

March 7, 2003

# TALON



**28th MP Company protects and serves MNB (N) during SFOR XII**

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**Mapping the course with the terrain team**

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# TALON

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## Word on the street...

“What advice would you like to pass on to the soldiers of SFOR XIII?”



Sgt. James Babcock  
Driver  
Joint Military Affairs

“Enjoy as much of the scenery as possible and play with the kids.”



Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Pilayo  
CSM, Task Force Talon

“Be safe, stay alert, and remember situational awareness.”



Staff Sgt. Charles Sutton  
Medic  
328th FLE

“Be patient and listen to one another because the soldiers here are your new family.”

*Advice is probably the only free thing that people won't take.*  
~ Lothar Kaul



Spc. Tia Capone  
Analyst  
628th MI Bn.

“Try to keep a positive attitude.”



CW4 Bradley Brummett  
Apache Instructor Pilot  
1-183rd Avn. Bn.

“Remember that there is nothing here that's worth a life or any of our equipment.”



Spc. Misael Casanova  
Driver  
HHC, 28th Inf. Div.

“Keep a good attitude.”



**About the covers: Front,** Spc. Ann Gruce, 28th MP Co., monitors vehicle speed with a radar gun. Maximum speed on Eagle Base is 24 kph. *Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelley Luster.* **Back,** First Sgt. James Short, C Co., 1-109th, discards an Active Harvest weapon that was destroyed by an M-2 Bradley. *Photo by Maj. John Dowling.*



# Terrain Team charts the course

Story and photos by Spc. Jessica Abner

Assistant editor, 354th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia — The earliest evidence of mapping comes from the Middle East, where ancient tablets depicted the earth as a flat circular disk. Thousands of years later, the mapping process has evolved through innovations in science, technology, and the knowledge of skilled mapmakers. The military, with leading technology and highly-trained soldiers, uses such advances to provide maps to its personnel as well.

The terrain analysts of Multinational Brigade (North) use their skills to provide combat control movement maps for the Brigade.

“Our mission here is to provide terrain visualization products and map and image products to support MNB(N),” said Chief Warrant Officer Eugene Singletary, terrain analysis technician.

With the assistance of the 1002<sup>nd</sup> Eng. Det. from Alabama, the command knows exactly where they can move different types of equipment due to the constraints of the terrain, according to Sgt. Gregory Herring, topographical analyst.

“We’ll tell them where they can march soldiers, where they can drive certain vehicles across different types of land, where they can move their tanks, and where the hilltops are that they might want to concentrate on controlling,” said Herring.

Controlling a hilltop could mean the difference between the safety of soldiers moving along the valley floor and tragedy.

“You wouldn’t want enemy soldiers looking down upon you. Choke points are very prevalent around here because there are narrow roads that cross one narrow bridge,” said Herring. “That would be an easy place to set up an ambush, so we would want put extra defenses in that area

to ensure that doesn’t happen.”

Due to the danger of mines, the terrain analysts do not produce combat control movement maps in Bosnia. Instead, they focus on mapping secure patrol routes and they do so with a new computer system, the Digital Topographic Support System (DTSS) that uses Imagine 5.8 and Arc Map 3.2 software.

“When the Joint Military Affairs (JMA) closes or opens up a weapons storage site, they give us the information and we symbolize that on a map,” said Herring.

All routes depicted on a map guide soldiers and personnel.

“It’s important because we take information from the different entities within the brigade, like the engineers and JMA, and annotate it on the map,” said Herring. “The crash-rescue map was created so the aviation units know the nearest helicopter landing site in case of an emergency.”

Like doctors who work around the clock, the terrain team is on call 24 hours a day, according to Sgt. 1st Class Edward Hulvey, terrain team NCOIC.

“It’s important to make sure everyone knows where they’re going, how to get there, and arrive safely because of the danger of getting off the main roads,” said Hulvey.

The terrain analysts also ensure their multinational counterparts are equipped with the right navigating device — a map.

“I would say that this job is pretty important considering that we support every contingent in MNB(N),” said Singletary. “All of the support comes from us. They cannot get specialized products any where else.”

Throughout the rotation, the terrain analysts have made more than 70 new map products and printed more than 1,200 map reprints.

“The highlight of our mission here is that we’ve made two



**Sgt. Gregory Herring and Chief Warrant Officer Eugene Singletary identify points on large map located in their work area.**

major boundary changes and put the new Danish contingent task force on the map as a visual representation,” said Singletary.

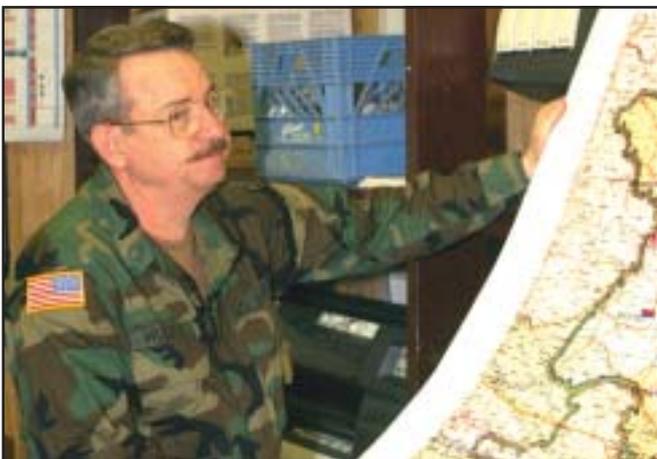
The soldiers who patrol in Bosnia know first-hand the importance of maps, a navigation device that’s been around for centuries.

“In Bosnia, maps are a definite because there are so many roads,” said Spc. Paul Granville, driver, A Co., 1-109<sup>th</sup> Infantry. “Every time we go on patrol we have our maps and without them we’d be lost. The maps are pretty easy to follow and we can navigate to where we need to go.”

As SFOR XII nears the end of its rotation, products produced by the terrain team will assist soldiers in future missions. Not only can they pass the maps on, map makers offer a few words of wisdom as well.

“The advice I would give to the replacements is to learn as much as you can from us while we’re here and just keep experimenting with the system,” said Herring. “We just touched the surface while we were here because it’s a brand new system and we’ve had it less than a year, so we’re all fresh with it.”

With growing technology and a human interest in exploration, the mapping process is essential in the civilian and military sector and will continue to be a part of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



**Sgt. 1st Class Edward Hulvey, NCOIC, receives a new map as it separates from a plotter.**

# Lawyers, Guns, and Money

## Apache Troop attacks barriers to Bosnian prosperity

by Sgt. Thomas Farley

*Cavalry Scout, 1/104 Cavalry*

**POSAVINA CORRIDOR, Bosnia** — It goes without saying that a person who has the ambition, expertise and opportunity to amply feed, clothe and shelter his family will not be prone to take up arms against his neighbors. With this in mind, the soldiers of A Troop, 1-104th Cavalry have initiated a program they hope will attack the root of a significant problem in Bosnia — the shortage of genuine economic opportunity.

The concept for this economic initiative grew out of the unit's efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment during the national elections last October.

"During the run-up to the elections, we had opportunities to conduct bi-lats (bilateral discussions) with a number of political leaders to 'recon' their thoughts on security and the ability of local officials to run the elections," said Capt. Eric E.L. Guenther Jr., commander. "One of the presidential candidates in our AOR, Milan Jelic, is also the outspoken president of Modrica Oil, perhaps the largest business in the Posavina Corridor."

Jelic and other businessmen they met, expressed frustration with the economic growth in the area. The more people the soldiers spoke with the more evident it became that the key to stability in Bosnia was the country's ability to create and sustain prosperity.

Apache Troopers are using their civilian experience to help solve Bosnian's economic challenges.

"Take, for example, the plight of an agricultural business owner whose operations are near Orasje," said Sgt. Bill Wrabley, who practices law in Philadelphia and holds a master degree in Business Administration.

"This guy's company produces poultry feed, which ought to be a copper-bottomed enterprise in this part of the world. Instead, this guy is getting hammered with customs duties, tariffs and taxes from every side."

The merchant buys corn and wheat from Hungary because the price of the grain being harvested by the farmers in his own opstina is inflated with a variety of tariffs and taxes, while the imported grain enjoys subsidies from the Hungarian government. He is also forbidden to ship his product to markets across the Sava River because there is no Bosnian Food and Drug Administration to inspect and certify that his product meets minimum international qual-

ity standards.

Beginning last October, Apache Troop leaders and Task Force Saber Civil Affairs personnel laid out a strategy to assess the health of the economy.

"Civil Affairs acknowledged our experience and requested that we expand our efforts in our area of responsibility," said Guenther. "We started with some informal meetings with business persons to talk about their perceptions of the situation. Since

then we have organized a series of formal meetings, which brought government officials and business leaders together in a forum environment to address common problems."

These initial meetings were typically the first organized events in which businessmen and government officials had met in a structured environment since the fighting ceased in the mid-1990s. Apache Troop leaders then met with local representatives of the international community to discuss partnership opportunities.

"We learned the international community was eager to pursue this overall strategy," Guenther said. They also discovered the Office of the High Representative was preparing to launch Operation Bulldozer, a countrywide effort to identify the 50 major stumbling blocks to economic recovery, and to develop specific remedies for each. Operation Bulldozer is unfolding in stages.

"One of the first obstacles identified for Operation Bulldozer involves the registration costs for starting and operating a business," Guenther said. "These costs are prohibitively high. The problem is identified, and now OHR is demanding they be brought into line with reality."

A thornier problem is property ownership. While much of the property in the former Communist state of Yugoslavia was state-owned, it is often difficult to determine ownership. Ownership must be demonstrated before businesses and private citizens are able to obtain loans by using the property for collateral.

Another problem is the division that exists between the business community and the public sector, who tend to blame each other for Bosnia's economic woes.



by Spc. John Bansemer

**Sgt. Maj. Dan Sossaman addresses local business owners at a meeting in the town of Odzak.**

"Our goal is to get them together so that they can learn to communicate and work together to come up with their own solutions," said Guenther.

"Ideally, we would want to stabilize the rule of law before focusing on the economy. Bosnia needs institutions in place to define the law, implement it, and then to enforce it. It's all about creating a level playing field," he said. "Unfortunately, that's not realistic here in Bosnia in 2003. There's institutionalized crime, black markets, pandemic corruption, and unfair tariffs. The honest businessman, who just wants a fighting chance, feels like he is fighting with one hand tied behind his back."

While it may seem impossible to get all governmental entities to work together, the soldiers have been able to get business leaders from all over the Posavina Corridor — representing all three of the major cultural traditions — working together to solve their common problems.

As they watch regional business councils and chambers of commerce taking their first positive steps toward economic unification, the Apache troopers feel a strong sense of satisfaction that their deployment has made a measurable difference. However, at least one significant challenge remains. It's what Staff Sgt. Ware calls the "SFOR Rotation Syndrome."

"There's a credibility gap created by the unmet promises of some previous SFOR rotations. They started helpful projects and then let them fall apart when their six-month deployments were over," Ware said. "It is critical that we provide a smooth transition for the soldiers of SFOR XIII."

Bridging the credibility gap will play an important role in crossing the expanse toward a better economic future for Bosnia.

# Making a difference door-to-door

by Aleksandar Ilic

*Media Specialist, Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office*

**EAGLE BASE, Bosnia** — If someone told you a 25-ton M-2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle could be a harvesting tool, you would probably advise the person to seek professional help. You would be completely wrong and insulting if that individual was a member of the 1-109th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized) that comprises the Southern Task Force in Multinational Brigade (North). The Bradley is exactly what these soldiers have used to destroy a significant portion of their deadly crop.

The 1-109<sup>th</sup> recently concluded its month long Active Harvest campaign, part of the continuing effort with local authorities and SFOR to encourage residents of Bosnia and Herzegovina to turn in all illegal and unwanted weapons, unexploded ordnance and ammunition remaining from the war. It's an unusual task for soldiers to go door-to-door asking citizens to turn in hazardous items as assault rifles, machine guns, bullets, and anti-personnel mines, but these infantrymen did so with the vigor of traveling insurance salesmen.

"If anyone told me when I joined the Army that I would be doing this, I would have never believed it, not in a million years," said Pfc. Devin O'Neil, C Co., 1-109th Infantry. "But when we found out that we were going to Bosnia and that Harvest was going to be one of our tasks, we received training and soon we were ready to do it. Active Harvest is one of SFOR missions and it needs to be accomplished."

Just 10 years ago, some of the people being asked to turn in weapons were selling parts of their estates, cars, livestock and spending their lifetime savings to buy a pistols, rifles or hand grenades to protect their families the three-and-a-half year war. The conflict changed

the lives of every single human being in this country. Now, SFOR soldiers are going door-to-door to eliminate these dangerous weapons and ordnance. But at the same time, Task Force Bluse Steel soldiers ask Bosnians to turn-in significant parts of their lives, a fortune of money some of these people might have paid for the weapons that has the potential to create a not-so-pleasant situation at some peoples' doorsteps.

"None of our patrols have



by Maj. John Dowling

**Staff Sgt. Paul Bennett, A Co., guides an M-2 Bradley over weapons collected during Active Harvest in February.**

had any problems. And I want to commend all residents for their patience and cooperation," said Lt. Col. Barry Searle, commander, 1-109th Infantry. "Our patrols have gone through all municipalities in Southern Task Force area of responsibility. Our portion of Active Harvest was a great success and I am proud of all of my soldiers who accomplished the task in an efficient and safe manner."

The Harvest was more than a great success. The numbers of collected items speak for itself — nearly 200 weapons, 100 grenades, 200 mines and 35,000 pieces of ammo.

"This campaign was officially three weeks long, but for us it started the first day of our deployment here. Our presence patrols developed a great relationship with local population and soldiers used every oppor-

tunity to announce and advertise Active Harvest, even during Medical Assistance Programs in our area of responsibility. Active Harvest was a culminating moment," said Searle.

Collecting weapons during six-hour patrols in a war-torn country is not actually a walk in the park. The weapons have been hidden in barns, basements and haystacks for years. Every time a soldier deals with an unmaintained weapon, there is a lot at stake.

tions responded with 500 boxes of food, clothing and toys that we distributed throughout Southern Task Force area of responsibility.

There has always been an unwritten alliance between GIs and local children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Soldiers represent unconventionally dressed, year-long Santa Clauses for the kids. And for troops, being around Bosnian children replaces moments lost with sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, and nieces and nephews left at home. Many of the soldier's memories about Bosnia are often attached to a small face and smile for the soldiers.

"During a presence patrol we were handing stuffed animals to kids. A little boy was playing by the road. The way the boy's face lit up when I gave him that toy was so sincere. I think I'll remember that forever," said O'Neil, looking skyward as he relived the moment in his head. The satisfaction is shared by all of the 1-109th soldiers, regardless of rank and position attained.

"It is always rewarding when you can do something to improve the situation. I am glad about having removed some of the weapons out of the reach of children," said Searle. "Before I left, I made a promise to my granddaughter, who is 2 years old now, that we were going to help Bosnian kids. My granddaughter doesn't worry about weapons, so why should anyone else?"

While the Bradley was crushing long-barreled rifles and magazines, soldiers captured the scene on the video and still cameras to retain the memories.

The lasting images will tell future generations of children this story about how these citizen-soldiers from Eastern Pennsylvania, traveled halfway across the world and personally went door-to-door to make a better life for the children of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# 28th Military Police Company keeps law and order in MNB (N)

by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

*Editor, 354th MPAD*

**EAGLE BASE, Bosnia** — “Whatever kinds of crime you see in society, you will also see in military communities,” said Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ashley Thompson, provost sergeant, 28<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co.

While Thompson admits problems with drugs or gangs that might occur on larger military installations aren’t something he sees on Eagle Base, they do nevertheless exist and are dealt with by military police around the Army.

The primary mission of the 28<sup>th</sup> MPs has been law and order throughout Multinational Brigade (North). Although it might seem as though crime is nonexistent on such a small base, Thompson said otherwise.

“Not so much during the winter, but rather when rotations come and go, someone will leave his or her bike outside and someone will come along and grab it up,” said Thompson. “They’ll throw it in a conex somewhere thinking they won’t get caught. People become more relaxed between the rotations. I guarantee there are bikes out everywhere now that the weather is getting nice.”

Thompson said the MPs try to be more proactive rather than reactive. In effect, the MPs try to stop the crimes from occurring through different programs. One example is the “Gotcha Program.”

“The Gotcha Program was not used a great deal due to the weather, but we’ll pass it onto the next rotation,” said Thompson. “What happens is if one of the MPs sees something unsecured, they will place a Gotcha Card on the property. It lets the person know to lock up their bike or other items.” Thompson said they also helped implement bicycle registration that helps cut down on theft.

Unfortunately crime prevention is something that is hard to track.

“You just don’t know if the fact that you are there or one of your programs is the reason for a crime not occurring,” said Thompson. “You can’t put a number on what doesn’t happen.” He believes some of the programs are keeping the crime down.

“When we take a police officer out of a patrol car and put them on a bike, for example. The increased visibility draws attention to the MPs presence and can actually deter crime from happening,” said Thompson.

Something that is still relatively new to military police work, according to Thomp-



by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

**Spc. Ann Gruce checks vehicle speed with a radar gun. With a maximum speed limit of 24 kilometers per hour that drops to 7 kph in some places on Eagle Base. The MPs have issued several traffic citations for speeding.**

son, is a central reporting system called Centralized Operations Police Suite, or COPS. The system is used to electronically file and track every incident worldwide on one system at the Department of the Army.

Even with the military police on patrol, advanced crime tracking and 24-hour operations everyday, crime still occurs. When it does, there is one person who will definitely have their fingers in the pie — the desk sergeant.

“The desk sergeant is the heart of the operation, they know everything that goes on,” said Thompson.

The desk sergeant’s job is alot like a 911 operator, according to Sgt. Jeff Langley, who handles the responsibility here. “If a crime occurs, I am the person who gets called,” Langley said. “Once they call me, I dispatch a patrol and notify everyone who needs to be notified. Whether it information coming from up the chain and needs to go out, or vice versa, the desk sergeant will know about it.”

The military police mission on Eagle Base doesn’t stop with roving patrols. According to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brad W. Peirson, platoon leader, they also handle security and access to what is perhaps the most secure area on Eagle Base — the White House. They are also responsible for accident investigations outside the wire as well as property damage that occurs within the perimeter.

“If an accident occurs, we dispatch a patrol who will take the initial report,” said Peirson. “My traffic investigator will con-

duct an investigation and also work closely with the local authorities. Even if it is something as small as somebody backing into something — it will be investigated.”

Peirson said often a crime is reported and the initial officer on the scene gathers as much information as possible. Then the incident might be handed over to another facet of the military police — the military police investigator (MPI).

Eagle Base is small post with a low crime rate, according to Peirson. He said the tour of duty here has been pretty good and relatively low in crime, but crime does occur.

“Everyone here is military and they understand how the military operates,” said Peirson. He attributes the low crime to the professionalism of the soldiers throughout MNB (N).

Just as with other military careers in the National Guard and Army Reserve, the citizen-soldiers of the 28th MP Co. also bring civilian acquired skills to their military careers.

“We are fortunate to have several MPs who are also police officers in their civilian jobs as well,” said Peirson. “Many of the MPs are involved in some way with law enforcement. We have several who work in corrections or security. We also have a handful who are pursuing education in criminal justice.”

Although you may not know it, crime does occur here at Eagle Base, but like the old adage says, it just doesn’t pay — especially with the 28th MP Co. on the job and ready to handle any situation.

# Civil Affairs - Conducting Civil Military Operations in Bosnia

by Sgt. Tina Beller

*416th Civil Affairs Battalion*

**EAGLE BASE** — In peacekeeping operations, one of the most valued assets of the commander is his Civil Affairs elements. Civil Affairs Teams serve several functions, but all relate to the civilian relationship the military maintains with the host nation. Civil Affairs teams serve as liaisons between local community representatives, local political leaders and representatives from the international community and SFOR. This link to the communities outside the military allows for better coordination during steady-state operations and special events.

“Within our task force’s area of operations, we are primarily concentrating on the returns process, especially in Srebrenica, where the returns issues are most critical due to the events in the town during 1995,” said Maj. Paul Dougherty, team leader, 416<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Bn. “SFOR presence has had a dramatic impact on the returns process which is only half way complete. Additionally, increased emphasis has come from the international community regarding economic development.”

During the war, thousands of Bosnians either fled their homes in desperation or were removed from them against their will and taken to places unknown – some never to be seen again. Many of the families who survived the conflict were internally displaced because they sought refuge in other parts of the country. Many issues such as repairing roads, homes and schools; finding food, water and firewood; and avoiding land mines and other unexploded ordinance have all become serious issues which plague the returns process and hinder progress.

One of Civil Affairs’ responsibilities within the returns process is establishing and maintaining relationships with the local returns leaders of the communities and villages. Ideally, the returns leader’s main objective, through Civil Affairs cooperation, is to acquire the resources that will enable people from his village to return their lives to pre-combat normalcy. One of the many ways of accomplishing this goal is through the organizations of the interna-

tional community who give donations of money and other humanitarian assistance to those villages showing integration of the different ethnic groups.

Through feedback from the international community, village assessments from the Finnish soldiers, reports from Task Force patrols, and personal stories from returnees, Civil Affairs analyzes the data and first advises the commander what is taking place in his area of responsibility and then requests support from the international community. The support might be in the form of a firewood donation to be deliv-



by Spc. Jessica Abner

**Sgt. Nicole Washington and Sgt. Andrew Kerecman load bags of flour into a vehicle. The flour will be distributed to returnees in a nearby village.**

ered to the remote village of Alismani in Zvornik, where freezing to death during the winter is sometimes a reality.

Many Civil Affairs rotations here have fostered strong ties with the Austrian non-governmental organization, Bauren helfen Bauern. Its English translation is Farmer helping Farmer. Although Civil Affairs has helped this Austrian non-governmental organization deliver over 65 tons of food and ample clothing and hygiene supplies to outfit three villages, another facet of the broad Bauren helfen Bauern’s mission is to encourage economic development by donating seeds which the villagers will plant, farm and then sell the crops for profit.

“Working with SFOR soldiers is critical to our success,” said Smajl Bari, BnB’s local representative in Sarajevo. “The Civil Affairs team is the link between us and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since the team is always out and about (patrolling), we are dependent upon their feedback of what is happening in the villages.”

With the ability to coordinate between non-governmental organizations and the returns leaders, Civil Affairs is capable of getting the civilians connected with the services they need to resume their lives in an appropriate manner.

A large part of Civil Affairs’ business is based on coordination. Telephoning town mayors, clinic directors and returns leaders, arranging appointments and then channeling vital information between parties is critical to coordinating events such as MEDCAPs and its sister program for teeth, the DENTCAP. Both programs serve as a clinic type environment where local medical personnel team up with Task Force Med Eagle personnel to provide routine care to local citizens.

Civil Affairs’ role in both programs strictly involves site assessments and seeking the resources needed to kick-off the event.

About two weeks prior to the event, Civil Affairs teams link-up with TFME personnel and patrol to different sites within the municipalities, surveying the areas for possibilities. When conducting a possible site assessment, both Civil Affairs and TFME are looking for durable sources of heat, water and electricity. Also, a viable means of parking SFOR vehicles, decent road conditions and suitable latrine services are all helpful. If any of these resources are inadequate, the site isn’t necessarily discounted.

Civil Affairs’ then requests help from the host nation to provide the people with things like portable heaters for waiting rooms. After all, hundreds of people will come to these events from miles around — crammed into a few rooms — either to get medical care or give medical care. It must look professional. It must give the appearance of being a credible and legitimate program.

In a nutshell, Civil Affairs soldiers are force multipliers. Regardless of the type of mission, they are trained to use their special skill sets based on civilian-acquired training and experience. They advise and provide feedback, not only to the commander regarding the situations and activities of the civilian populace, but they also provide guidance to the community leaders, villagers and the international community as well.

