

Talon



Camp McGovern Flies New Flag

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Law and Order in MNTF(N)

TALON

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What Will You Miss Most About Eagle Base?

I will miss the local nationals I have had the pleasure of interacting with; to most, they are the 'cleaning ladies,' 'plumbers,' etc., but if you get to know them, they are like you and me, except they are MUCH more resilient and adaptive than most of us will ever be." **Staff Sgt. Marilyn Whitelock,**
Task Force Medical Eagle



I will miss the great friends that I met here." **Staff Sgt. Kevin Burris**
177th Finance Co.

I will miss working with the locals. This is a brand new experience for me." **Air Force Staff Sgt. Peggy Deese**
Joint Contracting Center



I think I will miss my new family, my comrades that I have been with for so long." **Sgt. Kavan Horne**
Joint Military Affairs

All Photos and Interviews by
Capt. Aaron Jenkins



Soldiers of Multinational Task Force (North) lower the American flag that flew over the base for the last time. Control of the base was given to the Brcko District on September 15.

Photo by Spc. Scholastica Simbi

Provost Marshall, Military Police Help Maintain Law On, Off Post

Story by Nenad Ristic

TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist

Although just two of them have experience in this job, the personnel of the Military Police unit of 38th Infantry Division are doing a great job on Eagle Base.

Since March of this year, they have investigated approximately 60 violations of law, and 39 traffic accidents.

It's a kind of regular police work, keeping everybody safe and secure.

They have their daily duties, sometimes that's driving around Eagle Base and taking care of traffic, and sometimes it's investigating criminal activities, which is not very often.

"We have one traffic accident investigator, and one criminal investigator, and their daily activities are to keep track of those cases. We have four desk sergeants whose daily activities are running the MP Station and managing the patrols." said Staff

Sgt. Bradley Seifers.

Generally, MP's have two patrols a day, and two patrols at night.

During the patrols they have to visit the checkpoints, and take care that everybody is respecting the 24 km/h speed limit. Sometimes they have to stop and warn cyclists because they are speeding.

The Provost Marshal's Office is a special staff office that advises the Command of all matters involving the Military Police.

"There are two sections of the PMO. One coordinates Task Force operations with local police, the other one coordinates law enforcement here on the Eagle Base with the units



Photos courtesy the 38th MP Company

The MPs train in unarmed combat using padded suits so that they can strike realistically without fear of injuring each other.



Sgt. Jennifer Soper and Staff Sgt. Seifers train in crowd control tactics with riot suppression round loaded shotguns

and access control." said Deputy Provost Marshall, 1st Lt. LeRoy Brown.

In the last few years MP's have been cooperating with local police and the State Border Service of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"We have two military K-9 dogs on Eagle Base, one narcotic, and one bomb dog. Currently, the K-9 section is working on a program where they are helping to train the State Border Service, in the use of K-9 dogs and how to work with them." added Brown.

Although the primary task of the MP unit is to enforce the military rules and regulations, MP units have been an integral part of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina in promoting the law, and making Bosnia and Herzegovina a self-sustainable country.

Camp McGovern Officially Given To Bosnia

Story and Photos by
Spc. Scholstica Simbi
TFE Staff Judge Advocate

On 15 September 2004, after months of careful planning and negotiation the land that Camp McGovern stood upon was transferred to the Brcko District Government by Stabilization Force.

Nine long years of U.S. troops providing a safe and secure atmosphere for Brcko locals had come to an end.

Co-hosts were Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright and Brcko District Mayor, Branko Damjanac. The ceremony was attended by local government officials in addition to individuals who, through Camp McGovern's tenure built, worked, and then finally deconstructed what we will now refer to "as the land formally known as Camp McGovern."

A band from Zivinice played rag-time tunes. They later played the National Anthems of America and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Robert M. McGovern is the namesake of the base. This was done in recognition of his heroism in the frigid mountains of Korea 45 years ago. During the ceremony, the rose garden was officially dedicated to McGovern and two new rose bushes were planted in his memory.

The surviving Rose Garden, adjacent to what was formally the "Rose Garden Café," served as the back drop for the ceremony. The garden was planted at the same location where Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Anthony Cucolo and his subordinates initially pitched their tents on the newly christened Camp McGovern. Through the years the foliage proved itself an appropriate symbol of life and change because the roses transformed in



Above: Soldiers lower the American flag for the last time at the former Camp McGovern. Right: Brig. Gen. Wright speaks about the heritage of the camp while looking to its future.

Bosnian Control



United Nations High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lord Paddy Ashdown, tosses dirt onto the roots of a new bush in the Camp McGovern rose garden.

concert with the many stabilization missions. A flag detail retired the U.S. flag in reverent silence. During the flag's descent, on-lookers remembered the Soldiers and local civilians, who worked relentlessly to stabilize peace, renew civil life and ensure the freedom of movement that continues today. A celebration of Stabilization Force mission accomplishment reverberated through the audience as the Bosnia and Herzegovina flag took the place of the long standing U.S. flag. The Bosnia and Herzegovina flag, as Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright stated, "represents the nation's growing self reliance under the rule of law."

Maj. Anita Thurston, Task Force



Top: Police Officers of the Brcko District raise the Bosnian flag over the newly transferred Camp McGovern. Above: Lord Ashdown speaks of the changing face of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Deputy Comptroller, claimed McGovern as home during her first tour on SFOR 11. She is happy to see

the District of Brcko take over the area and hopes that the new land acquisition will strengthen their economy.

Master Sgt. Larry Fisher, Security Plans and Operations Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, was the Bravo Troop First Sergeant at McGovern during SFOR 13. Despite the sadness he feels seeing Camp McGovern torn down, handing over the land to the local government is an optimistic sign of progress. The mission to promote a safe and secure Bosnia as set forth in the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995 has taken a decade to reach fruition. It has moved forward to a mission to monitor a self-reliant Bosnia. This could not and has not been done without the cooperation of multiple nations. As American troops end our mission here, Bosnians will continue our effort to help each other strengthen their nation.

K-9 MP's Keep Country Secure By Training Bosnian Counterparts

Story and Photos by
Nedima Hadziibrisevic
TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist

With the mission to support the United States forces in their respective sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina, two soldiers from 554th Military Police Company and their military working dogs, represent the Provost Marshal Office K-9 unit of the Multinational Task Force (North). While it may seem small personnel wise, the unit conducts a wide array of duties fundamental for peacekeeping operations in the country.

"If Soldiers are going to do a cordon and search, we'll take the dogs in and do explosives searches in areas that they either can't get to or where they suspect explosive are," said Staff Sgt. William McEnaney, Kennel Master. "We also support the State Border Service (of BiH) in training their dogs in detection and patrol."

In addition, the unit maintains a training schedule for its own dogs, conducts Distinguished Visitors sweep operations, searches all the channel flights' baggage, both incoming and Rest and Recuperation, and numerous other tasks critical for the mission here. McEnaney, who was deployed in BiH during the initial

peacekeeping rotation in a different capacity, has been working with his Belgian Malinois, Preston, for four years.

"He is trained for explosives. He can detect ten different kinds of explosives," McEnaney explained. "I have never had any problems with him."

Preston, along with German Shepard called Argo, a narcotics dog, train six days a week. The routine training includes patrolling, on and off leash obedience, obedience course, and detection of explosives and narcotics.

The K-9 unit also provides support to the other SFOR nations during their duties when this type of expertise is needed.

"A lot of our NATO allies will request us, so we will be attached to their unit for a week or less, depending upon their needs, and help them on their searches," said McEnaney.

One of the significant aspects of the K-9 mission is facilitating the training of the SBS working dogs and handlers. Since the end of March, when the soldiers deployed in the country, three groups of up to three dogs underwent seven week long training held largely on Eagle Base. The fourth, and the last one, is underway, which would complete the training of all 21 SBS dogs by different SFOR rotations.

"I have noticed that they do not want to withhold anything," said Senad Franca, inspector-expert collaborator for SBS training, BiH SBS training coordination team. "They want to transfer all of their experiences on us and want us



Sgt. Hull and Argo check over a shelf of supplies as part of their training.

to achieve the best possible results and progress in that training."

Also, he emphasized the cooperation with this K-9 unit, as well as the previous ones, is exceptionally good, professional and on the high level. Sgt. Brian Hull, narcotics dog handler, stated that there is a large difference in SBS members' work performance after completion of the training cycle.

"They just have more confidence in what they are doing," Hull said. "They are able to work with the dogs better, which will hopefully build on their program."

Whereas U.S. dogs are both detection and patrol oriented, SBS's are either one of these.

"Each group that we get in, we can focus on that one sector, McEnaney said. "That makes it easier for the handler and the dog to comprehend our concepts."

In addition to associating with locals, the training gives soldiers a perspective on the country and its people. Hull appreciates the opportunity to work with SBS personnel and to learn some of their culture.

"It has been a really enjoyable experience working with them," Hull said. "I just hope they take away as much as we will."



Sgt. Hull works with Preston on controlled aggression tactics.

ITT Prepares for Final Class

Story and Photos by Ivana Avrimovic
ASG Eagle Historian

Hundreds of ITT guards have kept American bases in Bosnia safe since their mission began in August 2002.

All of them had to go through an intensive training course that teaches defensive tactics, how to use the baton, First Aid and CPR techniques before they could start their job as a part of base security.

The students also had to qualify with M-9 pistol and M-16 rifle after they pass a physical fitness test.

The latest ITT class just graduated on September 8 and already took over their duties guarding the base.

"We have to make sure that all the guys are at the level the army needs us to be," said Rob Tackett, a training instructor with ITT, of the training.

"Everyone's backgrounds are so diverse that we need to make sure that everyone's trained the same way," he added.

While all of the students have some kind of force protection or police force background, some got it working as guards at airports, nuclear power plants, and many have prior military experience.



Top and Above: An instructor works with a member of the ITT training program at the 9mm Pistol range.

Shawn Fluellen, 34, from Atlanta, Georgia, first came to Bosnia as a soldier in 1996, at the beginning of the NATO peacekeeping mission in the country. After his rotation, he returned in May 2002 as an ITT guard, worked for a year, left, and came back for some more time with ITT.

"It's a great thing [working for ITT] for those trying to advance in law enforcement and force protection," said Fluellen who has almost completed his degree in criminal justice. "It's been my line of work for about 14 years," Fluellen said.

To make sure there is no shortage of guards ITT has had 19 classes since their mission began in 2002, with an average of 25 people per class.

Some guards, like Fluellen, have returned to Bosnia after a short break from the ITT job.

While it is still not decided how ITT mission will change when the European Union Forces take over the SFOR mission, ITT is going strong.

"Everybody seemed pretty enthusiastic even though we don't know what's gonna happen later in the year," said Col. Joe Croom after the graduation ceremony where he complimented the new ITT graduates on the completion of their training.

Besides all the tests the 27 students in the most recent class went through, they also learned about the local culture and customs in a lecture that Nedzad Mulalic, a Bosnian training instructor, gave.

"It's physical and it's mental," said Justin Hoffman, an ITT training officer, of the training.

"It taught you the basis that you needed to know," said Lawrence Hill, 28, from Capac, Michigan.

The guard force has been called to

use some of the skills they learned in the class.

They used CPR techniques on one occasion when a soldier dropped by the pedestrian gate during his PT run.

The guards also had to deal with intoxicated belligerent individuals coming to the gate and, other times, they used what they learned in the



class to help local people turn in their weapons and ammunitions.

While the two-week training was tasking on the students, the same is true for the instructors.

Tackett and Brian Stephens had to endure a kicking during the defensive tactics and baton training.

To make the training more realistic, the two instructors got into the Redman suits - padded red suits worn to soften the blow of the kicks.

The suits that resemble some of the outfits of the villains in the movie *The Running Man* were used for the first time in an ITT class.

"The only thing that the Redman suit does is it eliminates the trauma to your body," said Rob Tackett, a training instructor who spent time in the suit.

"The students can use full force and it lets the students know how the people will actually react in a situation," added Brian Stephens.

The instructors' effort did not go unappreciated.

"Instructors were very helpful to make sure everybody did the best they could," concluded Hill.



Eye of the Cyclone



Right: Task Force Raptor Air Traffic Controllers train with new simulator equipment.



Photo by Spc. Mike Bennett

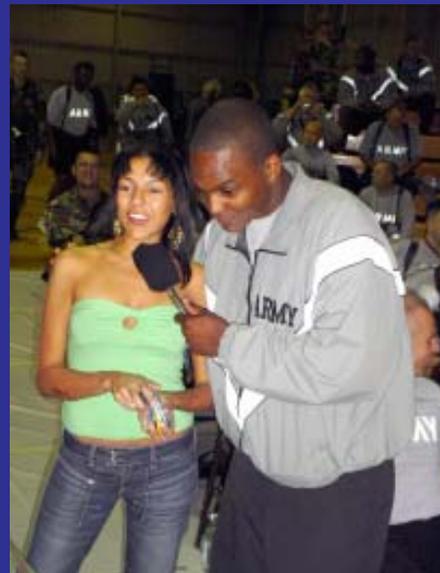


Photo by Capt. Aaron Jenkins
Above: Cpl. Takura Nyamfukudra 'interviews' a spokesperson of the Pacemates during the Pacer cheerleaders visit on September 16.



Photo by Spc. Mike Bennett
Above: A Pacers PaceMate thrills the crowd. Below: Multinational engineers work on a road project.

Photo by Capt. Aaron Jenkins



Photo by Maj. Markus Novosel



Photo by Spc. Mike Bennett



Above: Soldiers observe a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11th, 2001. Left: Soldiers check a building for possible weapons from every angle.