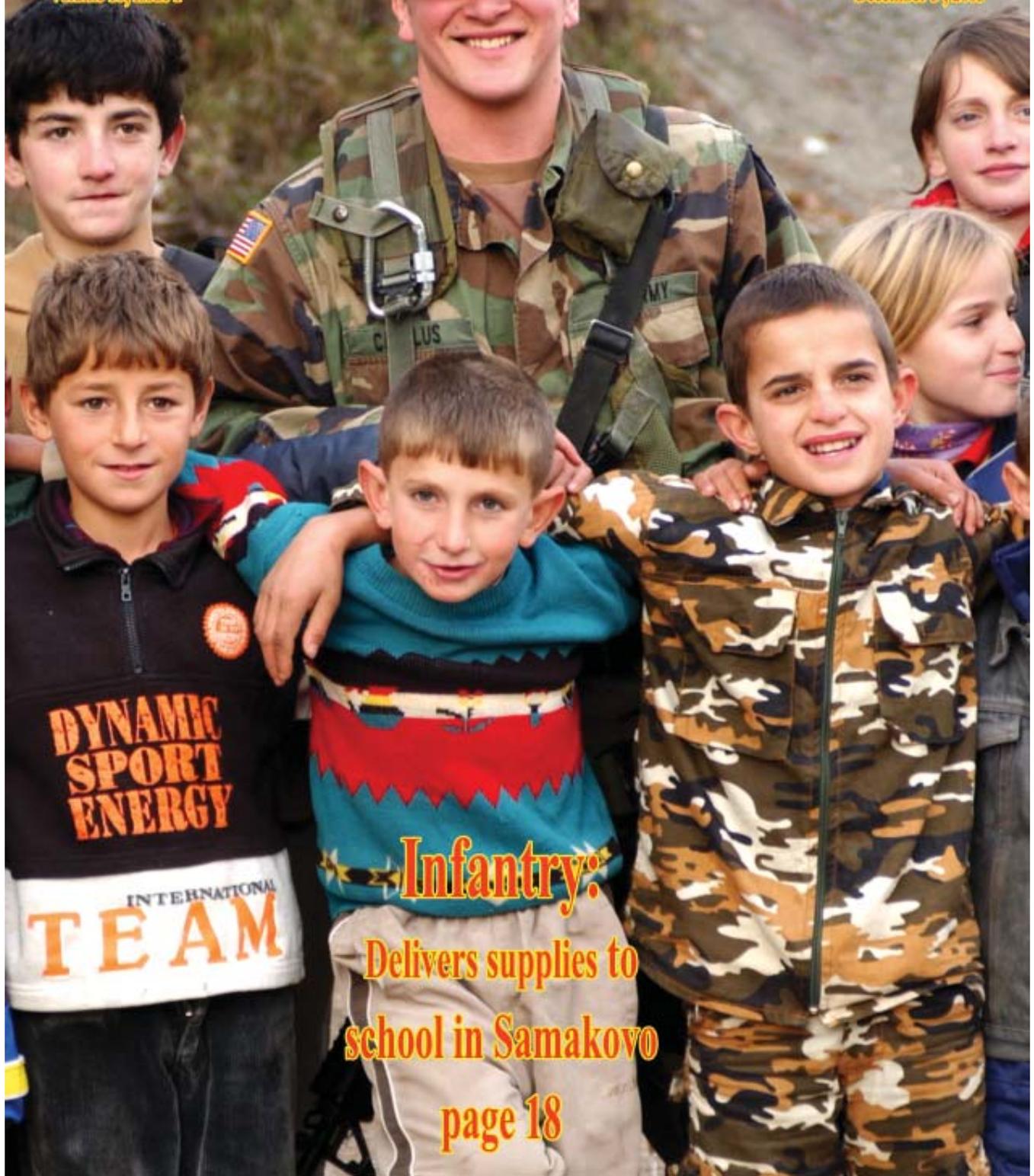


Produced For Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

Guardian East

Volume 10, Issue 1

December 3, 2003



Infantry:
Delivers supplies to
school in Samakovo
page 18

Message to the troops



Exceptional job by Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Jacoby

Over the past several months I have discussed complacency, safety, taking care of each other, leadership and communication with you. In each instance the response to my message has been positive from soldiers and leaders at all levels of our Task Force.

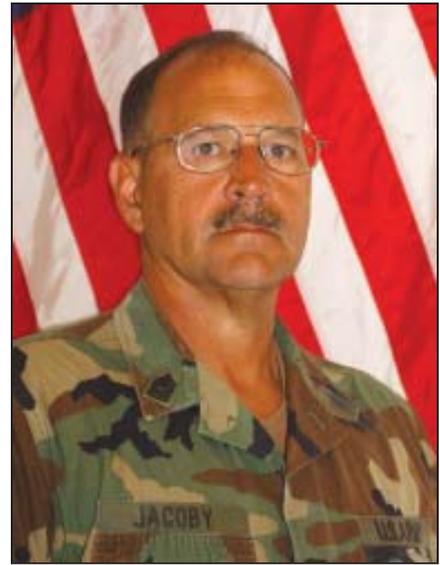
I have spent many hours traveling throughout our sector of Kosovo talking with you and am very pleased to report that I find positive actions and attitudes wherever I go. You are doing well at providing a safe atmosphere for the citizens of Kosovo. You report that you enjoy the interaction with the populace and find great satisfaction in helping them overcome the scars of war and turmoil with which they have had to contend. These feelings you enjoy have made you more appreciative of your own life as an American and your ability to

influence the lives of others.

Many of us did not understand this mission when it began. We saw this as a disruption to our own lives and families. Feelings of longing for home and family were difficult to overcome and made us question why we are in Kosovo.

As time has passed and the mission has been successfully taken on and we see results of our efforts, these feelings of despair and concern for home have largely been replaced by a sense of accomplishment and well being. You as individuals and we as an organization have seen success and now we understand why we are in Kosovo.

You should be proud of what you are doing and stand tall each day knowing you are making a difference in this land. Kosovo is and will be a better place because you made the sacrifice to serve here and provide for others. As both Americans and Soldiers this is our role and you are doing it very



Command Sgt. Maj.
Kenneth Jacoby

well.

As the holidays approach and we think of home and loved ones, remember you are giving the people of Kosovo a gift unmatched by anything you could give at home. A safe place to live and opportunities to grow free as a people.

Best wishes to each of you for the Holiday Season. Remember your loved ones at home and continue to take care of each other.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

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Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil.

COVER: Spc. David A Carolus, an automatic rifleman and driver with Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry poses for a picture with children of Samakovo, Kosovo. Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms.
See page 18 for the story

Guardian East

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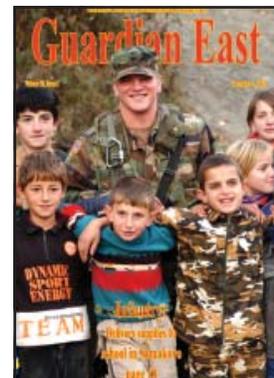
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Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy

Spc. Nathan Burt, of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry dashes for cover during a stalking and concealment exercise at Falcon 4 range Nov. 17. As part of the training, Soldiers were required to negotiate their way across 1000 meters of terrain that included dense underbrush and open fields to get within 200 meters of a target and fire two shots.

Combat weather team takes temperature — Forecasters of Detachment 2, 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, explore the winter weather at Camp Bondsteel — **Page 16**

Infantry donates supplies — Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry brings school supplies to children of the Emin Durako School in Samakovo Nov. 13. The gifts included paper, pencils and toys. — **Page 18**

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Sniper Training

Story and photos by
Sgt. Jon Soucy

One of the goals of a sniper is to remain unseen as he moves across the landscape. Using camouflage and terrain features to hide his movement, a successful sniper blends into the backdrop of trees and underbrush or other features of the environment. Recently, several Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, and Charlie Company, 1-111th Infantry were given the opportunity to experience firsthand some of the training a sniper undergoes.

Starting with familiarization and qualification with the M24 sniper rifle, the Soldiers covered subjects such as stalking and concealment, camouflage techniques and range estimation. The four-day training culminated with a stalking and concealment exercise at range Falcon 4 in which Soldiers had to move in two man teams across 1000 meters of varying terrain and position themselves within 200 meters of a target and fire two shots of blank ammunition. Meanwhile, as the Soldiers made their way through dense underbrush, open areas with little cover, and skirted along hedgerows that bordered open fields, observers, who were also acting as the targets,

“This is more advanced training than what they would normally get back home. It’s something a little different and it helps to keep [the Soldier’s] skills up.”

Capt. Dan S. Joyce,
Task Force Associates

scanned the area from a hilltop for signs of any movement.

For many of the Soldiers who took part in the exercise, it gave them a chance to not only learn new skills, but to apply those skills to basic infantry tactics as well.

“[This training] is good to apply to regular light infantry skills, because basically we’re hiding in the brush and sneaking up on an objective and trying to engage the objective, which is part of the job of the infantry. It’s good stuff to practice and enhances those light infantry skills,” said Spc. Nathan Burt, a rifleman with the 1-110th.



Spc. Bernie Benamati scans an open field ahead of him as he determines a concealed route during a stalking and concealment exercise at Falcon 4 range.



Spc. Bernie Benamati, left, and Spc. Nathan Burt, both of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry use vegetation to camouflage themselves and their equipment during a stalking and concealment exercise, Nov. 17 at Falcon 4 range.



Spc. Bernie Benamati, of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry applies camouflage to his face during a stalking and concealment exercise at Falcon 4 range. As part of the exercise, soldiers were required to move across 1000 meters of varying terrain and get within 200 meters of a target and fire two shots at it without being detected by observers.

Capt. Dan S. Joyce, air operations officer for Task Force Associators, who served as both the target and one of the observers during the exercise, agreed and added that “this is more advanced training than what they would normally get back home. It’s something a little different and it helps to keep [the Soldier’s] skills up.”

Though the training was not a real-world mission, the lessons learned have real-world applications as part of the infantry’s role in providing security in Kosovo.

“If we have to go out to an [observation post] and do surveillance, this teaches us how to be concealed and move from one point to another without being seen,” said Sgt. Joseph R. Serrao, of Charlie Company, 1-111th Infantry.

For others who went through it, the training provided them a change of pace from their daily routine.

“It’s a good training experience, and a nice break from the patrols that we’ve been running,” said Spc. Lloyd E. Fike, of the 1-110th.

Despite the fact that the Soldiers who took part in the exercise did not have the advantage of the sniper’s trademark ghillie suit to more easily blend in with their surroundings, the three, two-man teams who were negotiating the course reached the objective unseen by the observers.

“I’m impressed,” said Joyce, as a shot rang out from less than 100 meters away. “They’ve done pretty well.”

Spc. Nathan Burt, left, and Spc. Bernie Benamati, both of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry, move cautiously along a hedgerow during a stalking and concealment exercise at range Falcon 4, Nov. 17.



Multi-national patrol

Soldiers from U.S., Greece and Poland unite to patrol villages of Kosovo. They hope to set an example of different nationalities working together for the children of Kosovo.

Story and photos by
Spc. Luke Rollins

On a cold, gray November afternoon, a presence patrol walked down the streets of Vitina. Local children laughed as they ran up to the soldiers to say hello and give them five. Even long after the patrol moved on and the children scampered away, the laughter continued.

Conversation and jokes filled the crisp air in English, Polish, and Greek, as they walked beside the rows of buildings.

The patrol that took place on Nov. 12 took soldiers from the

United States, Poland, and Greece through the communities of Vitina, Mogila, and Klokot.

Multi-national patrols are one of many ways that the soldiers of MNB (E) strengthen their skills.

"All of us see Americans. We see the way that they [are] working, and if we need anything we can ask everybody or anybody we can to tell anything to us to help us," said Sgt. Konstantinos Toskas, a security team member of the Greek 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion.

Sgt. Albert Zellner, a team leader from C Company, 2-112 Infantry, echoed Toskas' sentiment.

"Between the Ukrainian, Polish, and the Greek troops that I've been with, there's been a lot of information just amongst the enlisted men themselves about how they do each other's patrols in each different area," said Zellner. "It's basically a trade off of information for us."

Presence patrols are an important way for MNB (E) soldiers to help provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo. According to Zellner, Mogila, the patrol's second stop, was the first town in Kosovo with schools that unite Serbian and Albanian students.

"We've noticed that they work together more since we've been here, especially the youngsters," said Zellner.

The patrol wound its way around and through the roads of Mogila, followed by another group of children, as one kid circled the patrol on a bicycle. They asked the soldiers about CDs and music, while the soldiers asked them how they were doing in school. The bunch of youngsters split up and ran off to their homes as the soldiers got into their vehicles and headed to Klokot.

When the patrol arrived, the streets of Klokot were quiet, the sun had set and the skies grown dark. After their work was done, the Greek, Polish and American soldiers shared a long round of good-byes, climbed into their respective vehicles, and went their separate ways.



(From Left to Right) Pvt. Marek Kornafel and Lt. Grzegorz Kowalski of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion patrol the streets of Vitina along side Sgt. Albert Zellner of Charlie Company, 2-112th Infantry.



Sgt. Konstantinos Toskas of the 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion patrols the streets of Mogila along side Spc. Jeffery Szpala of Charlie Company, 2-112th Infantry.

“We’ve noticed that they work together more since we’ve been here, especially the youngsters.”

**Sgt. Albert Zellner,
Charlie Company,
2-112th Infantry**



Pvt. Marek Kornafel (Left) and Lt. Grzegorz Kowalski (Center) of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion talk to Sgt. Albert Zellner of Charlie Company, 2-112th Infantry.

Unity in numbers: Editorial by KFOR Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Steve Schook

When I talk to our KFOR-soldiers in the headquarters and all over Kosovo, I am very pleased to see your achievements and your willingness to complete this difficult mission here in Kosovo. Thirty four nations contribute to our peacekeeping force and it is still the biggest NATO-force all over the world. In our headquarters here in Film City, men and women of 26 nations work together and we have done our job well so far. You can hear it when the local people speak about KFOR. They regard our multi-national team to be the “best respected institution” throughout the province. I am very proud that we have earned such a high reputation among the local

population.

I have seen the many tasks, which our KFOR-soldiers have to conduct. We patrol in all areas of Kosovo to guarantee freedom of movement for all ethnicities. We confiscate illegal weapons to make Kosovo a safer place especially for the younger generation and the children. I have discovered that KFOR has supported the local Kosovo wineries to harvest their grapes and to produce their wine. A few days ago KFOR and UNMIK together were able to inaugurate the railway line between Kosovo Polje and Pec which was re-established by KFOR experts. This is another good example that our work here is both successful and worthwhile.

I am fascinated by the great comradeship and cooperation which the KFOR-soldiers prove every day. Our achievements are also to be an encouragement to the local people to leave behind all prejudices of the past that are now outdated. Our multi-nationality must be a positive challenge for all Kosovans to overcome the time of hate and conflicts and to build together a peaceful future. Our great achievements together as soldiers sent from 34 nations all over the world demonstrate that we have been successful peacekeepers. I am very honored to serve with all the nations and all the soldiers that make-up KFOR!

Independence Day 2003

Story and photos by Spc. Rob Barker

CAMP WHITE EAGLE, Kosovo- In a Nov. 11 ceremony here the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion celebrated the 85th anniversary of Polish independence.

The ceremony included speeches by KFOR Commander, Lt. Gen. Holger Kammerhof, Multi-National Brigade (East) Commander, Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., POLUKRBAT Commander, Lt. Col. Piotr Sadowski, and POLUKRBAT Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Valerij Suprihan.

"This country has never been spared by history, suffering from both conquerors and invaders," said Sadowski. "However this country has also citizens who have never surrendered.

"During the biggest humiliations, persecutions and repressions there was a picture of independency deep in the hearts of Poles."

This time of hardship made Nov. 11, 1918 even more special.

"The day of independence is the biggest holiday in each country," said Suprihan. "This



KFOR Commander, Lt. Gen. Holger Kammerhof speaks to the soldiers of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion about the importance of independence.

holiday is the symbol of people's aspiration to build future for own country by personally and by own mind.

"It means that you build a future for your own children."

"On this day we can commemorate our first group of soldiers, which fought in 1918," said Capt. Jacek Mazur, POLUKRBAT press officer. "Thanks to them, now we have independence. It is very important, not only for soldiers but all Poles."

In addition to celebrating their independence, the POLUKRBAT was awarded a NATO Medal for 60 days in mission. The KFOR mission lasts 1 year for soldiers in the Battalion.

"I am very proud to be awarded the medal. I had opportunity to shake hands with

KFOR Commander, Lt. Gen. Holger Kammerhof awards the NATO medal for 60 days in mission to Pvt. Mateusz Oczos, an engineer with 1st Company, Reconnaissance Platoon.





MNB (E) Commander, Big. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr. pins Maj. Andrzej Pietrucha, POLUKRBAT chief of logistics, with the Nato medal for 60 days in mission.

the KFOR commander,” said Mazur. “I was very proud he awarded me the NATO medal on our day of independence.”

Following the ceremony and the pinning of the medals, there was a running competition through the streets of Kacanik. Polish soldiers got a chance to run and celebrate their independence with local civilians. After the race, there was a volleyball competition in which POLUKRBAT soldiers went head to head with students of the Skenderbeu school in Kacanik.

“The day of independence is the biggest holiday in each country.”

Lt. Col. Valerij Suprihan, deputy commander POLUKRBAT



The flags of Lithuania, Ukraine, NATO, Poland and the United States fly high above Camp White Eagle on Nov. 11, during the celebration of the 85th anniversary of Polish independence.

Greek soldiers pull security in villages throughout Kosovo

Story and photos by Spc. Christina Witten,
203rd MPAD

Among the units conducting missions outside MNB(E) camp gates is the 506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion (Greece). There are a wide variety of missions carried out on a daily basis by the soldiers of the 506th.

One such mission is the random traffic checkpoint.

Master Sgt. Vaggelis Theoharis, 506th platoon commander, explained the procedures and purpose of this type of mission by saying, "We are here to provide peace. We try to find weapons and we look at ID cards and passports. The checkpoints help the local community to feel safe and secure."

Sgt. Maj. Haralampos Zografos, 506th training and planning officer assistant, further explained, "The checkpoints are random in different villages on different roads. The local people don't react terribly to checkpoints



because they understand that this is for their good."

Lt. Col. Panagiotis Bromis, 506th commander, is a proponent of respecting the local populous but also maintaining strict regulations in his area.

"We respect the people, but if we find something illegal, we have to take measures because safety in this area is our responsibility," Bromis said. "Even if we only find one gun, we have improved the safety of the area because they now have one gun less."

The 506th also plays a role in humanitarian aid projects such as delivering food and supplies to needed facilities, conducting monthly Medical Civil Action Programs, and building roads in rural villages.

Greek Sgt. Georgios Tsoukalis searches a vehicle's driver as fellow 506th Soldier Sgt. Christos Polystiris stands watch during a random checkpoint on Oct. 8. The soldiers are looking for anything suspicious including concealed weapons and they check identification and passports.





506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion soldier Sgt. Georgios Tsoukalis searches a vehicle's driver as Sgt. Christos Polystiris of the same unit stands guard during a random checkpoint Oct. 8.



506th Soldier Cpl. Christos Charisis stands guard at a fixed site Oct. 8.

Zografos described the fulfillment soldiers' receive when participating in such activities.

"We especially like the reactions of the kids," Zografos said. "Every time the kids see KFOR bringing humanitarian aid, they laugh, they want to play with us, and that makes us very happy. We feel we are doing our job very well when we see them smiling at us."

Soldiers of the 506th also conduct daily presence patrols in cities and villages and guard numerous fixed sites.

"We guard the churches and cemeteries from any criminal or extremist action," Bromis said. "We have to show the people that the war has finished in the area."

At one such fixed site, 1st Lt. Trifon Argiratos, 506th 2nd Company commander, said, "My soldiers do their job very well. I enjoy my job, and I have good relationships with the local people. I believe we are helping Kosovo."

506th Mechanized Infantry Battalion soldier Cpl. Vasilios Gountidis stands guard in his vehicle while fellow 506th soldiers conduct a routine traffic checkpoint Oct. 8. The Battalion conducts random checkpoints in different villages on different roads.



Passing the Flag

Story and photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

Early on a cold Nov. 11 morning, members of Task Force Aviation stood in formation on the parade field here ready to raise and lower seven American flags for Veterans Day. Six of the flags are being sent to different states while one was presented to a Soldier of Camp Bondsteel.



VETERA

Sgt. David O. Varone of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-104th Aviation, an Army National Guard Soldier from Berville, Pa. who served in Vietnam, stood ready to receive the flag he was going to take home.

"I am very proud and happy to be able to take a flag back that flew over Camp Bondsteel to give to the kids and keep in the family," Varone said.

Although he was the one to receive the flag, Varone said it was not for him alone.

"I did it for other Veterans also," Varone said, "I am not trying to glorify myself."

Like Varone's flag, the rest were flown over the camp for a short time and then folded 13 times into the appearance of a cocked hat, to remind us of soldiers of the past. Each fold of the flag has a special meaning, and when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

The remaining six flags will be sent to Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Nebraska, and Kansas to be placed in the headquarters of each unit that makes up TFAVN.

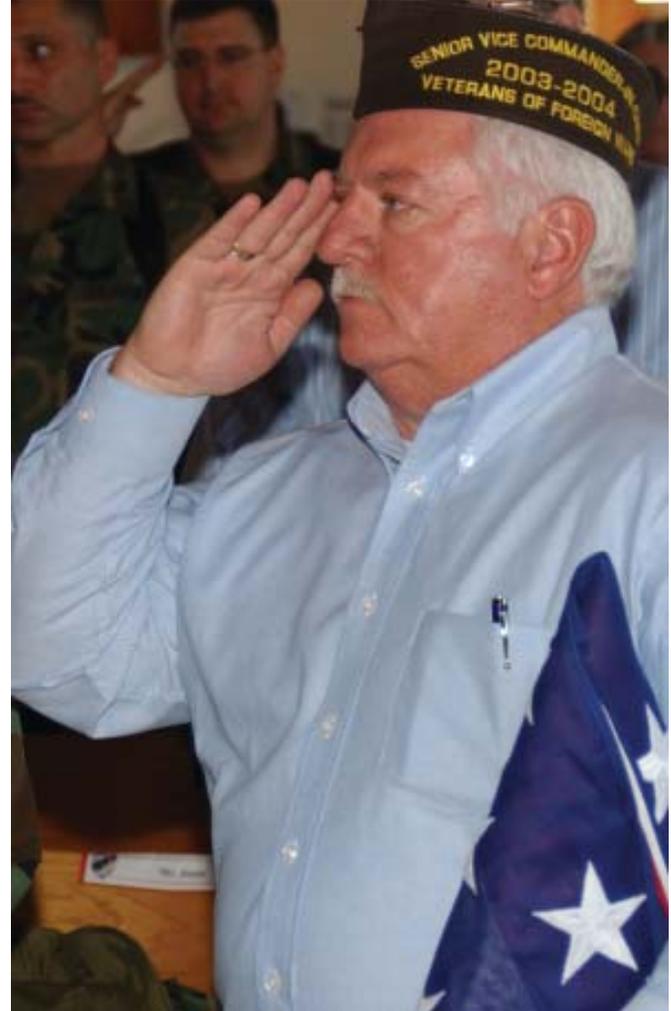


Sgt. David O. Varone of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2-104th Aviation salutes Sgt. William Altman of the same unit before receiving an American flag which he will send home to his kids.



Left: Soldiers of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, Multi-National Brigade (East) make the final fold in the retiring of the colors during the Veterans Day ceremony.

Below: John Furgess, Veteran of Foreign Wars vice-commander in chief, salutes during the playing of "Taps" at the Veterans Day ceremony. He is holding the flag he received during the event.



VETERANS DAY

Story and photos by Spc. Tim Grooms

Following four years of war, on Nov. 11, 1918 the Allied powers signed a cease-fire agreement with Germany, ending World War I. One year later, Nov. 11 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States. The day eventually became known as Veterans Day in 1954; a day that all veterans of foreign wars could be honored for their service. This year on Veterans Day a group of Soldiers gathered at North Chapel at Camp Bondsteel to attend a memorial service.

The service started with the colors being posted by the Headquarters, Headquarters Company Multi-national Brigade (East) Honor Guard followed by the singing of the National Anthem by The Quartet of the Four Chaplains. The ceremony included guest speakers and the folding of an American flag by the 2-112th Infantry Battalion Soldiers. The service ended with a lone trumpeter playing "Taps," the retiring of the colors and the resident bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace."

The first speaker, Maj. Hillary A. Luton, 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment commander and public affairs officer for MNB(E), presented a picture slide show that began with depictions of the French-Indian War and ended with pictures from Operation Iraqi Freedom. After the show, Luton spoke about the way Soldiers see freedom.

"For the majority of Americans in today's society, freedom is simply a way of life...American Soldiers see freedom in a very different light," Luton said. "It is not just a way of life. It is a demand that drives the soldier into a completely different mindset."

After Luton spoke, John Furgess, Veteran of Foreign Wars vice-commander in chief, donned his VFW hat and walked up to the podium. His speech was on the history of Veterans Day and how the current one will always be remembered by the troops here.

"Next Veterans Day, 2004, you'll be back with your loved ones. But you'll always remember Veterans Day, 2003. You get to experience something very few people get to experience," Furgess said, "to show these colors—red, white, and blue—around the world."

Veterans Day is a day where we honor the Soldiers that have fought for our country's freedom.

"I am America," Luton said. "I am the reason rallies are legal. I am the reason that burning the flag, although disgraceful, is considered freedom of speech."

Whenever you return home you will have something to share with your family and friends forever, said Furgess.

"This Band of Brothers and Sisters, doing this important work, will return... they [the families] are planning your homecoming right now, and you should be proud to be in that parade," said Furgess.



Where's the beef

415th, UMT makes the most of donated meat

Story and photos by
Sgt. Heidi Schaap, 203rd MPAD

There may not be a Taco Bell in Kosovo, but local citizens are eating well thanks to the combined efforts of the restaurant chain, the Army Air Force Exchange Service, the Task Force Falcon Unit Ministry Team, and the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Taco Bell, a subsidiary of the Pepsi Corporation, donated 10,000 pounds of steak strips to Multi-National Brigade (East) in mid-September, to be distributed to Kosovo's neediest people. But the work in Kosovo began long before the delivery of the meat itself.

According to Maj. Mike Hoss, the Civil Affairs team three team chief, the gift was obtained through the diligent efforts of Clara Nowacki, AAFES agent, and her staff. Once Task Force Falcon knew the meat was on its way, the UMT, led by Chaplain (Col.) Robert Boidock and the 415th began recipient coordination.

Hoss said each civil affairs team is very familiar with its area, and has a good idea of who could use the meat the most. For some

Maj. Mike Hoss, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion team three team chief, gives meat to an elderly resident of Sasare .

A resident of Sasare takes all the steak strips she can carry from Spc. Nathan Wolf, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion civil affairs specialist. The meat was donated to the people of Kosovo by Taco Bell. Clara Nowacki, AAFES agent, and her staff coordinated the donation.



Maj. Mike Hoss, Vitina Team Chief with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, and his team deliver meat to an appreciative woman in the village of Sasare. The meat was donated to the people of Kosovo by Taco Bell. Clara Nowacki, AAFES agent, and her staff coordinated the donation.



teams, it was a matter of verifying the families wanted the food and had a way to store it.

“We wish we could have given some of these guys more,” said Spc. Nathan Wolf, a civil affairs specialist with the 415th, “but they don’t have refrigerators, so whatever they get today they have to cook by tonight.”

For a few teams, the delivery process lasted longer than a week as they had to transport hundreds of pounds of steak each day into MNB(E)’s remotest hillside villages, literally hand-carrying the packages door to door. But for these Soldiers, the joy of giving outweighed the cold hands or strained backs.

“There are a lot of poor people in this (province) who desperately need our help,” Hoss

explained. “If we can provide them with even a little humanitarian aide, then it’s great.”

Civil Affairs Specialist Sgt. Nick Funk, whose team delivered almost 500 pounds of meat in October, agreed that the hard work was worth the effort.

“We’re giving the meat to needy people who don’t normally have a lot of food,” Funk said. “It makes us feel very good because they’re appreciative. We can sleep a little easier knowing there are a few less children going hungry tonight,” he added. “But that’s our job. That’s what Civil Affairs does.”

“We feel wonderful,” Hoss concluded. “Helping people – It’s the best part of the job.”



Sgt. Nick Funk, civil affairs specialist with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, and his team deliver meat to a villager in Sasare. The meat was donated to the people of Kosovo by Taco Bell. Clara Nowacki, AAFES agent, and her staff coordinated the donation.

Wind, fog, snow, rain: forecasting weather of Bondsteel

Story, graph and photos by Spc. Tim Grooms

There are not many things in the world that affect everyday life more than the weather does. No matter where you live, fair weather can turn sour and prematurely disrupt your plans. This also applies to military missions that span the globe: violent storms, heat, extreme cold, and wind can end a mission quickly and without warning. Fortunately, we have a weather team that can keep us updated on the meteorological situation and provide information that can save lives.

Just a short walk to the end of the flight line is the Camp Bondsteel Combat Weather Team, and inside their building is all the advanced equipment needed to run a weather center. Air National Guard Maj. Richard H. Grumm, commander, Detachment 2, 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, sat behind his computer inspecting a satellite loop of Europe that had a low pressure system heading this way.

"We don't have to worry about that one. It won't make it here," said Grumm of the storm system that was crossing Britain.

Tech. Sgt. Terence G. Tomes, a weather forecaster for the unit,

said storms that track across the Mediterranean Sea have a larger impact, precipitation wise, than storms that come from Northern Europe.

Yet, watching satellite loops and looking at detailed weather models are just part of the mission that Combat Weather performs.

The team has an important mission here to provide weather support and information. They brief pilots for all air missions out of Camp Bondsteel, provide morning and afternoon briefings for the Commanding General of Multi-National Brigade (East), as



The Combat Weather Team building located on the flightline with low level clouds in the background.



Air National Guard Maj. Richard H. Grumm, commander, Detachment 2, 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, points out the National Atlantic Treaty Organization Automated Meteorological Information System. This system receives observation and European forecast data from Germany, England and other NATO sources.



Maj. Richard Grumm, commander, Detachment 2, 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, explained that the Tactical Meteorological Observing System he is pointing to can detect temperature, dew point, humidity, visibility and numerous other weather observations.

well as present seasonal weather briefings for aviation customers.

Forecasting weather for the area is not that hard, said Grumm, it is trying to figure out how the mountains affect the fog in this valley.

One of the causes of the limited visibility is smoke in the atmosphere. The smoke can get caught up in temperature inversions, in combination with fog, causing visibility problems, explained Grumm. An inversion is an area in the atmosphere where cooler surface air meets higher warmer air, trapping the

smoke and fog, added Senior Airman Michael E. Focht, a weather forecaster with the unit.

Even with all the cold air and visibility problems, Camp Bondsteel and the surrounding area is not the Arctic wilderness that some are lead to believe.

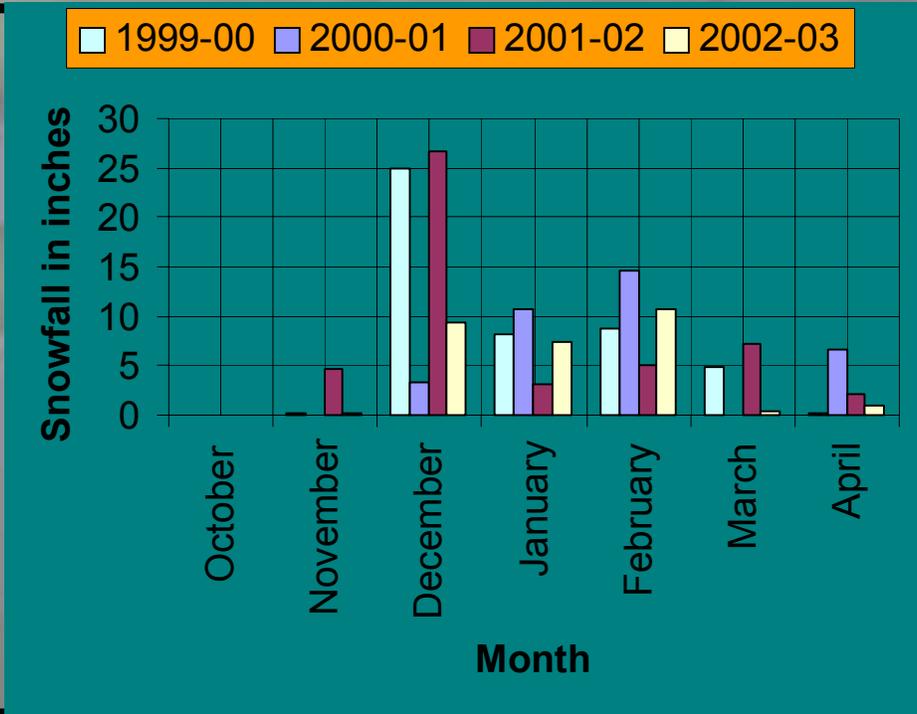
“The winter climate here is similar to Harrisburg, Pa.,” said Grumm.

In fact, according to the Kosovo Winter Weather Briefing memo put out by the unit, MNB (E) has a fairly nice winter climate for a mid-latitude station. The snowiest month is December, averaging about sixteen inches

over the last 4 years with the largest single storm in that time dumping 21 inches on the camp. The coldest month is January with a mean average high of thirty-five degrees and a record low of minus 6.

Throughout the winter mostly cloudy skies will prevail 50 percent to 60 percent of the time, according to the Winter Weather Briefing memo. So, there will be cold days ahead with snow, clouds, and fog. However, the forecasters of the Combat Weather Team will be keeping a close eye for any changes coming this way.

According to the Kosovo winter weather briefing provided by the Combat Weather Team, Camp Bondsteel can see snowfall anytime from October through April. During the last four seasons December has averaged out to be the snowiest month of the year.



Infantry delivers supplies to Samakovo school

Story and photos by Spc. Tim Grooms

As the Soldiers drove up to the school in their humvees, the children waved and smiled. Nov. 13 was to be a good day for the kids of Samakovo and the Soldiers who were visiting.

After parking the vehicles, the troops spent some time taking pictures of each other with the children, but quickly got to work. They had some important gifts for the school.

“We saw they were lacking supplies and decided to organize things to get delivered,” said Sgt. Timothy M. Culp, an assistant squad leader with Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry.



Sgt. Anthony A. Scott, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry is taking supplies to be handed out to children from Samakovo, Kosovo.

“We see you as a blessing from God.”

**Rexhep Reka,
a history teacher
at the school**

On other trips to the area, troops noticed that the schoolhouse was lacking an essential provision, and they were inspired to help the school.

“Light bulbs—that’s the reason this whole project started,” said Staff Sgt. David Haubrick, a squad leader with Alpha Company.

The unit’s shopping list for the school started with light bulbs but eventually grew to include other supplies: paper, pencils, pens, notebooks, kick-balls and jump ropes. The two Soldiers that led the undertaking were Haubrick and Culp.

“This was a squad-driven, good-will mission,” said 2nd Lt. Paolo Sica, 1st platoon leader with the company. “Planning and preparation was done at the squad level which did not require planning and resources from higher up.”

The Soldiers were eager to do the task. “Troops get excited about the mission,” said Sica, “professional relationships with locals are developed.”

“This is the best part of the mission,” Sica said of what was done in Samakovo.

Culp said he feels that helping the children will help the area because the kids are the future of Samakovo.

Culp was a key part of the mission because he had connections stateside that helped the unit get the supplies. The company his brother works for donated the paper products, and his sister-in-law’s co-workers collected money to buy some toys.

It took less than an hour to hand out the supplies, and afterward everyone lined up on

the deck of the schoolhouse for a group picture before packing up to leave.

The road back through the mountains to a more familiar world was rugged; bridges were not built to support the weight of the humvee so the vehicles had to ford most brooks. Samakovo is not the most accessible place to reach with the long uneven road that leads you there, but the troops of Alpha Company made sure they made it there to deliver the supplies.

“This is a big help to the kids of this village and school because many of their parents don’t work and can’t afford supplies like this,” said Rexhep Reka, a history teacher at the school, “We see you as a blessing from God.”



2nd Lt. Paolo Sica, Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry, 1st Platoon leader, enjoys some time with some children of Samakovo.



Soldiers of Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry take time to pose for a picture with the students and teachers of Emin Duraku School in Samakovo, Kosovo.

Soul Food: *A message from the Chaplain:*

St. Paul and Santa Claus!!??

By Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Taylor

Come on, Chaplain. I know you are into this “Living in the Shadow of St. Paul business, but get real!! There is absolutely NO connection between St. Paul and Santa Claus!”

Oh no? Are you ready for this? Take a look at Acts 27:5-6. This passage describes Paul’s final journey to Rome for his first trial. These verses tell about the very first stop on his trip. It says, “And when we had sailed through the sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. And there the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy, and he put us aboard it.” The year is approximately 60 AD.

We aren’t told that there was a church in this city at the time of Paul or that Paul had an impact on starting a church here, but Le Quien (1, 965-70) opens his list of the bishops of this city with St. Nicander, martyred under Domitian about A.D. 95 (Catholic Encyclopedia, <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10661a.htm>). This would suggest that a church was established within 35 years of his visit, and quite possibly was there from Paul’s first missionary journey where he preached just a short ways away in Attalia (Acts 14:25). If so, he would surely have met with the Christians there during this brief visit.

Now jump ahead 200 years to between 250 and 280 AD in the little village of Patara where a boy is born to wealthy Christian parents. They died in an epidemic while the boy was still young. Obeying Jesus’ words to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor,” the boy used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick and the suffering. One legend tells of a poor man with three daughters who couldn’t afford the dowries needed to find them a good husband. Without such, they very well might wind up in slavery or prostitution. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of



Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Taylor

gold was tossed through an open window. It is said these bags fell in front of the fireplace where stockings or shoes were left by the fire to dry!

Early in life, this man became the Bishop of Myra (remember Paul’s visit?) and became known for his love for children and generosity. Under the Roman emperor Diocletian who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, he suffered for his faith, and was exiled and imprisoned. After his release, he attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. He eventually died on December 6, 343 AD in Myra – the same town Paul had visited 280 years earlier. (<http://www.stnicholascenter.org>)]

What was this boy turned Bishop of Myra’s name? You guessed it – Nicholas, known also as St. Nick or Santa Claus!

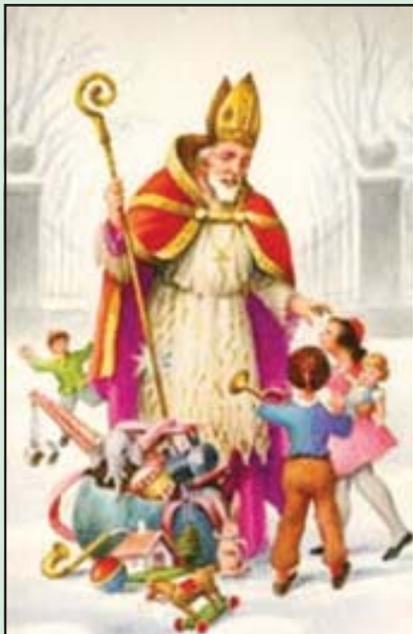
In Europe, St. Nicholas’ feast day is celebrated on the day of his death, December 6th. On Columbus’ first voyage, he named a Haitian port for St. Nicholas on December 6, 1492. It is said that Germans in Pennsylvania celebrated St. Nicholas’ feast and New Yorkers remembered their Dutch roots by declaring St. Nicholas as that city’s patron saint. In 1823, the poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas” debuted, now known as “The Night Before Christmas.”

St. Paul connects the tradition of the gift-giving St. Nicholas with the Christmas story telling us why Jesus came to earth – “For the wages of sin is death,

but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Our sin brings eternal death and separation from God, but Jesus came at Christmas to give us the free gift of eternal life with God forever ... if we will only receive Him (John 1:12). In a letter to the church at Corinth – just south of Camp Bondsteel in Greece, Paul writes “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”(2 Corinthians 9:15) Once more in a letter to the church at Ephesus on the western coast of present day Turkey, St. Paul writes, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. Santa Claus and Christmas really are about “The Gift.”

If you choose to celebrate Christmas this year, don't forget yourself. Accept the free gift of the Christ Child personally – not just as a fact of birth, but as a friend. God wants us not to simply have a religion, but to have a relationship with Him.

And now you know “the rest of the story.”



*Vintage French Postcard
St. Nicholas Center Collection*

North Chapel Worship Schedule

Sundays:

- 0800 - Liturgical Protestant Worship
- 0930 - Roman Catholic Mass
- 1100 - Contemporary Protestant Worship
- 1400 - Gospel Worship

Tuesdays:

- 1800 - Roman Catholic Adult Ed. Class
- 1900 - Roman Catholic Mass
- 2000 - RCIA
- 2100 - Contemporary Protestant Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays:

- 1700 - Roman Catholic Choir Rehearsal
- 1830 - Gospel Bible Study
- 2030 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays:

- 1900 - Roman Catholic Mass

2000 - Contemporary Protestant Choir Rehearsal

Fridays:

- 1330 - Islamic Prayer Time
- 1800 - Shabbat Prayer Time
- 1900 - Gospel Prayer Time
- 1930 - Gospel Bible Study

Saturdays:

- 1200 - Contemporary Protestant Choir Rehearsal
- 1900 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal

South Chapel Worship Schedule

Sundays:

- 0800 - Roman Catholic Mass
- 0930 - Nondenominational Christian Service
- 1300 - Latter Day Saints Service
- 1930 - Nondenominational Christian Service

Mondays:

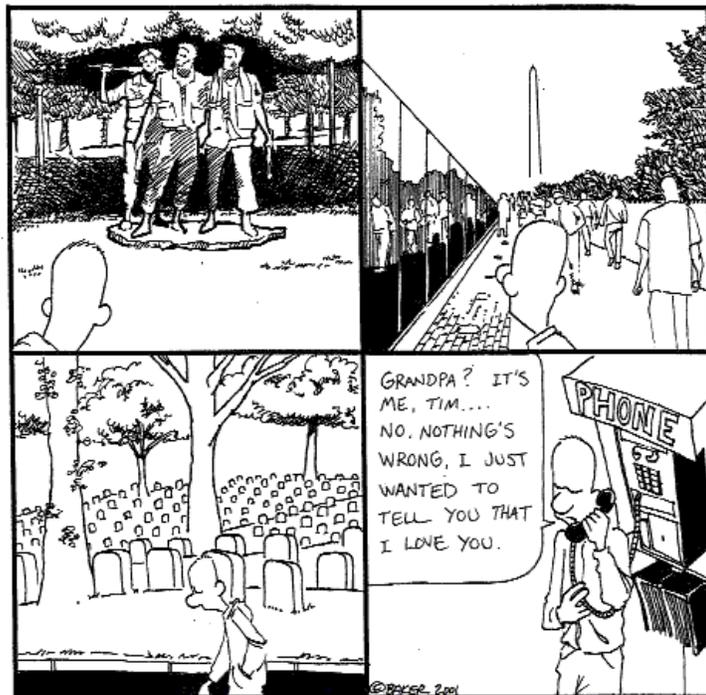
- 1200 - Roman Catholic Mass

Saturdays:

- 1930 - Roman Catholic Mass

Pvt. Murphy

By Sgt. 1st Class Mark Baker



www.pvtmurfy.com

Army names CSM Preston new SMA



Command Sergeant Major Kenneth O. Preston

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Chief of Staff of the Army General Peter J. Schoomaker announced Nov. 18 that Command Sergeant Major Kenneth O. Preston has been selected as the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army. Preston will succeed SMA Jack L. Tilley when he retires Jan. 15, 2004.

The SMA designee has been serving as the command sergeant major for V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany, since April 2001. He is also serving as the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 serving in Baghdad, Iraq.

Preston will be sworn in as the newest Army senior enlisted advisor during ceremonies at the Pentagon on Jan. 15, 2004.

As Sergeant Major of the Army, Preston will serve as the Army Chief of Staff's personal advisor on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting soldier training, noncommissioned officer leader development and well being for families. The SMA travels extensively throughout the world observing Army training and operations. The SMA listens to concerns and provides feedback and recommendations to Army and Department of Defense leadership regarding improvements in quality of life. In addition, he sits on a wide variety of councils and boards that make decisions affecting enlisted soldiers and their families.

The SMA routinely is invited to testify before Congress.

Preston is a native of Mount Savage, Md., and was born Feb. 18, 1957. Preston entered the Army on June 30, 1975, and has served in every enlisted leadership position from tank commander to command sergeant major.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, one Bronze Star, four Meritorious Service Medals, six Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, Southwest Asia Service Ribbon, Liberation of Kuwait Ribbon (Saudi Arabia), Kosovo Medal, the NATO Medal and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.

Preston and his wife have three children.

Light-weight armor ready to save lives, energy

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20, 2003 — New, reinforced helmets and body armor being fielded to the military today represent just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what's on the drawing board for protecting warfighters of the future.

Tomorrow's fighting force will have far superior protective systems that provide enhanced capabilities while imposing less weight on the user, according to officials at the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center at Natick, Mass. The center conducts research and product development for all the military services.

Robert Kinney, director of Natick's Individual Protection Directorate, said engineers are looking at new materials and composites that offer enhanced protection with less weight.

Already, the Marine Corps is fielding a new helmet that, thanks to new materials, offers 6 percent more fragmentation protection and the ability to stop 9 mm rounds, Natick officials said. The helmet, at just over 3 pounds, weighs about a half-pound less than the previous Kevlar helmet, introduced in the early 1980s.

A similar but somewhat streamlined helmet developed by the Army for special operations forces, the MICH or "modular integrated communication helmet," also provides increased ballistic protection. Kinney said the Army has expressed "tremendous interest" in fielding the new helmet to other forward-deployed troops, including the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq.

Looking a decade down the road, warfighters' helmets are expected to become even more impenetrable to enemy rounds, while offering an array of added protections.

The Objective Force Warrior program — which LeeAnn Barkhouse, business liaison for the program, describes as a "system of systems" the Army is developing for warfighters in 2010 and beyond — integrates thermal sensors, video cameras and chemical and biological sensors within the helmet. It also includes a visor that can act as a "heads-up display monitor" equivalent to two 17-inch computer monitors in front of the wearer's eyes, Barkhouse said.

Similarly, Natick officials said new technology is improving warfighters' body armor systems. The new Interceptor body armor system is in wide use by the Army and Marines in Afghanistan and Iraq, where it "is saving lives left and right," Kinney said.

The vest, which the Marine Corps began fielding in late 1999, includes two 4-pound inserts that protect the vital organs against 9 mm submachine gun fire at point-blank range, according to Dee Townes, project officer for Natick's Marine Corps team. The vest also includes removable flaps that cover the groin, throat and neck.

Soldier on the Street

What is your favorite Thanksgiving event and treat?



Peter "Bull" Perrine

Rank: Spc.
Unit: Bravo Company 337th Engineers
Job: Medical specialist
Hometown: Lancaster Pa.
Quote: "My mother's home-cooked meal. Usually going out to the village to see a live band on Thanksgiving eve."



Craig Aulisio

Rank: Cpl.
Unit: 321st Psyop
Job: Broadcast NCOIC
Hometown: Elyria Oh.
Quote: "Having the whole family get together, including my extended family. Every year my four brothers and four sisters have a Thanksgiving day football game. My mother's home-made stuffing."



Gregory Kirkpatrick

Rank: Sgt. 1st Class
Unit: 56th Brigade
Job: Watch NCOIC
Hometown: Schuylkill Haven, Pa.
Quote: "Dinner with family. Family is always important to me. My favorite treat is cranberry sauce. If it's not on the table, I'm not happy with dinner."



Stephen Little

Rank: Spc.
Unit: Bravo Co. 2-112 Infantry
Job: M249 SAW gunner
Hometown: Altuna, Pa.
Quote: "Football. [It] used to be Dallas against Detroit, but I don't think they do that anymore. Turkey, but we have turkey here."



Warren Bachus

Rank: 2nd Lt.
Unit: 649th M.I. Bn.
Job: Night battle captain
Hometown: Austin, Tx.
Quote: "Getting all the family together and watching the Texas A&M football game. Homemade pecan pie."



Laurie McKinnon

Rank: Spc.
Unit: Med Falcon 9
Job: Medic
Hometown: Mogadore, Oh.
Quote: "We spend Thanksgiving with my mom's family and celebrate Christmas on Thanksgiving. That's the only time we can get together."

Scenes of Kosovo

A house sits on the side of a hill
in the village of Samakovo.

Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

