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TALON

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SFOR assists State Border Service

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Beware of cold weather injuries

Story by
Maj. LeRoy Frie
MNB(N) Safety Officer

Cold-weather operations present hazards such as traffic accidents and severe cold injuries. Fortunately, most cold injuries are preventable.

Slips and falls – Cold weather generally increases slips and falls. Paths, walkways and roads are frequently muddy or frozen. Also, heat escaping from the entrances of buildings causes thawing and freezing of the ground surface, making those areas particularly hazardous. Add to the mix fatigue, bulky clothing and vision-restricting hoods and hats, and the danger becomes very real. To reduce

slippery, frozen surfaces, snow and ice should be removed and sand should be spread on hazardous areas to increase traction.

Snow blindness – Solar radiation can “sunburn” unprotected eyes, leading to snow blindness. Symptoms of snow blindness include painful, gritty eyes with profuse tearing and blurred vision. Protective eyewear that blocks at least 90 percent of ultraviolet radiation can help prevent snow blindness.

Sunburn – You don’t have to be in the desert to get sunburned—sunburn is caused by the intensity of sunlight, not air temperature. Snow and ice reflecting the sun’s rays increases the danger for winter sunburn.

To prevent sunburn anytime of year and in all environments, use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 and cover exposed skin.

Frostbite – Frostbit skin appears red and possibly swollen. Although painful, frostbite generally is limited to the skin’s surface—the face, ears and extremities being most vulnerable. While further damage is prevented after the affected area is re-warmed, repeated frostbite

can dry and crack the skin, making it very sensitive. Frostbite must be taken seriously and all frostbite injuries should be reported.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD
A civilian walks gingerly on a slippery boardwalk during a recent snow. Cold weather generally increases slips and falls.

Dry and chapped skin – The combination of sun, wind, snow, rain and low humidity quickly dries your skin, lips, nose, mouth and throat. Nosebleeds, sore throat and minor respiratory difficulties are common winter ailments. To prevent nose and mouth irritation, cover the bottom part of your face with a balaclava or scarf.

Using moisturizing lotions, lip balm or petroleum jelly will help the skin retain water and help prevent chapped lips and skin.

Remember that it’s up to you when it comes to cold weather safety. The environment can’t be controlled, but the risks can. Be prepared and plan ahead!



About the cover: A United States flag ripples in the wind on Eagle Base Saturday night. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Patriotic task

Soldier raises, lowers U.S. Flag everyday

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

Spc. Tanya Gaylord, Task Force Eagle Command Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, had never raised a U.S. Flag before being deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge. On Veteran's Day she raised and lowered 46 U.S. Flags, three state flags, North Dakota, Iowa and Massachusetts, and a POW/MIA Flag at the White House. She said she and her assistant- for-the-day, Sgt. Erika Lee, would raise and lower a flag about every 10 to 15 minutes.

Capt. Mark Bonner, HHC, gave four flags for Gaylord and Lee to raise and lower.

One was for him, one is for his mother, one is for one of his Reserve Officers' Training Corps classmates and the last one is for his housesitters.

"I think it's a neat idea for a Christmas gift," he said. "It is something that has meaning behind it."

Gaylord, the driver for Col. Gerald Lang, deputy commander for Multinational Brigade (North),

said she enjoys the task because the soldiers who request the service really "love it."

Other soldiers besides Bonner have given her more than one flag. Soldiers also have given her flags instructing her to fly them on special dates such as a soldier's birthdays and anniversaries. She said doing this daily has gone over well with S F O R soldiers.

She has already raised and lowered more than 100 flags.

The privately purchased U.S. Flag, which can be purchased at the Eagle Base PX, must be 3-foot-by-5-foot and either 100 percent cotton or a 2-ply 100 percent polyester flag. No nylon flags are flown.

Gaylord accommodates requests for the soldier's flags to be flown on a particular day on a first-come first served basis.

The recipient also receives a certificate signed by the Multinational Brigade (North) Commander verifying the day the flag was flown.

Contact Gaylord via e-mail for more information.



Top: Spc. Tanya Gaylord raises a U.S. Flag at the White House Veteran's Day. Above: Gaylord ties off one of the flags. She did this more than 40 times on Veteran's Day.



Spc. Tanya Gaylord and Sgt. Erika Lee salute before raising and lowering the flags.





Lessons learned:

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

ORASJE - A State Border Service employee said it all with one gesture.

Omer Hasikic gave a thumbs up minutes after Stabilization Force 14 soldiers assisted him and his Golden Labrador retriever, Baki Boj, in searching vehicles near this border city Oct. 18.

“(The help) is very, very, good,” he said. “Thank you very much.”

Lt. Col. Lieder, provost marshal of Multinational Brigade (North), said this exercise with the SBS and European Union Police Mission was a culmination of exercises. Training also has been

Omer Hasikic, a State Border Service agent, watches his dog, Baki Boj, react to a placed treat during a search of a tour bus's baggage near the Orasje border last month. The SBS is being assisted by SFOR in this mission.



SFOR assists State Border Service

conducted at the Sarajevo and Tuzla airports.

Said Lieder, "I think (the joint exercise) has been going really well. Their dogs have improved, so obviously it is working."

This was only the second week that the SBS was assisted by SFOR. The assistance included two military working dogs, their handlers from the Area Support Group K-9 Section, Eagle Base. Military policeman from the 34th MP Company, Task Force Eagle, provided security.

No detail has been left out. The SBS makes several weekly visits to Eagle Base for training plus the Eagle Base veterinarian has checked all the SBS dogs and their kennels.

Lieder said the SBS has only been in existence for two years. The EUPM, which also provided a parking lot to search the vehicles, was overseeing the SBS.

The SBS's dogs weren't the only ones learning. SBS officers learned how to correctly search a vehicle after a small knife was found in a vehicle's door pocket during a search.

Sgt. Tadd Davis, exercise conductor and kennel master for the K-9 section, and his SFOR contingent held a short class on how to conduct vehicle and personnel searches.

Davis explained to Hasikic and another fellow agent that the occupants must first exit the vehicle and then be searched for weapons or contraband.

Once the occupants are searched, everything is opened on the vehicle, including the hood and trunk, and the search dog and his handler begin their work.

Sgt. Aaron Eastman of the Fort Irwin, Calif., National Training Center MP Company, said his nine-year old dog Rocky, a Dutch shepherd, has been responsible for searching for narcotics the last four years.

"I rely a lot more on him than he relies on me," he said. "He is my partner, the better half of me who does all the work."

One way Rocky "works" for Eastman is by tipping him off that there are possible drugs by wagging his tail.

"When he is on a odor, he is going to respond," said Eastman. "He will sit down and



Sgt. Tadd Davis (center) and Sgt. Brian Thole, 34th MP Co., demonstrated to Omer Hasikic, a SBS agent, the proper way to safely search a person.

won't aggress at all. It is a very passive response."

Eastman and Rocky have been working together for a little over a year.

Davis, of the Fort Lewis, Wash., 51st MP Detachment, noted his goal is to teach the SBS correct search procedures.

"They are so used to the old system," he said.

According to Lieder, the goal of this program is to help these agents become master trainers. Then they can train other SBS agents throughout Bosnia.

They definitely have the best trainers. Military Working Dogs in the States have been working since the early 20th Century.



Sgt. Aaron Eastman watches as his dog Rocky reacts to an odor in a tour bus.

Keeping streak alive

Team McGovern 1 stays undefeated with tourney title

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

McGovern Team 1 kept its undefeated match-streak alive by defeating a Turkish Army team 9-15, 15-9 and 15-8 in the Battle of the Camps volleyball tournament at Peacekeepers Hall Sunday.

McGovern's loss to the Turkish Army team in game one and a loss in another game earlier in the day were its first losses of the season.

Staff Sgt. Tracy Siers said that first loss in the championship game took his team "out of it" for a short period of time; but he knew his team had two more games to play.

"So we had all the time in the world," he said.

Said teammate Staff Sgt. Bobbie Salter, "I think we had a better defense."

The first game saw the score tied only twice, 6-6 and 7-7.

In game one, a kill by a Turkish Army player put the score at 13-7. McGovern rallied for two more points before its loss.

In the second game, McGovern jumped out to an 8-0 lead (the last point scored by a kill from Salter).

The Turks responded by narrowing the gap to 8-7. Siers secured the McGovern win by scoring the 14th and 15th points. Ace serves by

McGovern players played a part early in the final game. Salters had an ace to put McGovern out front 3-2 and Sgt. Brian Taylor roped an ace to tie the game at 7-7. Earlier he hit a kill to also tie the score at 6-6.

Salter aced his serve to snap an 8-8 tie. A kill by Taylor put his team out front 12-8 and another ace by Sgt. Chris Schmitz gave McGovern a 13-8 lead.

A tip by Siers ended the game.



Sgt. Brian Taylor, Team McGovern 1, smacks one of his kills in Sunday's Battle of the Camp's tournament championship game.



Sgt. Jeff Stewart sets the ball



Sgt Chris Schmitz passes the ball during the match.

Independence Day

Polish soldiers celebrate their independence

Story by Maj. Jarrod Krull
Task Force Eagle PAO

After more than 100 years, Poland regained its independence in 1918, as the First World War neared its end and Poland's occupation by Germany and Austria ceased due to the efforts of Jozef Pilsudski, Poland's independence fighter who, prior to World War One, had raised an army of 10,000 Poles to fight for Poland's freedom.

During the war, Pilsudski was imprisoned by the Germans for refusing to side with Germany and the Central Powers against the Allies. Released in November 1918, Pilsudski returned to Warsaw a national hero and proclaimed an independent Polish republic. He was immediately accepted as head of state and commander in chief of the Polish army and disarmed the remaining

occupation armies of the Central Powers by Nov. 11, 1918. To commemorate these events, Nov. 11 is recognized as Poland's Independence Day.

"Everyone who wears a uniform understands what it takes to gain a country's independence and to keep its people free – it requires sacrifice," said Brig. Gen. Richard Nash, commander, Multinational Brigade (North), during the medal parade ceremony for the Polish military contingent.

The ceremony was part of the contingent's Independence Day festivities at the North Pole barracks in Doboj Saturday. The Polish soldiers, many of whom have been deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina for nearly one year, received the Non-Article Five NATO Medal for their participation in the NATO-led peacekeeping mission.

During the ceremony, Nash remarked that, "While this medal is simply made of blue and white cloth, it represents something extraordinary – it shows that you've sustained the safe and secure environment

that this nation needs in order to rebuild and heal."

After the medal ceremony, soldiers and honored guests participated in a special meal served at the Miracle House and then attended a special program recognizing Poland's independence. The program included an Independence Day speech by the Polish ambassador to Bosnia, Ambassador Leszek Hensel and traditional music and dance by local artists.



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy Peterson

This young violinist was among the musicians performing during the ceremony.



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy Peterson

Brig. Gen. Richard Nash, commander of Multinational Brigade (North) awarded several NATO Non-Article 5 Medals.



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy Peterson

Polish Military Contingent troops marched to kick off the Medal Parade Ceremony.

 **Insights** 



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

Major Travis Voels and Sgt. Maj. Larry Johnson sing "America the Beautiful" during a Veteran's Day service at Eagle Base Chapel.

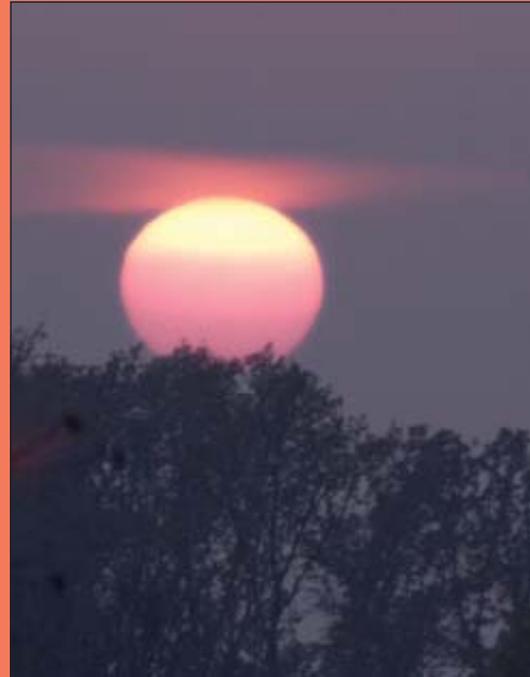


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

The sun sets on Eagle Base Saturday. Early Sunday morning, there was a total lunar eclipse.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Gutknecht, TF Iron

Sgt. Brian Woletzko and Maj. Gary Mund from pose with a collection of rifles and machine guns that were gathered during Active Harvest activities in Task Force Iron's area of responsibility.



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

Spcs. Carley Krekelberg (left) and Yuan Hsu move a load of mail into the 34th ID HHC office last week at Eagle Base.

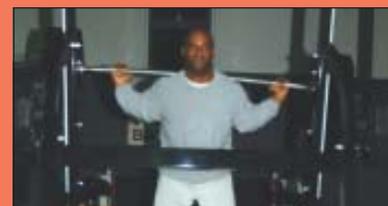


Photo by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

Darryl Flanagan, an ITT Industries employee, won the Iron Man Squat competition Nov. 7.