

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

TEAM ROLLS ACROSS BOSNIA

30-year-old tank gets second lease on life

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

It's the little tank — and crew — that could. A 30-year-old converted M-60 tank and her crew are still on the job, clearing minefields and performing rescue missions, despite facing numerous challenges including a mine strike.

The incident happened on the first mission by members of the 233rd Engineer Battalion's B Company based in Friedberg, Germany.

The four members of "Mad Dog 53" were using their M-728 combat engineering vehicle to clear mines from Desolation Boulevard in mid-January. The M-728, a converted M-60 tank, uses a front blade to plow for mines when proofing fields or roads.

While rolling along a previously cleared stretch of Desolation Boulevard, the M-728 struck an anti-tank mine.

"The whole tank filled with smoke," said Spc. Alex J. Toirkens, a gunner on the team.

Using their radio, the crew reported the strike and that there were no injuries. Later that day an M-88 wrecker pulled the damaged tank away from the strike site. The soldiers spent that night and the next day in the field with their damaged vehicle and began to

assess damages and make repair plans.

"You had to see it to believe it," said Sgt. Thomas E. Tomlin, tank commander.

The left track was severed where it struck the mine. A road arm and shock were broken, and a road wheel was severely damaged. Tools that had been stored in a box on the tank deck had been blown into a ditch at the strike site and couldn't be safely recovered. That evening, the M-88 returned and towed the tank about 800 meters to the engineer's base camp.

It took only one week before the crew, advised by a maintenance team, had the 58-ton tank totally repaired and out doing its next mission.

"I had no idea it would be up and running that fast," said Toirkens, who has worked with the tank for the last two years.

Nicknamed "Christine" after the ghost-car in novelist Stephen King's book by the same name, the old tank, with help from its crew, has the strange ability to seemingly heal itself.

The next mission involved clearing broken-down farm equipment from a field and tearing down buildings at Camp McGovern.



Sgt. Rick Roth

Pfc. Andrew W. Ringbauer, combat engineering vehicle driver, peers out from the tank nicknamed "Christine."

See **MAD DOG**, page 11

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Team bridges commo gap at Sava

By Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER
203rd MPAD

CAMP BEDROCK — A small team of nearly unnoticed communication specialists were responsible for bridging the communication gap among the 1st Armored

Division's rear elements, the 1st AD Engineers and Task Force Volturmo while at the Sava River this winter. Without this team, there would have been no communication among the three headquarters.

The eight signal support system specialists of Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, Bamberg, Germany, also installed the telephone lines at their hub at Camp Bedrock.

Cpl. Brian Parker, signal support sys-

See **Engineers**, page 12

From the top

Career counselors available for re-ups

Retaining good soldiers in the Army should always be a top priority in the noncommissioned officer corps. Several career counselors are on hand throughout Task Force Eagle to help answer any reenlistment questions that soldiers have.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley
1st Armored Division

Some soldiers may not realize it, but for troops who have fewer than 10 years of service, several options are available to them upon reenlistment, including CONUS station of choice, Army service school, current station stabilization or the overseas reenlistment option.

Sgt. Maj. Luis Santos, Task Force Eagle command career counselor, tells me the ideal

time for a soldier to talk to a career counselor to ensure all of his reenlistment paperwork is in order is four to nine months from his ETS date.

If you procrastinate and then scramble to get your paperwork in order less than 90 days from your ETS date, you likely will no longer be qualified to reenlist unless you can get an exception to policy.

But if you check out your options early, you'll be able to give your career counselor plenty of time to react and answer any questions you may have — and get the bonuses and options you desire.

Because the counselors

must obtain your records from Germany or the United States, they need plenty of time to help you. So help yourself by making an appointment to see them early.

Some soldiers are under the mistaken impression that because they have an approved Foreign Service Tour Extension date, they have everything they need. But they still need to see a career counselor to extend or reenlist to meet the new service remaining requirement.

Soldiers are encouraged to see the career counselors located closest to their base camp.

Santos and Sgt. 1st Class Chris Kate, Task Force Eagle senior operations NCO, can be reached at 551-3514.

Other task force's career counselors include:

- **Lukavac**, Staff Sgt. Brian Sellers and Staff Sgt. Floyd Fennel, 551-3514
- **Guardian Base**, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy McWhorter, 559-5264
- **Camp Dallas**, Sgt. 1st Class John Johnson, 558-2791
- **Eagle Base**, Sgt. 1st Class Jim Screeton, 551-3310
- **Comanche Base**, Sgt. 1st Class Jon Dick, 551-4010, or Staff Sgt. Luis Rivera, 559-5301
- **Steel Castle**, Sgt. 1st Class Jim Durette or Staff Sgt. Scott Leeling, 558-5846
- **Camp Kime**, Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Avery, 551-1030
- **Camp Gentry**, Sgt. 1st Class Scott McIntyre, 551-1240
- **Camp Angela**, Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Cresto, 558-5567

Let's take care of each other!

Mental health and stress control a 'joint endeavor'

The challenges of field duty and peace implementation can clearly be very stressful.

Helping soldiers manage this stress, and advising commanders on ways to minimize it, falls on the shoulders of the 1st Armored Division Mental Health and the 84th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control).

The two organizations provide services aimed at optimizing the mental health of soldiers deployed for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

At Lukavac, Eagle Base and various forward locations, classes on stress management

By Dr. (Capt.) David M. Benedek
Division Psychiatrist

are offered. An open support group has been organized to allow soldiers to speak with other soldiers about issues affecting their outlook during the deployment.

Soldiers also may refer themselves or be referred by their leadership for evaluation and individual counseling.

The 84th Medical Detachment operates a restoration center in Lukavac which provides soldiers who are approaching a breaking point a place to pull themselves together over a few days. The support and guidance may prevent unnecessary evacua-

tion or hospitalization. Even soldiers who are not self- or leader-referred may talk with team members from the 84th or Division Mental Health.

Both organizations send teams to "where the action is" to talk with soldiers who have experienced trauma, be it through vehicle accidents, land mine incidents or just living in the mud, ice and cold.

While their numbers are limited, the teams are working to expand their services throughout the theater-wide mental health/combat stress control assets.

U.S. soldiers in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR have an important, but stressful,

mission. Of course, soldiers must count on the support of their buddies and unit leaders, but throughout the theater, soldiers may also turn to the Division Mental Health Service and 84th Medical Detachment (CSC) for assistance with the stress of deployment.

For further assistance or information contact:
Division Mental Health — MSE 558-5667
84th Med Det (CSC) — MSE 558-5607
After duty hours Theater-Wide — MSE 558-5607

THE TALON

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- Transport Operator** Spc. Christine Ybarra
- Public Affairs Officer** Maj. John E. Suttle
- NCOIC** Master Sgt. Guy Benson
- Production Staff**: 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; 5th Regiment Armory, 29th Division Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201-2288
- Commander** Maj. Robert L. Gould
- OIC** Capt. Drew Sullins
- NCOIC** Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson
- Layout Editor/Journalist** Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
- Photo Editor** Spc. Bryan Driver
- Journalists** Sgt. Ed Rollins, Spc. George Roache

NEWS BRIEFS

Mine Awareness info

The Task Force Eagle Mine Awareness Office has released the standard procedures when encountering a mine or minefield. If you need the form, contact the Mine Awareness Office at MSE 551-3480 or VSAT 156-7017.

Women's History Month

Several programs are scheduled in honor of Women's History Month.

The first is set for noon Monday at the Steel Castle Dining Facility (Morale Welfare and Recreation Theater).

The program will last roughly a half-hour, according to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Migenes, DIVARTY equal opportunity advisor. For more information, call MSE 558-5846.

A Women's History Month luncheon, featuring Sgt. Maj. Mary Sutherland, will be held at 11:30 a.m. March 27 at the Lukavac dining facility. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Watkins, DISCOM Equal Opportunity Advisor, at MSE 558-5727.

A commemorative program is set for 4 p.m. March 29 at the Camp Dallas chapel, featuring speaker 1st Lt. Kristin Reisenwebber, adjutant of the 485th Corps Support Battalion, according to Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Sweeney, 16th Corps Support Group Equal Opportunity Supervisor.

MWR Update

The Office of Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Talent Show on March 17 at the Tuzla Main dining facility.

The show kicks off with a performance by the 1st Armored Division Performing Jazz Band from 7 to 8 p.m. The talent show will be held 8 to 10 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top three performers. Sign up anytime before the close of business on March 15.

Masters of ceremonies for the show will be AFN radio personalities Sgts. C.J. Sheely and Linda Pritchett.

For up-to-date information on MWR programs throughout Task Force Eagle, contact your local MWR representative or call MSE 558-5776.

Viewpoint

Every soldier's job is vital to success of Task Force Eagle

When faced with the daily routines that are part of any deployment, Task Force Eagle soldiers can too easily overlook the bigger picture here.

Complacency can replace vigilance after so many hours of staffing a lonely checkpoint or standing behind a steam table dishing out T-rations.

Soldiers can easily come to question whether what they do will make any difference.

Look around; we are making a difference.

U.S. soldiers taking part in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR are participating in one of the most noble military operations ever undertaken.

Consider what life here was like before the general framework agreement for peace, negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, ended 42 months of civil warfare in Bosnia.

The war pit neighbor against neighbor. It made wives into widows and children into orphans.

Many families fled their homes, leaving behind their belongings. Others were killed or imprisoned.

Blockades cut off food supplies. Many had to sell their possessions in order to eat. Survival was a daily struggle, while distress and near-starvation drove people to despair.

Those least able to take care of themselves — the very young and the very old — suffered the worst.

The allied troop deployment to the Balkans brought to the Bosnian people a



Spc. George Roache
29th MPAD

sense of safety and security.

As Secretary of State Warren Christopher so eloquently put it during his recent visit, every day we are here is another day the Bosnian people can rebuild their country.

The flash of shell fire no longer lights the night sky.

The people here have the opportunity to reestablish their educational system, rebuild their industry and revive their economy.

They can hold free and fair elections. They have at least a small period of time to see normalcy again.

We have brought them a season of hope, he said.

Whether the Bosnian people fulfill the promise of Dayton is up to them. What counts is that we have given them that chance.

The local military leaders have now had time to see IFOR's formidable military capabilities. The operation's successful opening phase should have given those tempted to confront or challenge our forces a healthy respect for IFOR preparedness and resolve.

Individual soldiers' roles need not be as lofty as piloting a fully armed Apache over the zone of separation to be important.

How everyone performs even the most routine tasks is important to maintaining mission readiness and ensuring force protection.

That applies to replacing aircraft fuel lines, stringing communications lines and filling sandbags.

No job is insignificant when you are making history.

Historic gathering



55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

Maj. Gen. William L. Nash (center), joins local commanders in answering media questions after an historic meeting of the Joint Military Commission. Eight faction unit commanders attended the March 8

gathering. Left to right: Brig. Djuro Matuzovic, Ops. Group Orasje Military Region; Gen. Momir Talic, 1st Krajina Corps; Brig. Gen. Sakib Mahmuljin, III Corps, BiH Army; Brig. Saed Delic, II Corps, BiH Army.

■ SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS

Finance specialists come to troops in field

By Sgt. ANTHONY J. MARTINEZ
358th MPAD

UGLJEVIK — Are you feeling isolated? Unable to concentrate? Up to your knees in mud, and saying to yourself, "How can I get my payroll problems fixed?" Well, you are not the only one.

Some soldiers of the 440th Signal Battalion at the Russian Liaison Detachment, located at Ugljevik, Bosnia-Herzegovina, have felt the same way. That is, until the "money men" came to town.

"Everyone seems to like the money man so far," said Cpl. Graeme Young, an accountant for the 8th Finance Battalion located at Lukavac. "Hopefully, we can continue that reputation," he said.

It is a reputation that precedes them as they arrive at the gate of the Russian Liaison Detachment encampment. "Welcome to Duffers Lodge," said Maj. Thomas Wilhelm, detachment commander, as he greeted Young and his small band of "money men."

For the next 90 minutes, the soldiers of "Duffers Lodge" got a chance to air their grievances and concerns about pay problems and write personal checks for cash.

"Every soldier is entitled to cash a check for \$100 a month, and we can provide that service for them out here," Young said. Additionally, Young said they can receive casual, or advance pay, and submit pay inquiries to get information about allotments and entitlements.

As they set up a field table and chair, the line was short at first. Sgt. Michael



Sgt. Anthony J. Martinez

Maj. Thomas P. Wilhelm looks over pay records with Sgt. Michael Riley.

Riley, a military pay specialist, also with the 8th Finance Battalion, looked around and said, "I guess nobody has any problems."

However, as word spread about the arrival of the finance team, the line grew, as did the questions to the finance specialists.

"If they have a problem, they can give it to me," Riley said. "If I can, I go ahead and fix it right then." If not, Riley said he can take the inquiries back to his computer and work out the problem.

"Basically, we're just trying to make sure that everybody is getting what

they're due," Riley said. For this team of "money men," the goal is to help soldiers in Bosnia, wherever they are. "There's only about 20 (U.S.) soldiers out here (at Ugljevik), but we're trying to service everyone," he said.

As the helicopter that brought Young and Riley lifted off en route to their next stop at the Turkish Brigade, the reason for their dedication to helping the grunt in the field seems to ring true.

"This is combat service support. That's what it's all about — supporting the service. Without these soldiers we don't have a job."

Small group of Americans aids 800-plus Russians

By Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO
29th MPAD

UGLJEVIK — At the headquarters of the Russian Brigade here, the ultramodern-looking post is home to about 850 Russian soldiers — and 20 Americans.

The handful of American soldiers based at Ugljevik includes specialists in intelligence, communication, artillery and linguistics.

"It's very interesting to work here," said Maj. Tom P. Wilhelm, a Russian linguist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division. The Americans' work "is basically to help coordinate activities and communication between the Russian Brigade and 1st Armored Division, and to provide them with support," said the Orlando, Fla., native.

Living as the small frog in a large pond might seem hard, but the soldiers take it in stride. They live just behind the Russian headquarters building in temper tents.

Camouflage netting covers their signal equipment. The base is made up of several clean buildings, shadowed by tall green mountains and even a sparking refinery plant that looks like a giant erector set.

Outside the headquarters building, a small kiosk serves as the post exchange, offering such items as snacks, toiletries and, of course, vodka (which the Americans are not allowed to purchase).

"Living here isn't bad at all," said Sgt. Scott J. Baier, 29, a

member of the 66th Military Intelligence Battalion from Augsburg, Germany. "Generally, most of the (Russian) soldiers here we deal with speak pretty good English," said the Schenectady, N.Y., native.

Some soldiers have made quick friends — and opponents. Sgt. Sean H. Allen, 25, a tactical satellite operator from the 22nd Signal Brigade, hones his chess skills with frequent chess matches against his Russian neighbors. "They all play chess really well, but I do okay," he said with a laugh. Allen hopes to compete in Eagle Base chess tournaments to try to win the IFOR championship — which has gone to local Bosnians several times already.

The soldiers were entertained recently by a visit from Task Force Eagle Command Sgt. Major Jack L. Tilley and his traveling trio of musicians, Chief Warrant Officer Charles H. Vollherbst, Spc. Erika Cooper and Sgt. Russell G. McClanahan. (See story on page 10.) The group performed country and spiritual songs. "They brought us a little piece of home," said Allen, a Baltimore native. They were joined on guitar by Spc. Jason M. Clay, a 22nd Signal Brigade soldier from Anderson, Ind.

The trio then took the show down the road to the Russian medical clinic, entertaining about 25 hospitalized Russian soldiers. Wilhelm translated the songs' origins and lyrics to the Russian audience. "They were very, very good!" exclaimed Russian Lt. Col. Dmitri Bazarny, who invited the musicians to visit again soon.

Air Force unit helps evacuate casualties

By Pfc. JODY JOHNSTON
358th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, TUZLA — The Air Force's 4100th Group Provisional Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES) is responsible for evacuating patients out of Bosnia to the Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Germany.

The 4100th is made up of two different squadrons, the 23rd AES from Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and the 86th AES out of Ramstein Air Base. The two squadrons were assigned together to evacuate patients during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The patients are brought together at the medical tent on the airfield at Eagle Base, Tuzla and then processed out.

"We accept patients from the M.A.S.H. (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) which is up in Bedrock, and the Battalion Aid Station which is located here at Eagle Base, Tuzla. If the patients need to be (medi-



Pfc. Jody Johnston

Capt. Shelly Cannon of the 23rd AES attends to Pfc. Chris Oliver, who is attached to the 92nd Engineer Battalion.

cally evacuated), they come to us, and we take them to Ramstein," said Capt. Peter A. Sorensen, a medic with the 23rd AES.

"The types of injuries are primarily lumps and bumps, if you will (and) some fractured ankles. We pretty much receive the whole broad spectrum of in-

juries. We get a very large variety of patients," Sorensen said. "Sometimes we get urgent patients, who have to get out of the country as soon as possible, so the Army flies them to the airfield, and we aerovac them out."

Sorensen said the Army and Air Force function well together.

"We accept patients from Army helicopters, and then we aerovac them out of the country," he said.

The 4100th stays busy evacuating patients.

"Anywhere from two to three flights leave country a week," Sorensen said. "We're up to 23 missions, and we've flown out over 114 patients since Jan. 1."

Sorensen said, "I love flying with the patients, and doing my job to help them out."

Sgt. Charles Cobbertt said he likes his job.

"It's different every time. It has the element of surprise because of all the different places that we go all over the world."

Transportation team handles air freight into Bosnia

By Staff Sgt. JOSEPH GARRISON
29th MPAD

Without the air cargo team loading and unloading aircraft coming in and out of Eagle Base, Tuzla, Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR could come to a grinding halt.

On the average day, this team can move up to 20 vehicles, 200 soldiers and 500 pallets. "And that's around 130 tons worth of pallets," said Airman 1st Class Gerald L. Thompson, an air transportation specialist. "That's minimal for a 24-hour shift."

Due to strict security requirements enforced for planes arriving in the region, aircraft that land at Tuzla's small runway must be returned to the air in 30 minutes.

"They have 10 minutes to unload, and 10 minutes to reload the birds, then get them back on their way to their next destination safely," said Air Force Master Sgt. George O. Bickle, cargo supervisor of flightline operations. "They do a great job of getting the air-

craft back up within that window, then prepare for the next job that flies in."

"If we were not here to move this equipment off and on the airfield here in Bosnia, I really think just about everything in this theater of operations would quickly come to a complete stop," said ramp supervisor Staff Sgt. Cecil G. Pruitt. "So I'm glad to be a part of this entire mission."

Mail is the highest priority cargo that comes into Eagle Base, Pruitt said.

"It has got to move in and move out so we can send it to the post office," he said. "It simply can't sit around."

"Not only do we load and unload aircraft, we find out where the pallets go," Thompson said as he walked through hundreds of pallets on the edge of the runway.

Working on this cargo team can be exhausting with 12-hour shifts, but it can be rewarding according to Airman 1st Class Juan P. Cruz, an air transportation specialist.

"I don't mind the work and enjoy staying busy while serving my country here in Bosnia," he said.



Staff Sgt. Joseph Garrison

Airman 1st Class Juan P. Cruz examines pallets just unloaded onto the airfield at Eagle Base, Tuzla.

Iron Brigade

■ 2nd Brigade Combat Team

By Spc. Bryan Driver
Talon Staff

Patrolling the zone of separation south-east of Tuzla, with Abrams tanks and Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team is an essential part of the Task Force Eagle mission in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The brigade known as the "Iron Brigade" has more than 4,440 soldiers.

The Iron Brigade patrols more than 170 kilometers of the ZOS, operating from seven base camps on both sides of the zone of separation.

Brigade troops conduct joint patrols with Russian and faction soldiers and perform inspections ensuring compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia.

The brigade headquarters is located at Base Camp Lisa; 2nd Battalion, 68th Armor, Camp Linda; B and C Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, Camp Linda; 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, Camps Demi and Pat; 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry at Camps Molly and Alicia; 47th Main Support Battalion, Camp Angela; and the 40th Engineer Battalion, Camp Lisa.



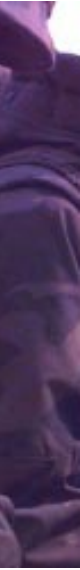
Soldiers inspect a Russian BTR-80 during a joint patrol.



A Bradley Infantry

Left to right: 40th Engineer Battalion soldiers marvel at a Russian BTR 80; American and Russian soldiers compare bullets during a patrol break; 2nd Lt. Mark Moor, 40th Engineer Battalion, ground guides a vehicle in the early morning.

Photos by Spc. Glenn W. Suggs, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera). Layout by Spc. Bryan Driver, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office.





Team keeps the peace

"WE MAKE IT HARDER"



Fighting Vehicle stands ready for action — and as a deterrent — at Checkpoint No. 30 in the 2nd Brigade sector.





Sgt. Anthony J. Martinez

Spc. Thomas Mlack, 21, scans the sky from the Chinook's bubble window.

Chinook crew chief maintains birds-eye view in helicopter

By Sgt. ANTHONY J. MARTINEZ
358th MPAD

What floats through the air like a butterfly, but can drop out of the sky like an Abrams tank?

It's an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter. And if you like the thrill of watching a Chinook cut through the air at 130 knots, try working in one every day.

"It's one of the best jobs the Army can offer, the way I see it," said Spc. Thomas Mlack, a 21-year-old Chinook crew chief, from Sanger, Calif.

The way Mlack is seeing Bosnia, during his tour here with A Company, 5th Battalion of the 159th Aviation Regiment, is by far a different view than that of many soldiers serving in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

"You get to see places no one else gets to see," he said about the view from his bubble window on the side of the double-rotored Chinook.

"The job has long hours but it's a rush," he said.

It's a rush that never seems to end. Even when Mlack is working hard during lift-off and landing procedures, the adrenaline seems to keep flowing.

In preparation for take-off, Mlack rushes around the cabin pushing buttons and flipping knobs. He briefly leaves the cabin for an exterior check of the huge aircraft, all the while tethered by a long black cord to the communications system of the Chinook, transmitting his every move and observation to the pilots and crew inside.

On the ground, a passenger inside the big green helicopter can feel a little unsettled as the massive rotors begin to

rock the cabin back and forth. It is the roughest and loudest part of the ride as the high frequency turbine engines make the transition from ground idle to maximum revolutions per minute.

"That high pitch sound of the engines, if you don't have any ear protection, can be deafening," said Mlack, whose own ears are protected by a flight helmet that sports a dark sunshield wrapping across his eyes from ear to ear.

Although some passengers may experience air sickness, "All in all, people have a pretty good time on the ride," he said.

As the RPMs of the engine increase, Mlack engages the hydraulic switch to close the tail ramp of the Chinook. It raises slowly and as the aircraft lifts off the ground, a slight feeling of weightlessness comes over those inside.

Once airborne, Mlack performs several in-flight checks by feeling the ribs of the fuselage for unusual high frequency vibrations.

After his checks, he sits on a red cushion just below his observation bubble and peers out to check the engines and soak in the view.

As the aircraft banks around a turn in the valley, the pilot's voice comes over the headset and says, "Wow, get a look at that castle." Mlack quickly reaches for his camera and shoots off a couple of frames.

"I got it!" he says, as the giant helicopter flies up and over the next mountain ridge.

It is a view of Bosnia that few others will see from his vantage point.

New maintenance shelter erected at Comanche Base

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — Apache helicopter maintenance teams at Comanche Base can now do their work around the clock in all kinds of weather.

Army and civilian work crews recently finished construction of a Large Area Maintenance Shelter, called a "clamshell" because of its physical appearance, on the northern end of the Tuzla West flight line. Clamshells are manufactured by Clamshells Inc. of Ventura, Calif.

The lighted, heated structure will allow scheduled maintenance on Apaches while shielding soldiers from the cold, rain, snow and wind and providing a central location for tools and parts. The 200-foot long by 75-foot wide enclosure can hold up to eight Apaches with rotors removed, said construction NCOIC Staff Sgt. Brian Gilbert of A Company, 127th Aviation Support Battalion.

"The ability to push an aircraft inside a controlled environment is ideal," Gilbert said. "That way we can maintain the operational readiness and survivability of the aircraft (and) do scheduled maintenance we have to perform night and day."

Ten soldiers from the 2nd and 7th Battalions of the 227th Aviation 58th Air Traffic Controllers and 127th ASB assisted six civilian contractor employees in raising the shelter, the second to be completed of about 10 planned.

Most of the clamshells will be used for scheduled maintenance, or phasing. For Apaches, that means inspections of the entire aircraft after 250 flight hours and swapping out all worn or inoperative parts at the same time. Each phase takes 30 to 40 days.

Inside a shelter, teams can take out engines and main rotor heads and expose hydraulic, fuel and oil systems without fear of contamination by debris, Gilbert said. Contamination would require the maintenance to be reperfomed at the cost of man-hours and downtime for the aircraft, he said.

"If you have to go back in and do twice the amount of work, it hampers the aircraft's mission capability for the unit we support," he said. "The units here are flying three times the amount of flight hours they were in the rear, so scheduled maintenance is coming up three times as fast."

NEWS FROM GERMANY

Children learning to cope with deployment

By 1st Lt. JEROME SCOTT LORING
114th MPAD

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany — Several teachers at the elementary school here are doing their part to keep the peace in Bosnia — peace of mind, that is. That's because many of students have parents deployed in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Every Tuesday afternoon, first-, second- and third-graders of BK Elementary School, whose parents have been deployed to Bosnia, gather for a support group started by first grade teacher Roseann Drydale.

"I think it might help to ease a few minds there that people are trying to help their kids," said Drydale, who along with several other teachers, is attempting to help the children deal with the challenges they face.

The idea for the weekly meeting came as a result of the newsletters that the children themselves were writing, Drydale explained.

"I was noticing that my kids would write 'I miss my Daddy' and 'I love my Daddy,' and I would start crying," Drydale said. "I thought, 'I'd like to do something for the kids.'

"At present, it's for first through third grade," Drydale said, who explained that the older students had more extra-curricular activities. "The little ones really have nothing else after school."

At the first meeting, students introduced themselves and shared their feelings and thoughts with each other. They decided to call the group The Education Club.

"We offer something different every week," she said. "They're in small groups and they can talk about their feelings in a very unthreatening manner ... The (children) weren't really talking to us; they were talking to each other. I think that's how a support group should work." The group is assisted by school psychologist Jana Davis.

Drydale said the children seem to have a firm grasp on what their parents are doing in Bosnia. "I had one child in my class say 'My dad has gone to make the peace and keep the peace.' Others were saying, 'Oh, it's going to be dangerous.'"

The teachers and others like them are working to ensure deployed soldiers' children do not become stress casualties of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.



1st Lt. Jerome S. Loring

Roseann Drydale and first graders at Bad Kruenznach Elementary School play "The Nurturing Game," an exercise designed to help children deal with their emotions.

Military communities test emergency preparedness

By 1st Lt. JEROME SCOTT LORING
114th MPAD

BAD KREUZNACH, GERMANY — It was a rough three days for the Bad Kreuznach and Dexheim communities. The Nahe River flooded, terrorists infiltrated both Anderson Barracks and Rose Barracks and bombed the Rose theater causing mass casualties, and there was a two-building fire in the housing area that left 39 families homeless.

Fortunately, the fictitious events were only part of a Simulated Exercise, or SIMEX, Feb. 27-29.

"It has been a total success," said Maj. Stevie Brooks, S2/S3 for the 410th BSB and coordinator of the event.

"We had two primary mission-essential tasks that we wanted to exercise — force protection ... and emergency disaster relief," Brooks said.

The three-day exercise involved a host of agencies, both military and civilian. German police, the fire department, and ambulance and criminal investigators (some equipped with bomb-sniffing dogs) joined hands with military rescue, medical, law enforcement personnel and the 410th BSB staff.

The first day of the exercise focused on reports of the flooding of the Nahe River — a situation residents know all too well is not only possible but likely. It was just last year, shortly after a similar exercise, that simulation became reality.

"Last year at the same time,

we did exactly what we did this year," Brooks recalled. "We did a full-fledged SIMEX with Germans ... That very next Monday we, in fact, did go into a flood situation and it worked extremely well. We knew each other's procedures. We knew exactly what was needed."

"From that we've made an annual requirement now that we go in and do that type of exercise," Brooks said. This year's exercise included a mass casualty, which Brooks felt was the last part of Force Protection that they hadn't truly taken a look at.

The communities met the challenge, despite a shortage of manpower because of troops deployed to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. The only thing not accomplished was the com-

munities could not provide boats to the exercise because all the boats are deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Brooks said the military community was concerned they might not be able to provide their German neighbors all the support they expected. "They were appreciative," said Brooks. "They understood our imitations ... it gives them a much more accurate picture of what they need to do for themselves and what they can expect from us."

"I feel confident — 100 percent confident — that if called upon to do disaster relief or force protection, to include mass casualty, that we could respond very effectively," he said.

"If we had to do it today, I'm very confident we could do it and we could do it well."

Musicians lift morale during tour of Bosnia

By Spc. CESAR G. SORIANO
29th MPAD

A group of musicians who also happen to be soldiers are touring several U.S. base camps, spreading joy and lifting spirits of soldiers wherever they play.

"Music kind of just draws folks together, no matter what their background is," said bandmember Staff Sgt. Russell G. McClanahan, a Rome, Ga., native.

Currently, the band has three main musicians: McClanahan, Sgt. Matthew Phillip Green and Chief Warrant Officer Charles H. Vollherbst. McClanahan and Green are members of the 209th Broadcast Public Affairs Detachment, an Army Reserve unit based in Rome. Vollherbst is bandmaster of the 1st Armored Division Band based in Bad Kreuznach, Germany.

Every so often, the band goes on the road to give live, "unplugged" performances to troops in the field, picking up additional players along the way. To date, they've played in at least eight of the camps in Task Force Eagle, with more performances planned.

Country, bluegrass, gospel, jazz or rock — the as-yet unnamed band does it all on their morale missions.

It all started when McClanahan and Green began playing after duty hours. When they were deployed to Bosnia, they brought their instruments with them.

"I never go anywhere without my music," said

McClanahan, who brought his banjo, guitar, mandolin, harmonica and penny whistle. "Music is great therapy; it's like bringing a little bit of home with you."

McClanahan and Green were playing at the dining facility at Eagle Base, Tuzla, one day when they were approached by Vollherbst. The trio got together and began playing at church services. In February, the trio played for chapel services when they were spotted by Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Tilley, Task Force Eagle's top NCO.

"He came up to us and said 'Come with me. I'm going out in the country and you guys would fit right in'," McClanahan said. The group went on a convoy with Tilley to Camps Rumbaugh and Bedrock, playing for patients there at the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

A few weeks later, they accompanied Tilley to several other camps, including Ugljevik, site of the Russian brigade headquarters. "Even if they didn't know the language ... music is a great way to communicate," McClanahan said. On that trip, they were joined by singer Spc. Erica Cooper, a gospel singer who has sung at



Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Soldiers at Camp Alicia take a break from their work to hear a mini concert by Staff Sgt. Russell McClanahan (left) and Spc. Erica Cooper.

the Apollo Theatre in Harlem. She was profiled in *The Talon* Feb. 16.

"The troops really enjoyed it, and at the same time it gives them a chance to meet with the command sergeant major," McClanahan said.

The band has already earned the unofficial name of "Tilley's Travelers" by band members and fans alike.

Tilley said Cooper's renditions of spirituals have moved some soldiers to tears. "For that two minutes (that she sang), nobody said anything ... (Cooper) was amazing," he said.

The division command sergeant said he likes bringing the musicians to the camps because, "It makes you think about home."

Tilley commended the musicians for volunteering their talents, adding that soldiers have expressed their appreciation "that someone took the time to do that."

"This is the first time I've ever really played in front of a lot of people," said Green, 24, a Chattanooga, Tenn., resident. "Even if you're not so good, it doesn't matter here," he said with a laugh. "The people all sing along. The expressions on soldiers' faces tells us we're really giving them something. That to me is a real kick."

Green said he comes from a musically-inclined family, though he didn't begin playing

guitar seriously until two years ago. "If I wasn't worried about financial considerations, I'd want to play music for a living," said Green, who was studying engineering at Georgia Tech University before he was deployed.

"It's so enlightening to see how a little bit of entertainment adds to the morale of troops," said Vollherbst, 39, a Maplewood, N.J. native. "We don't really do anything special. We just do what we do and that seemed to be enough."

Vollherbst, who usually plays banjo on the band's outings, specializes in percussion. "I play just about anything you have to hit," he said. Vollherbst has been bandmaster of the 1st AD Band for nine years. He studied music at the State University of New York at Oneonta.

The band mainly plays country and folk hits like "Country Road" and "Friends in Low Places." Watching the band perform in the field is like watching a country hoe-down, with soldiers whooping it up and tapping their toes in the mud.

The crowds become quiet when Cooper's angelic voice takes over, singing gospel favorites like "Blessed Assurance."

"Music just takes you back home," McClanahan said. "It makes you feel good, and makes other people feel good too."



Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson

Tilley's Travelers: McClanahan, Green and Vollherbst perform for soldiers at the Camp Bedrock dining facility.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Joking dentist fills patients with humor

By Pfc. Jody Johnston
358th MPAD

“Everyone hates going to the dentist,” acknowledged Capt. (Dr.) Christopher A. Fauver, the lone serving dentist with the 122nd Medical Detachment at Eagle Base, Tuzla.

“I don’t know anyone who likes to go to them. I try to entertain and make everyone laugh, and try not to torture (my patients) too badly,” he quipped.

Fauver joined the Army on May 11, 1993, while he was still in dental school. A few months after he graduated, he left for the Officer Basic Course in San Antonio, Texas.

“My dad was in the Air Force, so when I was little I got the idea to join the Army. I also like to travel. I asked myself, ‘How can I go to live in Europe, and have someone pay for me?’ Then it hit me — hey, the Army is a great way to do that.”

Fauver signed up for a four-year military commitment, but he may stay longer. “I’m kind of hoping that (the Army) will raise the pay, because I have \$40,000 in school debts to pay off,” Fauver said.

He isn’t the only soldier in his family. His wife, Valerie, is an Army psychologist. He has been married for 1 1/2 years. The couple has no children, but they have a dog named Oedipus and a cat named Electra.

Fauver likes his work. “Anyone can do fillings day in and day out, but I like to meet the people. Everybody’s different. I also like to joke around with the patients—to make them feel better about coming to the dentist.

“People usually come in and say, ‘I hate going to the dentist,’ and then I usually respond with, ‘I hate going to the dentist,

too.’ Everytime I look in the mirror, I hate myself because I know that I’m a dentist,” Fauver said with a laugh.

People may not think of dentists as being that important, but if they have a toothache, they need a dentist to take care of it, Fauver said.

“We don’t have a real steady flow of patients come into the office; it’s either feast or famine,” he said. He averages seeing three to four patients a day.

“When I’m back home, my favorite thing to do — just like all doctors — is to play golf. I think that throughout all doctor schools, golf is actually a course that you have to pass,” Fauver said.

“We’ve been here for about a month now, but all we really do is emergencies and sick call,” he said. “With the soldiers spread out all over the place and the four-vehicle convoy rule, it’s really hard for the troops to get in to see the dentist.”

Most tooth problems can be fixed at the dentist, but some things aren’t quite that easy.

“We can take care of (most) anything but crowns, making bridges and dentures,” he said. “If you knock a tooth out, we can make something to replace it, maybe. It’s kind of hard, because we don’t have a lab here yet,” he said.



Pfc. Jody Johnston

Capt. Christopher A. Fauver, the only dentist at Eagle Base, carefully examines a patient’s teeth.

“When I’m not doing dentist work, I help the medics by assessing the patients. I’ve been to the Advanced Trauma Life Support school, so in the event of an emergency, I get to be the one to decide which patient needs to be taken first,” Fauver said.

“Sometimes I really wish that I had another dentist here to bounce ideas off of, but for the most part it’s neat to be the only dentist here. Maybe in the future they’ll send another dentist in,” he said.

As Fauver continues his dental career, he strives to make his patients feel good about going to the dentist.

“People don’t need to be afraid of the dentist. When my patients leave, I want them to say to themselves, ‘That wasn’t so bad.’”

Life support classes offered

Basic life support and advanced cardiac life support classes will be offered to all interested medical personnel in theater beginning at the end of March.

Most of these classes will be held at the Tuzla Main Acute Care Clinic (Building No. 30) on Eagle Base, Tuzla. However, there will be some site courses offered if enough interest is generated at certain locations.

Basic Life Support instruction is a one-day course reviewing basic airway management, rescue breathing and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. These classes will be held on designated dates between March 23 and 27. No textbook is required for participation.

Advanced cardiac life support classes will be offered at the end of March through mid-April. These classes will offer some one-day refresher/recertification for experienced providers and some two-day certification classes for new students.

Continuing medical education credits will be awarded to all authorized personnel who attend the classes. All enrollees must show proof of a current BLS card before entering an ACLS class. The course fee is \$15 or 20 DM. (A refund of \$10.50 or 15DM will be given if the class textbook is returned.)

To register, contact Dr. John G. McManus at (MSE 558-5024/5804).

MAD DOG, from page 1

The crew, which includes driver Pfc. Andrew W. Ringlbauer, and loader Pfc. Bradley J. Smith, has also completed a rescue mission. A dumptruck filled with a load of frozen gravel, driven by a civilian, became unbalanced while dumping. The truck toppled over onto the driver’s side, pinning the driver’s leg between the truck door and the cab.

“Someone came running into our tent yelling, ‘We need lift!’,” Toirkens said.

Members of Mad Dog 53 were able to use the blade on the front of their tank to lift the cab, allowing the driver to escape uninjured.

With a heightened mine awareness, the crew continues to do their job.

“You get satisfaction from knowing what you’re doing has purpose,” Toirkens said about the teams’ role in mine clearing. “You can see the rewards of the mission.”

MP duties include VIP security, traffic control



Staff Sgt. Amy Gunnerson

Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Honour of the 630th MP Company, studies the convoy route prior to briefing drivers.

By Staff Sgt. AMY GUNNERSON
203rd MPAD

For a military policeman in Bosnia, there is no such thing as a routine mission. Members of the 630th Military Police Company know firsthand how a two-hour mission can turn into an all-day event.

That was the case recently when what should have been a routine reconnaissance mission turned into an afternoon of assistance at the scene of a traffic accident. A

squad of the 630th MP Company was tasked to recon the site of a firing range in Tuzla prior to a visit by Brig. Gen. Stanley F. Cherrie, assistant division commander, maneuver. The squad also provided security for the actual visit a few days later.

"We went out for just a couple of hours on the reconnaissance and came across a traffic accident on the way back," said Sgt. Albert Lewis, a driver with the 630th MP squad. "That extended the trip by several hours." The MPs stopped upon seeing traf-

fic backed up for miles at the scene of an accident between two civilian vehicles.

"We covered the injured and directed traffic," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Honour, noncommissioned officer in charge of the mission. "We can't afford to just pass by an accident, civilian vehicle or not. Regardless of who is involved, it is a military concern because of traffic flow on military supply routes." Honour said. "As MPs, we are constantly on call. It makes for some long days."

During the reconnaissance, "MPs check the condition of the route." It involves several days' worth of overlays, briefing the general's security personnel, his aide and final coordination. "It's time-consuming, but in actuality any other mission requires the same planning, it's just mission-specific," Honour said.

On the day of Cherrie's visit to the range, the MPs were in a high state of alert. Honour briefed the drivers in a huddle by the vehicles.

"We're the lead vehicle for the primary element. Other vehicles will be traveling ahead of us. If anything looks wrong, we can either move to a rally point or travel back," Honour said. "When we roll in, do not go near

the down-range areas. BiH (Bosnian Muslim) troops may be firing at the range. They should have no doubt we mean business."

Honour explained that an interpreter would be in the lead vehicle, dismounting the vehicle first "to make sure they know why we're there." He went on to brief the drivers on where to park and contingency plans in case of an emergency exit. Another MP squad near the area was identified in case back-up forces were needed.

During the convoy to the site, passing became a major event, with narrow roads and several vehicles in a convoy that must stay together for security. While no convoy wants to slow down to 5 miles per hour behind a farmer's tractor, vehicles in a convoy cannot afford to become separated, either.

"So many people are involved, and the volume of traffic and conditions of the roads don't help either," said Spc. Marc Kennedy, in the gunner's turret with a crew-served weapon.

While the reconnaissance mission brought unexpected surprises for the MPs, the security mission went off perfectly.

"The choreography is like Hollywood," Honour said.

ENGINEERS, from page 1

tems specialist, said the week after they arrived in Bosnia, the soldiers were tasked to bridge the communication gap. "We took enough life support (food and water) to sustain ourselves for one week," he said.

Parker and three others were the first four on site, working for a week at the Sava. "The site was remote, and we were responsible for everything — pulling our own security, cold-weather prevention, vehicle and equipment maintenance and (communication)," Parker said.

The communications team acted as a signal liaison among the three headquarters so they could communicate. The telephone signal stretched out 40 kilometers, Parker said. Communication among the headquarters ran smoothly, but the four signal specialists had other worries to overcome on the Sava.

"The difficulties were in the weather and the night," Parker said. "It got dark about 4 p.m. We were worrying about daytime snipers. We saw lots of tracers and weren't sure if they were directed at us or were

celebratory."

"We bathed, lived, slept and ate in our HMMWV," Parker said. "We slept sitting or laying; someone was always up for guard duty."

After one week, the team of four left for Zupanja.

"We lived in the vehicle again," Parker said. "Then the control box in the HMMWV went out and we had trouble maintaining heat. We couldn't shut the vehicle off or we'd lose heat, yet we were also losing fuel. And if we shut the engine off, the batteries wouldn't allow it to start again. We were faced with losing heat or fuel."

For nearly six hours, the four signal specialists waited for a maintenance team to rescue them. Maintenance finally arrived, assessed the situation and took the four and their vehicle back to Zupanja.

Currently, the eight signal specialists are working at Camp Bedrock. They installed the Army phone lines and switchboards for the camp and its outlying area. They also staff the switchboards 24 hours a day and repair broken phone lines.



Sgt. Christina Steiner

Cpl. Brian Parker, HHC, 16th Engineer Battalion, checks the phone system outside the administration center.