

THE TALON



OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Earth moving platoon forms roads out of mud

By Spc. ROB BISHOP
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — They make the muddiest stretches passable. They build paths and helicopter fueling pads, bypass roads and drainage ditches in war-torn stretches of Bosnian soil. And, they make livable areas out of water-soaked fields. In short, they move the earth.

They're the 94th Engineer Battalion's Earth Moving Platoon.

"We can do just about whatever anybody wants us to do," said Spc. Brete Prewitt, a heavy equipment operator with the platoon.

The platoon uses dozers, bucket loaders, cranes and scrapers to coax roads and motor pool areas out of the swampy mud. They flatten the mire with their dozers and lay white, geotech-style fabric across the ground so they have a solid base for the rocks they pour on top.

"Engineers provide mobility," said 2nd Lt. Lars Berent Ostervold Jr., platoon leader.

One way these engineers have provided crucial mobility at Comanche Base is by building an access road, allowing crash and rescue teams access to the flight line in an emergency.

The platoon members have to consider many aspects when they plan a road, Ostervold said.

The most important of these is drainage. They ensure good drainage by giving rain water some place to go other than the road.

"We dig a ditch along the road and lay cement culverts inside so rain water can go away from the road," Ostervold said. If a road does not have enough drainage, the water can shoot out of the culverts and make things quite messy. "You can build the worst road possible, but if you have good drainage, it'll last," he said.

Proper drainage of a road is only one of the challenges the platoon faced when they built Comanche Base's first access road. The road is designed to keep civilian traffic away from the base's perimeter.

"The soil here is very different from Germany," Ostervold said. There is more water here, and because it's a new place, nobody was quite sure how to build in Bosnia, but Ostervold said they quickly adapted.

Because they have adapted well, their skills are often in demand.

"We work a lot of long hours," he said. "It's not always a strenuous job because we have all the heavy equipment, but the job can be hard."

The EM platoon has a number of missions to complete because the Tuzla area is constantly being improved, he said.



Spc. Rob Bishop

Spc. Brete Prewitt, a heavy equipment operator, works to complete a water drainage ditch at Comanche Base.

"We cater to a lot of different people," Prewitt said, "and it means we're always on the go."

The missions they are assigned in Bosnia are in contrast to those they have done in other places such as Germany. There, they provided support to the training area called "the box" at

Hohenfels, Germany.

"We would dig ditches for the tanks or do range upgrades," Prewitt said. "But here we make roads and parking lots. It's a lot different."

The platoon has also been helping Comanche Base with force protection.

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EOD 'surgeons' dispose of dangers

By 1st Lt. ALBERT SWEPSON
358th MPAD

ORASJE — Their instruments are their hands, and, although they may not perform surgery, they delicately handle ammunition with an attention to detail like the finest surgeons.

The 41st Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company from Fort Bliss,

Texas, has responded to more than 100 calls to dispose of munitions ranging from small, rocket-propelled grenade rounds to 500-kilogram bombs.

"We are kind of like the brain surgeons of the disposal field," said Staff Sgt. Tracy L. Oliver, 30, EOD team leader.

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From the top

Regularly clean weapon system, ammo

Now that spring has arrived, rain, dust, mud and plain old dirt are everyday annoyances. So, as you struggle to keep yourself and your equipment clean, don't forget to perform PMCS on your vehicle, and remember to take care of your weapon.

Every soldier should give his weapon a thorough cleaning at least once a week. It's up to non-commissioned officers to make sure this happens. NCOs should check their soldiers' weapons daily or when necessary.

Rather than use a muzzle cover, some soldiers have been



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

wrapping black plastic tape around their weapons' muzzles. This is a dangerous practice. Always remember to train the way you are going to fight.

Never tape any part of your weapon system. It could

cause a malfunction of your weapon. Having said that, the basic load for an M16A2 is seven, 30-round magazines for a total of 210 rounds. It's up to noncommissioned officers to have their troops inventory ammunition on a regular basis to make sure no rounds have been lost or unaccounted for.

Many soldiers regularly clean their weapons, but few remember to clean their ammunition. Instruct your soldiers to wipe off each round with a cloth — and clean each magazine — to prevent dust and dirt from building up. Dirty ammunition or magazines can easily cause a weapon to jam.

The other day I checked 30 weapons. Five would not have fired and 15 were dirty. As NCOs, don't assume that your soldiers are taking care of their weapons. Check it out.

On a long deployment, it's easy to get complacent about routine tasks such as cleaning weapons. That's where the NCO Corps comes in. Sergeants are responsible for the

accountability and maintenance of ALL sensitive items.

Here's a brief reminder to all staff sergeants who are eligible for promotion to sergeant first class. A promotion board team will soon convene and you need to doublecheck your records.

For the last few weeks, we have touched on a number of subjects, including weapon safety, fighting complacency, R&R, equal opportunity, safe convoy practices, NCOERs, NCOES, reenlistment and keeping in touch with family members during deployment. As our time in Bosnia-Herzegovina goes on, keep these priorities and others in mind.

Sergeants, safety, sergeants.

Viewpoint

Tax breaks prove big morale booster for TFE soldiers

President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Congress deserve a big "hooah" for the tax break recently granted to troops serving in the Balkans peacekeeping operation.

Tax relief boosts morale by allowing servicemembers to keep more of what they earn. That is the benefit nearest and dearest to the hearts of those deployed to or flying over Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia, the areas to which the law applies.

But the new law means more than being able to save a few extra dollars to take a vacation, pay off old debts or purchase a needed appliance after the deployment is over.



Spc. George Roache
29th MPAD

Since 1966, only the first \$500 per month of an officer's pay had been excluded under normal wartime tax relief. That was a sore point during the Persian Gulf War.

The new exclusion limit for officers is equal to the monthly salary of each service's senior enlisted member plus \$150 for imminent danger pay. This means there is more equity among the ranks.

Tax relief was granted to troops in the Vietnam and Gulf wars, but this marks the first time such legislation has been signed for those who are not serving in a designated combat zone.

During a deployment, duty days are longer, living conditions less pleasant, days off are few and far between, equipment needed for the job less available and privacy nonexistent.

The MWR theater, library and fitness center are valuable in giving troops some release from the daily routine, but they can only do so much when the need for force protection precludes socializing off post.

More money makes operating under those conditions more tolerable.

Most important, approving a tax break for a peacetime mission acknowledges it can be as dangerous as combat.

As Defense Secretary William Perry said when announcing his support for tax

relief, "We must not forget the continuing danger that we face."

Troops must be ever mindful of mines, terrorists and other dangers.

And in the post-Cold War world, the military may be called upon for more peace enforcement missions like this one.

Granting the same benefits for troops deployed for peace says their role is just as critical as though they were at war.

It gives us the feeling that we truly are contributing something worthwhile, and aren't here just marking days off the calendar.

Thank you, Mr. President and Congress. You gave us a break when we really needed one, and we appreciate it.

THE TALON

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With preventive measures, health risks decrease

By Capt. (Dr.) JAMES HARRIS
HHC, 1st Armored Division

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This statement could never be more true than the current deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

The physical and mental strain of the deployment, along with the field environment sets the stage for potential health problems. There are, however, preventive measures that you as a member of Task Force Eagle can take to decrease the health risks for yourself and your fellow soldiers.

1. Maintain physical fitness. Remaining physically fit keeps your body strong, reduces stress and makes you more mentally alert. At many larger base camps, fitness centers have been constructed. These facilities provide opportunities for weight lifting and aerobic exercise, such as lifecycles and stairmasters. Running tracks also are being identified. If you are located in a remote area, exercises such as jumping rope, situps and pushups can be done in a limited space. Remember to alternate aerobic training with strength training for overall fitness.

2. Eating balanced diets. Your diet provides the fuel for your body to function and contributes to your ability to fight infection and limit stress. Eat meals regularly and attempt to balance these meals with a combination of fruits, vegetables, meats and starches. Avoid substituting snacks for meals and consume plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. An average-sized adult requires approximately 2.5 liters of fluid daily, which increases with physical exertion. Remember to eat and drink only from approved sources.

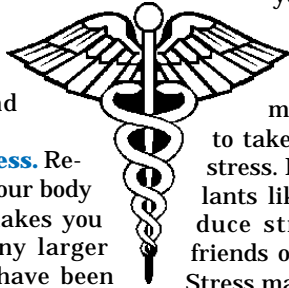
3. Regular sleep. An adult usually requires 6 to 8 hours of sleep daily. Erratic schedules and the demands of the mission often make this impossible. Try establishing a routine sleep pattern and try to relax prior to bedtime, as this will make your rest more productive and allow your body time to recuperate.

4. Minimize stress. Family separation, isolation and the mission requirements can contribute to stress. Stress weakens the body's defenses and makes you more susceptible to infection, such as colds and the flu. Set aside personal time for yourself to read, listen to music, play games or watch TV to take your mind off the day-to-day stress. Exercising and avoiding stimulants like coffee and nicotine also reduce stress. Sharing feelings with friends or chaplains may help as well. Stress management classes and counselors are available at various base camps.

5. Proper hygiene. Personal and area hygiene are key to proper wellness. Work and living areas should be swept with a wet broom to minimize dust and spreading of germs. Food should be kept in proper containers to avoid rodents that carry contagious viruses and bacteria. Wash your hands prior to meals and after using the latrines to avoid spreading germs.

Also, opening tents daily to air them out prevents spreading illnesses between individuals. Unit field sanitation teams should work closely with unit commanders to ensure these measures are being followed.

General medical wellness is a force protection issue that maintains the fighting strength and prevents unnecessary illness. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your local medical treatment facility.



Poetry corner

From the hard chargers of the 30th Medical Brigade.

A New Era

*The Knights of old have come to ride.
Chivalry is back and has never died.
Iron horses with rolling tracks,
Knights of green ride upon their backs.
A hollow lance with flaming balls,
Plundering down the enemies walls.
Guidons ablaze with Red, White and Blue,
Representing Knights whose hearts are true.
The skies are filled with shields of white,
Red Crosses gleaming in a field of flight.*

*Swords of steel crossed and sway,
Like Paladins coming to save the day.
Iron horses and Birds in flight,
Chivalry is back on this Cold Balkan night.
"In Cruce Mea Fides"*

— Sgt. Charles Y. Troglen
HHD, 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion
30th Medical Brigade
Camp Rumbaugh

News briefs

NATO to rebuild roads

The Regional Contracting Office in Tuzla recently signed a contract with local Bosnian contractor, Tuzla-Putevi.

The contract that commenced April 15 will result in the repair more than 30 kilometers of war- and weather-ravaged Route Arizona, a major north-south military supply route. Construction will be funded by NATO and represents more than 2,000,000 DM being injected into the local Tuzla Valley economy.

RCO Tuzla Chief, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Larry Coleman, Supply Corps, said "utilizing local contractors in a country such as Bosnia-Herzegovina has an extensive trickle-down effect as local supplies, manpower and resources are all tapped to help revive a stagnant or nearly non-existent economy."

After repairs, the roads will be better able to handle IFOR traffic including tanks and Humvees.

In addition, contract negotiations for repair of Route Texas are nearing completion, and six other routes are under consideration for repairs.

Health classes

A lecture and short video on hypertension will be given Friday, April 26 at 8 p.m. at the Tuzla Main Acute Care Clinic, Building No. 30. No sign-up needed. For more information, call MSE 558-5024.

When to call the IG

When should soldiers call or visit the Inspector General's office? Whenever a soldier has a problem that the chain of command has not acted on or corrected, he or she should give the IG a call.

The first question the soldier will be asked is, "Have you talked to your chain of command?"

If not, the IG's office will refer the soldier back to his first sergeant or company commander. However, if the soldier has been through the chain of command — and no action has been taken — the IG's office will do its best to get the soldier the right answer.

Request line

The radio request line for American Forces Network in Bosnia is MSE 555-5556.

Separation of warring factions 'on track'

Ever since the highly-publicized crossing of the Sava River from on Dec. 31, Task Force Eagle has focused on separating Bosnia's three former warring factions, and implementing the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

By their presence, combat-ready IFOR soldiers from 11 nations are compelling the factions to comply — giving peace a chance in war-shattered Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The soldier is our most important weapon," said Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, commanding general of the 25,000 soldiers in the multi-national task force.

The step-by-step process for separating Bosnia's Serb, Croat and Muslim combatants was spelled out in the Peace Agreement signed last November, and subsequent IFOR directives.

The first step was to create a zone of separation, two kilometers wide on both sides of the confrontation line. Moving the armies out of their World War I-style trenches and bunkers was a monumental task, superbly executed by disciplined, well-trained Task Force Eagle soldiers.

Demilitarization of the ZOS was completed by Jan. 19 (D+30), and subsequent destruction of fighting positions removed the temptation for soldiers to return.

With confidence growing that IFOR would provide military security, factions began a gradual process of withdrawing

Source: Joint Military Commission

Maj. Kevin Govern

their forces to barracks, and their heavy weapons to peacetime storage sites.

March 19 was the deadline for anti-aircraft weapons to be consolidated in IFOR-approved sites. IFOR's verification that all faction air defense systems are secured will allow civil aviation to return to the country — yet another important step toward restoring normal commercialism in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The final phase in separation of forces was marked on April 18 (D+120). On that date, faction armies were to move weapons steadily towards storage sites and de-

mobilize excess soldiers — much like a "drawdown" in U.S. Army jargon.

Until demobilization is fully completed, Task Force Eagle will continue to apply pressure on the factions to achieve a non-threatening force posture.

As summer approaches, Task Force Eagle operations will focus on verification of weapon system inventories, surveillance of storage sites, enhancing civilian freedom of movement, force protection, gunnery training and well-deserved rest and recuperation.

LNO representatives ensure timely delivery service

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

At the 1st Armored Division's 1st Brigade, some services may be slow and unpredictable, but when it comes to moving information within the brigade, the battalion liaison officers make it happen. Each and every day, the LNO run provides a dependable, same-day delivery service.

"I think we work faster than UPS," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Walden, 36, the LNO representative for 4th Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment. "We are on time, and we move. Rain, snow and sun — you name it — we are moving."

The three liaison officers from 4-67 Armor; 3rd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment; and 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, along with an military police escort, travel Monday through Saturday, at least 80

kilometers, along the sometimes treacherous roads of the 1st Brigade area.

2nd Lt. Alonzo A. Gray, 27, 1-1 Cav liaison officer and LNO convoy commander from West Memphis, Ark., oversees vehicle maintenance and safety issues. Gray said the biggest safety concern is making sure the convoy adheres to proper rules of the road, including speed limits. "There are a lot of children and reckless drivers to watch out for on the road," he said.

The roads themselves can be hazardous. Walden said his driver, Pfc. Adam T. Houchins, 20, from Little Rock, Ark., knows every pot hole in the road.

"They really aren't pot holes," Houchins said. "They're mortar holes, and it is really hard to miss hitting them."

The LNO travels to at least five base camps, delivering such items as messages, newspapers

and fragmentary orders to the battalions.

They are carriers, "but we're not just paper pushers," said Sgt. 1st Class Roy A. Collins, 37, 3-5 Cav LNO from Georgetown, Miss. They relay verbal information to their units as well. "We are given specifics about what the brigade wants the battalion to do. They explain it to us and so we explain, face-to-face, to our battalion what exactly they want done and how to do it."

Soldiers who need to travel to the different base camps within the brigade area of operation often take advantage of the LNO convoy, as well. Though it can slow down the mission at times, the LNO officers will often accommodate the extra personnel and vehicles. But the courtesy can be overextended. Collins remembers one time when the LNO had 10 vehicles with four of the

Humvees carrying trailers and three without radios.

The liaison officers are proud of their work and they do what they can to add some sophistication to what may seem like an unglamorous job.

"We used to carry our documents in a trash bag, but it didn't look professional," Walden said. "So, in our spare time, we made a brief case out of a Matthehorn boot box." They then built three sizes of the briefcase and labeled them in the Army style: class A, for the largest, Class B for the medium and Class C for the smallest. The brigade chaplain came in and saw their briefcases and said, "you know we're going to call you guys the boot-box bandits," he said.

Walden sees another use for the briefcases after the deployment. "I'll put them out on the market when I return," he said.

Pride key ingredient in Comanche cuisine

By Spc. GEORGE ROACHE
29th MPAD

COMANCHE BASE — Sgt. Darryl Hamilton stirred corn starch into the large pan of pork loin and ham gravy steaming on an open gas flame in the Comanche Base dining facility kitchen.

A few feet away, six ovens were roasting the night's main course. A local civilian was pouring a six-bottle pack of water into a 15-gallon pot to make Kool Aid, while another ladled an already prepared batch into a beverage dispenser.

At a table near the kitchen's center, Specialists Motavia Alston, 19, of Greenville, N.C., and Boyce Ward, 27, of Pittsburgh, sliced the pork and stacked it in an insulated container to keep it warm.

Spc. Edward Merkel, 23, of Cocoa Beach, Fla., scurried back and forth to prepare more corn starch for Hamilton to use while other cooks tended to their chores in a flurry of movement.

Hamilton, although taking care not to step in anyone's way, concentrated on pouring pride into his product.

"Gravy is the best part," said the 31-year-old native of Oakland, Calif. "It makes the rest of the meal taste good. This is going to be some good gravy."

Ward is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation; Merkel to A Company, 94th Engineer Battalion and Hamilton and Alston to 630th Military Police Company, 18th MP Brigade.

But behind the flaps of the dining facility's kitchen tent, they team up with other cooks who toil long hours in an overheated environment to feed Comanche Base's 1,700 soldiers, airmen and civilians.

The cooks work in shifts from 3 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Two of them do the baking from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. daily.

Each of the 32 cooks is trained to handle every job from cracking eggs to rolling dough to frying chicken or basting

turkey. Handling one responsibility or another, they industriously follow a well-organized plan to get the food done on time for dining hours.

"We operate on a production schedule with people put into slots that tell who's to prepare what product, how much and the time they're to start preparing it," said Staff Sgt. Janet Evans, 44, of Lexington, Ky., a dining facility administrator with HHC, 4th Air Cavalry Brigade.

"With so many people we've got to feed and the type of equipment we have, it's an all-day process to do dinner," she said.

It's a hectic enterprise.

"There's no time to talk or lollygag around," said Sgt. Danny Chatman, 29, a baker from Jackson, Tenn. "It's a full eight to nine hours of just being on your feet working."

Their biggest challenge is preparing for the correct number of people, Merkel said.

"There's an inconsistent number of people coming through. You prepare for 1,400 and only 800 show. You prepare for 1,100 and 1,200 show," he said.

"You feed them when they all come through, then 100 people show up just before closing," he said.

Despite the frenzy, cooks carrying steaming pots of food must keep one eye out to keep from slipping on a floor wet from constantly being mopped; everyone must be obsessed with cleanliness; and they must be careful when using the gas burners or moving near hot stoves.

"Burns are part of the job," Merkel said. They are mostly minor, coming from splashing grease or hot pans, but it's "an everyday thing."

Although recipe cards and can labels specify ingredients and quantities, cooks also use their own judgment to turn out food their diners will want to eat.

They add a little water here if the tex-



Spc. George Roache

Sgt. Darryl Hamilton prepares another meal at the Comanche Base dining facility.

ture of the biscuit dough doesn't feel right and enhance the spaghetti sauce with just the proper touch of extra seasoning.

The key ingredient is pride.

"The best part of the job is watching people out there eat and lick their fingers and come back and tell the cooks they're doing a good job," Hamilton said. "It makes the cooks feel good."

Chatman, of 212th MP Company, 18th MP Brigade, and Spc. Latocha Dalmida, 24, of Jacksonville, Fla., a baker with HHC, 7-227th, must prepare their batters by hand, using a wire wipe because the kitchen does not have a mixer.

But if their diners are happy, they're happy.

"If we come in and there's no pastries left, then we know they like our work," Dalmida said.

TACSATs serve as crucial communication link

By Pfc. JODY JOHNSTON
358th MPAD

The 440th Signal Battalion based in Darmstadt, Germany, is the main backbone of all communications here in Bosnia.

Soldiers in D Company, 440th Signal Battalion are responsible for all tactical satellites in Bosnia. They are the critical link for all communication throughout the theater.

"The satellites that we transmit to are 23,000 miles in space over the Indian

Ocean," said Staff Sgt. Matthew L. Amacker, a platoon sergeant in D Company.

"The TACSATs are the primary means of communication here," Amacker said.

There are several tactical satellites in the theater. Each one beams to the satellite in space, and then is picked up again by another TACSAT, he said.

For example, if a soldier is using a Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE) phone to call back to the States, the call goes through the MSE lines and is then beamed up to the

satellite in space by a TACSAT, which is positioned on the ground.

The call goes through a series of transmissions where a signal is beamed back and forth between TACSATs on the ground and in space.

From there, another beam is sent down to Germany.

After reaching Germany, it is beamed back up to another space satellite, then to another ground satellite in the United States, where it is processed through phone lines to reach who you are calling.

So, while a soldier is talking to people on the other side, his call is being beamed through three different satellite connections, said Sgt. Robert M. Skinner, team chief of the 32nd Signal Battalion.

TACSATs are spread throughout the former Yugoslavia.

"Even though there are a number of TACSATs to maintain, we haven't had very many problems with them," Skinner said. "The only real problem that we have faced with them is the weather."

22nd Signal Brigade

The voice of the Eagle

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

Supporting the communications needs of the multinational sector in Bosnia, signal units have tied the peace enforcement elements here together through voice and data communications.

The 22nd Signal Brigade, comprised of the 440th Signal Battalion, and teams from the 32nd and 17th Signal Battalions, along with 1st Armored Division's own 141st Signal Battalion, are spread throughout Task Force Eagle creating a robust network.

Signal units began arriving here in November and have since

spread out to base camps and remote hill-tops.

Working in conjunction with the Nordic, Russian and Turkish Brigades, signal elements also have managed to bridge the international communications gap originally created by this unique operation.

With more than 1,100 signal soldiers currently on the ground, the signal mission keeps pace with the demand for clear communications and will continue to do so until the end of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.



Two 17th Signal Battalion troops raise a line of sight antenna on Hill 852.



A 17th Signal Battalion soldier unloads communications gear at Hill 852.



Cpl. Terence Buttram, tactical satellite crew chief with 440th Signal Battalion, pauses to glance at the snow-covered hills in the Turkish area.

**Photos by
Sgt. Rick Roth,
29th MPAD**



Pfc. Charles Smith, a line of sight radio operator with 17th Signal Battalion, carries cables on Hill 852.



Cammo netting is raised at brigade headquarters.



Spc. Ojohnis Morton carries an antenna pole to an installation site on Hill 852.



Force protection is still a priority for signal soldiers.



Spc. Troy Sullivan, a mobile subscriber equipment operator with the 440th Signal Battalion, works inside a small extension node van.



Antennas are silhouetted by a sunset on Hill 722.

Computer network produces speedy orders

By Sgt. RICK ROTH
29th MPAD

Before the U.S. Army's deployment to Bosnia, the process of requisitioning parts and materials from the field was anything but user-friendly, and the majority of parts were pushed forward from the rear in accordance with what others thought field units needed.

Through hard work of their own and support from the 5th Signal Command Headquarters in Worms, Germany, soldiers of the 22nd Signal Brigade were able to merge the Army into the fast lane of the information highway.

Using equipment designed for the corporate world, the signal brigade was able to link the Mobile Subscriber Equipment network here with the world-wide Defense Data Network, creating a communications web capable of handling classified and unclassified data.

"It allows us to bring the internet to Bosnia," said Maj. Brian P. Hamilton, 22nd Signal Brigade's network engineer.

A Network Encryption System — computer hardware that separated classified and unclassified data — moves information through separate pipelines, preventing secure computer terminals from interfacing with unsecure terminals. The NES also bridges the gap between the secure MSE network and the insecure DDN, allowing unclassified terminals the ability to access the outside world.

"We dreamt this thing up in October," said Hamilton, a native of El Paso, Texas. From that point signal engineers developed plans, purchased hardware and had



Sgt. Rick Roth

Cpl. Alberto P. Peraza of Baumholder, Germany is surrounded by boxes containing Abrams tank engines at the 123rd MSB's supply depot.

the equipment on the ground in Bosnia before the new year.

The new network allows units here to place orders directly with the objective supply center in St. Louis, through a service much like e-mail, creating a system of supply on demand.

"It gets the things the soldiers need right where they need it, the fastest way they can get it," Hamilton said.

At the 1st Armored Division class nine supply depot in Lukavac, the new process has helped to keep materials moving out to units, cutting down on the amount of stock left to stagnate.

Cpl. Alberto P. Peraza, of C Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion, from

Baumholder, Germany, is in charge of the major assembly section at the depot. Dealing with replacement Abrams engines and transmissions doesn't leave Peraza much room for excess inventory.

"When shipments come in we don't even let them hit the ground," said Peraza, a native of Miami. Items are dispersed, and on their way to units within 24 to 48 hours of their arrival at the depot, he said.

At unit level, clerks enter their supply requests using the Unit Level Logistics System computer software that can patch into the network. The system allows clerks to order supplies faster while giving them the ability to monitor the status of their requisitions.

Turkish soldiers renovate Zenica Orthodox church

The Turkish Brigade, located primarily in the vicinity of Zenica, is executing the IFOR mission. However, the Turkish soldiers are participating in humanitarian efforts as well.

Repairs of war-damaged schools and restoration of religious and historical buildings are just a couple of examples of the brigade's work.

The restoration of the Orthodox Church in Zenica is but one of the brigade's accomplishments. The church, which serves more than 5,000 residents, was severely damaged by mortar and rocket fire.

The walls were pockmarked and the gate leading to the church was destroyed. The wall surrounding the church was collapsed and windows in the church were covered with simple nylon sheets.

In spite of all this damage, the church has continued to serve its congregation during the years of war.

Turk Brigade commander Col. Ahmet Berberoglu received the request for assistance in the restoration of the church during a visit with priest Miroslav Drincic. Although Drincic's request was only for the replacement of the windows and structural repair of the church walls, Berberoglu felt such a historic and religious building should be preserved. He suggested, much to Drincic's delight, that the Turk Brigade restore and refurbish the entire church.

The project began on March 4. Ten soldiers worked for hun-



Turkish soldiers paint a new coat on the Zenica church.

dreds of hours. The total material cost for the renovation was about \$5,000 and was funded by the Turk Brigade.

The Turkish engineers did their best to be faithful to the original structure of the building. Special paint was produced by a chemical factory for the walls. Steel-supported glass was used for durability.

A camp by any other name is still a camp

Spc. WILLIAM HALL
203rd MPAD

LUKAVAC — "From the town of Bedrock — it's a place right out of history." Are we talking about a modern stone-age family here? No, we're talking about the soldiers stationed at Camp Bedrock, home to the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital, 16th Engineer Battalion, 55th Engineer Company and the 38th Engineer Company.

Fans of Saturday morning cartoons will recognize the name, contrived from the city by that same name in the popular animated feature "The Flintstones." The moniker developed from Camp Bedrock's location by a stone quarry.

What of the other names that camps here in Bosnia have adopted?

Some are named after soldiers, others are named for women and one was even named for a mythical city of Hollywood fame. Emerald City, a work site near the town Odzak, was named after the city by the same name in the movie "The Wizard of Oz."

Camp Dallas and Camp Tampa were named after professional football teams; the Dallas Cowboys and the Tam-

pa Bay Buccaneers. Camp Dallas houses troops from the 16th Corps Support Group. Tampa serves as a worksite.

Camp Kime was named after Capt. Joseph G. Kime III, a logistics officer with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, when he was killed in the Persian Gulf. Kime was fatally injured March 13, 1991, while leading a convoy when his Humvee detonated a landmine. Camp Kime is home for the Ready First Combat Team Headquarters; the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion; the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery; 23rd Engineer Battalion; and elements of the Air Force 717th Air Support Operations Squadron.

Camp Burke is also named for a soldier. 1st Lt. Lloyd L. Burke, 5th Calvary, became a recipient of the Medal of Honor for heroic actions Oct. 28,



Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Homemade signs point the way home on a post at Camp Punxsutawney.

tion of the branch symbols of engineers and artillery — the castle from the engineers, and the steel from the artillery shell.

Steel Castle holds the troops of the 1st Armored Division Engineers and the 1st Armored Division Artillery.

Camp Demi houses the soldiers of A and C Companies, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, and B Company, 40th Engineer Battalion. Demi was named for the popular moviestar Demi Moore.

Other camps that adopted

1951, during the Korean War. Camp Burke houses Troop B, 3rd Squadron, 5th Calvary.

Some names come simpler than others. Eagle Base derives its name because it is home for the headquarters of Task Force Eagle. Steel Castle achieved its moniker from the combina-

tion of the names of women include Camps Molly, Angela, Pat, Alicia, Lisa, Linda, Diane and Courtney.

Some camps have taken on names that evolved from a creative twist. Camp Punxsutawney, located near the town of Lukavac, adopted the moniker from a city of the same name in Pennsylvania, where the annual Ground Hog Day celebration is held. Punxsutawney was taken on after the Bill Murray movie "Ground Hog Day," in which the same day was repeated over and over again. Some soldiers here claim that, like in the movie, the days all seem the same.

Camp Punxsutawney also took on the nickname of Gotham City, also taken from a movie.

The abandoned coke plant that looms over the camp is similar to the Gotham City of "Batman" movie fame. Punxsutawney houses troops from the Division Support Command, 440th Signal Battalion, 165th Military Intelligence Battalion, 92nd Military Police Company and the 16th Corps Support Group.

So what's in a name? Sometimes more than you know. But would a rose by any other name smell as sweet?

Pass program to Hungary offers variety of options

Alcohol policy will be waived for Hungary pass participants

By Capt. L.J. DAWSON-HAMM
Contributing writer

TASZAR, HUNGARY — A local pass program that will take troops to Hungary will start this weekend, with the first troops to officially participate in the pass program going to Budapest.

This weekend, soldiers from the Taborfalva Training Area will overnight in the "Paris of the East" following their week-long crew and gunnery training. Soldiers from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Hungary will travel to Budapest on April 21 for three days of relaxation, sleeping late, civilian clothes, restaurant food, shopping and sightseeing.

There are three destination options under the pass program: Budapest, Lake Balaton and the Life Support Area at the

Intermediate Staging Base in Taszar. The Budapest and LSA options start April 18 while the Lake Balaton option will start May 15.

Transportation to these sites is at government expense; however, soldiers can expect to pay for their food, lodging and tours while on pass in Budapest or Balaton. Expect a single occupancy room in Budapest to cost \$65, while a double will cost \$40 per night. At Balaton, a double room will cost \$25 and includes breakfast and lunch.

In Budapest, soldiers will stay in a reasonably-priced hotel that includes an American-style breakfast and will have the opportunity to experience the culture of the capital city. Soldiers can also make arrangements for their families to join them while in Budapest.

The Lake Balaton option provides soldiers an opportunity for outdoor recreation activities, as well as day trips to Budapest for shopping and sightseeing, but no family visits.

Finally, the third and cheapest option,

will be the LSA in Taszar for an enhanced Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. This will include tour and service coordination for day trips, an arcade and billiard center, food court operations and musical entertainment. Soldiers will receive lodging and meals at no cost.

All personnel deployed on TCS/TDY orders or unit movement orders for more than 30 days are eligible to participate. Since spaces are limited, commanders are encouraged to offer this program to personnel serving in the theater for less than 180 days since they are not eligible for the R&R program.

For soldiers participating in the pass program, General Order One will be waived and soldiers may consume alcohol while on leave. AAFES is also establishing an enlarged facility at the LSA to provide civilian clothing and other leisure items.

See your chain of command for more information and slot availability.

Meanwhile, the Rest and Recuperation program for Task Force Eagle kicked off April 15.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

Donations sought for U.S. monument

By DAVE HAMILTON
Herald-Post

HEIDELBERG — The Women in Military Service for America Memorial will be the United States's first major national memorial to honor all women who have defended America.

The memorial was discussed by retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, one of the most decorated women in military history, during a speech to officers and NCOs April 1 in Patrick Henry Village theater. Vaught is the president of the board of directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation Inc.

The memorial will be located at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, located adjacent to the Pentagon in Virginia. The structure will include a reflecting pool, an educational center, a theater and an arc of glass tablets on the upper terrace. The tablets will serve as a skylight to the inner gallery and bear quotations by and about women who have served in our nation's military forces. As the sun passes overhead, these historic words will be gently reflected on the wall of the center below.

Inside the education center will be a computer registry of female veterans. The database will contain the name, photograph and individual story of each woman's service.

"The memorial will be a shrine for all women who have served," Vaught said.

Groundbreaking for the memorial was held June 22, 1995. Dedication is set for Oct. 18, 1997.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation is a non-profit organization that depends on donations to build, equip and furnish the memorial.

"Only money builds memorials," Vaught told her mostly military audience. Her own organization stays busy, she said, selling things such as commemorative coins, necklaces and calendars.

Donations can be made through the Combined Federal Campaign or sent to: WIMSA, Dept. 560, Washington D.C., 20042-0560.

Mannheim barracks and buildings to get facelift

By MICHAEL BOWERS
Herald-Post

MANNHEIM — One would be hard pressed to find a tangible benefit for the Mannheim military community for having nearly half of its community's soldiers deployed. Such a benefit has been found, however.

Mannheim is the recipient of more than \$7.3 million as part of USAREUR's Deployed Unit Facilities Improvement Plan.

The community that had sent 49.8 percent of its soldiers downrange to take part in the international peace enforcement efforts in the Balkans is one of a few in USAREUR to receive such funds, earmarked for installations from which major troop deployments occurred.

Priority will be given to projects that affect troop living space and services. In Mannheim, the focus is being placed on Army family housing areas and soldier living quarters.

"Mannheim was very fortunate to receive money from this program," said Larry Scavone, facility engineer in the 293rd Base Support Battalion's Directorate of Engineering and Housing.

Interior stairwell painting will be done in 66 buildings in Benjamin Franklin Village at a cost of \$500,000. More than \$1.8 million will be expended to paint the exterior of 26 buildings in the housing area. Another \$400,000 will go to repair a parking lot on Jackson St.

An additional \$4.5 million will be used to renovate soldier quality-of-life

facilities. Selected single soldiers' quarters will receive suspended ceilings, carpeting and painting.

Quarters on Sullivan Barracks include Buildings 201 and 205, housing 44th Signal Battalion and 7th Signal Brigade soldiers; Buildings 341 and 342, occupied by 72nd Signal Battalion soldiers; and 334, with 95th Military Police Battalion on Taylor Barracks; Building 1574, with 51st Maintenance Battalion soldiers on Spinelli; and Buildings 481, 482 and 476, occupied by 181st Transportation Battalion on Turley Barracks.

"We're on the verge of awarding contracts," Scavone said. "We will start a lot of the work in May. The planned projects will definitely improve the appearance of BFV and add to the quality of the living quarters for soldiers and families.

"We've only been waiting for money and now we can get things moving. Everything is ready and the program is 'green' on this end," Scavone said.

During some phases of the renovations, a small percentage of soldiers and families will be temporarily inconvenienced by having to move, or having to live or work around the construction.

"Every effort will be made to ensure this time period will be as short as possible and have the least impact on everyone's quality of life," said Lt. Col. Raymond Youngs, 411th BSB commander.

"The final outcome will be well worth the inconvenience, with the bottom line being after all is done, those affected will have nicer quarters," Youngs said.

The freedom flight



Spc. Bryan Driver

Homebound soldiers board a chartered plane at Eagle Base, Tuzla Wednesday on one of the first R&R flights to Germany and Philadelphia.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Female mechanic breaks new ground

By Sgt. KELLY C. FISCHER
358th MPAD

COLT BASE — When her maintenance support team arrived to support the 4th Battalion, 67th Armor, headquartered here, Pfc. Deanna L. Yruegas, 25, from Laferia, Texas, earned the distinction as the first female in the "land of the tankers."

A tank turret mechanic with the 4-67 MST, Yruegas, of B Company, 501st Forward Support Battalion, found herself in a strange element in this traditionally all-male armored terrain.

"I felt like there was a big arrow pointing down on top of my head everywhere I went," said Yruegas about her first encounter with the armor battalion. "I walked into the 4-67 chow hall and everything got quiet; everyone literally turned and looked. One of the guys on my team finally said, 'Haven't you ever seen a (45) kilo (tank turret mechanic) before?' and everyone started laughing and went about their business."

The strangeness of being the sole woman in the unit meant there were some biases to overcome.

But opposition has been something she has dealt with from the beginning. Her Army recruiter told her, "No, no, you don't want to be a tank mechanic. You'll have a hard time, especially being a woman. You'll end up being with an armor

battalion, because that's where the tanks are."

"The more he talked, the more I wanted to do it. I practically had to beg him before he said all right," Yruegas said.

Through hard work and determination, she proved herself. "The more tanks I worked on, the more I got to talk to the maintenance guys and the tankers," Yruegas said. "They started to know me, and they saw that I was here for no other reason than to be a soldier and work on tanks.

"It was hard in the beginning. They used to say, 'Yruegas, you're not going to change this unit over night. One small female is not going to change their minds.' But the big tanker god let me in here, and while I'm here, I'll change as much as I can," she said.

Spc. Linda K. Parrish, 22, from Hood River, Ore., and Pvt. Christina M. Camarena, 21, from Santa Barbara, Calif., are track mechanics and serve with Yruegas' maintenance support team. They joined the unit after her and benefitted from her experience.

"Yruegas went through a lot when she got here, and she kind of broke the ice for both me and Parrish," Camarena said. She kept asking them to put her on jobs and told them she wanted to work as much as anyone else. "She had to really prove herself. So, when I got here they expected me to



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Pfc. Deanna L. Yruegas enjoys the challenges of being one of the few women working as a tank mechanic.

do everything that they knew how to do. I liked that a lot, because they gave me a chance to work, and not just sit there and watch them do everything."

Pfc. Dusty A. Smith, 20, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 4-67 MST said that when Yruegas joined the team it was somewhat of a shock.

"It was called a boys club before because we didn't have any females on our team for about five years," Smith said. "We are out in the field a lot, sleeping in the same tent or in our trucks, and we were thinking how different it was going to be.

"But when she got to the unit, we all just started talking and hanging out, and we just became real close. It

seems like she brought our team closer together. She's open and that kind of opened us up," he said.

Being the first female in "the land of the tankers" was nothing compared to the difficulty of being away from her two sons while in Bosnia.

"It's hard to explain to a five- and seven-year-old why we are out here. All they know is that their mom is going to be gone a year, and they don't like that," Yruegas said.

To get through the year, Yruegas relies on the support from her team and the love of her job. "I don't need the money and I hate to travel, but I like being a soldier and I like being a mechanic," she said.

Latino soldiers celebrate heritage with lively fiestas

By Sgt. CHRISTINA STEINER
203rd MPAD

LUKAVAC — Anywhere, anytime, even in Bosnia there is reason enough to throw a fiesta.

That is the idea of several Hispanic soldiers who gather several times a week to converse in Spanish, play dominos, listen to Latin music and eat homemade food.

On a recent Saturday night, 12 soldiers from 12st Armored Division Support Command and other units met at one of the dining tents.

The specialty was baked chicken and *arroz con guandules* (rice with

pigeon peas), a Puerto Rican favorite. Diced Goya-brand ham was the appetizer. As the evening progressed, the louder and more festive the party became.

Spc. Hamilton Batista, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division Support Command soldier and Puerto Rican native, began organizing the get-togethers in mid-January.

These friends gather several times a week or more.

They don't always prepare food; sometimes they just play dominoes and listen to music. All pitch in from time to time to help cook, but Batista usu-

ally oversees the cooking. His wife mails some food to him from Germany; others in the group have food mailed also, while the group often buys meat and other products locally.

"In the beginning, we didn't have real food that we liked," Batista said. "We started with rice and beans. Most of the specialties we fix are from Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean."

Other than Puerto Rico, some soldiers in the group are from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Columbia and El Salvador. Invitations are informal.

"If you know someone in the group, you can come," Batista said.

CBS broadcaster: eyewitness to history

By Sgt. 1st Class
BETTINA E. TILSON
29th MPAD

Reporting on a complex mission such as Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR can be challenging — even for veteran television broadcaster David Martin.

Martin, national security correspondent for CBS News, recently spent several days in the former Yugoslavia.

"Bosnia is incomprehensible to most Americans," Martin said.

Even Martin's well-read friends who live in Washington D.C. "still don't know what the heck Bosnia is all about," he said. Many Americans view the conflict as "just insane hatred."

Here, the language is difficult and place names are obscure. But perhaps the biggest obstacle for reporters is that Bosnia does not affect the daily lives of most U.S. citizens.

Martin recalled the words of one soldier during Hillary Clinton's recent visit: "I'm not protecting America here."

"He's got a point," he said.

Martin, 52, spent three years in the Navy after being drafted during Vietnam.

When he got off active duty, he wanted to work in New

York and landed a job as a researcher with CBS in 1969.

"I worked there for about a year before I realized that being a researcher was not how you got to be a reporter," he said. "So I left CBS and went to the Associated Press and then to Newsweek."

He returned to CBS in 1983, becoming the network's Pentagon correspondent, and later national security correspondent.

"There's really no difference except for the title," he said. "I'm (now) also responsible for covering the State Department, but the fact is I spend 90 to 95 percent of my time still just covering the Pentagon because that's where the action is."

Martin has covered every major military operation since Grenada, and he has seen the relationship between the military and the media improve over the years.

Military leaders here, he said, want reporters to find out what is going on and report it. "You can compare that with Grenada where they physically prevented reporters from reaching the island," he said.

The key to covering the military is to look past the uniform and see the people, he said.

Over the years, Martin has



Sgt. Ed Rollins

CBS's David Martin interviews Lt. Col. Michael D. Clay, G5 Civil Affairs Officer, for a CBS Evening News story.

broken his share of stories. But, the most memorable was when CBS interrupted programming to announce the United States was sending troops to Saudi Arabia as a prelude to the Gulf War — while those troops were still in the air.

"This all happened within a matter of hours," Martin said. "But when something that big is going on at the Pentagon, there's a body language ... You just see it, feel it and smell it. And then, of course, you've got to make sure you've got it right."

CBS then had the added dilemma of trying to decide whether to report the story, fearing that Saddam Hussein might take action if he knew

U.S. troops were on the way.

"It was a very close call," Martin said. Fortunately, the troops landed safely and encountered no immediate resistance. Eventually, the U.S.-led coalition defeated the Iraqi president and his million-man army.

Inevitably, Martin — like all reporters — makes mistakes, but he tries to take them in stride. "You have to count on the balance of your work being accurate and fair," he said.

Martin obviously loves his job and his role as an "eyewitness to history."

"It's really a spectator sport and sometimes you envy the people who are really making the history," he said.



Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer

Staff Sgt. Tracy L. Oliver carefully handles a piece of ordnance found by EOD soldiers. The ordnance was destroyed at a safe disposal site.

EOD, from page 1

The Benson, N.C. native was part of an EOD team that recently responded to what they thought was a routine incident. "A patrol along a main supply route noticed what they thought were sea mines lying in front of a local residents yard," Benson said. "When we responded, we found four sea mines designed to detonate upon impact with a ship in order to break the ship in half. We also found four 500-kilogram bombs along with a cache of anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines and other high explosive ordnance at a storage site."

The storage site turned out to be the local residents' house.

Capt. Dean A. Meinert, 29, company commander, 41st EOD, said the bombs were vintage, Soviet-styled bombs. "A local HVO (Bosnian Croat) representative told me the bombs were not used in the conventional sense, but they were used to destroy roads and bridges so they could command-detonate the bombs by priming them and filling a fuse well with additional explosives," said the Pittsburgh native.

The factions, in accordance with the Peace Agreement, are required to transport all their ordnance to a safe disposal area where they will be disposed of by IFOR.

"We are in the process of inventorying and cataloging all the ammunition — both the ordnance that has never been utilized, as well as some of the unexploded ordnance which is really the biggest hazard at this point," Meinert said.

Meinert said most of the ammunition they have found has been rocket-propelled grenade rounds and ordnance that has been found while clearing bunkers. Members of the local population also bring hand grenades and unexploded ordnance to the checkpoints. He said that his company is educating the soldiers at the checkpoints on how to deal with these situations.

"We have given them guidance on constructing a safe bunker area where they can direct the civilians to place the ordnance until we can respond," Meinert said. "That will minimize the danger at the checkpoint to the soldiers working there until we arrive to dispose of the ordnance, by blowing it up in a safe area."