

January 31, 2003
TALON



**Weapons Inspection Team ensures
the numbers add up**

Inside this issue:

CSC soldier helps troops kick the habit

Promoting peace on the court

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TALON

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Word on the street...

"Is the glass half empty or half full and why?"



Sgt. Penny Anderson
Behavioral Science NCO
111th ASMB

"It's one quarter of the way full because we only have about a quarter of our time here left."



Maj. Shaun Jones
Commandant
HHC, 28th Inf. Div.

"It's half full if you're storing and half empty if you're serving."



Sgt. Monica Luisi
Supply NCO
3-142rd Avn.

"It's half full because you have to look on the bright side of things."

"A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier."
~Unknown



Spc. Laqueena Nance
Accountable Mail Clerk
336th Postal Det.

"It's half full because you gotta be an optimist to work in the post office."



Shannon Holland
Desktop Support
EMW Inc.

"It's half full because that's what the girls like to hear."



Maj. Susan Traylor
TFME S4
330th Med. Brig.

"It's half full. Under General Order number 1, I can't empty it."



About the covers: Front, Staff Sgt. James Williams, Joint Military Affairs, calculates the number of rounds and weapons at the storage site. **Back,** Sgt. Gerald Rose drives the ball down the court for two points during the recent basketball game against Olovo's men's recreation team. *Photos by Spc. Jessica Abner.*





Command Sgt. Maj.
Horace Pysher
Multinational Brigade
(North)
Command Sergeant
Major

During the past month we finally received the first major snowfall that we thought we would have had earlier. With this snow come some added concerns with winter driving.

First, you need to insure that your vehicle is properly cleared of snow, frost and ice for driving. Even before we got the lat-

From the CSM... *Being safe on wintery roads*

est snow I noticed several drivers not cleaning all of the snow and frost off of the windows. This limits your visibility and it is only a matter of time before someone runs into *someone* or *something*. "By the time I get to the gate the defroster will have it melted" is not the right answer. Part of this issue is also insuring that your window washer fluid is full. Once you are out on the road and the snow has melted you need to keep the windshield clean. All of this means that you will need to allow a little more time in the morning to take care of this before getting on the road.

How many of you have checked to insure the chains you have for your vehicle will actually fit the tires? This is not as much of a problem with the HUMVEEs, but I can assure you there are probably one or two non-tactical vehicles out there that it will be a problem. Better yet, does the vehicle have chains in it at *all*? Keep in mind that although the roads on Eagle Base or the various camps and forward operating bases may be clear of snow and ice, Brown and

Root is not clearing the patrol routes. You may find your patrol on road coated with a thin sheet of black ice or a foot of snow.

The most important part of winter driving is that you need to allow more time and use common sense. If the weather is that bad, do you really need to be out there driving in it? Is your mission that essential and if it is, are you allowing enough time, driving slower, and maintaining a safe distance between vehicles.

Lastly, be alert. Don't become complacent. Follow safety procedures. Don't move without wearing your seat belt. If you are required to wear a Kevlar helmet—wear it. Rather than assuming there is nobody behind you when you are backing a vehicle, use a ground guide. There is no need for injuries due to complacency.

Remember, I made a promise to each of your families when we deployed. I insured them I would make sure each of you came home safe and sound. I plan to keep that promise. Remember, safety starts with you, the soldiers of MNB (N). *Roll on!*

FMPP spawns hero soldiers by coincidence

by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Editor, 354th MPAD

BUDAPEST, Hungary—It can happen anywhere. You or one of your fellow soldiers may be called upon to use the skills provided through Army training to help another person. In the most unlikely place, Budapest, Hungary, two Task Force Med Eagle soldiers jumped into action without hesitation.

Staff Sgt. Moses Butler, non-commissioned officer in charge, combat stress control, and Spc. Keith Dawson, flight medic, 1159th Med. Co., were walking along a street in Budapest during their Fighter Management Pass Program (FMPP), when they heard squealing tires. As a civilian, Butler works as an emergency medical technician and Dawson works as a paramedic.

"We started walking toward where the noise came from," said Dawson. "There was a crowd of people starting to

form. As we got closer Moses saw a scarf and hat lying in the street. Then we saw the woman lying in the middle of the road."

Dawson said he and Butler realized the woman was hurt and that it didn't appear anyone was going to help her. So with that, the two soldiers did what needed done.

"Moses took control of the traffic situation and started speaking to people near the accident to try to assess what exactly happened," Dawson said. "With the help of a young boy who spoke some English, I went to work on the woman." While Dawson treated the woman, Butler found someone who called for help and continued crowd and traffic control.

Dawson said one of the first things he noticed was the woman had a large, egg-shaped bump on her head above her right eye.

"It was obvious there was some sort of head injury so I needed to make sure she didn't move her neck. I rested her head between my knees to stabilize

her neck and had my young translator tell her what I was doing," Dawson said.

As Dawson checked the woman's stomach, he said he noticed it was very tight. "It's been my experience that when the stomach is tight like that there is usually some kind of internal injury," said Dawson. "When I checked her hip and pelvis area by applying slight pressure, she screamed. Then she told me, through the boy, she couldn't feel anything below her waist. I told Moses, 'We need to get this woman out of here!'"

Approximately 20 minutes after the pair of unlikely medics wondered onto the scene, an ambulance arrived. Dawson told the nurse with the ambulance he was a medic and would help if they needed.

According to Dawson, the crew from the ambulance took over. When they eventually moved her, the woman fell unconscious. Dawson said that is good and bad.

"It was good in the sense

she wasn't in pain. But it was bad because now you open up another whole area of problems," Dawson said. "The problem is you don't know why she went unconscious or if she'll come out of it. There might be something more serious that we couldn't assess on the scene."

After everything was done and the unlikely heroes continued onto their intended destination, lunch at a nearby restaurant, they couldn't believe what they had just gone through.

According to Dawson, during the trip from Eagle Base to Budapest they also witnessed an accident in which a car struck a bus.

Fortunately for this victim, a young lady, these two soldiers were in the right place at the right time.

"After it was over, Moses and I were talking about it. If we hadn't been there—on that street at that time—she might not have gotten the help that may very well have saved her life."

Soldiers move in for a better look

Story and photo by
Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

ORASJE, Bosnia — In the United States, the right to bear arms is upheld by the 2nd Amendment to the constitution. The U.S. armed forces, by right, has an extensive selection of weaponry. Like the U.S. and many other countries, the armed forces in Bosnia also has the means to protect itself and its citizens. Because of SFOR's presence in this war-torn country and our goal to provide a safe and secure environment, SFOR maintains accountability of all legal weapons and ammunition in Multinational Brigade (North) and destroys illegal arms caches.

In order to account for all the munitions in MNB(N), inspection teams travel throughout their areas of responsibility to inspect weapon storage sites. There are two reasons for SFOR's inspections, according to Capt. John Davis, weapons storage site inspection (WSSI) teams officer in charge, Joint Military Affairs. "SFOR has to maintain what type of threat we face, so we know where their weapons and ammunition are

and the second thing is to help the armed forces become more professional."

In order to assist the Croatian soldiers in their professional development, the inspection team helps sustain the inventory of weapons and munitions. Davis said that eventually the team is going to take a hands-off approach and let the Croatian armed forces do the inventory independently. Although the goal is to turn over the responsibility, SFOR will monitor the procedure and occasionally do spot-checks.

Two teams recently inspected one weapons storage site located in Oraje, near the Croatian border. This particular site houses tanks, machine guns, RPG's, mortars, and is guarded by sentries armed with M-16's or AK-47's. When the WSSI team arrives, they enter the new concrete storage buildings that are the home to millions of rounds and munitions. One building is a labyrinth of thousands of wooden boxes containing ammunition. They are stacked on top of and beside each other, so the person



In order to count the many rounds of ammunition located at a weapons storage site in Oraje, Sgt. James Babcock walks on the towering crates, relaying the count to his team down below.



Capt. John Davis maintains accountability of the Croatia armed forces' heavy armor tanks. SFOR maintains accountability on all weapons in MNB (N).

counting the boxes can only do so by climbing on top of the configuration of wooden crates. The lighting in the storage buildings is poor, so the WSSI team finds their way with the beams of hand-held flashlights.

Staff Sgt. James Williams, NCOIC of team number one, said that prior to the inspections, the team goes through pre-inspections to see if anything has changed at the site and if improvements have been made. Documents declaring the number of weapons in the site are compared to ensure all paper work matches. If the numbers contradict each other, then the problem must be solved.

"That's why we do a pre-inspection – to get all the kinks out because we don't want any discrepancies when we do the actual inspection," said Williams.



Spc. Delonce Hines is busy logging the total number of weapons and rounds that his team members count. This tedious procedure is done to maintain accountability.

If there is a discrepancy, it is up to Williams to touch base with his OIC, who is usually at the inspection site, or call the compliance chief to obtain further instructions. "If something is missing, or we feel that something is not accounted for, then we'll take something away from them (Croatian Army). If they're missing an AK-47, we'll come back and take two or three – one for the missing weapon and one additional for the problem – and then we'll destroy them," said Williams.

It is imperative the WSSI

teams account for all weapons. The purpose for destroying weapons in the event any munitions should appear missing is to lessen the threat of unaccounted weapons. In other words, if a weapon or round is missing, it must be found or more weapons will be confiscated.

The inspection teams physically count all weapons to ensure everything is accounted for and to limit mistakes. With calculator in hand, the person assisting in adding the figures spends only seconds calculating numbers that total in the thousands and sometimes in the millions. Although the thought of

adding so many numbers may give numerophobes more than a headache, the WSSI teams do it regularly.

"It's very easy to lose track of your count. That's why you have a calculator. You always double check – if one person is wrong then another team member double checks to make sure the numbers coincide," said Sgt. James Babcock, assistant team leader, JMA. "It's frustrating when you do have to re-count, but it's something you have to do to get the correct numbers."

Despite the tedious nature of



Sgt. Christopher McCracken makes his way through narrow stacks of wooden crates containing rounds.

his job, Babcock enjoys it.

"I like it a lot. We get out and get to see a lot of sites and meet a lot of interesting people." He said some of the weapons he inspects are fragments of history.

"You can see the weapons have been used by all the different carvings that people put on the weapons," said

Babcock. "Some people engraved names and words on them, so you can tell who used them or what type of person they were. You can find pictures carved in the stock, of the soldier's wife or girlfriends. We even found one with a family photo across the back with all the names engraved into the stock of the weapon."

Spc. Delonce Hines, driver/counter, works with Babcock to ensure weapons are counted accordingly. He also finds the job intriguing.

"It's kind of easy, but I don't think you can

bring anyone off the street to do this. There are so many different types of rounds you have to look for. It's a pretty interesting job to have because you get to meet a lot of people," said Hines. "You also have to be patient and really work together. You can't be an individual and try to do it by yourself."

According to the WSSI team, the armed forces at Oraje were cooperative. "They don't want any problems and they're willing to do anything to assist you. The numbers match and they don't want anything taken away from them," said Babcock. "They just want to get everything squared away."

Once everything is "squared away," the WSSI team departs the site and prepares for the next mission. With the site up to standard, the WSSI team is ensuring SFOR's safety as well as the safety of the host country's citizens and armed forces. According to Davis, his mission demonstrates SFOR's ability to provide a safe and secure environment.



Staff Sgt. Theodore Rouse refers to his paperwork ensuring the numbers on paper match those of munitions on-hand.

Troops decide it's time for tobacco products to "butt out" for good

Story by Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

Eagle Base, Bosnia — Have you ever been around somebody who smells like a walking ashtray? Do you want to tell someone to invest in breath mints because of "smokers breath?" For many, the answer to both questions is "yes," however; even those who would answer affirmatively are using an addictive drug that has been blamed for many deaths – nicotine. Although the tobacco itself is not addictive, chemicals within it have been proven to be addictive.

Many are lured into the habit of smoking and dipping chewing tobacco as a result of peer pressure. Soon the need for nicotine is strong and people pay an increasing price for a pack of cigarettes or a can of snuff. Although there are numerous reasons for starting the habit, many people do not think about potential consequences prior to dipping or lighting up.

Years ago, smoking was encouraged by the military and packs were given out in rations. This is not so in today's society. The military promotes a smoke free environment by offering smoking cessation classes designed to encourage and assist servicemembers in their pursuit to "kick the habit."

Fortunately for soldiers of MNB (North), smoking cessation classes are offered on Eagle Base. Many servicemembers feel deployment is the best time to quit and consider returning home tobacco-free.

"I started the class to quit smoking because I figured this is the best time to do

it," said Sgt. Larry Smith, driver, HHC 28th ID. He has smoked for approximately 25 years and is determined to give it up. Smith said he quit for health and financial reasons.

The health risks of using tobacco products can be deadly. According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, it is estimated that one out of every five people who die this year will be a result of tobacco use. Not only can cigarettes reduce the rate of lung growth, it contributes to heart disease and strokes.

The financial risks may not be deadly, however, the impact is significant. With the increasing price of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, people are reaching deeper into their pockets to cover the cost of this deadly habit. According to the Center, each pack of cigarettes sold costs Americans about \$4.00. If you smoke three packs of cigarettes a day for 40 years, you will have spent about \$219,000!

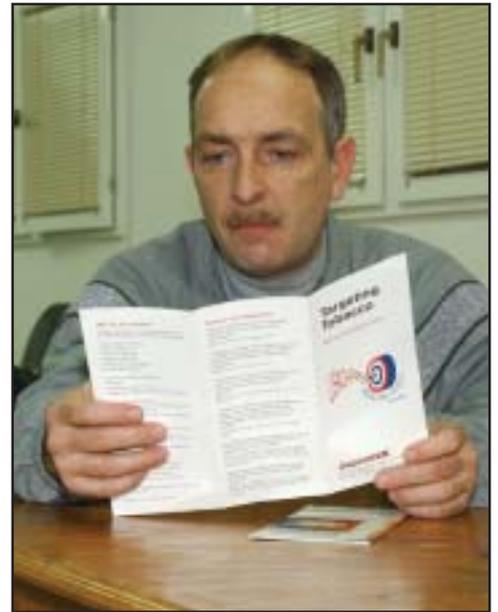
Are there better ways to invest money? According to many soldiers, the answer is "yes." For them, smoking is expensive but giving it up is much better.

"I think the smoking cessation class has helped a lot of people quit. Back home they'd have to bear the expense of the medications that are offered free here – the patch, Zyban, whatever it may be. A lot of people's insurance won't cover it, and it's expensive," said Smith, who thought about stopping for a number of years and wants to be able to run when he's 60 years old.

Although servicemembers are far from their families, one soldier is making his decision a joint endeavor.

"My wife decided to quit back home, so I'm going to participate too," said Sgt. Anthony Pope, avionics mechanic, 1-183rd Avn. Bn. "We're going to quit together, even though we're 10,000 miles apart." Pope said the class is helpful and advises future participants to stick with it.

According to Sgt. H. Moses Butler, combat stress NCOIC/smoking cessation instructor, 111th Air Support Med. Det., approximately 63 people have attended the class. Butler, who is a former smoker, said he feels the



by Spc. Kirk Wilson

Sgt. Larry Smith joined the smoking cessation class in an effort to battle cigarettes for good.

class is helpful for people wanting to kick the habit.

"Being over here away from our families and everything back home offers a time to get away in a different environment, get some education and free medication to do something to change your whole life. I think it's important and healthy," said Butler.

Butler decided to instruct the class because he wanted to fight his own temptation to smoke. The environment here could spark cravings he wanted to avoid.

"I knew that coming over here for nine months I might struggle a little bit. So when you take on the class it reminds you with the pictures and statistics," said Butler.

Not only does Butler get the satisfaction of staying smoke-free, he likes the idea of helping others quit as well.

"I feel good about teaching the class, but the best feeling was when I actually had someone come to me and say 'hey, my first sergeant has been trying to quit for three years and it took your three-week course to stay tobacco free,' that's when I start to feel good, kind of like a hero," said Butler.

If servicemembers want to snuff out their habit out for good, they can attend the smoking cessation class.

According to Butler, there is one more class starting the first week in February in building 4116. So, don't wait until you are another pack under, give yourself the chance to recover!



by Spc. Kirk Wilson

Sgt. H. Moses Butler, smoking cessation course instructor, talks to the soldiers about different ways to curb their tobacco appetite.

Soldiers promote peace on the court

Story and photos by
Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

Normal attire for soldiers is the Battle Dress Uniform. However, soldiers recently donned a different uniform for a challenge on a different battle field – a basketball court. In a recent contest of skill, agility and stamina, soldiers from Eagle Base defeated Olovo's Men's recreation team.

The team from Eagle Base, mostly made up of 1-109th Infantry soldiers, made a victorious comeback compared to the previous basketball challenge where the soldiers were defeated by Olovo's team 90-89.

Now, with a 53-34 landslide victory under their belt the soldiers look forward to playing the local team a third time.

"It felt good to win," said Sgt. Gerald Rose, A Co., 1-109th team leader. "I was told the first loss was actually the first time SFOR lost to the town's team, so I wanted to come back and redeem ourselves." He said the biggest challenge was stopping their center.

"He wasn't that big of a force down low, but he could shoot the three's and he wasn't that

bad of a handler," said Rose. "We just had to keep our composure and stay focused."

The first half of the game was neck and neck with each team answering the other's points by scoring their own. The Olovo rec. team had enough players on the side to form three or four teams. However, even with that much talent they could not get a tight grip on the scoreboard.

Beside this game's final score, one soldier said there were other differences between the two games other than what the score board displayed.

"When we played them the first time, it was at their gym and the stands were packed with fans who were going crazy," said Sgt. Craig Stevens, master gunner, A Co., 1-109th Inf. "During our first game it took us a while to get in the game and they got up on us by about 20 points. Then we started to get it together in the second half, but we lost by one point."

Stevens said that during the most recent game the soldiers played more as a team because they have had more time to practice together. He also helped his team with a triple double of 10 points.

The way the game is played is different between Bosnia and the U.S. as well, according to Rose. "I don't know what their rules are, but it seems like they're a lot more physical when they play – they use a lot more elbows and screens. The screens might be legal for them, but for us they're illegal," said Rose, who had nine points along with six assists.

"They're all like 6-foot-5 and like to shoot the ball - unlike us

Soldier's Statistics

Player	Pts.	Asst.	Reb.
Kirk Wilson	14	3	10
Craig Stevens	10	12	10
Gerald Rose	9	6	7
James Strosser	8	0	8
Brian Cook	0	2	2
Ryan Ostrum	2	2	4
Will Martin	6	3	0
Walter Koza	4	2	4

The 1-109th Infantry made a come back during their second match with Olovo's men's recreation team. The final score was 53-34.



Spc. Kirk Wilson is approaching the basket and looking for an open soldier to pass the ball.

and our big guys. Ours are down low and posting up. We don't have them out their shooting three point shots," said Rose.

Stevens said he was impressed with the way Olovo's team handled the ball. "Their very good. I didn't expect basketball to be so popular over here, but it is," said Stevens. "They know NBA players and it's pretty popular here."

The center for Olovo's team, Rijad Jamkovic, said he was also impressed by the soldiers. "America is the cradle of basketball and every American military team is good. They are physically fit and very strong," said Jamkovic.

Although the teams challenge each other on the court, everything is initiated on peaceful terms. The soldiers said that they are glad their mission allows them to participate in sports with the locals because it not only builds rela-

tions, but promotes peace as well.

"I thought it was going to be strictly business and I never thought I'd have the opportunity to play against another team while stationed here. I think it brings Stabilization Forces and the locals together," said Rose. "I think sports somehow always brings people together, usually for the good."

Stevens said he looks forward to playing the team again because it encourages peace and unity.

"They can look at us and see that we're all from different backgrounds, different ethnicities and we come together and play a game of basketball. They also see that in us when we're on patrol," said Stevens. "We're working together to accomplish the mission. Anytime that we can promote stability in any way, whether it's basketball, through sports, or just providing a secure environment, that's a plus."

