

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

Guardian East

Volume 10, Issue 9

March 26, 2004



There's a
FIRST TIME
For Everything

page 8

Message to the troops



By Col. Steven Saunders,
Deputy Commander Maneuver

On March 17 the province of Kosovo erupted into violence. Just three weeks after our transfer of authority ceremony, Multi-national Brigade (East) soldiers were put to the most significant test the military has faced here since 1999. For the better part of three days our soldiers held thousands of agitators at bay, protected the lives of oppressed citizens, and responded to emergencies ranging from fires and looting to explosions and shots fired. Since then we have forged a fragile peace, detained numerous ringleaders and searched hundreds of vehicles. We have confronted the wrongdoers and comforted the homeless. Whether Greek, Armenian, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian or American, every member of this multi-national brigade can be proud of the part they played in

stopping the outrageous display of violence.

There are those who say that Kosovo has been set back by five years. That may be true...it may not. From my foxhole, it doesn't matter. We have a job to do.

Unfortunately, a significant part of that job has changed. Now, the job requires increased vigilance. All of us must anticipate what is to come. Our senior leaders must work to ensure stronger coordination with KFOR and to provide direction to the task forces. Task force commanders and staffs must redouble their planning and force protection efforts. All of us must accomplish an incredible array of peace enforcement and peacekeeping activities. At the end of the day, junior officers, non-commissioned officers, and the soldiers who are out doing the mission day-in and day-out will do the heavy lifting. Every one of us



Col. Steven Saunders

must continue to demonstrate a high degree of professionalism. It is our training and professionalism that brought us through the recent violence with few injuries. It is our professionalism, training and determination that will see us through our time in Kosovo.

Always remember, we are here for just a brief period. Kosovars call this place home. They choose to love or hate. They decide if they are going to raise their children in peace or anarchy. In short, they are responsible for their own future. We are here to help create the conditions that allow the people to make wise choices. To the family members of our soldiers I say – your soldier is well trained, well led and ready. To our soldiers I say - stay vigilant, stay focused and stay safe. We will prevail.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.mnbe.hqsaurer.army.mil



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

COVER: Staff Sgt. Arturo Bautista, a crew chief with Alpha Company, 1-207th Aviation, prepares a crew for flight on a Uh-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Photo by Spc. Tim Grooms.

See page 8 for the story

Guardian East

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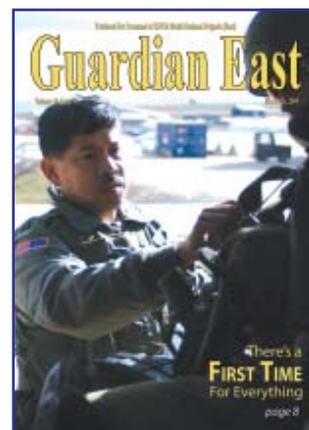
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Soldiers continue mission as Kiowa helicopters replace Apaches.

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Dogs do their part in providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

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TF Bayonet Takes On Kosovo

2-135th Infantry learns its way in and around Kosovo.

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The Polish-Ukrainian Battalion is made up of soldiers from those two countries, as well as Lithuania. Their area of responsibility includes a section of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's border, more specifically municipalities like Strpce/Shterpce and Kacanik. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bishop. See page 14 for the story.

Say hello



to my



little friend

Story and photos by
Spec. Rob Barker

Kiowas take flight, replace Apaches



Sgt. Francis Gill, a crew chief with Oscar Troop, 4-278th Aviation, performs a routine pre-flight check on his Kiowa helicopter's Hellfire missile rack.

There have been many changes in Kosovo since former President Clinton sent U.S. troops into the province. The Kosovo Police Service has formed and become stable, residents are getting more of the health care they need, and they have benefited from the increased freedom of movement that has been established. Overall, American Soldiers have been doing their part to ensure Kosovo has a safe and secure environment. This is apparent with the recent replacement of the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter with the OH-58D Kiowa Scout Helicopter.

"Here, the goal is to go out and observe the border, support the ground elements watching anything that is passing over the border illegally and illegal activities within the region, and to provide security for those forces, and the 58D can do that day or night," said Chief Warrant Officer Steve Bennett, the standardization instructor pilot for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4-278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Other members of Task Force Desperado agreed with Bennett.

"Apaches are mainly designed for a seek and destroy mission where we are basically doing reconnaissance and surveillance," said Chief Warrant Officer Steven Riddle, a pilot with Oscar Troop, 4-278th ACR.

The Kiowa is also helpful in overseas missions because of its small size, making it easier to ship them, said Riddle.

"Our helicopters are more easily deployable than the Apaches," said Riddle. "They are faster moving, you can load them on a ship faster and get them off faster. The aircraft is smaller and easier to maneuver."



Sgt. Wilson Clark, a crew chief with Tango Troop, 4-278th Aviation and Chief Warrant Officer Stephan Charles, a pilot with Oscar Troop, prepare their Kiowa for take off before a test flight.

Although the Kiowa is smaller, carries less weaponry and has a different mission than the Apache, it can attack when necessary.

"Our helicopters still do give you the opportunity to do a light attack mission, so it gives you an opportunity to have armament," said Riddle. "[Apaches] have a much larger attack mission and do not have the systems we have for a reconnaissance mission."

Riddle and Bennett both know their task force's mission here and hope to carry it out with the help of the Kiowa.

"The cav has always been the eyes and ears of the commander," said Riddle. "What we can do for him is paint a picture of the battlefield out there. We can tell him what is going on in his different sectors, and if he needs to see something he can send us to that spot and we can make a videotape for him and bring it back, so he can have a good picture of what is going on out there so he can make the proper decisions."

With all of the changes that have happened and continue to happen in Kosovo, both Soldiers are happy to be doing their part and know where their piece of the puzzle fits.

"We'll do our job and hope some of the things we see and report can help stabilize the province," said Bennett.

"Here, the goal is to go out and observe the border, support the ground elements watching anything that is passing over the border illegally and illegal activities within the region, and to provide security for those forces, and the 58D can do that day or night."

**-Chief Warrant Officer Steve Bennett,
the standardization instructor pilot for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4-278th
Armored Cavalry Regiment.-**

Troops from the

Alaska National Guard

serve in the unit's first deployment

Keeping the peace in Kosovo is often a new experience for the Soldiers called to the task. They meet new people, encounter unfamiliar cultures and customs, and perform missions they may not have performed before training for their time with KFOR. For members of Alpha Company, 2-207th Aviation, this trip to Kosovo is different for another reason.

"This is the first Title 10 activation [mobilized for active duty military] deployment for the [Alaska] Army Guard in our state ever," said 1st Lt. John Stout, platoon leader and pilot with the company.

Since arriving in February, the unit has been busy.

"We do a lot of VIP transport and reconnaissance to see the [infantry] area of responsibility," said Stout. "We also do training with the infantry. Sometimes they might want to be inserted by helicopter for training benefit."

A recent mission was both familiar and new for the aviators as they provided transportation for Norwegian soldiers conducting a training exercise in an abandoned town.

"This was a fairly routine mission for us," said Chief Warrant Officer Chuck Hosack, a pilot with the company. "The only thing that made it different was we worked with the Norwegians."

Working with the non-U.S. troops provided a new experience for the Americans.

"I haven't dealt with many units like that in the past and it gave us an opportunity to learn what a unit like that needs as far as aviation support, types of planning,

"I expect we will all come away from this mission feeling good about how we have done."

-1st Lt. John Stout, platoon leader
and pilot with Alpha Company,
2-207th Aviation-

and landing zones that haven't been surveyed," said Stout.

The Alaskans learned other lessons, as well.

"The previous day we had rehearsals so I got to talk to the platoon leader. It was great for me to get to talk to their leadership and interact with them to see what type of planning they were doing," Stout said.

The unit members said all these new experiences and lessons will benefit their unit.

"I expect we will all come away from this mission feeling good about how we have done. I expect a lot of people in our company will have become more proficient and experienced as pilots," said Stout. "I think this deployment will give them the opportunity to work on areas they didn't get to before."

Story and photos by Spc. Tim Grooms



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



Warrant Officer Brian Stephenson, a pilot with Alpha Company, 1-207th Aviation, prepares a landing zone diagram for a recent mission.

The days

Cars, houses, and chu



2nd Lt. Richard Rush of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1-113th Cavalry, peers through a window at the charred remains of a home in Gjilan/Gnjilane following two days of riots that shook the town. Photo by Sgt. Jon Soucy.

of chaos

arches were burned.



The days of Chaos in Kosovo

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bishop
Photos by Sgt. Eric Morris, 514th MP Company



The side door of a Serb church in Ferizaj/ Urosavec where two propane tanks were set ablaze by rioters but did not explode during the recent violence there.

When the sun rose over Kosovo March 17, 1999, the military would have to face was the non-alcoholic Patrick's Day dinner. By noon there were 10,000 people in the streets of the province and around the capital city of Pristina. As the night offering, it was clear the delicate peace treaty had turned into violent chaos.

The spark that apparently ignited the violence in Kosovo was an ethnic Albanian boy's story. The boy and his family were chased into the Ibar River by dogs and rioters, resulting in the drowning of at least two of the children. In the case of a third whose body has yet to be recovered, the boy's allegations, the Albanian population in the northern Kosovo town divided along ethnic lines and eventually attacked the Serb population of the town.

By nightfall the story of the children's deaths spread to every corner of Kosovo, prompting thousands to take to the streets of their towns in protest against what allegedly caused by ethnic Serbs. Many of these protests quickly evolved into angry riots targeting military and police sites.

As KFOR, United Nations Mission in Kosovo, and the Military Service tried to stop the violence and restore order, they became targets for the rioters. Their members were attacked with Molotov Cocktails, and grenades. There were reports of rioters attacking KPS stations and other facilities.

As the night wore on, the efforts of the military, including helicopters and military police delivering supplies to isolated pockets of violence re-emerged, and enforced curfews prevented the widespread violence.

In the Multi-national Brigade (East) and other units in efforts to restore peace.

"MNB(E) worked with many local media outlets," said Maj. Christopher J. Cole, MNB(E) public affairs officer. "TV Liria out of Ferizaj and TV Men from Gnjane out of Ferizaj, were instrumental in us getting the word out of violence."

Cole said those media outlets aired recorded messages, and statements from the military in order.

In one recorded message, Brig. Gen. Erlandson gave voice to his anger and disappointment.

"A minority of people took into their own hands to destroy it," he said. "The mindless acts of violence and attacks against innocent civilians has paid a heavy price and will not be forgotten."

Erlandson was also clear about his mission on March 17.

"My soldiers are here to protect the people and restore a safe and secure environment," he said. "The reign of anarchy and chaos have not, and will not, be forgotten."

That morning, the only distinction that was that of being St. Patrick's Day, but 24 hours later with personal stories of facing angry mobs, the military earned the distinction of being the most violent day since the peacekeepers arrived in 1999.

The next Issue of the Guardian East and groups of MNB(E) soldiers who were killed on March 17.

ch 17, it seemed the worst thing anyone
c green beer being served with the St.
stories of trouble in the northern sector
y, and by the time Soldiers of Camps
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he morning promised had degenerated

anger of ethnic Albanians throughout
ry of being part of a group of four who
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boy's friends and the presumed death of
ed. While there was no proof of the
n of Mitrovica/Kosovska Mitrovica, a
ic lines by the Ibar, began to riot and

and the resulting violence reached
ands of ethnic Albanians around the
ns in demonstrations against the deaths
f the demonstrations began peacefully
ting Serbian homes, churches and holy

Kosovo Police, and the Kosovo Police
tore order to the region, they became
e attacked with rocks and stones,
vere several reports of weapons being
peacekeepers' vehicles. There were
ons.

he peacekeepers, aided by KFOR
canisters of tear gas to the centers of
own. Throughout the next few days,
but the roadblocks, vehicle checkpoints,
spread chaos of that first night.

area of operations, local media helped

edia to assist in quelling the violence,"
lic affairs officer. "TV stations such as
njlane, and Radios TEMA and Ferizaj
ting our message out to stop the

ive interviews with MNB(E) personnel,
a officials calling for a return to law and

Rick Erlandson, MNB(E) commander,
ent at the actions of the rioters.

hands the future of Kosovo and tried to
f violence, desecration of holy sites, and
nted a picture the world will not soon

esolve to prevent any further days like

law abiding citizens of Kosovo and to
he said. "Those who meant to institute a
d will not, succeed."

he day held for the personnel of MNB(E)
f hours later, after a day and night rife
s intent on destruction, March 17 had
violent and destructive day since peace-

will be devoted to accounts from units
first-hand witnesses to the events of



A Molotov Cocktail thrown during the riots lies on the ground in front of a Serb church in Ferizaj/ Urosevac.



A grenade thrown during the riots lies in rubble on the ground in front of a Serb church in Ferizaj/ Urosevac.

Soldiers of the POLUK

Story and photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

With speeches, awards, and a pass and review accompanied by the sounds of the Queen's "We Are The Champions," the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion held a ceremony at Camp White Eagle, giving an elaborate farewell to some of the troops and wishing them well on their way back to Poland or, in some cases, to Iraq.

"I am leaving here a lot of friends. But it's life," said Capt. Januz Sroka, a Polish liaison officer who is going back to Poland and was part of the color guard in the ceremony. Sroka said he will be replaced, but a few soldiers from each company will not due to the reduced threat level in Kosovo and the need to bolster troop levels in Iraq, said Capt. Jacek Mazur, a press officer with the battalion.

In addition to the speeches congratulating the battalion as a whole on their work, individuals were honored with promotions, certificates of appreciation, extra leave, or POLUKRBAT coins emblazoned with the Polish and Ukrainian flags.

Those who remain will carry on the battalion's mission in Kosovo to ensure a safe and secure environment through conducting vehicle checkpoints and performing patrols to stop smuggling, prevent illegal border crossings, find illegal weapons, and prevent interethnic fighting while protecting places of worship and providing assistance to medical personnel, local police, and border services in their sector. This includes municipalities such as Strpce/Shterpce, Kacanik, and the border crossing town of Hani i Elezit/ Djeneral Jankovic, which leads to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Incoming soldiers will become part of a busy team. According to Mazur, since September the Polish, Ukrainian, and Lithuanian soldiers of the battalion have intercepted more than 40 people illegally crossing the border, conducted more than 7,000 patrols and inspected more than 34,000 vehicles.

KRBAT bid farewell



Soldiers of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion conduct a pass and review ceremony to bid farewell to troops going home at Camp White Eagle.

MP dogs keep



Sgt. Eduardo Hernandez, a military police officer with the 192nd Military Police Battalion, leads Art, a military working dog, through the post office at Camp Monteith. The dogs are trained to detect narcotics and explosives.

ep the peace



Story and photos by Sgt. Jon Soucy

Art, a German Shepard, is in many ways just like other dogs. He likes to get out and play, especially with his favorite ball. He likes going on walks and he likes the occasional pat on the head. But one thing sets Art apart from many other dogs. Art is a military working dog and like any other Soldier serving in Kosovo he has a job to do.

Art is one of three German Shepards currently serving at Camp Monteith with the 192nd Military Police Battalion where he and his counterparts use their noses to detect items humans can't.

"Our primary mission here in Kosovo is detection of narcotics and explosives," said Sgt. Eduardo Hernandez, a dog handler with the battalion. In addition, the dogs are trained to use aggression to subdue hostile or fleeing individuals upon command from their handlers, said Hernandez.

For the handlers, the path to get assigned to work with the dogs can be a difficult one.

"You can't go directly into it," said Sgt. Joshua Anderson, also a dog handler with the battalion, of the canine program. "It's not easy to do. It took a few years, but I finally got it," said Anderson, who had to reenlist after his initial contract was up in order to get into the program.

Hernandez, who served at Fort Campbell, Ky., for three years as a member of a special reaction team, the Army equivalent of a SWAT team, also had to reenlist to be able to work with the dogs.

"I've been trying to get into the program for three years," said Hernandez.

For those who work with the dogs day after day a fondness for animals is one of the things they share.

"I've had a passion for working with animals from a very young age," said Hernandez.

"I love working with dogs," agreed Anderson. "I've got two of my own Shepards, so dogs at work, dogs at home."

And Art and his canine counterparts seem to have similar feelings.

"These dogs live for us," said Anderson, an Idaho Falls, Idaho, native. "We come in in the morning and they are all excited and going crazy and they can't wait to get out and play with us."

Though the dogs like to play, when it's time to go to work they know they have a job to do.

"Those dogs totally focus on us," said Anderson. "It's no problem getting them to work."

"He's always excited about going to work every time he comes out of his kennel," added Hernandez, referring to Art, his assigned dog.

This is the second tour in Kosovo for Hernandez, a native of the Bronx, N.Y., and Art. During that time they have developed a bond that many can relate to.

"He's like my best buddy, my best friend," said Hernandez.

Meanwhile Art stood nearby eyeing up his favorite ball—a semi-inflated basketball.

2-135 Infantry on Kosovo

Story and photos by

Anthing is possible when patrolling the streets of Kosovo, and for the members of Alpha Company, 2-135th Infantry, the extensive training that prepared them for deployment never covered the boldness of poultry.

“I’ve been to the country, but I haven’t seen 30 chickens cross in front of your Humvee,” said Sgt. Jason Ottum, the acting squad leader for the patrol, as the feathery flock passed by during his fourth patrol in Kosovo.

Despite the unexpected interruption from farm animals,



▲
Spc. Justin Johnson, an infantryman with Alpha Company, 2-135th Infantry, checks a driver's registration at a vehicle checkpoint in Vitina/Viti.

▶
Pfc. Chua Lor, an Infantryman with Alpha Company, 2-135th Infantry, stops a vehicle at a vehicle checkpoint in Vitina/Viti.



Country takes KOSOVO

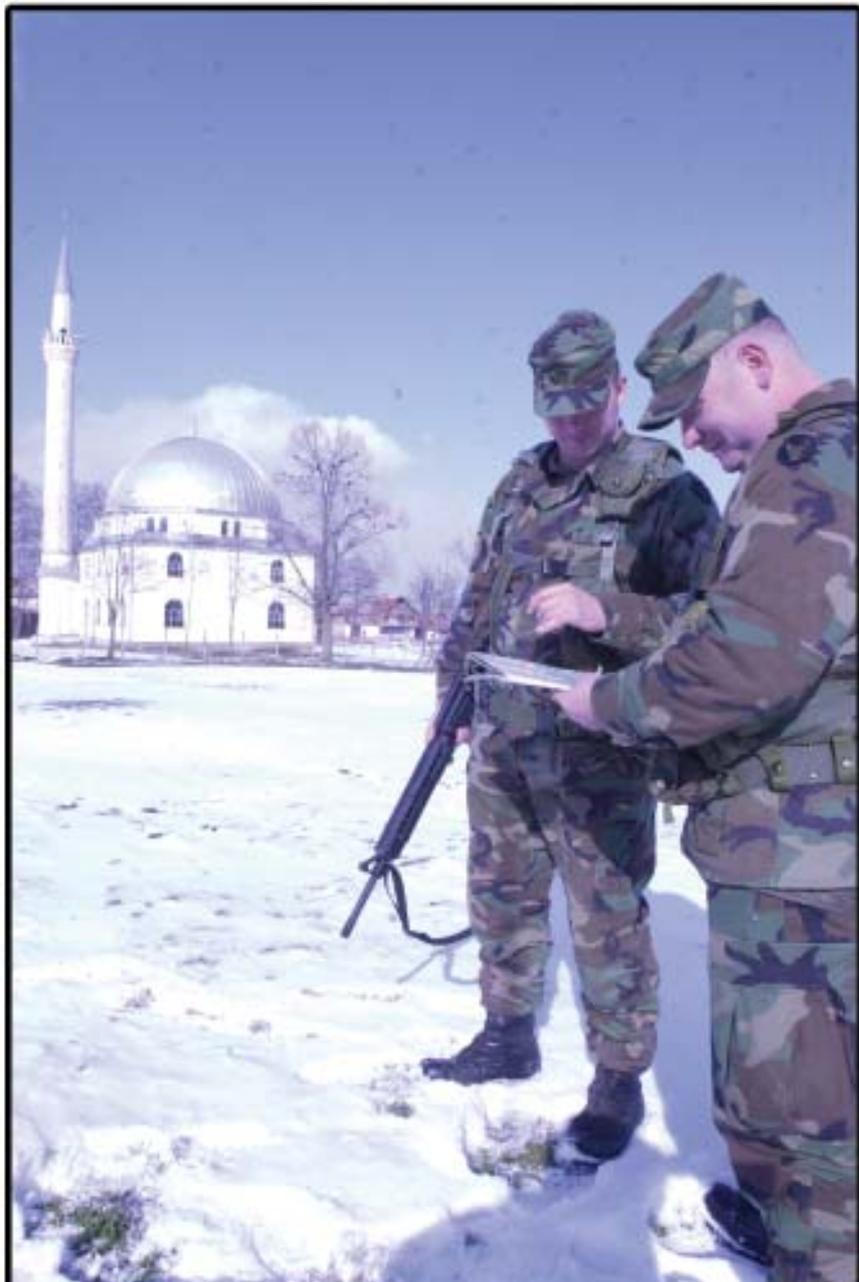
Spc. Sean McCollum

Ottum and his Soldiers said they found themselves well prepared for the reality of a Kosovo deployment because of the months of training they received. Included in their training experience was speaking through interpreters, finding hidden weapons caches, and interacting with local residents, he said.

“We had a lot of training so I think it helped us blend pretty seamlessly into Kosovo,” said Ottum. “When we were practicing, it was more of the worst case scenario where we went into the town and the town was angry with us.”

Training for the worst was good practice, Ottum said, but the situation they found when they performed a vehicle checkpoint was completely different. While one driver’s credentials were checked, a child in the back seat smiled, waved, yelled excitedly towards the troops, and eagerly accepted candy from an outstretched hand attached to a camouflage-sleeved arm.

Along with the candy the Soldiers bring their hopes of understanding local culture and maintaining a lasting peace in Kosovo. After the checkpoint, the squad moved to the Kosovo Police Station in Vitina/Viti to introduce themselves and find out what the area was like from the experts. Doing so, Ottum said, would help Soldiers like himself



Sgt. Ron Best, a squad leader with Alpha Company, 2-112th Infantry, shows Sgt. Jason Ottum, acting squad leader for Alpha Company, 2-135th Infantry, patrol points on a map near a mosque in Vitina/Viti.

know what to look for when patrolling.

It was the fourth patrol for the team and it involved chickens, children, the KPS and situations far friendlier than their training, and the experiences inspired at least one of the Soldiers to connect further with the area.

“I’d like to learn the language and a couple more words than just saying hello,” said Pfc. Chua Lor, a driver with the patrol.

At the start of a new rotation, anything is possible.

Why am I serving as a peacekeeper in Kosovo?



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

“We can’t prevent all the violence and destruction here. But we can and have saved some lives, we have prevented some violence...”

I am writing this article on March 18, the day after violence broke out in many communities across the province of Kosovo.

There is a lot of uncertainty in Kosovo today. I don’t know what the situation in Kosovo will be like by the time you read this. But, especially in times of uncertainty and turmoil, it’s good to focus on our motivation. Why are we here? Why are we trying to work for peace in this troubled place?

I can think of three basic answers to that question.

The Patriotic Answer

Why am I serving as a peacekeeper in Kosovo?

Because I am a Soldier and my country has given me this job.

The United States government had a lot of reasons for becoming involved in the Balkans. We may agree or disagree with those reasons, but as Soldiers we have committed ourselves to serve as our country chooses to use us. Our service may involve a significant amount of sacrifice, but we do it because we are loyal to our country and faithful to the commitment we have made to be Soldiers.

The Humanitarian Answer

Why am I serving as a peacekeeper in Kosovo?

Because there are people here who need help.

We can’t solve the problems of the people in Kosovo. We can’t make these people get along. We can’t prevent all the violence and destruction here. But we can and have saved some lives, we have prevented some violence, and we are upholding the principle that it is good for people of different ethnicities to live together in peace.

The Spiritual Answer

Why am I serving as a peacekeeper in Kosovo?

Because God wants me to work for peace.

As a Christian, I like to remember the simple words of Jesus – “Blessed are those who work for peace. They shall be called the Children of God.”

The Christian religion and most other religions teach that, if my neighbors are being threatened and I have the ability to protect them, I have the responsibility to do so. The people of Kosovo are our neighbors and we are to help them live in peace.

I hope and pray that peace will some day come to Kosovo.

North Chapel Schedule

**Sundays: 0800 Liturgical Protestant
0930 Catholic Communion Service
1100 Contemporary Protestant
1400 Gospel Service
1930-2130 Odyssey of Paul Classes**
Mondays: 0900-1000 Odyssey of Paul Class
Wednesdays in March
**1200 Catholic Communion Service
1900 Midweek Protestant Lenten Service
1930 Gospel Bible Study
2030 Gospel Choir Rehearsal**
**Thursdays: 1830 Special Music Practice
1930 North Chapel Choir Practice**
**Fridays: 1300 Islamic Prayer Time
1800 Shabbat Prayer Time
1900 Men/Women Gospel Bible Studies**
Saturdays: 1900 Gospel Choir Rehearsal

South Chapel Schedule

**Sundays: 0800 Catholic Communion Service
0930 Protestant Service
1300 Latter Day Saints (LDS) Worship
1930 Protestant Service**
Mondays: 1930 Marriage Enrichment
Tuesdays: 1930 Bible Study – Book of Acts
Wednesdays: 1930-2130 Odyssey of Paul Classes
**Thursdays: 1400-1600 Odyssey of Paul Classes
1900 Music Team Practice
2030 LDS Bible Study**
Fridays: 1930-2130 Odyssey of Paul Classes
Saturdays: 1930 Catholic Communion Service

CMT Chapel Schedule

**Sundays: 0830 Bible Study
1000 Traditional Protestant
1230 Catholic Communion Service
1700 Contemporary Protestant**
**Mondays: 1000-1200 Odyssey of Paul Classes
1400-1600 Odyssey of Paul Classes**
**Wednesdays: 1700 Midweek Protestant Lenten Service
1900 Catholic Communion Service**
**Thursdays: 1400-1600 Odyssey of Paul Classes
1900-2100 Odyssey of Paul Classes**

Spiritual retreats to Greece

The chaplains of KFOR 5B are hoping to conduct a number of spiritual retreats to Greece. These retreats will focus on a visit to the city of Philippi, the first city where the Apostle Paul preached the Christian message.

The **purposes** of this retreat are:

1. To view and walk in the historical footsteps of the Apostle Paul.
2. To learn about the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul, and especially his ministry in Philippi.
3. Rest and relaxation, along with personal time for Bible study, prayer, and spiritual growth.

Here are the **primary details** about the trip (**ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE**):

1. **Eight hours of classroom instruction** are required for all participants before participating on the retreat. These eight hours cover a video series called The Odyssey of St. Paul. We will be learning about the life and ministry of Paul so that retreat participants will be ready to experience the religious significance of the sites that we are visiting.
2. **The retreat lasts 4 days**, which includes half a day of travel on the first day and half a day of travel on the fourth day.
3. Retreat participants will stay at the **Ocean View Beach Hotel near Kavala, Greece**. There are two person rooms/bathrooms for each retreat participant. The owners are Greek Americans and speak English.
4. Visits are made to the **museum** and **historic sites** in Kavala and the Philippi ruins. The chaplains will be teaching about the significance of the sites. There will be **group devotional times** in the morning and evening. **Participation in the educational and spiritual portions of the retreat is required.**
5. There will be **some free time**, including some time for shopping.
6. **General Order #1 will remain in effect. No alcohol** consumption will be allowed.
7. **Civilian clothes** will be used throughout the retreat. Nothing military or with military references will be allowed!
8. The cost of the retreat is **150 Euros (to be paid in advance)**. You will need additional money to pay for 2 or 3 meals and for shopping.

*Please recognize that we might not be able to accommodate everyone who wants to attend this retreat. Also remember that mission needs and security issues could cause retreats to be canceled.

*Also please note that we expect that the people who attend the Spiritual Retreat to Greece will be given a lower priority for the FMPP trip to Sofia, Bulgaria.

LandWarNet equips Soldiers with battlefield information

By Spc. Lorie Jewell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 16, 2004) – Just as Soldiers need the best equipment and training to be successful on the battlefield, a steady diet of information is just as vital, Army leaders believe.

“Information is power,” said Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general of the U.S. Army Signal Corps and Fort Gordon, Ga. “We want to know things about the battlefield and we want to know things about our enemy on the battlefield. At the same time, we don’t want the enemy to know what we know, or to know things about us.”

Connecting Soldiers to information they need, whenever they need it and wherever they are, is the job of the Network, recently renamed LandWarNet. It’s one of 17 focus areas the Army is emphasizing to win the Global War on Terrorism.

Hicks heads the task force assigned to make recommendations on how best to develop and improve LandWarNet so that it delivers better battle command capabilities to current, future, and joint forces.

The joint aspect is of particular interest, Hicks said.

“We’re not going to war as an Army. We’re going to war with our sailor and airmen friends,” Hicks said. “We must be able to communicate with them without an extra step. We need a system that allows one call.”

Ultimately, the task force wants to see a LandWarNet that gives combatant commanders the same capabilities for accessing information in any location, whether that’s at a desktop computer in their office, in an aircraft, on a vessel at sea, in a vehicle en route to battle or in a post-battle camp, Hicks said.

“We’re working on different ways to get there,” she added.

One of those ways is through the Global Information Grid, or GIG. Hicks describes it as scaffolding built up around the globe.

“Communication lines go all over, pulsing through the GIG,” she said. “It services the defense information switch network, or DISN, which is provided by the Defense Information Services Agency.”

Forces can reach into the DISN with satellites and pull information services down to wherever they are in the world, she explained.

A combination of military and commercial technology powers LandWarNet, with

leaders committed to pursuing programs that will enhance it even more.

“Our current IT investment strategy is centered on leveraging the best available commercial technology,” said Col. James Costigan, director of Combat Development at the U.S. Army Signal Center.

Leaders acknowledge that getting the network to the level the task force envisions is an expensive endeavor. Just how much is still being determined.

“We’re talking about an almost clean sweep of the kind of equipment we have now,” Hicks said. “It will take a great deal of money to retool our networks while at war.”

Many leaders believe the Army can’t afford not to make LandWarNet all it can be, however.

“The application of information technology can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the processes involved in war fighting,” said Costigan. “Our experimentation with objective force concepts and our real-world experience in OIF shows us this notion is valid. Investing in IT systems to enable war fighting is therefore logical and necessary.”

Army leaders review policy on sexual assault

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 17, 2004) - Senior Army leaders are reviewing policies to ensure that victims of sexual assault continue to receive immediate care and assistance and that all reported allegations are thoroughly investigated.

“Sexual assault has no place in our Army,” said Lt. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck, the Army deputy chief of staff, G1, during an interview with Dateline’s Stone Phillips that aired March 12.

In the last year, 92 allegations of sexual misconduct were investigated by Army Criminal Investigation Division personnel in the Central Command area. The complaints were not all made by Soldiers, officials said. And not all of those assaulted were women. Also, the perpetrators were not all Soldiers, officials added. Allegations have been made against local nationals and members of other services and coalition forces.

Of the 92 cases, the Criminal Investigation Command has completed 74 of the investigations so far, officials said.

CID officials said they are committed to conducting thorough and complete criminal investigations into the cases discussed on Dateline and have been doing so since the incidents were reported to CID.

“It would be inappropriate at this point to comment on either of the investigations to protect the integrity of those cases,” a CID official said, “and we are as equally committed to protecting the privacy of the victims.”

The Army remains committed to taking care of Soldiers and dealing expeditiously with any complaint or allegation of, officials stressed.

SECTION Q N' A

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What do you do to pass time while you're here?

SPC. DIANNA WHELESS



Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

Spc. Dianna Wheless of the 514th Military Police Company scans the area for trouble near a Serbian church in Ferizaj/ Urosevac. The church was recently attacked by rioters.

SPC. ANDREW SHONITSKI



Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

Spc. Andrew Shonitski, right, a postal clerk with 641st AG Postal Battalion, shows Spc. Aaron Pritchard of the 147th Finance Battalion the registered mail number needed before signing the box over.

"I spend most of my time sleeping."

SPC. HAROLD NOWDEN

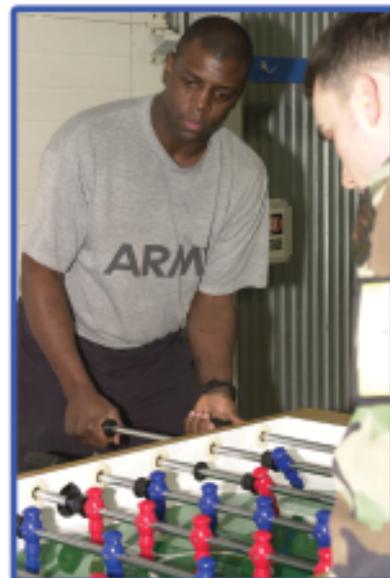


Photo by Spc. Rob Barker

"I like to work out, go running, meet new people and I go to the community center to play games."

Spc. Harold Nowden, an air traffic control equipment repairman with Delta Company, 114th Aviation, plays fooseball with a friend at South Town's Morale and Recreation Building.

PFC. AMY JABAS



Photo by Spc. Sean McCollum

"I like to play volley ball"

Pfc. Amy Jabas, right, a finance clerk with the 147th Finance Battalion, counts out a cash advance for Sgt. Leng Her at Camp Bondsteel's cashier window.



SCENES OF KOSOVO

Burned buildings after recent riots

Photo by Spc. Rob Barker