sgt. Stacey Dawson, left, of Joint Military Affairs, and Sgt. 1st Class Emir Hadzikadunic, right, of the Demining Battalion of the Federation Army, exchange productivity numbers of a demining operation recently near Eagle Base's airfield with help from interpreter Damir Osmanovic. (Right) Cpl. Akib Softic, also from the Demining Battalion, practices his mine-probing technique.



Photos by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Dynamic Response 2003

Soldiers from Hungary, Italy, and the U.S. participated in the Dynamic Response rehearsal Tuesday at Camp Comanche near Eagle Base. Local dignitaries observed as AH-64 Apache helicopters provided cover while UH-60 Blackhawks from Task Force Aviation transported the Hungarian and Italian troops to the landing zone, where they linked up with Bradley crews from Task Force South. British Jaguar fighter aircraft also did a fly-by, simulating reconnaissance patrols.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Members of the 1st Light Cavalry Regiment (Special Operations Capable) of the Hungarian Army disembark from a UH-60 Blackhawk.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, commander of SFOR, joins Warrant Officer Massimo diProspero of the Italian Army's 186th Parachute "Folgore" Regiment, in push-ups.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

A Hungarian soldier establishes security around the landing zone.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

(Above) Lt. Gen. William E. Ward talks to a Hungarian sniper during the exercise.

(Right) Task Force Aviation UH-60 Blackhawks exit the area after dropping off the MSU troops.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

A final look at some of the Faces in the Crowd



Sgt. Patrick Conklin

Hometown: Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Unit: HHC, 35th Infantry Division (Mech.)

Job duties: As the Eagle Base Chapel fund clerk and NCOIC, Conklin duties include taking care of the chaplain field fund, upkeep and maintenance of the chapel, scheduling of chapel events and maintaining the chapel library.

Best thing about the deployment: "I have really enjoyed getting to see other parts of the world, and experiencing the culture and people."

Best thing about going home: "I will enjoy getting back to family, friends, driving my beautiful Honda Civic again, and just being able to be a normal 21-year-old college guy again."

What words of advice would you give your counterpart: "If you space things out just right, always keep documents open on the computer, and a small pile of papers in front of you on the desk, you can make it appear as though you are busier than you actually are. Oh, and wear BDUs on days other than Sunday too."

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Staff Sgt. Michael Mazzuca

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Unit: 7210th Medical Support Unit

Family: Mazzuca has two sons, Anthony, 8 and Julius, 4, and a daughter, Mia, 6. "Being away from my children has been the hardest thing to deal with," said Mazzuca.

Job duties: Mazzuca is an Army reservist assigned to Task Force Medical Eagle as the NCOIC of all the dental clinics in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is a dental hygienist and dental assistant.

Civilian job: Mazzuca is presently going to school to become a registered nurse.

Goals: "I want to become an officer in the reserve after I get my RN degree, and spend some time with my kids," he said.

Words of wisdom to SFOR 14: "Bald is beautiful," as he rubs his shiny head.

by Spc. Heather Rodgers



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



Cpl. LeRoy Gumpher III

Hometown: Topeka, Kan.

Unit: 35th Military Police Company

Job duties: As executive assistant to the commanding general, Gumpher's duties include "typing, filing, getting documentation signed by the general, and assisting in office operation."

Best advice you could give your SFOR 14 counterpart:

"Really dive into the job with both feet, because the more you get into your work, the quicker the time goes, and then it is over, and you're heading home!"

Best thing about the deployment: "This deployment did a lot for myself. It changed my mind on many things. It made me realize I was out of shape and practicing unhealthy lifestyle habits. So I changed and lost over 40 pounds, quit using smokeless tobacco and did not substitute it with another nicotine product, and I decided to return to school and finish my degree after I return home.

Best thing about going home:

"Although it does make you feel good about yourself to come over here and help others with their problems, it is always nice to go home."

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

NCO builds career on and off duty

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

Staff Sergeant Joe Jones is the NCOIC of the Task Force Medical Eagle Orthopedics Clinic. He's known for a solid work ethic, which exemplifies the model NCO.

"I am primarily a quiet person by nature, but will always take time out for anyone and treat everyone with dignity, kindness, courtesy and respect," said Jones.

Jones is known for taking his military job seriously. Though his civilian job does not relate to the medical field, he finds time to keep his military and his civilian certifications up to date.

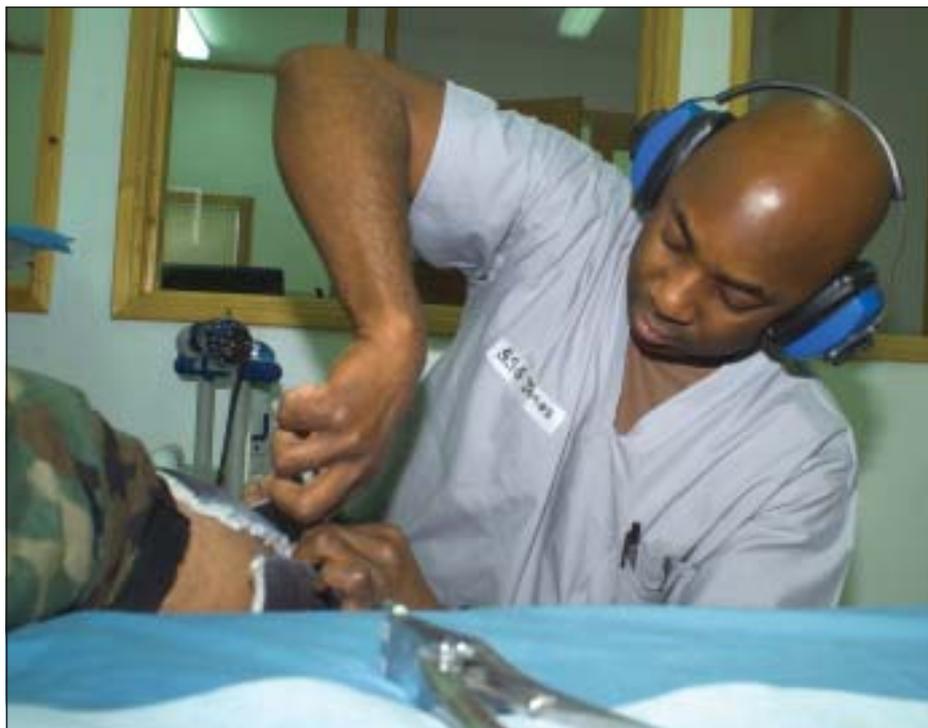
"I completed my training to practice as an orthopedic technologist in the military, then decided to get my civilian certifications as well," said Jones.

The OT is a specialist who assists the orthopedic surgeon, and is an expert in plaster, synthetic cast application and removal, and general principles of traction techniques.

OTs work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and private practices. They may also serve as the "first assistant" to the surgeon in the operating room.

Jones, as the orthopedics NCOIC, ensures that the clinic is stocked with all needed supplies, schedules upcoming events and appointments, and assists the doctor in both his office room visits and surgery. He sets up the patients for surgery and makes sure all documentation is in order.

Jones also has the ability to apply



Staff Sgt. Joe Jones removes a patient's cast recently.

braces, prosthetics, splints, and perform minor adjustments and repairs.

Jones is a member of the 75th Combat Support Hospital of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and is attached to the 6250th Army Hospital from Fort Lewis, Wash., and Task Force Medical Eagle, during the SFOR 13 mission.

Jones is from Huntsville, Ala. He has completed his registered orthopedic technologist certification through the American Society Of Orthopedic Professionals, and is an active member of the National

Association of Orthopedic Technologists.

He has two children in college studying to become physicians, and he has a bachelor's in nuclear engineering and an established career in nuclear engineering specializing in rocket motors and missile systems.

When not pursuing military or civilian certifications Jones likes to enjoy his down time, and is always ready for a game of basketball or some martial arts sparring, two of his favorite sports.



(Above) It was an early start as runners participated in the last MWR-sponsored combination 5k/10k-run of SFOR 13.

(Right) First Sgt. Ronny Crump, left, and Staff Sgt. Kendrea Shingleton cheer on finishers of the 5k race.



Photos by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

