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TALON



A fond farewell

Inside this issue:

Getting to know Soldiers

Multinationals build lasting memories

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TALON

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SFOR 14 produces final Talon

This will be the final *Talon* solely produced by the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment based in Roseville, Minn., and the 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.

The office produced 25 *Talons* starting Sept. 26, 2003. The print journalists wrote 126 stories, published

419 photographs and highlighted 847 soldiers in those photos.

Along with editor Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, stories and photographs were taken by detachment members Capt. Chuck

Traxler, Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, Sgts. Sarah C. Danielski and DeAnne Gilger and Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser. Maj. Jarrod Krull and Master Sgt. Timothy Peterson of the 34th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, and Media Specialists Aleksandar Ilic, Nedima

Hadziibrisevic and Haris Lelic also contributed stories and photos.

The detachment along with Task Force Renegade, Task Force Iron and Task Force Bearcat distributed 151 Hometown News Releases. Some of the stories you saw in the *Talon* also were published by hometown newspapers and in "On Guard."

The detachment's broadcasters produced 36 video stories. American Forces Network Europe aired 14 of these stories. Several stories also were aired on Army News Watch, where only the best Army stories are aired.

Now it is time for us to stow our digital cameras and video cameras in their bags for the last time, log off our computers for one final time and head home to Minnesota. We hope that the products we produced helped create memories that will last a lifetime.



The Stabilization Force 14 TFE PAO Office. They are front row, from left, Sgt. Sarah Danielski and Capt. Chuck Traxler; back row, from left, Sgt. DeAnne Gilger, Maj. Jarrod Krull, Master Sgt. Timothy Peterson, Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, Haris Lelic, Nedima Hadziibrisevic, Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, Aleksandar Ilic, Sgt. Kent Westberg and Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood.



About the cover: Staff Sgt. Richard Brooks, TF Renegade, makes a new friend during a visit to Selo Mira "Peace Village" Orphanage near Tuzla. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

Old friends, new friends

Several orphans. One Peace Village. What happens when Soldiers meet children ... and start caring

■ Task Force Renegade has made six visits to the Selo Mira "Peace Village" Orphanage near Tuzla. On this Saturday, they introduced some of their replacements from Co. G, 238th Aviation to the children.

Sabahudin Mujic wasted little time in jumping on the shoulders of Sgt. Chet Gilbert, Co. G, 238th Avn., and wearing his hat.



■ About 50 percent of the residents are a direct result of the 1992-95 war and many of them are from Srebrenica. TF Renegade donated many items, including shoes, a bicycle and a poster-size aerial photograph of the village.

Capt. Randall Stillinger, TF Renegade, is very popular as he walks with the residents. Stillinger has been visiting the village since he arrived in Bosnia last September.



■ The children live in 10 separate houses and each of the structures has a "house mother" to take care of the children. Many of the house mothers were widowed during the war.

These two children from the orphanage hammed it up for the camera. There are more than 140 children living at the orphanage.



PSYOP mission benefits BiH

Telling the truth the highest priority



Photo by Pfc. Peter Vaughan, 15th PSYOP

PSYOP members meet to discuss strategy. From left, Sgt. Susan A. Macias, Spc. Mike Finlay, Staff Sgts. Kevin Williams and Doug Thompson and Spc. Anna Maestrado.

Story by

Sgt. Susan A. Macias

15th PSYOP

Psychological Operations was known as Psychological Warfare until 1962. It was then decided that the scope of the PSYOP mission was to include the civilian as well as the armed enemy.

"I think when a lot of Soldiers hear the term PSYOP, they think we are involved in brainwashing or propaganda, or deception operations," said Capt. Jeff Houston, commander, 15th Psychological Support Element. "Nothing could be further from the truth. We have to tell the truth in all of our messages and products."

To accomplish this task, PSYOP has approximately 30,000 products, including radio, TV and print products that are distributed monthly

Houston said.

"It would be a waste of time if people thought we were lying," Houston said. "It would be very difficult to gain back credibility if we lost it."

On Eagle Base, Houston's section works in support of Multinational Brigade (North).

Comprised of Soldiers from a variety of backgrounds, PSYOP is made up of Soldiers who are also from a number of different units and a number of different states including Ohio, California and Illinois.

The headquarter's group includes Houston, Staff Sgt. Doug Thompson, and Spc. Mike Finlay.

The product development detachment is led by Capt. Julius Alston and Sgt. Susan A. Macias and Spc. Anna Maestrado, this group coordinates radio

messages.

Sgt. Ana Doody is a graphic illustrator, designing fliers, posters and handbills.

Pfc. Peter Vaughan is the section's broadcast engineer. A highlight of his work was a section-made television spot regarding mine awareness.

Vaughan and Doody have combined their talents to provide an online Web site as a resource for future PSYOP efforts.

Within the section are three civilian PSYOP Specialists: Vildana Skaljc, Meliha Muharemagic and Zeljko Vucelja.

The target audience for the section are the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Members of the section say

the biggest broad-based asset they have is Radio Mir which has three stations in the MNB (N) area. The station runs a variety of music programming and talk shows incorporating commercials supporting various themes put out by the section.

PSYOP also relies on Soldiers who are liaisons with the Stabilization Force Task Forces. The liaisons are called Tactical Patrol Teams and they visit local schools and organizations in the community to assess the local population and understand local issues.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Williams, Sgt. Gary Romero, Sgt. Keith Dawson and Spcs. Tony Shinn, Jason Plesko and Don Blocksom make up the teams doing this mission.

"We have the best job in MNB (N)," Houston said.



Photo by Sgt. Keith Dawson, 15th PSYOP

Staff Sgt. Kevin Williams interacts with children while on a mission with 15th PSYOP Support Element.

G6 does the job for SFOR 14

Keeping lines of communication open

Story by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt
135th MPAD

Facilitating communication for the single channel ground air radio system and Motorola radio system among all entities in the area of responsibility for Multinational Brigade (North) is the responsibility and mission of G6.

"It's no small task and the section's workload has kept Soldiers busy around the clock," said Capt. Mark Bonner, deputy G6.

Led by Maj. Daniel Hamilton, assistant chief of staff G6; Bonner, Sgt. Maj. Daniel Hamilton, G6 sergeant major; and, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Leason planning and operations sergeant, the section is comprised of 15 Soldiers.

"During Stabilization Force 14's time in Bosnia and Herzegovina, meeting challenges and fulfilling mission expectations went extremely well," Bonner said.

Some highlights included reconfiguring the Mercury computer system, life cycle replacement of computers on Eagle Base and the successful management of resources as the beginning of a draw down of force size began during SFOR 14's deployment.

One of the more interesting examples of limited resources according to Bonner were cell phones.

"Cell phones were limited by higher headquarters and many more people wanted them than we had available to issue," Bonner said. "For that challenge, we ended up with a floater pool of phones so Soldiers could check them out when needed and turn them back in when done," Bonner said.

G6 has several areas of responsibility. The

communication security office is staffed by Staff Sgt. Bradly Gerten and Spc. Katie Niles. They handled all communication security issues for SFOR 14.

Video conferencing is the responsibility of Spc. Joel Siebring. Highlights included set up for a wedding between a Soldier from TF Iron and his bride in Minnesota as well as weekly situation update briefs.

Master Sgt. Janet Ramaker is web master with responsibility for updating staff pages on eagle vision and ensuring the Mercury system is also updated.

The radio frequency manager is Sgt. 1st Class James Formanek who is responsible for ensuring Soldiers have correct frequencies and there is no interference between military and civilian frequencies.



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

Sgt. Bryan Kallstrom (left), Spc. Matthew Schaefer, and Sgts. Benjamin Nikkel and Cory Bonebrake set up a high gain tactical satellite antenna on Eagle Base last week.

There are also two retransmission teams, one led by Sgt. Bryan Kallstrom and the other led by Sgt. Cory Bonebrake. Kallstrom's team has Spcs. Carrie Wuollet and Steven Welch. Bonebrake's team has Spc. Matthew Schaefer. Another Soldier from Bonebrake's team, Spc. Matthew Randgaard, rotated home.



Photo by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

G6 staff, front row from left, Maj. Daniel Hamilton, Sgt. 1st Class James Formanek, Sgt. Cory Bonebrake, Second row from left, Spc. Matthew Rangaard, Master Sgt. Janet Ramaker, Spc. Katie Niles, Spc. Carrie Wuollet, Capt. Mark Bonner, Sgt. 1st Class Donald Leason, Spc. Joel Siebring, Sgt. Maj. Thomas Martinson, Sgt. Bryan Kallstrom, Staff Sgt. Bradly Gerten, Spc. Steven Welch. Not pictured; Spc. Matthew Schaefer and Sgt. Benjamin Nikkel.

Getting to know Soldiers

Soldiers go on first night patrol to tell their stories

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

MILICI, BiH – Bosnians in this city and surrounding municipalities learned several things about two U.S. Soldiers on the last Friday night of February.

Sgts. Milton

Rust and Dane Ronning, both of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry, were the guests for the monthly “Soldiers Show” on an FM radio station here.

Questions asked by disc jockey Ljiljana Jacimovic ranged from the Soldier’s hometowns and occupations to how much it would cost a tourist to stay in Minnesota for 10 days.

Both Rust and Ronning said they enjoyed the hour-long interview.

“It was nice just to sit down and visit,” Ronning, who drove one of the two humvees to the city, said.

This was Rust’s second visit to the station since being deployed.

Rust told the listeners, “Thank you for the



“(The show) has meant a lot to the citizens.”

– DJ Ljiljana Jacimovic

hospitality. I’ve enjoyed being here.”

This show has been aired for the last seven years. Early on, political issues



Patrol leader Staff Sgt. Paul Lakin talks with Senad Hasnovic, Deputy of Municipal Assembly of Milici, during the patrol’s first stop.



Spc. Ken Shooltz was the vehicle commander for the patrol’s trailing humvee.

were discussed, said Jacimovic.

She said that the citizens have really enjoyed listening to U.S. Soldiers over the years.

“(The show) has meant a lot to the citizens,” she said.

This night mission meant a lot to the Soldiers also. It was their first time on a

night patrol from Eagle Base. Rust and Ronning were stationed at Forward Operating Base Connor the last few months, about two hours south of Eagle Base. They moved

to Eagle Base last month after FOB Connor was cold-based.

The five-and-a-half hour mission started with

Ronning’s vehicle commander, Spc. Ken Shooltz, telling Ronning, “Shadow” seconds after they left the base’s main gate. This meant that a vehicle was tailgating the humvee. Seconds later, Shooltz said “Bullet” (the vehicle was passing the humvee).

Along the route, the seven-foot-wide humvee shared the 15-foot-wide road with local traffic.

Shooltz was Ronning’s eyes during the patrol. The driver side’s mirror was folded in to avoid hitting objects.

Before reaching the radio station, the patrol stopped for a break at a gas station which proved to be informative. A Jeep Cherokee with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees written on its side whipped into the parking lot.

Senad Hasanovic, Deputy of Municipal Assembly of Milici, jumped out and started talking to patrol leader Staff Sgt. Paul Lakin. The two discussed earlier details on a water line project and SFOR engineering assets for another project.

A few minutes later, the patrol arrived at the radio station, located in a small room in the upstairs of a



Ljiljana Jacimovic (as interpreter Elvira)



(left) prepares Sgts. Dane Ronning and Milton Rust for a radio interview for her FM station's Soldiers Show as she listens.

fans like this type of music.

In regards to eating Bosnian dishes, both Soldiers said that they had.

Jacimovic asked Ronning how he stayed so slim.

Ronning replied, Do you actually think I'm thin," as he moved his left arm across his chest.

Jacimovic smiled and said, "I can't see one part because of the table."

building. The interview room, which was only lit by one lamp hanging from the ceiling, consisted of nothing more than two speakers mounted on the wall, a table and four chairs. On the table were two microphones and an audio mixer.

Jacimovic told the Soldiers and their SFOR interpreter that they wouldn't have time to prepare for the interview because they were a few minutes late. Hasanovic's visit had caused the delay.

Jacimovic told the Soldiers that the show wouldn't cover politics, so they "won't have any headaches."

There were definitely no headaches; just laughter.

Early in the interview, Jacimovic asked Ronning, a police officer in the States, how he reads a suspect his or her Miranda Warning when he arrests them.

Ronning said he has a card with the warning written on it. Seconds later, the question was brought up again so he recited the warning as if he was reading to a class. Jacimovic questioned him with a laugh, "Are you always so nice with criminals?"

Other questions included how each Soldier dealt with being separated from their families, the details of ice fishing in Minnesota, their favorite music groups and their thoughts on Bosnian food.

Rust answered the first question by saying that his 7-year old son wonders where Rust is.

"It is tough," said Rust, who also has a wife and four-month old son.

Regarding the

favorite music groups, Jacimovic questioned the pair why they did not mention Britney Spears or Justin Timberlake.

Ronning told her that only teenagers or pop music

As she said as the Soldiers prepared to leave, "So the show wasn't boring. We don't have headaches tonight."



Sgt. Dane Ronning (left) and Spc. Ken Shooltz pet a local dog during their visit to Milici.



Warrant Officer Rosario Savatti, left, and 1st Lt. Andrea Corinalesi talk with a resident of Zivinice, near Eagle Base, during a Multinational Specialized Unit patrol as another member of the MSU team listens.

Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chile, China, Crete, Iraq, Kosovo, Namibia, Russia, San Marino, and Somalia.

In 1998, Stabilization Force had many challenges in

implementing the General Framework Agreement for Peace. These challenges brought about the need for the creation of the Multinational Specialized Unit. Due to its specialized training and organization, the Carabinieri took on a key role in developing the MSU concept.

The MSU is made up of police officers with military training and is specially organized, trained and equipped to operate with local police and military forces. Four nations form the SFOR MSU: Italy (providing the bulk of MSU personnel), Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.

The MSU's key tasks in support of SFOR's

mandate include: promoting public security, assisting in the return of displaced persons, supporting the installation of elected minority government and contributing to crisis control in coordination with the European Military Police Mission.

"Conventional forces are not always trained and equipped to respond to complex, civilian crisis situations that are at the

'Nei secoli fedele'

Carabinieri, faithful through the centuries

Photos and story by Maj. Jarrod Krull TFE PAO

ZIVINICE, BiH - For most military organizations around the world, peacekeeping is a relatively new concept. However, the Carabinieri have a long history of participating in peacekeeping operations.

Victor Emanuel I, king of Sardinia, to provide the Piedmont region with a police corps, created the

Carabinieri corps in 1814.

Initially part of the Italian Army, the Carabinieri, now a fourth branch of the Italian armed forces with 113,000 personnel, have participated in every conflict that Italy has been involved with since its origin. They started in Crimea in 1855, and since then, have or are currently serving as peacekeepers in Afghanistan, Bosnia and



Carabinieri members visit with a local store owner to determine the frequency of vandalism and theft in the area.

core of most public security operations," said 1st Lt. Andrea Corinaldesi, a Carabinieri platoon leader whose platoon recently conducted an information gathering patrol in Zivinice outside of Eagle Base. This is where MSU can make a difference.



1st Lt. Andrea Corinaldesi, a Carabinieri platoon leader, listens to the concerns of a local citizen.

Multinationals build lasting memories

Story by Maj. Mike Wehking
G5 Plans Officer
and Maj. Jarrod Krull
TFE PAO

BUDAZELJE, BiH - A mix of funding from the international community, Multinational Brigade (North) soldier efforts and local community involvement equated to 42 happy, cheering school children who will remember the cooperation that helped make their lives a little bit better.

“Just seeing their faces and their joy is the most satisfaction I have had on the whole rotation,” said Capt. Mike Reineke, G5 project officer, who anchored a long standing cooperative effort to provide a soccer field, basketball court and sand volleyball pit to this small community located 4,000 feet above the Vares Opstina.

The U.S. Soldiers brought equipment and know how. The Turkish soldiers provided local resource contacts, getting concrete delivered to a near impassable area



Photo by Maj. Jarrod Krull, TFE PAO

Residents play soccer on the newly constructed field at the playground in Budazelje. The project was a multinational effort to provide a safe place for the local children to play.

before the winter snow came, while the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe provided 3,000 Bosnian Marks to pay for concrete, sand and other essentials.

Capt. Scott Rohweder’s engineer team carved out the soccer field, framed the concrete basketball court and dug the sand volleyball pit.

Community residents participated in the effort toting sand, smoothing concrete and raking after the front-end loader was finished.

“The cooperation was just great,” said Rohweder, referring to how the various key project players came together. “This project is good training for our Soldiers and makes this whole deployment more worthwhile.”

While the project was completed

before the snow came - the dedication ceremony came later.

Community leader, Miralem Dzido, summed up the community’s



Photo by Maj. Jarrod Krull, TFE PAO

Local children, parents and community leaders eagerly await the opening of the new Budazelje playground during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

appreciation during the ribbon cutting ceremony on a cold, snowy day, “The American and Turkish Soldiers have touched our community with a playground that we shall remember forever.”



Photo by Maj. Mike Wehking, G5 Plans

Soldiers frame the edges of the sand volleyball pit.

 **In our sights** 



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

Sgt. Rogelio Rayos, 2nd Bn., 149th Avn. Regt., assumes his task as a crew chief on a Black Hawk during a night mission last week.



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

Spc. Terrell Bondy (left) 1st Lt. Gregory Wagner and Spc. John Cervantes, all of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 136th Inf., enjoy the Cincinnati Ben-Gals show at Peacekeepers Hall Sunday night.



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

1st Sgt. Gary Metcalf (left), and Sgt. Anthony Bolduc, both of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 136th Inf., and Brig. Gen. Richard Nash, MNB (N) Commander, pose with Mentos after Nash reenlisted Bolduc Monday night. Bolduc said he always wanted to make his own Mentos commercial.



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

Civilian employees Kadir Meskovic, left, and Sadija Suljanovic walk to work on a foggy morning at Eagle Base last week.

Maj. Jeff Cordes, G2, talks with **Capt. Dainius Pasvenskas,** a Lithuania officer working with G3 future operations, on Eagle Base last week.



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

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

Cincinnati Ben-Gals Show Team cheerleader Tara W. sings "I'm a woman" to Maj. Andrew Rochstein, TF Renegade, during the cheerleaders' show at Peacekeepers Hall Sunday night.



Multinational LNO Team



666th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team