

NOVEMBER 7, 2003

# TALON



## Autumn flight

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**Texans continue building friendships**

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# TALON

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# Time to reflect

## MNB (N) Commander impressed with soldier's teamwork, "can do" attitude

By Brig. Gen.  
Richard C. Nash  
Commanding

This past week, Multinational Brigade (North) participated in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. During the coming week we will recognize Poland's independence and honor those who served in America's military on Veteran's Day. While these events are not closely tied, we universally understand the sacrifices that were made by all who have served their country in order to defend freedom. We should also take time to recognize the accomplishments of those who bring peace to the modern world – soldiers like us who put their military training to the test maintaining peace - not only in the Balkans, but in Afghanistan, Iraq and more than 120 locations around the world.

At this time, I thought it only appropriate to take a moment to reflect on some undeniable success and some obvious challenges that lie ahead. I also want to ensure you understand how much I the Brigade's command group and I appreciate your untiring quest to accomplish the mission at hand with the utmost professionalism and "Can-Do," attitude.

Many of you have now been away from your families, friends and all that is dear to you for 100 days or more in support of Operation Joint Forge. You have come together to form a team that is working together for a common cause. Take a moment to savor all that you and our team has accomplished. Together, we

have met the challenges laid down – train up, deployment and intensive work to take over from where your predecessors left off.

We have now transitioned into new roles and responsibilities that have been challenging, gratifying and sometimes painful.

From junior enlisted through noncommissioned officer and the officer corps, I have witnessed the positive transformation of individuals into a cohesive, proud, results-oriented team. We are making a difference here in Bosnia in all that we do.

Going forward, let us not become complacent, as we are now reaching stride and now is the time to put results on the board that will be our legacy. Let us also remember the force protection challenges presented by being deployed in a winter environment, in a foreign land that will test each one of you in the coming months. I urge you to integrate safety assessment and mitigation in all that we do. Every task must have a purpose and a risk assessment. The Brigade's leadership must enforce safety policies in order to meet my commitment to families, friends and employers to return each of you home at the conclusion of our mission.

Most importantly, I want you to know that the personal sacrifices you are making are understood and appreciated more than you know. On behalf of the command, I thank you; your families, friends and employers for the sacrifices that they have made to ensure our success.



Nash



About the cover: A Task Force Renegade AH-64 Apache helicopter flies over the countryside Saturday. The fall colors are nearing their peak viewing. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood.



Master Sgt. Walter Cole (left to right), 1st Sgt. Gary Metcalf, Sgt. Matthew Metcalf, Tom Metcalf and Spc. Mike Anderson walk in a Band of Brothers pose near Task Force Bearcat headquarters. They are all related and are serving a common cause in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Metcalf family converges in Bosnia

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

Four Task Force Bearcat soldiers and an ITT Industries force protection supervisor have their own family readiness group here in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The group is headed by 1st Sgt. Gary Metcalf and consists of his son, Sgt. Matthew Metcalf, brother Tom Metcalf, nephew, Spc. Mike Anderson and brother-in-law, Master Sgt. Walter Cole.

As first sergeant, Gary deployed as Company B, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry's First Sergeant. The others volunteered.

The only civilian in the group, Tom, extended his tour as a civilian force protection supervisor at Camp McGovern and Camp Morgan to be with the family.

"Tell the people back home that we're together and having a good time," Tom said. "We're taking care of each other."

Gary, who lives in East Grand Forks, Minn., commented that he sees more of Tom here than at home. Tom lives three hours away in Sauk Centre, Minn.

Two other family members now play on the same flag football team on base. Matthew and his cousin Anderson live five hours apart in Minnesota and hardly saw each other in Minnesota. Now they compete together each week.

"Now we're taking advantage of the opportunity," Anderson said.

Interest in the military is a family tradition, which spans more than 240 years of service. Gary was the first of the five to join the Guard. His father retired from the Guard after 31 years. Tom followed in Gary's footsteps.

"He's been (interested in the military) ever since he was a little guy," Gary said of Tom as he placed his hand about two feet from the floor while sitting in

a small coffee shop on Eagle Base. "He went with dad to every drill."

Tom, a Desert Storm veteran, quipped, "I showed up at every drill. Yeah, I liked the military ever since I was a little kid."

Matthew said he also joined the same unit as his father, Gary, because of family tradition.

"I didn't force him," Gary said.

Cole joined the "family tradition" by marrying Gary's sister. Cole met her while on leave with Tom. Both were with the 82nd Airborne Division at the time.

Once he moved to Minnesota, Cole said one of his wife's relatives convinced him to join the Guard.

It doesn't take much for this family to join the Guard. Case in point: Still serving are two of Gary's brothers and sisters, another of his nephews, three cousins and an aunt and uncle.

Like the song by Hank Williams, Jr., says, "It's a family tradition."

# Fueling the common bond of fire

## Firefighters share their stories, form organization

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

**K**LADANJ, BiH – On Oct. 25, soldiers of Task Force Bearcat crossed cultural barriers through a common unspoken language, the shared language of firefighting.

Firefighters representing nine different Epstinas, or counties, from across east central Bosnia and Herzegovina, came together with the full support of Stabilization Force 14, to form an organization of fire departments.

Kicking off the event was a demonstration presented by the various departments to display equipment, skills and capabilities in extinguishing fires, as well as rescuing fire victims. A large dumpster fire was extinguished by one of the fire trucks, ladders were extended to the tops of high buildings, and children were sent down canvas slides and ropes in mock-rescue events.

After the demonstration, the departments met in a nearby restaurant to make their alliance official, as well as listen to presentations by task force soldiers about firefighting in the United States.

“We hope that the organization will help all of Bosnia to come together,” said Capt. Tadd Vanyo, a task force company commander, “and work toward a common goal.”

He said the organization instills a national pride now that the departments will be working

together instead of separately. The alliance will also help the departments to get more funding for equipment and training; and donations can be made more easily because they will now be a nationally recognized group.

Mirza Kululich, Kladanj fire department chief, was grateful for the help that SFOR soldiers provided.

“We are happy to have the support of SFOR,” he said. “We would like to see our association become the model for which all of Bosnia and Herzegovina can unite.”

The idea for a fire department organization originated at the beginning of the SFOR 14 rotation, as Vanyo was getting acclimated to his new responsibilities.

“Mr. Mirza did a huge amount of the work, but we did talk to the mayors and do some of the coordination on the political side,” said Vanyo, “He didn’t want this to be an SFOR event, but a Bosnia event with SFOR support.”

Many of the soldiers who helped with the event and worked on the presentations are firefighters in their hometowns.

Sgt. 1st Class Rich Eggert, who gave the presentation highlighting the firefighting programs in the States, is not only a fire lieutenant for Moorhead, Minn., but is a firefighting instructor at Northwest Technical College.

“We all have a lot to learn from each other,” said Eggert, noting that the best way to do that is at gatherings such as these.

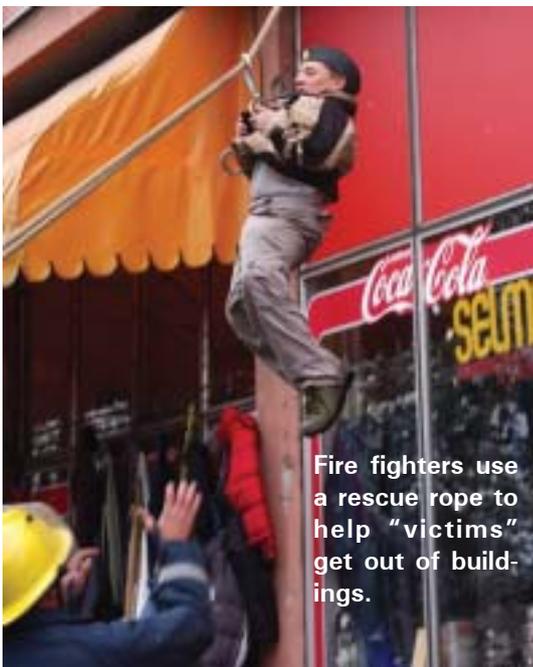
“I’ve learned more about European firefighting in the last 10 minutes, than in the last month of being here,” said Eggert.

Eggert said firefighting is a common language that crosses every cultural barrier because every country has fires and emergencies.

“Fire is fire, whether it’s here or in the States,” said Eggert, “it’s still hot, and it’s still dangerous.”



A child slides down a giant rescue canvas during a demonstration.



Fire fighters use a rescue rope to help “victims” get out of buildings.



Ismir Mirnes was among the children having their face painted by Stephanie Lozo in Peacekeepers Hall.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Spc. Shannon Munstenteiger, FLE, dressed up as a mummy to scare whoever dared enter the Haunted Bunker near Peacekeepers Hall.



Col. Gerald Lang, deputy commander MNB (N), offered some candy to the crazed caged lady (Spc. Crystal Olier, TF Renegade) in the bunker.

## A "haunting good time"

Sixteen Stabilization Force 14 soldiers stationed on Eagle Base volunteered for a "haunting good time" mission on Halloween.

They participated in the USO's Haunted Bunker near Peacekeepers Hall. The night also included face painting by Stephanie Lozo, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mary Marth, Spcs. John Kurtz and Kristina Keena.

There were seven scenes in the bunker. Scary guides brought brave souls to the bunker and escorted them inside.

Characters stalking in and around the bunker were Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Glazer

(grabber); Spc. Barney Carpenter (stuffed guy in chair); Spcs. Amy Anderson and Carlee Miller (invisible persons); Spc. Kira Pick (mad doctor's victim); Maj. Lori Johnson (mad doctor); Spc. Angela Francis (headless person's head); Spc. Mara Moreno (headless person); Spc. Shannon Munstenteiger (mummy); Spc. Crystal Olier (crazed caged lady); Sgt. Joseph Cole (chainsaw crazy), Spc. Chad Kosak (chainsaw crazy); Pfc. Chris Kimbrough (grim reaper); Spc. Katie Boone (white witch); Sgt. Jill Anderson (evil base queen); Frances Ritmann (cat woman); Sgt. Maj. William Mateer (nutcase) and Linda Lorenzana (scream ghost).

## Troupe puts on "killer" show

Who did it? What was the motive behind the "murders" at Camp McGovern and Eagle Base?

These were some of the questions that were developed over the course of the evening by "Dial M's Murder Mystery Theatre's" improvisational

comedy group.

The Mistress of Murder (Michelle Juhlin) set the stage and put the audience into the story's plot. But after one of the actors mysteriously expires, Detective Riley crashed on to the scene and led a hilarious adventure while attempting to

solve the mystery.

Making its fourth appearance since 2000, Dial M provided a venue for soldiers to have fun and put their problem solving skills to work.

"I really had a great time getting into the act," said Maj. Yvonne Breaux, TF Med

Eagle. Likewise, producer, Peggy Phillips explained what it means to host the show overseas.

"Bringing our act to those serving our country in the Balkans is extremely gratifying," said Phillips. "We know what they are sacrificing and



Photo by Maj. Jarrod Krull, TF PAO

Dial M's detective Redneck Riley (Skip Stellrecht) puts Maj. Yvonne Breaux, TFME, into the act during the murder mystery.

we appreciate what they are doing to maintain the peace here." Dial M Productions, Los

Angeles, provides professional entertainers for private and corporate events.

# Texans continue building friendships

## Task Force Renegade soldiers bring friends along on weekly visit

Story and photos by  
Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser  
135th MPAD

**L**UKAVAC, BiH – In a return trip to a school near here last month, members of Task Force Renegade brought some friends along to demonstrate military discipline.

Their guests were a military working dog named Rocky and his trainer, Sgt. Aaron Eastman of Area Support Group K-9 Section, Eagle Base. The pair came along to demonstrate the discipline and complex training of military working dogs like Rocky.

Eastman said Rocky is a brown and black mixed breed and the mellowest dog at Eagle Base. He is nine years old, but remember, every one human year equals seven dog years, he said. “He’s old but he’s well behaved,” Eastman added.

Eastman and Rocky demonstrated “heal” and “stay” procedures verifying the training and discipline that Rocky underwent. Then Eastman let Rocky have some fun. Spc. Rich Fischer, 34th Military Police Company, put on a dog-

biting suit so Rocky could demonstrate his biting ability.

The children took turns punching Fischer in the stomach to assure that the suit was thick enough to protect him from Rocky’s bite.

The children squealed with

anticipation as Fischer took off running and Eastman released Rocky. For a second before Rocky hit Fischer the children went silent, then exploded with applause and giggles as Fischer was dragged to the ground by Rocky.

After Fischer was tackled several more times, teachers were offered the opportunity to wear the suit. There were no volunteers. Staff Sgt. Richard Brooks, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, volunteered as long as he could wear his trademark cowboy hat during the attacks.

Student Amel Yomolric said this was the first dog demonstration he had ever seen. “I love dogs but my mom won’t have dogs in the house,” he added.

The trip was part of the task force’s weekly community service activities. To conclude this visit, the children were able to pet Rocky and give their thanks to all the soldiers who continually interact with them. The principal of the school thanked the soldiers and discussed future events that are planned for the coming winter season.



Rocky gets a much needed break and receives a kings share of attention from the local children.



Sgt. Aaron Eastman, ASG K-9 Section, pulls Rocky off Spc. Rich Fisher at a school demonstration near Lukavac.

# Celebrating 80 years: Turkish Battalion soldiers celebrate Anniversary of Turkish Republic

By Capt. Yucel Bay  
Turkish Battalion Task Force

This past week, the soldiers of Multinational Brigade (North's) Turkish Battalion Task Force celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish

Republic, established a new country from the ruins of a collapsed empire on Nov. 29, 1923. Today, Turkey is a democratic and secularist society possessing and

independence without any restrictions.

To celebrate their achievements and share their culture with the soldiers of MNB(N) the Turkish Battalion Task Force organized social activities that involved the participation of the local populace of

Zenica where their base camp is located as well as at Eagle Base.

Adding to the celebration was the production of special programs at the Zenica Theater and Peacekeepers

Hall where students from the Shadows Dance School and Zenica and Tuzla Music Schools performed traditional and modern dance and music alongside the Turkish Army Music Group.

Col. Gerald Lang, deputy commander for MNB(N), commented that, "The performances were outstanding, I am really drawn to the children who perform for us - these kids are the future here in Bosnia and I think the future looks bright."

The Turkish Battalion has

a great history of participation with and support of the local communities around Zenica.



Photo by Capt. Yucel Bay, Turkish Battalion Task Force



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Shadows Dance School dancers performed at Peacekeepers Hall Sunday.



Photo by Maj. Jarrod Krull, TFE PAO

The Zenica Music School performed a concert of classical and modern music.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

A dancer from the Shadows Dance School, Zenica, proudly looks at a bouquet given to the group after its performance at Peacekeepers Hall Sunday.



Photo by Master Sgt. Tim Peterson, TFE PAO

Members of the Zenica Music School performed a traditional Turkish Melody in the Zenica Theater.

 *In our sights* 



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD  
Naida Siljegovic hugs Sasha in the face-painting booth in Peacekeepers Hall on Halloween.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD  
Spc. Zachary Jones, 34th MP Company, grimaces as Spc. Greta Weiss, TFME, prepares to administer a flu shot Oct. 29.



Photo by Master Sgt. Tim Peterson, TFE PA  
TFME Command Sgt. Major Virgil Akins (right) danced with Turkish soldiers during the Turkish Battalion Task Force's 80th anniversary of the Turkish Republic ceremony at Zenica, Oct. 30.



Photo by Master Sgt. Tim Peterson, TFE PA  
Soldiers participating in BNCOC at Eagle Base march to class last week. Fort Indian Town Gap, Pa., serves as the primary instructor offering lessons on-line via a large webcam. The course is broadcast to four sites, two here in Bosnia and Herzegovina and two in Kosovo.