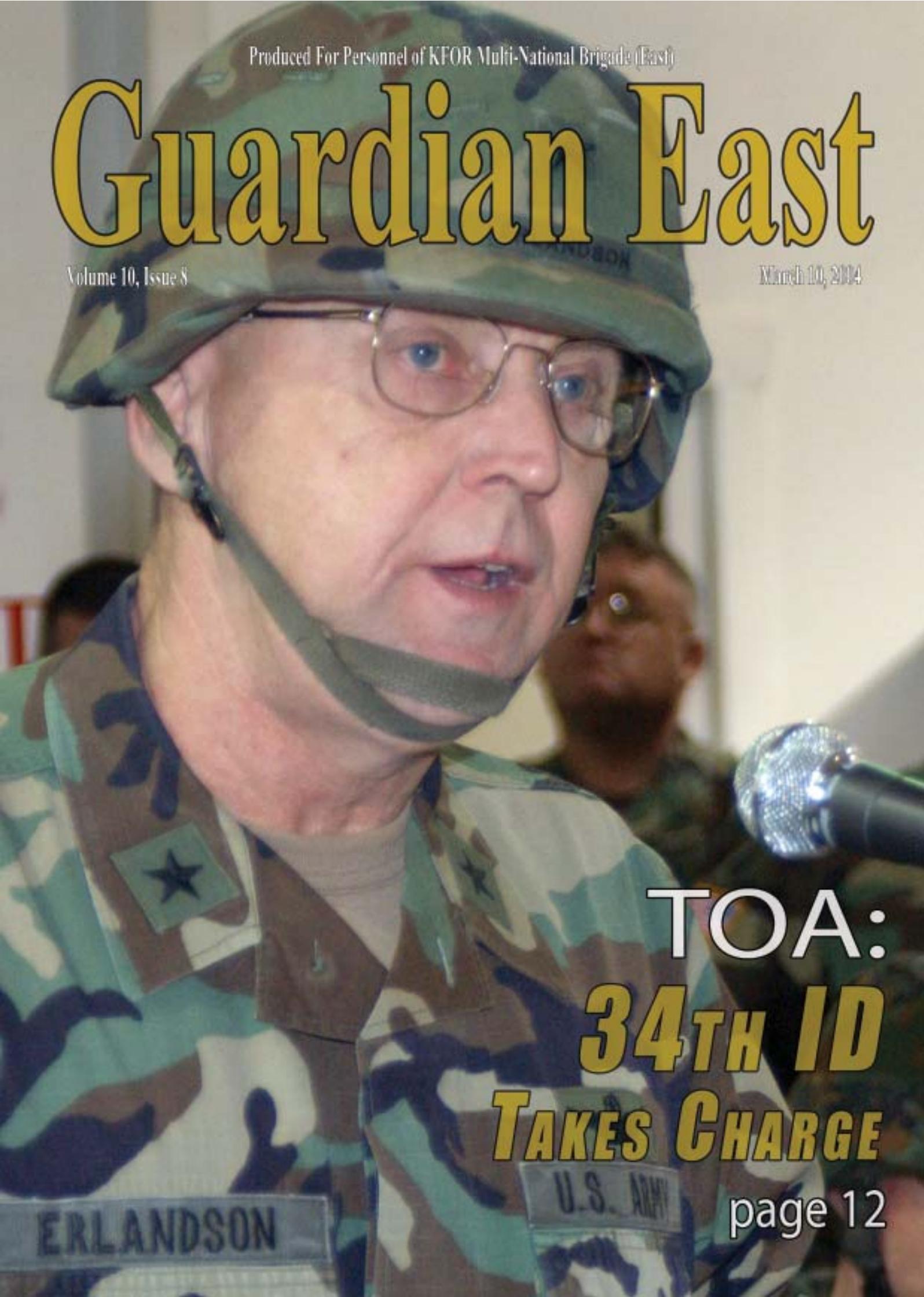


Produced For Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East)

Guardian East

Volume 10, Issue 8

March 10, 2004



TOA:

34TH ID

TAKES CHARGE

ERLANDSON

U.S. ARMY

page 12

Message to the troops



By Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson
commanding general

Mission execution time is now! The road to Kosovo has been filled with numerous challenges. The great Soldiers that make up our Task Force have met each challenge head-on, with a consistent focus on readiness. I have shared with you on numerous occasions during our post-mobilization training that your willingness to work together as a team would be the major factor in our success. Success during train-up, and more importantly, our ability to attain readiness levels required to assume this important mission in Kosovo.

Together we have formed and trained this great Task Force. You are mission ready! The credit for Task Force readi-

ness goes to all the outstanding junior officers, NCOs and Soldiers that we have throughout the Task Force.

We are now part of a multinational brigade and that is our strength. Great soldiers from the Ukraine, Armenia, Greece, Poland, Lithuania and the United States are a vital part of the MNB(E) team. Those multinational battalions and companies will only make us more effective in our mission. Together as a Multi-National Brigade Task Force we can make a difference during our rotation.

As Soldiers we have been called to do a very important and challenging mission. I'm confident that each Soldier will approach our mission with the same dedication, motivation, positive attitude and professionalism that has served us so well



Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson

during our post-mobilization training.

Just as teamwork is critical within MNB(E) so to is the cooperation we share with civilian organizations such as UNMIK, CIVPOL and the KPS. A success story is the cooperative efforts of CIVPOL, KPS and MNB(E) forces. We need to continue that cooperation and build upon success.

Finally, leaders must enforce standards. This is a small unit mission; as you perform your missions I expect every Soldier to conduct themselves to the highest of standards. Fundamental to our success as a multinational brigade is the strict adherence to all standards. It is the hallmark of a strong unit and mission success.

Take care of yourselves, take care of each other and together we can make a difference during our mission in Kosovo.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.mnbe.hqsareur.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@bondsteel2areur.army.mil

COVER: MNB (E) Commander, Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson, speaks at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel on Feb. 25. Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms.

See page 12 for the story

Guardian East

COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)
Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E) AND COMMANDER, 29TH MPAD
Maj. Christopher J. Cole

PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER
Maj. John E. Moran IV

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 29TH MPAD
Capt. Danny Reed

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM OIC
Maj. Gregory Tine

DETACHMENT 1ST SERGEANT
1st Sgt. David Stevenson

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Carmen Lee

MEDIA OPERATIONS AND BROADCAST NCOIC
Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk

BROADCAST JOURNALISTS
Sgt. Lindsey Guest
Spc. Luke A. Rollins
Spc. James Croall

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST
Spc. Sean McCollum

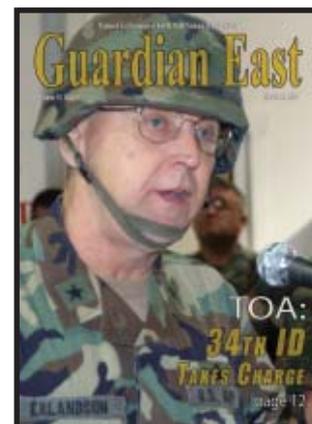
EDITOR AND WEBMASTER
Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Bishop

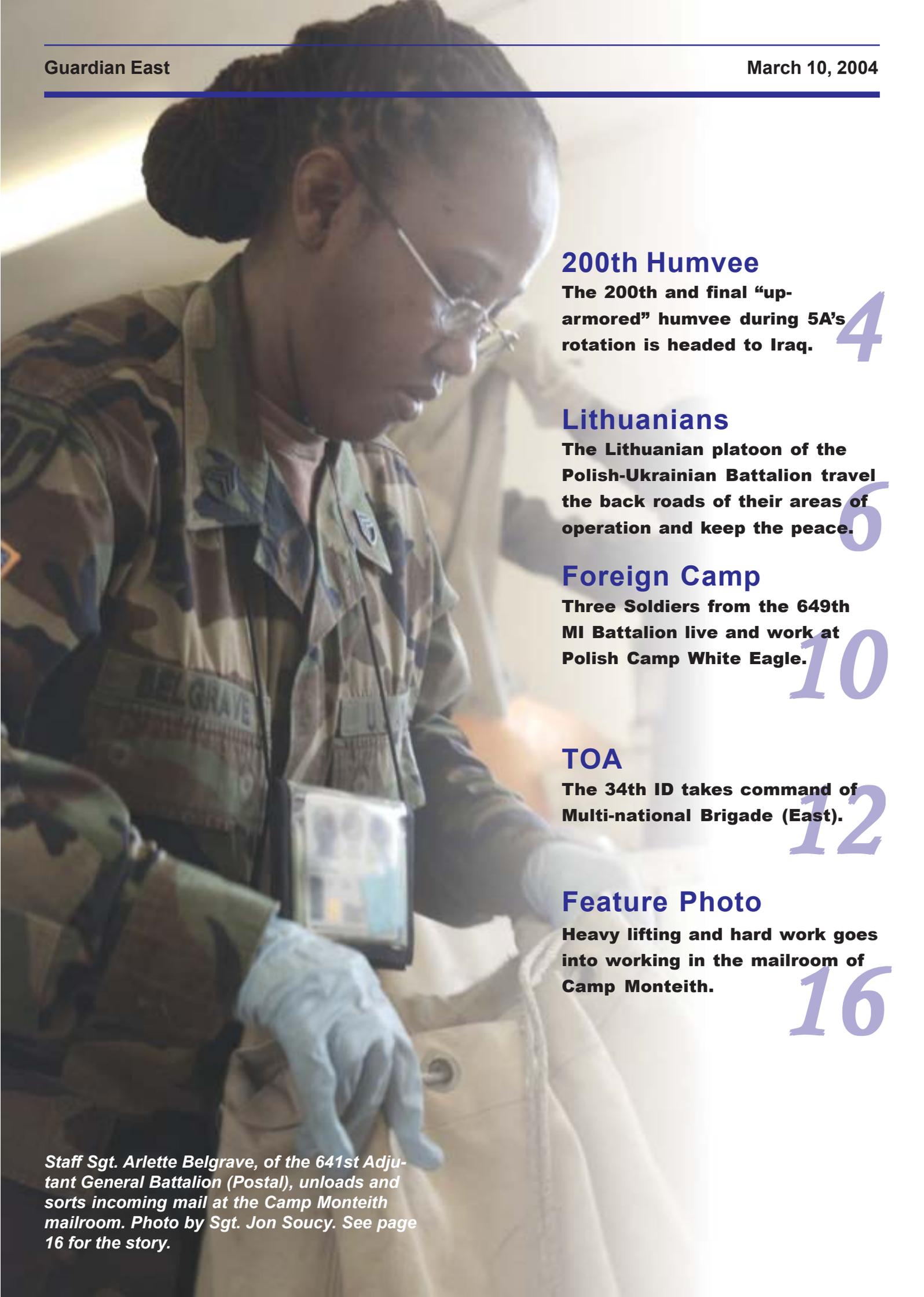
PRINT JOURNALISTS
Sgt. Jon Soucy
Spc. Tim Grooms

LAYOUT EDITOR
Spc. Rob Barker

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 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Army National Guard, Baltimore, Md. 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 34th Infantry Division. Guardian East is published biweekly using offset press by the MNB(E) Public Affairs Office, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340. Printed circulation is 3,000.





200th Humvee

The 200th and final “up-
armored” humvee during 5A’s
rotation is headed to Iraq.

4

Lithuanians

The Lithuanian platoon of the
Polish-Ukrainian Battalion travel
the back roads of their areas of
operation and keep the peace.

6

Foreign Camp

Three Soldiers from the 649th
MI Battalion live and work at
Polish Camp White Eagle.

10

TOA

The 34th ID takes command of
Multi-national Brigade (East).

12

Feature Photo

Heavy lifting and hard work goes
into working in the mailroom of
Camp Monteith.

16

Staff Sgt. Arlette Belgrave, of the 641st Adjutant General Battalion (Postal), unloads and sorts incoming mail at the Camp Monteith mailroom. Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy. See page 16 for the story.

Doing our part in Iraq

Story by Spc. Rob Barker

Many Soldiers leave Kosovo with favorite stories to tell and memories to share. Sgt. 1st Class William Hackenberger's favorite story is a simple one.

"One morning I was eating breakfast and I looked up at the TV and I saw one of our 1114 'up-armored' humvees from here that had gone to Germany and down to Iraq, driving through Baghdad."

Many people would think this is not much of an exciting story to tell from a Soldier returning from a six-month tour in an overseas country, but Hackenberger had his reasons. He was the fleet maintenance manager with Detachment 3, 28th Division Support Command, and he told his story with a smile because he felt he did his part in saving Soldier's lives in Iraq.

The M-1114 "up-armored"

humvee is a more heavily armored vehicle and provides Soldiers with more ballistic protection from landmines, direct fire and many other circumstances Soldiers are finding themselves in during their time in Iraq, said Hackenberger.

"Soldiers in the Balkans are not being fired on and the Army made the decision to ship its resources where they are needed," he said, and added the standard "soft-top" humvees are good for patrols and peacekeeping missions, such as those happening here.

During KFOR 5A's rotation, 200 of the humvees were prepared and sent to Germany to finalize the maintenance process and transition into other theatres of operation, said Maj. William Mengel, the material handling officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th Brigade.

The process started in August and will continue until all but a few of the more heavily armored humvees are out of Kosovo and the Balkans, with the 5B rotation continuing the task of sending the vehicles out, said Mengel. The process takes a minimum of two weeks per vehicle, and Mengel and Hackenberger were excited with the results as they celebrated sending out their final vehicle, the 200th one, with a party at the Supply Support Activity building here.

"The end result will be that we get the vehicles to Soldiers who need the protection, and that makes me feel like my time here was worthwhile," said Mengel. "If we save one Soldier's life in Iraq, it was all worth the effort."



Photo by Spc. Rob Barker



"Up-armored" humvees from

The Army's needs in Iraq

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — Despite the misconception of some members of Congress and the media who have raised the issue in recent weeks, the Army is meeting Central Command's requirements for "up-armored" Humvees for operations in Iraq and doing it in a timely manner, according to Maj. Gen. N. Ross Thompson III, commanding general for the Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

Part of the misconception is not understanding who is responsible for identifying what resources are needed for an operation, and part, not understanding the nature of the operation has changed significantly since the buildup to war a year ago, Thompson said.

"It is up to the combatant commander to determine what the requirements are — in this case, CENTCOM," Thompson said. "You also have to understand that the nature of the threat has changed from a year ago when we were building up for the war in Iraq, facing primarily a conventional enemy, to current operations where Soldiers are fighting a different type of enemy — insurgents who use RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) and IEDs (improvised explosive devices) as their weapon of choice.

"We met CENTCOM's requirement for "up-armored" Humvees a year ago and we are meeting

new requirements ahead of schedule."

There are two versions of "up-armored" Humvees: a production model and one made by installing a recently developed Armor Survivability Kit.

Early experiences with mines in Bosnia identified the need for the Army to have some Humvees with better protection in the lead of convoys and for patrol vehicles, said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Schoenbeck, "up-armored" Humvee combat developer at the Military Police School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Weighing about 2,000 pounds more than a standard Humvee, the first up-armored version came off the production line in 1996. In addition to steel plating and ballistic-resistant windows around the cab of the vehicle that offer better protection against small arms fire and shrapnel, it has steel plating underneath that offers protection against up to eight pounds of explosive beneath the engine to four pounds in the cargo area.

"I have never rolled over a mine while in Bosnia, but some of my Soldiers did," Schoenbeck. "It was amazing to see those Soldiers come out of those experiences without any serious injuries because they were in an "up-armored" Humvee."

(See CENTCOM page 21)



Photo by Spc. Rob Barker



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Rucker
982nd Signal Company

Kosovo are being sent to Iraq

Lithuanians

During a recent patrol, the platoon
their area of operation
Story and photos



Lithuanian Pvt. Rolandas Jurksaitis, a driver with the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion, patrols the backroads of the POLUKRBAT's sector.

walk the lines

on drove through the back roads of
keeping the peace in Kosovo.

by Spc. Sean McCollum



Through unimproved roads and back-road smuggling routes, the soldiers of the Lithuanian platoon of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion patrol their sector just a few kilometers from the border of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Their days may include distributing humanitarian aid and getting vehicles stuck in the mud, but they always involve teamwork and determination to make a difference patrolling the mountainous terrain.

A recent patrol on a cold, overcast February day began as all their missions do: with a meeting covering mission goals, said Sgt. Andrius Samuchovas, the squad leader for the patrol. The day's objectives included conducting a vehicle checkpoint, visiting the remote mountain town of Hasalari and checking on its citizens, stopping at some designated patrol points, patrolling known smuggling routes, and looking for signs of illegal woodcutting.

While the vehicle checkpoint – performed on smooth, paved roads – was conducted without a hitch, the modified Chevrolets of the patrol had a tougher time as they rumbled through deep, fresh mud that caked the tires and jostled the riders on the way up to the village. At one point, the combination of steep hills and slippery mud forced the patrol to push one of their vehicles through a particularly rough patch of road.

“Everything depends on the professionalism of the driver and teamwork,” said Cpl. Antanas Kasparitis, a radio operator with the patrol who was nicknamed “Ali Baba” by the village children who couldn’t pronounce his name. It takes a careful, skilled driver and the help of the rest of the team to overcome the dangers of the mountainous terrain, he said.

(See *LITHUANIANS* page 8)



Lithuanian Sgt. Andrius Samuchovas, a squad leader with the Lithuanian platoon of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion, scans for trouble at an observation post in the sector patrolled by the POLUKRBAT.

(LITHUANIANS from page 7)

Once at Hasalari, the soldiers distributed humanitarian aid and checked on the status of the village. Children of the 18-person village used their shirts to carry away as much of the supplies as they could.

The mayor, seeing what was going on, literally jumped for joy since patrols had not made it as far as the village recently and they had not received that kind of attention. He told the soldiers the status of his village – three children were sick with the flu and were transported to another village. The soldiers recorded the information to pass along to their chain of command.

While the humanitarian aid could not provide help to all of Kosovo, Kasparitis said, “To try to bring it to one poor village as much as you can, it helps.”

After talking to the mayor and understanding the situation in the village, the patrol moved on to its next objective: to look for illegal border crossings and woodcutting near the border town of Krivenik. If there was illegal woodcutting in the area, it wasn’t evident from the road, which was lined by trees pressing toward the patrol vehicles as they scraped the branches on the way to their next objective.

Once the Lithuanian soldiers reached the first designated patrol point, a fighting position still built up from a past war that lies along a smuggling route, the patrol turned back to reach a designated observation point on a hill near an elementary school.

With all the designated points reached and villages visited, the patrol was done for the day. No smugglers or woodcutters were found, but the patrol had much to show for their day of work, including the gratitude of the mayor of a remote village and the promise of doing the whole thing again the next day.





Pvt. Saulius Alesius of the Lithuanian platoon of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion checks the identification of passengers at a vehicle checkpoint in the POLUKRBAT sector.



Cpl. Antanas Kasparitis, a radio operator with the Lithuanian platoon of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion, greets children while on a foot patrol in a village near the town of Hani i Elezit/ Djeneral Jankovic. The children call him "Ali Baba" because they cannot pronounce his name.

Right: Capt. Shannon Weber, Polish-Ukrainian analysis and control team officer in charge, poses for a picture at the team's office in Camp White Eagle.

Below: Spc. Xlenske Sampson, an intelligence analyst with the 649th Military Intelligence Battalion, shows off a barbecue rib brought over from Camp Bondsteel in a mermite. The MI Soldiers do not eat at the dining facility at Camp White Eagle.



LIVING IN A FOREIGN CAMP

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. TIM GROOMS

In Kosovo, most American Soldiers live at either Camp Bondsteel or Camp Monteith, but for three Soldiers of the 649th Military Intelligence Battalion, staying with their American counterparts was not in the cards. Instead, they were sent to live and work with the Polish, Ukrainian, and Lithuanian soldiers of Camp White Eagle.

Their entire deployment will be spent at the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion's camp, where their main job is to serve as a link between the POLUKRBAT forces and the Multi-national Brigade (East) headquarters at Camp Bondsteel.

While living alongside soldiers of other nationalities, the three Americans are rather secluded from the rest of the camp. They live, eat, and lounge within a thirty-foot radius of their workplace, and do not eat at the Camp White Eagle dining facility. All of their food is shipped to them from Camp Bondsteel daily in mermite, containers that resemble green rectangular picnic coolers.

"They send us a list and we pick the meals and send it in," said Xlenske Sampson, an intelligence analyst with the 649th.

Although, they don't leave their work area often, they do have a leisure room attached to their office, which is also their living quarters. Their small lounge room contains a couch, big-screen television, a shelf of movies, and a washer and dryer.

"We will stay here and play X-Box or watch some movies," said Capt. Shannon Weber, officer in charge of the three-man unit, about how the team spends their time off.

One reason for the seclusion and combined living-working-playing area they call home is their long work hours.

"We work 12 hour shifts everyday so by the time I get off I am tired," said Sampson

However, the team is not entirely separated from the rest of the camp. They also have the additional duty of making sure the camp's recre-



ation room is in order. Sampson said he checks the building periodically and lets Morale, Welfare and Recreation know when something needs to be replaced.

Despite the lack of interaction in the few weeks the unit has been at White Eagle, the Soldiers have learned one thing about their foreign friends.

"It is nice everyone speaks some English," said Weber.

From working twelve-hour shifts to sending in a menu for meals in a mermite, the three men attached to Camp White Eagle will have worked and experienced something that few have while deployed to Kosovo. They will be able to look back on their time and say they lived somewhere different than most of the American Soldiers that have been here.

Welcome

3

4

t

h

**Infantry
Division**

Story by Sgt. Jon Soucy

In a Feb. 25 ceremony, Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr. and the 28th Infantry Division officially handed over authority of Multi-national Brigade (East) to Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson and the 34th Infantry Division.

After serving in a six-month rotation that began in July, Beck and the 28th ID left Kosovo for the state of Pennsylvania where it is headquartered.

“This past year has been one of many successes,” said Beck. “When I look at what we have accomplished I am awed by how well these men and women have performed their duties. Not only have they provided a safe and secure environment, they have done it with enthusiasm, vigor and professionalism.”

Also in attendance at the ceremony was German army Lt. Gen. Holger Kammerhoff, commander of Kosovo Forces who expressed his gratitude for the service of the Soldiers of the 28th ID.

“For six months the servicemen and women of this brigade have performed KFOR’s mission wonderfully,” said Kammerhoff. “Thousands of Soldiers have spent time away from their friends and families. I want to congratulate each of you for your commitment and dedication to duty. MNB (East) has earned the respect, trust and confidence of all Kosovars, no matter what ethnic or religious background, by being firm but fair.”

Erlandson, who has over 30 years of military experience, said the 34th ID stands ready to carry on where the outgoing unit left off.

“The 34th Infantry Division and the units that make up the Task Force are well trained and ready to continue the mission,” said Erlandson. “The American Soldiers who arrived recently in Kosovo have worked at length in preparation to assume their duties. Each and every one of us understands the importance of this mission and the challenges that lie before us.”





5A to



Welcome 34th I

5B TOA



Infantry Division

PUSHING WWEIGHT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JON SOUCY

The empty canvas-sided cart was quickly filled with a vast array of packages of all shapes and sizes. The somewhat tattered and ragged-around-the-edges look of some of the packages spoke of their long journey to get to the cart where they now sat. The return addresses—Cedar Rapids, Iowa; St. Cloud, Minn.; Baltimore, Md.—added proof to the distance that they had traveled. When the parcels reached above the rim of the cart Sgt. Joanna Perez grabbed the top edge and heaved it on its creaking wheels from the loading dock into the back of the mailroom at Camp Monteith.

Perez, a postal clerk with the 77th Regional Readiness Command, along with Staff Sgt. Arlette Belgrave, of the 641st Adjutant General

Battalion (Postal) are in charge of the mail facilities at Camp Monteith. As a team of two they tackle the daily task of sorting both the incoming and outgoing mail as well as ensuring that each Soldier and civilian on Camp Monteith gets their mail in a prompt and efficient manner.

The two handle about 200 pieces of outgoing mail per day, said Belgrave. After sorting that mail to ensure that it is sent to the proper destination, the mail is then loaded onto the back of a truck. For Belgrave and Perez this is where the toughest part about their job lies.

“Lifting,” said Perez. “Especially the foot lockers.”

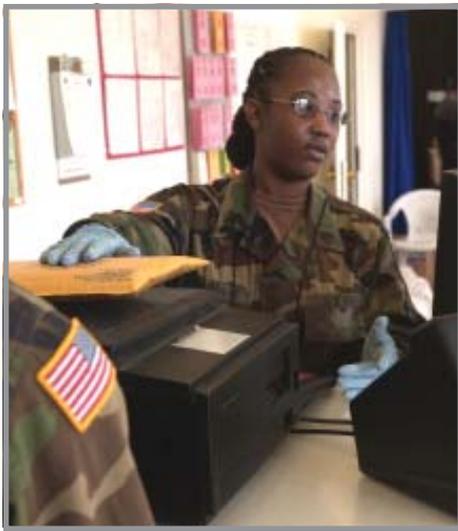
(See POSTAL page 18)



Sgt. Joanna Perez, left, a postal clerk with the 77th Regional Readiness Command, and Staff Sgt. Arlette Belgrave, of the 641st Adjutant General Battalion (Postal), unload incoming mail from the back of a postal truck at the Camp Monteith mailroom.



Perez unloads and sorts incoming mail at the Camp Monteith mailroom.



Staff Sgt. Arlette Belgrave, of the 641st Adjutant General Battalion (Postal), weighs a piece of outgoing mail while assisting a customer at the Camp Monteith mailroom.

(POSTAL from page 16)

“The packages can get very heavy at times,” agreed Belgrave, who explained that packages received in the mailroom can weigh up to 70 pounds, the maximum weight that can be sent through the postal service.

To overcome the weight issue, Perez and Belgrave use teamwork, something that is stressed throughout the Army.

“You just work to do what you can to get the job done,” said Perez.

But the heavy lifting does have its positive side as well.

“I don’t have to go to the gym to work out,” said Belgrave

with a laugh. “I do PT here.”

And for Belgrave and Perez the most rewarding part of their job comes from ensuring that Soldiers get the mail that comes to them.

“Part of the Soldier’s welfare is to receive mail,” said Belgrave. “I know with me, being able to unload the truck I can tell first hand whether or not I got mail and I know the excitement on my face when I see a package come for myself. So I know how it is when Soldiers get mail. It tends to make your day.”

“I see the smile on the Soldier’s faces when I give [the mail] to them,” said Perez, agreeing with Belgrave. “They

Mail room FAQs

1. Who is authorized to use the Army Post Office?

- U.S. personnel that are in direct support of the KFOR mission, e.g., Active Duty Military (not assigned to U.S. Embassies and Consulates), DOD civilians, and qualified U.S. personnel employed by DOD contractors. All personnel wishing to use the Army Post Office MUST have a valid DOD identification card. The KFOR badge is NOT a valid identification for the Army Post Office.

2. What is the difference between mailing an item(s) as free mail and mailing an item(s) as MPS?

Free Mail

- Free mail is a service open to all soldiers while they are here in Kosovo and the surrounding areas mailing items to stateside only.

- Only Letters, Postcards, and Sound Recordings (audio and videotapes) having the character of personal correspondence and weighing 13 ounces or less can be mailed as “Free” mail.

- The word “Free” is to be either hand written or typed in the upper right hand corner of the envelope.

- An APO return address is the only return address for “Free” mail service. You cannot mail a letter, postcard, or sound recording with a stateside return address.

Military Postal Service Mail

- MPS mail can weigh up to 70 pounds and be 130 inches in length and girth combined.

- From APO to APO/FPO only

- The word “MPS” is to be either hand written or typed in the upper right hand corner of the envelope.

3. How long does it take for CONUS mail to reach Kosovo?

- First Class/Priority – Average of 10-14 days to

reach Kosovo.

- Space Available Mail (SAM) – Average of 3-6 weeks

4. In what way can I track mail destined to the States?

- You can use the USPS website www.usps.gov to track Certified and Registered mail only. You cannot track Insured Mail.

5. What is the cost of a stamp?

- The cost of a stamp is 37 cents. If you are going to send a letter to Canada or Mexico the cost of a stamp is 60 cents. If you are going to send a letter to any other country internationally, the cost of a stamp is 80 cents.

6. Where do we turn in Official Mail? What are the hours of operation? What is the phone number?

- You can turn in official mail only in the official mailroom, building 2217A, located near the main post office on Camp Bondsteel. The hours of operation are Monday – Saturday from 1000 – 1130. The number to reach the mail room is DSN 781-3715.

7. Do we have to place a customs form on all packages?

- Yes. Any correspondence that contains anything other than a letter must have a customs form.

8. What is the difference between the green customs form (PS Form 2976) and the white customs form (PS Form 2976-A)?

- The green custom form is used when mailing a package that contains 3 or fewer items in each package. If you are mailing 4 or more items in each package, you must use the white customs form. If sending clothing, you MUST itemize each article. (ex: 1 jacket, 3 pants, etc.)

get so happy. The smiles on their faces is rewarding.”

Though this is Perez’s first deployment, this is the second one for Belgrave. In 1991 she was deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Desert Storm.

This deployment has been different in many ways from her first. During Desert Storm Belgrave said she spent just as much time pulling guard duty as she did performing her mission as an administrative specialist. In addition, being stationed at Monteith separates her and Perez from the main body of their unit at Camp Bondsteel.

“Here it’s just me and another Soldier,” said Belgrave. “We’re separated from our unit, so I don’t get the closeness that I did when I was in Desert Storm as I was surrounded by my Soldiers. Here, I don’t know too many Soldiers.”

Though on this deployment one difference has stood out for Belgrave. During Desert Storm

Belgrave said she was tasked to do different jobs outside of her Military Occupational Specialty. One such task was to set up a Morale, Welfare and Recreation center where Soldiers could rest and enjoy themselves.

“I was still helping out, but I wasn’t performing my MOS,” said Belgrave. “Here, on this deployment, I feel like I’m actually doing what I was trained to do.”

Though not matter if it was in the desert of the Middle East or at the Camp Monteith mailroom, one fact remains constant. The packages that Perez and Belgrave have unloaded from the truck have filled another cart and it must be pushed on creaking wheels into the back of the mailroom to make room for the next cart.

“It can get overwhelming,” said Belgrave of the volume and size of some of the packages. “But the days go by so quickly so I know six months is going to come fast.”

9. How can I pay for my packages?

- The post office only accepts cash, checks, or the eagle card. The post office DOES NOT accept EURO, credit card or debit cards.

10. What is the maximum amount of money orders I am able to purchase in a day?

- The maximum amount of money orders you may purchase in a day is \$10,000. You may either purchase a money order with the eagle cash card or with cash. The post office CANNOT accept personal checks as payments for a money order.

11. If an item that I either send or receive happens to be damaged or lost, can I file a claim?

- A claim may be filled by:

- Only by the sender, for complete loss of Insured or Registered mail only.
- Either the sender or the addressee, for damage or if some or all of the contents of an article are missing.

12. What are the hours of the Army Post Office?

<u>Main APO (Southtown)</u>	<u>Satellite APO (Admin Alley)</u>	<u>Monteith APO</u>
Mon. – Sat.	Mon. – Sat.	Mon – Sat*
0900 – 1600	1000 – 1130 (Open)	0900 - 1600
Sun. Closed	1130 – 1230 (Lunch)	Sun. Closed
	1230 – 1500 (Open)	
	Sun. Closed	

* Monteith APO hours are changing to 0800 – 1500 beginning mid March.

13. Where are the drop boxes located?

- Drop boxes are located on Camp Bondsteel at North and South Dining Facilities, the APO, and the Satellite post office located in Admin Alley. On Camp Monteith, drop boxes are located at the Dining Facility, the APO, and in front of the PX. Mail is picked up daily from all drop boxes.

14. What is my address here in Kosovo?

- Your address is as follows:

Rank/Full Name	ex: SGT Doe, John
Unit assigned to	123 MP Co.
Camp	Camp Monteith
APO AE 09340	APO AE 09340

- **DO NOT WRITE “KOSOVO” ANYWHERE IN THE ADDRESS.** Please notify your family and friends to use the correct address above. Not using the correct address will delay your mail.

15. How can I receive mail?

- Unit Mail Clerks are assigned to each Company or Section. UMC pick up their unit’s mail Monday – Saturday at 1400 and Sunday at 1300. Mail is then distributed through Unit Mail Rooms.

16. If I have any other questions, whom may I call?

- You may call the following personnel if you have any further questions:

CPT Nancy Svagrik, Commander, x 3117 (leave message)

SFC Christophine Rivera, NCOIC, x 4238

SSG Irvine Jones, Ops NCOIC CBS x 3115

SSG Arlette Belgrave, Ops NCOIC CMT x 7131

Welcome 5B from the Ministry team

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Peterson

Welcome to all the new KFOR Soldiers! May God Bless You as you start your service in Kosovo!

We have been learning how to do our jobs the past four months – first at Ft. Stewart, then at Hohenfels, and finally with our left seat – right seat rides. Now it's time for us to do the jobs we came to do.

We have five chaplains in Multi-national Brigade (East) – four at Camp Bondsteel and one at Camp Monteith. Our job is to help you be a better Soldier and a better person.

We do that by pointing Soldiers to God. We lead worship and we provide opportunities for Soldiers to worship in the particular way they choose. We teach and give briefings on a variety of topics. We provide counseling for people who want to talk about difficult situations in their life or who are wondering what they should believe.

Our nation is committed to freedom of religion. People can publicly express their faith in God as individuals and as groups. No one is required to worship. People can choose to believe what they think is right or choose not to believe in God at all. People can convert from one religion to another. We do not discriminate against people because of the way they practice their religion.

Our nation has also recognized the importance of faith in God. The Declaration of Independence affirms that faith in God's creation is the basis for our national belief in liberty and our belief in the importance of each individual person –

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

You don't have to believe in God or attend worship to be a good Soldier. But going to worship can make you a better Soldier – because it can help you recognize that you are an important person – a person that has been created for a purpose. Worship reminds you of everything God has done and can do for you:

- God has a plan for your whole life.
- God has important jobs for you to do today.
- God can help your family back home.
- God can help you care for your family, even when you're away from home.
- God can help you make it through difficult situations.
- God can help you recognize the importance of each Soldier.
- God can help you recognize the importance of each Kosovar.



**Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Timothy Peterson**

Or in the words of General George Washington, in an order issued at Valley Forge on May 2, 1778:

While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and Soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion.

To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to laud the more distinguished Character of Christian.

The signal instances of Providential goodness which we have experienced and which have now almost crowned our labors with complete success demand from us in a peculiar manner the warmest returns of gratitude and piety to the Supreme Author of all good.

Again, welcome to Kosovo! May God bless our work here, may God use us to be a blessing to the people of Kosovo, may God bless our families back home, and may God bring us home again quickly!

Registration for classes begins March 15.

(CENTCOM from page 5)

Following reports of almost daily RPG and IED attacks on Army vehicles in Iraq, engineers from the Research Development and Engineering Command began developing a modification kit last summer to provide better protection for standard production Humvees operating in Iraq. With design help from the Army Research Laboratory and testing from Maryland's Aberdeen Proving Ground Test Center in October, the Armor Survivability Kit was born.

The kit includes armored doors with ballistic-resistant windows and seatback protectors. It adds about 1,000 pounds to a standard Humvee, Schoenbeck said, giving better protection against the RPG and IED threat in Iraq. There are two ASK versions, one supporting a two-door Humvee and the other, a four-door Humvee.

ASK is not intended to replace the original production model of the "up-armored" Humvee, but it is a means to provide greater survivability to Soldiers using a standard Humvee, officials said.

Six Army depots are producing ASK. They have shipped more than 1,000, since November as of Feb. 5, against CENTCOM's requirement of 5,000 kits.

Shipments are about two weeks ahead of the delivery schedule agreed upon with CENTCOM, Thompson said, and we expect that trend to get even better.

Production of the original version "up-armored" Humvee is also being ramped up to meet CENTCOM requirements and industry is responding to those needs, Thompson said.

The TACOM, ARL and TARDEC partnership is now directing its research efforts toward producing similar force protection kits for medium and heavy utility vehicles.

ARMY EDUCATION CENTER BONDSTEEL								
March-May 2004 Term IV College Schedule								
Course #	Title	Instructor	Days	Hours	Credit	Location	Start	End
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND								
ALBN 111-1	Elementary Albanian I	Haxhiu	MoWe	1830-2130	3	Testing Room	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
ALBN 111-2	Elementary Albanian I	Haxhiu	TuTh	1830-2130	3	Testing Room	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
BIOL 164/161-1	Human Anatomy & Physiology w/lab	Jester	MoWe	1800-2200	4	1	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
BMGT 110-1	Introduction to Business	Cassell	FrSu	1830-2130	3	3	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
COMM 394-1	Business Communication	Donnellan	FrSu	0900-1200	3	5	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
ENGL 101-1*	Introduction to Writing	Rogowski	MoWe	1830-2130	3	2	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
ENGL 240-1	Intro to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama	Donnellan	FrSu	1830-2130	3	5	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
ENGL 246-1	The Short Story	Rogowski	TuTh	0900-1200	3	2	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
ENGL 291-1	Expository and Research Writing	Rogowski	FrSu	1830-2130	3	2	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
GERM 111-1	Elementary German I	Canaga	MoWe	1830-2130	3	5	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
GVPT 170-1	American Government	Jonna	MoWe	1830-2130	3	3	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
GVPT 401-1	Problems of World Politics	Jonna	TuTh	1830-2130	3	7	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
HIST 141-1	Western Civilization I	Rafael	MoWe	1830-2130	3	7	29-Mar-03	19-May-04
HIST 157-1	History of United States Since 1865	Rafael	MoWe	0900-1200	3	7	29-Mar-03	19-May-04
HIST 443-1	History of the Balkans	Rafael	FrSu	1830-2130	3	7	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
IFSM 201-1	Intro to Computer-Based Systems	Williams	MoWe	1830-2130	3	Computer Lab	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
MATH 009-1	Basic Algebra	Arango	FrSu	0900-1200	3	1	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
MATH 107-1*	College Algebra	Arango	FrSu	1830-2130	3	1	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
NSCI 100/101-1	Introduction to Physical Science w/lab	Arango	TuTh	1800-2200	4	1	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
PHIL 100-1	Introduction to Philosophy	Kerr	FrSu	1830-2130	3	4	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
PSYC 100-1	Introduction to Psychology	Kerr	MoWe	1830-2130	3	4	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
SPAN 111-1	Elementary Spanish I	Canaga	TuTh	0900-1200	3	5	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
SPAN 111-2	Elementary Spanish I	Canaga	TuTh	1830-2130	3	5	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
SPCH 100-1	Introduction to Public Speaking	Rogowski	MoWe	0900-1200	3	2	29-Mar-04	19-May-04
SPCH 100-2	Introduction to Public Speaking	Rogowski	TuTh	1830-2130	3	2	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
*Math and English courses marked with an * require a placement test prior to enrollment. Please see the Maryland representative.								
CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE								
CJSA 1317	Juvenile Justice System	Storfie	SaSu	1400-1700	3	6	3-Apr-04	22-May-04
CJSA 1348	Ethics in Criminal Justice	VanSlycke	TuTh	1830-2130	3	3	30-Mar-04	20-May-04
CJSA 1369	Police Systems and Practices	Storfie	SaSu	1800-2100	3	6	3-Apr-04	22-May-04
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND								
CMST 100A-1	Introduction to Microcomputers	Williams	Su	0900-1700	1	Computer Lab	4-Apr-04	11-Apr-04
CMST 100B-1	Introduction to Microsoft Word	Williams	Su	0900-1700	1	Computer Lab	18-Apr-04	25-Apr-04
CMST 100C-1	Introduction to Powerpoint	Gjokaj	MoTu	1800-2200	1	Computer Lab	19-Apr-04	27-Apr-04
CMST 100F-1	Introduction to Microsoft Access	Gjokaj	SaSu	0900-1700	1	Computer Lab	1-May-04	2-May-04
CMST 100G-1	Introduction to Microsoft Excel	Gjokaj	WeTh	1800-2200	1	Computer Lab	5-May-04	13-May-04
CMST 100K-1	Accessing Information via the Internet	Gjokaj	SaSu	0900-1700	1	Computer Lab	15-May-04	18-May-04
GVPT 377K-1	Recent US & Russian Relations	Jonna	Sa	0900-1800	1	7	13-Mar-04	20-Mar-04
Monteith								
ARMY EDUCATION CENTER-CAMP MONTEITH								
TERM IV - 29 MARCH - 29 MAY 2004								
Course #	Title	Instructor	Days	Hours	SH	Location	Start	End
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND								
GERM 111	Elementary German I	Canaga	FrSu	1800-2100	3	301	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
SPAN 111	Elementary Spanish I	Canaga	FrSu	1300-1600	3	301	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
MATH 107	College Algebra	Arango	MoWe	1800-2100	3	301	29-Mar-04	20-May-04
MATH 009	Introductory Algebra	Arango	MoWe	1000-1300	3	301	29-Mar-04	20-May-04
PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology	Kerr	TuTh	1800-2100	3	301	30-Mar-04	21-May-04
PHIL 100	Introduction to Philosophy	Kerr	TuTh	1000-1300	3	301	30-Mar-04	21-May-04
HIST 141	Western Civilization I	Rafael	TuTh	1300-1600	3	202	30-Mar-04	21-May-04
HIST 337	Europe in the World Setting	Rafael	TuTh	1800-2100	3	202	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
GOVT 200	International Relations	Jonna	FrSu	1900-2200	3	203B	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
ENGL 101	Introduction to Writing	Donnellan	MoWe	1800-2100	3	202	29-Mar-04	20-May-04
COMM 394	Business Writing	Donnellan	TuTh	1300-1600	3	203B	30-Mar-04	21-May-04
SPCH 100	Fund. of Speech	Donnellan	MoWe	1800-2100	3	203B	29-Mar-04	20-May-04
ALBN 111	Elementary Albanian I	Haxhiu	FrSu	1900-2200	3	202	2-Apr-04	23-May-04
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SEMINARS								
CMST100A1Hardware	Computers-Hard/Software	Daui	SaSu	0930-1200	1	201A	27-Mar-04	4-Apr-04
CMST 100B	Microsoft Word	Gjokaj	SaSu	0930-1200	1	201A	18-Apr-04	18-Apr-04
CMST 100	Microsoft Powerpoint	Daui	SaSu	0930-1200	1	201A	24-Apr-04	2-May-04
CMST100G	Microsoft Excel	Gjokaj	SaSu	0930-1700	1	201A	8-May-04	9-May-04
CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE								
CJSA 1322	Intro to Criminal Justice	VanSlycke	MoWe	1900-2200		303	29-Mar-04	20-May-04
CJSA 1342	Criminal Investigation	VanSlycke	FrSu	1900-2200		303	30-Mar-04	21-May-04

Army requests Comanche termination

By Joe Burlas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — The Army plans to cancel further research, development and planned purchases of the RAH-66 Comanche stealth helicopter.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker told the Pentagon press corps late Feb. 23 the Army's Comanche termination recommendation to Congress is about getting the most bang for the buck for Army aviation.

"We have examined closely our resourcing plans for aviation and concluded that some of the capabilities those funds would provide are no longer consistent with the changed operating environment," Brownlee said.

From a purely business standpoint, it makes a lot more sense to upgrade the capabilities of the current Army aircraft fleet to meet the demands of the contemporary operating environment with the \$14 billion currently slated for the Comanche program versus getting the 121 Comanche helicopters designed for a different environment and a different enemy than the ones the Army faces today, Schoomaker said.

That \$14 billion represents about 40 percent of the planned Army aviation budget through fiscal year 2011.

The decision to cancel the Comanche program stems from one of Schoomaker's early directives to take a close look at Army aviation to determine how it should transform to best meet today's and tomorrow's challenges on the battlefield. The six-month study that ensued recently concluded.

Standardizing what comprises an aviation brigade was one of the study's recommendations.

There are currently seven different types of aviation brigades in the Army today. That standardization includes the Army Reserve and National Guard. The reserve component has dozens of 1970s airframes like the UH-1 utility and AH-1 attack helicopters that had been phased out of the active Army more than a decade ago.

Given how reserve-component units have been tasked to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in the past two years, they should be "plug-and-play" with their active-Army counterparts — but they are mostly not due in large part to equipment differences, said Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The 3rd Infantry Division's aviation brigade, recently back from Iraq, will be the first brigade to reset under the standardization plan. The future Army aviation brigades will have two battalions of 24 Apache attack helicopters each; a battalion of 30 Black Hawk helicopters; a utility battalion with eight light utility, 12 Chinook heavy utility and 12 Black Hawk helicopters and a number of unmanned aerial vehicles — for reconnaissance and possibly combat; and a maintenance battalion.

The Army plans to divert part of the terminated Comanche funds to buy more Black Hawk and Apache helicopters for the Army Reserve and National Guard.

LES changes to reduce identity theft

ARLINGTON, Va. — Leave and Earning Statements for all service members and Defense Department civilians, and paychecks for military retirees will soon have more protection over identity theft. Over the next several weeks, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will drop the first five digits of a person's social security number from all pay statements and checks to guard against identity theft.

"The changes apply to everyone," said Patrick T. Shine, acting director Defense Finance and Accounting Service. The proposal "originated internally and will be phased in over the next couple of pay periods." Reports of identity theft have substantially increased in recent years, according to the Federal Trade Commission, which monitors the issue.

This change is to be for all hard copy leave and earning statements. This does not apply to electronic copies of statements found on *myPay*, the online system for access and control of customers personal pay information (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

Five years ago, the number of complaints to the FTC was roughly 23,400. By 2001, the rate had more than tripled to about 86,200. Based on figures released in January 2004, the number of complaints of identity theft nearly topped 215,000 for 2003. The Social Security Administration also has taken the same step of eliminating the first five social security numbers on the millions of checks it issues.

About DFAS:

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is the world's largest finance and accounting operation. It provides responsive, professional finance and accounting services to the men and women who defend America. In Fiscal Year 2003, DFAS paid about 5.9 million people, processed more than 12.3 million invoices from defense contractors, disbursed more than \$416 billion and managed more than \$197.4 billion in military trust funds. For more about DFAS visit <http://www.dfas.mil>.

SECTION Q N' A:

OLDER

What are your expectations/aspirations of your time here?

Staff Sgt. Arturo Bautista

"I thought it was going to be like the training areas, but this is a lot better."



Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms

Staff Sgt. Arturo Bautista, a crew chief with Alpha Company 1-207th Aviation, performs a function check on a M-60 D machine gun in preparation for a mission.

"I honestly don't have many expectations during my time in Kosovo. I am doing everything possible to ensure the safety/protection of all civilians and Soldiers of this camp."

Staff Sgt. Magnus Yancy



Photo by Spc. Rob Barker

Staff Sgt. Magnus Yancy, right, the force protection NCOIC with Area Support Group Falcon, hands the guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Weiler-Luvas, ASG command sergeant major, during the unit's change of command ceremony.

Spc. Mike Petschel



Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy

"It's going to be a great opportunity to see what it is like in other parts of the world that are different from the U.S."

Spc. Mike Petschel, center, an infantryman with Alpha Company, 2-136th Infantry, untying snow chains with the help of other members of his unit while on patrol in an area in the hills near Toponica/ Toponice.

Spc. Samantha Minkel



Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

Spc. Samantha Minkel, a dental specialist with Task Force Med Falcon, heats up a knife in order to better cut a night guard, a device to stop nighttime teeth grinding.

"To eventually go home and be with my family and in the meantime just do my job."



SCENES OF KOSOVO

The Kacanik Bridge. Photo by Spc. Jim Croall.