



Falcon Flier

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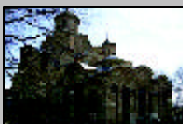
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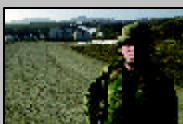
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Camp Monteith's Spc. Harold Gruda, a scout in Scout Platoon, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, responds to a radio call while manning a M-240B machine gun at the Traffic Control Point at Muci Babe during Operation Iron Fist III on Feb. 27.

TFF soldiers search for illegal weapons during Iron Fist III

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

MUCHIBABA, Kosovo— The ground movement was timely and concise. The small convoys of vehicles had only a five-minute window to pass through their appropriate checkpoints.

Once again, KFOR conducted an Iron Fist Operation involving Camp Monteith's A Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment (Fort Benning, Ga.).

Iron Fist Operations are cordon and searches that KFOR conducts on a routine basis throughout Kosovo. "Fortunately for us, (we were) selected again to participate in our second Iron Fist Operation," said A Co. commander, Capt. Scott Anderson.

"We gained a lot of expertise and knowledge from our first Iron Fist Operation," Anderson explained. "We've learned from our mistakes and found better ways to do business."

"Not only do we get hands-on training and muscle memory from doing this, but it builds confidence in the soldiers," said Sgt. Gordon Hunt, A Co., TF 1-30, 3rd squad dismount leader.

In having the opportunity to participate in another cordon and search operation, "soldiers know what to expect, and the only way to train for something like this is to get out and do it," said Hunt.

A Co. is a mechanized infantry company, and on its first experience with Iron Fist, it conducted an air assault into the 13th Tactical Group (Russian Sector). This time was a ground movement, but they used vehicles they would not traditionally use, such as Up-Armored Humvees. "We are doing operations that less than six months ago we had never done before," said Anderson.

"Now my soldiers have established a level of knowledge and expertise, and are getting very good at cordon and searches. Maybe that had something to do with why we were selected to do this again.

I ask my guys to do a lot, and they have performed magnificently. They are dedicated professionals, and are proud of their jobs and what they are doing in Kosovo."

"We are trying to make a better Kosovo," said Hunt, "by conducting cordon and searches. We are giving the people of Kosovo a feeling that, basically, we are out in force doing our best to strengthen

Kosovo by working with both Serbs and Albanians."

The area of Muchibaba, part of A Co.'s sector, "is probably the most depressed area within the sector, which has a little to do with the mind set of the people, I think," said Anderson.

The community was cut off and divided when the lines between Serbia and Kosovo were drawn. "People this close to the border are paranoid and feel like they are under attack everyday. They can look and see a Serbian position just on the next hill and think they are in Muchibaba, but that's only historical Muchibaba," said Anderson. The area is now part of Serbia, and their military has every right to be there.

"They are not doing anything they shouldn't be doing, but it's just so hard to get them to believe that they aren't under attack or being threatened," Anderson further explained. "After so many years of war between each other, it's hard to convince them they don't need AK47s in every house for protection as long as KFOR is present. That's part of our job. In time they will come to realize that there is not a Serbian behind every tree waiting

to get them. The mind set is the hardest thing to change."

Searches like Operation Iron Fist are not done solely to find illegal arms and munitions, although that is a very big reason. They are also done to demonstrate to the populous the capabilities of KFOR soldiers, a show of force.

Out of the approximate 60 houses, barns, and abandoned buildings that were searched, only one had contraband. The illegal items were found by the Quick Reaction Force, Alpha Co. 5th Eng. Bn., from Fort Drum, N.Y. The QRF only had a "narrow flight window, so once they found the items they began categorizing. Since we were already on the ground, we took over for them," said First Lt. Brian Huskey 3rd platoon leader, A Company.

"We'd done this several times before so there was no problem taking over," he said.

According to Huskey, who afterward talked with the mayor of Muchibaba, "he (the mayor) was glad we searched so we could see that most all townspeople are following the rules."

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TFF Commanding General

Dealing with our emotions surrounding Enduring Freedom



Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber

I want to discuss possible emotions surrounding Operation Enduring Freedom. As we approach our last few weeks here in Kosovo, a very important international mission, a mission we must not lose focus on, and one that we were assigned to complete, the limited news that we encounter here, seems to be focused around the U.S. President's war on terrorism, and specifically Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. I want to talk to the Multinational Brigade East family as to what emotions you might be feeling about Operation Enduring Freedom.

I believe we collectively feel pride, sorrow, fear, doubt, anger, jealousy and even relief. And just as, for those of you who were with me on the eleventh of September 2001, as we were deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., as we were going through our Mission Rehearsal Exercise, preparing for this mission in Kosovo, a day that changed our lives, a day that changed the world, and how everyone

will view the evil and the reality of terrorism.

I recall the need of urgency and the G-1 and his staff, our chaplains, and our leaders quickly learning how many of our soldiers might have family, or relatives in either the New York City or Washington D.C area. I remember how difficult it was as the leadership talked to the soldiers and civilians, telling them that they must focus on what they were doing, that we must focus on the preparation for the mission to Kosovo.

I remember the emotions that everyone felt about the evil that happened, and the relief of several soldiers after they were able to call and verify that their family members were safe.

Today as we are faced with the media's attention on Operation Enduring Freedom, I think it's important that we as soldiers think through our emotions and understand what they mean to us both individually and collectively. Every one of us should feel an overwhelming sense of pride in ourselves and our fellow soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. We all feel a great sense of pride in the sons and daughters of America, these young men and women who proudly wear the uniform, knowing that at some point in time they may be called upon to risk their lives, to possibly give their lives in service of their nation. So we all need to feel this sense of pride in our fellow soldiers and our leaders that are currently engaged in the very difficult reality of combat.

We all express sorrow. Many of us have lost friends or family. And now as we face the reality, the horror of combat, and those who are

wounded or killed, from the 101st and 10th Mountain, we find ourselves again facing the casualties and recognizing the names of possible relatives, friends or neighbors.

All of us who serve should feel the sorrow for those soldiers who have lost their lives in service of our nation, and for their families and friends who will never physically again spend time with them and share memories. It has a devastating effect on all of us, and it does comfort us all to know that this sense of pride, in knowing that these soldiers gave their lives for something larger than themselves, something more important than their own egos, and that their families share this pride, that their sons and daughters, that their husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts, friends and fellow soldiers died doing what they felt was important for the world.

Some of us will have a sense of fear as we attempt to transfer the situation into what we would do, to place ourselves inside of this combat scenario. If you have never been in a combat scenario it is very stressful, combined with the physical and mental challenges of getting through the confusion, the noise, the chaos and the horror of seeing death, at a personal level, the fear of 'Will I do the right thing? Will I be paralyzed by personal fears? Will I let our fellow soldiers down? Will I die? Could I be injured? Could I be maimed? How will our lives change?'

I will tell you that our lives
(Please see *ENDURING FREEDOM*, page 5)

TFF Command Sergeant Major

Junior NCOs in Kosovo: Learning leadership the hard way



Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker

Providing the best leadership possible is expected from everyone who is in a position to lead and supervise soldiers. When I think about the war on terrorism, the mission we have here in Kosovo, and the competence of those junior leaders who are charged with leading

America's sons and daughters in harms way by providing purpose, direction and motivation, the Corporal and the Sergeant, leading the

charge in real world situations, I say we can't get any better training than this.

Never has "Set the example" meant so much in a lot of young leaders' lives. Many of these junior leaders are faced with the challenge of leading their subordinates 24 hours a day. Being under the microscope every day is not easy.

It's unlike back home where you form up for work call after PT, and when the duty day is over you go home or participate in other leisure activities; where you only see your soldiers for a few hours of the day and rarely on holidays or weekends, where flaws can be hidden.

That is not so here in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Our junior leaders must step up to the plate; set the example in all that is said and done. Some, just a short while ago, were peers of soldiers in their squads, and must live, work, and lead them for the duration of the mission. Leadership can be a tough task back at Fort Drum,

Fort Lewis, Fort Benning and other places across the globe. When you add that they are living with the soldiers they are asked to lead, it does not make the challenges that they face any easier.

Everyone expects outstanding leadership from these corporals and junior sergeants, what a heavy responsibility! And they are handling the task like champs, thanks to some good coaching and mentoring from the senior NCOs.

Our junior leaders are performing in an outstanding manner at observation posts, check points, base camps, patrol leader positions and other assigned duties, and many do not have the benefit of PLDC. They are getting their education the hard way, lessons learned from the school of hard knocks. It doesn't get any better than this.

Climb to Glory ... To the Top.

About the Falcon Flier...

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Soldier on the Street

What are you most looking forward to when you get home?



Spc. Thomas Darby,
Mechanic
B Co., 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor
(Camp Monteith)

"Seeing my wife and seeing my first baby born."



Spc. Wendy Oehlman,
ER Nurse
TFMF V
(Camp Bondsteel)

"Home cooked meals and a hug from a family member."



Pvt. 2. Thomas Leef,
B Co., 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor
Mechanic
(Camp Monteith)

"Being back in America."



Pvt. Jonathan Shea,
Gunner
1st Platoon, B Co.,
1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regiment
(TF 1-32 Infantry)
(Camp Magrath)

"Looking forward to seeing my family and adapting to the changes."



Sgt. Joy Gilman,
Respiratory Therapist
TFMF V
(Camp Bondsteel)

"Being with my family and friends at Fort Campbell."



Spc. Jason Porter,
Combat Engineer
A Co., 41st Engineer Battalion
(Camp Magrath)

"Happy to get home to my family."

— Compiled by TFF Falcon Flier Staff

Commentary

Kosovo: worth the trip

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

A couple of weeks ago a momentous event occurred at the Brown house. A certain little sparkly eyed, curly-haired, chubby six-month-old said her first words. "Da Da." When I got the news via e-mail from my wife, I was as proud as a Dad can be. But the at the same time, I was a little sad too.

I was sad, because it was one more thing that I have missed during this deployment. There have been a few: my oldest daughter's eighth birthday, an anniversary, Christmas. It's during these moments, mad about being so far from home, that I catch myself questioning why we're here. I wear the uniform, so I'll go wherever my country asks me to go. But I find myself asking why my families' life should be turned upside down? Why should my three daughters and my wife not have their Daddy and husband home, just because some people thousands of miles away were at odds?

I was thinking about how hard this deployment has been on my little girls. But then a thought occurred to me. How hard would it be on them if I never came home? I thought about all the children in Kosovo who will never have their Daddy back. There is a void that will never be filled. Take all the things missed during a six-month deployment, and then think about a whole lifetime.

If us being here keeps one child from knowing the pain of missing a parent, then maybe this whole thing is worth it. If six-months is all we have to give to save a child the lifetime of pain that results from missing a Mom or Dad, then I can live with being here.

But then I got to thinking about my job specifically. I'm not out there patrolling the streets, I'm not flying the choppers, I'm not healing the sick and I'm not making Kosovo a safer place. I write stories and take pictures for a newspaper. To be honest with you, it's for a newspaper that I'm not sure anybody reads. When I walk in the chow hall, and see a pile of Falcon Fliers that hasn't gone down in days, my heart sinks. We here at the Flier make a great effort to put out a quality paper, but I find myself questioning why. That is, I did until I got an e-mail the other day. I'd like to share it with you.

Hello my name is Rachel Gallipo. You did an article on my brother Sgt. Robert Gallipo in the February 3, 2002 edition. I would like to commend you on what a great job you did. It made me feel very happy when I read that article, to know that Rob is alright and enjoying himself there. Would you please tell him that I said hello and that we all miss him and that we wish him the best of luck. If you could pass on this message for me I would greatly appreciate it. Keep up the great work. Feel free to respond to this message.

*Sincerely,
Rachel Gallipo*

That short e-mail made me feel better than any ribbon or certificate ever could. To know that in some small way, we made someone's life better, makes any other disappointments fade away.

All of us here have some gift. We all have made some contribution to this cause. We all do the things which, when put together, make this mission a success.

In the movie 'When We Were Soldiers' reporter Joe Galloway tells Lt. Col. Hal Moore, "I figured I could shoot better with camera than with a gun." That remark hit home with me. Maybe what I do, has contributed somehow to the overall good. I know that the jobs each of you do have made this mission a success.

Someday, a couple of months from now, I will finally hold my baby daughter again. Maybe I'll think that thousands of miles away, a Dad is holding his little girl. And I'll be proud that I spent six months in Kosovo.

Kosovo students pen pal with Texas school children

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

KOSTANJEVE, Kosovo— Aside from being roughly 10,000 miles apart, students at Osman Mani Elementary School now have something else in common with Texas school children other than the distance between them. Both the students from this village school and from Richardson, Texas' Mohawk Elementary School, are spending time corresponding with one another, thanks to a pen pal program initiated by ASG (P) Falcon's Master Sgt. Stephen Healy. Healy, installation coordinator with Camp Bondsteel's Directorate of Public Works office, is a lifelong resident of Richardson. So when the Army Reservist along with other members of his unit (Fort Worth's 416th Facility Engineer Team) were mobilized for active duty in Kosovo during September, he decided to enlist some help from his hometown youth.

"Knowing the situation here (in Kosovo) before I deployed, I wanted to do something to help these children out," Healy said as he and other unit members visited the school one final time in mid-March, before their scheduled redeployment in April. "The people of my hometown have been great about sending items that people and children need here. However, I feel the greatest accomplishment that my unit can take home with them is the fact that we can say that we helped students from our state learn how to communicate and become friends with school children here."

Healy said Mohawk Elementary School, grades first-sixth, is one of several schools in Richardson, which is a suburb of Dallas and has a population of about 200,000 residents. He said of the 200 students that attend, 43 are presently corresponding with Osman Mani's 43 students (grades second-eighth).

"Our translator (Naim Preniqi) has been good enough to translate the letters between the students," Healy said. "So the language barrier doesn't present a problem.

"We all enjoy reading the correspondence between the students."

So as Healy and other 416th Engineer members hand delivered letters to the war torn area where the one-story, three room concrete schoolhouse is located, students seemed eager to read what their English speaking friends had to say.

Lumnije Ibrahim, age 12 and a fifth grader, said her pen-pal, Christina, who is a second grader at Mohawk Elementary School, wanted to know all about her friends and school.

"She wanted to know what subject in school that I enjoy the best and what I want to be when I grow up," Ibrahim said, mentioning that in a previous letter to her Texas pen pal she had mentioned the fact that she would one day like to visit the Lone Star State.

"I hope to one day visit with her and meet her friends that she has written me about in her letters. I hope that we will continue to write one another."

Shqiprim Imeri, also a fifth grader and age 12, said he has already learned that he and pen pal eight-year-old Serbia have something in common.

"When she first wrote me, she asked me if it snowed here. So in my last letter to her, I told her that it snows here a lot and that my friends and I usually have snowball fights as we (make our one hour) walk here each day," he said. "She then wrote me back and told me that she liked snow as well, although she said she doesn't have as many opportunities to play in it like I do."

Asked about the importance of the pen-pal program both Healy and Liman Rexhepi, Osman Mani administrator, agreed that the relationship forged between the two schools is a great example of how society should interact.

"We are grateful that our students have this opportunity," Rexhepi said. "This is the first time anyone has reached out to our students (to correspond with them).

We are very thankful for our relationship with the U.S. Army. They will always be our friends."

Healy said he hopes their replacement unit will continue working to improve conditions for the students of



ASG (P) Falcon's Master Sgt. Stephen Healy, installation coordinator with Camp Bondsteel's DPW office poses with 12-year-olds, Lumnije Ibrahim, left, and Shqiprim Imeri at Kostanjeve's Osman Mani Elementary School recently. Both Ibrahim and Imeri are presently corresponding with students in Healy's hometown of Richardson, Texas.

Osman Mani, and with the other schools that the 416th Engineers have adopted in Kosovo.

"Everyone in my unit believes that this is what the mission in Kosovo has been about. Helping other people who are not as fortunate as we are in the

United States. I hope 20 years from now children from Texas and Kosovo will still be corresponding with one another and building a friendship that will in return make our world a better place," he said.

Rethinking the value of selfless service for our great nation

by Spc. Jason Nightingale
HHC, TFF TOC

The Army today faces new and tougher challenges than it did just one short year ago. Terrorism has struck our homeland, and now we face new, tougher challenges that require the Army, individual officers, and soldiers alike to rethink what selfless service means to them.

A year ago selfless service was a policy, a policy that I was to uphold as a soldier enlisted in the United States Army. Did I understand it? I thought I did, but that was until disaster struck where no one thought it could, the United States of America.

On 11 September 2001, terrorists hijacked four U.S. planes and flew two of them into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. The third plane was flown into the Pentagon, and the fourth crashed in a rural area. This tragedy killed thousands of innocent lives.

Instantly many firefighters, police officers, and bystanders ran into the buildings to get anyone they could to safety without taking a second to breathe. Within one hour both towers had collapsed. Many of those men and women could have run to safety but didn't, not until they were certain everyone was out alive, so they thought. To me that is selfless service at its purest. Just a couple days ago I was

reading a Stars and Stripes and came upon an article reading "Five NYPD officers were found dead in the rubble next to a woman still strapped in a safety chair". This was a scene of selfless service.

The passengers aboard flight 93 are another prime example. After the plane had been hijacked, various passengers began to make calls to their loved ones and significant others, not knowing three other planes had been hijacked. Soon after making contact with people on the ground, it became clear to them what was happening. They knew they weren't headed for any airstrip landings. As a matter of fact it was said that the White House could be

next. Did they sit and wait? No they did not. Do we know what they did? Not exactly, but what we do know, is that flight 93 didn't come close to the White House or any buildings. It crashed in a field in rural Pennsylvania. The people on this exemplified selfless service when they sacrificed themselves to prevent the loss of more lives on the ground.

Now I ask myself again, do I know what selfless service is? Yes I do. The members of this task force have left behind their family, friends, and home to help the people of this province recover after a devastating civil war.

Yet another example of selfless service.

Police service school trains the future cops of Kosovo

by Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Press Section NCOIC

Vushtri/Vucitrn, Kosovo—The cultural conflicts between Albanians and Serbians are well documented. Defining dates in history, of their victories and defeats, can be recalled and recited by either group without a second thought. Living with a legacy hundreds of years old, the differences are hard to put aside. In the vacuum of war, reality is to stay alive. In these conditions, further hostilities tend to occur. For an outsider, this defines the province of Kosovo. There must be a common denominator found between the two for stability, and to end this cycle of aggression.

The Kosovo Police Service will serve to be this linchpin. The Kosovo Police Service School states it best in their mission statement—The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), in conjunction with international partners, and under the auspices of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will recruit, select and train police officers in order to establish an indigenous police capability within Kosovo.

"The primary mandate is to develop an institution to provide police services for Kosovo that are; multi-ethnic, based on democratic principles, trained to international professional standards and one that is in partnership with UN Civilian Police and OSCE,"

said KPSS director, Steve Bennett. He was briefing Task Force Falcon Commander, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber. Earlier, Huber had the opportunity to address the rank and file formation of police trainees outside one of the well-maintained buildings. "The reason I'm

here is, because to me, it is the Kosovo Police Service, not the military, that is the future for the security of Kosovo," Huber said. "I appreciate and admire the difficult task that you have in providing community security in Kosovo."

These trainees were going through

part of a twelve-week basic training course. More than 200 international police instructors administer this course. The lessons are presented in English and translated into the Albanian and Serbian languages.

The police officer hopefuls in formation, looked much like any other training class around the world. They stood straight, looked sharp and listened attentively.

"My pledge to you is, until the time when the Kosovo Police Service can, on it's own, handle the security situation, we'll be here with the UN Civilian Police to assist you in this long and very difficult path of democracy," said Huber. "Every person in Kosovo deserves security, regardless of ethnic background. The future of Kosovo security is in your hands. Thank you for your service to the people of Kosovo."

The students are all Kosovo residents. Primary trainees must be at least 21 years of age, and have a secondary school education. The applicants will undergo oral interviews, medical and psychological examinations, physical agility evaluation and a background investigation, before entering the school.

The school is located 25 kilometers north of Pristina, in the town of Vushtri/Vucitrn. The KPSS hopes to train 5,700 Kosovar citizens to become police officers by December 2002. If their international mandated funding holds out, they will reach that goal. (Please see *KPS*, page 15)



Task Force Falcon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, is introduced to a Kosovo Police Service School instructor, by KPSS Director, Steve Bennett (center).

(ENDURING FREEDOM continued from page 2)

change every day because of our selfless service of wearing a uniform. I understand the emotion of fear. I along with many of you have experienced personally, the emotion of fear, and to me courage is not the absence of fear; it is the conquest of fear. There are many of us here that have gone through these emotions, Lt. Col. (P) William K. Fuller, Maj. Darrin Ricketts, Maj. Paul Walter, Staff Sgt. Steven Wrzesinski, Staff Sgt. Louis Armstrong, Sgt. Scott Hays, Maj. Robert Balcavage, Maj. Dennis Sullivan, Maj. John Hinrichs, and many others who have earned the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB). They will all tell you we have an obligation, we have a responsibility; we have a commitment to each other to insure that this very healthy emotion of fear does not prevent us from accomplishing our mission. I have no doubt that every one of us here would do the right thing and overcome any fear to protect and serve our fellow soldiers.

When placed in a combat situation, you will do the "right thing." It is what we have trained to do. Every one would perform courageously without ever thinking about whether it's courageous or not. You will do it, because your fellow soldiers depend upon you to do it. You will perform coura-

geously, because your training will take over, and you will simply act. All of us have faith in you and we all will rely on you to do what you have been trained to do. I know that you are well led. Keep in mind that you will not enter the battlefield alone. You will be surrounded by your fellow soldiers and leaders that will physically and mentally inspire us. Fear is healthy. Learn to control it and conquer it. Eliminate your doubt.

It is a necessity. It is a reality in our profession. But you should not be anxious to test your theory as to whether or not you could take a life. Or whether or not when bullets are flying around you, if you will do the right thing. I know you will do the right thing. And I know that once you have experienced close combat, it will change your life. It will leave you hollow in a lot of aspects. It will change how you view, and how you cherish moments with family and friends. So don't be jealous of those who have now faced that demon. Don't be angry, because you aren't there. If you stay in uniform long enough, believe me, you'll get plenty of opportunities to experience this, and once you do, you will recognize it, in my opinion, for what it is. And that is, it is your duty. It is your profession. But it is not something, which you look forward to doing, or to repeating, but you accept it as

your responsibility. As long as you wear a uniform, regardless of your rank or your age or your MOS or your branch, all of us as soldiers, when called upon, may find ourselves in a situation where we have to defend fellow soldiers, and where we have to take an enemy's life.

Some of you may experience relief, thinking to yourselves, 'I'm really glad I'm not there. I'm so much happier here. I've got a better situation. I'm not fearful of my life, and so I'm really glad I'm not there.' And this is something that you need to look at as well, because if you find yourself being relieved that you aren't there, I think that's normal, but you need to take it one step further, and ask yourself the question, 'If we were sent there, how would I feel about it?'

These emotions are all healthy in my opinion. These emotions are part of our personal development, and I ask you instead of simply experiencing these emotions, to try to step outside of yourself and say, "Why do I feel this way? And what can I learn from this emotion? And how do I develop myself as a person, as a human being? How do I take these emotions and learn from them? How do I look at these emotions in my fellow soldiers, as a leader, to determine how to motivate, how to comfort, how to console, how to inspire my fellow

soldiers for the tasks that lie ahead? This war on terrorism is not over. Nor do I personally feel that it will be over in the short term. It is something that needs to be done, in my personal opinion. And it is a dangerous mission.

So examine what lies inside your heart, inside your mind. Understand how to deal with these emotions, and do not let these emotions control you.

Focus on the mission at hand. Kosovo is not a friendly place. It is not a safe place. It is safe and secure, because of our actions here. So stay focused. Stay alert, constantly. Every day improve your situational awareness. Do not present yourself as an easy or a soft target. There are evil people here, who would take advantage of your distraction, and would hurt you. This is the most difficult portion of our mission here in Kosovo. We've been here long enough to think erroneously that we know what's going on. Be alert, be aware, and be vigilant. Maintain your focus. Continue with the very important mission that we have here. And once we're complete here, we will have the opportunity to, once again, go where our nation asks us to go, and selflessly serve as soldiers.

Climb to Glory ... To the Top.

Military Police bring calming presence to community

by Spc. Bill Putnam
Staff Writer

CERNICA/CERNICE, Kosovo— Outside the military police substation here, run by the 66th Military Police Company, life eases along as the sun sets beyond the hills that surround this small town.

Local kids talk to a couple of MPs from the 3rd Platoon, 66th MPs (Task Force 504th MP) who are just checking in with the station during their shift, while an infantry patrol passes by. Across and down the dirt road, kids play, kicking a ball. An occasional car or a horse-drawn cart lumbers up or down a mud road.

About a kilometer away from here is OP Power, the headquarters for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (TF 2nd of the 14th Infantry). Its guard towers and dirt berm mark a long-standing commitment to protect the town.

A substation's mission is to act as a liaison between KFOR, the UN Civilian Police, and the Kosovo Police Service, who recently took over law enforcement duties of the town.

"The substation here is a new one," said Sgt. Jason Medlock, a team leader in the 66th MPs and a station chief in Cernica. "It's been open about five weeks."

The company runs substations like this one all over their Area Of Responsibility in Kosovska Kamenica and Gjilan/Gnjilane.

This town has a reputation of being unruly, but over the last couple of months, the tension has subsided considerably. "The town's been quiet the last two months," Medlock said.

In a show of good faith for the drop off of violence, a new curfew from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. was implemented.

"Once curfew rolled back, they (the town's residents) were a lot happier," Medlock said.

"The most exciting thing that's happened



Sgt. Jason Medlock, the Cernica Substation chief, talks with two local boys on Feb. 21.

here in the last two months have been the curfew violators," said Medlock.

Sometimes the MPs conduct joint walking patrols of the town with the KPS, said Staff Sgt. Fuller Mitchell, a squad leader in the company who was passing through the area on his shift.

To help foster a greater sense of community in this divided town, the MPs and TF 2nd of the 14th Infantry plan to use the building the station occupies as a community center.

"The kids from both groups don't play together or hang out together," Medlock said.

Some improvements to the staircase and lighting need to be made.

"So (the center) is still in the growing stages," he said.

But the improvements that need to be made aren't stopping the community center from beginning. The first Boy Scout meeting held here was held in the room next door to the station on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Next to that room an "ambulante" or clinic opened up, on Feb. 15, to provide health care to the town.

"That was a long week," said Medlock.

Large concrete flowerpots, instead of wire and sandbag-filled Hesco Barriers, will also be placed outside.

"The pots won't be as intimidating as the barriers will be," said Medlock.

On the far side of town, a large cloud of smoke pours from the woods that surround the northern edge of town and spreads to cover the town.

"They burn their trash up there," explained Medlock.

While the trash burns, Medlock talks to two local kids inside the station. After talking to KFOR soldiers nearly every day for three years, their English is good, almost fluent.

Staff Sgt. Fuller Mitchell a squad leader in the company said he thinks the substation will bring the two ethnic groups in the town together by showing a police presence in the town.

"They can come to us and report any needs and we'll be out there," said Mitchell.

Infantry soldiers conduct validation gunnery at Ramjane Range

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

Once again, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment (TF 1-30), of Fort Benning, Ga., graced the grounds of Ramjane Range, the only range here in Kosovo capable of handling weaponry as large as what this mechanized unit fires—Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

TF 1-30 is in the process of qualifying on their weaponry while in country. "Since we have limited resources on the range and don't have moving targets over here, we are just doing a validation gunnery," explained Staff Sgt. Edward Westveer, the battalion master gunner.

The usual qualification for Bradleys is a Table 8, but due to the restricted assets of the range TF 1-30 will only be conducting a Table 7 qualification, or "a preliminary gunnery," according to Sgt. First Class Larry Phillips, the OIC of the range.

"That's just to certify their gunnery skills and keep up their tolerance. Once we get back to Fort Benning we will shoot a Bradley Table 8 to qualify them again," said Westveer.

"Right now we are just doing a validation since all of the crews qualified at home. We are going to go ahead and validate the crews, and they'll validate at the score they received on their last Table 8 in July," explained Phillips.

This semi-annual qualification has to be done so the soldiers can remain alert to their wartime composure.

While observing the process of the qualification

"you see them moving in and out of the defilade positions. They are actually supposed to be in what they call 'haul down' position so the enemy won't see them," said Phillips.

They will usually pull up, engage the target, and move back within the allowed amount of time so they can destroy the enemy.

Once the first round of firing is complete, they will move out to go on offensive engagements as well.

"They only have a certain window of time, depending on how close the target is, for a threat time that the target has to engage them. The objective is to go ahead and shoot the target before it can observe them," said Phillips.

The range has a distance anywhere from 600 meters to 1,400 meters downrange. There are eight engagements on the range, and they must score a "T" or a "P" on six of the eight, two of which are at night and one in a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical environment.

According to Westveer, the range is not as difficult as the one they are all accustomed to back home, but the thick fog on many of their nights and snow has been a major set back and an obstacle they had to beat.

The snow makes it a little harder. "We are having



Lt. Col. Audy Snodgrass, commander of TF 1-30, participates in his battalion's Bradley Table-7 qualifications. Snodgrass and his gunner Staff Sgt. Patrick Noling have a communication check with range control in the tower behind them, before the move out to qualify.

to use reverse polarity tape which allows them to acquire the target with the thermal imagery," said Phillips.

"Coming from Fort Benning, where we see a lot of sunshine, and coming out here in the snow, we are doing extremely well. Much better than I thought we were going to start out as," Phillips admitted.

"It just goes to show that, no matter what environment we are put in, we can complete our mission obstacles and all," said Westveer.

Historic visit ...

Med Falcon visit offers soldiers a glimpse of Kosovo's past

by **Spc. Terry Boggs**
Staff Writer

GRACANICA, Kosovo—In the early 1320s, Gracanica Monastery was built by Serbian Holy King Milutin, and granted as a seat of the bishops of Lipljan. If you visit the monastery these days, you will find this story laid out in fresco on the wall of its southern chapel.

For the past four months, the best way for KFOR soldiers to visit this small piece of Serbian history was by a tour offered by Task Force Med Falcon. Recently, however, the TFMF bid farewell to the church, as it wrapped up its weekly ritual of visitations with one final trip.

The monastery was just one of several one-day trips that were offered to KFOR troops as a cross-cultural experience, hosted by TFMF. The excursion also included lunch at Film City, a little shopping, and a visit to Kosovo Polje, or the Field of the Blackbirds.

Maj. Scott Weichl, TFMF Chaplain, had been conducting visits to Gracanica since the 3B rotation began back in November.

"We have been doing this for about four months," Weichl said. "This is the last trip to the monastery and the battlefield. We are getting ready to redeploy, and once we leave nobody will be here to offer the trips."

Both the monastery and the Kosovo Polje are an important part of Kosovo's history. The monastery has been around for several centuries and has seen many changes. It was built upon the ruins of earlier Byzantine churches, which date back as far as the sixth century.

Inside the monastery you will find icons, frescoes and artifacts that date back as far as the beginning of the building itself. Fresco (meaning fresh) is the art of painting on freshly spread moist lime plaster with water-based pigments. Unfortunately, some of the frescoes were vandalized or destroyed by Muslims and communists in the past. Those that survived had the faces and eyes gouged out, because the eyes symbolize the window of the soul.

As you step into the main body of the church, if you look to either side, you will

find frescoes of King Milutin and Queen Simonis. The King is holding a model of the church and both he and his bride are being crowned by angels and blessed by Jesus himself. Inside the church you will notice that the frescoes are arranged in levels. The lowest level starts with the people with the greatest earthly significance, and the higher you go, the greater the spiritual importance. At the highest point of the church, inside of a dome, you will find the fresco of the Messiah, signifying the highest importance of all.

There are countless numbers of icons and frescoes inside, some preserved for many centuries, some just recently placed there. The air is cold and damp inside and there is little light. People that enter the church kiss the doorway out of reverence as they come and go. There is stillness about the place that combines with the architecture of the building and the artwork therein. It gives the church a certain air of the divine, yet mysterious.

At the next leg of the tour was a shopping/eating break in Film City, Pristina. It was an opportunity to peruse the many international PXs, as well as enjoy lunch at one of the fine dining establishments on base.

The third and final stage of the journey was a short drive to Kosovo Polje, or the Field of the Black Birds. The Kosovo Polje has played a major role in the province's past, including battles that were waged on its fields as far back as 2 AD. A solemn place now, the field is surrounded by barbed wire and holds only distant memories of wars long ago. A single monument stands alone at the entrance of the field, majestically overlooking it as if guarding it closely and holding secrets from ages past.

The tower has seven stories, several small windows and a roomy roof complete with battle plans from long ago, drawn out in bronze. The structure itself has come under heavy attack, not just from enemies but from angry vandals as well. This is



The Gracanica Monastery

evidenced by crumbling stairs on the first floor, as well as other structural damage elsewhere inside and out.

According to Weichl, the tour started out as a simple visit to the church by a Chaplain. It quickly evolved into a regular trip, which was open to any soldier that wanted to go get a taste of Kosovo's culture and past. The tour, he added, has been fairly successful as far as attracting people.

One of those people was Capt. Raquel Earnest, Chief of Patient Admin, also of TFMF.

"Any opportunity to learn more about the nation that you're hoping to support and bring peace to is worth getting out and seeing," Earnest said.

She also added that she was pleased with the trip, and that it was everything she thought it would be.

Capt. Barbara Reilly, TFMF ICU, was also impressed.

"It was a worthwhile trip," she said. "The Field of the Blackbirds was a really moving experience."

"The visits, the monastery and the people I encountered there will all be missed," said Weichl.

As for plans to continue the trips with the next rotation, Weichl expressed a desire to be able to, but also said nothing had been planned yet.

Fort Bragg engineers help KPC clean clogged culvert

by **Spc. Bill Putnam**
Staff Writer

GJILAN/GNJILANE, Kosovo—A small group of engineers from the Kosovo Protection Corps and Task Force Falcon completed an important project for the residents here, and helped build ties with each other Tuesday Feb. 12.

Tons of trash, a few abandoned cars, and a small forest of brush and trees blocked a culvert, near a busy intersection on Ring Road. The blockages cause the road to flood out after heavy rain fall or melting snow. The KPC and 27th Engineer Battalion (Airborne) out of Fort Bragg, N.C. worked together to repair the culvert.

"We're addressing a problem with this culvert," said 1st Lt. Gregory Quimby, the 27th Engineer's KPC Liaison officer.

The KPC engineers did most of the work by hand, cutting the forest with axes or chainsaws. A backhoe removed the abandoned cars. By noon, the engineers had collected a large pile of wood,

trash, and rusty metal in a small field next to the road.

The work was important for traffic on the road, said Quimby. "It will prevent the water from getting blocked inside and coming over the top and flooding. By clearing out the ends, the water will be able to flow through and pool on the opposite sides and that will maintain (traffic flow) on the road," Quimby explained. "Culverts being blocked by trash and debris are a problem in this area."

Quimby felt that this project would be a good chance for the battalion to work with their KPC counterparts.

"We're providing them training to help them become more proficient engineers," Quimby said.

While the engineers worked, groups of onlookers, both children and adults from the surrounding houses, came to see how the work progressed.

"It gives them a chance to go out and do something that's beneficial to the community," Quimby said. "Part of our goal with our partnership with them is not only to provide them with training, but improve their perception in the eyes of the public."

This project isn't a one-off event, according to Quimby. The road was identified as a problem area, but the training and cooperation will be used as the basis for future projects between the KPC and KFOR.

"Some of the projects we potentially have on the horizon are road

upgrades and culvert construction," Quimby said. "We're just using this (project) to identify their skill level... we're basically using it as a stepping stone for future construction projects."



A Kosovo Protection Corps engineer pulls an abandoned car out of a ditch near the culvert on Ring Road.

The Best of Combat Camera:

This is a regular section of the Falcon Flier which features some of the best work of Combat Camera.

This edition features photos from the last four months. Special thanks to Combat Camera (55th Signal Company, Fort Meade, Md.) for submitting these photos.



Soldiers from 2-14th Infantry Regiment conduct a cordon and search of the town. December 2, 2001.



Sgt. Michael Skaife shoots a 50 cal. machine gun during a breach attack exercise at Range No. 4 near Camp Bondsteel on Jan. 5. Skaife is with Alpha Co. 5th Engineers Bn. out of Fort Leonardwood, Mo.



Pfc. Sean Calhoun stands guard on a landing at the civilian police station Jan. 18. Calhoun is a member of the Task Force Falcon Personal Security for Col. Bryan Stephens.



Cpl. Tim Haas, 27th Engineer Battalion, Charlie Company, gives away toys and school supplies to local children in Komogllave, Kosovo on February 1.



conduct a cordon and search of the towns of Tupaci and Jezero in Kosovo on



A soldier stands guard at an out post in Gnjilane, Kosovo on Nov. 17, 2001. The soldier is a part of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, NY.



ed on a landing at the civilian police station in Kamenica, Kosovo on if the Task Force Falcon Personal Security Detail in Kosovo providing



Capt. Jeff Alden checks the blood pressure of a local citizen in the town of Klobukar, Kosovo on Jan. 23.



Soldiers from 2-14 Infantry Regiment exit a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter at Camp Montith, Kosovo on Dec. 2, 2001. The soldiers are returning from the towns of Tupaci and Jezero, Kosovo, where the soldiers just finished conducting a cordon and search of the towns.

Tax 101: Earned Income credit for low income families

by Spc. Tiffanie Tribble
TFF Legal Office

Who says the IRS doesn't have a heart? Low income earning households and now individual taxpayers may be eligible to receive Earned Income Credit this year. Earned Income Credit is a refundable tax credit given to certain working taxpayers who have earned income under \$32,121. Receiving a tax credit usually translates into placing more money in your pocket by reducing the amount of tax you owe.

Earned income includes all income you receive from working, even if it is not taxable. Look at Box 12 of your W-2 Form. The Code Q amount represents Military employee basic housing and subsistence allowances, the in-kind housing and subsistence, and combat zone compensation. This amount must be added to the number in Box 1. The total amount is used to determine eligibility for the credit.

If you are eligible to take the credit, you can have the IRS determine it for you or you can figure it yourself by completing and attaching EIC worksheet A or B to your tax return.

What is a qualifying child?

You have a qualifying child if your child meets three tests explained in

the chart below. What if I am deployed or on a hardship tour for more than half the year?

Military personnel on extended active duty out of the U.S. are considered living in country for tax purposes.

How can I get EIC in my paycheck in the year 2002?

If you qualify for the credit you may have the option to receive Advance Payment of EIC. This means you can receive part of the credit in your paycheck each month. Fill out a W-5 Form and take it to the Finance Office or your employer to receive advance payments.

I qualify for the credit, where do I can I get the worksheets to determine the correct amount of EIC?

Look no further; The Legal Assistance Office/Tax Center has every form you need, along with E-filing capabilities. We provide free tax preparation, assistance and e-filing. Clients are by appointment only. Please call 781-4692 (appointment and question line) to schedule your appointment today. We're only open until April 15th. Come in soon to avoid the rush!

Where can I go to get more information?

All this information and more can be found at the IRS website- www.irs.gov in Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. *Over 450 served!*



Capt. Katherine Gardner and Staff Sgt. Todd Myers work in the Camp Bondsteel Legal Assistance Office located in Building 1340 A.

Relationship	A qualifying child is a child who is your.... Son, Daughter, Grandchild, Stepchild, Adopted Child or Foster Child
Age	Was at the end of 2001.. Under age 19 or Under age 24 and a student or Permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year, regardless of age.
Residency	Lived with you in the United States for more than half of 2001.

Information about the role of the Inspector General (IG)

Special to the Falcon Flier

What are the roles and responsibilities of the IG and what can the IG do/not do for individuals? These are questions that many soldiers and civilians ask the IG.

Roles of the IG: The IG renders assistance on a wide realm of issues dealing with pay, promotion, support of family members, and basically all areas that affect soldiers, civilians, and their families.

In addition to assistance, IGs conduct inspections, investigations and coach, train, teach and mentor. IGs are part of the Special Staff and work directly for the Commanding General. IGs also assist all commanders in conducting assistance visits and sensing sessions.

What the IG does not do: IGs are not policy makers. If there is an issue with a regulation or policy, individuals can submit changes on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Pubs).

IGs look into many issues, but do not look into matters that have special processing/appeal procedures. Examples include Court Martial, Non-Judicial punishment, pending discharges, reduction in grade, and reports of survey. If you receive an Article 15 and come to the IG to raise an issue about the type or amount of punishment you receive, the IG will check to see if the appeal was processed correctly - that's it. The IG does not second-guess a commander's decision. IGs also cannot work cases that involve civilian employment or cases that concern a civilian with a complaint

against another civilian. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) handles issues such as these. EEO is located on the global email address at EEO.

What you should do before seeing the IG:

The first question the IG will ask clients is "Have you raised this issue to your chain of command?" Give your chain of command a chance to address your issue. Eighty percent of the issues that are brought to the IG could have been resolved had the individual used the chain of command first.

Be sure that you have a problem and not just a peeve. Example: are the cooks turning out lousy chow, or was it just one bad meal (Note: this was just an example and not the case during this deployment).

Be prepared to take "No" for an answer. Just because you come to the IG, the answer may not be "Yes". In either case "Yes" or "No", the IG will explain why.

IGs search for facts. Opinions, assumptions, and perceptions may not be facts. Also be honest with the IG and do not provide misleading information. IGs will discover the truth quickly in most cases and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information.

How to contact the IG: During the 3B rotation, the IG can be reached at DSN 781-5044/5046/5047. The main IG office is at Camp Bondsteel in Bldg 1340A. There are also Acting IGs located at Camps Able Sentry, Monteith and Magrath.

Do you have a story or photo idea for the Falcon Flier? If so, please give us a call at 781-5200

Move em out...

Unraveling the daunting, complex process of redeployment

by **Spc. Terry Boggs**
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL—With four months of rotation 3B already over, and only two to go, many of us have home on our minds. We have plans and goals that we are going to pursue, trips we will take, or just a need for some time off. Well the thought of going back to the U.S. is a good thing to look forward to, but there are hurdles that must be overcome before the trip begins. Possibly the most important of these obstacles is redeployment readiness.

Of course, most of us are ready to redeploy. Just ask people walking down the road and you will hear “of course I’m ready to go home.” But, the act of redeployment is much more than just being ready and packing. There are some guidelines that must be followed.

Capt. Matthew Ruedi, TFF Division Transportation Officer, had this to say concerning the subject of redeploying:

Redeployment is an extremely complex process that involves more than a dozen agencies. Our redeployment is further complicated due to multiple country clearances and customs standards. This makes it important to follow all guidelines outlined in the applicable regulation. Failure to do so “frustrates” cargo and slows the process for everyone involved.

The standards are put out as to the condition everything has to be in to ship back to Conus. This applies to each individual soldier who must clear customs before being allowed to return home.

All equipment must be accounted for and documented. Going out, there are much stricter standards that must be met to include agriculture and cleanliness. It takes over three times as long to prepare a piece of equipment for this move as it did coming over.

In addition, the TFF 3B Redeployment Guide also states:

For units to ensure a successful redeployment the following steps must be adhered to:

Identify items to be moved. Ensure all property deployed with is accounted for and manifested to return to home station.

Confirm to-accompany-troops (TAT) and not-to-accompany-troops (NTAT) requirements. Keep in mind excess TAT is not authorized. Troops are limited to (2) Military Issue Duffle Bags/ (1) large ALICE pack w/frame and individual carry-on. Units bringing more than the authorized amount will exceed the allowable cabin load



Spc. Reginald King (TFF HQ PSD) watches as Spc. David Wilson (also TFF HQ PSD) rinses their vehicle down at the Camp Bondsteel washrack. Vehicles must be dirt free to meet redeployment specifications.

(ACL) of the aircraft and in-turn bump equipment or packing. Identify hazardous and sensitive cargo for packaging, labeling, segregating and placarding for movement. MILVANS containing either of these must be documented on the UDL by serial number and can not be changed without authorization from the DTO.

Identify bulk cargo to be moved in MILVANS and develop packing lists (DD Form 5748R).

Identify blocking, bracing, packing, crating & tie-down requirements (BBPCT). Place requisitions through the SSA and have on-hand prior to execution.

Update UDL as changes occur in the OPLAN and execution. Print Military Shipping Labels (MSL's) only after all data is verified and there are no additional changes.

Vehicle preparation is a major hurdle when it comes to redeployment. Here are the guidelines for vehicles:

VEHICLE PREPARATION CHECK LIST

Thoroughly clean equipment, remove all dirt and oil. Ensure vehicle is mechanically sound, free of leaks, drips and other operational defects.

Check fuel levels.
-Vehicles 1/2 full/trailer mounted equipment 1/4 full.
Remove and secure sensitive/classified items in MILVANS.

Remove and consolidate hazardous materials when practical. Vehicles loaded with acetylene and oxygen cylinders must be stowed on the weather deck of a vessel otherwise, load cylinders on a pallet for separate shipment.

Reduce vehicle length, height, and width by folding in mirrors, removing storage baskets that overhang fixed dimensions, and removing antennas.

Reduce height as needed for clearance enroute to the POE.

Secure ignition keys to steering wheel with wire.
Secure rotating parts to prevent them from moving.
Ensure all vehicles and trailers are equipped with

serviceable tie-down devices or shackles.

Leave OVE boxes empty and unlocked.

Do not cover headlights, reflectors, windshields, or mirrors with tape, this does little to protect from damage and becomes a safety hazard during loading operations.

Cover windshields with ¼" plywood to protect from stone damage enroute to the POE.

Ensure Military Shipment Labels (DD Form 1387) are properly placed on equipment. Left, front bumper and on the left door or in a similar location on the left side.

Vehicles will be stripped of all equipment to include BIL, canvas tops and removable

doors—anything pilferable.

The following are the required documents for each type of equipment:

Vehicles/Trailers: (2) MSL's (DD 1387)

Containers: (2) MSL's & DA 5748, packing list and load diagram

If HAZMAT – DD 836

If Sensitive – DD 1907

Each HAZMAT/Sensitive item MILVAN also requires a TCMD produced in TCAIMS II and an RF TAG.

There is one other tricky part of deployment; customs. Here are the guidelines for customs that will insure you a safe, quick trip back to the U.S.!!

CUSTOMS

All equipment returning to CONUS must be cleared prior to redeployment to ensure it meets US Specs. The following items CANNOT go back to CONUS:

Alcohol (All alcohol is illegal to possess under General order #1) (INCLUDING GIFTS unless accompanied by letter of exception to policy from CG.)

Cuban Products (Including tobacco products)

Gambling Devices

Pornography (Obscene or immoral articles, books, pictures, films, VHS, DVDs.) (To include items originating from the U.S.)

Drug Paraphernalia (Including decorative pipes)

Switchblade/Butterfly Knives

Personal Firearms

Any item that is not 100% soil free

Attempting to import these items may result in FEDERAL fines, UCMJ action and possible FEDERAL imprisonment.

For the complete list of guidelines, please see the TFF website.

Happy trails!!

Explaining soldiers' eligibility for Special Leave Accrual

by **Capt. David L. Gardner**
10th Soldier Support Bn.

Service Members are eligible for special leave accrual if prohibited from taking leave during the latter part of the fiscal year due to assignment or deployment to hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas. They are also eligible if prohibited from taking leave during the latter part of the fiscal year due to deployment to, or in support of, an operational mission at the national level for 60 or more days. Eligible members can accumulate up to 30 additional

days in excess of 60 but cannot carry over more than 90 days into the next fiscal year. Eligibility requirements are explained below:

Automatic Special Leave Accrual (SLA)
Automatic special leave accrual carry-over applies to assignment or deployment for 120 or more consecutive days and receipt of hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay for 4 or more consecutive months. Automatic carry-over consists of the leave balance upon entering the area of responsibility (AOR) plus leave accrued minus leave taken in the AOR. The SLA does not include leave accrued after departing the AOR.
Example:

A member departs the AOR on 31 Jul with a special leave accrual balance of 80 days. He accrues 5 days for Aug/Sep. If the member does not use the 5 days, he loses these days because 80 days is the maximum automatic carry over. This also applies to members returning from assignment to a hostile-pay or imminent-danger pay area. If a member has 90 days upon departing the assignment on 31 Jul, he must use the 5 days accrued in Aug/Sep because the member cannot carry more than 90 days SLA into the next FY.

Visit the Finance Office for more information.

Russian soldiers contribute to peacekeeping mission in Kosovo

by Spc. Bill Putnam
Staff Writer

KOSOVSKA KAMENICA, Kosovo— As a soldier who grew up during the declining years of the Cold War, Russian Army Maj. Oleg Larian never expected to witness an American brigadier general approach a Russian paratrooper and rub his head.

"He's such a big, healthy guy and he's also bald," Larian said of the Task Force Falcon commander. "I had a soldier that was also quite (bald)."

All of this occurred when Brig. Gen. Keith Huber visited Larian's company headquarters located in an abandoned textiles factory a few kilometers south of this town.

After a good laugh, Huber and the paratrooper took photos together, said Larian.

The world changed in the early 1990s, so Larian, the commander of 1st Company, Russian 13th Tactical Group, has expected the opportunity to work with the American forces at some point in his career.

His soldier's mission here isn't all fun and games, though. Not only do they have checkpoint duties, that Larian expects to be performed to perfection, but he also expects them to develop as soldiers.

His company of paratroopers has two missions in Kosovo. They are responsible for two checkpoints, and the security of the area south of this town to the Kosovo-Serbia boundary, a few kilometers away.

Their first mission is the demonstration of KFOR's presence, part of which is accomplished through school escorts. Three times a day, five days a week, the company escorts Serb children to various schools through out his area of operations.

The company also secures five schools within their area.

Their second mission is manning two checkpoints and observation posts near the factory and on the boundary.

One checkpoint, a joint checkpoint with US Soldiers a couple of kilometers and a short jog away from his headquarters, and the other is the responsibility of Russian soldiers just a few meters from the factory.

"The mission of checkpoints," said Larian, "is either do full or partial inspections of vehicles and personnel traveling through them."

Most days the soldiers at the checkpoint search 300 vehicles leaving or entering Kosovo. Some weekends the total has been as high 1,500 vehicles going in either direction, he added.

"We're not children, as we say in Russia," Larian said with a smile about their ability to search 3,000 cars in one day with the help of American soldiers. "Work is work, business is business."

The paratroopers at the checkpoints are also responsible for observing the general situation around them.

If something happens, they report it to the



A Russian paratrooper hands a local his passport after writing his information down before the car passed through a checkpoint on March 13.

higher headquarters and to the United Nations Mission In Kosovo Police (UNMIK-P) offices here immediately, said Larian.

"My duty here is to prevent any uprising, any explosion of tension, not to let through any bandits, any criminals, any illegal narcotics, for example," he said.

When KFOR arrived here three years ago, the local Albanians reacted to the Russian presence here a little hesitantly. Now, both sides ask for help.

"Everyday, someone has a cow that fell into a river, car that is stuck in the mud!" he said.

Recently, one man came to him and said his wife accidentally poured boiling water on her self. Larian took her to the Gjilan Hospital.

"If these people aren't fighting anymore, that means we aren't here in vain," he said of the area's population.

Since the area is not a very tense, "no bullets are flying, and there isn't any combat taking place," Larian confidently said he thinks, "the mission here is quite simple to execute." "This is actually quite a relaxing area for us, kind of like a vacation," he added.

He took command of the only truly airborne company in the 13th TG about six months ago. Most of his company had been in country had completed about six months of their one-year tour here by then.

His job before coming here was head of physical fitness for an airborne brigade back in Russia. Physical fitness is something he relishes and he passes that enthusiasm on to his company.

Good fitness is emphasized in the Russian special airborne service like it is in the American

Army's airborne community, said Larian.

Larian is a fairly short, physically fit man. At about 5 foot 5 inches, to some he might be the epitome of a paratrooper. His company holds PT five-days-a-week for an hour every morning. On his own, he lifts weights three times a week, and does hand-to-hand combat twice a week.

"On Sundays we run with all our gear, with our weapons and ammunition," he said. "We run for five to 10 kilometers. They see us running around the checkpoint with all this stuff we have on."

Being in good physical condition isn't the only thing that makes up a good soldier in Larian's mind. Many things make up a good soldier, said Larian.

A soldier should be a professional in his duties.

"If he is a machine gunner, then he should shoot his machine gun like God," he said.

He pointed out two qualities of the Samurai that make a good soldier.

"Faith in your unit and your commander is the first," he said.

A paratrooper shouldn't drink too much or let his physical fitness slide, he said.

"That goes without saying," he said. "They should (also) be honorable and courageous."

He wants his soldiers to take the initiative and have a personality.

"I try to bring up my soldiers to think for themselves so they just don't carry out their duties without thinking, so that they serve with their heads," he said.

POLURKBAT soldiers march away from redeployment ceremonies held recently at Camp White Eagle, Kosovo (photo and caption by Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord/TFF PAO).



Signal soldiers provide link in KFOR communications

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL—Communications for Task Force Falcon in Kosovo consists of more than someone talking and someone listening. It also consists of a group of dedicated soldiers who make sure that communication is possible.

The 10th Signal Battalion's Charlie Company is responsible for linking Camp Bondsteel with all of Task Force Falcon's company level base camps, which is a monumental task.

"Basically we provide phones, and secure and non-secure Internet service to the company base camps outside and around Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo," said Capt. Ainslie Craft, commander of Charlie Co.

"We provide voice and data communications to the different out-sites and company base camps in MNB East," said First Sgt. John Bosco, First Sergeant for C Co.

The biggest mission for the 140 soldiers of Charlie Co. is providing command and control.

"The first priority is for command and control communications," said Bosco. "If you can't communicate, you're not going to be able to control your elements."

"Wherever we go we have to be able to command and control," said Master Sgt. James Raby, a member of C Co. and the TFF G-6 NCOIC. "Command and control is the bottom line. Commanders sometimes aren't on site. They need that means of communication. You can't go anywhere without communicators, and you'll find in talking to these guys that they love what they do." And helping fellow soldiers is what



Master Sgt. James Raby, C Co. 10th Signal Bn., explains some of the 10th Signal's communications equipment to a group of soldiers from other Multinational Brigade countries.

these soldiers love to do most. This makes their task of providing free MWR phone calls enjoyable.

"Our secondary mission is to provide MWR calls for all the soldiers, so they can call back to their families," said Sgt. Karl Wilkie, node center supervisor, C Co. 10th Sig. Bn. "I like knowing that the soldiers can call back home, and how much they appreciate us working for them so they can get free calls back home."

"The thing that takes up a lot of our time is morale calls, but it's what we like to do," said Spc. Joseph Beckert, a networking switching operator maintainer with C Co. "We love to give people a chance to call back home, especially during the holiday season. It feels great."

"Every time we speak to somebody they're always real thankful, and appreciative that we're here to help them," said Spc. Dino Montez, multi-

channel transmission system operator maintainer with C Co. "The best thing about our job is helping the soldiers that wouldn't be able to call home if it wasn't for us. It makes me feel good."

The soldiers who make all this command and control and MWR calling possible, perform several different jobs to get the mission done.

"We come in and monitor the network, do line checks to make sure all the lines are through, make sure the battle TOC is up, check all the out-sites and make sure their equipment is running well and we do generator switchovers every day to make sure our power stays up," Beckert said.

"Basically we monitor our shots and make sure the shots are coming in clearly," Montez said. "A shot is a radio link from one location to another location, so data and voice can be transmitted back and forth."

"I'm responsible for three active line-of-sight shelters," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Demons, V-3 (transmission system) supervisor. "Two here on Camp Bondsteel, and one at the old Greek site, which acts as a relay to Pristina. Basically, a line-of-sight shelter, it's an antenna shooting to another antenna, but you can't have any optical in that radio path. They've got a limited range, and what we do is we'll throw out another shelter to relay it out and extend the distance."

Despite the enormity and complexity of their mission, the soldiers of C Co. have been up to the challenge.

"I have outstanding soldiers who always work hard, and are great at what they do," said Craft.

"The mission has gone very well," said Bosco. "The soldiers are working hard. They're doing an excellent job. I'm very proud of the soldiers in our unit."

2-14 Infantry stands watchful guard at the Eagle's Nest

by Spc. Bill Putnam
Staff Writer

NOVO BRDO, Kosovo—The days here at the Eagle's Nest never seem to end for Pfc. Michael Nichols.

"It's a never ending circle," the rifleman in Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (Task Force 2nd of the 14th Infantry out of Fort Drum, N.Y.), said of his schedule of guard duty, sleep and lifting weights at this company's command post in this small mountain town, an hour north of Gjiilan/Gnjilane.

But even if the days never seem to end, some soldiers here like it that way.

Nichols is part of an element from his company that guards The Nest, as some of the company's soldiers call it, and patrol the local area.

Located in the town's communist-era cultural center on the edge of a hill, the view these soldiers have here is breathtaking.

"On a good day they can see the edges of Gjiilan and the sunsets are spectacular," said 1st Sgt. Arthur McCabe, the company's first sergeant.

"You should've seen it the other day, the entire sky looked red," he said.

Inside the Nest, Nichols and his platoon have everything they need to live comfortably.



Pfc. Michael Nichols, an infantryman with Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, pauses during a foot patrol of Novo Brdo.

In the main room, amidst the rafters and beams that support a new constructed floor above, weightlifting equipment occupies nearly every square inch of free space. Soldiers work out on this equipment nearly all hours of the day and night.

The dining area sits on the center's sold play stage. A couple of tables and a few

chairs sit near the entertainment system, which is on all day and night.

Besides patrolling the town, the unit also runs Serb shopping escort missions to various towns throughout the surrounding area.

"We run them every couple of days to Pones, Strasa, Kortis, Gjiilan, Stanisor and Gorjke Kusce," said Cpl. Kevin Mitchell, a

team leader in the company.

Life up here isn't bad, and it's better than he expected, said Mitchell. A couple of Defense Switching Network-phone lines and Internet portals connect the guys to back home.

Guys can call home "just about every night" if they want to, he said.

"And there's no waiting around for the Internet up here like there is back at Camp Monteith," Mitchell said.

Nothing exceptional or out of the ordinary happens here. That is all right to some of the guys.

"We just had a MEDCAP (Medical to Civilian Aid Program) a week or two ago," he said. "But you can't treat everybody."

While the days don't seem to end, some soldiers here realize they're making a huge impact on this province.

For one soldier it's little things, like the girl being treated, that make his time in Kosovo worthwhile. Sgt. Robert Gallipo, a fire support specialist assigned to the company said he thinks the mission here is making an impact on the province's future.

"I think we are doing some good," he said. "But I won't see it. I'm dealing with kids here, and if I come back in a few years, then I'll see the good we did with them."



Pfc. Craig Keys puts a jack under a HMMWV at the Task Force 2nd of the 14th Infantry motor pool. Keys is one of the five soldiers, eight mechanics and three Brown and Root workers who work on the 2-14th's 160 vehicles.

Monteith mechanics magnificently maintain military motors

by Spc. Bill Putnam
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH— A logbook, full of notations, sits inside a maintenance bay. It gives one indication of just how hard eight mechanics have worked in the three months they've been here.

"We most definitely expect to fill this book up," Spc. Sergio Prieto explained. "We'll probably go through another book before we leave."

Prieto is one of eight mechanics, five soldiers and three local Brown and Root (Services Corporation) workers, that work on the 160 vehicles for Task Force 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment.

The workday starts at 8 a.m. and ends around 6 p.m. In that 10-hour span, they might look at 25 vehicles a day. Their workday varies from fixing broken vehicles, dispatching other vehicles, or recovery missions that can extend well into the night.

When the shop opens, they do a Quality Assurance/Quality Check for maintenance. If they find a deadline during the QA/QC, they hold the vehicle at the maintenance site, to be repaired as soon as possible.

The number of vehicles they see a day varies, Prieto said.

"We might see 17 vehicles with a few 'hard' deadlines," he said. A hard deadline is something like a broken radiator or alternator regulator.

The vehicles are divided among the mechanics throughout the day. On an average day, Spc. Teofilo Espinol, a mechanic, said he works on five.

"But if I have a hard deadline I'll stick to that one," he added.

The battalion doesn't have this many vehicles back home, so their workload isn't that great, according to Prieto. But the mission here dictates they need 160 vehicles. Most are used for patrolling, while the rest are used for administrative use.

"We've grown used to (the workload)," he said. Not only do they work on TF 2nd of the

14th Infantry's vehicles, they'll work on the attached unit's vehicles, also, such as Civil Affairs' vehicles.

When they first arrived here three months ago, they were swamped with work. According to Prieto, that is a normal part of any deployment.

"Those were the worst days in the rotation," he said. "It's better to be flexible to the rhythm of the game."

With the end of the rotation fast approaching, Prieto said that he expects the pace to pick up even more.

"At the end (of the rotation) all of the vehicles have to be turned in, and ready for the next unit," he explained. "Getting all the vehicles squared away will get totally crazy too."

On what they consider a slow day, Pfc. Craig Keys spent a couple of hours inside the bay, fixing a HMMWV's (High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicle) broken radiator.

"It somehow got a hole in it," Keys said, while tightening a bolt down. The hood sat off to one side of the vehicle, and the engine was exposed for better access to the radiator. Fixing a broken radiator usually takes about four hours "if everything goes right," said Keys.

He explained that sometimes the right parts for the vehicle, or a particular tool isn't available. But this job was simple, so it wouldn't be a problem to fix, he said.

Outside, Staff Sgt. Thomas Snavley, the battalion motor sergeant, worked on a HMMWV's broken regulator, the engine part that regulates electricity flow from the batteries to the alternator.

"We'll take a chance, and put a turn-in regulator on this one to fix the problem," he said. "If it works we save time and money."

A turn-in part, like the regulator he mentioned, is something they would turn in for another part.

With all the vehicles the battalion has

here, three B&R mechanics were assigned to help the soldiers.

Snavley said they are working out great, and the guys are thankful to have them.

"We probably give them 50 percent of our workload," he said. "If it wasn't for them, we'd probably be working around the clock."

Such a small shop means that everyone has a second job. For Espinol, his additional duty is light recovery. These missions can happen anywhere, at anytime, he said.

"It seems they happen up in the hills a lot," Espinol said.

He recently recovered a HMMWV that had blown a water hose that led from the water pump to the radiator. It turned into an overnight mission.

After picking up the necessary parts he went out to the site, and the HMMWV was fixed.

Most of his recovery missions aren't quite as work-intensive. Most often it requires him to attach a tow-bar to the broken HMMWV, and his HMMWV, so it can be towed back to his shop. "That happens most of the time," Espinol said.

Sgt. William Anderson, the shop foreman and heavy recovery leader, said his soldiers are working just as hard as the unit TF 2nd of the 14th Infantry replaced.

"The last unit had 30 mechanics and we have a total of five," he said.

The equipment was pretty beat up with all the driving around in the hills. His shop has fixed all that damage and then some, said Anderson. Determining what gets fixed first is a split-second decision.

"We'll gather what information we can," he explained. "If we can fix it on the spot, we'll fix it on the spot."

Otherwise, the vehicles get sent over to Brown and Root, he said.

With the heavy workload, Anderson is happy with the way his soldiers have stood up to it.

"They're the best crew I've worked with," he said. "No complaints, no whining, no gripes."

Chaplain's Corner

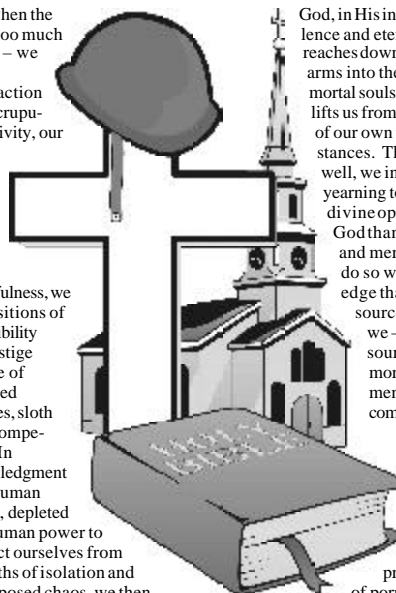
Thankfulness: showing God sincere appreciation

by Chaplain (Capt.) Randall Thomas
2-14 Infantry Chaplain

We fool ourselves with "feel good" language about the power of the American Spirit when we give no credit to God for the good things in our lives. Often times we thank the wrong party for doing what only God can do. We trust so much in the so-called invincibility of the Human Spirit that we neglect the all-powerful Holy Spirit. We should thank God and be completely grateful to Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us individually and collectively as a country.

Often times when things are going well we see no need to thank God throughout the many days of the year because we somehow think that we, in our limited power, have somehow ushered in the supernatural power to maintain an everlasting balance of constant joy in our lives. Then suddenly tragedy strikes and we find our human power significantly lacking in its ability to control the disarray that has entrapped us. That's when we call on God. Out from the dark abyss of despair and the colossal heap of destruction, we call on God to remedy a problem only He can fix. These are

times when the pain is too much to bear - we receive UCMJ action for unscrupulous activity, our marriages go awry because of unfaithfulness, we lose positions of responsibility and prestige because of misplaced priorities, sloth and incompetence. In acknowledgment of our human frailties, depleted of all human power to resurrect ourselves from the depths of isolation and self-imposed chaos, we then scream out to God whom we know can save us from our affliction. And



God, in His infinite benevolence and eternal grace, reaches down with loving arms into the depths of our mortal souls and divinely lifts us from the quicksand of our own tragic circumstances. Then, after all is well, we in our human yearning to become divine opt not to give God thanks for His love and mercy because to do so would acknowledge that there is a source greater than we - a divine source to whose moral commandments we must comply. We exist in a society today that is morally and spiritually stagnant with a preponderance of pornography, vulgarities and disregard for authority reinforced by the

moral bankruptcy of countless persons throughout the world today. Kids are often raised with no compass of right and wrong. Thanklessness towards God is an egregious evil. How do you feel when you're not thanked for a kind act done by you?

Thanks is, as we know, the expression of genuine and sincere appreciation for the kind acts bestowed upon one. Thanks reaffirms the expression of human goodness. It consummates the desire of all mankind to aspire towards the heavens in their feeble attempt at an expression of the divine. A simple thank-you has an uncanny ability to stir the mind, pierce the heart, and soothe the soul as its recipient can now bask in the ecstasy of knowing that he/she is valued as a human being. Refraining from thanks rips the soul, engenders strife and potentially causes ill will and disunity because one has not been shown appreciation for his/her kindness. The absence of thanks mocks at the face of kindness, and tramples under foot the pearls of blessings that come from the purveyors of selflessness. Can you not imagine the immense pain, the feeling of disappointment and rejection when we don't thank God for the goodness He rains down upon us?

CBS Worship Service	CMT Worship Service	Sector Worship
<p>Peacekeepers Chapel (North)</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> 8 a.m., Episcopal/Lutheran 9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass 11 a.m., Collective Protestant 12:30 p.m., Gospel Service</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 7 p.m., Women's and Single Soldiers' Bible studies</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 7 p.m., Catholic RCIA</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> 12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass 6:30 p.m., Prayer Service 7 p.m., Bible Studies</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)</p> <p><u>Friday</u> 12 p.m., Muslim Prayer Service 7 p.m., Gospel Joy Night Service</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 6:30 p.m., Stay Faithful Marriage Bible Study</p>	<p>South Chapel</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> 8 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m., Collective Protestant 11 a.m., LDS Service 4 p.m., Gospel Service</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 7 p.m., Collective Protestant Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> 7 p.m., Bible Study</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 7 p.m., Bible Study</p> <p><u>Friday</u> 8 p.m., Jewish</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 11 a.m., Seventh Day Adventist Service 7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)</p>	<p>Protestant</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 2 p.m., Debelde 4 p.m., Binac Church</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> Camp Magrath, 10 a.m. Zintinje Church, 11:30 a.m. Klokot, 2 p.m. Mogila, 3:30 p.m. Vrbovac Church, 4:30 p.m. Vrbovac, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Latter Day Saints</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> Camp Magrath, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Roman Catholic</p> <p><u>Monday</u> Klokot, 2 p.m. Vrbovac, 4 p.m. Camp Magrath, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Other Activities</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> Movie Night- 11 p.m.</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> Bible Study, 8 p.m.</p>
	<p><u>Sunday</u> 9-10:30 a.m., General Protestant Service 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gospel Service 1:30-2:30 p.m., LDS Worship 7-8 p.m., Catholic Mass</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 7 p.m., Chapel Movie Night w/ Discussion</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 7-9 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> 6:30-7:30 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice 7:30-9 p.m., Bible Study</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 6-7 p.m., General Protestant Practice 7-8 p.m., General Protestant Bible Study 8-9 p.m., General Protestant Worship</p> <p><u>Friday</u> 12-1 p.m., Muslim Service in Annex 7-8:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Worship</p>	

(KPS continued from page 5)

War and conflict result in a downside not apparent until years later. "One of the things we discovered over the course of this school is a segment of the population, the younger ones, have an 80 percent failure rate on the written examination section," said Bennett. "The period of conflict over the past decade was one in which children weren't attending school and thus not learning their basic educational needs."

Having spent some 18 months here in Kosovo, Chief of Security and Transport

for KPSS, Doug Lundborg has watched several classes come through this school.

"There are some men and women here who will make good police officers," he said. "They have a lot to learn. They're still governed by their traditions and things, but I think they're trying and this is probably the best police force in the Balkans, because of the training they receive."

The course requirements are intense.

"With all the international structures that are bringing their knowledge and experiences to the training, I see some good things coming out of here," said Lundborg. "If there's going to be a change, it'll be because of this training."

Graduates of the basic course are required to complete a 15-week field-training period with UNMIK police, which develops the coursework they've learned, with community law enforcement skills. The basic graduate is linked

up with an UNMIK CIVPOL officer who evaluates and reinforces their newly learned skills.

Additionally, the KPSS conducts a First Line Supervisor Course for selected KPS officers. After completing the 100-hour course, these individuals will be added to a pool of possible KPS supervisors. OSCE has developed Senior Management courses and Criminal Investigation Courses for KPS officers as they continue in their police careers.

TFMF puts best foot forward during first ever exercise

Camp Monteith's 2-14th Inf. places first in Multinational Medic Challenge

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— Withering machine gunfire. Lingering cries for help from the wailing wounded. Flabbergasted but excited soldiers. A very different set of emotions for a very different approach aimed at testing the skill of KFOR's medics.

"This exercise not only involves teamwork from individuals from different units, but from the different nationalities that are participating today," said 1st Lt. Brandee Campbell, OIC of Task Force Falcon's first ever Multinational Medic Challenge exercise which took place at Camp Bondsteel.

The Saturday's, March 9th exercise, comprised of 14 teams from various KFOR Commands involved U.S., German, Finnish, Swedish, British, POLURKBAT, and Norwegian medical personnel.

Throughout the day the teams not only endured Mother Nature, but the challenges that awaited them at each of the seven stations. However, the beneficial training wasn't the only reason that the many multinational units participated in the exercise. Each team was vying for medals (first, second and third place teams) and the possibility of receiving the challenge's Commander's Trophy (also given the first place team).

Team objectives, explained Campbell, at each station were to attain the most "Gos" and complete the road march portion of the course (which was 10.5 km) in less than two hours. The different lanes consisted of: (Station No. 1) treating a casualty (Station No. 2) manually carrying a casualty and loading them into a Swedish ambulance; (Station No. 3), treat an NBC casualty while wearing a protective mask; (Station No. 4), load casualty into a non-standard form of evacuation; (Station No. 5), treat and evaluate a casualty; (Station No. 6) improvise and make a litter; and finally (Station No. 7) load a patient into a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for medevac purposes.

"We have tried to make it seem as real as possible," said Staff Sgt. Scott Kellogg, an evaluator at the challenge's No. 5 station. "Here these (medics) are faced with the situation of evaluating a casualty as well as determining the best course of



Soldiers from Task Force Med Falcon V's team demonstrate how to manually carry a patient during the Saturday, March 9th exercise.

action involving treatment." Among the casualties in the mock scenario

at Station No. 5 were sucking chest wounds, head, arm and leg injuries.

"This is a good format," Kellogg said of the exercise. "Not only is (this exercise) about competition, but I believe that everyone will walk away from here today learning more about how each person operates in a setting such as this."

Adding a challenge to each team's quest to navigate and complete the lanes successfully were the strong winds and chilling temperatures that were present.

However for the members of the flagship team of the exercise (TFMF team), neither the hindering weather, nor the 6-7 mile road march played a factor in their journey to the finish line located at Camp Bondsteel's Hospital.

"If I had to do it all over again, I would," said Sgt. Chad Field, TFMF V medic after crossing the finishing line with his three team members. "Provided I could do it again with the same team. This exercise was definitely not as bad as I thought."

Pvt. Kristin Engebretsen, a medic with the Norwegian Battalion, who played a casualty at Station No. 5, also enjoyed participating in the near eight-hour exercise.

"I thought everyone did a great job today," he said. "The best things that I will remember about (this exercise) are the ways that each team communicated in treating me and the other casualties."

Winners of the Multinational Medic Challenge were announced during an evening ceremony held at the Southtown Gym.

Receiving top honors were Camp Monteith's, 2nd Battalion of the 14th Infantry Regiment (10th Mountain Division). Aside from receiving the Commander's

Trophy, medals and plaques, each soldier was congratulated by TFF Commander Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber. Team members receiving a TFF Coin from Huber were 1st Lt. John R. Gilbert, Sgt. Richard Aquino, Pfc. Stanley Omar and Pfc. Edgardo Castillo. Placing second place were soldiers from the Norwegian Battalion. The POLURKBAT Battalion based at Camp White Eagle, earned a third place finish. Huber also congratulated each member from both second and third place teams. Rounding out the awards by receiving honorable mention plaques were TF 504th MP and the German and Swedish Battalions.



Camp Monteith's 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (10th Mountain Division), took first place honors during this month's Multinational Medic Challenge held at Camp Bondsteel. Posing with their first place medals, plaques and the commander's trophy were 1st Lt. John R. Gilbert, Sgt. Richard Aquino, Pfc. Stanley Omar and Pfc. Edgardo Castillo and 2-14th Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. James J. Klingaman (center).