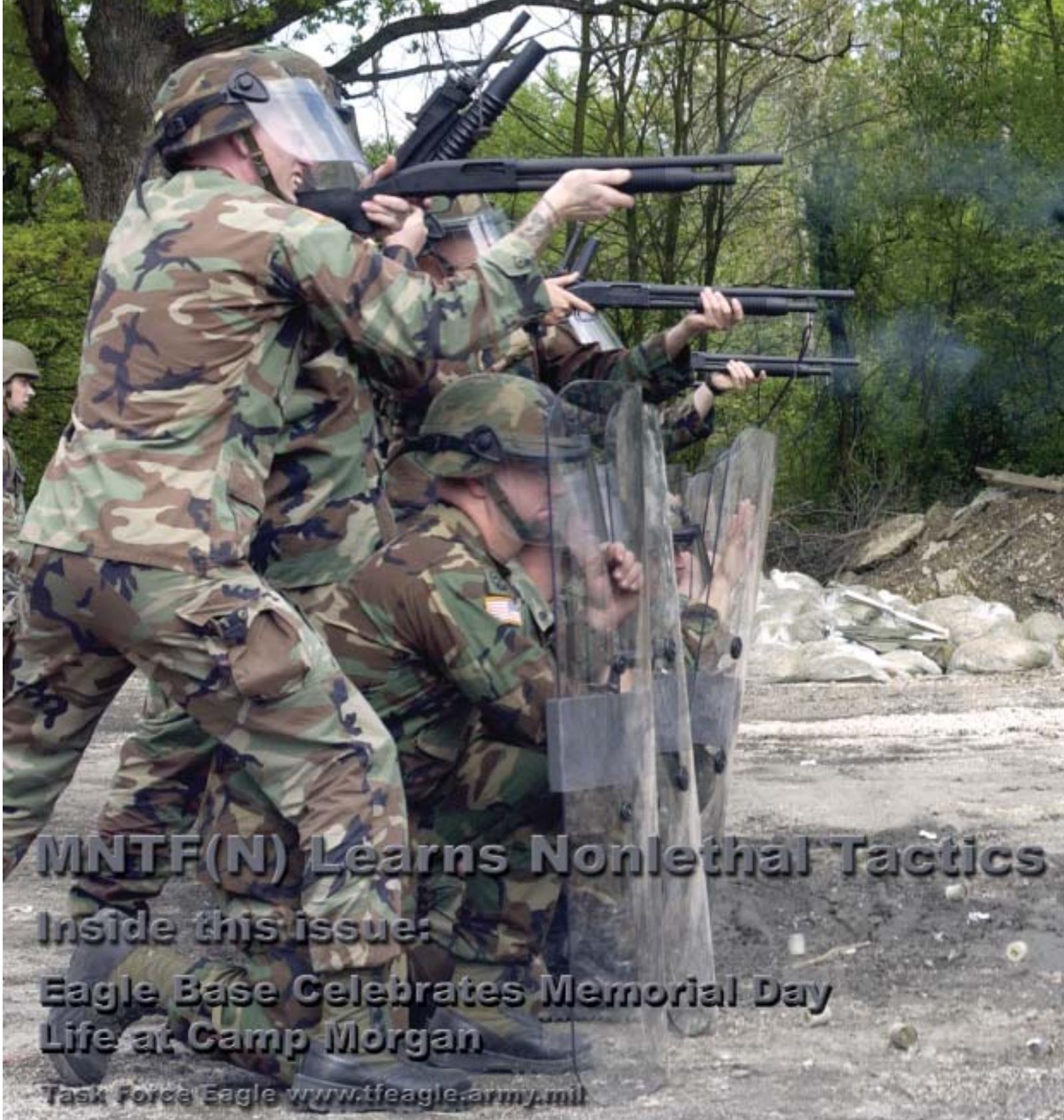


JUNE 11, 2004

TALON



MNTF(N) Learns Nonlethal Tactics

Inside this issue:

**Eagle Base Celebrates Memorial Day
Life at Camp Morgan**

Task Force Eagle www.tfeagle.army.mil

TALON

Published in support of
Operation Joint Forge
June 11, 2004
Volume 15, No. 4

**Commander,
Multinational Task Force (N)**
Brig. Gen.
Timothy J. Wright

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Jon Thurlow

Special Projects Officer
Maj. Markus Novosel

Talon Editor
Capt. Aaron Jenkins

Command Historian
Capt. Stephen Ogle

Print Journalist/Layout
Spc. Michael Bennett

Broadcast Journalist
Spc. Jeffrey Riggs

Media Specialists
Aleksandar Ilic
Nedima Hadziibrisevic
Nenad Ristic



The *Talon* is produced in the interest of the service members of Multinational Task Force (North). 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 every three weeks by the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, APO AE 09789. DSN Telephone 314-762-5235. Email story ideas, and photo to: aaron.jenkins@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil. The Task Force Eagle web address is www.tfeagle.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 1,750.

AAFES Employee Brought Fun, Fitness – Now Plans to Do Same in Afghanistan

Story and Photos by Spc. Mike Bennett
TFE Public Affairs

Pini Gonzalez left behind a number of admirers as she left Eagle Base on June 6.

Bound for an assignment in Afghanistan, Gonzalez was the Service Business Manager on post for the Army/ Air Force Exchange Service.

However, it was not her work coordinating the vendors and souvenir shops on post that Gonzalez will be remembered so fondly for.

Instead, it was her volunteer work teaching aerobics classes that she gained her many admirers and notoriety.

“When I arrived here (in December of 2001) there weren’t many fitness classes, and there wasn’t an aerobics program. Since I’d taught aerobics for about twenty years, I decided to see if I could start one,” said Gonzalez.

Though the classes received hesitant support at first, they quickly became a staple of each successive rotation. “During last rotation (Stabilization Force 14), I had one soldier lose 55 pounds,” said Gonzalez.

“I like to think that this helps to boost morale, and makes a difference for the soldiers here,” Gonzalez said, trying to explain the popularity of her classes. “I think it’s more than just a weight-loss program, it’s also a stress reliever.”

Gonzalez’s classes have become so popular that Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright, the Multinational Task Force (North) Commander and Col. Joe

Croom, the Area Support Group Commander, have been known to attend.

“Honestly, I think her classes are the best part of life here,” said Sgt. Hans Aschenbach.

Spc. Misty Fuller, a military pay specialist with the 176th Finance Detachment, is the soldier who currently plans to take over teaching the classes from Gonzalez.

Fuller said she believes that the reason the classes are so popular stem from Gonzalez’s personality and manner.

“She’s not a very big person, but she’s so bubbly whenever she gets up there in front of the class. It helps to make the time pass more quickly.”

“She had a good program that everyone seemed to enjoy,” said Fuller. “I don’t see the need to make many changes to it at all.”

Gonzalez began working with AAFES fifteen years ago when she married a sergeant major that was stationed in Vincenza, Italy.

“AAFES has always been very understanding about my choice to teach this class. They’ve always been willing shift my schedule to allow for this,” said Gonzalez.

“I’m ready for my mission in Afghanistan” as an AAFES manager, said Gonzalez, “I just hope they’re ready for me.”



The soldiers of Team Gator form a defensive wall during their nonlethal weapons training.
Photo By Alexander Ilic, TFE Public Affairs



Soldiers Train with Non-Lethal Tools

Story and Photos By Alexander Ilic
TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist

By its nature, a peacekeeping mission sometimes dictates the use of an absolute minimum of force to accomplish the task at hand.

Fortunately, the peacekeepers in Bosnia have not had to confront large and violent crowds.

But, if they ever do, as SFOR 14 soldiers did as a part of the Over the Horizon Forces during the outburst of violence in Kosovo last March,

Multinational Task Force (North) will be ready.

As part of this readiness process, the Soldiers of Task Force Scorpion conducted nonlethal tactics and weapons training on last month.

“We are putting a large amount of training into an eight hour day. We are teaching soldiers how to use the baton, nonlethal munitions and formations techniques for crowd control purposes,” said Sgt. Matt Beck, an instructor certified by the Department of Defense Inter-service

nonlethal tactics school located on Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

His fellow instructor, Staff Sgt. Mike Spurgin, also worked with a group of soldiers on formation tactics breaking through the shield row using its’ weakest spots and disclosing other crowd control tricks during the morning.

Later in the day, it was time for nonlethal munitions training under supervision of Staff Sgt. Cory Bourn of Team Gator, the last of the three instructors in Multinational Task Force



(North).

The Soldiers fired shotguns with a grenade launcher, using rubber rounds and pellets to hit the targets.

“Don’t forget to tap your shield row after you fire. They are your only protective barrier,” shouted Bourn as he directed formation through the proper procedures.

“Situations like this do arise and you need to be prepared,” said Bourn, explaining that this training will give soldiers the basic skills to use these tactics to respond to these type of events.

Troops also learned to avoid head and neck areas when aiming at short distances; otherwise, the large rubber pellets will have the potential to inflict lethal damage.

“This has been a good opportunity to feel how light the recoil on the weapon was when we fire these rounds, and also how difficult it was to aim with the visor down”, said Sgt. William Links of Team Gator, and a Corrections Officer in his civilian occupation, who has had experience with the benefits of nonlethal weapons, during a riot at the facility he works at.

“You only had to fire a couple of rubber pellets and the inmates pretty much got the hint,” Links explained.

Spc. Ryan Farrell said this opportunity gave him a great deal of confidence in using these kinds of weapons and tactics, in case there is a need for a riot control.

“It was a great opportunity to learn to work as a group in order to get the job done.”



Task Force Scorpion Soldiers trained with crowd control tactics last month (above). These weapons use rubber pellets (top) to help control civil disturbance situations more safely.

TALON

Photos - from Left - Brig. Gen. Timothy Wright addresses Soldiers of MNTF(N) during the Memorial Day ceremony. Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Corpening raises the flag to full staff at the end of the ceremony. Sgt. Anthony Franklin, a member of the rifle squad for the 21 gun salute. 1st Lt. Laura Pratt performs "Taps" during the ceremony. Soldiers of Task Force Scorpion salute with their rifles. Sgts. 1st Class Jeffrey Estes and Corpening as the Flag Detail. Several Soldiers got into the act during the performance of the band '4 Stories' on Sunday, May 30. Spc. Valerie Plummer catches a softball. Staff Sgt. Marcus Hopson leads his team to a first place finish during the 'Tug-of-War' competition. Maj. Brian Davis checks his team's items for the USO sponsored scavenger hunt. A table with a setting for one is displayed in remembrance of those soldiers who've gone before.

Photos by Spc. Mike Bennett
TFE Public Affairs



Eagle Base Celebrates Memorial Day with Fun and Ceremony



Home Away from Home

Story by **Nedima Hadziibrisevic**
TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist

Being away from home on a deployment is always a considerable change for soldiers. As a way of dealing with the distance from home, they often strive to make their new home an enjoyable place to live.

In April of 2004, the soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 152nd Mechanized Infantry, began their rotation of the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These soldiers were stationed at Forward Operating Base Morgan, in the northern part of the country.

Although significantly smaller than Eagle Base, FOB Morgan provides all the commodities and entertainment facilities soldiers need during their deployment. When not conducting their regular duties and missions, most of them like to spend time in the gym, weight room or playing games.

“Usually on Wednesdays and Saturdays we get together for platoon Physical Training,” said Spc. Jesse Gunther, Co. C, 2/152. “We play something like ultimate Frisbee or football.”

At their disposal, soldiers also have a newly opened gymnasium that has a basketball court and a Morale Welfare and Recreation facility. There is also an L-shaped running track and volleyball court at the camp.

Another important segment of a life on FOB Morgan is an Education Center that provides a variety of classes for soldiers to take during whatever free time they might have.

“I am taking some classes, so I work on that a lot,” said Spc. David Ferguson, Co. C, 2/152, Joint Military Affairs section, who regularly meets with armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. “I am taking a class on Serbo-Croatian and one on computer programming on-line. That takes a lot of my time.”



Photo by Capt. Steven Ogle
TFE Public Affairs
Spc. Bradford Devers, Co. C, 2/152, shines his boots in front of the living quarters in FOB Morgan.

Keeping in touch with loved ones is a crucial aspect of maintaining good unit morale. The Internet Café, phone center and regular mail service on FOB Morgan continuously meet the Soldiers' communication needs.

The situation while deployed to BiH “is a lot better than I thought it was going to be,” Gunther stressed. “I thought I was only going to be able to talk to them (back home) only once or twice a week. I can call them pretty much whenever I want to.”

Just like on Eagle Base, facilities like a laundry, coffee shop, barber shop, Post Exchange and motor pool make the deployment easier, as well as the dining facility, which offers an excellent assortment of food each day.

When comparing FOB Morgan with Eagle Base, Spc. Donald Pence, Co. C, 2/152, pointed out that the housing arrangements are better on FOB Morgan than on Eagle Base.

“The primary difference, which I like, is that we have two-man rooms here,” Pence said. “You get to know one roommate and that is the only person during your private time that you have to deal with.”

FOB Morgan offers the soldiers the feeling of community you might find in a small town, where everyone interacts with each other daily.

“Everybody knows everybody,” Gunther explained. “We like it here. This is home now.”

A Brief History of FOB Morgan

Camp Morgan was named in the honor of United States Army Col. George Horace Morgan, awarded the Medal of Honor for distinguished combat in action against hostile Apache Indians at Big Dry Wash, Arizona, July 17, 1882. Morgan served in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment as a volunteer with Lt. West's command of Indian scouts and Troop I, 6th Cavalry. Forward Operating Base Morgan was opened in the first week of October 2000. The base was first occupied by peacekeeping soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). The Division was under the command of Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp. Sharp directed the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina Oct 2000-Oct 2001 as SFOR 8 and 9. FOB Morgan is located in the northern section of Task Force Eagle within Multinational Task Force (North), near Samac. Company C, 2nd Battalion, 152nd Mechanized Infantry, 38th Infantry Division/SFOR 15, also referred to as 'Team Cobra,' currently calls Camp Morgan home. Capt. Jeremy Gully and 1st Sgt. Jeffery McLochlin lead the Company. The base's area of responsibility includes the cities of Domaljevac, Samac, Gradacac, Srebrenik, Pelagicevo, Orasje, Srpsko Orasje, Teocak, Bijeljina, Ugljevik, Lopare, Celic, and the Brcko District.

Day Trips Offer Taste of Bosnia

Commentary by Capt. Aaron Jenkins
TFE Public Affairs

Is staring at the four walls of your room started to get you down? If those walls and Eagle Base are bringing you down, you might want to try the MWR tours of Tuzla or Sarajevo.

The tours offer you a chance to experience the Bosnian culture, eat different cuisine in a relaxed setting and also pick up a few souvenirs for your loved ones back home. It's also a good way to get outside of the wire and see the country.

The Sarajevo trip is an educational tour. It helps to teach Soldiers about what happened there during 1992-1995. You'll learn about the siege of the city, war strategies, and how this affected the residents of this war-torn area.

You can see it all first hand during tours guided by men and women who lived through it all. These trips can give you a whole new perspective on Bosnia.

Sgt Jasson Travis, "It's good to see the area from the ground," stated the flight medic from Task Force Medical Eagle. Travis said that he had a great time visiting Tuzla.

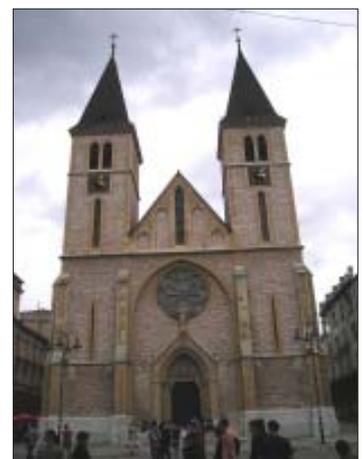
Sgt. 1st Class Rosa Cunningham found the Sarajevo grave site near the soccer field, "Eerily beautiful." She was very impressed by her fine dining experience at a mountainside restaurant in the city.

"Every SFOR soldier should take this tour to better understand why we are here," noted Travis. "The People of Tuzla were very courteous, and the history surrounding Bosnia and its military will give you a lot of insight."

If you are interested you should check the dates and sign up with your S-1. Seating is limited, so be sure to sign up early. The trips depart from Triggers, so check with your First Sergeant to find a day that works for you.

As General Order #1 still applies, you are not allowed to drink alcohol during these trips. You need to bring Euros or Convertable Marks, as American money is not accepted. You'll also need to bring your helmet, vest, and weapon. The food, the fun, history lesson and the new friends are calling you.

Sign up today for a day trip, you won't regret it.





Eye of the Cyclone



Top: Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Severe, Lt. Col. Keith Taylor and 1st Sgt. Michael Mattingly unfurl the colors at the reactivation of Task Force Scorpion. *Photo by Spc. Mike Bennett.* Top Right: A Team Gator Soldier examines a rifle discovered during an active Harvest near the small town of Simici. *Photo by Alexander Ilic.* Above: Soldiers of the Turkish Battalion prepare to distribute gifts to Bosnian children in celebration of the Turkish holiday 'Children's Day.' *Photo by Maj. Todd Harless.* Above Right: Local workers on base take pride in their handiwork. *Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Rocky Shapla.* Far Right: Everything looks so peaceful from a helicopter overhead. Right: Task Force Raptor Soldiers certainly wear big helmets. *Photos by Maj. Markus Novosel.*