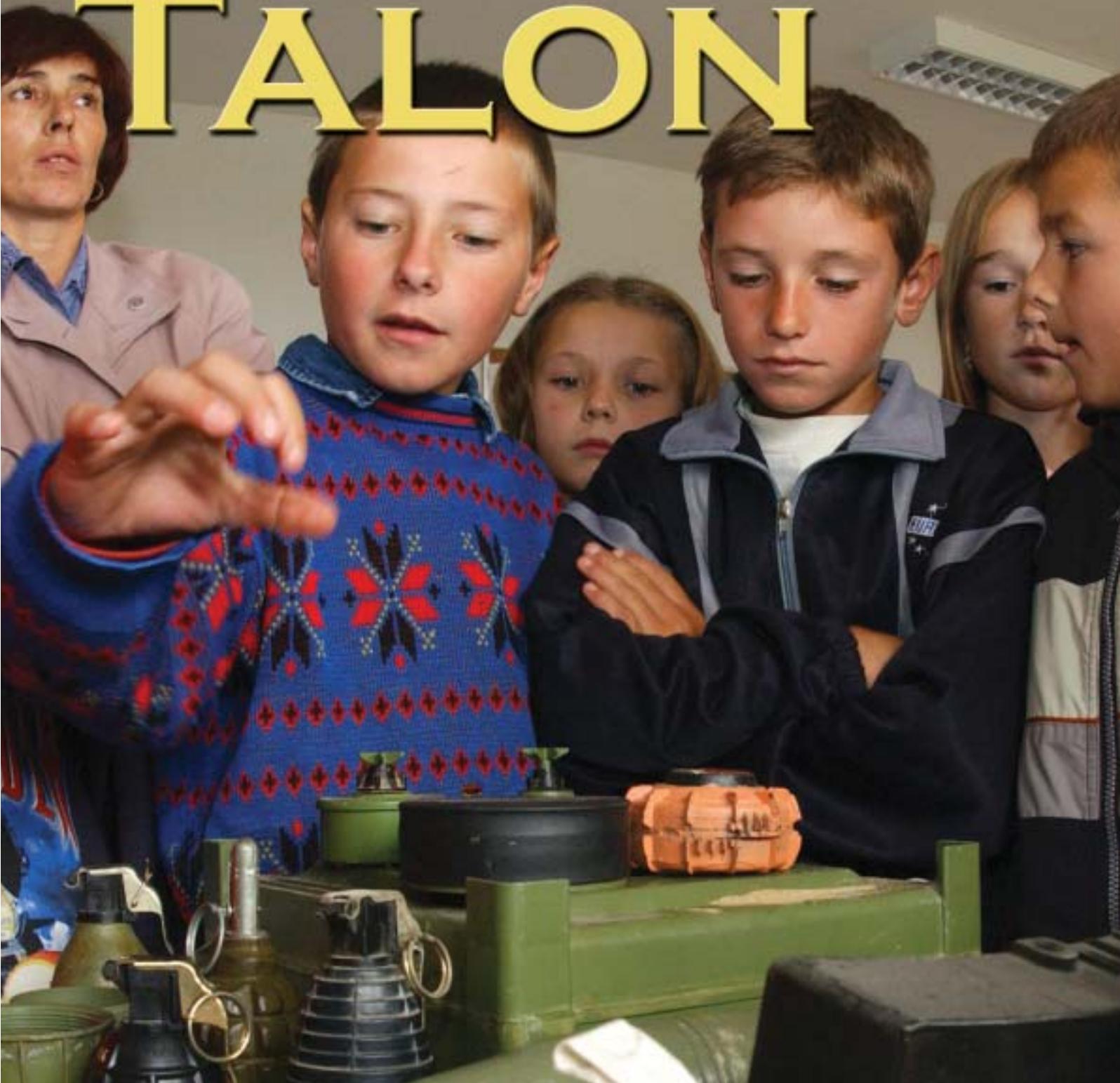


OCTOBER 10, 2003

# TALON



**Look - but don't touch**

**Inside this issue:**

**City planner takes on important task  
Chapel inlay dedication**

**Task Force Eagle [www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)**

# TALON

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## Soldier's Savings Deposit Plan

The Task Force Eagle Finance Office has a great deal for you! One of the best savings programs you are bound to find anywhere is available for you while deployed to Bosnia. The program is called the Savings Deposit Plan. The plan allows you to earn 10 percent interest annually on your money (compounded quarterly). When compared to commercial savings plans that are available, this is an excellent opportunity to save money for things you want to purchase when you get home. Here is how the programs works:



**1. Who can participate?** Any active duty, national guard or reserve soldier who has served 30 days or more in Bosnia.

**2. How do you put the money into the program?** If you are active duty, or AGR you can establish an allotment. If you are national guard or reserve you need to write a check. Either way, stop by the customer service counter on the USO side of building 1021 on Eagle Base. One of the military pay specialists would be glad to take you through the process step by step.

**3. How much can be put in the program?** Up to your total net pay for the month. All pays and allowances are eligible less any deductions. The only limitation is the amount put in has to be in five-dollar increments.

**4. Is there a maximum total amount you can put in the program?** Yes! The limit you can draw interest on is \$10,000.

**5. How long does the interest accrue on the money put in the account?** It will accrue up to 90 days after you depart Bosnia if that day is the last day of the month. If not, then it accrues to the last day of the previous month.

**6. How do I get the money out afterwards?** The paperwork you need to complete will be available when you outprocess to redeploy back to your home station. The money can be electronically transferred to another savings or checking account.

**7. Do I have to pay taxes on the money when I withdraw it?**

You will *not* have to pay taxes on the principal when it is withdrawn. However, you will have to pay taxes on the amount of interest you earn.

**If you have any further questions contact the 147th Finance Battalion (Fwd) Military Pay Section at 762-1017.**

### Tip of the Week

■ Running the outer perimeter of Eagle Base is not allowed after dark or during times of low visibility



About the cover: School children in Olovo learn about the dangers of mines and UXO during a mine awareness class taught by the 666th EOD. By Sgt. Sarah C. Danielski, 135th MPAD



## City planner takes on one of his most important tasks

Story and photo by  
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood  
135th MPAD

As the Brainerd, Minn., city planner, 1st Lt. Michael Brethorst, intelligence officer for Task Force Bearcat, is always trying to identify problems to future developments in the city.

Last month near Potocari, Bosnia and Herzegovina, he and the rest of the task force were responsible for the possibility of identifying a very different kind of problem, threats to former President Clinton.

Brethorst, who has been in the Minnesota Army National Guard for almost six years,

assisted in the coordination of providing security before and during Clinton's dedication ceremony of the Srebrenica Memorial and Cemetery. The site was the final resting place for many Srebrenica men and boys killed during the Bosnian War.

Brethorst's task was to relay information received from the brigade recon "Nightstalker" and air surveillance teams to his higher command. The surveillance started the night before the ceremony, where approximately 20,000 people attended, and lasted until the end of the ceremony.

"The Nightstalker and aerial reconnaissance teams were trying to identify things that don't look right, such as people jumping over fences or people who have been known to provoke other incidents," Brethorst said. "These are



*"We want people to know that we're watching,"*

*— 1st Lt. Mike Brethorst*



**1st Lt. Mike Brethorst (right), intelligence officer for Task Force Bearcat, discusses with Staff Sgt. Richard Babineau the details of the high-powered telescope mounted on the back of the Humvee. Babineau's "Nightstalker" team used this scope in the mission to provide security for Former President Clinton's dedication ceremony of the Srebrenica Memorial and Cemetery Oct. 20**

traditional scouts who are trained observers to identify things that are out of the ordinary."

The scouts relied on their vision plus high-powered and highly-sophisticated telescopes attached to the back of their Humvees. Brethorst said these scopes, that magnify the human eye 25 times (equal to a 1,250 mm lens for a 35 mm single lens reflex camera), are a very important U.S. Army asset. They were fielded

specifically for the task force's use in this mission.

Staff Sgt. Richard Babineau, one of the team leaders, said his team members are able to read a vehicle's license plate from 200 meters with this mast-mounted scope, which can be raised to 18 feet.

During the ceremony, Brethorst said the Nightstalker teams tried to identify where trouble would be.

"We tried to help the local police do their jobs," he said. "Help them provide security or send people to locations where they needed to go to if there were issues."

"Some of the issues could have included people jumping over fences or odd packages located at places they shouldn't be," he said.

These trained observers set up at various observation points surrounding the site in full view of the audience.

Sgt. Bradley Randall's observation point was in the seventh floor of a building.

"We could see the whole valley," he said, noting that he climbed 220 steps to his location.

Brethorst noted that the scouts made a point of showing the crowd that they were there.

"We want people to know that we're watching," he said.

Brethorst's mission started the night before where he and the Nightstalker teams and others slept outside near the dedication site.

"It was cold too," he said. "In cooperation with the local police department, we set up these things prior to the mission occurring just to make sure everything was safe and secure."

He said the reason for the increased participation in this exercise was because of Clinton attending the event.

"When you have a former president there, it steps it up a notch," he said.

## Growing up with *UXO awareness taught*

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Sarah C. Danielski  
135th MPAD

Growing up is never easy, but for children growing up in Bosnia and Herzegovina, living with the dangers of land mines and other unexploded ordnance, growing up can turn into a dangerous activity.

Soldiers of the 666th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, based in Jacksonville Ala., hope to reduce those dangers by teaching children to be aware of UXO, and to understand the hazards.

Staff Sgt. Pete Allen and Spc. Kevin Cooper, both of the 666th EOD, arrived in Olovo, Oct. 1, ready to disarm misconceptions and fears that children have about UXO.

"Kids, by nature, are curious,"



Staff Sgt. Pete Allen, 666th EOD, holds an example of an international mine marker, as he teaches a class about mine and UXO awareness to school children in Olovo.

said Allen "and we want to make sure if they see any UXO, they will tell an adult and leave it alone."

The EOD soldiers, along with members of Task Force Bearcat, visited two schools to teach the children there about mine and UXO awareness.

The town is visited on a regular basis by presence patrols conducted by Stabilization Force 14, who have a growing relationship with the school principal and other city officials. SFOR 13 had conducted Medical Civil Action Programs and Veterinarian Civil Action Programs, and the new rotation was asked if they could

also provide mine awareness classes to the school children in Olovo. The EOD team was happy to help.

"It's always good to share what we know with the kids," said Cooper. "They are so open to the information."

Allen conducted his class through the help of an interpreter. He brought with him about 20 examples of mines and other UXO, sample markers and the special bomb suit the EOD uses when disarming various UXO. He



School children from Olovo view examples of unexploded ordnance with UXO is a dangerous reality for the children of Bosnia and Herzegovina, though they are disarmed and cannot hurt them. They are taught

explained to the children that if they see UXO they should never touch it, and should go tell an adult.

After the class, the children were invited to come take a closer look at the examples. Even though the examples had been disarmed and could no longer hurt them, they were

*"It's always good to share what we know with the kids,"*

# With grim realities to the children of BiH



...ance during a class conducted by the 666th EOD. Because living in Bosnia and Herzegovina, they are not allowed to touch the examples even though they are taught to treat all UXO as if it is dangerous.

not allowed to touch any of them.

**Good to share what  
the kids**

**-Spc. Kevin Cooper**

Rifet Sokolar, school principal, explained that it is the school's policy to teach the children to treat all UXO as if it is dangerous. "Injuries from mines are going down every year, because we teach children about the hazards," said

touch them in anyway."

Almost every child had related a story that they had recently seen some sort of UXO in their yards, in a field, or along a road. Some even knew the nomenclatures of a few of the mines, or had known someone that was injured by a mine.

The class was a welcome experience by both the school children as well as the soldiers.

"I know that we are helping those



Sgt. Phillip Kazmierczak, Task Force Bearcat, sports the special bomb suit used by the 666th EOD to disarm various UXO. The school children were encouraged to test the toughness of the suit by giving Kazmierczak a good whack.

Sokolar. "We hope that the children will understand just how dangerous mines are, and they won't be so curious that they want to pick up or

kids," said Cooper. He hopes that he is making a difference by educating them about the dangers of mines.

Allen, who is a firefighter in his civilian life, has taught children fire safety classes that are similar to the classes he taught. He compared the children here to children in the United States, but noted that there were some differences.

"Kids here know all about mines," Allen said, "and while it's good that they know the dangers, it's a shame that they *have* to know it."

Although this was the first class conducted by the SFOR 14 EOD, everyone involved hopes it won't be the last.

# Medics for a day

## Students participate in MEDCAP for first time

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class  
Clinton Wood  
135th MPAD

MEDCAP's are held on an on-going basis by SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The purpose of a MEDCAP is to provide medical care to civilians throughout BiH who live in medically underserved areas. Free medical and dental care will be provided to anyone who registers. All local citizens are invited to attend.

**J**ANJARI - Several Bijeljina High School juniors were able to practice their English skills and work alongside Stabilization Force doctors at a Medical Civil Action Program Sept. 27 at a school near here.

These third-year medical students assumed the roles of SFOR medics for the event, taking patient's blood pressure and pulse, completing laboratory work and assisting doctors in the exam rooms.

Capt. Obun Duffy of the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, Norristown, Pa., said this program was the idea of a Bijeljina doctor. A professor at the high school was the doctor's mentor.

"(This allows) the students to learn a little bit more about how the U.S. does business," Duffy, who has been in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 13 months, said.

He said the goal of the program is to train these students to someday take over the duties of the SFOR medics at these MEDCAPs.

Duffy, whose deployment comes to a close the end of this month, noted that he has observed these MEDCAPs evolve. His tasks included coordinating the MEDCAP's time and location and communicating the health needs of communities to Task Force Med Eagle.

"I was pleased to see the cooperation between the local communities and SFOR," he said upon arrival to BiH. "They have opened their schools to us. They've opened their communities to us. I am pleasantly surprised by the amount of cooperation we've gotten."

Duffy said he could remember MEDCAPs being held in one-room school buildings.

When asked what his biggest challenge has been, he replied, "Still getting communities from different ethnic groups to work together."

This MEDCAP was for Bosnians returning to their homes in the Serbian community. Of the 240 residents invited, 140 participated in the MEDCAP.

The MEDCAP wasn't only beneficial to the local residents.

Task Force Med Eagle soldier Staff Sgt. Christopher Vanmeter, surrounded by children as

he showed them digital photos on his camera's monitor he took of them seconds earlier, said the children were "awesome."

This was the first MEDCAP that Vanmeter, a high school teacher, has attended.

"I miss my kids at school," he said. "It's kind of nice to mess around with the kids. This is what I came for."

And these children probably have the same feelings.



Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall-Boyer with Task Force Med Eagle listens to the heartbeat of a child during the MEDCAP.



Biljana Djuric, a Bijeljina High School junior, takes the pulse of a child during the MEDCAP. Djuric was among 13 juniors who assumed the roles of Stabilization Force medics at the event.

# Joining the elite

Story by Chaplain (Capt.) Jerome Fehn

The 34th Infantry Division Red Bull symbol inlay was dedicated Sunday in the Chapel on Eagle Base by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Alan Johnson adding to the history of the chapel and the Red Bull division.

The Red Bull symbol proudly joins the ranks of many other great divisions ; the 1st Cavalry Division, 10th Mountain Division, 3rd Infantry Division, 49th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 29th Infantry Division, 28th Infantry Division, and the 35th Infantry Division.

The use of symbols is a tradition that began when the first human etched on the wall of a cave. A symbol captures an idea, a thought, a memory. Though a symbol is but one sign, it embodies many words, stories and histories. We hear "A picture is worth a thousand words." This picture, this insignia, this symbol is worth more than a thousand words. It represents the tens of thousands of men and women who wore this patch, this symbol upon their shoulders as they defend freedom and fight for justice.

Symbols can emote feelings, a flag, an airborne patch, a wedding ring.

It can remind us of commitment. It represents more than its mere appearance. Look around and see the different units, the different patches. They speak of honor, of history, of belonging to a larger group.

The 34th Infantry Division is blessed and honored to have other units serving with us. May all of us be kept safe and fulfill our mission, adding yet another story, another thousand words to this picture, this symbol.

The sign of this bull will stand for strength and perseverance in any endeavor the 34th ID accepts or any mission given to them.

It is with honor and pride we will dedicate this plaque and give gratitude to those units who served before us, and all the units serving with us now.

We know we will proudly serve the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the 34th Infantry Division.



Photos by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

Above: Brig. Gen. Richard Nash gives an impromptu speech Sunday at the inlay dedication ceremony in the chapel.

Below: The Red Bull symbol is lacquered into place on the chapel floor adding to the history of the chapel and the Red Bull Infantry Division.




*In our sights*




Photo by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD  
 Spc. Brian Wiltsey, HHC, 34th ID, practices safety as he cruises around Iron Horse Bluff on his three-wheeled bicycle.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD  
 Staff Sgt. Christopher Vanmeter of Task Force Med Eagle, shows a Bosnian child photographs on his digital camera monitor that he took seconds earlier during a MEDCAP near Janjari Sept. 27.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD  
 The Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office enjoys the first snow on Eagle Base Wednesday.



Photo by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD  
 Mark Goodman bench presses 330 pounds to take third place in SFOR's first Strong Soldier bench press competition Oct. 3.