



Falcon Flier

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Falcon medics, soldiers first...

Germany based 30th Medical Brigade takes command of Task Force Med Falcon during TOA

For more coverage on the April 1st TOA, please see related article, photo on page 4.

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— After six months of being responsible for the healthcare of the soldiers of TFF, Multinational Brigade (East) and Multinational Brigade (Central), 86th CSH medical personnel relinquished their various duties over to soldiers of Germany's 30th Medical Brigade during a recent TOA ceremony held here.

The April 1st, 34-minute ceremony held at the Camp Bondsteel Theater, capped another successful run for a Fort Campbell based unit, as they follow their fellow garrison brethren, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) (that redeployed in November), back to Kentucky. The TOA, meanwhile, opened the door for another command/soldiers to take their place in the annals of TFF history.

Task Force Falcon Commander, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, presided over the ceremony and praised TFMF V for a job well done.

"Though you depart today, you will remain in the memory of the people whose lives, hearts, and minds you entered. You have shown people here that medical care is one of the rights that cross ethnic boundaries," Huber said. "Those who replace you will carry on and will build upon the foundation and the friendships and skill sets you have left behind."

Huber also recognized TFMF outgoing commander, Col. Greg Jolissaint, and incoming TFMF VI commander Col. Jeff Clark.

"Col. Jolissaint you have been blessed to have the privilege to command such a fine



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Col. Jeff Clark, commander of TFMF VI, unfurls his unit's colors during a TOA ceremony held at the Camp Bondsteel Theater.

unit," he said. "Col. Clark I know that you will build on what these fine soldiers are leaving behind. Duty well performed, Life of the Falcon...Climb to Glory."

Jolissaint, a family physician and soldier-medic, followed Huber and praised his unit for their sacrifice and hard work.

"Task Force Med Falcon V distinguished ourselves in many ways," Jolissaint said, during remarks to his soldiers, soldiers of TFMF VI, and other guests present during the event. "First and foremost we cared for the soldiers, insured the overall health of this Task Force, and helped to deliver

humanitarian aide to the people of Kosovo, as we worked alongside Kosovo's physicians and nurses. We were able to accomplish our mission because of the dedicated efforts of our soldiers. They made the difference."

Jolissaint also thanked the many other units (Reserve and Active Duty) as well as the officers and soldiers of the United Kingdom that join U.S. medical elements in the makeup of TFF's bilateral integrated Medical Facility- Multinational Brigade (E) Hospital located at Camp Bondsteel.

"Not only was it a great learning experience for us to work with all of you, it was a pleasure."

Assisting the soldiers of the 86th CSH during their deployment and receiving praise from Jolissaint were 717th (Air Ambulance) Medical Co. (Nevada and New Mexico Army National Guard), 445th Medical Detachment (Veterinarian Services), 690th (Ground Ambulance) Medical Co., 61st (Preventive Medicine) Medical Detachment, 32nd Medical Battalion (Logistics), 257th Medical Detachment (Dental), U.S. Air Force's 43rd Air Evacuation Squadron, and the 10th Mountain Division's Combat Stress Control and Optometry teams.

Together much was accomplished during TFMF V's six month rotation (September 2001-April 2002). Some of the notables achieved were treating more than 236 inpatients and 82 surgery cases. The Ground Evacuation section drove 13,781 accident-free miles and performed 140 missions, while the air evacuation assets flew more than 595 accident-free hours with 31 missions. Also TFMF completed more than 50 (Please see TOA, page 4)

TFF Commanding General

Keeping focus to successfully complete our mission



Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber

I would like to discuss with you the mission focus and how we all need to ensure that we are focused with the mission at hand. Lets use as an example someone shooting their weapon, and how they focus on the front sight. It is the clarity and the sharpness of the focus on that front sight with the target in the distance, that remains hazy, that enables the shooter to direct that bullet

towards that future, towards that target in the distance, and to accurately engage it.

So how do we do that? What do you focus on? What does that mean? To me it's a consistency in what we've done all along. That is, you should focus your efforts, your energy on our soldiers. That's why we all exist. That's why I'm still wearing a uniform, after coming into the Army in July of 1971. I still wear a uniform, because of soldiers, because I wanted to be a soldier, because I draw my energy and my inspiration from our soldiers, because it is the most honorable profession that I know.

So I reinforce with you now what I've always said: focus your attention, your efforts, and your labors on soldiers. We need to stay focused on our current mission. Don't allow yourself to be distracted by what you think is going to occur in the future, and particularly now, as some of us are within 30, 45 days of redeployment. Don't be distracted. Maintain your situational awareness. Under-

stand what is going on around you. These are still very dangerous times, and in some people's estimates, it is always the relief in place that is the most dangerous time. This is the time that an enemy that has situational awareness will take advantage of. They know the confusion of new units coming in to an unknown, unfamiliar situation, replacing units that have been there, that now, perhaps, erroneously feel comfortable with their surroundings, and people and equipment changing places.

So I need you to reflect for a moment, to identify, what you have accomplished, but identify to yourself, "If I had to do this all over again, what would I have done differently? What do I wish I had known? What do I wish I had done?" So that you can write that down, and that should be part of your discussion with the unit that will relieve you. Turn the clock back, four, five, six, seven months. "Here is what I would have done differently. Here is what I would have asked of that unit I was replacing. Here is what I would have liked to have known." And then think your way through, if you were going to be here for another six months. What is realistic, in your mind, with the experience that you now have? What realistically, still needs to be accomplished? And how would you go about that? That is the experience. That is the perspective. That is the knowledge that you can pass on to the people who will eventually relieve you in place that will give them an advantage.

I want you to focus on appreciating the duty well performed by our soldiers. Clearly, to give them words of congratulations, words of appreciation, to say "thanks", to think to yourself, "How often do I talk to my soldiers? How often do I talk to my leaders? How do I interact? And is it only to remind them, or point out to them their errors, instead of congratulating them and focusing them on their successes?" You also need to focus your time, our most valuable resource, and our most limited resource, on showing your soldiers that you care. That means paper-

work, the dreaded paper war that we all go through, that we all must constantly remind ourselves that we are doing this paperwork to help soldiers. It is necessary that you take the time to accurately and appropriately write evaluations and that you submit those people for awards. That you assist them in identifying what they will do when they return to their home station, particularly as we look at the normal summer rotations of people out of duty locations, and duty positions, and the emotions that are associated with that.

We owe it to our soldiers to focus on showing them that we care, by informing them as to what lies ahead for them. What will their next duties be? What will be expected of them? How much time will they have off, after this tour? And please focus on the great sessions that our chaplains have put together about the emotions of reunions and returns, and where expectation levels are, and how do you reintegrate back into your family, and your friends and your unit. This all takes time. And it takes, normally, more listening than speaking. And it takes paperwork. And you've got to now focus on a plan to be able to accomplish all of this caring for your soldiers. And while you cannot allow yourself to be distracted by the future, you cannot allow yourself, in your marksmanship role, to sharpen your focus on the target, and therefore have the front sight alignment be fuzzy. You won't hit that target. But you've got to prepare for the future, mentally and physically. You've got to prepare for changes of locations and duties and responsibilities and changes of units and fellow soldiers. So you need to think your way through that.

This past week, I had the privilege to enjoy the USAEUR Chorus, and our own MNB (E) Task Force Falcon Soldier Fashion Show. As we sat and enjoyed moments of entertainment, and distraction, away from the stress levels of this forward-deployed mission, I found (Please see Gen. HUBER, page 4)

TFF Command Sergeant Major

The TFF game plan for a successful fourth quarter



Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker

Our time here, for most of the Task Force, is not over just yet. There is still plenty of it left. I like to compare the remaining time to playing in a big game. It's the fourth quarter, with the game on the line, and we need to control the ball and not turn it over with a mistake.

We want to turn things over to the defense with good field position. We want to leave the field with better field position than when we started the game. But until this mission is complete, we must continue to move the chains toward the goal line for the score. The coach says, "focus", so lets do just that.

Let us have an appreciation for the things that we, the team, has accomplished and be mindful of the things that we must still do before the game ends. I am proud of each and every one of you. I know that you have done your best on every play, and I have total faith and confidence that you will keep your heads in the game, until the final whistle is blown.

Let us focus on the things that have made us successful. Let us continue to stand by and

look out for our teammates. Let us stick with our winning game plan. We don't need fancy plays; just basic stuff. No matter what we do, we can't commit errors and turn the ball over with mistakes. Stick with our bread and butter plays that will continue to move us down the field. High standards, discipline, Army values, teamwork and good coaching (leadership), these things have allowed us to be successful in the past, and I believe they will continue to make us a winner.

So I encourage each member of the team to watch your lanes, stick to the basic plays and give the ball to our incoming teammates in good field position.

"Climb to Glory... to the Top!"

About the Falcon Flier...

The Falcon Flier newspaper is an official publication of Task Force Falcon and is used for the intent purpose of providing command information to servicemembers serving in the TFF area of operation. The Falcon Flier is produced by the 131st MPAD (Alabama Army National Guard), TFF PAO. Contents of the Falcon Flier newspaper are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. The Falcon Flier newspaper is published bimonthly, using offset press by the TFF Public Affairs office located in Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Submissions or story ideas related to the TFF mission are encouraged and should be directed to the editor at 781-5200; or by mail at HQ Task Force Falcon PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel APO AE 09340 or e-mail at taylor.barbaree@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil. Printed Circulation: 4,000.

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Soldier on the Street

What is your favorite book?



Sgt. Wendi Ventura,
MP
TF 504th, 10th MP Co. (FWD)
(Camp Bondsteel)

“*‘Servant of the Bones’* by
Anne Rice.”



Sgt. Homer Garcia,
Infantryman
Co. B, 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt.
TF 1-32 Infantry “Chosin”
(Camp Magrath)

“The Stephen King, *‘Gunslinger’*,
series. He’s got to hurry up and finish
it.”



Sgt. George Yakop,
Cannon Crewmember
A Battery, 3rd Bn., 321st FA Regt.
(Camp Monteith)

“*‘Angels and Devils’*.”



Sgt. Alanna Major,
Team Chief
C Co., 10th Signal Bn.
(Camp Bondsteel)

“*‘How Stella Got Her
Groove Back’*.”



Spc. Joseph Storminger,
Infantryman
B Co., 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt.
TF 1-32 Infantry “Chosin”
(Camp Magrath)

“*‘Gods and Generals’*.”



Spc. Timothy Thomas,
Cannon Crewmember
A Battery, 3rd Bn., 321st FA Regt.
(Camp Monteith)

“The Bible, because it has a thousand
stories.”

Commentary

The adventures of books

by Staff Sgt. Michael P. McCord
Press Section NCOIC

I’ve been around the world. Adventure has taken me on a roller coaster ride while in Kosovo. Intrigue, mystery, murder and mayhem stalk my evenings. Terrorists have laid their horrendous plans of destruction and death in my lap. I am caught up and can’t look away.

My confession, only seconds away, I struggle to keep silent. I fail.

The frenzied schedule we go through to publish a newspaper each day makes me long for something less taxing at night. I find myself not venturing to the loud confines of the theater quite as often. I search for quiet. After the evening meal, I retire to my sanctuary. My trusty SEA hut. It’s there my mind is taken off the challenges of the day.

I read books. The tension drifts away as I travel to foreign lands a page at a time. Exciting exploits await my discovery.

Back home, the raising of three children, under the age of 10, is not conducive to settling down to a quiet evening with my wife Dawn, much less relaxing reading. Rising at four in the morning to get a little reading in before diaper changes, spilled milk and attacking my “honey-do” list, was my only occasion in the day to my retreat of the written word.

Half a world away, my routine has changed. During the day, our mission is seemingly never ending. At night, my escape is planned. Remembering back to the folded page edge I left to find my place in another locale, I am eagerly consumed.

I live in a barracks room where quiet is appreciated. Many nights the overhead lights are out before eleven. When that occurs, I click on my industrial strength clamp lamp. Doing double-duty as a heat lamp, its luminescent qualities shower my book with light. Until the time my eyes refuse to focus on the pages anymore, I read on.

This deployment has given me the opportunity to catch up on something I haven’t had much time for in the past.

The events surrounding OJG have provided more than enough material for the servicemembers to write volumes on the subject. Force protection, mine awareness, learning how to stay warm or cool, and how to keep up with a weapon on a daily basis are but a few topics that come to mind.

Prior to arriving in Kosovo, the misconceptions we had of the Kosovar people, and the subsequent realization that people are pretty much the same everywhere, would provide great material to publish a travel log describing a friendly country.

The historical significance of countries working together, many for the first time, to seek peace in a troubled land, should keep writers busy for some time.

We’ve learned a great deal from some smart people...ourselves. Years from now, everyone who has participated in this operation will be able to look back on this historical deployment and say, “I was there.”

Each person has their own way of dealing with the challenges. The demands here are many. The same goes for the possibilities.

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

Mixed emotions among soldiers during Med Falcon TOA



Cpl. Taylor Barbaree/photo

Soldiers of TFMF VI (67th CSH) listen to remarks from outgoing TFMF V commander, Col. Greg Jolissaint, during the April 1st TOA ceremony.

by Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— As the colors from Task Force Med Falcon V were rolled up and the colors from Task Force Med Falcon VI were unfurled symbolizing the transfer of authority during a recent ceremony here, there was a mix of emotions present among the departing soldiers and incoming unit members.

"Today is bittersweet," said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles McClain, Task Force Med Falcon V Command Sergeant Major, before the April 1st ceremony began. "I am glad that I am going home to my family, but at the

same time it's hard to say goodbye, because this was an outstanding deployment. I wish much success to my counterpart Command Sergeant Major (Craig) Layton and to the soldiers of Task Force Med Falcon VI."

Spc. Clinton Long, an X-ray technician with the 86th CSH, who spent the last months of his deployment at TFMF's Camp Able Sentry healthcare facility, said he is leaving Kosovo with a sense of pride and achievement.

"This has been a great learning experience," the Daleville, Ala., native said with a big smile after the ceremony concluded. "I feel like I have done a great job and I am ready to go home to visit with my family."

Spc. Nicholas Wagner, a medical supply specialist with the incoming 67th Combat Support Hospital (Wurzberg, Germany), was impressed with the 34-minute ceremony.

"This is the first-time that I have been involved in an (event) like this," the three-year Army veteran said. "I feel like this is really the beginning of our deployment and I feel good about our mission here."

Fellow unit member, Spc. Sherri McIntyre, a combat medic, noted the professionalism that TFMF V soldiers displayed during their train-up time together.

"They did a great job getting us ready for what we are going to be doing here. As a result of what we were able to learn from them,

coupled with the knowledge and experience we have we will be able to build on their accomplishments," she said.

UK Capt. Sally Edwards, a medical liaison officer with TFMF since January had mixed emotions after the ceremony.

"This is a sad day for me, because I made a lot of good friends with (this bunch)," she said, of her binding ties with the 86th CSH. "We (UK medical personnel) also worked very well together. I wish them the best, but I am looking forward to working with the new (unit) and establishing friendships with them.

"They are very positive, intense and have hit the ground running."

(TOA continued from page 1)

Medical Civilian Assistant Programs, providing care to more than 1,598 Kosovar local nationals who otherwise would have been ineligible for care.

Taking the podium after Jolissaint, (incoming commander) Col. Jeff Clark, assured the audience that TFMF VI was up to the challenge of conducting the day-to-day operations of MNB (E).

"It is a great honor to take command of this bilateral integrated facility," Clark, a family physician, said. "I assure you that you see one team standing before you today. We are grateful to have an opportunity to work with the many units and United Kingdom medical professionals that will continue in their roles here with us.

"There are three things that

Task Force Med Falcon VI will do while charged with the responsibilities of healthcare for this (sector). We will accomplish our mission, take care of each other, and take care of our families. Everything we do will be focused on these three."

In closing, Clark thanked his longtime friend, Jolissaint, as well as everyone else associated with TFMF V.

"I am grateful to Greg, Command Sergeant Major (Charles) McClain and all the soldiers of Task Force Med Falcon V for conducting such a smooth transition, that will allow us to accomplish our mission here," he said. "You and your soldiers have left us with some very big boots to fill, however we will fill them To the Top. Falcon medics, soldiers first! ...Life of the Falcon!"

(Gen. HUBER continued from page 2)

myself focused so sharply on the stage, and in awe of the amazing talents of our fellow soldiers. And as I observed the emotions in the theater, I felt so proud of the emotions that we share as a unit, as a

family, as the quality of the team that we have forged through a common sharing of danger, of sacrifice, of situation. So I ask you now, to stay focused on what is going on today, to keep your focus on the front

sight of your weapon, to allow yourself to accurately shoot your way into the future, into tomorrow, to prepare yourself for that and to show your soldiers that you really appreciate their efforts, by focusing on

caring for your soldiers.

Climb to Glory ... To the Top!

Soldiers bring medieval twist to physical training



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Staff Sgt. David Smith, 27th Eng. Bn., helps Sgt. Beth Elfrink, 2175 MP Co. don her armor.

by Sgt. Jamie Brown
Senior Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL—On a clear, sunny Sunday on the field adjacent to the Northtown Chapel, soldiers played football, and enjoyed the pleasant weather. The normal sights and sounds of Sunday, however, were interrupted with clangs and clamor as two armored knights faced each other in a duel. Heads turned as the knights struck blows to each other, in a hard fought battle. No, these knights weren't delivered to Camp Bondsteel by some time machine; it was just two soldiers enjoying an unusual hobby.

Staff Sgt. David Smith, 27th Eng. Bn., and Sgt. Beth Elfrink, 2175 MP Co. were participating in fighter practice, something they picked up as members of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA).

"We're a little bit different as far as hobbies," Smith said. "The society does any kind of medieval reenactment. They like to call it the best of the middle ages, pre 1600s. We skip the ugly stuff, the black plague, and the Spanish inquisition. We recreate the middle ages as they should have been, or the best of the middle ages."

According to Elfrink and Smith, it did not take much exposure to the SCA to become hooked.

Elfrink became involved, two-and-half years ago, while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, after seeing an advertisement on television. "It gave a location of their fighter practice, and I rolled out there one day," she said. "There were people fighting and doing other SCA things, and I was hooked."

"I've been doing it for three years," Smith said. "I found out about it in Bosnia through one of the officers in my unit when I was deployed there, and like Sergeant Elfrink, I went to the park at Copper's Cove in Texas, when I was stationed at Fort Hood. Some of the guys there lent me their armor, and stuck me in it, and put me out in the field, and it was just so much fun. I went online and looked for the stuff that would get me on the field the fastest, and bought it."

But the armor doesn't have to be bought. According to Smith and Elfrink, many

SCA enthusiasts make and build their own costumes, and it doesn't necessarily cost a lot of money to get started.

"It's as expensive or inexpensive as you want it to be," said Elfrink. "You can find it a lot of places online, that's the easiest way to do a broad search, catalogs and SCA events are the best way to pick stuff up."

together, and teach each other some tricks, and get a little better at what we do, and have some fun," Smith said. "That's the main purpose, to have fun and enjoy ourselves."

And according to Smith, there are many people who enjoy themselves participating in SCA activities.

"We have registered and unregistered

members," Smith said. "We've probably got 45,000 to 50,000 registered members worldwide, and probably another 100,000 to 150,000 people that are non-registered members who come to events, but aren't full-fledged paying members."

"The helmet weighs about 10 pounds, the breastplate and the armor probably weighs another 30 pounds, so it's maybe about 40 pounds or so."

That weight, however, didn't seem to bother Smith or Elfrink as they darted, ducked, collided and struck each other with their mock swords. In between fights, and heavy breaths, Elfrink and Smith expressed the fun they have.

"This is my first time to be back in armor since being deployed here," Elfrink said. "This is great. How often can I say I've been around the world fighting? This is cool."

"We just get

together, and teach each other some tricks, and get a little better at what we do, and have some fun," Smith said. "That's the main purpose, to have fun and enjoy ourselves."

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"Dressing in armor, and fighting aren't the only things that SCA members do according to Smith.

"We do a lot more than just the fighting," Smith said. "They do medieval cooking, people make garb, weapons and armor, and we get together and we hold feasts, and we have royal court, and people will sing songs, tell stories and just have a great time together. That's what it's mostly about, people with a fascination for history, and they get together, and have as much fun as they possibly can. There are some serious studies behind it, and most people are fairly accurate with their studies, and what they recreate."

Whatever it involves, the SCA is something that these two soldiers definitely enjoy.

"If you have any interest or love of Medieval history, the society is the best place, and the place where you'll have the most fun, studying and learning first-hand, through experience, rather than out of a textbook," Smith said.

"It's just the competition of fighting, and then the camaraderie of everyone in the SCA, getting together and showing off war wounds, and telling stories," Elfrink said. "It's the ultimate contact sport."

Editor's note: For more info on the Society for Creative Anachronism check out their Internet site at www.sca.org.



Sgt. Jamie Brown/photo

Staff Sgt. David Smith (left) and Sgt. Beth Elfrink duel each other during fighter practice.

TFF NCOs honored during ceremony at CBS Theater



Sgt. Jamie Brownphoto

TFF Commander, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber, far right, and TFF Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker, far left, pose with the new inductees in the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club who are proudly displaying their medals.

by Sgt. Jamie Brown & Cpl. Taylor Barbaree
Editors

CAMP BONDSTEEL—Twenty-four Task Force Falcon non-commissioned officers were recently inducted into the prestigious Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony here recently.

The mid-day ceremony, held April 10th at the Camp Bondsteel Theater, also recognized NCOs, who were selected for the Red Newman Award, and the TFF NCO and Soldier of the Quarter.

Presiding over the ceremony were TFF Commander, Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber and TFF Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker. At the conclusion of the recognition of all inductees and announcement of the NCO/Soldier of the Quarter, Huber acknowledged the important role that NCOs perform in the Army.

"I have a sincere appreciation for what you do," Huber said to the ceremony's honorees and the many soldiers and officers in attendance. "You are the reason why our Army is the greatest, most capable fighting force (in the world). It is an honor to be with you today and be a part of this ceremony. Thank you for the job you do."

Prior to Huber's speech, the Audie Murphy inductees were presented with the Audie Murphy silver medallion, a plaque and the Army Commendation Medal by the commanding general and Walker.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is a way of recognizing NCOs who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and a combat ready Army. Members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of soldiers and concern for families of soldiers.

The selection of NCOs into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club was conducted in four phases. The first phase was the commander's nomination. Unit commanders who recommended these NCOs for membership in the SAMC screened and evaluated candidates prior to their appearance before the initial selection board. The second phase consisted of a performance test, based on the recorded accomplishments of the candidate and their subordinates. The third phase was an initial selection board, and the fourth phase was the final selection board. It was a grueling four-phase event, and those that passed, warranted induction into the SAMC.

The NCOs inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club were: Sgt. 1st Class Michael Anderson, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Buettner, Staff Sgt. Bethany Burgee, Sgt. 1st Class

John Dudas, Sgt. 1st Class Scott Franklin, Sgt. Matthew Gehosky, Sgt. 1st Class James Hamm, Staff Sgt. Ronald Heck, Staff Sgt. Don Hickson, Staff Sgt. Christopher Holland, Sgt. Brandon Infiesto, Staff Sgt. Michael Johnson, Staff Sgt. Raman Kumar, Staff Sgt. Thomas Mertzler, Staff Sgt. Aaron Moore, Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Peterman, Sgt. 1st Class Edward Peters, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Rogers, Staff Sgt. Kevin Smith, Staff Sgt. Timothy Spencer, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Vincent, Staff Sgt. Thomas Walls, Staff Sgt. Kelly Williams and Staff Sgt. Robert Williams.

NCOs who were inducted into the SAMC, but weren't present for the ceremony included: Staff Sgt. Demick Hicks, Staff Sgt. Robert Ossman, Staff Sgt. Clarence Rabon II, Staff Sgt. Mark Roland, Staff Sgt. Pariet Stoner and Staff Sgt. Eric Studnicki.

After the SAMC inductions, Huber and Walker

presented the Aubrey (Red) Newman awards. The Newman Award is based on a soldier's ability to mentor, coach and counsel fellow soldiers, inspiring them to learn more, achieve more and continue the great traditions of Army leadership. The recipients of the Newman Award were Staff Sgt. William Evans, 110 MI Bn. and Staff Sgt. Dennis Showers, 110 MI Bn.

The Newman Award presentation was followed by the recognition of the soldier and NCO of the quarter. The NCO of the quarter was awarded to Staff Sgt. Raman Kumar, HHC, 10th LTF and the soldier of the quarter was presented to Spc. Tania Payne, B Co., 10th LTF. The runner up for NCO of the quarter was Staff Sgt. Shanon Holman and the runner up for soldier of the quarter was Spc. Ryan Criss. Both Holman and Criss are with TF 504 MP.



Sgt. Jamie Brownphoto

NCO of the Quarter, Staff Sgt. Raman Kumar and Soldier of the Quarter, Spc. Tania Payne, both of the 10th LTF.



Sgt. Jamie Brownphoto

Newman Award winners Staff Sgt.'s Dennis Showers and William Evans, 110 MI Bn.

Moving beyond ethnic boundaries...

Mogila school begins offering integrated class shifts

by Sgt. Jason Burdette
TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin"

Integrated schools are not a new phenomenon in the Vitina Municipality. Indeed, schools in this region were once peacefully integrated before the 1990's. After ethnic tensions climaxed in repression and conflict, many schools in Kosovo (including those in the Vitina Municipality) became segregated.

Arguably, one of the primary reasons for reintroducing segregation was the fear created by interethnic intolerance. This intolerance sometimes manifested itself in violence. This tense situation continued until KFOR was

deployed in 1999 and slowly these tensions have begun to dissipate.

People in the Vitina Municipality are not waiting for KFOR to solve their problems and are taking their future into their own hands in the interests of peace and mutual understanding.

On March 24th, the school in Mogila began offering integrated class shifts for the first time in years. This movement towards integration did not stop in Mogila, and was quickly followed by the announcement that the Binac school will reintegrate on April 2nd. This integration will affect thirty Albanian children and eight Serbian children who attend class at the three-room Binac school.

Both Serbs and Albanians had a strong desire for the integration of the schools here in the Vitina Municipality. Mitar Stanojevic, who represents Serb education in Vitina noted that the local community isn't breaking new ground, "Our children studied together until 1999

and I believe in integration whole heartedly - it is for the best." Stanojevic's Albanian counterpart, Liman Kamberi, also voiced a strong message "This took many meetings between parents, teachers and leaders of the community. But this is for the common good for all provinces. It will help send us forward as a country."

Giovani Morsiani, the Vitina UNMIK Administrator, has also provided key assistance in integrating the area's schools. In a brief speech at the signing of the Binac school integration agreement, Mr. Morsiani noted, "Be very proud of this achievement - it is something very important. This is a step for normalcy and stabilization between both communities in Kosovo." Marliess Bull, Vitina Municipality UNMIK representative, commented, "We have put forth a great effort to integrate [not only] local government jobs and local businesses, but also to bring communities of the Vitina Municipality closer. I have been a part of many meetings which led to this day and I feel that this [event] will lead to other positive changes in this region."

All sides agree that the military presence has greatly helped promote stability in Kosovo. Capt. John Walton, the Civil Affairs Officer for Task Force 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" noted, "This is a great day for Binac and for the Vitina municipality. It is one more step forward in terms of progress and I would like to congratulate all participants who helped in this endeavor. We are proud to be a part of this progress and look forward to a better future for all Kosovars."

The integration of the schools here in Kosovo is one of many steps that are being taken to promote peace. Actions speak louder than words and the people of the Vitina Municipality are obviously taking action to create a better future.



Local leaders commit themselves to joint education.

contributed photo

"Living History" visits Camp Monteith soldiers during March

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH—Soldiers had an opportunity to witness a part of "living history" in Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia A. Pritchett here recently. Pritchett visited Kosovo in March to give a presentation about Women in History during Women's History Month. Soldiers showed up to the Chapel anxious to hear her story.

Pritchett said that she didn't mind the term "living history," even though at first she thought it meant she was old, but then realized how much of an honor it really was to be considered in such high regards. In her part as "living history," she is part of an exhibit at the U.S. Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Va. The installation itself has ties to the history of women in the Army dating back to World War II when it was the home of the Regular Army Women's Army Corps Training Center and School. Pritchett is the Fort Leavenworth (located in Kansas) and Combined Arms Center Command Sergeant Major. She entered the Army on July 2, 1973 as a supply specialist. During her career she has

served in a variety of leadership positions to include: Squad Leader, Section Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Operations Sergeant, First Sergeant, Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Installation Command Sergeant Major, and Student and Faculty Battalion Commander. Pritchett has also served as a Drill Sergeant, an Army Recruiter, and an Instructor at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA).

"From the days of the American Revolution to the conflict now in Afghanistan, and throughout the world, American women have, and are, honorably serving our nation," Pritchett said opening her speech.

"Their contributions are characterized by individual and collective acts of self-sacrifice, dedication, patriotism, personal heroism and personal loss," she continued.

Pritchett went on to showcase women from the Civil War, Spanish-American War up through Vietnam, women buried in Arlington National Cemetery and the wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of those killed in the aftermath of the tragedies of September 11 that demonstrated personal courage.

"All these women have made great contributions and sacrifices throughout our history that have been instrumental in sustaining the American Spirit, and should be recognized. But there are also women who make sacrifices everyday that don't always make the history books," she said.

Pritchett continued saying, "I'm talking about the grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, wives and daughters; they get up everyday to do their part in our communities for us, and their efforts

go unnoticed. Look closely," she told the audience of both men and women, "at these women around you, and you will see they have and display the same characteristics of courage, tenacity, patriotism, sound judgment, sacrifice, commitment, dedication, determination and steady nerves just as the great women in history."

At that moment, the women of the audience sat straight up, prouder and more aware. "They are our heroes, and they will forever be in our hearts," said Pritchett.

Pritchett opened the floor for questioning, and was barraged with questions from inquisitive soldiers of both sexes about her different jobs held, her opinions on what to look forward to in the future of the Army, and her endeavors. It was at this point that she told, humbly, of her great accomplishments, such as being the first woman to be selected to stand before the Sergeant Major of the Army Board as an eligible applicant.

She closed by quoting President George W. Bush who said, "American women of strength, vision, and character have long influenced our country by contributing their time, efforts, and wisdom in vastly diverse ways to improve and enhance our government and communities, our schools and religious institutions, the arts and sciences, and our businesses and military."

The best of the 131st MPAD:

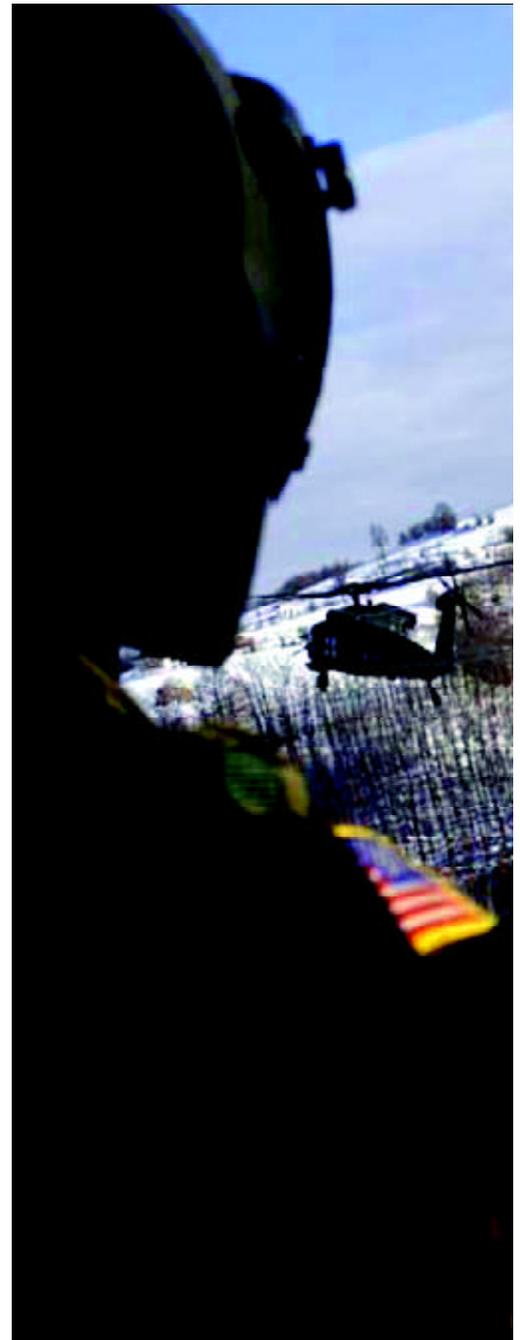
As Rotation 3B begins to wind down, during this issue of the Falcon Flier we will be sharing some of our best and most interesting photos with you that didn't appear in earlier editions. Special thanks to unit journalist, Spc. Molly Jones for her help with this edition's photo center-spread.



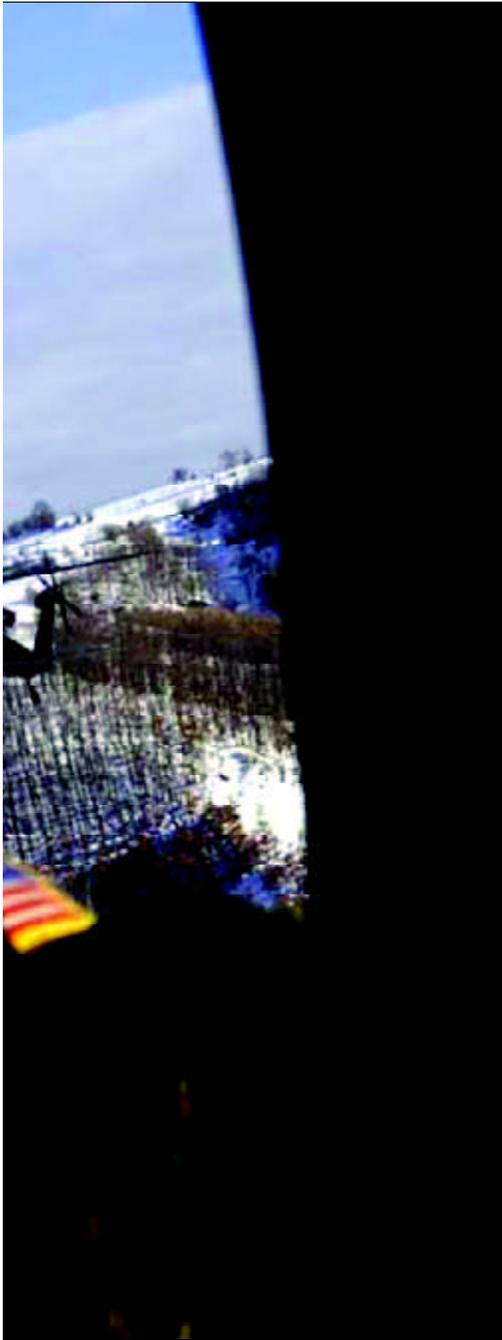
First Lt. Frank Tedeschi, executive officer for B Co., 27th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), inspects a bridge for his company to repair. The bridge, located in Pidic, Kosovo, eventually had curbs built to prevent traffic from sliding into the ravine below.



Spc. Anthony Barragan, 1st Platoon, B Co., 27th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), participates in a livefire exercise at Ramnjane Range on Dec. 7. There were many opportunities for the Fort Bragg N.C. combat engineers to train with bagalors, and perform air medevacs.



During Operation Iron Fist II, January 22, assistance by Task (Fort Drum, N.Y.), was provided to the soldiers of A Co., 1st E performed an air assault into the Russian Tactical Group 13 se



ance by Task Force Dragon, 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation, of A Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. TF 1-30 il Group 13 sector to complete a cordon and search.



The 717th (Air Ambulance) Medical Co. (Nevada and New Mexico Army National Guard) pilot a medevac (Blackhawk) helicopter during a livefire exercise with the 27th Engineers at Ramnjane Range recently.



Cpl. Matthew Gadzalinski, of Alpha Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, operates the radio during A Co.'s second Operation Iron Fist in late February. The operation was a ground movement into Mucibaba, a village within their sector. The cordon and search turned up a cache of weapons, ammunition, and other illegal goods.

**—Photos by Spc. Molly Jones/131st MPAD,
Alabama Army National Guard**

TF 3B, be ready to redeploy

by Cpt. Joe Gavin
10th Solder Support Bn

As redeployment approaches, there are several important steps you need to take to ensure your finances are in order.

First, the finance office at Camp Bondsteel will stop all deployment entitlements at the PAS Site prior to soldiers departing. For Reserve and National Guard soldiers all entitlements will be stopped by the CONUS Replacement Center (CRC) during outprocessing.

Second, each soldier must complete a Travel Voucher (DD Form 1351-2) and ensure that the voucher gets to their servicing DFAS location upon return home. This travel claim filed by the soldier entitles each to receive TCS per diem (\$3.50 a day). Your KFOR Finance personnel will assist in the claim filing process by providing sample forms to unit S1s, publish an example in the Falcon Flyer and will walk the soldiers through form completion at the PAS briefings. Once each voucher is completed and signed by the soldier, finance will collect them and give them to the chalk commander. Finance soldiers will meet the plane and take the vouchers from the chalk commander for further processing and mass shipment to DFAS. For Reserve and National Guard soldiers, finance will assist in travel voucher preparation but CRC will handle the final completion and submission of the 1351-2s.

Third, Eagle Cash Cards: All soldiers are encouraged to "spend out" the value on their EagleCash card prior to redeploying. Finance will give refunds at all camps within 7 days of departure for soldiers with a letter of release. Soldiers may keep the cards as souvenirs.

Fourth, Foreign Currency

Reconversions: Soldiers redeploying to CONUS can reconvert EURO'S at all three camps.

Fifth, Savings Deposit Program: Finance will provide information papers regarding the steps involved in requesting payment for funds deposited in this program. Contact numbers are 1-800-624-7368 or (216) 522-6545. If you started allotments for this program, provide finance with a DD2558 through your unit PAC before redeployment to stop the allotment, as eligibility ends when the soldier is no longer entitled to Hazardous Fire Pay (HFP). To maximize interest, participants should request (in advance) that the Army pay them their money on the 1st day of the last complete month that falls in the 90-day window after departure from theater.

Sixth, a paper on Special Leave Accrual (SLA) has been published and unit S1's can inquire with the Finance Office for a copy or any questions pertaining to SLA. A soldier cannot file for SLA until 1 October 2002, at which time the unit leadership will know how many days of leave the soldier will have in excess of 60 days.

Seventh, commanders, S1s and individuals should review June 2002 LESSs. If a soldier is still drawing Hostile Fire Pay, Family Separation Allowance or Foreign Duty Pay the month following redeployment, Commanders should immediately contact their local finance office. Provide the name of all soldiers still drawing deployment entitlements. Upon redeployment, finance will direct LESSs and Net Pay Advices to each soldiers' previously assigned unit. If a soldier does not receive an LES after redeployment, PACs will request them at LES distro, and commanders should add the soldier on the

UCFR. Soldiers have the option to log onto EMSS and view their LES on line!

What is E/MSS? It's a service provided over the Internet, which allows active and reserve military members to have information regarding their pay on line. The LES sent via E/MSS virtually mirrors the hardcopy LES and E/MSS is able to display your current plus the prior two month's of LESSs. E/MSS is easy to use and can be accessed nearly 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All you need is a Personal Identification Number or PIN. You can obtain a temporary PIN by following these steps:

Fax or mail the following information to DFAS. Clearly indicate on your request 'E/MSS PIN' and include:

- NAME
- SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)
- COPY OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ID W/PHOTO NUMBER
- DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER
- SIGNATURE

Finance will set your new temporary PIN to the last 5 numbers of your SSN. The fax number is (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800. You may also mail the information to:

DFAS-CLEVELAND/
PMCAA, ATTENTION E/MSS
1240 EAST 9th STREET
CLEVELAND, OH 44199.

Please wait two (2) business days before attempting to use the new temporary PIN (allow additional time if mailed). If you encounter any problems with the above procedures you can contact E/MSS customer service at 1-800-390-2348 from 0700 through 1930 EST,

Missed the April 15th deadline...?

Deployed soldiers have 285-day window to file taxes

by Spc. Tiffanie Tribble
TFF Legal Office

Although Tax season officially ended April 15th, don't worry if you have yet to file. Soldiers serving in Kosovo who deployed before January 1st receive an automatic 285-day extension to file and pay any tax due without penalty. No additional paperwork is necessary. This also applies to taxpayers filing a joint return; only one spouse needs to meet the requirements for both to use the extension. To invoke the extension simply write "Kosovo: Operation Joint Guardian" on the top of the 1040(A)(EZ) Form and mail it off!

The Tax Center/Legal Assistance Office is not scheduling tax appointments after April 15th but will be delighted to answer any questions that you may have. We also have plenty of tax forms available. Please reference Publication 3: Armed Forces Guide found at www.irs.gov <<http://www.irs.gov>> for more information about extensions. Over 500 tax clients served!

Monday through Friday for additional assistance.

You can access E/MSS using either of the following Internet addresses: <https://emss.dfas.mil> or <http://www.dfas.mil/emss>.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you can call the IVRS at 1-877-DoD-EMSS (1-877-363-3677) or (912) 757-3119. For security reasons, it is requested that you do not use your cellular phone to access the IVRS.

If you have any questions about the information presented, please refer them to any of the Finance Offices located throughout the theater.

What you need to know about: Entitlement Information for redeployment

by Cpt. Joe Gavin
10th Soldier Support Bn.

ENTITLEMENTS:

COMBAT ZONE TAX EXCLUSION:

Soldiers have 180 days after redeployment to file federal income taxes. Please write "Operation Allied Force from (start date) to (stop date)" at the top of your return and you won't pay a late fee or penalty.

PER DIEM:

This entitlement will stop the day you arrive at your home station

BAS:

When you returned to home station, your BAS will revert back to your pre-deployment BAS

HOSTILE FIRE PAY:

Stops the day you depart the area, but you are paid for the entire month.

FAMILY SEPARATION ALLOWANCE:

FSA stops the day prior to arrival at home station.

HARDSHIP DUTY PAY-LOCATION:

HDP-L will stop the day soldier departs area.

SPECIAL LEAVE ACCRUAL (SLA):

Soldier can carry forward up to 90 days leave over the end of the fiscal year (30 Sept)

CATEGORY I:

Earned HFP/IDP Deployed more than 120 days

1st Lieutenant Colonel in chain of command approves

CATEGORY II:

Did not receive HFP/IDP

Deployed less than 120 days

Supported Operation Allied Force Task Falcon anywhere 1st COL in chain of command endorses request from unit commander and forwards to personnel (1st PERSCOM if assigned to USAREUR)

When cashing SLA it will tax fee.

SAVINGS DEPOSIT PROGRAM:

You can deposit up to \$10,000.00 in a savings plan that earns 10% interest annually; deposits can be made by allotment (preferred), check, cash, or money order. Keep a copy of all Cash Collection Voucher you receive from your deposits. You should withdraw funds NLT 90 days after redeployment.

Write to:
DFAS-CL
ATTN: Code FMCS

1240 E 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2055
Include in letter: name, SSN, Branch of Service, Delivery Info (bank routing number, your account number or address for check) separation date and date of departure from deployed area.

TRAVEL VOUCHER SUBMISSION:

Fill out your travel voucher (DD Form 1351-2) showing everywhere you have been and the dates you were there. Keep all deployment / redeployment orders and TDY orders received while in theater. Keep all receipts for lodging and expenses incurred while TCS / TDY. Turn in 5 copies of your travel voucher, orders and receipts to your service Finance Unit or DFAS OPLOC within 5 days of redeployment.

Please see opposite page for example of LES'.

Peacekeeping is not a soldiers job, but only a soldier can do it

by Drita Perezic
TFF Cultural Advisor

As your mission here in Kosovo draws to an end one of the typical questions to ask yourself is if you have really made a difference. I am sure that no one wants to be sent to Kosovo. In coming here all of you were fulfilling your duty as soldiers - following orders. Once here I am sure all of you developed theories and opinions on what lead to the war, who was "right" or "wrong", the current situation, whether or not we should be here, and the list can go on and on. Whatever questions you ask yourselves about this mission the one thing you should never question is whether or not you have made a difference here.

Your measure of success or failure will fall within the amount of days listed on your orders. That is your frame of reference. You take Kosovo as you found it and compare it to what you leave behind and ask yourself if it has changed. You ask yourself has being sent here made a difference. And many of you with either frustration or resignation answer no. You are absolutely wrong. That is not a theory, that is not an opinion, that is a fact.

I have watched you, soldiers following orders, since the beginning of this mission back in June 1999. When I arrived in Kosovo there were hundreds of thousands of Kosovars in refugee camps in neighboring countries, there were hundreds of thousands of Kosovars displaced within Kosovo, there was an active and armed liberation Army on one end and a retreating armed National Army on the other. The smell of burnt out homes and rotting flesh became so normal one did not even notice it. It was easier for the people of Kosovo to kill each other than to talk to each other, and that's what they did - they killed each other.

Every day there were reports of murder, unidentified dead bodies, or attempted murder/assassination, homes being burnt to the ground and people disappearing. There was no

such thing as treating people - treating each other - with Dignity and Respect for the Kosovars. "Dignity and Respect" would become the first rotation's motto here. And so each rotation found a different set of challenges, issues, and problems. Each rotation addressed and succeeded at dealing with those challenges, issues, and problems. Each rotation asked themselves if they collectively and individually made a difference and walked away with theories and opinions.

Many times it is easy to simplify the cause of this conflict with blanket statements like "they have been killing each other for centuries", "they are not sick of killing each other yet so they will keep on killing until they get sick of it", "they should just..." and many more. There is nothing simple about what causes people to kill each other, and there is nothing simple about getting people to stop doing that. Being the objective observer is very hard indeed.

I will leave history to the historian, and I will not attempt to answer who is "right" or "wrong". I will not tell you if your theories or opinions hold water. I will tell you that every second you have been here has made the difference in millions of lives across the entire province of Kosovo. Our sector, MNB-E, has roughly 410,000 people. We have the second largest concentration of Kosovar Serbs in our sector, numbering more than 40,000. Outside of MNB-N, the French Sector, our sector has been called the most contentious, problematic, dangerous, conflicted and the descriptions can go on and on. Our sector has seen violence, murder, rape, robbery, fires, assault, harassment, kidnapping, bombings, and here is another list that can go on and on.

Thousands of you have come and gone and I have been blessed enough to watch. It has been nothing short of an honor, pleasure, and truly a privilege to serve my nation with all of you - my nation's protectors. I am not ordered to be here, it is a personal choice I make everyday. Every day I find myself among you, my decision to remain is reinforced. What I am trying to get across is that I have watched this mission from day one and I know for a fact that you have made a

difference. Your very presence and commitment both collectively and individually, that Flag on your shoulder, has made the difference not just in this sector, but the entire province.

The reason is simple - every one of you fine soldiers has led by example.

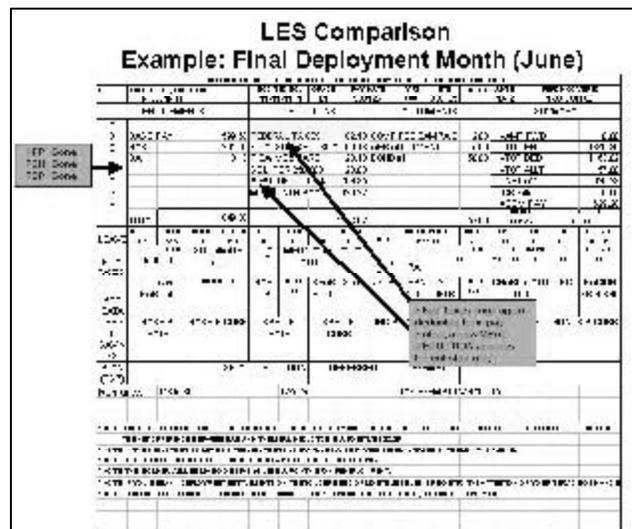
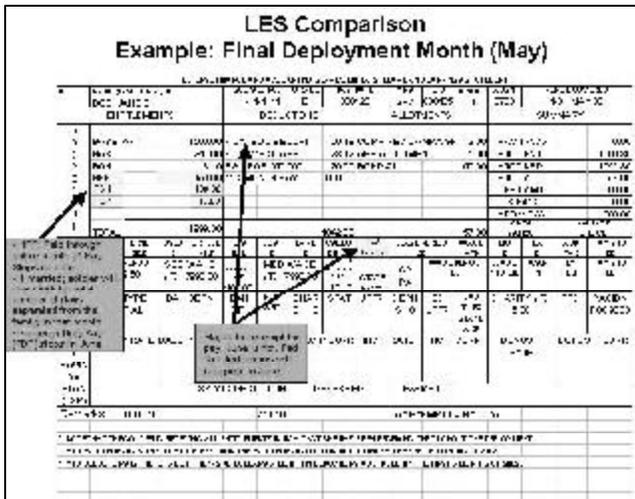
Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are not the values you have shown only to your fellow soldier, they are the values you have shown to the people of Kosovo. You have shown the people of Kosovo that those values apply across the board, that they are not for specific people in particular places under certain circumstances.

The people of Kosovo, Serb, Albanian, Roma, Turk and other all have values, they are not a valueless people - but extending them to and accepting others based on those values is not an everyday occurrence here. They have watched you come and go - the faces have changed, but the example has remained constant for the people of Kosovo. Every day they have watched and interacted with you, they have learned from you what those values can mean, and do mean. That is the greatest difference.

You have made the difference that is not quantifiable, that is not measured by numbers or depicted in graphs. The difference you have made is more profound and far-reaching, solid in the abstract, the epitome of those values, and the zenith of that motto. You have led by example and that is the legacy you have left to the people of Kosovo - Dignity and Respect.

As you all prepare to return to your lives and duty stations allow me the honor of wishing you well. In closing I would like to leave you with the following quote said by Dag Hammarskjold former United Nations Secretary General from 1953-1961 awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace posthumously in 1961:

"Peacekeeping is not a soldiers job, but only a soldier can do it."



Two of Fort Benning's best prepare for Best Ranger Competition



Spc. Molly Jones/photo

Capt. Tracy Trudell and Ryan Shipley work on one of the few things they can by going to the different ranges as many times as possible. Their expert accuracy on these events are required.

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH— Competition, it is the driving force behind those who want to be the best. Rangers are some of the most respected infantry soldiers the Army has to offer, and the Best Ranger Competition, requiring participants be Ranger and Airborne qualified, is held at Fort Benning, Ga. every April, to show exactly who is at the paramount of the upper echelon of our Army's elite corps – the Rangers.

"I'm a competitive guy, so once I heard about it (BRC) I thought 'that sounds crazy, sounds like something I'd like to do!'" said Capt. Tracy Trudell, one of the two representing Task Force 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment at the BRC.

The other half of the team is Capt. Ryan Shipley. "I've wanted to do this since high school, when I saw my first BRC video," Shipley said. "I wanted to be like those guys; I wanted to be hard like that!"

Hard doesn't even begin to describe the pain and suffering the two men are voluntarily putting themselves through for the 60 to 70 hours of sleepless, unrelenting competition to strive to be the best.

"If we do well in this competition – if we just finish, which is truly the goal – they (friends and co-workers) will pat us on the back, but if we don't," Trudell hesitated.

"They'll say 'we knew you wouldn't do well to begin with because you didn't have time to train or didn't have what it took. We don't want to hear that,'" Shipley finished for him. Nothing has proved to be easy for the team. They only recently, in January, received the green light that they could attend. They've had tons of red tape to go through just to be able to attend the competition. Approval for them had to be signed off, and many other hoops to jump through, but they attribute the completion of these tedious tasks to Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Greer, the command sergeant major for Task Force 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, who is the battalion serving with TF 1-30 at Camp Monteith, Kosovo. "Command Sergeant Major Greer has been our biggest supporter all along," said Shipley, "telling us what paperwork we need to get done, different techniques that have worked for him in the past. There is such a wealth of knowledge in that man, and we can't thank him enough!"

"He's been such a huge asset to us," Trudell explained. "We've found a fountain of knowledge in him. He's done the BRC four times and trained several teams. I just wish we had more time with him."

Time to train has been a big issue for the two. "People always ask us how the training is going. We do what we can. They think we are doing more than we really are, but that's not true. It's because we both have jobs in key leadership positions that don't allow us to take off and disappear for a few days."

Shipley, the Battalion Maintenance Officer, is responsible for all of the vehicles in the battalion and their maintenance. Trudell is the Transportation OIC for 203rd Forward Support attached to TF 1-30.

Shipley explained that "most teams are allotted special duty and pulled away. 'This is what you will do. You will represent your division. Good for you, here's six months training time.'" But that is not the case for this duo.

Because of their critical positions, they were told to continue on with their duties. "Ryan has been so beat up doing transitioning stuff that we haven't had a chance to do anything, except lift weights," said Trudell.

"Some days we'll have good days," said Shipley. "We'll wake up, get a workout in, and I'll go to my 0800 meeting. Then throughout the day we'll lift a second time, and go over some Ranger stakes and practice some of our skills, knots or whatever," said Shipley.

"And sometimes it's like, well, we got a workout in today and some paperwork out of the way. Yeah for us!" he said facetiously. "We are definitely ill prepared for this competition, and we realize that, but we love being the underdogs."

But on the good days, they go through the list of events provided to them. At the actual competition, the teams will have no knowledge of the order of events. The 20-plus mile road march could be followed by weapons assembly or anything else on the list.

Weapons assembly, as easy as it may sound, is easily made tougher by throwing in a mystery weapon, which includes anything that's been in the military arsenal, Shipley explained.

"It's real easy to train on that one. We tear everything down to the lowest level and throw it in a box all mixed up. We take turns timing each other just throwing weapons out, separating them into groups and putting them together. It's like a battle

drill. It's almost intrinsic. We can do it without even thinking about it," Trudell said.

In addition, they must also train on those very same weapons and perform expertly with them. "The strongest thing we have going for us here is ranges," Shipley explained. "We have no problem getting ranges. There are limited training opportunities because we do still have to work, but we practice our rope climbing, knot tying and putting together a poncho raft."

"It all boils down to technique. You have to find a quicker and better way to get an edge on your opponent," said Trudell.

There are a plethora of events that will take place at the competition that the team can't begin to train for here in Kosovo. "We haven't done any swimming over here, that's for sure, but actually taking our ruck sacks and practicing getting our times down for the poncho raft has been a big part of what we do," Shipley explained.

"We do need to get back a little early to acclimate to the heat. That Fort Benning heat is no joke!" exclaimed Trudell.

Shipley added, "yeah, this morning it's snowing, and when we get there it could be 85 degrees with 100 percent humidity. It could even be raining the day of the competition, but whatever it is, it's going to be terrible conditions because it's Fort Benning!"

Upon arrival to Fort Benning, sometime between April 3 and 5, "we've got to get some swim time in, and go through the 40 square mile land navigation course there," said Trudell.

"Working on the Prusik climb, getting out there on the land, and going through Basic Airborne Refresher, because we have to renew our status and get a jump in 30 days before the competition," Trudell explained, are just a few of the things they must complete before BRC.

"We're cutting it close," said Shipley, but "we are positive thinkers. We are realists – that's optimists with experience!"

"People look at us like we're crazy for wanting to do this," laughed Trudell.

"This is the toughest competition," he continued. "That's what Lieutenant. Colonel. Kurt Fuller, the OIC of G-3, was telling me after I told him I wanted to do it. I told him about all the triathlons I've won, and he said, 'I don't think you are understanding me, captain, these are professional, world class athletes, and only half of them are even finishing. So this is the toughest military competition in the world!'"

Shipley laughed and said, "We're going to have fun!"

"An Iron Man competition is almost nothing compared to this," said Trudell.

"We do what we can, but we don't want to over train, because a lot of teams went into the competition with injuries. We're trying to be smart about it."

"I think we're ready mentally. It's just like Ranger school, one big suck fest, but you have to have the stamina to drive on with the Ranger Objective and complete the mission," he explained.

"Our superiors support us in doing the competition, but not in giving us time to train," Shipley said, but he realizes that he can't slack up one bit, because too much responsibility rides on his shoulders. "The cards are stacked against us. These are not the best conditions for training, but we've worked with what we had." "My NCOs are definitely part of the plan! I don't know what I'd do without them!" Shipley explained. What is going on at Camp Monteith in his absence is the last thing he wants to worry about while he's at BRC.

"I have some outstanding NCOs under me," expressed Trudell. "They are full of initiative and problem analysis. They don't just stop when something goes wrong. They identify the problem and find a way around it. My chain of command knows that and have no problem letting me go."

POLURKBAT soldiers train with other TFF elements

by Capt. William Gaddis
110th MI

CAMP WHITE EAGLE—A brisk Thursday morning dawned to scattered snow flurries and questions as to whether soldiers from the Polish, Ukrainian, and Lithuanian Battalion, POLURKBAT, of Multinational Brigade (East) would conduct their scheduled training for the day. The unit planned helicopter familiarization training with support from Task Force Dragon aviation assets. For many of these soldiers, this was their first experience working in and around American aircraft. Their collective excitement was enough to thwart an attempt by Mother Nature to spoil the event as the ceiling lifted and patches of blue sky appeared over Camp White Eagle, the main base for POLURKBAT. The unit received word that the mission was a “go” and the troops hurriedly finished preparations to receive their blocks of instruction.

The Chief of the POLUKR Tactical Air Control Party (TAC-P), Maj. Andrzej Ilkow, coordinated the training with assistance from the U.S. Special Forces Liaison Coordination Element stationed on Camp White Eagle. Maj. Ilkow is a former fighter pilot experienced in the Mig-15, Mig-17, Su-7, and TS-11 jet aircraft who transitioned to the career field of air traffic controller. He planned the training “to train and increase the proficiency of Polish infantry companies” in Kosovo. Training with American aircrews is an invaluable opportunity for their soldiers. According to Major Ilkow, “the experience of the crew is very important for us. Our soldiers will take these skills back to Poland.” Typically, soldiers in Poland train with aircraft once a quarter utilizing Sokol, or “Falcon,” W-3H HUZAR helicopters. They also use Mi-8 and Mi-17 aircraft. For the most part, the soldiers conducting the training were quite impressed with the sleek and powerful



contributed photo

POLURKBAT soldiers practice “hotloading” on a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter during medevac training with TFF Dragon’s 717th (Air Ambulance) Medical Co. recently.

UH-60 “Blackhawk” aircraft.

Major Ilkow was quick to give credit for planning this training to his section consisting of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Wardega, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pogorzelski, and Staff Sergeant Janiank. Together, they are responsible for training Quick Reaction Force soldiers, MEDEVAC training, planning reconnaissance flights, Close Air Support training, pathfinder training, and general maintenance of helicopter landing zones throughout their sector. The Commander of POLUKR BAT, Lieutenant Colonel Jozef Matuszyk, emphasized the importance of his TAC-P section by asserting that, “this kind of training is very beneficial for my unit. It is very useful for the future, especially for new soldiers starting their mission in Kosovo.”

The first segment of the day’s training consisted of static load training. In

this portion of the class, the Task Force Dragon crew chief, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Stevens, presented a thorough class on the basics of moving in and around an aircraft. He instructed the soldiers, through an interpreter, where they should position themselves on the landing zone prior to the aircraft’s arrival, how to move to the aircraft, how to enter the aircraft, and how to stow equipment and fasten safety harnesses to allow the helicopter to lift off safely. Spc. (P) Lucas Tripp assisted the senior crew chief in critiquing the troops offloading the aircraft, assuming security positions, and moving off the landing zone. He also emphasized the importance of always maintaining a safe awareness of the powerful machine whipping its rotors over their helmets. The soldiers rewarded their instructors by responding to the training with enthusiastic motivation and barely restrained smiles on their faces— they were

having so much fun, they almost forgot that they were training!

Once the crew certified the troops’ proficiency on the dormant bird, pilot 1st Lt. Chris Kirk and pilot in command Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Seligson started the aircraft’s engines and prepared to add a bit of realism to the day’s training plan. Each group practiced receiving commands from the crew chief, moving to the churning aircraft, loading, and going “wheels up” for a trip around the skies over Camp White Eagle. Upon landing, the squad practiced tactically off-loading the aircraft, pulling security, and safely exiting the landing zone. The “Mountain Hawk” crew completed iterations for all of the new soldiers that participated in the day’s training. As a reward for their dedicated work, the last trip went to the signalmen, landing zone security team, and TAC-P section, including Major Ilkow. These soldiers were treated to the thrilling, experienced flying of Chief Seligson and the surgical “VIP” landings of Lieutenant Kirk.

The aircrew concluded their day with POLUKR BAT by providing an aerial reconnaissance flight for the battalion commander, his key staff, and company commanders and platoon leaders from Poland and the Ukraine. Lieutenant Colonel Matuszyk remarked that, “the pilots were excellent. I wish to extend a ‘thank you’ to them and wishes for continued cooperation in the future.” Maj. Ilkow also had kind words for the aircrew when he said, “they were very friendly and very professional. The soldiers have increased their knowledge of this kind of flight and trained on American procedures. The crew chief had many good comments for us.”

As the aircraft unloaded for the last time, they circled and flew over the camp in an impressive, tight formation. It was obvious from the looks on the faces of the POLUKR BAT soldiers that this multinational training event was a great success.

Soldiers showcase skills at fashion, talent show

by Spc. Terry Boggs
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL—“Let’s take a pause from the cause,” was the motto of the evening. These words, spoken by Capt. Dion Lyons, Trial Counselor, TFF Legal, kicked off several hours of laughter, cheering and some very interesting displays of abilities and styles. Lyons was the emcee as the Camp Bondsteel theater was host recently to a fashion/talent show that showcased the latest clothing, as well as some of the gifts of some of the braver people in KFOR.

Cold weather and heavy rain could not keep the spirits down or the troops away, as more than 40 KFOR soldiers and civilians performed and modeled for a standing room only crowd Saturday April 6. Several sponsors were represented here, including AAFES and some local Kosovo shops.

Sgt. 1st Class Byron Knox, TFF IG NCOIC, spearheaded the event.

“They wanted to put something of for Springtime,” said Knox. “It will also be a kind of last ‘hoorah’ for soldiers that are going to be leaving soon.”

The itinerary was simple; some of

KFOR’s most talented and bravest men and women strutted their stuff on the stage while modeling some of the latest fashions. They showcased everything from club wear to evening dress. The talent displayed ranged from a goofy Santa Claus to a modern version of George Michael’s “Faith”.

Dancing, singing, and even a human beat box made the stage as contestants gave their all to win prizes and perhaps become discovered.

There were no talent scouts present however.

Judges sat by and rated the talent show contestants, using numbers from 1 to 10.

The response to both was outstanding. The theater was packed with excited spectators and there was plenty of talent to go around.

Spc. Daphnee Syffirard, NCOER Clerk, was also instrumental in putting on the show.

“The show took approximately three weeks to plan, prepare and execute,” said Syffirard. “Receiving help from friends (Sgt.’s Long, Rowland, Spc. Tribble) to include help from Command Sgt. Maj. Walker, Sgt. Maj. Nelson and Sgt. 1st Class Willis enabled me

to get door prizes, utilize the theater, receive DJ equipment, and grand prizes from AAFES.

“Staff Sergeant Johnson and Specialist Kapleko were able to take us downtown to speak with the merchants to advise them on how we were planning to have a Fashion/Talent Show, asking them would they like to sponsor us. They agreed to sponsor us, and we agreed to recognize them. Mrs. Lillian Quehl from the MWR was a great help on making agreements with the vendors.”

According to Syffirard, the evening went well, but was a little stressful.

“The turnout on the show was great; it came out better than I thought,” she added. “The show I believe lasted a little longer than I expected.”

Neither the participants nor the audience seemed to care about time, however, as the night wore on. Winners of the evening’s event were: first place, Spc. Edward Cole, 3-6 FA; Spc. Marcia Price, 10th LTF, Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Ware, TF 1-32 Inf.



Spc. Terry Boggs photo

Sgt. Hubert Howell, Supply Sergeant, LRDS, performs his version of ‘It Wasn’t Me’ in the Camp Bondsteel Fashion/Talent Show at the Theater.

Fort Benning soldiers keep up soldiering skills as deployment begins to wind down

by Spc. Molly Jones
Staff Writer

CAMP MONTEITH— Even though soldiers of 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, are on a deployment, they know that keeping up on their soldiering skills is very important. On Thursday, April 11, two NCOs conducted a class on firing an M47 Dragon Missile.

Training never seems to be very exciting and interesting, but according to Staff Sgt. Edward Westveer, the Battalion Master Gunner, it is something out of the ordinary for the gunners. "This is training for when we go back to Fort Benning and shoot Dragons on our Table 12," he said, which will be the first time many of these gunners will have ever fired an actual Dragon.

"This is extremely important for the safety of the Dragon gunners for the HOOAH, Battleboar Battalion," said Sgt. Willie Caldwell, one of the instructors.

The program the instructors were using was a computer-simulated version, and "is used to teach all of the dragon gunners to engage a target, show them the characteristics of the dragon, and safety on the range," explained Sgt. Kristopher Barnette, the other instructor.

"Without this class, the dragon gunners would not be tactically proficient," he said, and "could not shoot the dragon without this training."

Caldwell explained that "the Army spends a lot of money on missiles, rounds and rockets, and to go out and waste thousands of dollars on rounds that miss the target is just uncalled for." That's why a simple class, boring as it may seem to the pupils at the time is extremely important.

But the class does get better. The students soon moved on to the actual simulator. "They are looking at actual video taken from the National Training Center and Germany. It's

different scenarios of armored personnel carriers moving at night, during the day, in fog, in fields zigzagging," Barnette said. "They must hit sixteen out of twenty of the targets to be considered proficient."

"We have prepared for this class for about four days," Caldwell explained. "The class is for 35 Dragon gunners, so we are conducting it one company at a time."

"It has been beneficial to us, and to them," said Barnette. "No one really does Dragon training anymore, because it's being phased out for the Javelin. It taught us, because we had to go back and brush up on it."

Surprised, the two instructors couldn't believe that "there was only one guy in the class who had ever touched a Dragon before."

"If we couldn't get this training in, we wouldn't be able to shoot, so this is a must have," Barnette said.



Spc. Molly Jones/photo

Sgt. Kristopher Barnette (standing), an instructor for the Dragon class, demonstrates to one of his students how it works, and what to expect once the simulator is fired.

Fort Drum's 10th FSB cross train during KFOR tour



contributed photo

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Kubo, 10th FSB, tests a ASIP radio.

by 1st Lt. Anthony Vidal
10th LTF

The 10th Forward Support Battalion, a Light Infantry FSB, deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, as a Logistics Task Force in support of Operation Joint Guardian. During the transition with the previous rotation, the Bravo Company Direct Support personnel realized they would have

to support equipment that requires a Main Support Battalion level of maintenance. To overcome this, the DS section leaders cross-trained their soldiers so they would be able to sustain the task force with maintenance support. This was especially crucial for the Communication and Electronics and the Ground Support Equipment sections.

All direct support sections in Bravo Company have exceeded the standard of repair of equipment in their areas of expertise. The Communication and Electronics section repairs tactical radios, night vision devices, power supplies, and other forms of electronics for light infantry units. In Kosovo, the C & E technicians have received equipment for repair that is outside the scope of their MOS training. This includes items such as aircraft radios, components to radar systems, and Lightweight

Computer Units (LCUs). As a result, the direct support shop office and section leader continually coordinate with our subject matter experts here on Bondsteel, the Logistics Assistance Representatives (LARs). They are Department of Defense civilians that assist in the input and output of logistics, including maintenance.

For example, our 35F technicians normally repair night vision devices and mine detectors. Here, the Communication and Electronics Command (CECOM) LAR gives them hands-on cross-training on the LCUs. LCU repair is normally a function of a 35J, an MOS that is not authorized in a light FSB. The 35Fs have been trained on how to test the equipment and determine if the repairs need direct support or a higher level of maintenance. LCUs are pacing items, critical to the owning unit's mission, and the section has returned many of them back to the customers fully mission capable within a short time period.

The Ground Support Equipment section has also been doing a great deal of cross training during the deployment. These mechanics are 52Ds who usually worked on the organizational side of maintenance, but have been assigned to the direct support level for KFOR. They have been providing direct support maintenance for all generators that have come through the shop, including 60KW generators. These generators provide power to the radar systems on Camp Bondsteel and have high visibility within the task force. They were unused since the last rotation, due to the use of commercial power. Now that additional power is needed, the 60kw generators are in use and have (Please see 10th FSB, page 15)

Chaplain's Corner

Remembering friends, just like Paul did

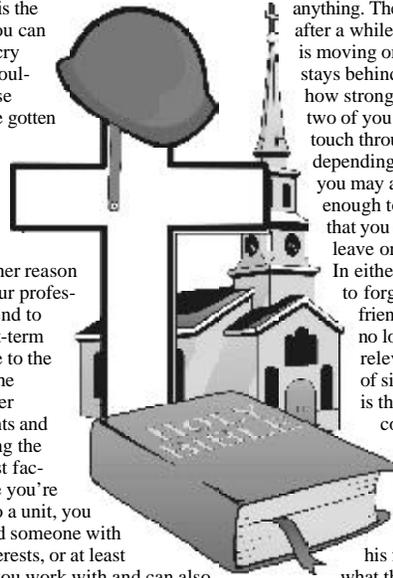
by Staff Sgt. Mike Schneider
TFF Chaplain Section NCOIC

Making friends is easy – keeping them is a whole lot harder. Having deployed four times, I've learned that you can make friends in a short amount of time. Although the relationship usually breaks up after you redeploy due to being in different units or installations, there will be the occasional meetings and the typical conversations that go something like: "Hey! How've you been? How are things? What've you been doing?" etc. After the usually brief encounter, you shake their hand, maybe give them a friendly bear hug (no matter who's looking on) and walk off feeling good about running into them, but usually you forget about the whole thing a couple of hours later. Why is that?

One reason is that in an environment such as the one we find ourselves in, these friends are usually good for us as long as we need something. Maybe this friend is the one who can get you that "hook up" with the supply sergeant, mechanic, or PAC clerk. Maybe this friend is the one who is a "Power Point Ranger" and can save your backside when you have an important briefing to do for a Commander or VIP. Maybe

this friend is the one that you can go to and cry on their shoulder because things have gotten bad, and you need a friendly and willing ear to talk to.

Another reason is that in our profession, we tend to make short-term friends due to the nature of the beast: other deployments and PCS's being the two biggest factors. While you're assigned to a unit, you tend to find someone with similar interests, or at least someone you work with and can also get along with. You find your battle buddy out of the collection of soldiers in the unit. The two of you become not only battle buddies, but also running partners, both off and on duty, and to some extent, comfortable talking with one another about



anything. Then, you realize after a while that one of you is moving on, and the other stays behind. Depending on how strong the bond is, the two of you may stay in touch through emails, or depending on the situation, you may actually live close enough to one another that you can visit while on leave or during a PCS. In either case, we tend to forget about our friendships when they no longer seem relevant to us – "out of sight, out of mind" is the quote that comes closest to expressing this. In the case of the Apostle Paul, he remembered his friends no matter what the situation was. As Paul was traveling, often times he was imprisoned for simply doing no more than spreading the gospel. Under these conditions, most of us would tend to give up hope, feel lost, or wonder if their friends would know and care as to what was

happening to them. My favorite passage of Paul's comes from his letter to the Philippians when he says in the first chapter, the third and fourth verses "I thank my God every time I remember you. \In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy." Even though he was in prison, he wanted to remember all the friends he had made along the way, even to those who chose to keep him a prisoner! That is a powerful statement to make, even when he was oppressed as he was.

We in our daily lives should try and be more like Paul: to remember and to be thankful that we have people we can call friends, no matter how long we will remain in contact after we leave Kosovo. Paul chose to remember and thank God for bringing these people into his life – I think we should do the same. In keeping with that thought, I would like to thank God for all the people who have made an impact on me and all the Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants on this rotation. It says in Genesis 31:49 "May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other." If I could make any additions, I would also say that I will remember you all with joy!

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

(10th FSB continued from page 14)

been experiencing internal mechanical deficiencies that are beyond operator level maintenance. These faults are due to the lack of voltage that produces power to the generators. The generators also have problems with leaks coming from engine components. Currently the operators are turning to the 52Ds for guidance and assistance on the 60kw genera-

tors. The mechanics have spent many late nights in the shops with the DS Maintenance Tech, cross-training and using their background knowledge and technical manuals to diagnose deficiencies. With some assistance from the Brown and Root contractors and the CECOM LARs, the mechanics used load test banks to diagnose

the amount of voltage produced by the generators. They have also ordered and replaced the engines of three out of the five 60kw generators here on Camp Bondsteel.

Overall, the direct support soldiers have done an outstanding job of providing maintenance to equipment they do not service

back at Fort Drum, N.Y. They all have put forth a tremendous amount of effort to support the company's maintenance mission and keep Task Force Falcon operational. With their combined team effort, all of them will leave this deployment as experts beyond their expectations.

United effort...

TFMF V and TFMF VI team up for MASCAL exercise

by Spc. Terry Boggs
Staff Writer

CAMP BONDSTEEL— It must have been one heck of an accident. Blood was everywhere; people lay, moaning and begging for help; some had pieces of metal hanging from their body parts, others had open wounds with organs spilling out. Military Police had cordoned off the area and were making arrests. It was like something out of a nightmare.

In other words, it was a typical MASCAL (mass casualty) exercise.

MASCAL exercises are simulations; staged for the purpose of evaluation and mission readiness. The equipment, including helicopters and ambulances were real; the personnel, including medics from Task Force Med Falcon V and Task Force Med Falcon VI and Military Police were real. The wounds were simulated, but they could not have looked any more authentic if they were real.

Yes, they even used artificial wounds to make it as realistic as possible.

First Lt. Brandee Campbell, TFMF V executive officer, was present to give her opinion on the performance of the soldiers that participated.

"Any time you take a brand new Task Force Med Falcon and you pull people from different units that are tasked out to support one mission and you throw them together in a MASCAL situation, the learning curve they are going to encounter is always very steep," Campbell said. "But today, when it came right down to it, they performed excellently. They were adherent, moved to the mission, did what they needed to, treated the patients and brought them back and saved lives like they were supposed to."

It was the last exercise for TFMF V and the first such mission for the incoming TFMF VI. According to Campbell both groups did well during the evaluation and are expected to do well while they are in Kosovo.

The layout of the MASCAL is anything but simple; it starts with a helicopter full of casualties. Then the emergency rescue team is added, to provide fire control and emergency support. A full medical compliment is also included to treat patients while they await transport to the hospital. Throw in a handful of MPs to keep unauthorized personnel out and maintain force protection and you have the formula for a successful mass casualty exercise.

First the "casualties" are brought out of the helicopter by KFOR Fire Department emergency teams. They are carried by hand and on litters to a central point where they received medical treatment. Medical personnel are there to treat the sick and wounded. They choose patients by medical priority.

Splints are applied, open wounds are wrapped with bandages, and other injuries are treated accordingly as patients are prepared for transport to TFMF. After preparation, they are loaded on trucks, some on litters and some walking, and driven to the hospital.

Once at the hospital, patients are unloaded and taken to the emergency room, where they undergo normal surgery and treatments.

Of course, all of the injuries are fake, but during the MASCAL, the participants act as if they are treating the real deal. They actually load and unload the patients, dressing wounds and applying the necessary treatments, as if the event was real.

Col. Greg Jolissaint, TFMF V commander, was there to help evaluate his team. It was a significant event for him and them, as it will be their last exercise in Kosovo. He seemed pleased with his staff and their performance.



Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

Firefighters with the Task Force Fire Dept., unload a "casualty" during a MASCAL exercise held recently at Camp Bondsteel. EMT personnel move the injured to a holding area to await transport to the U.S. Army integrated and bilateral Hospital.

"It's been a great pleasure being here for the last 6 months," said Jolissaint. "The soldiers of TFMF is what really made this a truly wonderful experience, for me and for my commander. I couldn't ask for a better bunch of soldiers. They knew their job, they did it each and every day, they did it with a great attitude, they did it to the standard, and they didn't take any shortcuts. And, when it came time to go outside the wire, they went out there situationally aware, maintaining safe and secure, and at the same time making a difference in this province of Kosovo."

As for the TFMF VI, he was very optimistic.

"The commander and I have known each other for a number of years. They have the distinct advantage of doing this each and every day. They work in a fixed facility taking care of patients every day. It's just a matter of getting used to a new duty location, and integrating themselves into this Task Force,

while realizing that it's not as safe as it was in Germany. They are a very competent group of medics who will do just fine."

He had a tidbit of wisdom to offer to the new unit as well.

"Don't give up on the people of Kosovo," he said. "Sometimes it's frustrating because things do not happen quickly in the Balkans. Keep pressing forward and help them make the right decisions. As General David used to say, keep those (football) chains moving down the field."

The torch was passed as the exercise drew to a close. It was a successful mission, not only to bid farewell to Col. Jolissaint and his crew, but to welcome the new TFMF group as well. It was also successful in another way.

All of the patients survived.



Spc. Terry Boggs/photo

Medical professionals of TFMF VI treat casualties with mock neck and head injuries at the recently held MASCAL (Mass Casualty) exercise at Camp Bondsteel. neck and head injury