

FEBRUARY 27, 2004

TALON



Pilots moving forward

Inside this issue:

**Demobilization process explained
Black History Month celebrated**

Task Force Eagle www.tfeagle.army.mil

TALON

Published in support of
Operation Joint Forge
February 27, 2004
Volume 14, No. 22

**Commander,
Multinational Brigade (N)**

Brig. Gen.
Richard Nash

Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Jarrod Krull

Command Historian

Master Sgt. Tim Peterson

Commander, 135th MPAD/

Capt. Chuck Traxler

Command Information Officer

1st Lt. Julieanne Gertken

NCOIC, 135th MPAD

Master Sgt.
Edwin Holt

Talon Editor

Sgt. 1st Class
Clinton Wood

Print Journalists

Sgt. Sarah C. Danielski
Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser

Broadcast Journalists

Sgt. Kent Westberg
Sgt. DeAnne Gilger

Media Specialists

Aleksandar Ilic
Nedima Hadziibrisevic
Haris Lelic



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. The Task Force Eagle web address is www.tfeagle.army.mil. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

Customs tips, guidelines

By 1st Lt. Charles Moore
34th ID HHC XO/UMO

The return process begins in earnest as the calendar slides toward the 34th Infantry Division's Transfer of Authority, and even though our minds are still focused on the job at hand, we are starting to direct our attention on what we need to do to leave the Balkan theater. As one of the unit movement officers for the brigade task force, I will share some tips that will make it easier for you to get through the customs process.

For the individual Soldier, it is a very simple process for getting through customs. Your items need to be clean, no illegal items, properly filled out paperwork and no locks on duffle bags.

Military Police Customs officers trained from outside the unit will conduct a 100 percent inspection of bags prior to the arrival of the Senior Military Customs Inspector. They will pay close attention to items such as footwear and entrenching tools. What they are looking for is dirt that can be easily scratched off. A suggestion from Sgt. Sven Rawlings, the current Customs MP is to thoroughly scrub and then polish your boots and pack these items at the top of the duffle bags. My suggestion is to toss out old, dirty running shoes. Without a washing machine it will be nearly impossible to clean your shoes for return. For the entrenching tool and other TA-50 items, scrub them and then spray paint the items like you would for turn in.

'No illegal items' is a very general statement. For a complete understanding, read the 560th MP Company Customs Office Hand Book. As long as you don't bring back firearms, untreated animal products, drugs, pornography or war trophies you will be on the plane home. A few Soldiers in Stabilization Force 13 tried to bring some illegal articles back at the end of their rotation, MP dogs sniffed out the items. Don't be that Soldier.

For your protection as well as for Army Regulations, fill out DA-1750 packing lists. These forms can be acquired from your UMO. Their purpose is to help the military track what it is moving, but it will also help you if something unfortunate happens to your equipment while in transit. A properly filled out DA-1750 is the only proof you have to show what items were lost or damaged. Five copies each will suffice, one for you to keep, one goes in the duffle bags, one with the container paperwork and two to the UMO/division transportation officer.

Why no locks on the duffle bags? So customs can easily inspect your items. Remember they will conduct a 100 percent inspection of your bags.

Our mission is nearing completion for SFOR 14. I don't think I'm being presumptuous when I say we all want to go home, and soon. Lets make the process smooth and successful by cleaning all items, adhering to the laws and regulations and properly filling out packing lists. For further answers contact your unit UMO.



About the cover: Minnesota Army National Guard pilots deployed to Bosnia with TF Renegade are: (front row, from left), Chief Warrant Officer Paul Adamson, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Guthrie, Capt. Bruce Kraemer and Chief Warrant Officer Kelly Nokes, (back row, from left), 1st Lts. Carrie Hanson and Tanya Kobilka. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD.

Demobilization process at Fort McCoy explained

By Capt. Debra Lien

TF Eagle JMA

The Task Force Eagle Commander has established a special headquarters group at Fort McCoy, Wis., to help ensure the demobilization process for Stabilization Force 14 Soldiers demobilizing through the fort is smooth and orderly.

The Release From Active Duty (REFRAD) process for Soldiers returning to the States should take approximately five days. The major tasks that need to be accomplished are: administrative review, discharge certificate, Central Issue Facility turn-in and transportation arrangements to home station or other designated location. Soldiers will spend a majority of their time conducting administrative tasks.

Upon arrival at demobilization sites like Fort McCoy and Fort Hood, Texas, all Soldiers receive a two-and-a-half to four-hour in-processing brief from the Soldier Readiness Center, which will cover administrative issues, TRICARE, Army Community Services, medical and dental processing, DD214, chaplain services, veteran's affairs, legal, retention, finance and Army Career and Alumni Program.

After the briefing, Soldiers will begin the administrative stations.

Note: If you mobilized at Fort. McCoy, the demobilization process is in the same building that you conducted your mobilization stations in last summer.

Each of the company-sized units will complete a Unit Demobilization Checklist with the assistance of the 34th Infantry Division staff. This checklist covers training, personnel, logistics and transportation for the unit.

Depending on the situation, Soldiers will be returned to home station or designated location either by bus or airline transportation.

The staff at Fort McCoy will be working hard to keep delays to a minimum and process Soldiers as quickly as possible.

We ask that Soldiers be patient and understand that there is a high volume of Soldiers mobilizing and demobilizing. Your cooperation will help make the final step in our mission a smooth one.

Key areas of emphasis

1. Ensure that your DD214 is filled out correctly. Staff will review all DD214s upon their completion.
2. All Line of Duty information and medical situations are fully reviewed by the SRC Staff. This ensures proper disposition for any injuries incurred while on Active Duty.
3. Completion of your DA31 Leave Status.
4. Turn in of any equipment that was hand receipted.
5. Transportation plan to return the Soldier to home station or other designated location.
6. Completion of your deployment travel voucher. This is how you will receive your \$2 CONUS (prior to 1 Oct 03) and \$3.50 per day OCONUS per diem payment.



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

Soldiers, mostly from TF Iron, form up in a hangar at Eagle Base to be briefed on customs regulations before redeploying. This is just one of the briefs redeploying Soldiers can expect before reaching their home station.

Change

Deployment for Minnesota pilots means more than just flying Black Hawks

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

The Minnesota Army National Guard phased out its fleet of UH-1 Huey helicopters about two years ago, making way for the UH-60 Black Hawk.

For six Minnesota Guard pilots who deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina

with Task Force Renegade, they will return to Minnesota with hundreds of hours of flying these much faster helicopters. Their deployment to Bosnia has given them a “front row seat” of the devastation from the 1992-95 war and it has changed them.

“Honestly, it’s been a great adventure.”

– **Chief Warrant Officer Paul Adamson**

commented. Chief Warrant Officer Kelly Nokes of Farmington, Minn., noted that living in this war-torn country has made him appreciate life more.

1st Lt. Tanya Kobilka of St. Paul says she appreciated just flying. She supported Operation Joint Guard in Bosnia in Stabilization Force 1 in 1997. At the time she spent most of her time in Heidelberg, Germany, and Tazsar, Hungary, as an enlisted soldier working in the movement operation center.

This rotation has given her the chance to see much of Bosnia.

“It’s a beautiful country,” said Kobilka, “I’m glad I got a chance to see it.”

Flying these twin-engined helicopters wasn’t the only task for her. She also served as the commander of Company G, 147th Air Traffic Services, 34th Infantry Division.

Kobilka,

Capt. Bruce Kraemer of Andover, Minn., and Hanson also are recent graduates of Black Hawk flight school. Kraemer and Kobilka flew OH-58 helicopters in Minnesota.

“Honestly, it’s been a great adventure,” said Adamson who has served almost 20 years in the military.

“I’ve gotten as much flight time here as in one-

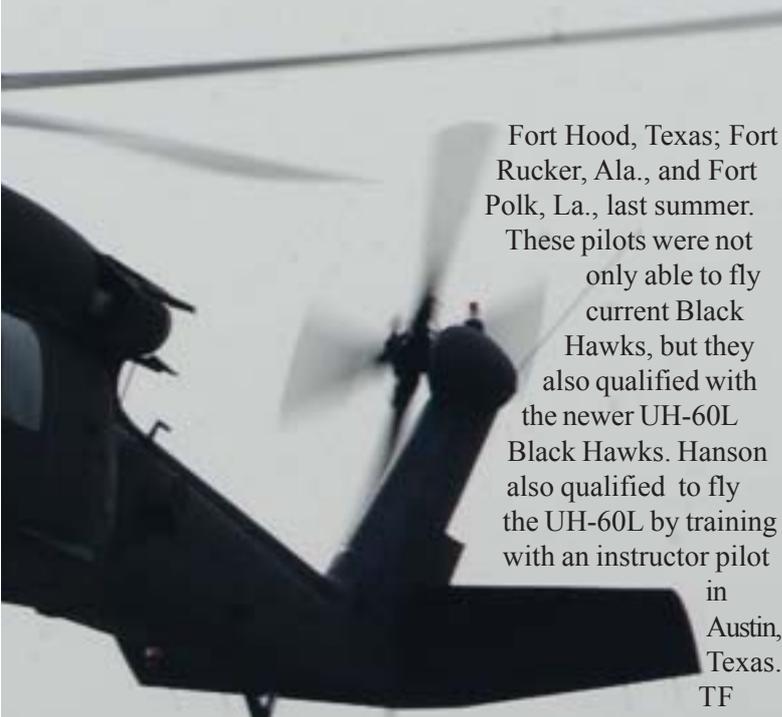


Capt. Bruce Kraemer walks around a Black Hawk at FOB Connor during his pre-flight check.



A UH-1 Huey helicopter takes off in the distance from FOB Connor. The Huey was replaced both in the Active Duty Army and National Guard.

ed lives



Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Rucker, Ala., and Fort Polk, La., last summer.

These pilots were not only able to fly current Black Hawks, but they also qualified with the newer UH-60L Black Hawks. Hanson also qualified to fly the UH-60L by training with an instructor pilot in Austin, Texas.

TF

Renegade

and-a-half years of flight school,” Nokes said.

The adventure for Adamson, Chief Warrant Officer Mike Guthrie of St. Paul, Minn., Nokes and Kraemer started by training with TF Renegade pilots in Austin, Ellington Field and

pilots fly the UH-60A Black Hawks in Bosnia.

Guthrie said the Renegade pilots “went out of their way” to qualify the Minnesota pilots on the UH-60Ls.

Kraemer said being with TF Renegade has gone very well. “They pushed us through like their own,” he said.

Each pilot has many memorable moments from the deployment. For Kraemer it was transporting a French Underwater Demolition Team and its rubber boat from Split, Croatia, to the Sava River in northern Bosnia. The team needed to be transported quickly so it could remove two 500 pound bombs found in the river.



from Eagle Base last week. The Hueys were taken to the National Guard by the UH-60 Black Hawks.



TF Renegade UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopter pilots saw contrasting scenes while flying over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Above: A bombed out building near the Sarajevo airport.

Right: The Srebrenik Castle, built by Hungarian rulers. The castle was constructed in the 13th century.



Other memorable missions for the team included personnel transports, reconnaissance and Quick Reaction Force operations. Some specialized missions included combat search and rescue and door gunnery.

Nokes said he was surprised how many missions the three-man crews flew throughout the deployment.

Kraemer noted that unlike training missions back in the States, these were real-world missions.

The pilots also credited the mechanics expertise and diligence for keeping the helicopters flying.

“They kept them flying

day in and day out,” Guthrie said.

All pilots agreed that weather and the mountainous terrain were the most challenging.

“We flew in terrain we’ve never seen before,” said Adamson.

As Nokes said, “This Black Hawk experience is a good shot in the arm in our efforts to move forward with (Minnesota’s) Black Hawks.”

Kraemer said it best, “Without a doubt, the six of us here are bringing back a wealth of experience from our flying here.”

They’re also bringing back memories that will last a lifetime.

G4 provides life support to SFOR

All aspects of operations have G4 'footprint'

Story by Sgt. Maj. Tom Harvieux
G4 Sergeant Major

Planning and coordinating the logistical support for the U.S. personnel assigned to Stabilization Force 14 is a continuous effort for the entire G4 section. The G4 works closely with the Area Support Group, Kellogg Brown and Root Services, Forward Logistics Element, and battalion and unit logistics personnel to ensure everything from beans and bullets to vehicles and maintenance are provided. They are focused on making sure Soldiers have what they need, when they need it.

The G4 section is led by Lt. Col. John Dewey, assistant chief of staff, G4, Maj. Todd Waytashek, deputy G4, and Sgt. Maj. Tom Harvieux, G4 sergeant major. Under the direction of these soldiers fall the six components of the G4 who spearhead the operation: property book office, division transportation office, division ammunition office, current operations, multinational office, and plans.

The property book office is headed by Master Sgt. Mike Mettille and is assisted by Staff Sgt. Angela Major. This office accounts and tracks the \$173 million in home station property deployed to the Balkans.

The division transportation office is staffed by Maj. Bryon Studer and Master Sgt. John Quick. They have the primary responsibility for transportation of all personnel and equipment during the

deployment, daily operations, and redeployment. Thus far in the deployment more than 734 short tons of cargo have been moved and more than 18 million passenger miles flown.

The division ammunition office, under the watchful eye of Capt. Benjamin Wiener, orders, receives, issues, and accounts for the hundreds of tons of ammunition utilized by the task force.

Current Operations is overseen by Maj. Tim Albers and assisted by Staff Sgt. Jeff Miller and Sgt. Kira Pick. They support the task force operations, process all local purchases, and coordinate work done by contractors such as KBR.

The multinational office run by Capt. Jaanus Antson, an Estonian officer and a Moldovan officer scheduled to arrive shortly, work closely with the logistical sections of the Turkish Battalion, Multinational

Battle Group (Portugal, Poland, Solvenia) and SFOR.

Maj. Lori Johnson conducts future multinational and combined logistical planning within the G3 plans.

The G4, battalion, and unit logistical personnel have experienced numerous milestones during this deployment. The preparations began for the deployment a year before arrival at the mobilization station. They focused filling every requirement from neck wallets to overseas movement.

The mission rehearsal exercise at Fort Polk, La., was another major hurdle for the logistical Soldiers. The three-week exercise included the oversight of a multimillion dollar contract and the issue of 401 vehicles, 320,000 bottles of water, and hundreds of thousand of dollars in supplies.

The section and unit supply personnel arrived in Bosnia directly

from Fort Polk to begin the transfer of authority inventory and have not slowed since. The task force restructuring has kept them busy with turning in several base camps and more than 8,000 pieces of equipment.

G4 members have each contributed to what the entire team has accomplished in such a short time.

Each member of G4 has also contributed to the reputation of SFOR 14. U.S. Army European Command has stated on numerous occasions this is one of the best SFOR rotations that has ever been.



Submitted photo

The G-4 section: front row from left are Master Sgt. John Quick, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Miller, Lt. Col. Igor Gorgan, Sgt. Kira Pick, Maj. Todd Waytashek, Staff Sgt. Angela Major, Lt. Col. John Dewey. Second row from left, Capt. Tonu Miil, Maj. Bryon Studer, Sgt. Maj. Tom Harvieux, Master Sgt. Mike Mettille and Maj. Timothy Albers. Not pictured is Capt. Jaanus Anston.

Black History Month celebrated



Staff Sgt. Ricky Evans (left), Sgt. Kimbi Overton and Sgt. 1st Class Denise Fort-Badie, all of TF Med Eagle, sing at Triggers during a program celebrating Black History Month.



Sgt. Ardean Clarke, TF Med Eagle, sings "Kum Ba Yah."

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

Poetry readings, songs and history presentations highlighted a ceremony celebrating Black History Month Saturday at Triggers on Eagle Base.

Larry Williams, air traffic service, hosted the ceremony. Sgt. 1st Class Denise Fort-Badie, TF Med Eagle, was given credit for being the driving force behind the program.

Highlights included poems by Sgt. Sheldon Scott, TF Med Eagle, and Spc. Brian Kennerson, TF Renegade, two songs sung by trio Fort-Badie, Staff Sgt. Ricky Evans, TF Med Eagle, and Sgt. Kimbi Overton and history readings by Maj. Eric Andringa, JVB, and Sgt. 1st Class Zena Hamilton, TF Renegade.

Sgt. Ardean Clarke, TF Med

Eagle, also sang what was described by Williams as the "best rendition of the song "Kum Ba Yah" I have ever heard."



Trainers recognized



MNB (N) Senior Enlisted Advisor Sgt. Maj. David Dreis (right) recognized BNCOC Common Leader Trainers. (From left) Staff Sgt. Michael Olson, Staff Sgt. Craig Platt, Master Sgt. Brian Olson, Sgt. 1st Class Casey Courneya and Sgt. Maj. William Mateer during a BNCOC graduation ceremony last week at Eagle Base.

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



In our sights



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

Spc. Andy Stene, right, and Spc. Isaac Peck, both of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 136th Inf., assist in the destruction of SA7, surface-to-air-missiles, this week.



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

Spc. Jason Colen, TF Bearcat, poses with the Miller Beer girls, Tanya Ballinger (left) and Kitana Baker, during the Ambassadors of Hollywood Valentines Tour at Peacekeepers Hall. The event which also included Joe Millionaire (Evan Marriott) was sponsored by TF Eagle MWR.



Photo by Master Sgt. Edwin Holt, 135th MPAD

TF Eagle Spc. Martin Antosz (left) and Staff Sgt. Eric Swenson, HHC supply section, discuss weapons' storage last week on Eagle Base while preparing equipment for redeployment.

The USO Valentine's Day Poetry Contest winner

PATEO

By Spc. Carlee Miller

*Hair tickles my hand
Like spring-green grass, so tender
Slips through my fingers
As time through dreams.
If I were to grasp,
My hands would uncurl empty.
Eyes stare into mine,
No time spared for blinking.
I am memorizing
What I see there so I can recall it at
any instant.
A feeling like the golden, autumn
sun on my skin,
Or a warm breeze
Like silk slipping over bare arms
And neck and I'm smiling.
Your love is sweet.
I could want for nothing—then,
I am awake.
All was but a dream, and I
Am insatiable for you,
Love, once again.*