

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

# Guardian East

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BEHIND THE LINES

Uniform standards

New policies have lasting effects for soldiers, local residents

By Col. Albert Johnson

The Multi-National Brigade (East) commander has given the order to reduce our individual level of force protection based on Mission, Enemy, Troops, Terrain, Time available, and Civilians on the battlefield. This decision is based on the incredible progress made in this sector since June of 1999. With United Nations Mission In Kosovo, Civilian Police, Kosovo Police Service and numerous other agencies, we collectively have established a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. This decrease in individual protective posture is testimony to this fact both to our soldiers and the Kosovo populace. However, our protective posture must always match our mission requirements.

Unfortunately the day after this order, MNB(E) had a bombing incident take place in Task Force 1-18 Infantry's sector. The bombings in Klokot demonstrate that the uniform matrix works, and how commanders on the ground must quickly assess and change the individual force protection level in order to accomplish the mission and also protect our soldiers.

As always, force protection is first and foremost the responsibility of the commander on the scene. The chain of command keeps him informed of the level of threat in his area of responsibility, but it is his or her duty to ensure soldiers are in the proper uniform for a particular mission and seek guidance when unsure about a particular threat.

When the first explosion happened in the small town of Balance, Maj. Scott King of TF 1-18 Inf. was where you want leaders. He was out doing routine checks of the evening's patrols. After the report of the explosion, he quickly required the patrols to change their uniform posture from soft cap to Kevlar helmets and flak vest. Additionally, he informed his tactical operations center, which in turn could increase the situational awareness of the entire brigade.

The hat I wear when not serving as the MNB(E) chief of staff is as the Division Artillery commander in Bamberg, Germany. There I use some basic rules as my command philosophy. One of these rules is "When in charge, take charge." When we are put in a position that requires leaders to make decisions, we need leaders who are confident and competent to make those decisions — fully prepared to take control of a situation and make decisions that have a positive impact on the situation at hand.

King was one of those leaders on 31 July. His actions undoubtedly prevented serious injury and may have saved the lives of two soldiers. Sgt. Jerry Burge and Sgt. Dominic Higgins, both members of TF 1-18 Inf., were on patrol investigating the explo-

sions. As they approached a house, it exploded knocking both soldiers back about 10 meters and rendering them unconscious. Fortunately for the soldiers, they had followed the orders given and had already donned their Kevlar and flak vests.

We expect a high standard of performance from commanders in the field who are entrusted with the safety of our troops. Junior officers and noncommissioned officers must make these assessments prior to and while executing missions in sector to determine whether the situation warrants upgrade of the uniform posture. If King had not sent out the order to upgrade to "full battle rattle," I am confident the company commander, platoon leader, platoon sergeant or squad leader would have made the decision based on the changing operational situation. Leaders must display insight capable of a comprehensive assessment of vulnerabilities, and they must continually weigh the risks and implement measures to address identified vulnerabilities.

Obviously when a leader briefs the operations order to soldiers for a mission, uniform is going to be a key issue. Leaders need to be prepared to adjust the force protection posture as the conditions change. Leaders must keep lines of communication open and be at the point where conditions are most fluid. That is where a leader's decision will have the strongest impact.

Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute has given leaders the flexibility and responsibility to adjust the force protection posture based on the METT-TC. He has given leaders this opportunity because the conditions in Kosovo warrant it and you, the members of MNB(E), have demonstrated your ability to execute your missions to a very high standard and in an extremely disciplined manner.

Further, the ability to go up in our force protection posture shows the people of Kosovo that when events in their area are unstable KFOR is prepared to respond accordingly. As we move forward in maintaining a safe and secure environment, junior leaders have been further entrusted with more responsibility. I am confident you will meet this responsibility with sound judgment based on a comprehensive assessment of the level of threat. DRUMFIRE! DUTY FIRST!

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.tffalcon.hqusareur.army.mil

Guardian East

On the cover: Spc. Timothy P. Daugherty of Headquarters and Headquarters

Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute

Maj. Gordon Cooper

Master Sgt. Mark Van Leer

Spc. Kate McIsaac  
Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Maj. Mark Ballesteros

Capt. Dave Domingo

Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Spc. Jasmine Chopra  
Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

About Guardian East



# Klokot explosions: Soldiers react

**"IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN HIT WITH A THOUSAND SLEDGEHAMMERS"**

A man in a white robe emerged from the cornfields at about 1:50 a.m. July 31 to tell Sgts. Jerry Burge of Picayune, Miss., and Dominic Higgins of Mesa Ariz., that a house he owned had blown up – right next door to the house where he lived. One other explosion had already rocked the tiny, rural village of Klokot that night.

Higgins and Burge, both of Company E, 54th Engineer Battalion, part of Task Force 1-18 Infantry, were checking the area near the second blast when a third explosion in a house just 10 feet from them threw the soldiers several yards. They fell, injured, among bricks, dust and glass.

The sergeants' reflexes had kicked in after the first blast, as had those of their comrades in TF 1-18, part of KFOR's Multi-National Brigade (East).

"There was not fear, there was reaction" (after the first explosion), said Spc. Derrick Murphy, a driver and member of the personal security detail for Task Force 1-18 Command Sgt. Maj. John Calpena. "It was 'Boom! Okay, now assess the situation, find out what's going on, and do what you've got to do.'"

It was earlier – shortly after the second explosion – that Djordje Kostic, an elderly resident of the village, approached Calpena, speaking in Serbian. Shehu Ertan, Calpena's interpreter, translated.

The old man told them there was a possible bomb on his porch. "Sergeant Major told me to tell him not to touch it," Ertan said.

Calpena said he and his soldiers believed the device on the man's porch might be another explosive. From the top of the section's Humvee, Sgt. Jayrold Hammer used a 3 million-candle-power spotlight to scan Kostic's home for the object he described. Calpena recalled that he envisioned the house blowing up.

"The house was beautiful," he said. "It was the kind of house you'd like to retire in. I just looked at the house and thought, 'What a shame.'"

While Calpena and his soldiers moved Kostic away from his house, Higgins and Burge were about 200 meters away moving toward the site of the second explosion and encountering the man in the white robe. The man in the robe told them about the explosion and was worried that his wife was still inside their home. The sergeants told their squad to stay in place a short distance from a cluster of homes while they went to find the man's wife.

## **"THEY WERE DOING SOMETHING VERY HEROIC"**

"They knew it was dangerous; that's why they held everyone else back," Calpena said. "They were doing something very heroic in trying to evacuate someone from a house next to the blast area."

The soldiers complied with their sergeants' orders and stayed back as Burge and Higgins advanced. Their interpreter Arsim "Doc" Ezemi, an ethnic Albanian doctor who had practiced in-



Photo by Sgt. Michelle Labriel

Djordje Kostic, a resident of the village of Klokot, sits on the rubble on his front porch. A joint investigation among KFOR, UNMIK Civilian Police and Kosovo Police Service is under way to determine the perpetrators of this the explosion July 31, that destroyed Kostic's home.

ternal medicine before the war, tried to follow them.

"They told him, 'No, get back with the squad. It's not safe,'" Calpena said.

Burge and Higgins moved through the darkness across the fields toward the home of the robbed man. They were within 10 feet of an empty house when it exploded.

"I saw a flash," Burge said. "My weapon went flying ... I heard an enormously loud sound, then I was deaf."

The blast knocked Higgins unconscious.

"It didn't feel like I was on the ground, but I didn't realize I was flying till I hit the ground," he said. "... I felt the bricks smacking off the top of my Kevlar."

Burge recalled that his first concern was for his buddy.

"I saw a light flashing through the dust and brick," he said. It was Higgins' flashlight. "I thought, 'Oh shit! Higgy is trapped underneath the rubble.' I started screaming for him."

Burge recalled hearing Pfc. Robert Cromwell, a soldier in their squad, shout, "I got him!"

Calpena had no idea that two of his soldiers had been injured in the third explosion. He was still with Kostic when yet another explosion ripped open a corner of the old man's house, three minutes after Higgins and Burge were injured.

Lt. Col. Robert "Butch" Botters, commander of Task Force 1-18 Infantry, was out of sector, at a training range, when the explosions started. He quickly detoured to the Klokot operation and arrived at the site of his downed soldiers moments after the fourth explosion. "Two soldiers down, one soldier attending to them, and their interpreter signaling to my vehicle – that's a pretty tough situation, but training takes over," Botters said.

Botters' driver, Spc. Joshua Francis, told Burge that Higgins had been found among the rubble.

## **"IT'S OKAY NOW. I'M DONE"**

"I thought, 'It's OK now. I'm done,'" Burge said. "Then that damn curtain of black came down." As Burge fell unconscious,

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

## Protect the Force

HHC, 1-26 INF COMMANDER URGES KFOR SOLDIERS TO AVOID BEING COMPLACENT

CAMP MONTEITH — “Everyone’s responsible for force protection,” said Capt. Dan Kelley, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

These words have a new meaning for American civilian and military personnel since Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

“Force protection means being aware of your environment.” Americans have learned they are vulnerable any place, any time, as shown by the attacks on the Marine barracks in Lebanon, Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen and the World Trade Center in New York.

Kelley warns soldiers not to become complacent. Seeing the same thing every day becomes monotonous, so people stop being aware of their surroundings.

Despite our high level of force protection, and the recent explosions in Klokot, Kelley said he believes that Kosovo is a safe and secure environment, and we show that by choosing when to take off flak vests and Kevlar helmets.

“This is not a reduction in standards,” Kelley said. “We are a highly disciplined, professional force.”

The new uniform force protection standards in MNB(E) show the confidence in the commander’s discretion when deciding the uniform for missions.

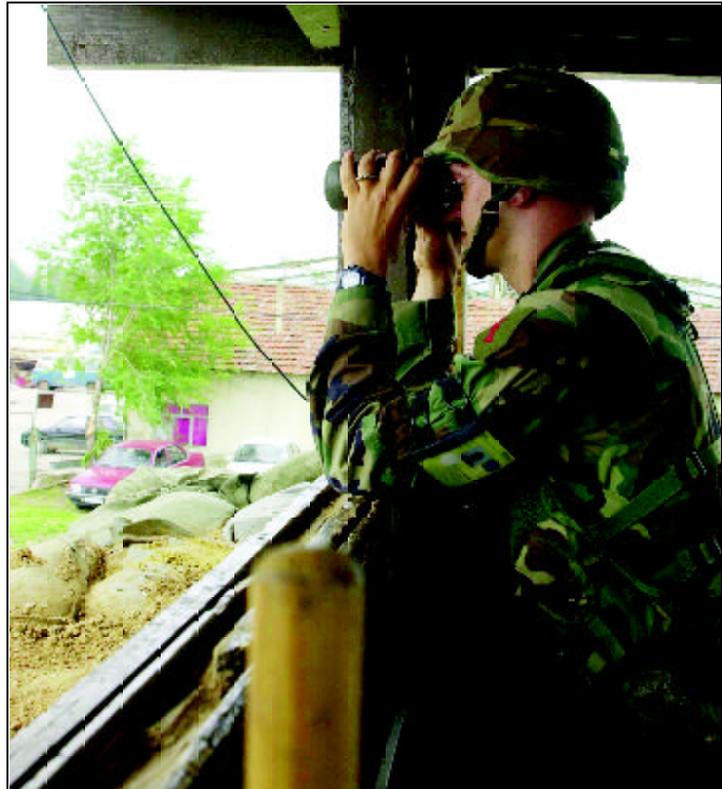


Photo by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb  
Spc. Timothy P. Daugherty of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, watches Gnjilane Sunday at Camp Monteith.

## EIS guides soldiers

BALKANS DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE: PART ONE OF A THREE-PART SERIES ON ARMY TECHNOLOGY



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson  
Spc. Ryan Fishel of the 230<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company demonstrates how the Enhanced Information System is used in his Humvee.

By Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

Gone are the days of struggling with paper maps and driving in circles in unfamiliar territory. Soldiers in Kosovo have a new tool to help navigate the back roads and secondary routes.

The Enhanced Information System or EIS is part of the Balkans Digitization Initiative program that provides soldiers with digital maps, positional data and two-way text messaging.

The 1999 war in the Balkans highlighted the Army’s limited ability to provide automated position location information of tactical assets in the field. As a result of lessons learned, BDI technology was introduced in Bosnia and has made its way to Kosovo.

“We wanted to take Force XXI technology (the Army’s newest computer systems) and put it in the hands of the soldier in the field,” said Maj. Richard P. McClintock, of Headquarters United States Army Europe ODCSOPS, Information Management Division. McClintock has been with the program since 2000.

The system consists of a computer, a keyboard, a monitor, an omni-directional antenna and a ground radio. It operates in the same way as commercial global positioning systems that are used to locate boats and shipping trucks.

“The challenge is to get the soldier to understand what the EIS system can do for them,” McClintock said.

Spc. Ryan Fishel, of the [ CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 ]

# Making molehills out of mountains

By Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

## Engineers have a blast blocking smuggler's path

CAMP MONTEITH — The day ended not with a bang or whimper but with a tremendous thud that echoed through the valley.

Task Force 9th Engineer Battalion had departed in the morning from Camp Monteith to blow up a suspected smuggling route crossing into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from Kosovo.

The day began 16 hours before the last explosion, with the Humvees criss-crossing up and into the mountains. The route became more of a footpath than a vehicle trail. Still, there was evidence that the trail had been used: scarred trees, discarded water bottles and tire tracks.

"Our mission is to create a road crater to block and deny illegal crossings from the FYROM border," said 2nd Lt. Christopher IX, a platoon leader in Task Force 1-77 Armor. "First, you have to pick a site. The site depends on existing obstacles and terrain in the area. It would be best to link this access to a very steep slope on either side of the road."

The designated site would be a trail in the German sector of Multi-National Brigade (East) with steep slopes on both sides near the top of a densely wooded slope, a site chosen by Task Force 9th Engineers.

### Why that site?

"There is some economic smuggling along the ABL (the Administrative Boundary Line, which separates Kosovo from other provinces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), tax avoidance stuff, but here it's support of the armed elements. We want to stop the smuggling of weapons or the support of ethnic armed groups on either side of the border," said Maj. Daniel Griffin, operations officer for Task Force 1-26 Infantry, as he surveyed the trail. "It's rough, but tractors and Humvees can get over it. You can see that it's used periodically. That will stop. Hopefully, next time we come back, it's overgrown."

Before destroying the smuggling route, 9th Eng. had a few tasks to complete that would consume most of the day.

Phase 1: clearing the brush. The team hacked unmercifully for hours at the trees and bushes on both sides of the trail to have "eyes on" the explosions for both the shape and crater charges.

Phases 2 and 3: preparing the explosives and setting them off. There would be two explosions — the first

from shaped charges and the second from crater charges.

"It will go through 14 inches of reinforced concrete. It will cut through steel," said Staff Sgt. George E. Spaulding, a platoon sergeant in Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, referring to the shaped charges. "Inside is a cone, and when it detonates, it detonates from the top and consumes itself and by the time it comes out the bottom it's just a ball of plasma. It pushes everything out of the way."

The shaped charges, each made of 40 pounds of C4 explosive, set 42 inches off the ground for optimum penetration. Six boreholes were created for the larger, more robust crater charges each made of 40 pounds of ammonium nitrate.

Spaulding made sure the U.S. and German soldiers who had been providing security for the platoon had evacuated the area after the shaped charges had been methodically placed the required distance above the sloped trail. From several hundred feet away, in the protective cocoon of an armored Humvee, the demolition team set off the first explosion, which ripped through the valley and was felt more than a half-mile away.

Moments later, the team returned to inspect the set of bore holes created by the shaped charges. The boreholes would now be used for the crater charges. The ground was covered with green leaves from the trees overhead, and the site smelled like fresh-cut grass.

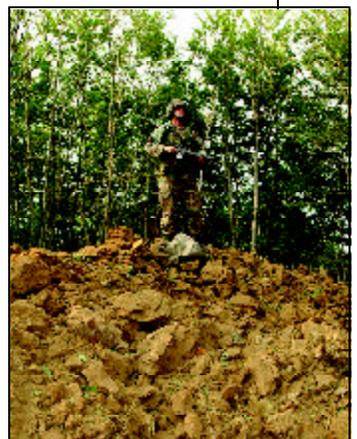
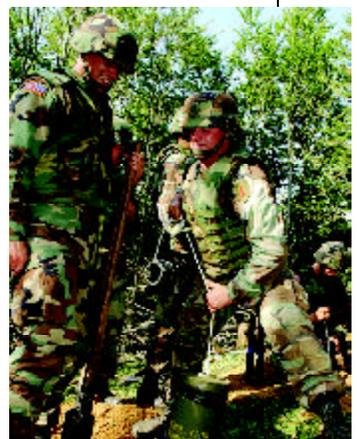
Five out of the six shaped charges had managed to clear four-foot holes straight into the ground. Spaulding compared the effect to "putting your finger in a glass of milk - the milk gets out of the way." One of the charges hit a large rock on the way down and stopped a few feet short of the desired depth.

The engineers examined all six boreholes before they began to dig. They didn't stop until all six holes were wide and deep enough for the crater charges.

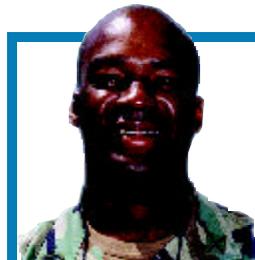
The crater charges were put in place and detonated, rocking the mountainside and flinging the trail skyward including trees, gravel, dirt and large rocks. Debris rained down on the Humvee with loud bangs. This time, when the team returned to the site, it smelled like tilled earth.

The "tank ditch" was such a success that the team worried that if smugglers came at night; they would be injured if they fell into the ditch.

The final touches to the eighteen-wheeler-size gouge across the trail were strands of concertina wire that led off the trail and down the steep slopes on both sides of the barrier.



## Peacekeeper profile



**name:** Elijah V. Ham.  
**age:** 27.  
**rank:** 1st Lt.  
**mos:** 13A - field artillery officer.  
**unit:** Battery A, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery.

**What is your role in MNB (E)?** I consider my role in MNB(E) to be tending to the welfare of the soldiers in my platoon. Also, my main role is to suck down as much cappuccino as I physically can. **Why did you join the Army?** At first, I wanted to get away from home, and travel. Now, it's for the chance to make a difference in as many soldiers' lives as I can.

Top to bottom: Staff Sgt. Daniel Beaty, squad leader, and Spc. Robert Henson, both of Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, adjust the blasting cap on the explosives; 1st Sgt. Farrell Williams of Company B, 9th Engineer Battalion, places a blasting cap in a shape charge; 2nd Lt. Jessie Anderson HHC 9th Engineer Battalion and Staff Sgt. Daniel Beaty place a crater charge in its borehole; Beaty stands on the edge of the trail and looks across the obstacle where the trail used to be.

Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Let **Guardian East** help you answer that pesky question you ask yourself every

# Uniform

<b>Mission</b>	 Kevlar	Soft cap 	BDU 	 Body
Force protection duty; mission within 2 km of borders; cordon and search; and live-fire training	Required	Not allowed	Required	Required
Dismounted missions	METT-TC	METT-TC	Required	METT-TC
Mounted mission (air and ground)	Required	METT-TC (NTV only)	Required	METT-TC
On duty at CBS, CMT, CMG Camp White Eagle, Camp Rigas Fereos, Camp Skupshina or CAS		Required	Required	Always
On duty at any camp not listed above		Required	Required	Required
Dining facility		With BDUs	Optional	Optional
Gym or PT		With BDUs	Optional	Optional
Off duty at CBS, CMT, CMG Camp White Eagle, Camp Rigas Fereos, Camp Skupshina or CAS		With BDUs	Optional	Optional
On duty at any camp not listed above		With BDUs	Optional	Optional
FMPP	Carried			
Channel flight	Carried	Required	Required	

**NOTE:** Commanders at all levels have the right and responsibility to upgrade their units' protective postures based on the mission. METT-TC = Mission, Enemy, Troops, Terrain, Time

elf every day: 'What should I wear today?'

# n Matrix

 <b>Body armor</b>	 <b>LBE or LBV</b>	 <b>Weapon</b>	 <b>Civilian clothes</b>	 <b>PT clothes</b>	
Required	Required	Required	Not allowed	Not allowed	
METT-TC	Required	Required	Not allowed	Not allowed	
METT-TC	Required	Required	Not allowed	Not allowed	
<b>Always have the right gear</b> 		Optional if company has certified arms room	Not allowed	Not allowed	
		Required	Not allowed	Not allowed	
		Optional if company has certified arms room	If off duty allowed 5 p.m. Sat. to 5 p.m. Sunday	Optional (except 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. daily)	
		Secured in arms room or double locked	Not allowed	Optional	
		Optional if company has certified arms room	Allowed 5 p.m. Saturday to 5 p.m. Sunday	Allowed except 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. inside MNB(E) TOC	
		Required	Not allowed	Optional	
	Carried			Required	Not allowed
	Carried	Carried	Required	Not allowed	Not allowed

stances based on changing METTTC-TC conditions. Any changes must be reported immediately to the unit TOC. errain, Time available, Civilians on the battlefield

World

**Former Yugoslav countries may refuse treaty exempting U.S. citizens from prosecution by international court**

ZAGREB, Croatia— Risking strained relations with the United States, leaders in former Yugoslav countries say they are unlikely to agree to a request to exempt U.S. citizens from prosecution by a new international war crimes court.

The International Criminal Court is based in The Hague, Netherlands.

The United States has approached countries around the globe, seeking an agreement that would shield U.S. soldiers from being extradited to the court. It fears that its peacekeepers may be exposed to politically motivated trials.

—**Snjezana Vukic**  
Associated Press

**Key Bush aide says U.S. must take action on Iraq**

LONDON—The United States has no choice but to take action against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, White House national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, said on Thursday.

We certainly do not have the luxury of doing nothing," Rice, a pivotal player in President Bush's administration, told BBC radio. "We believe the case for regime change is very powerful."

But she added that Bush had not decided "how he wants to do it" or how to "make the case for particular methods." —**Reuters**



**Peacekeeper profile**

**name:** Michael Rathbun.  
**age:** 22.  
**rank:** Spc.  
**mos:** 44B - Welder  
**unit:** Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.  
**hometown:** Buffalo, NY.

**Why did you join the Army ?** Because I was proud to serve my country and defend my family name.

**What is your role in MNB (E)?** I pretend to act busy (just kidding). I work helping the mechanics and weld when I'm needed to.

United States

**Bush to Pitch homeland Security**

DES MOINES, Iowa— President Bush, using Mount Rushmore as a patriotic stage set, is insisting the Democratic-controlled Senate approve a Homeland Security Department with no bureaucratic strings attached.

But at least one senior Senate Democrat said the president is turning an urgent quest to improve the nation's internal security into a labor-management dispute.

—**Lawrence L. Knutson**  
Associated Press

**Spanish judge criticizes U.S. for treatment of prisoners**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico— The Spanish judge who ordered the arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet criticized the United States on Wednesday for its treatment of detainees being held in Guantanamo Bay.

Baltasar Garzon, speaking during the final day of a peace conference on this U.S. Caribbean island, reprimanded the United States for not filing charges against the 598 prisoners being held at the U.S. military base in Cuba.

The first group of detainees, accused of links to Afghanistan ousted Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terrorist network, arrived in January but U.S. officials have not yet charged them.

—**Frank Griffiths**  
Associated Press

Military

**BNCOC grads get 40 promotion points**

WASHINGTON — Soldiers who successfully complete the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course are now awarded 40 points toward promotion.

Since Aug. 1 soldiers no longer receive four promotion points per BNCOC-course week. This change lessens administrative mistakes and levels the playing field for BNCOC graduates with similar military occupational specialties, personnel officials said. —**ArmyNewsLink**

**National Defense Service Medal Awarded**

HEIDELBERG, Germany— The Department of Defense has announced that servicemembers on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to receive the National Defense Service Medal.

"The sacrifices and contributions made by the Armed Forces in direct response to the terrorism attacks on the United States and to the long-term resolution of terrorism merit special recognition," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

—**1st Infantry Division Website**

KFOR

**Kosovar Albanians protest arrest**

PODUJEVO — On Sunday, U.N. police backed by NATO troops arrested Rrustem Mustafa, a senior ethnic Albanian rebel commander suspected of murder, torture and the illegally detaining Serb captives.

About 3,000 demonstrators marched through Podujevo, Mustafa's wartime stronghold about 25 miles north of the provincial capital of Pristina, to demand his release.

—**Associated Press**

**Multi-National Brigade (North)**

PRISTINA — MNB(E) conducts "Iron Fist VI." A cordon and search operation was conducted in the Srbica area by KFOR soldiers. During the operation, 17 rifles, five pistols, two anti-tank rockets, three bayonets, 4,063 rounds of ammunition, 22 hand grenades, two exercise mines, 12 ammunition magazines, a radio, 150 grams of explosive and many items of military equipment were found.

—**Capt. Paolo Fanin,**  
KFOR spokesman

**Expert Infantryman Badge**

**Camp Bondsteel timeline of events**

- Aug.**
- 30 Noncommissioned officer in charge appointed  
Second in-process review, MNB(E) headquarters.
- Sept.**
- 2 Draft rosters of squads due from all units.
- 15 EIB site recon by station NCOICs.
- 16 Final IPR.
- 19 Units provide final rosters for candidates.  
Site setup begins.  
Site NCOICs and graders come under operational control of the G3 sergeant major.
- 22 Site validation.
- 23-30 EIB training.
- Oct.**
- 1-3 EIB testing.
- 3 EIB awards ceremony.
- 3 Site tear-down.
- 15 AAR due to U.S. Army Infantry School

## Klokot explosions

[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 ]

soldiers continued rescue operations. Cromwell administered basic first aid. After the medics arrived, it was "Doc" who helped start Higgins' intravenous line. The men regained consciousness at the scene — at slightly different times. The first person each man saw was Botters.

"The Task Force 1-18 commander was standing over me," Higgins said. "I could see him, but I couldn't hear what he was saying. All I said was, 'Hoo-ah.'"

Both injured men experienced temporary hearing loss.

Next, Botters stood over Burge and asked him if he was OK. Burge suddenly grabbed Botters' foot and started pulling on it forcefully, trying to back away from the site of the explosion. Calpena said that Burge and Higgins were struggling in pain and going into shock.

"He (Burge) said, 'It feels like I've been hit with a thousand sledgehammers.'" Calpena recalled. "I said, 'Hey, you did!' That made him laugh."

As a field ambulance evacuated the men from the site, the fifth and final explosion occurred — about 30 feet from the ambulance, near the site of the blast that injured Burge and Higgins.

"I felt it rock the (field ambulance)," Higgins said. "...I thought I was going to die."

The sergeants were driven to a landing zone nearby, loaded onto a helicopter, and rushed to the Camp Bondsteel medical facility. The soldiers still on the ground didn't know what was going to happen next.

"You have to anticipate and have a plan," Calpena said.

The soldiers of TF 1-18 went into action. Explosive ordnance disposal teams and explosives detection dog units were alerted. A British company temporarily attached to the task force was brought in to cordon areas and start house-to-house

search operations. A quick reaction force was positioned.

**THESE GUYS WERE READY TO LAUNCH**  
"It was impressive," Calpena said. "All the elements within the Vanguard Battalion were built in the plan...these guys were ready to launch."

As the sun rose over the village, the destruction to buildings could be seen. Debris littered the field.

Burge and Higgins were in stable condition at the medical facility here. No civilians had been injured.

Calpena said the sergeants' brief conversation with "Doc" may have saved their lives. The blast that injured them was directional — it threw heavy debris to either side of Burge and Higgins. "If they were just a second earlier or a second later, they would have been shredded," Calpena said.

On August 2, Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, arrived at their bedside in the medical facility to award Purple Hearts to Burge and Higgins. Burge and Higgins returned to their peacekeeping duties after 4 days in the hospital.

"We appreciate the support, not just from the Americans but from all the peacekeepers in Kosovo," Higgins said.

A joint investigation by KFOR, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, and the Kosovo Police Service is under way.

On the afternoon of August 1, in a media briefing at the explosion site, Michael Steiner, the United Nations' special representative to the Secretary-General, condemned the explosions, calling them "disgusting."

"It's very difficult to find the perpetrators, very hard to identify them, but the Police and KFOR will do exactly that," he said. "...KFOR and UNMIK-Police will continue to provide security."

Botters said KFOR's commitment to providing safety and security was evident in the investigation and search operations immediately after

## news



Photo by Sgt. Michelle Labriel

Army Staff Sgt. Darrell G. Williams and Staff Sgt. Eric B. Blanchard, both of the 737th Explosive Ordnance Company prepare to investigate a site in Klokot where two U.S. soldiers were injured in an explosion.

the blasts.

"I am most proud of the manner in which soldiers from the squad and command team provided security," Botters said. "The area was secured, injured soldiers were evacuated, and we began to pursue suspects in the adjacent villages. ... Bottom line, the American people can be very proud of these soldiers."

"The soldiers did a great job," Calpena agreed. "Everyone — Americans, British, Finns and Swedes — came in on the operation, and we worked well together. You'd have thought we did this type of operation all the time."

## EIS guides soldiers

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4] 230<sup>th</sup> MP Co. part of Task Force 709<sup>th</sup> Military Police, got a first hand lesson on what EIS can do. "I arrived in Kosovo with the advance party," Fishel said. "We were driving down a road and it just ended. It turned into nothing." Fishel said the driver checked the BDI system, which showed they were still on a road. They continued moving forward, and sure enough, the road started again.

During his first few days in Kosovo, Fishel, like other Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers, received training on the BDI system from Lance Leatherwood of TRW. Leatherwood and a small team of BDI contactors are responsible for installing, maintaining and training soldiers on the BDI system.

"The training consisted of a six-hour class on how to send reports, understanding the icons and recognizing other features on the screen," Fishel said.

EIS will do more than help soldiers when they get lost, McClintock said.

For example, the text-messaging feature has given rise to a new tool in the peacekeeping effort: the mobile tactical operations center. Team leaders and platoon sergeants with multiple vehicles can monitor the movements of their subordinates and send messages without being in a static location.

"I like my platoon leaders to have them (BDI systems) in their vehicles," said Capt. Christopher W. Wills, commander of the 230<sup>th</sup> MP Co., "because they can touch the icon on the screen and an identification number will come up. The platoon leader will then know everything he needs to know about that truck: location, speed of travel. If they're traveling faster than they should be, we can call that soldier and say, 'Hey,

what's the deal?'"

In addition, the system provides commanders with a real-time operational picture as icon locations are updated every five minutes.

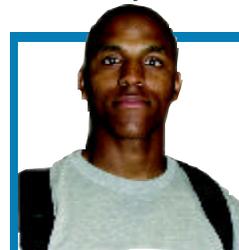
Some soldiers may not like the thought of commanders and platoon leaders tracking their every move.

"Yeah, it feels like Big Brother is watching," Fishel said, "but from a security standpoint, I agree with it."

EIS coupled with the C2PC computer allows commanders better control of their soldiers and resources.

**Next week:** C2PC allows commanders to see and be part of the action in the field.

## Peacekeeper profile



**name:** Jermain A. Fox  
**age:** 22.  
**rank:** Sgt.  
**mos:** 95B - military police specialist.  
**unit:** 709th Military Police task Force.  
**hometown:** New Orleans, La.

**What is your role in MNB (E)?** To serve as part of the protection team for MNB(E) commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute.

**Why did you join the Army?** To serve my country and to gain an experience most people don't in their lifetime.

## photo contest winner

### ‘Sapper on the move’

PHOTO BY  
1ST LT. COREY  
GENEVICZ,  
COMPANY B,  
54TH ENG. BN.

Sgt.  
Jonathan  
Fink  
executes  
squad  
live-fire  
training  
conducted  
by  
Company  
B, 54th  
Engineer  
Battalion

Equipment  
Fugi A201  
camera



## Honorable mention

### ‘Artillery by night’

PHOTO BY  
SGT. 1ST CLASS DANNY WEBB  
BATTERY A, 1-7 FA

A paladin fires an illumination round during a Bright Skies exercise. In the background, an illumination round floats toward the ground.

Equipment  
Sony digital camera



**Contest winners** will receive a prize sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation!

**Winning photos** also will be displayed in the MNB(E) tactical operations center.

See previous winners  
at  
[www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil)

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO SUBMIT A PHOTO IN THE GUARDIAN EAST'S PHOTO CONTEST!**

Submissions should include:

- Photographer's name
- Photo title
- Caption or description of photo action
- Type of camera used.

Send image files as e-mail attachments (one per message) to senior print journalist Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson at: [guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil](mailto:guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil).

Upcoming theme is:

#### “After Hours”

The deadline is **Aug. 19**. These photos will portray life in MNB(E) after working hours.



**Expert Medical Field Badge**

**Camp Bondsteel**

**2002**

- 16 Aug. In processing  
Day land navigation  
Night land navigation
- 17 -20 Aug. Lane training (all day)
- 21 Aug. Written test (9 a.m. - 11 a.m.)  
Day land navigation testing (2 p.m. - 7 p.m.)  
Night land navigation testing 8 p.m.
- 22-25 Aug. Lane testing (all day)
- 26 Aug. Road march (5 a.m. to 8 a.m.)  
Graduation (9 a.m. to 10 a.m.)

## Staring Eyes

Being exposed to a different culture is a life-changing experience. We can see how the people live and relate to one another. It can teach us to value and respect people who are different from us. At least that is what transpired to change me 28 years ago.

My family and some friends went camping through Central America. We drove in a green VW van with all our camping gear on top of the van. We drove round trip from Tulsa, OK to the border of Costa Rica. Wherever we went in Central America, people took notice, especially when we stopped at the local town's restaurant. It seemed every child in the whole town came and just watched us eat. I mean we were the main attraction of the town with what seemed to be more than 100 children staring at us.

As a young teen I hated all those young eyes staring at me. I thought to myself, "Don't they have anything better to do?" Can you imagine, every bite you took, there were those eyes staring at you? In each town I prayed hard for rain to disperse the crowd, without results. My heart was hardened. I just wanted to be able to eat my food in peace without those staring eyes looking at me.

I failed to be moved as the waitress scraped the scraps from each plate and placed them on a piece of bread to give to the children. Could I help it that I lived in a country where I had plenty of food? Perhaps if they worked just a little harder, they could be better off. I just despised those staring eyes! I put a mental wall between those children and myself. I just didn't want to see them.

I remember at a campground a group of six children came up to our tent while I was eating my peanut butter sandwich with those eyes looking right at me. I wanted to eat in peace; so, I quickly looked around to find something to give them so they would leave me alone. I found a box of cookies and quickly gave it to the oldest child and to my relief they left.

While I was eating my sandwich, out of the corner of my eye I

**"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."**  
(Matthew 10:42)



observed the oldest child leading the other children to a nearby tree. He had them sit down in a circle and then proceeded to divide the cookies. What he did next tore down the mental wall I established between the children and myself. When all the children had finished eating the cookies, he took the cookie box, tore it up and divided the pieces among the children. My wall came crashing down. I had so much to give; they had so little to eat.

Jesus said, "And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42) While our soldiers are here in Kosovo, I pray that their hearts will be open to the Spirit of the Lord that he might teach them how to love one another.

## Pilgrimage of the Black Madonna celebration



KFOR soldiers turned out "en masse" to provide security and to participate in the Pilgrimage of the Black Madonna, a celebration of the ascension of the Virgin Mary. The celebration was held in Letnica and was attended by an estimated 4,000 people. In attendance were KFOR Commander Lt. Gen. Marcel Valentin and MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute. During the ceremony a German priest thanked the KFOR soldiers for their attendance and for the peace that KFOR has brought to the region. "This was a multi-ethnic and multi-faith ceremony," said Lt. Col. Robert Botters, commander Task Force 1-18 Infantry, "and the large KFOR presence is a demonstration of our acceptance in this region."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

# Slam dunk!

KFOR SOLDIERS SHOW THEY ARE HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST



Photos by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

## Task Force 1-7 FA sponsors basketball game

On an otherwise ordinary Saturday night, the outdoor basketball court next to the Southtown gym was jumping with excitement. Basketball fans turned out in large numbers to view a five-on-five tournament and slam-dunk competition sponsored by the Task Force 1-7 FA. The tournament featured six teams.

The tournament concluded after 11 p.m. and the fans stayed until the winner was crowned. In the end, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion, behind the hot shooting of guard Spc. David Wesson, walked a way with the first-place trophy.

## Polish-Ukrainian, ASG Battalion changes Command



Left: Incoming commander, left front, Lt. Col. Wojciech Marchwica and outgoing commander, right front, Lt. Col. Jozef Matuszyk lead the change of command ceremony for the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion on Aug. 14 at Camp White Eagle. Right: Col. George D. Lanning, incoming commander of the Area Support Group (Provisional) takes the colors from Lt. Gen. Michael E. Dodsen, deputy commanding general of USAEUR and 7th Army, during a Change of Command ceremony on Camp Bondsteel. The area support group area of operations include Kosovo, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, and FYROM.



Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez