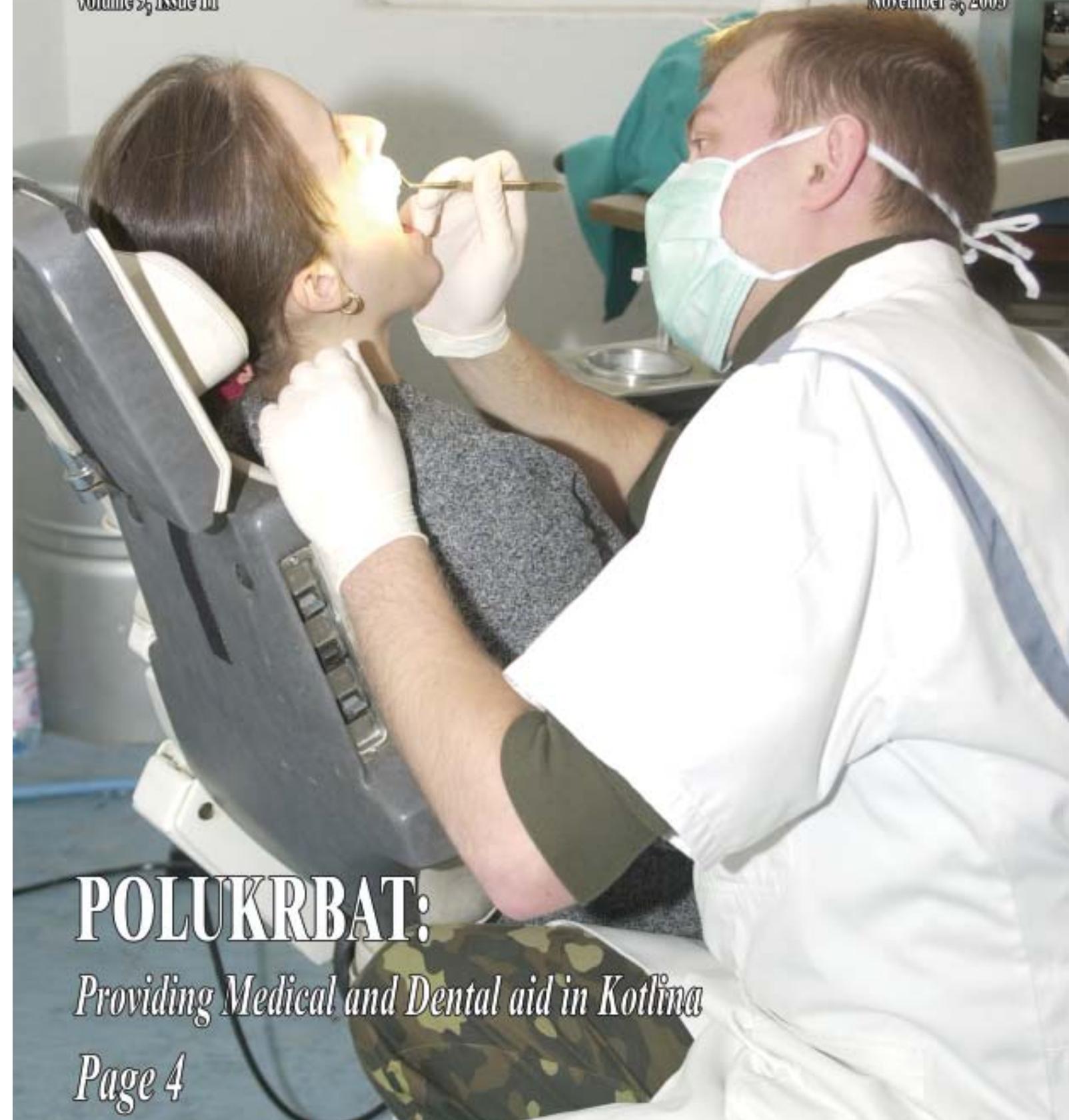


Guardian East

Volume 9, Issue 11

November 5, 2003



POLUKRBAT:

Providing Medical and Dental aid in Kotlina

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Message to the troops



**By Col. Philip Carlin
Deputy Commander - Maneuver**

Congratulations! The men and women comprising the American component of Multi-National Brigade (East) have completed 50 percent of their mission to-date in country. Each and every Soldier, whether performing their duties as a staff member, civil affairs, infantryman, etc., has met the challenge placed before them as the first Reserve Component brigade assigned the very important mission in Kosovo.

Additionally, we have developed a common bond with our multi-national partners comprised of Greek, Lithuanian, Polish, and Ukrainian Soldiers. Collectively, we continue to improve upon our skills and excel at each and every task placed before us.

I am extremely proud of every Soldier within MNB(E). You have led to our current success. However, I

challenge each of you to continue your positive approach to mission accomplishment. We cannot afford to become complacent during the remainder of our mission. We will maintain our sense of professionalism, high standards, and dedication to duty. We have devoted eight months of our lives together, and we will maintain our high standards for the remainder of our mission, resulting in becoming the envy of 5B.

As we approach winter, the Soldiers comprising MNB(E) will need to adhere to additional caution while performing their mission. I submit to each of you, read and follow the requirements published in OPERATION WINTER WATCH 2003, so we do not have any vehicle or aviation accidents during the Balkan winter months. Again, safety is always a primary priority of this command, and we must endeavor to fully recognize each of our responsibilities.



Col. Philip Carlin

Finally, as we begin to approach the holiday season, our thoughts will be with our family and loved ones. I ask that each of you remember the freedoms that you hold so dear to your hearts, along with your families, to include the brave contribution that each of us make each day in providing for a safe and secure environment for the families of Kosovo. ROLL ON.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.mnbe.hqusaareur.army.mil



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.areur.army.mil.

COVER: 1st Lt. Alexander Kuznetsov, Polish-Ukrainian Battalion dentist and physician, examines a patient's teeth during the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24. Photo by Spc. Christina E. Witten.

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Guardian East

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About Guardian East

Guardian East is an official publication of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) produced to provide command information to service members in MNB(E). Guardian East is produced by the 203rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Army Reserve, Wichita, Kan. Contents of Guardian East are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 28th Infantry Division. Guardian East is published bi-monthly using offset press by the MNB(E) Public Affairs Office, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Printed circulation is 3,000.



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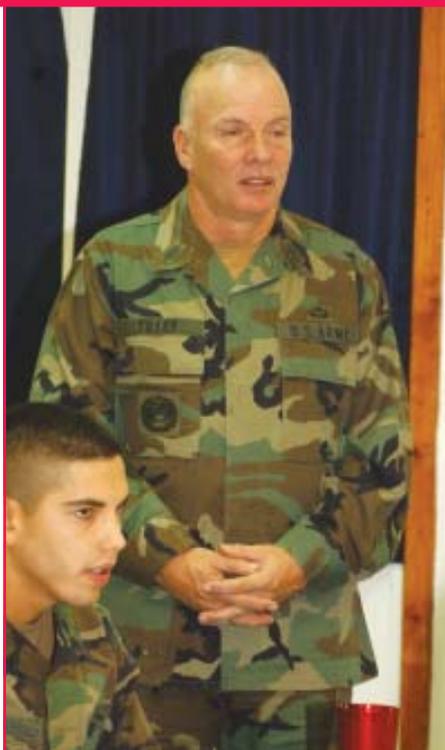
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Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, standing beside 313th AG Postal Company's Spc. Damian Vera, listens to Soldiers' issues during a breakfast meeting at Camp Bondsteel's South Dining Facility Oct. 18. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

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POLUKRBAT physician Warrant Officer Kusaylo Yuriy examines a young patient during the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24.



1st Lt. Alexander Kuznetsov checks and cleans a patient's teeth during the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24.



POLUKRBAT Provides Medi

POLUKRBAT Polish Medical Platoon Commander Lt. Puzia Arkadiusz examines a patient at the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24.



Story and photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

KOTLINA, Kosovo – Polish-Ukrainian Battalion soldiers made their way up the narrow, winding roads leading to the modest village Kotlina to conduct a Medical and Dental Civilian Assistance Program event Oct. 24.

Because of its remoteness, Kotlina was a prime location for Polish, Ukrainian and American medical personnel to share their talents with the approximately 95 local Kosovars who took part in the medical and dental services provided.

Capt. Jacek Mazur, POLUKRBAT press officer explained, "Before a MEDCAP, we choose a village with many health problems or one with a long distance to the nearest hospital or medical point."

The focus of this MEDCAP, and most others, was to help prevent illness in the local population, although patients with chronic illnesses were referred to the nearest appropriate civilian medical facility for treatment.

"I did see a couple interesting cases today that

we referred on," explained 1st Lt. Rick Emler, Task Force Med Falcon physician's assistant. "They were both

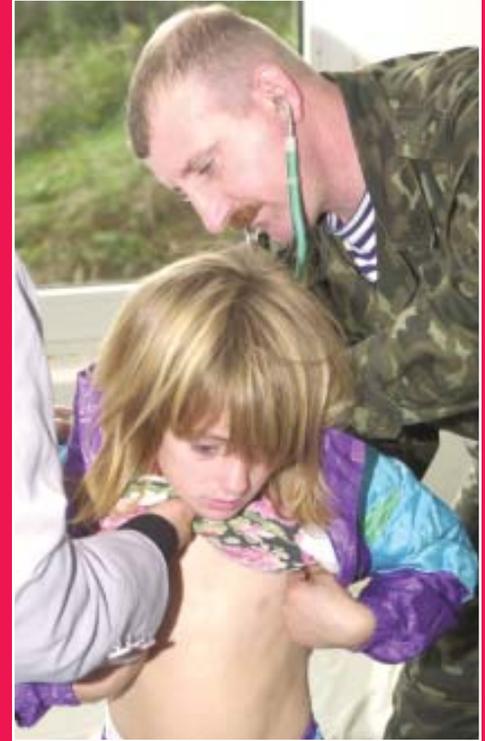
"I enjoy giving first aid to the local people, especially the children...We don't only protect. We also provide them with medical help."

Sgt. Andrew Loc

1st Lt. Rick Emler checks the blood pressure of a patient while Sgt. Michelle White, 448th Civil Affairs Battalion Team 1 civil affairs sergeant, observes during the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24.



POLUKRBAT physician Warrant Officer Kusaylo Yuriy examines a Kosovo girl during the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24.



cal and Dental Aid in Kotlina

young children with problems that, unfortunately, we can't help in this setting, so we referred them to a local doctor."

POLUKRBAT medical personnel said they were given more than adequate training for MEDCAP missions.

Capt. Yaroslav Bylo, POLUKRBAT surgeon stated, "I was well prepared for this mission because, in the Ukraine, before the mission, I took part in some exercises like this. I provided the local inhabitants with medical help today. As a surgeon, I helped with consultation."

Medical attention was not the only contribution made by the POLUKRBAT physicians during the MEDCAP. 1st Lt. Alexander Kuznetsov, POLUKRBAT dentist and physician, provided basic dental care.

"I performed teeth treatment and tooth extractions today," said Kuznetsov. "I most enjoy doing teeth treatment with no extractions," Kuznetsov added explaining his



Sgt. Andrew Loc locates medicine for a patient at the MEDCAP in Kotlina Oct. 24.

empathy for his patients' pain.

Sgt. Andrew Loc, POLUKRBAT physician's assistant, reiterated Kuznetsov's compassion.

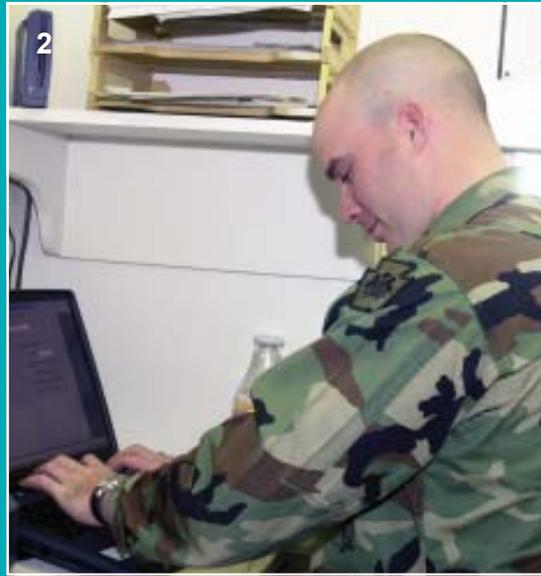
"I enjoy giving first aid to the local people," Loc explained, "especially the children. We are not only soldiers. We don't only protect. We also provide them with medical help."

POLUKRBAT and U.S. medical personnel kept very busy, not wanting to leave anyone untreated, and at the end of the day, they could reflect on their accomplishments with merited satisfaction.

"I'm very proud that I could participate and give these people first aid and help them," explained Bylo.

The MEDCAP also provided Polish, Ukrainian and American physicians the opportunity to work together and learn from one another.

Bylo explained, "I like the cooperation between the Polish, American and Ukrainian doctors, and that we, together, can help the local inhabitants."



Pocketbook Peacekeeping

Story and photos by
Spc. Christina E. Witten

As Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith residents carry out their individual missions, it's easy to take for granted both the conveniences we have, as well as the Soldiers behind the scenes making those amenities possible.

At least once a month, the vast majority of U.S. Soldiers and personnel call upon the 628th Finance Detachment, Pennsylvania National Guard, for financial assistance. The 628th is responsible for conducting cash conversions, check cashing, Eagle Card deposits, along with any other financial assistance concerning pay and the savings deposit program.

Besides 628th duties on camp, detachment members travel to Pristina and Skopje to provide financial services to Soldiers there as well.

"I enjoy traveling to Pristina and Skopje," Sgt. Eric Lugo-Geigel, finance support team chief, explained. "We provide services to the Soldiers over there. They don't have a finance unit to provide them with financial support."

Like many other Reserve and National Guard professionals, the 628th learned many of their duties only after arriving in Kosovo. Despite the stress of having to learn an abundance of information in a short time, Capt. Jeffrey M. Pollack, 628th commander, noted how valuable on-the-job training is.

1: Spc. Amanda Lopez, 628th processing clerk and driver, goes through the daily motions of paperwork and data entry battles in order to assist her customers better.

2: Pfc. Michael M. Hancock, 628th cashier, helps a customer get money by first typing the customer's data into his computer.

3: Sgt. Daryl Layser, military pay review non-commissioned officer in charge, goes through his daily routine of paperwork challenges and phone calls.

4: Staff Sgt. Harold Gontz, 628th dispersing agent, has his hands full at the end of the day, filling out paperwork and counting money.

5: Spc. Paul Cook, cashier and dispersing agent, takes a day off from the busy bustle of the cashier cage to catch up on some work on his computer.

"During the first two or three weeks here, there was a lot of anxiety," stated Pollack. "The finance corps has a motto: learn by doing. And I can tell you right now, the best training we got was to come over here and learn by doing."

The anxiety felt by 628th soldiers went hand in hand with their level of professionalism.

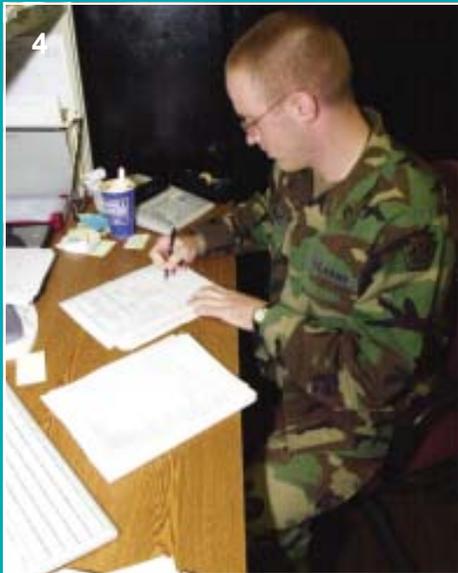
"These guys took to heart the importance of doing their job well," Pollack explained. They came together and focused on their job. They're really getting things done."

Sgt. Pedro Torres, Reserve Pay NCOIC, added, "If I didn't know my job, there would be a lot of problems with people's pay. Knowing your job is very important. That way, everybody's getting paid on time and getting paid what they're supposed to."

Members of the 628th take great pride in their work as well as in their customer service.

Pfc. Candice Heishman, Reserve pay clerk and cashier in training, explained, "The customer is always first, and we try to give them the most accurate information as soon as possible. If they have any problems, we try our best to please the customer because if they aren't getting something like family separation, that's a big problem. They need that."

As many part-time Soldiers have realized, transitioning from citizen-soldier to active-duty Soldier is no easy task.



“Learning everything was difficult because this is all new to me,” Spc. Amanda Lopez, 628th processing clerk and driver, explained. “We don’t really get to work with all these documents back home, so we don’t get the experience that we have here. It’s challenging going from just doing it part-time to full-time.”

Spc. Paul Cook, 628th cashier and dispersing clerk, noted some of the many stresses felt by 628th members.

“Getting rushed by a lot of customers can be overwhelming and you can lose your train of thought,” Cook stated. “There are a lot of

steps in the process of, for example, cashing checks. There’s a lot of paperwork to do. There’s a little bit of anxiety because I’m liable for all the money that goes through my hands.”

Dealing with customers is not always troublesome though. In fact, most 628th members stated they enjoy having the opportunity to interact with people.

“Every once and a while we get to interact with customers, sometimes local nationals,” stated Staff Sgt. Harold Gontz, 628th dispersing agent. “It’s a good experience to get to talk to them and get to know a little bit about why we’re here.”

Helping others is also an enjoyable aspect of the mission.

“I enjoy helping customers,” Torres explained, “making sure everybody’s getting paid. If they have pay issues, I’ll research it and then I’ll input (necessary information) to correct the problem.”

Despite some difficulties she has experienced, Lopez stated, “We have to be able to adjust and be open-minded, and willing to learn new things. I’ve improved a whole lot, and I’m glad that we’re here.”

pay review NCOIC, stated, “It’s great working for our country. It was overwhelming at first, but once we got into it and knew we had a job to do, we could overcome those obstacles.”

Despite initial apprehension, the 628th has proved to be successful according to Sgt. 1st Class David Marks, 628th detachment sergeant.

“The Soldiers came here, and they adapted real fast,” Marks explained. “They’re all doing a real good

job. I get a lot of compliments from people who come in and say they appreciate all the help and everything they do.”

Customer,
Sgt. 1st Class
Alfonso Morales,
415th Military

“They do a real good job cashing checks and doing deposits, so we can get that 10% interest. That’s going to help out a lot while we’re here.”

Sgt. 1st Class Alfonso Morales

The efforts of the 628th soldiers have not gone unnoticed by their leadership.

Pollack stated, “I can’t say enough about how impressed I am with people really taking initiative to learn their jobs. Everybody here has really stepped up and held the banner of finance as high as it was held before.”

Gontz said his job is made much easier because of the cooperation of other detachment members.

“I have good Soldiers that work for me,” Gontz stated. “That makes it easy.”

The 628th is proud to do their part to help the mission in Kosovo.

Sgt. Daryl Layser, 628th military

Intelligence human intelligence collector, has been pleased with the financial assistance from the 628th.

“They do a real good job cashing checks and doing deposits, so we can get that 10% interest,” Morales explained. “That’s going to help out a lot while we’re here.”

Uniting as one team has helped the 628th accomplish their mission.

Pfc. Dorothy Boyer, 628th cashier, explained, “Teamwork is very important. You always need somebody to help you out with the workload. If I didn’t have these guys here helping me out, I’d be leaving here at 10 at night. Our mission is to help Soldiers get their money, and that’s what we’re doing.”

Help from the Top:

Army's NCOIC Visits MNB(E)



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley listens to a soldier's concerns during breakfast Oct. 18 at Camp Bondsteel's South Dining Facility.

Story and photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

MULTI-NATIONAL BRIGADE (EAST), Kosovo — The Army's top non-commissioned officer visited Camps Bondsteel and Monteith Oct. 18 to talk with troops and share his thoughts about the direction in which the Army is moving.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley had breakfast with Bondsteel Soldiers before accompanying a 2-112th Infantry

platoon on a walking patrol through the village of Pozaranje. He held an enlisted call at Bondsteel's theater before traveling to Camp Monteith to explain his role to Soldiers there.

"In civilian terms, I'm your union rep.," Tilley laughingly explained. "I'm the liaison between the Army and the enlisted Soldier, and that's a job I take seriously."

Tilley said he visits deployed troops all over the world to see what issues they face. Those most com-

monly voiced, he said, are the ones taken to Congress where he seeks change on behalf of Soldiers.

Tilley, who believes that caring for Soldiers means preparing them for war, said five issues have been most critical to Soldiers: pay, quality of life, medical care, retirement benefits and operational tempo.

He explained that these issues are even more pressing for reserve component Soldiers, who have been very pressed in the U.S. "war on terrorism."

Roughly one-fourth of the total Army, including members of the Reserve and National Guard is currently deployed, Tilley said.

"We are spread a little thin right now, and the secretary of defense is looking at that," he added. "The Army is the workhorse of the nation now."

Tilley spoke directly to U.S. Multi-National Brigade (East) Soldiers, urging them to fight complacency even though their duty environment is slower paced than Iraq.

"It's good news that you're a little bored," he explained. "That means you're not getting shot at. But you have to stay focused on your mission."

Tilley assured Soldiers of their vital role in Kosovo.

"The fact that you're not in the news is a tribute to the work you've done here, Tilley explained. "No one's gonna talk about a place that's pretty calm and secure."

"But," he concluded, "don't think people don't care about you. We do care about you - even in Kosovo - or else we wouldn't come here and visit you. We're proud of you. There's no question about it."



TRADOC Commander Shares Insights with MNB(E) Troops

Left: Gen. Kevin Byrnes, commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, answers a question from Task Force Retention NCO Sgt. Molly Wales during breakfast at Camp Bondsteel's North Dining Facility Oct. 20.

On Patrol: Army Chief of Staff Talks with Troops

Story and photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker visited Camp Bondsteel and Monteith Oct. 19 to visit with troops and participate in a Task Force Associator walking patrol.

Prior to his recent assignment as Chief of Staff of the Army, Schoomaker spent 31 years in a variety of command and staff positions with both conventional and special operations forces. He participated in numerous deployment operations, and supported various worldwide joint contingency operations, including those in the Balkans.

Schoomaker said his main intention for visiting U.S. troops in Kosovo was to encourage troops to keep up their good work in the face of rigorous deployments and Army-wide high operational tempo.

At a luncheon at Camp Bondsteel's north dining facility, Schoomaker addressed Soldiers' concerns on issues such as highly-deployed military occupational specialties.

"We're restructuring the system in order to ensure that over-tasked MOS's...find some relief," Schoomaker said. "But it will take major moves and big money."

He said he expected the changes would occur between now and 2009.

"National guard and reserve components will change the very nature of how we deploy," he added. "They are the reason we are changing the way we train and fund."

Schoomaker also traveled to Camp Monteith to visit the Soldiers of Scout Platoon, 1-111th Infantry. The platoon took the Chief of Staff on a dismounted presence patrol through the streets of Gjilan.

After perceiving the safety and security of the area, Schoomaker took a few moments to speak to the Scout



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker and 1-111th Infantry Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Allen Ponsini, walk with a patrol of Scout Platoon, 1-111th Infantry Soldiers through Gjilan Oct. 19.

platoon Soldiers.

"Things are going very well in Kosovo," he explained. "So don't become complacent. You have to stay on your toes."

He then thanked the Soldiers for the time and sacrifices they have made on behalf of the "hurting and needy" people of Kosovo, and encouraged them to drive on past potential discouragement and continue to perform to standard.

"War is ambiguous, it's uncertain, and it's unfair," Schoomaker recently said. "There's a reason they call it 'service.' We give more than we get."

Story and photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

The commanding general of Army Training and Doctrine Command visited Camps Bondsteel and Monteith Oct. 19 and 20 to visit with U.S. Non-Commissioned Officers and participate in a Scout Platoon, 1-111th Infantry patrol.

Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes assumed the role of TRADOC CG in Nov., 2002. Prior to his current duty, he served as director, Army Staff; as the TRADOC deputy chief of staff for programs; and as the assistant vice chief of staff. His overseas tours include Vietnam, Germany and Bosnia.

Byrnes, who believes his command is "in charge of the future of the Army," said he came to visit Kosovo to see what troops have accomplished and how changes in Army

training might improve the way they serve on deployments.

"I came here to see how things are going," Byrnes said. "It strikes me that you've accomplished a lot in Kosovo."

"It's a tribute to the Soldiers who have served and still serve in Kosovo," he continued. "For those who left behind family, school, jobs, or would rather be (in Iraq), know that what you're doing is a service to the American people."

Byrnes spoke on behalf of TRADOC to Soldiers' concerns such as unequal distribution of equipment and conditional promotions.

"This is a high op-tempo time," he concluded. "We have to do the very best we can with what we have..."

"And you're doing a fine job here. That's exactly what we ask."

Danes Hold 25K Road March



**Story and photos by
Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson**

CAMP OLAF RYE, Kosovo – Danish soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (North) invited their counterparts from across Kosovo to see a part of their sector as the leaves began

Below: American Soldiers from Camp Monteith's 1-111th Infantry Personal Security Detail walk through the valleys west of Mitrovica with their counterparts from other brigades during the 25-kilometer Dancon March held Oct. 18.



their change to the rustic colors of autumn.

Soldiers paid 18 euro to enter a 25-kilometer road march if they wanted a Danish NATO medal and certificate of achievement, or eight euro to receive only the certificate upon completion of the grueling course. The march began with a deceptively long, gradual climb through the valley to the west of Mitrovica.

"I did (the march) just to see if I could do it," said Spc. Mickey L. Stormer, combat engineer with Bravo Company, 337th Engineer Battalion.

The Danes had water and fruit set up at checkpoints along the route. The makeshift refreshment stands served as a foreshadowing of the

Above: American Soldiers from camps Monteith and Bondsteel begin a 25 kilometer roadmarch on a chilly Kosovo morning Oct., 18.

courses pending challenges. Soldiers headed west out of Mitrovica onto a rocky dirt road winding slowly up the north side of the valley to the tiny village of Caber.

At the halfway point of the march, the Danes sold candy bars and sodas and wise soldiers broke out their money to get a carbohydrate fix. A sharp left to the north pitted soldiers against a 40 percent grade climb for approximately two kilometers to the third checkpoint. Many weary soldiers chose to rest their fatigued bodies before continuing the demanding march.

At the top of their climb, approximately 1,300 soldiers, 138 of whom were American forces out of camps Monteith and Bondsteel, were treated to a spectacular view of the fertile valley below. The course veered east and soldiers relished a little downhill walking before a long, yet more gradual climb offered them a view of the small city of Mitrovica before their descent.

The course meandered through the western portion of town before finally winding back to the road where

Below: Deputy G-1 for HHC, MNB(E), Maj. William C. Reitemeyer cuts "mole skin" to place on his feet in an attempt to keep his feet from developing blisters Oct. 18.



it had all began just a few hours earlier. Italian OR-6 Giadina Salvatore crossed the finish line ahead of all other participants with an astounding time of 2 hours, 4 minutes.

While some confusion exists as to just whom the fastest American Soldier was to have crossed the finish line, the honor appears to belong to Infantryman, Staff Sgt. James W. Mergott with Bravo Company, 1-111th Infantry. His time was 3:22.

"I'm probably going to stick my feet in a couple of pails of water and enjoy the gratification of completing the march," said Assistant Squad Leader, Staff Sgt. Chris J. McCracken of Bravo Company, 337th Engineer Battalion.

By the end of the march, many soldiers were nursing blistered feet along with aching backs and legs. However, no sweat-covered soldier complained about the cool mountain air as each basked in his or her personal victory at the completion.

ITT Helps Local School



Story and photos by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

ITT personnel donated a truckload of chairs and desks to Ramadan Rexhepi, a school in Sojeva, Kosovo Sept. 26. Dozens of happy children rushed to meet the truck and even helped unload their new furniture into the classrooms.

Joseph Ferraro, an ITT force protection specialist at Camp Bondsteel, organized the purchase and delivery of the furniture from the

Above: Children at Ramadan Rexhepi eagerly rush to help unload new school furniture donated by ITT force protection personnel Sept. 26.

local economy with money donated by ITT personnel. This was the second charitable donation Ferraro had put together on behalf of the Ramadan Rexhepi school children.

A month earlier, Ferraro had collected money to buy 300 backpacks filled with school supplies for the students. These backpacks were then hand delivered to the children by ITT volunteers.

ITT is a U.S. contractor responsible for the force protection of Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith in Multi-National Brigade (East).

Below: Children at Ramadan Rexhepi school in Sojeva, Kosovo, hold an outdoor class using some of the school supplies and backpacks donated by ITT in August.



Keeping Soldiers on th

Story and photos by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Every day in Multi-National Brigade (East) there are approximately 150 missions being carried out in more than 300 vehicles, traveling every which way on numerous approved routes.

The Soldiers who go out on these missions may be infantrymen patrolling to enforce safety and security or they may be military police making sure both Soldiers and civilians drive safely. They may be civil affairs Soldiers traveling among the smaller villages forming relationships and accessing multi-ethnic cooperation. They may be psychological operations Soldiers promoting messages of tolerance and peace. Or perhaps they are doctors and nurses traveling to the furthest corners of the sector, bringing medical care to the needy who can't procure it for



**Multi-National Brigade (East) Terrain Team
Terrain Analyst Spc. Tim Kennedy, works
with a specialized computer program which
allows him to produce detailed maps for
Soldiers of Task Force Falcon.**

themselves.

Regardless of why they are on the roads of Kosovo, there is one thing these Soldiers have in common: they must know where they are going. A good map is something that these warriors cannot take for granted.

The job of the MNB(E) Terrain Team is to keep them all on the straight and narrow.

"We keep people from getting lost and from getting hurt," said Chief Warrant Officer Chester Davis, the terrain team's officer-in-charge. "And that's a mission we take very seriously."

Davis' team of four – one officer, one senior enlisted and two junior enlisted Soldiers - produces all the maps and map overlays for the entire brigade.

The most "popular" maps, according to Davis, are those that have main supply routes, helicopter landing zones, check-points, base camps and boundaries.

"If it's got our logo, this "bug" on it, then it came out of our office," Davis explained. "It doesn't matter if it's at Monteith or 2-112th, it came out of our office. Even if it's for the Greeks or the Polish or Ukrainians, it came from here," he continued.

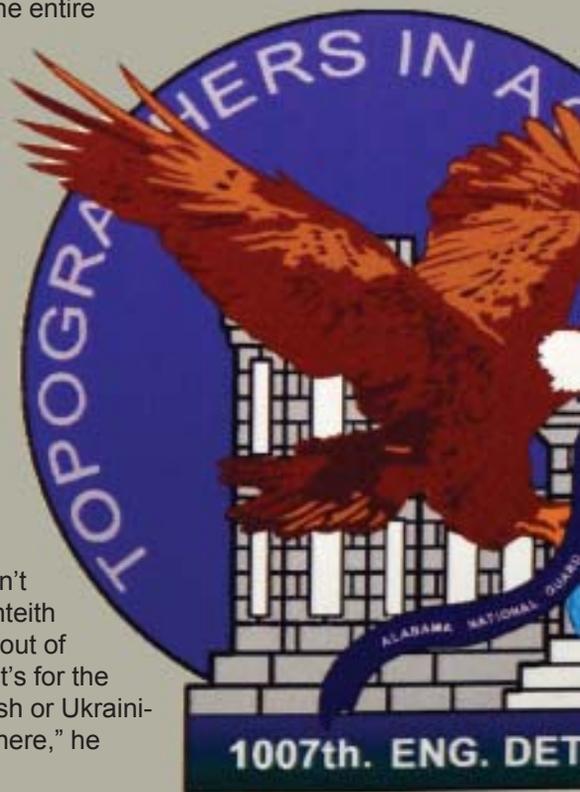
The terrain team occupies a small room at Camp Bondsteel's brigade tactical operations center. The office, overwhelmed by its huge plotters and wallpapered with colorful maps, is where customers can go to discuss what products their units need to complete a mission.

"When we first came here, updating the map record [the main map], and its overlays was a first priority. Now we're seeing a shift in our mission from updating these "general" maps to mission-specific requests," Davis said.

"Maybe someone's going out on a mission and they need a specific map of a specific area with specific information on it," he continued. "Maybe they need to know where the mines are, for example."

Davis, who acts as the "PR" man for the unit, prefers customers come into the office - rather than e-mail or call - when making mission-specific map requests.

"We get some funny requests – well, they're funny to



The Straight and Narrow

us at least,” said Sgt. 1st Class Bill Phillips, terrain team non-commissioned officer in charge and an engineer on the civilian side.

He explained that because Soldiers are in the mindset that everything they carry must fit in their KFOR identification badge holder, they sometimes make requests for unreasonably tiny maps.

“They’ll say, ‘I need a stamp size map of Kosovo with all the checkpoints, mine areas and Dairy Queens labeled!’” Davis joked.

“It just shows you that sometimes the customer really doesn’t know what it is, exactly, that they’re asking for,” Davis continued.

“That’s why we have them come in to the office to see that it’s a lot of information and the maps have to be a certain size to accommodate it all,” he added.

“It’s good to show them some of the things we’ve already done so they have an idea of what we *can* do.”

Davis said he also has the customer come into the office to look at the completed product.

“If they’re not happy with it, we’ll change it,”

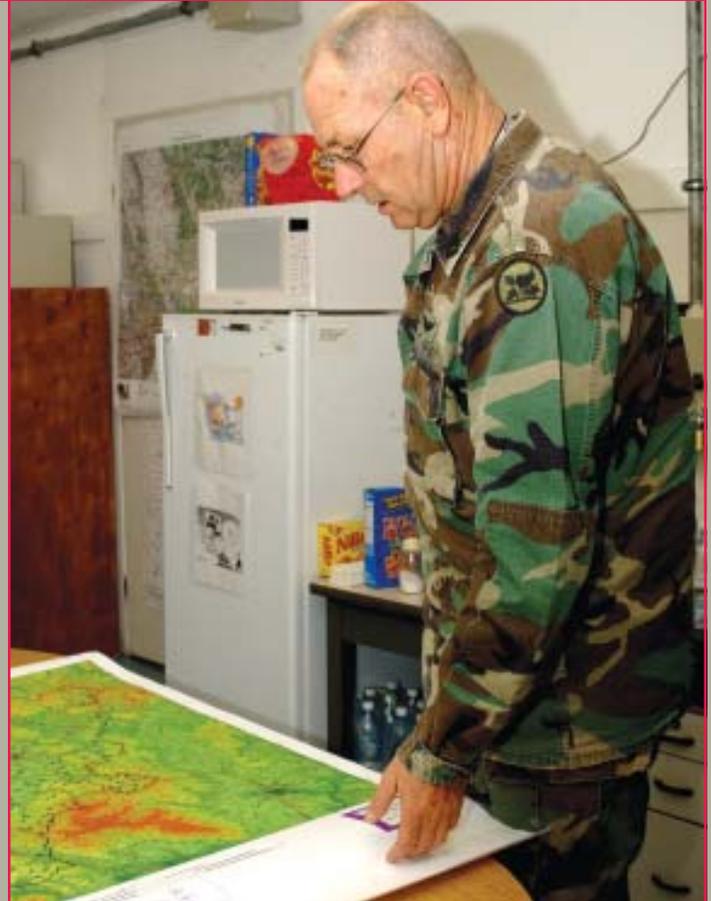
Davis added. “After all, it’s for them – they should be able to use what we’ve done. And if they can’t then we want to fix it. Otherwise, what was the point?”

MNB(E)’s terrain team, who would usually fall under the command of G-2, is led by Task Force Falcon’s engineers.

“In a war-time situation, the G-2 controls the battlefield, and that’s what we would do; Give them a picture of the battlefield,” Phillips explained. “But here there’s no battlefield, so we work with the engineers to make sure our troops know where they can safely drive.”

The terrain team has been told more than once, “we can’t get along without you,” and rightly so. There’s not a single National Guard terrain team in existence that didn’t come out of the 1007th armory in New Brockton, Ala.

Davis’ team, the 1007th Engineer Detachment, came to Bondsteel with a wide variety of operational experience.



Sgt. 1st Class Bill Phillips, Multi-National Brigade (East) Terrain Team non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, reviews a map produced by the team.

Phillips hadn’t been deployed since Vietnam, and for Spc. Tim Kennedy and Spc. Jason Skirde, Kosovo is their first deployment. Kennedy, a trained radio/telephone operator, only learned to use the mapping software upon arrival at Bondsteel.

Now considered a “terrain analyst,” Kennedy is confident of his map-making skills. “I never knew how to do this before,” he exclaimed, “but I sure do now!”

Skirde, another terrain analyst, has also honed his skills on this deployment. “I map it all and let G-2 sort it out,” he joked.

Phillips, who said he’s been making maps since they were being done by hand, added they keep very busy in their office – and in the map-making field.

“Terrain teams are being stretched thin,” Davis agreed.

They are such a specialized field, he explained, that the amount of operations going on world-wide assures them they will be deployed again in the near future.

“Our Soldiers need us,” Davis concluded. “I guarantee you – nobody else can do what we do.”



Maintaining Mission Readiness Through Recreation

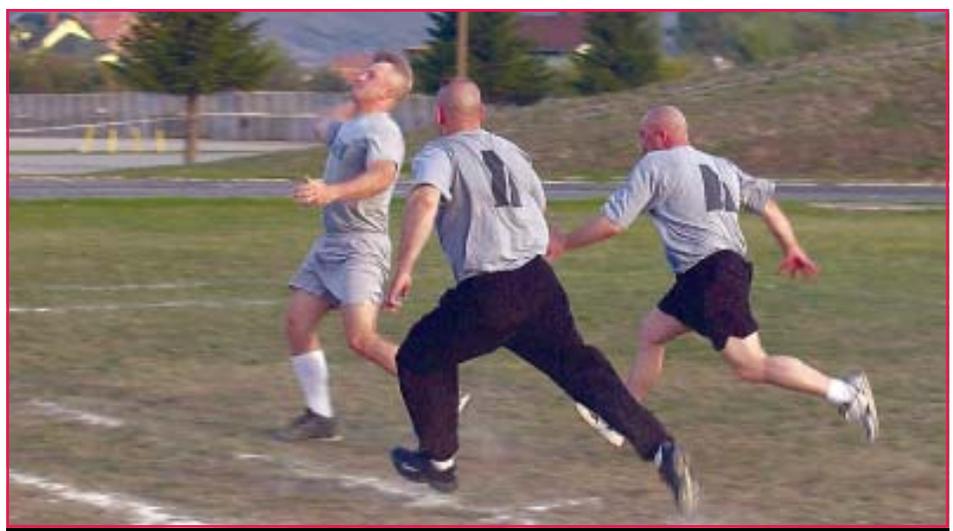
Story and photos by
Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo — The Soldiers of Task Force Associator began practices the week of Oct. 5 in anticipation of the upcoming weekly pigskin competitions.

The flag football season begins on Camp Monteith the weekend of Oct. 11 and will continue through November.

“The intent of the Football League, like any other sports league that we host, is to get the Soldiers and

Team "PANG" Head Coach and Charlie Company 1-111th Infantry's Master Gunner Staff Sgt. William Hyatt makes some defensive adjustments during flag football practice.



Spc. Rodney Fox, "PANG" quarterback and member of Charlie Company, 1-111th Infantry's personal security detail makes a throw in practice while being pursued by members of his team.

their counterparts involved in activities that will push them to excel, teach those that aren't familiar with the sport, and serve as a vehicle to fun and friendship," said MWR Recreation Specialist Adrian Jones. "In spite of the challenges missions present to Task Force 1-111th, I find the Soldiers are very spirited and give unselfishly to their teammates as they do for their country. I am very proud to be a part of the Team MWR which keeps the Soldiers' drive alive."

The season will be on an accelerated schedule to catch up to Camp Bondsteel's program since Camp Monteith is starting later. The arduous season will culminate in a tournament scheduled for early November.

Flag football is "one more outlet for Soldiers to engage in outside activities where activities may be limited," said Camp Monteith Combat Stress Control Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge Sgt. 1st Class Duane A. Dodson.

Dodson said events such as football are necessary to mission

readiness because they promote Soldier morale.

"A happy Soldier is a good Soldier," Dodson said.

Though the sport is designed to be as free of contact as possible, there are still some medical concerns for Soldiers. Among the concerns are heat

injuries, with the cooling mountain weather affecting the Soldiers' ability to feel the "need" to drink water. As with any other activity, Soldiers are encouraged to drink plenty of water in preparation for both practices and games and continue to drink water throughout the events.

Other things to think about when participating in this winter sport are cold weather injuries, muscular strains, fractures from falling, and hand injuries. To minimize exposure to these problems, maintain mission readiness,

and ensure the therapeutic effects of the sport, participants should dress appropriately for the weather, ensure proper stretching is conducted by team members, and wear clothing without

“Soldiers should start with jogging a quarter mile to warm up prior to games, conduct a stretching routine and remember to do a cool down routine afterward.”

1st Lt. Matthew Bernstein

Preventing Flag Football Sports Injuries

By Diana Settles, MAT, ATC, Manager, Injury Prevention Physical Fitness Programs Navy Environmental Health Center, Portsmouth, Va.

Personal Fitness: Pace yourself; don't do too much too soon when conditioning for flag football season. A pre-season conditioning program with emphasis on stretching and strength training should be implemented prior to the beginning of a flag football season. When preparing for flag football season, begin participating in activities specific to flag football, such as upper and especially lower body muscular fitness exercises and stretching. This will strengthen the connective tissue (muscle, bones, ligaments, and tendons) and will provide strong support for the lower body (Most knee injuries occur in the weaker of the two legs). Remember to warm-up and stretch at least 5 to 10 minutes before practicing or playing a game. NOTE: Prior injury to the body predisposes one to re-injury of that particular extremity. Also, athletes with poor muscle strength, particularly in the hamstring, quadriceps, and gastrocnemius muscles, are more susceptible to lower body injury.

Equipment: Oral injuries can be prevented through the use of mouth guards/protectors. Rubber molded cleats are mandated during military flag football participation. Jewelry (i.e. rings, necklaces, etc.) is not recommended during flag football participation. Clothing attire

that contains pockets is not recommended due to the risk of fingers getting caught/ lodged in the clothing.

Training and Technique: Flag football is not considered a contact sport, so risk of injury is lower than participation in American (tackle) football. It's important to note the more contact the player incurs with other players, the higher the risk of injury. The style of play by a football team may increase risk of injury; the more contact involved, the higher the incidence for injury. A trained coaching staff can impact positively upon flag-football injury prevention. Coaches should be able to provide safe information to players on the team regarding preparation, conditioning, and proper playing techniques. Officiated games decrease the risk of injury occurrence. Enforcement of rules assists in decreasing the incidence of injury. Contact a local MWR Trainer or trained coaching staff for additional information on flag football conditioning. Many MWR facilities provide safety/ injury prevention information to coaches, players and officials regarding preparation, conditioning, and proper playing techniques.

Environment: Be aware of the environment around you. Prior to participating in flag football look for predisposing risk factors on the playing field such as divots, holes, soft drink tops, glass, etc. Alcohol consumption should be discouraged during athletic participation. Liquid and nutrition replenishment is recommended to decrease exposure-related illness.

pockets in accordance to the rules of the game.

Physician's Assistant 1st Lt. Matthew Bernstein of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1-111th Medic Platoon said, "Soldiers should start with jogging a quarter mile to warm up prior to games, conduct a stretching routine and remember to cool down afterward."

When safety concerns are met, activities such as flag football can build teamwork, support esprit-de-corps, help to eliminate stress, and promote physical fitness. This directly affects the missions outside the wire by keeping morale high and giving Soldiers something to look forward to outside their regular duties.

Right: 1st Sgt. Paul Walker of Charlie Company, 1-110th Infantry attempts to rush past the offensive line of his team during a Camp Monteith flag football practice.



Mandalo Temprano: *Send It Early*

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo — The holidays are right around the corner as far as the Soldiers of 313th Adjutant General (Postal) Company, Detachment One, a National Guard unit from Puerto Rico, are concerned. Though the holidays remain a solid two months away, deployment presents Soldiers with challenges aside from the obvious absence from loved ones.

Even from overseas, the U.S. Army can facilitate the holiday spirit and ensure intended gifts are under the tree just as St. Nick intends. There are several means by which Santa's Army "elves" can help to meet these demands.

Utilizing free mailing for holiday greeting cards or letters is one way. "I use the free mail whenever I can - it's kind of nice," said Staff Sgt. Steven P. Kloss, a squad leader for Charlie Company, 1-112th Infantry.

According to 313th Finance Clerk Spc. Meriann Y. Morales, the postal Soldiers expect to see a jump in postal facility usage from 1½ to twice the current volume. The Camp Monteith postal facility currently processes from 40 to 60 packages daily with a staff of just two Soldiers.



Spc. Carlos H. Melendez of the 313th Adjutant General (Postal) Company, Detachment One, loads packages on a mail truck at Camp Monteith Oct. 13.

Morales suggested Soldiers should keep several things in mind as they prepare to send packages home for the holidays. Among these suggestions, deadlines are of primary importance.

Soldiers wishing to send a package Space Available Mail should have it sent before Nov. 17. SAM parcels are the cheapest means by which a Soldier can get a package home, yet it is also the slowest, taking four to nine weeks. Restrictions to SAM parcels include a weight limit of 70 lbs and size restriction of 130 inches (length+width+height).

For Christmas gifts, a Soldier might rather choose to send his package via Parcel Air Lift. While the price of air lift delivery may be a bit more expensive than space available, his package will get home quicker. PAL is also cheaper than Priority Mail. Restrictions include a 30 pound weight limit and a size restriction of 60 linear inches. Soldiers wishing to utilize PAL should have their packages sent by Dec. 1.

Procrastination never pays off. However, should a

“Mail (packages) at least a month in advance. Not only do we have a rush here, but they’re going to have a rush everywhere.”

Cpl. Miguel A. Castro

Soldier be a last minute shopper, Priority Mail has them covered. It takes from 10 to 12 days for a priority package to reach its destination and should be sent by Dec. 8 to ensure delivery before Christmas, as should any first class letters or cards. While Priority Mail ensures the quickest delivery means available for Soldiers in Kosovo, it is also the least economical. Restrictions for Priority Mail are the same as those for SAM parcels.



1-111th Infantry Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Jerry P. Miller addresses a package at the Camp Monteith postal office Oct. 13.

Camp Monteith's 313th Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge Cpl. Miguel A. Castro suggested Soldiers, "Mandalo temprano," or send it early.

"Mail (packages) at least a month in advance," said Castro. "Not only do we have a rush here, but they're going to have a rush everywhere."

The personnel of the 313th also stressed the need for Soldiers to realize they must fill out a customs form describing the contents of their package and suggested Soldiers make an itemized list of the contents of each package while packing. They also reminded Soldiers not to send batteries for any toys and not to attempt to send or receive alcohol.

Keeping these things in mind and shopping early will help to ensure packages intended to make it home before the holidays are waiting under the tree Christmas morning.



Left: A toddler watches bravely as a needle is inserted into his arm as part of a mass vaccination program. The vaccines were donated by the United Way.

“On behalf of the children, I’m really grateful to American KFOR.”

Dr. Ismet Uruqi

6,002 Little Sticks

**Story and photos by
Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson**

GJILAN MUNICIPALITY, Kosovo – Upon entering the average clinic in Kosovo, one can easily see the ravages of economic disparity. People dressed sparingly against the ever-increasing cold lined the walls, their weathered clothing seeming only to keep them from outward shivering.

Upon entering, one notices the absence of the sterile scent Americans are accustomed to. Instead, the distinct aroma of dust rises to greet those who enter. There are no orderlies cleaning the floors constantly throughout the day, no latex gloves to protect the patient against the spread of infections.

In the face of such want, even the sick and those seeking preventative medicine seem to have a flame of joy burning inside them as they smile and greet one another in the crowded hallways. Perhaps their joy rises from knowing that help is on the way.

The medics of HHC 1-111th Infantry participated in an 11-day vaccination program in which 6,002 children of Gjilan Municipality were immunized beginning Oct. 6. The vaccinations were donated by the United Way to protect the children against mumps and rubella as part of a mass immunization program.

The effort brought together 19 teams including two supplemented by KFOR personnel. Each of these two teams consisted of a local doctor, two

technicians, an interpreter, two medics, and a security team.

“This is the biggest program anyone has gotten involved in since the war in 1999,” said Physician’s Assistant for HHC 1-111th Infantry, 1st Lt. William Rocco. “I think it’s a big step for KFOR to be involved. When you’re dealing with children, what matters is the quality of life for them.”

Many organizations including UNMIK, KFOR, United Way, UNICEF, Gjilan Health Clinic, two local televi-

sion stations and five local radio stations, to name just a few, contributed to the immunization program. They donated all the time, supplies, and personnel they could give.

Local coordinator, Dr. Ismet Uruqi expressed his appreciation for all the organizations lending a helping hand to the children of Kosovo.

“On behalf of the children, I’m really grateful to American KFOR,” said Uruqi. “The program was very successful.”



(From Left) Physician Assistant, 1st Lt. William Rocco of HHC, 1-111th Infantry listens as Local coordinator, Dr. Ismet Uruqi and Gjilan Director of Municipality Health Department, Dr. Jashar Ramadani congratulate local health workers on a successful vaccination program. 6,002 children were vaccinated against mumps and rubella between Oct. 6 and Oct. 16.

448th Takes on Task Force Rainier

Story and photos by
Sgt. Heidi Schaap

The 448th Civil Affairs Battalion took command of Task Force Spartan from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion in a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel's theater Oct. 21.

The incoming unit, commanded by Lt. Col. John Handy, is out of Fort Lewis, Wash., and is the fourth civil affairs rotation deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian. The battalion is now Task Force Rainier.

"I am impressed with the way you all performed your duties," 415th Commander Lt. Col. Michael Herchmer told his Soldiers at the ceremony. "And I have no doubt that the 448th will do an exceptional job, as well."

The 448th has taken over the 415th's G-5 responsibilities of providing subject matter expertise on civil military operations to the Task Force staff and subordinate commands. Their mission, augmenting the successful efforts of the three previous Spartan rotations, is to plan and execute tactical operations with local civil government representation and the civilian populace of Multi-National Brigade (East).

Below: Maj. Gregory Neverson, in charge of a formation of 415th Civil Affairs Battalion members, and guidon bearer, Spc. Nathan Wolf, present arms at their TOA ceremony Oct. 21.



Psychological Operations TOA



Sgt. Daniel Magallanes, a team sergeant with the 320th Psychological Operations Company, Det. 1 (Tactical), is awarded a medal by Maj. Clifford Stasek, 320th commander, at their unit awards ceremony Oct. 20 on Camp Bondsteel. The 320th has been replaced by the 321st PSYOP Co., Tactical. Photo by the 320th PSYOP Co.



Above: Lt. Col. John Handy, (left), commander of the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Fort Lewis, Wash., and 1st Sgt. Greg Thomsen, unfurl their unit guidon at the TOA ceremony Oct. 21. The 448th assumed command from the 415th CA Btn.

Fund-Raising Drive

By Maj. Randall Burke, Area Support Group director of personnel and community operations and CFC community/area project officer

It's that time of year again. Leaves begin to fall, the air turns brisk and the sounds of football games are everywhere. Yes, that can only mean one thing. It's CFC time.

Combined Federal Campaign is the largest workplace giving campaign in the world. The CFC is the annual fund-raising drive conducted by federal employees in their workplace every fall. Each year, federal employees and military personnel raise millions of dollars through the CFC to benefit thousands of non-profit charities.

During the campaign season, donors can designate contributions to a variety of deserving American and international U.S.-based charities through the CFC. Last year, U.S. military members and federal employees overseas raised over \$11.2 million and the worldwide campaign collected a total of \$237 million.

This year, the campaign season runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 10. Our goal, here, is to collect \$18,000 with 25 percent of the personnel contributing. This goal is an achievable goal, but it depends upon each and every person to help those in need.

There are a multitude of charities to give to. If you browse through the brochure, you are bound to find one you would like to support. Please see your unit CFC representative and look at the brochures.

Civilians, and those on active duty, to include AGR, can contribute by payroll deductions, or through cash or checks. The rest can only contribute with checks or cash. Euros will have to be exchanged prior to submitting them to central region.

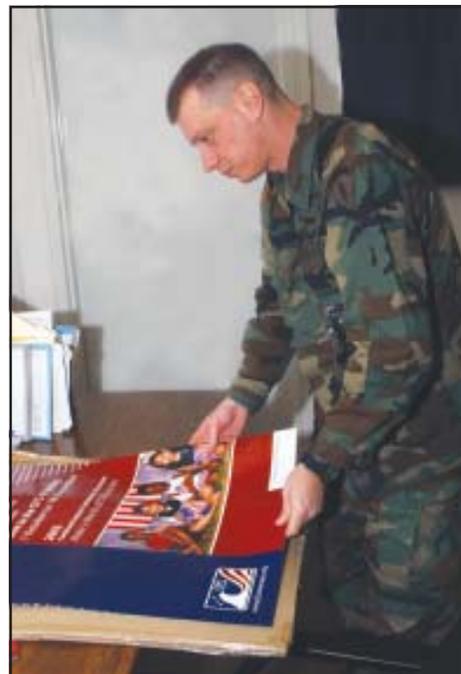
This year, the CFC is offering a contest. You do not have to contribute to be eligible. First prize is a new Volvo S60 Sports Sedan. Second prize are two airline tickets and third prize is a \$1,000 savings bond.

There are also unit and individual

awards. If a unit contributes an average of \$60 per potential contributor or 40 percent participation, they will receive a Bronze Plaque. A \$90 average contribution per potential contributor or 50 percent participation will get the unit a Silver Plaque. To receive the Gold Plaque a unit must have a \$120 average contribution or 60 percent participation.

If an individual contributes between \$150 and \$499, he will receive an "Everyday Heroes" Calendar. For contributions between \$500 and \$999, he will receive a computer mouse. For contributions over \$1000, the gift is a crystal globe.

Find information on the CFC public folder on Microsoft Outlook, or contact your CFC unit representative to find out more about the opportunities to help those in need and make a world of difference.



Maj. Randall Burke

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Faces of MNB(E)

Soul Food:

Below: Sgt. Maximo Espinosa, personnel services non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, ensures a Soldier's records are accurate at the 282nd Personnel Services Detachment on Camp Monteith. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.



Upper Left: 1st Sgt. Henry Watkins, 1st Sgt. of Company C, 1-151st Aviation Battalion from Columbus, SC, pauses for a picture while on his way to breakfast. He said he keeps busy maintaining and taking care of the troops and making sure the company runs efficiently. He does that by ensuring the Commander's intent is known and followed. 1st Sgt. Watkins is from Sumter, SC. Photo by Capt. Lora L. Neal.



Lower Left: Staff Sgt. Brian McDermott, Task Force Falcon Mine Action non-commissioned-officer-in-charge, said his main responsibilities are acting as a liaison to Humanitarian Organizations who perform battle area clearing or demining procedures, tracking all battle area clearing within MNB(E), ensuring that KFOR reports are accurate and timely, ensuring that UNMIK - OKPCC and KFOR Information Management Mine Action computer program data is current and MNB(E) has the most updated info, and reporting new mine and unexploded ordnance fields. The Landisville, Penn. native, who is attached to the 337th Engineer Battalion, says he also works very closely with the 717th EOD unit. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.



By Chaplain (Col.) Robert Boidock

"SOUL FOOD".... that is a pretty good title for the words the Unit Ministry team personnel put forth in this column. Like the food we receive each day at the dining facilities that nourish our bodies, there are "words" that can nourish our souls...our minds, wills, and emotions. Simple "words of encouragement" offered by another soldier, can really help deal with the daily stress we all face. That was the comment offered during a recent brief I was giving on Suicide Prevention and Stress Management. Yes, words of encouragement don't cost anything, aren't hard to give, but can be so healing and motivating to the recipient. Go ahead, drift back in your memory and recall some words of encouragement you received along the way. Perhaps from your parents, relative, teacher, coach, pastor, commander, or a friend. They helped you get through that rough period where the "op-tempo" was high and sleep was rare. Your "buddy" may be in one of those periods now, go ahead and give them some soul food, some words of encouragement that will turn the tide of their day and restore their hope for tomorrow.

In addition to words of encouragement that provide nourishment to our souls, there are other kinds of words that reverse the effects of negative stress in our lives. These are words of "thanksgiving." Taking time to recall the good things in our lives, for a wake up in the morning, a beating heart, lungs that fill with air...for life itself. Indeed, we have much to be thankful for and at this time of year we are prompted with our national Thanksgiving holiday, to stop, and give thanks; it is good for your soul.

According to tradition, writes freelance writer Brent Lanford, the first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 by the English Pilgrims who had founded the Plymouth Colony, now in the state of Massachusetts. The Pilgrims marked the occasion by feasting with their Native American guests—members of the

A message from the Chaplain:



Chaplain (Col.) Robert Boidock

Wampanoag tribe—who brought gifts of food as a gesture of goodwill. Two years later, during a period of drought, a day of fasting and prayer was changed to one of thanksgiving because rains came during the prayers. Gradually the custom prevailed among New Englanders to annually celebrate Thanksgiving after the harvest.

Colonial governments and, later, state governments took up the Puritan custom of designating thanksgiving days to commemorate various public events. Gradually the tradition of holding annual thanksgiving holidays spread throughout New England and into other states. During the American Revolution (1775-1783) the Continental Congress proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving following the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. U.S. President George Washington proclaimed another day of thanksgiving in 1789 in honor of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. This proclamation is listed below. Read the “soul food” offered by our 1st President. I think it will nourish you today.

Washington’s 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:”

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have show kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789. (signed) G. Washington

Beware of look-alike pay sites

By David Allen, Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa – Servicemembers and Defense Department civilians are being warned of commercial Web sites designed to look like official government sites.

The Web sites can trick unsuspecting persons to disclose confidential information, including social security numbers, said 2nd Lt. Kenneth Davis, a 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force disbursing officer.

“It doesn’t take a lot these days to give out the wrong information to the wrong parties,” Davis said recently at his Camp Foster office. “We’re issuing warnings, to nip this thing in the bud.”

Being targeted is a new Web site titled www.mypay.com, which resembles the official Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site www.mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp

That provides active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members, civilian employees and military retirees online access to their pay accounts.

The official DFAS myPay site gives servicemembers and civilian DOD employees an opportunity to access their leave and earning statements, as well as other financial information, online.

But a check of the commercial mypay.com site Thursday showed a column of links listed under “Popular Searches” that all led to credit card sites offering to “improve, rebuild or establish credit” with a Global Express MasterCard. The card is a pre-paid debit card that comes with a hefty \$140 application fee and \$5.95 monthly charge.

Other links lead to credit counselors, online Bingo, singles dating, “free” cell phones and Viagra.

The Defense Department warnings characterized the sites as “deceitful.”

“This is a deceitful web site and should be avoided altogether,” stated a warning issued to all Marine e-mail recipients on Oki-nawa earlier this week. “A SEC-NAV [Secretary of the Navy] Alert has been released describing this very site.”

“Personal information is valuable and should be safeguarded,” said DFAS Corporate Communications director Claudia L. Bogard in a press release. “Don’t provide your personal information to any web site unless you know it can be trusted.”

According to DFAS, 2 million DOD military and civilian employees use the DFAS “myPay” site.

“Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is in no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense,” the DFAS advisory warned.

“It’s a commercial advertising Web site that has no connection to DFAS,” Davis said. “But it looks similar to the DFAS page and uses the same reference links, such as ‘Military LES’ and ‘DFAS.’ Those links lead people to other sites, some of them offering payday loans requiring personal information.”

Davis said the terms used on the commercial site are misleading. “We haven’t received any complaints here from individual Marines, but the DFAS has reported some problems.”

Send a Holiday Greeting to your Loved Ones

Story by Staff Sgt. Jessica A. Brooks

It is time for the Holiday Print Greetings program. The program will run until Nov. 25, and submissions will be accepted up to that date. This program takes your information and a holiday greeting and turns it over to the editors of papers in your local hometown area.

You can send a greeting by linking to the website at <https://hn.afnews.af.mil>. This website will give you instructions on how to fill out the form. Participation is voluntary, but we encourage everyone to fill out a form. The greeting will run from the end of November to Jan. 2.

What’s New with the word “Soldier?”

Story by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Guardian East readers may notice a change in this issue of the publication: The word “Soldier” is now capitalized. This directive comes from Army public affairs leadership through the direct wishes of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

“We must always remember that humans are more important than hardware,” Schoomaker recently explained. “We’re capitalizing the word Soldier now.”

According to Carolyn Jackson, Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office, the change only applies to those serving in the U.S. Army.

“The change gives Soldiers the respect and importance they’ve always deserved,” Jackson said, “especially now in their fight against global terrorism.”

Soldier on the Street

Where's the coldest place you've ever been?



Carolyn Weekes

Rank: Spc.
Unit: SGS, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade
Job: Administrative Specialist
Hometown: Ben Salem, Pa.
Quote: "Winter in Pennsylvania."



Charalampos Koumaras

Rank: 1st Lt.
Unit: 506th Mechanized Battalion (Greece)
Job: physician
Hometown: Myrina, a city on the Greek island Limnos
Quote: "There's a place in Greece called Seli. There's a ski resort there, and the altitude is about 1,200 meters."



Janusz Sroka

Rank: Capt.
Unit: Polish-Ukrainian Battalion
Job: liaison officer
Hometown: Nowy Sacz, Poland
Quote: "It was at a wax museum in London in a special room where they show all different kinds of machines used for killing."



Miguel Castro

Rank: Spc.
Unit: 313th Postal Company
Job: Postal NCOIC
Hometown: Ponce, Puerto Rico
Quote: "Tuzla Main, Bosnia, in 1998 when I got caught up in a blizzard."



Joseph Fetterman

Rank: Lt. Col.
Unit: U.S. Army Contracting Command Europe
Job: Joint Contract Center Attorney and Co-captain of the 2000 Olympic Army Table Tennis Team
Hometown: Cooperstown, N.Y.
Quote: "Alcatraz."



Noel Toro

Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade
Job: G3 Air NCO
Hometown: Harrisburg, Pa.
Quote: "In Pennsylvania, at Fort Indian Town Gap, when I went through BNCOC, I remember having to run a PT test in the bone-chilling cold."

Scenes of Kosovo

Alpha Company, 1/131st Aviation Regiment Blackhawk helicopters fly high above Kosovo's patchwork fields at dusk.

Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

