

FEBRUARY 6, 2004

# TALON



## Survival of the fittest

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Iron's youngest and oldest Soldiers

A special gift

Task Force Eagle [www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)

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Published in support of  
Operation Joint Forge  
February 6, 2004  
Volume 14, No. 19

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The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the service members of Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of the *Talon* are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle. The *Talon* is published weekly by the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, APO AE 09789. DSN Telephone 314-762-0190. Email story ideas, and photo to: [Clinton.Wood@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil](mailto:Clinton.Wood@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil). The Task Force Eagle web address is [www.tfegle.army.mil](http://www.tfegle.army.mil). Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

# With all due respect

Story by Staff Sgt. James Feeney  
*Equal Opportunity NCO*

Most of us spend a significant amount of time on duty. Therefore, it is important that our workplace be the kind where we would want to spend a significant amount of time at—a respectful workplace. It does not matter what our mission is or how it supports others. We might wear different uniforms or perform different functions in our job than in other places around the brigade, but we should all have something in common: Our work environment should be respectful to everyone – without exception.

## The importance of respectful behavior

No one wants to work in an environment where he or she feels harassed or uncomfortable.

Disrespectful behavior damages the teamwork and camaraderie that is needed in a military organization and often interferes with the work that our organization is doing. For our organizations to be successful, disrespectful behavior must be eliminated.

But eliminating disrespectful, harassing behavior is not just for the good of the organization.

Respectful behavior makes us happier and more productive as a whole. If we are not productive, our

value to the team is lessened.

## Behave respectfully ourselves

Our first obligation is to behave respectfully ourselves. The key to doing this is to treat those around us with respect and to think before we speak or act. Remember the golden rule, “do unto others as you would have done unto you.”

In order to treat those around us with respect, we should first examine our own beliefs, behaviors, and actions. We should remember that all of us have an equal right to work in a respectful environment. We then need to eliminate any behaviors or actions that others might take to be disrespectful or offensive.

We also need to think before we speak or act. When we are tempted to make a joke or say or do something that could cross the line into offensive behavior we must stop and think. We shouldn't say or do anything that we wouldn't want to see printed for all to read.

## Challenge disrespectful behavior

We need to challenge disrespectful behavior when we see it. We shouldn't participate in it or just tolerate it and overlook it. We need to have the courage to speak up and instill in our organization that we expect to work in a respectful workplace.



About the cover: Capt. Jon Ostercamp carries two sandbags as teammate Sgt. Troy Olson places a sandbag on the pile during the Eagle Base Survivor Challenge. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

# Meet Iron's youngest and oldest Soldiers

Story by Sgt. Brian Taylor

Task Force Iron PAO

CAMP MCGOVERN, BiH — As we all know, the Army is full of diversity. Task Force Iron is no different. For example, 37 years separate the youngest Soldier, Spc. Eric Jezierski, in the task force from the oldest, Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Garni.

By the time Jezierski of Two Harbors, Minn., was born in 1984, Garni of Ely, Minn., had already served a tour in the Vietnam War, fathered two children and established his career.

When asked to compare being deployed in Bosnia to Vietnam, Garni replied, "This deployment is hard to compare to Vietnam. The conditions are all together different with different weather, a different mission and a whole lot better living conditions."

Jezierski, who graduated from high school less than a year ago and has been a Guardsman for only two years, received a phone call asking if he wanted to volunteer for the Bosnia deployment. He was only home from Advanced Individual Training for five days when he received the call.



Photo by Sgt. Brian Taylor, TF Iron PAO

**Spc. Eric Jezierski lifts a M240B Machine Gun off his humvee's mount.**

"It sounded like it would be a good experience to go overseas," Jezierski, a humvee gunner and driver said.

He joined the rest of his Company B, 2nd Battalion, 194th Armor fellow Soldiers at Fort McCoy, Wis., where they were undergoing pre-mobilization training last summer.

Although Garni is old enough to be Jezierski's grandfather, he is known as one of the youngest spirits at the camp. Being in the Army for more than 18 years, Garni has never failed



Photo by Sgt. Brian Taylor, TF Iron PAO

**Task Force Iron's oldest and youngest Soldiers Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Garni (left) and Spc. Eric Jezierski perform an impromptu push up contest at Camp McGovern.**

an Army Physical Fitness Test.

Garni, the Joint Visitors Bureau representative for the task force, started this impressive streak when he began his Army career at age 21 after being drafted during the Vietnam War. He was only married for six months when he was drafted.

Immediately after Advanced Individual Training, he was ordered to Vietnam as a combat engineer. He served more than 15 months in Vietnam and 19 months in the Active Army.

Garni took a 16-year break of service in the 1970's and 80's. When he was 39, he reconsidered serving in the military and joined the Guard in 1986.

It would be safe to say that

this deployment has suited Garni well. He said he has enjoyed the deployment and hopes that Stabilization Force Soldiers really are making a difference in Bosnia. Garni said he enjoys going to the library in Brcko Saturdays and reading to the children.

"The most difficult part of the deployment was the separation from loved ones, even though my children are grown, being separated is still hard," said Garni, whose sons are 31 and 28 years old.

He recently retired from the U.S. Steel Corporation with more than 30 years of service. Once he returns to the States, Garni said he would spend his time at his lake home.

Jezierski, who said he joined the Guard for the college tuition benefits, will enroll at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn., upon returning home.

Holidays have been the most difficult thing for this young Soldier, but he says the advantages are that he has made a lot of new friends.

Age might separate these two soldiers, but Garni is very young at heart and Jezierski is a promising young Soldier.



Photo by Maj. Jarrod Krull, TFE PAO

**Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Garni said he enjoys reading at the Brcko Library every Saturday.**

## Hastily-formed JMA team wins Eagle Base Survivor Cup

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

Nine Task Force Eagle Joint Military Affairs Soldiers received a wake up call like no other two weeks ago on a Sunday morning.

Sgt. Troy Olson requesting their participation in forming two, five-man teams for the Eagle Base Survivor Cup Challenge awakened them. They had about three hours to start time.

Little did they know that this challenge included wearing a 35-pound rucksack for all events: pulling a non-tactical

vehicle 100 yards; moving 100, 40-pound sandbags and a 5-Kilometer Ruck Run.

“(Olson) would have never left us alone if we didn’t come,” said Sgt. Mitchell Becker.

Becker said the

toughest event was the ruck run because of the long period of time.

“Plus I wasn’t prepared for it all this morning,” he said. He and his King of Battle teammates, Capt. Jon

*“The nice thing about (the run) was that we didn’t leave anyone behind. Just like combat.”*

– Sgt. Troy Olson

Ostercamp, Olson, Sgt. Brandon Lolkus and Spc. Chandler Raab, were prepared enough. They won the competition with a combined-event time of 43:06.21 seconds. The Task Force Renegade Wolverines team was second, 52:08.16, and the JMA Steel Rod team placed third in 52:08.50. Steel Rod members were Capt. Thomas Peterson, Sgts. David Bendickson and Gary Anderson and Spcs. Brian Wiltsey and Clifford Halvorson. Capt. Patrick Alexander, Sgt. Nicholas Harp and Spcs. Gonzalo Correa, Derron Millington and Bryan Bradley formed the Wolverines. Ostercamp won the ruck run in 31:32.

The other events included a log roll, where teams had to move a log using only their hands or feet a distance of 50 meters, 25 meters up and back; a tire roll where team members had to roll an estimated



Jon Capt. Ostercamp, JMA, won the 5K Ruck Run, the final event of the Eagle Base Survivor cup. Challenge.



King of Battle’s Sgt. Troy Olson, (left) Capt. Jon Raab and Sgt. Mitchell Becker won the 5K Ruck Run.



Competitors like Spc. Gonzalo Correa, TF Renegade, had to do at least five push ups wearing a 35-pound rucksack



Team Wolverines’ Spc. Bryan Bradley steadies a tire as fellow team members Spc. Gonzalo Correa, (left) Sgt. Nicholas Harp, and Capt. Patrick Alexander push the tire during the tire-rolling competition.

# challenge



in Ostercamp, Sgt. Brandon Lolkus, Spc. Chandler  
ck Run and the competition.



The Steel Rod team of Sgt. David Bendickson (left), Spc.  
Brian Wiltsey, Spc. Clifford Halvorson, Sgt. Gary Ander-  
son and Capt. Thomas Peterson rolled the log during the  
log rolling competition.

seven-foot tall truck tire a total of 300 feet and push ups where the team had to do 60 push ups with each Soldier doing at least five. All winners of these events were determined by the fastest time.

Olson said he decided to assemble his team while working out at the Frank D. Peregory Fitness Center earlier that morning. He learned only one team had signed up and MWR officials needed more teams to hold the event.

The Wolverines were the first team to sign up.

Alexander said he competed in the event to do something different and keep in shape for other physical activities.

“It’s a great way to keep the team together,” he said, “And stay as one.”

Correa said the event was different than what he expected.

“You get tired really quick with all the events,” he said.

Ostercamp wasn’t tired even at the event’s finale, the ruck run. He won the ruck run and immediately turned around to finish with his team. The team’s time was that of the last person of the team to cross the finish line.

Olson told his teammates after crossing the finish line, “The nice thing about (the run) was that we didn’t leave anyone behind. Just like combat.”

Just like combat too, Raab never quit.

He said he was going to the fitness center to work out later that afternoon.



Sgt. Nicholas Harp guided the pulling of the  
Non-Tactical Vehicle as teammate Capt. Patrick  
Alexander and other team members pulled.

# A special gift

## TF Med Eagle Soldier shares talent



TF Med Eagle Sgt. Kesha Whitehurst looks through her notebook of poems and short stories.

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt  
135th MPAD

Task Force Med Eagle Sgt. Kesha Whitehurst, health inspectionist, 790th Preventive Medicine Detachment, has always loved to write short stories and poetry. In high school she put a lot of her works in a now well-worn, small notebook, capturing works that evoked memories of how she felt when writing them.

The notebook begins, "I always loved to write as a pastime, or as a means of relief. I will now attempt to make sense of what's in my mind by putting it in this book."

As the child in a military family, Whitehurst's writings provided her comfort during frequent moves, relationship problems and other life challenges.

For a long time, Whitehurst kept her writings and poems to herself.

"I never thought others would understand what I was writing about or what my feelings were," Whitehurst said.

That really changed in 2001 when

she attended the funeral of one of her favorite uncles. Whitehurst said she wrote a poem that captured her sense of loss. Her mother and aunt inadvertently saw it and were touched. They asked Whitehurst to read it as part of the ceremony.

Whitehurst realized her ability to write helped others crystallize their

feelings when she shared her work.

Most recently on Eagle Base, Whitehurst shared a poem and read it as a tribute to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. She received a standing ovation upon completion.

"My poems are simple," Whitehurst said. "When my feelings come out, they are common everyday feelings."

"I'm learning other people understand what I am trying to convey and can relate to what I am writing."

"That's what poetry is," Whitehurst added. "It should be able to touch others and put their feelings into words."

Whitehurst no longer feels she

has to keep her work to herself. She has been asked to do some readings and obliges those who ask.

While she has compiled an extensive collection of poems and stories, she brought only a portion of them along on deployment. If asked, she will pull a larger, well-worn, black folder off the shelf at her office and allow people to look at her work.

Inside, is the notebook she put together in high school along with poems written on paper, envelopes and anything that might have been on hand when Whitehurst wanted to capture a thought or feeling.

"I like to write at the moment I am inspired," Whitehurst said. "If I wait, I might lose the thought or feeling."

Whitehurst says she doesn't see her writing taking her anywhere professionally.

"I write because it calms me. I'm glad when someone else can relate to it the same way I do."

Based on the reception on Eagle Base, Whitehurst is relating to a lot of people.



Whitehurst checks a container of water for impurities while working at her job as health inspectionist with the 790th Preventive Medicine Detachment, TF Med Eagle.

# G3, a section that never stops

Story by Sgt. Maj. Curtis Jasper  
TF Eagle G3 Sgt. Maj.

The G3 section, led by Lt. Col. Gregg Parks, consists of five major components: G3/Admin, Plans, Current Operations, Future Operations and G3 Air.

The G3 section is called the “Heart Beat” of Multinational Brigade (N). In addition to the organic group, other appointed and trained soldiers from each MNB (N) staff section are available as needed to lend their particular branch expertise to a wide variety of missions.

Each component is diverse but all feed information to each other. The G3/Admin is the lead and ensures the MNB (N) Commander’s intent is carried out by the other G3 cells.

How does MNB (N) sort out the many details associated with Joint Resolve, Campaign plans, personnel strength, and turn these “concepts” into a finished mission plan ready for successful execution? The answer is that major operations requiring the synchronization of assets are completed by a group of specially trained planners consisting of five U.S. officers, one Polish officer and three American enlisted Soldiers under the direction of Maj. Jon Jensen, chief of plans. The Plans cell completes many hours of Military Decision Making Process which derives many Course of Actions. With these two processes, the Plans section writes the Fragmentary Orders and Operation Orders for MNB (N) for other sections and units to action.

The Current Operations Cell operates 24 hours a day and is the nerve center for the Brigade. The Operations cell manages all the

incoming and outgoing messages and the flow of information from the special staff sections, subordinate units and higher headquarters. They work as a team with all the Task Force Operations Centers along with the commander, to make sure that all units are informed.

For Operations to maintain the current situation, all units must make timely reports and give as much information as possible. Operations processes more than 200 info requests daily.

Experienced operations noncommissioned officers also track and the report current route status, mission progress and are the “go to people for information” within MNB (N).

Some of the operations team is made of Soldiers who came into this mission with little or no operations experience; their military specialties range from truck drivers to combat medics.

Operations consists of six enlisted soldiers lead by Master Sgt. Steven Owens; four officers with specialties in armor, infantry, field artillery and signal all mentored by Chief of Operations Maj. John O’Reilly.

The Future Operations (Training and Synchronization) section is composed of six American and one Lithuanian soldier. Working under

the guidance of Maj. Engelhardt, the section completes tasks vital to the operation of SFOR 14. This section completes quality control and edits and publishes each Daily FRAGO. Future Operations also guides the employment of the Multi-Specialized Unit, and facilitates the G3 international conferences. This section processes all training requirements throughout U.S. Army Europe and has synchronized schooling for about 740 task force Soldiers.

While on deployment, Future Operations has coordinated live fire ranges for soldiers to maintain their weapons proficiency.

The G3 Air Section works in the Current Operations Area of the White House with 350 mission requests from the brigade, this section has already processed more mission requests than previous rotations had during their entire six-month rotation. In addition, the G3 Air Section has worked with Task Force Renegade to reinstitute the shuttle that transports soldiers throughout the entire MNB (N) area of responsibility.

The G3 Air assists in manifesting passengers who leave the country and has provided support for some of the fixed-wing missions throughout Germany and Kosovo. They are currently working to bring the helicopter landing sites throughout MNB (N) up-to-date, and assist in regulating the airspace in and around Eagle Base for all the air space users. The G3 section is always willing and proactively pursues alternatives to all solutions.



Photo by Spc. Brant Reid, JMA

**The more than 30 members of the Multinational Brigade (N) G3 section pose for a picture on Eagle Base.**

 **In our sights** 



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

Spcs. Amy Anderson (left), Stacy Allbee and Cassandra Curtis, 147th PSB (Fwd), assist Ronny Herr, small arms virtual trainer, with his SFOR badge on Eagle Base this week.



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

Spc. Corwin Viglione, Sgt. Walter Fermoyle and Sgt. Pete Neveu, 1st Bn., 207th Aviation from Alaska, check in at Audie Murphy Inn while in transit to Kosovo for their nine-month deployment.

Former Washington Redskins' kicker Mark Moseley talks with Staff Sgt. Phil Herndon from the 717th EOD during the Superbowl party held at Triggers on Eagle Base.



Photo by Capt. Chuck Traxler, 135th MPAD



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

The ancient Vranduk castle is on the way to Zenica.

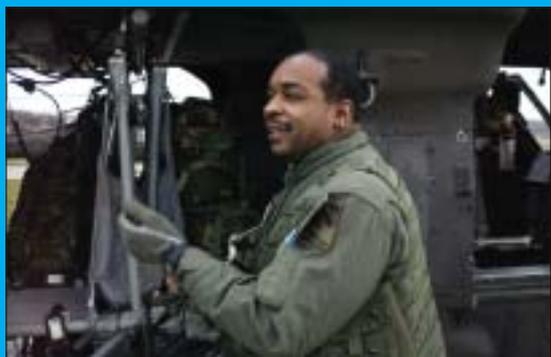


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief Sgt. Ron Hill, TF Renegade, removes his Nomex gloves after a mission.