

SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

# TALON



## SFOR 13: a look back

# TALON

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# From the staff of the Talon

by Maj. James Billings  
343rd MPAD

The sand in SFOR 13's hourglass is down to its last few grains. It's time for our new best friends – SFOR 14 – to flip it over and start the sand running again.

This is the final issue of the *Talon* to be produced by the 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment under the 35th Infantry Division public affairs office. It's our farewell.

You won't find much text in this issue. It's mostly pictures – pictures of you, the work you have done, the people you

knew, the things you did to relax.

We have come a long way together since Hohenfels.

We came from many different places. Most of us mobilized and did our TSIRT train-

ing at either Fort Riley or Fort Stewart. But it was Hohenfels – cold, snowy, miserable Hohenfels – where we first came together as SFOR 13.

It has been our privilege to be a part of it. By telling your story, we feel we have contributed to that safe and secure environment.

Some of the photographs you will see in this issue have appeared previously in the *Talon*. Most have not. There are so many people to thank, but it would take up too much space to do so. So since this issue is devoted to photographs, we have decided to list all those who have contributed photographs to the *Talon*.

Thank you. May you always be proud to say, "I was a part of SFOR 13."



In addition to the staff of the *Talon* and the Public Affairs Office, the following people have contributed photos:

Capt. Clay Adamkavicius, TF South  
Sgt. Vonda Bateman, TF Medical Eagle  
Sgt. Brock Beery, TF South  
Staff Sgt. Amy Benson, TF Medical Eagle  
Spc. Constance Bolin, TF Wagon Wheel  
Staff Sgt. Thomas Brady, PSYOPS  
Sgt. Robert Childs, TF Wagon Wheel  
2nd Lt. Omer Cittir, Turkish Army  
CW4 Edgar Dayringer, TF Wagon Wheel  
Col. Daniel Dire, TF Medical Eagle  
Maj. Jaci Ferguson, TF Medical Eagle  
1st Lt. Sal Giove, TF Medical Eagle  
Sgt. James Grosdidier, TF Wagon Wheel  
Maj. Bob Hayter, MNBGLNO  
Sgt. 1st Class Ron Holbrook, MONG PAO  
Jerome Howard, Army News Service  
Air Force Capt. Kevin Hynes, NENG PAO

Capt. Vilo Jarma, FINCON  
Lance Cpl. Claus Jensen, DANSON  
Spc. John Juricek, TF North  
Capt. Kim Larsen, TF Medical Eagle  
Staff Sgt. Mark Lewis, TF Medical Eagle  
Lt. Col. John Maietta, 28th Inf Div  
Sgt. Carole Morissette, Canadian Army  
Staff Sgt. Jeff Murphy, TF North  
Master Sgt. Pat Pierson, TF Wagon Wheel  
Spc. Brian Prann, TF North  
Staff Sgt. Tony Redden, TF Wagon Wheel  
Staff Sgt. Sammie Robertson, TF South  
Sgt. 1st Class Ray Simmons, TF Wagon Wheel  
Maj. Igor Sperka, Slovakian Army  
Capt. Brian Tolar, TF South  
Alexander Voznesenskiy, RMC  
Sgt. Jonathon Welter, TF North

Our apologies if we left anyone out. Again, thank you.



**About the covers:** *Front:* A collection of *Talon* covers from throughout SFOR 13. *Rear:* The poster produced by the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office. Our goal was to have a good representation of what SFOR 13 was about – the flags of the participating countries, the patches of the U.S. units, the task forces, and the mission itself in Bosnia and Herzegovina. *Front and rear cover illustrations courtesy of PrintcomTuzla.*



# Thank you for a job well done

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

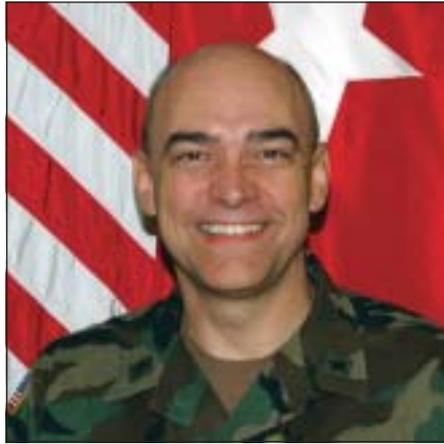
There is a time for everything and it is time now for the 35th Infantry Division (Mech.) and accompanying units of Task Force Eagle in Multinational Brigade (North) to depart.

As you prepare for your departure, I want to extend a most sincere congratulations and a warm thank you for the tremendous work you have accomplished here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It seems only a short time ago we were making preparations for the transfer of authority from the 28th Division and SFOR 12. Now we have the 34th Division and SFOR 14 here making preparations for the relief in place.

I am certain each of you have made a significant contribution to the goal of moving this nation closer to self-sufficiency, stability and irreversible peace. Certainly, I have personally observed your tireless efforts to make such a contribution.

For many of you, this has been your first NATO deployment. Indeed, for many it was a first deployment. Regardless every soldier has registered a magnificent performance. It is soldiers much like each of you that brought peace to the Balkans a few short years ago.

The Balkans region has not always been



Mason

peaceful. There have been times of peace such as prior to the war in 1991 when Bosnia and Herzegovina was a peaceful nation, tolerant of all its multiethnic citizens. After 1991, we saw the peace could no longer be sustained without a peacekeeping force. However, it was not until 1995 that the Dayton Peace Accords were signed and NATO was invited to create and maintain a safe and stable environment suitable for healing and continued dialogue in the peace process.

From the beginning of IFOR, soldiers began to do more than patrol and demonstrate a credible force. Soldiers have cre-

ated an environment where citizens could travel across the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in peace. Soldiers created an environment where children could go to school and learn about a brighter future. Soldiers helped to create an environment where policemen would protect the citizens from criminals. Soldiers helped to create an environment where people could go to a church of their choice without fear of harm from anyone.

The soldiers of MNB (North) were no different. They continued the tradition of replacing hope where there was once despair. Many thousands of square feet of property have been freed of dangerous mines. Tons of illegal and dangerous weapons have been destroyed, making this a safer nation. The number of weapons storage sites has been reduced. Once again, this is a safer nation.

As each soldier prepares to leave this country, I ask that each of you assist the 34th Division by imparting your knowledge of lessons learned. Our final responsibility is to SFOR 14. We are obligated to help them in every way to rig them for success on their mission.

Finally, I congratulate you on your contributions and bid you each a heartfelt thank you and goodbye until we meet again.

## Take your time adjusting to home life

by Maj. James Billings  
343rd MPAD

While leafing through the "Guide to Personal and Family Reunion" available at the Eagle Base chapel, I thought, "This is really good stuff. But it's missing something."

For Guardsmen and reservists, redeployment offers a completely different set of challenges from those facing an active-component soldier.

There is a sense of loss, of abandonment, even emptiness. Yesterday, you were a sergeant or a captain, leading people and making important decisions in an exciting place. Today, you're just back at the office or the plant.

Your co-workers have no comprehension or appreciation of what you have gone through while you were off "playing Army." Your experiences, the leadership skills you developed, the friends you made – they're all gone, or of little use back on the job.

The Army provides a sense of security. You know what your job is and what you have to do. You know how much you are going to be paid and when chow is served at the mess hall.

You know where to turn your laundry in to get it cleaned. And then all of a sudden, you have to start making your own decisions and doing things for yourself.

For the Guardsman or reservist, redeployment is like driving at 70 mph on the Interstate, then suddenly taking an exit and slowing down to 30 mph.

Chaplain (Col.) Ron Cobb, command chaplain for Task Force Eagle, has

some good suggestions for Guardsmen and reservists coming home from deployment:

■ Don't make any sudden decisions when you get home. Give yourself time to get acclimated to civilian life. "Decide in Haste, Repent at Leisure." Take your time. Deployment may have given you a changed perspective towards many

things. But wait several months before acting on your new insight.

■ Realize that some things will be better at home, some things will be worse back home, and your whole lifestyle will be significantly different.

■ Don't be shocked by the new emotions that hit you. You may feel the whole spectrum of emotions. Hang in there when they hit you. Emotions will pass. It is only when after you cope with the initial emotions that you will become more rational about your new situation in life.

■ Listen a lot when you get home. Stand on your tongue. Listen to family members. Listen to your friends. Listen to your own thoughts. Sit back and listen as much as you possibly can. Civilian life will be a new environment.

It's also important not to forget each other after we've all gone home and back to work. The "buddy system" is important after deployment, too. A simple phone call or e-mail asking "how ya doin'?" may help a fellow soldier on a difficult day. Soldiers look out for each other – on deployment and at home, as well.

**For the Guardsman or reservist, redeployment is like driving at 70 mph on the Interstate, then suddenly taking an exit and slowing down to 30 mph.**

# The Mission



by Sgt. Brock Beery

Spc. Kenneth Simmons, left, and Spc. Matthew Qualls of Task Force South work on communications equipment during the MRE in Hohenfels, Germany.



by Capt. Brian Tolar

Spc. Bart Heckle, left, and Sgt. Robert Hill keep a watchful eye in the south tower on Hilltop 1326.



by Sgt. Jonathon Welter

Sgt. Jonathon Welter, lower right, and Sgt. Donald Morrow, upper left, from the 134th Long Range Surveillance Detachment (Airborne) and members of a Russian Recon Platoon pause for a photo while on patrol.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Staff Sgt. Bryan Creason, of Task Force Medical Eagle, draws blood for testing from Chief Warrant Officer John Pearce, of Task Force Aviation, prior to heading home.



(Left) Spc. Shawn Bly, HHC, 35th ID (Mech.), assembles an antenna during a recent mission.

(Right) Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington, TF Eagle PAO, videotapes Sgt. Thomas Prim, a narcotics dog handler with HHC, Area Support Group Eagle, and Nousca, as they put on a demonstration during a children's Day Camp held on Eagle Base.

by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by Air Force Capt. Kevin Hynes  
Sgt. Kevin Lugenbeel hands out candy while out on patrol with Sgt. Darren Thompson. Both are members of Task Force North.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson  
Sgt. Guy D. Choate, Task Force Eagle PAO, positions himself for a better shot at Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall.



courtesy of Task Force South

(Above) Sgt. Brock Beery, of HHC, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armored Regiment, peers out of his camouflage during a field training exercise at a Primary Leadership Development Course held in Germany.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson  
Task Force Eagle Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Wright unfurls the colors during a Transfer of Authority rehearsal in Peacekeeper Hall.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Merrilee Mulholland, left, and Maj. Walter Lee of Task Force Medical Eagle take care of a patient during a Medical Community Action Program.



by Capt. Kim Larsen



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Members of the Russian EOD team have an unusual way of unloading a 250-kilogram bomb from the back of a truck.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Cpl. Serkan Yildiz, Turkish Battalion, admires the M-16A2 rifle of Task Force North's Sgt. Chris Marcello during their joint patrol.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Members of the Danish Tank Squadron wait their turn to fire on the range in Glamoc.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Staff Sgt. Timothy R. Olmstead, left, and Sgt. Christian L. Cordell assemble an OE254 antenna during a retrans mission.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

(Above) Media specialist Nedima Hadziibrisevic and Maj. Jeffrey Coverdale, both from Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, work together to answer questions during a press conference.

(Right) Sgt. Paul Langford checks the blood pressure of a resident of Modrica as part of Task Force North's Medical Community Action Project.



by Staff Sgt. Jeff Murphy

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(Left) The Finnish CIMIC patrol drives through deep snow on their way to the local village of Suha in Bratunac.

(Below) Spc. John C. Graves, Task Force Eagle PAO, shoots video of Staff Sgt. Rob Slater during a Jaws-of-Life exercise on Eagle base.

by Finnish Capt. Jarmo Vilo



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Soldiers from the 35th Military Police Company and Company A, 4th Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, participated in non-lethal weapons training on Eagle Base.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Spc. Maurice Laney, of the 312th AG Company (Postal), stamps mail for a customer at the Eagle Base post office.



courtesy of TV Arthur

Maj. Kirk Slaughter, Task Force Eagle Deputy PAO, and interpreter Emina Sucurovic, left, pose with the crew of TV Arthur. The crew produces "Vision: The Future of BiH", a television show about Stabilization Force 13 operations.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy  
Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson, 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC, works on editing photos for the Talon.



Members of the Company C, 206th Engineer Battalion, perform a mini-flail to a Task Force Aviation UH-60 helicopter.



by Capt. Kim Larsen

Spc. Tristan Stotz, left, and Maj. Francisco Batlle perform surgery in the hospital on Eagle Base.



Staff Sgt. Phillip Palmer and his squad strike a "Band of Brothers" in Hohenfels, Germany.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Brian Stribling, Task Force Eagle PAO, videotapes questions asked during a town hall meeting in Peacekeepers Hall on Eagle Base.

(Right) Members of Task Force South perform a safety brief prior to a mission. From the left, Sgt. Todd Garrison, Staff Sgt. Herschal Scruggs, Spc. William Ross, and Pfc. William Latham.





by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Engineer Battalion, get ready to hook up a Blackhawk helicopter.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

35th ID (Mech.) Media Operations Officer and Talon Managing Editor 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy works on editing an article for the weekly magazine.



courtesy of Task Force South

"Brothers" pose during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise in



by Col. Daniel Dire

Staff Sgt. Catherine Cates of Task Force Medical Eagle comforts a patient during a MEDCAP on Aug. 23.



by Capt. Brian Tolar

(Right) Capt. Deborrah McCoy, center, attends an information operations meeting on Eagle Base. McCoy is the IO representative for the Task Force Eagle PAO.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

# Leisure



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Sgt. Stephen Porter returns a ball during a soccer game against a team from Sekovici.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Staff Sgt. James Broughman gets ready to let go a knuckleball during one of the many softball games played during the rotation.



by Maj. Kirk Slaughter

Soldiers get more than a little carried away during a Flag Football game on Eagle Base.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Sgt. Anthony Brown demonstrates a Kung Fu hold with assistance from Capt. Holly Hileman.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Lance Cpl. Karen Brogger leads fellow soldiers from the Danish Contingent in a tug of war during July 4 activities on Eagle Base.



by Sgt. Vonda Bateman

Col. Daniel Dire gets sloppy during a Task Force Medical Eagle pie fest.



by Sgt. 1st Class Ray Simmons

Sgt. Tim Merrell, Interpreter Vesna Pericevic and Sgt. Josh Loos mug for the camera.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Soldiers from the 35th MP Company compete in a game of basketball against the Tuzla Canton Police Support unit (SWAT).



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Master Sgt. Luis Figueroa, sitting, and Maj. Francisco Batlle wait patiently for dinner.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Two members of the Russian Military Contingent head for the finish line in the MWR-sponsored "Survivor Games."



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Spc. Michael Gabbard, left, and Sgt. Jamie Harmon ride a tricycle during the DANCON 30k road march, promoting mine awareness to the children they meet along the way.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Maj. Russell Richardson is ready to wrestle after being strapped into a sumo outfit by MWR Coordinator Enes Masic.



by 2nd Lt. Chris dunphy

Many soldiers on Eagle Base find time for music, such as bluegrass aficionados Chief Warrant Officers Don Chase, left, Joe Dayringer and Finice Matthews.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Staff Sgt. Richard Jackson strums a self-composed melody.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Larry Parks and Sgt. John Dale hit some high notes with the Eagle Base Praise Band.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Capt. Christopher Cline plays Taps during the Memorial Day services in Minue Park on Eagle Base.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

The Eagle Base Praise Band practices their music in the base chapel. From left: Lt. Col. Laura Ward, Capt. Christopher Cline, Sgt. Michael Howell, and on piano, Maj. James Billings.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Sgt. Anthony Brown, center, leads a chorus of fellow Eagle Base Gospel Service Choir singers Sgt. Carlton Austin, left, Spc. Darren Joe and Sgt. Garry Johnson.

# *A look at some familiar places and faces*



by Staff Sgt. Amy Benson



by Capt. Brian Tolar

A late snow in April covers the ambulances at the hospital, left, and the barracks in Sapper Point with a blanket of white.



by Staff Sgt. Amy Benson

It's a fiery sunset through the trees around the running track on Eagle Base.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Spc. Jenifer Johnson waits to service customers in the 249th Finance Detachment's cashier office.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Two popular places to relax on Eagle Base are Alma's Juice Bar and the Rendez-vous Coffee Bar. Above, Alma patrons from Task Force Medical Eagle and the Polish army salute each other with a cup of coffee. Right, the Coffee Bar hosts a liquid lunch for Sgt. 1st Class Shon Ward, left, Spc. Carlos Benavidez and Sgt. Jarrod Dortch.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Headcounter Nermina Saric stands by as Maj. Karla Langland signs in for chow during a recent barbecue on Minue Park.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Spc. Brandon Schatz and Sgt. Kurtis Casselman load up the condiments during a recent barbecue.



by 2nd Lt. Chris dunphy

Staff Sgt. Calvin Young participates in a daily occurrence on Eagle Base – the clearing of a weapon.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Michelle Velasco, a singer for the band, *Off the Wall*, entertains appreciative soldiers at Triggers during the July 4 weekend.



by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

Sajma Mahmutovic waits for Task Force South Capt. Steven Brumley to drop off clothing at the Eagle Base Laundry.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

The Cyber Cafe Videoteleconference room saw a variety of activities, including promotions. With his family watching from home, Maj. Thomas Welch is pinned by Capt. Bruce Lancaster, with support from 1st Lt. Rodney Kelley, left, and Capt. David Parker.



by Sgt. Guy D. Choate

Staff Sgt. Jon Pieters, right, gives a briefing to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki as Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Lechner looks on. Shinseki toured Camp McGovern in May.



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.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Sgt. Staci Rogers shakes hands with the deputy surgeon general for reserve affairs Maj. Gen. Kenneth Herbst while Staff Sgt. Maria Martinez watches. Herbst visited Task Force Medical Eagle in May.



by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

American Legion National Commander Ronald Conley gives a national commander coin to Joint Military Affairs Chief Col. James Head.



Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius speaks with soldiers during lunch at the Balkan Grille. Seated clockwise from the left are Sebelius, Sgt. 1st Class Leanne Kehres, Lt. Col. Thomas Arnhold, Warrant Officer 2 Indulis Dambro and Sgt. Maj. Rosemary Johnson.



# SFOR 13

Multinational Brigade (North)  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
March - September 2003

