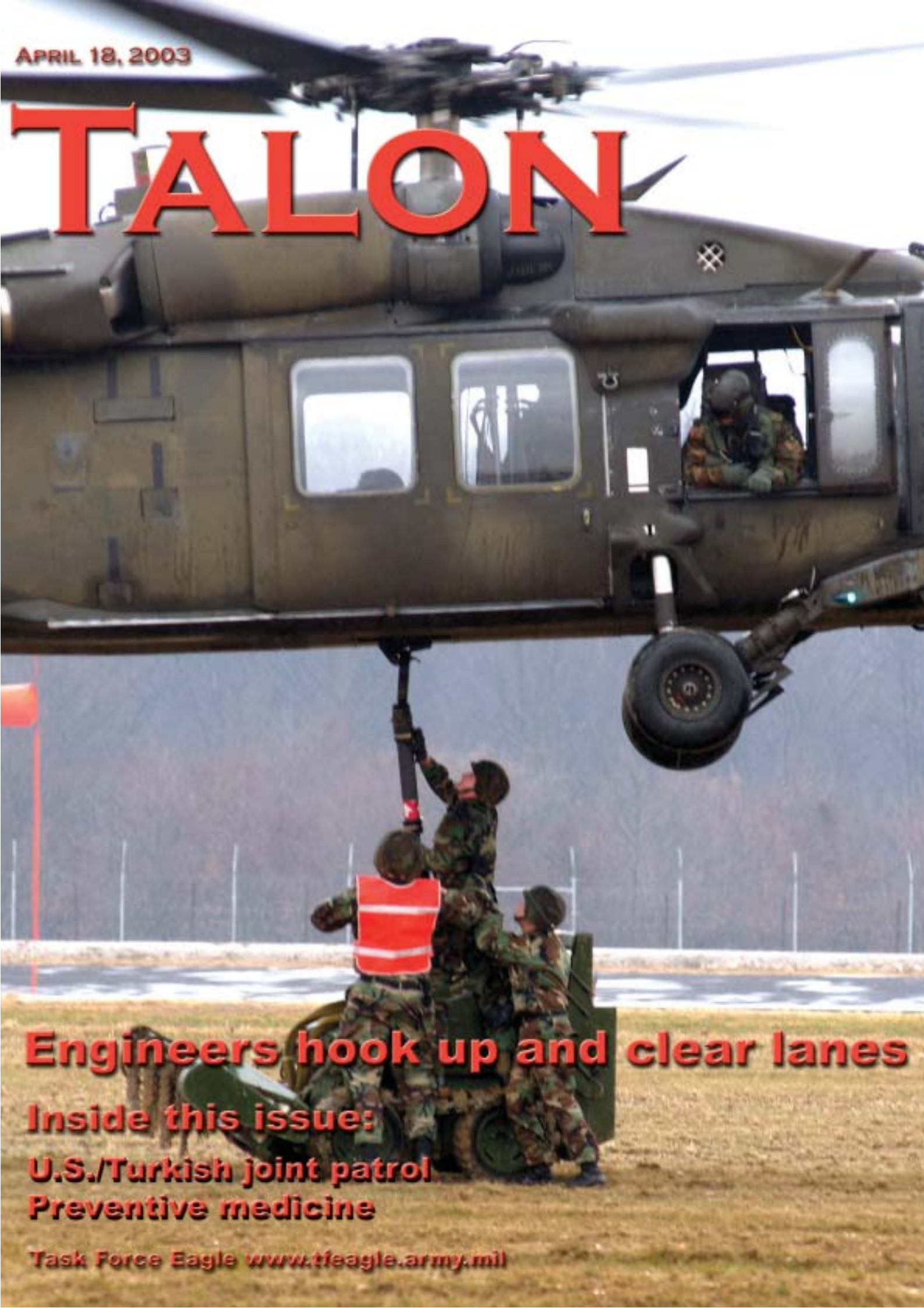
April 18, 2003

Talon



Engineers hook up and clear lanes

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TALON

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Preventive Medicine

Hepatitis, typhoid, cholera – Oh my!

Maj. Jaci Ferguson
Task Force Medical Eagle

Everything I needed to know in life I learned in kindergarten – including how to wash your hands after using the latrine and before you eat. What do all those diseases in this article's title have in common? They are caused by poor hygiene.

I know it seems like a bother to wash your hands before you eat, but it really makes a big difference in decreasing the number of cases of gastrointestinal problems -- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea -- and hepatitis. We even get heated water at the door! I've never seen that at any Army dining facility. Just ask the soldiers that were at the simulated Camp McGovern and FOB Morgan at Hohenfels, Germany, how nice it is to have hot water.

Fortunately, many of us received vaccinations for hepatitis and typhoid before we came to Bosnia. The vaccinations should provide us some protection from those diseases.

But, there are cases of hepatitis and gastrointestinal infections in the civilian areas around us here just like back home. The infrastructure for handling wastewater and potable water on the economy is still under repair.

Fortunately, the DFAC and Army and Air Force Exchange Service concessions on our camps are safe places to eat. DFAC workers that prepare our food are medically screened every year and monitored for signs of illness.

The DFAC workers are diligent about minimizing customer contact with the food until we get it on our plate. I saw one guy nearly get his hand whacked by a server when he reached in to grab something at the serving line. Fortunately, he stopped before contact was made.

All the food served in the DFAC and AAFES is inspected and comes from approved sources. But some of you have the opportunity to go out into the economy and may be exposed to some of these diseases. Then, you come home and share sleeping quarters, work areas and eating facilities with the rest of us.

If you are infected and fail to wash your hands as you should, everything you touch could be a source of infectious bacteria.

So, instead of getting mad at the signs telling you to wash your hands -- just do it. Your body will thank you.

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jim Matlack washes his hands before lunch at the Balkan Grille.

"The more severe the pain or illness, the more severe will be the necessary changes. These may involve breaking bad habits, or acquiring some new and better ones."
-- Peter McWilliams, Life 101

About the cover: **Members of Company C (Forward), 206th Engineers, hook up a mini-flail mine-clearing machine to a UH-60 Blackhawk.** ***by Spc. Guy D. Choate***

School kids want to 'bee' like you

Story and photos by
Spc. Guy D. Choate
343rd MPAD

Admina Jasarevic laughs as a soldier's oversized helmet sits atop her head.

Most U.S. children have dreams of one day going to an amusement park, such as Disneyland. Children dream of roller coasters, Ferris wheels, and listening to "It's a Small World After All" while twisting and turning in the teacups with Mickey Mouse.

When the visit is over and it's time to make the long drive back home, some details will be forgotten. As life goes on, more details will be forgotten than remembered. But what if you had never heard of a place like Disneyland? What if your "Disneyland" was a place that was even considered by some to be boring?

Fifteen sixth-graders from Prva Osnovna Skola in Zivinice were picked up from their school, loaded onto a bus, and brought to Eagle Base April 11.

"This is the biggest thing to them," said Spc. James D. Ford of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armored Regiment (Task Force South). "This is like Disneyland to them."

Bee Like Me…Bee Drug Free is a program that was handed over to Stabilization Force 13 from SFOR 12. The program's ultimate goal is to give children a head start at making good decisions and pursuing a successful future.

Student Senad Redzic takes instruction on shooting pool from Task Force South's Spc. James Huff during the sixth-grader's recent visit to Eagle Base.

Every Thursday Task Force South goes to the school and interacts with the children while they do their assigned *Bee Like Me* lessons. The soldiers introduce the lessons to the children and assist when needed, but try to let the children teach themselves by using a workbook that is given to them.

"The goal is to eventually get to where these sixth graders will be able to teach next year's sixth-graders, and then those students can teach the next year's, and so on," said Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Miller, Ford's platoon sergeant.

Task Force South cleared it through the students' school authorities and the proper military channel, and eventually was able to bring the children across the wire so they could experience the fantasyland that is Eagle Base.

After popcorn, pool, and ping-pong at Rally Point, the children were taken to Peacekeeper's Hall to spend a little time on the basketball courts.

One-on-one games sprung up between the soldiers and the children, leaving most of the soldiers the victors, but when the game was over, the children still had energy.

What was supposed to be a quick walk-through of the Peregory Fitness Center before a hunger-quenching visit to Burger King turned into a chaotic, whirlwind of a PT session. Negotiating the electronics of the cardiovascular machines was a piece of cake to the kids as they raced around, hopping from treadmill to cross-trainer, from stair climber to exercise bicycle. Even the heartbeats of the PT-primed soldiers must have skipped a beat watching the childrens' zig-zag motions.

Once 15 Burger King combo meals were devoured, the kids declined the offer to go look at helicopters in order to return to the fitness center, where once again chaos reigned

The final stop before heading back to their school in Zivinice was to Ford's "hooch", where they saw how an SFOR soldier lived. The children sat on his bunk and looked up at the photograph of his two-year-old son, who resides at home in Bowling Green, Ky.

"The kids are the future. We thought if we start there, we can make a difference," said Ford, explaining why he volunteered for the *Bee Like Me* program. "(The program) makes me miss home, but at the same time it makes me feel more at home."

Sappers enjoy dangerous mission

by Sgt. 1st Class
Ronald D. Covington
343rd MPAD

Engineers have one of the most dangerous jobs in town.

"These men know beyond a shadow of a doubt, that when they are given the 'go,' they may not return," Capt. Dean R. Gosney of Florence, Ky., platoon leader of Company C (Forward), 206th Engineer Battalion, the engineer unit supporting Stabilization Force 13. "The only thing that keeps us alive is knowing we've trained hard and are confident in our training."

If an SFOR 13 soldier ends up in a minefield, it's Company C's job to get him out. Maps may show many of the minefields in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but more than 60 percent of the minefields have not yet been identified. Anyone can end up in a minefield if they become complacent about their mine awareness training.

The engineers also ensure roads, bridges and tunnels are safe for travel, and confirm that new construction areas are cleared of unexploded ordnance.

Their inventory includes three pieces of the Army's most recent prototype equipment, including the D-7 Mine-Clearing, Armor-Protecting Dozer, which gives the engineer some safety in operation. Two pieces of their equipment are operated by remote control: the mini-flail and the M-1 Abrams Panther, which are equipped with both the mine plow and roller.

Though this equipment offers the engineer some safety, it cannot be used any closer than 30 meters to a person in the open. At that point, the mine-clearing team employs its mine sweeping expertise, carefully probing inch-by-inch toward a mine victim. It takes men on the ground to safely extract a person from a minefield.

Combat engineers -- also known as sappers -- have a variety of skills they use on the battlefield. In addition to their expertise with land mines, they are skilled in building bridges, fortifications and battlefield obstacles. Sapper Point is their home here on Eagle Base.

"It is great being a combat engineer," said Spc. Chad E. Stidham, of Whitesburg, Ky., a member of the mine extraction team. "What other job could you have and do such versatile training?"

Even though the job is dangerous, most Company C sappers say they wouldn't want to do anything else.

"I love operating heavy equipment," said Sgt. Woody Clark of Moreland, Ky., an MCAP operator. " If you hit a mine, your bells will ring but you should be safe."

This group of engineers was assembled from several different units, but Gosney said he is proud of the teamwork that they have developed.

"Combat engineers are the hardest working, most highly trained and versatile soldiers on the battlefield," he said. "They love what they do. They don't think about the danger. They

"The only thing that keeps us alive is knowing we've trained hard and are confident in our training."

--Capt. Dean R. Gosney

by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

Spc. Chad Stidham, from Whitesburg, Ky., operates an M-1 Abrams Panther by remote control during recent training on a local range. The Panther uses different attachments mounted on the front to clear a path through a minefield.

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

Sgt. Danny Carpenter loosens bolts while removing the roller from the front of an M-1 Abrams Panther. Carpenter, from West Liberty, Ky., and the rest of the engineers of Company C installed a mine plow after removing the roller.

Joint patrol gets to know country, each other

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic
Media Specialist

Turkish and American soldiers patrolled together recently in the Task Force North area of responsibility. Although this was not the first joint patrol that took place in the TF North sector during Stabilization Force 13, it was the first one with Turkish Battalion soldiers.

"It gives us a chance to see how they do things, and also how similar we are, so we are not alienated from each other, because in any situation we could work together," said 1st Lt. Jeff Searcey, platoon leader for 1st Platoon, Troop A of the 1-167th Cavalry (TF North).

About 15 soldiers from the two countries spent a whole day operating together in conducting mounted and dismounted patrols throughout both rural and urban areas of the northern U.S. sector of Multinational Brigade (North).

"I think that working together with the other armies is a good experience," said 1st Lt. Ertan Dabi, 2nd Company team leader for the Turkish Battalion, who is well familiar with such activities. Three months ago he participated in a joint patrol with SFOR 12 soldiers. Since then he's also patrolled with Portuguese, Slovenian and Polish soldiers.

Dabi's patrol with TF North included a visit to the village of Donja Hasic, where soldiers spoke with local residents and displaced persons, making sure they are safe and secure in their environment. Citizens were very receptive of the soldiers, even taking time to offer them some cookies.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Ronald D. Covington

***(Top)* First Lt. Jeff Searcey, Task Force South, 1st Lt. Ertan Dabi, Turkish Battalion, and TRW translator Anita Dragojevic, taste some home-baked cookies at the home of Ruza and Anto Dragicevic during their recent joint patrol.**

***(Right)* Cpl. Serkan Yildiz, Turkish Battalion, admires Sgt. Chris Marcello's M-16A2 rifle during their joint patrol April 11.**

"People enjoy talking with soldiers whether they are American, Turkish or from other countries," said Dabi.

"Because we are the same, we are SFOR."

In addition to the patrolling, and communicating with local residents, came the welcomed opportunity the U.S. and Turkish soldiers had to familiarize themselves with each other's weapons.

"Anytime we get a chance to put our hands on (a different type of weapon) we are more then willing to do that and learn more about it," said Searcey.

TF North is planning to conduct joint patrols with other SFOR nations in the future, providing SFOR soldiers, like Searcey, more opportunities to learn from each other.

"I was privileged to be able to work with them," Searcey said of his experience with the Turkish Battalion.

"It is always nice to see somebody from another country and to gain their perspective on what they see in the United States and how they feel about us."

" It was very reassuring what we have seen and (I'm sure) it went both ways."

by Maj. Kirk Slaughter

Ambling

An antique prairie schooner, a gift from the Southeast Community College in Middlesboro, Ky., makes a trip through Eagle Base recently. The antique wagon will stay on Eagle Base for the extent of SFOR 13's rotation.

Snapshots

Photos capture MNB (North) days and nights

(Right) **Nine soldiers from Task Force South recite the NCO Creed during a promotion ceremony at Eagle Base's Festival Tent April 12. Overseeing the ceremony are TF South Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Bogle (forefront), and to his left, TF South commander, Lt. Col. Scott Campbell.**

by 2nd Lt. Chris Dunphy

(Below) **Spc. Jeffrey Allison restocks the medical supplies at the Battalion Aid Station in Sapper Point.**

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

(Below) **Spc. Jarrett Chrz puts out a blaze during recent fire extinguisher training at Fire Station 1.**

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

(Above right) **Sgt. James Bowen gets his hair cut by Dzevada Selic in the barber shop at Alma's.**

(Right) **Spc. Jenifer Johnson works the cashier cage at the Finance Center on Salute Alley.**

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

On the home front

News items of interest to Task Force Eagle members

Florida

Residents carry flag 50 miles

WELLINGTON -- Several South Florida residents relayed an American flag 50 miles along local roads to show their support for U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq.

Dozens of people passed the flag along Sunday and walked it from Wellington in central Palm Beach County to the border of Miami-Dade County to the south.

"I was just frustrated watching the news. There were so many anti-war protests," said Michele Shaw, a Wellington resident who organized the relay. "Horns have been honking all over the place. That means a lot to us."

Organizers had hoped thousands of people would line the roads.

-- courtesy Miami Herald

High School Baseball
State Rankings
Class 6A

1. Oviedo, 17-1
2. Sarasota 15-4
3. Lantana Santaluces 17-2
4. Columbus 16-5
5. Apopka 15-3
6. Wellington 17-2
7. Taravella 16-3
8. Palm Beach Gardens 15-4
9. Krop 15-4
10. Douglas 13-6

Texas

A&M bonfire parents honored

COLLEGE STATION — A couple who opened their home to Texas A&M University students after their son died in the 1999 bonfire collapse were named A&M's 2003-04 "Parents of the Year" on Sunday.

Timothy and Janice Kerlee moved to College Station from Bartlett, Tenn., after their 17-year-old son Timothy Kerlee Jr., an A&M freshman, died from injuries sustained in the collapse. Twelve Aggies died and 27 were hurt as the tiered stack of more than 5,000 logs toppled the morning of Nov. 18, 1999.

-- courtesy Houston Chronicle

High School Baseball
2003 Top 10 Poll
Class 5A

1. A&M Consolidated (20-1)
2. Round Rock (18-2)
3. Midland (19-3)
4. Houston Bellaire (21-2)
5. Fort Bend Elkins (16-6)
6. Lubbock Monterey (19-3)
7. Flower Mound (19-2)
8. Brazoswood (17-3-1)
9. El Paso Montwood (21-2)
10. Kingwood (19-2-1)

Washington

Apple commission closing

YAKIMA — It's the end of an institution, one that put Washington apples on the map.

The Washington Apple Commission is closing down, deprived of its primary source of income after a federal judge ruled unconstitutional its practice of levying a 25-cent fee on growers for every 46-pound box of apples.

The March 31 ruling took millions of dollars out of its budget.

-- courtesy Post-Intelligencer

High School Baseball
King County 4A Standings

1. Woodinville (8-1-0)
2. Ballard (4-2-0)
3. Lake Washington (2-1-0)
4. Redmond (3-3-0)
5. Juanita (1-1-0)
6. Franklin (2-3-0)
7. Eastlake (1-2-0)
8. Inglemoor (1-2-0)
9. Bothell (1-3-0)

Bead happy

by Spc. Guy D. Choate

Air Force Staff Sgt. Melissa Heibel, a command post controller with the 401st Expeditionary Air Base Group at Eagle Base, untangles Mardi Gras beads to give to the children at Simin Han Refugee Center.

Checking up

by Staff Sgt. Jeff Murphy

Sgt. Josh Langford checks the blood pressure of a resident of Modrica as part of Task Force North's Medical Civil Action Project last month.

News You Can Use

Chapel

Eagle Base Chapel
762-7089/7090

Sunday
9 a.m. Liturgical (Lutheran/ Episcopal) Service
11 a.m. Collective Protestant
1 p.m. Gospel Protestant
3 p.m. Latter-Day Saints
8 p.m. Danish Protestant

Monday
6:30 p.m. Gospel Praise Team Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

Tuesday
Noon Episcopal (Anglican) Mass
7 p.m. LDS Fellowship
7:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (ISSO Building 3307)

Wednesday
6 p.m. Protestant Praise Team Rehearsal
8 p.m. Mid-Week Bible Study

Thursday
6:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Education Night

Friday
6 p.m. Gospel Choir and Praise Team Rehearsal
8 p.m. Joy Service

Saturday
1 p.m. Protestant Praise Team Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m. Gospel Praise Team Rehearsal

FOB Connor
761-2211

Sunday
6 p.m. Protestant Service

Monday
5 p.m. Bible Study
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Communion Service
7 p.m. Protestant Service

Camp McGovern Chapel
763-2250

Sunday
9:30 a.m. Collective Protestant
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Communion Service

Wednesday
7 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday
7 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

Camp Morgan
764-2215

Sunday
4 p.m. Collective Protestant
7 p.m. Roman Catholic Communion Service

Monday
7 p.m. Bible Study

Hill 1326

Wednesday
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Communion Service
12:30 p.m. Protestant Service

Senate OKs Blum as new NGB chief

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — The commander of Stabilization Force 10 has been approved as the 25th chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Blum

H. Steven Blum will be promoted to lieutenant general and receive his third star as chief of the 466,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard now that the U.S. Senate has confirmed his Jan. 6 nomination by President George Bush. The Senate confirmed the four-year appointment on April 11.

Blum already paid his dues on the foreign front as commanding general of the Multinational Division North in Bosnia and Herzegovina from September 2001 to April 2002. He commanded troops from other countries, including Russia and Turkey, during that time.

Blum assumed command in August 1999 of the Virginia Army Guard's 29th Infantry Division that provided the command and control element for that peacekeeping rotation in Bosnia. He commanded the 29th until last August when he was assigned to the Northern Command in Colorado.

The late historian Stephen Ambrose, who died in October 2002, gave Blum high marks as a soldier and as a commander in his final book, "To America."

"At 55, he has had made 1,500 air drops. He has had open-heart surgery. He talks so well and thinks so swiftly and knows so much that he reminds me of Eisenhower in 1945, when Ike was 55 years old," wrote Ambrose after meeting Blum while visiting Bosnia with a group of World War II veterans during Thanksgiving 2001.

Blum is a native of Maryland.

by Master Sgt. D. Keith Johnson

And they're off!

Runners kick it into high gear for the start of the "There's no place like home" 5K run, the first MWR-sponsored run of SFOR 13. The top three finishers for the males were: Sgt. Risto Mottonen, 15:08, Sgt.1st Class Jacob Jorgensen, 15:22, and Spc Eddie Clement, 15:37. The top females: Lance Cpl. Karen Brogger, 18:15, Sgt. Nicole Washington, 20:39, and Staff Sgt. Sylvia Gomez, 21:19.