

THE GUARDIAN EAST



Partners in Peace

MNTF-E nations
stand together in
support of Kosovo

Official magazine of Multi-National Task Force-East

“Lessons Learned”

Col. Tom Loomis

MNTF-E Deputy Commander of Maneuver

This month, I have the pleasure of addressing you in the *Guardian East* since Brig. Gen. Jones is on leave during the month of September, and I am glad to have the opportunity to write a few lines about my impressions.

First, I want to say how impressed I am by the performance of MNTF-E since February. Together, we have accomplished much toward the security of the area, and most importantly, contributed substantially to the future development of the people of Kosovo. From the daily missions across the breadth of the MNTF-E area of operations, to the many development projects you have undertaken, you all should be proud of your accomplishments so far.

In the middle of September I was able to travel back to the U.S. to support the training of the MNTF-E headquarters and the subordinate elements which will be replacing the current U.S. contingent of MNTF-E later this year. I was impressed with the skills they are demonstrating early in their post-mobilization training. It is evident that the work many of the current MNTF-E Soldiers are doing to help prepare our replacements is paying off.

As I was watching the KFOR 12 Soldiers conduct their training I was reminded of how well we all work together here, and also of many of the lessons I learned during the training period, and lessons I have learned since then. I would like to share some of these with you. I feel they are important to review no matter where we currently are in the deployment here in Kosovo.

There can be significant strategic consequences for our actions. We have learned that while on a deployment such as this, anyone can be in a position of high visibility. We have seen quotes in the regional press by everyone from LMT Soldiers on up to the commanding general. Soldiers from the KFOR 12

rotation are even being quoted in the local press in Kosovo even though they have not even arrived in Kosovo. We have witnessed accidents and injuries which, fortunately for everyone, have not caused any fatalities. I try to take this lesson with me every day when I leave my quarters, and try to remember that I am representing MNTF-E, KFOR, and my country at all times.

Think, “Who else needs to know?”. We all have access to quite a bit of information regarding our mission here in Kosovo. We have learned that as a team, and a team of teams, we work best

when we share important information in a clear, open method. I try to remember the many different ways I have to communicate with people, and then try to ensure I tell those who need to know the information I have as completely as possible.

Avoid combat complacency.

Command Sgt. Maj. Whittle wrote a great article about this for last month’s



Guardian East. He wrote about the importance of “Finishing Safe”. I believe that no matter where you are in the phase of the deployment this is a concept which we need to constantly remember. We all have a very important role to keep each other safe.

I would like to give a special congratulations to the soldiers of the Polish contingent of the POLUKRBAT who are completing their tour in Kosovo and returning to their homeland. Lt. Col. Galeziowski and his team did an incredible job maintaining

“ There can be significant strategic consequences for our actions. We have learned that while on a deployment such as this, anyone can be in a position of high visibility. ”

security in the area and working with the people. I want to also thank him and his soldiers for the great lessons he taught us about Polish history. I would like to give a hearty welcome to Lt. Col. Cezary Pacewicz and the soldiers of the Polish contingent of the 21st rotation, and to all of our multi-national partners in MNTF-E, this job could not be done without you and I believe you are a key part of what makes MNTF-E so successful.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to address you all this month. I want to say once again what a great pleasure it is to work with each and every one of you. For the Soldiers and Airmen here on the rotation, our local national employees who do so much to support the men and women in uniform, and the contract team members, I look forward to continuing to serve with you all in order to help maintain the security and support the development in this fascinating and interesting part of the world and I wish you and your families the very best.

Peacemakers!...Freedom’s Forge!



“We Have Accomplished So Much”



Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Whittle
MNTF-E Command Sgt. Maj.

the Soldiers and Airmen of Multi-National Task Force-East are professionals with great hearts. Thank you all for what you do each and every day.

I believe this mission has been a dual blessing for us. With regards to relevancy, most of us have been able to train for our war time mission as well as develop our peace keeping and nation building capabilities. We have developed some very well rounded Soldiers capable of survival and victory in any environment in which we find ourselves.

Throughout this deployment, we have successfully graduated 974 Soldiers from professional development courses such as Non-Commissioned Officer Education courses, Officer Education courses, Battle Staff course, Hazardous Materials course, Vehicle Accident Investigation course, and the list goes on. We as a Task Force have been able to increase the average individual physical fitness scores which is a true testament to the great leadership at the squad, platoon, and company levels.

Some very dedicated leaders in our Task Force put on multiple courses, morale runs and competitions to improve

Within weeks of the publication of this magazine we will be heading home! What a magnificent mission this has been. Collectively as a team we have accomplished so much. I stated in one of my first articles in the *Guardian East* magazine that we needed to leave Kosovo a better place than when we arrived. We knocked that goal out of the park. As a team you should be very proud of all you have accomplished. I truly believe that both the people of Kosovo and our Soldiers have benefitted from this mission. I am overly impressed by the generosity of our Soldiers. The humanitarian type missions that our Soldiers have contributed to are overwhelming. Many of our Soldiers have taken funds out of their pocket in a challenging economy, have worked in earnest with non-government charitable organization to help the fine people in this country, and or have volunteered their off duty time. Much of this time was during our Soldier's days of lessened responsibilities yet they chose to teach English or a vocational trade to the school aged children or people looking to improve themselves. What we have done was set a lasting impression with these people that

our Soldiers in several different aspects. It's very fortunate that our Infantry Soldiers had the opportunity to compete for the Expert Infantry Badge, our Cavalry Soldiers had the opportunity to compete in the Spur Ride, and all Soldiers had the opportunity to compete for the Soldier and NCO of the quarters, and subsequently for the Best Warrior of Camp Bondsteel. Collectively I am proud of all the Soldiers who went above and beyond the normal course of their duties and sacrificed their personal time for the benefit of the Soldiers on this Task Force. I would like to give a very special thank you to the senior NCOs who were assigned an additional duty with the goal of making this the best deployment possible for our Soldiers. Your work and your efforts have not gone unnoticed. This has been a magnificent deployment.

I would like to congratulate the following two warriors for winning the Best Warrior competition of Camp Bondsteel. Staff Sgt. Carlos Reyes and Spc. Henry Valenzuela both from Task Force Nightstalker. Job well done.

Peacemakers!...Freedom's Forge!

SNAPSHOT



COVER PHOTO:
Partners in Peace

(L-R) Armenian Sgt. Gabriel Karapetyan, Polish WO Dariusz Stanislawiszyn, American Sgt. 1st Class Todd Pratt, Greek Sgt. Nikolaos Toulkeridis, and Ukrainian CWO Stanislav Kyuonif stand together in the KFOR effort. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade)

BACK PHOTOS:
Peaceful Outing

The views from the summit of Mt. Duke show the beauty of the region, which stretch far and wide. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade)





Heart of the Matter

A Soldier goes above and beyond his duty by making an exhaustive search in finding key medical care to save a little girl's life



Best of the Best

Fourteen warriors were selected to compete for the Best Warrior Competition and in the end two Task Force Nightstalker troops won the title of Best NCO and Best Soldier



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The elusive EIB

Infantrymen battle various difficult Soldier tasks to earn the right to wear the coveted Expert Infantryman Badge

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GUARDIAN EAST is produced for personnel of MNTF-E, and is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of GUARDIAN EAST are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of the Army, 40th Infantry Division (ID) or MNTF-E.

maj. joe duncan

Safety

Saluting Our Responsible Soldiers



Cpl. Tristan Harmon



Sgt. Shane Guzregan



Mr. Mentor Govori

The Soldiers and civilian you see in this addition of the Guardian East have been singled out to recognize their accomplishments in safety as part of the KFOR 11 Safety Awards Program.

Cpl. Tristan Harmon, Team Patriot. For practices and attention to detail safeguarding Army operations and personnel by reporting, advising, and ensuring the perimeter fence and concertina repairs are secured and maintained.

Sgt. Daniel Adrian, TF Arctic Eagle. For outstanding attention to detail and commitment to safeguarding Soldiers in identifying pedestrian hazards in CBS and marking their location until repaired.

Sgt. Shane Guzregan, TF Arctic Eagle. For outstanding performance and safe practices as an aircraft refueler preventing potential damage to equipment, aircraft, and serious injury.

Mr. Mentor Govori, KBR Safety Director. For outstanding achievement during the annual comprehensive safety and occupational health inspection.

Sgt. Erik Clark, TF Arctic Eagle. For his quick response to an unsafe act in an aircraft during hoist training.

Sgt. 1st. Class Bryant Cox, for his continual concern for the safety of others by reporting and advising on recommendations for safety improvements.



Sgt. Erik Clark



Sgt. Daniel Adrian



Sgt. 1st Class Bryant Cox

how to prevent the

H1N1

virus from spreading

By Capt. Jonathan Masaki Shiroma

One of the key concerns KFOR 11 troops need to be aware of as the fall approaches and as they return from the Balkans to the U.S. is the H1N1 virus (Swine flu) and how to prevent its spread among Soldiers and their families. That's why you should expect to receive two flu shots this year, hopefully before you head back home.

"In addition to the conventional influenza flu shot, the H1N1 or "Swine Flu" vaccine should be available by mid-October," said Col. Deborah Knickerbocker, chief of Emergency Preparedness and Response, office of the Surgeon General and Army Medical Command.

Currently, MNTF-E is waiting for a shipment of H1N1 shots and additional shipments of the seasonal influenza shots (Keep in touch with

your chain-of-command to find out when the next flu shots will be administered to Soldiers).

"There's going to be a vaccine and there's going to be enough to go around," Knickerbocker said. "Everybody is going to get their shots."

Of course, medical leaders say everyone needs to practice preventive medicine to avoid getting sick from the regular flu bug or by the H1N1 virus or any other germ.

"It is easy to prevent disease by washing your hands or using hand sanitizer as often as possible," said Col. Sharon Navratil, Task Force Med Falcon Commander. "Additionally, if you are sick, stay home or in quarters," adds Navratil, "if you go to work sick, you'll make everyone else around you ill."



Just a little bit of heart & soul

Viona Cuci has stunning blue eyes and a smile that will break your heart.

This is very fitting, since Viona had a hole in hers.

Viona, who was born just one day after Christmas last year, has had a very hard time of things. You might hear some people say they had it rough as a child, but you wouldn't say you had it rougher than Viona. On Jan. 14 almost three weeks after being born, doctors discovered a murmur in her heart.



“We had gone to the doctor for a regular checkup when they found the heart murmur,” said Shemsi Cuci, Viona’s father and a linguist working on Camp Bondsteel. “We had an ultrasound and discovered she had a hole in her heart.”

In fact baby Viona had two heart complications, the hole in her heart and an almost complete blockage of the aortic artery going to her lungs.

“I was so upset and nervous when I found out about the heart problems,” said Cuci. “I didn’t know what do to or who to talk to.”

Cuci works as a translator for the Liaison Monitoring Teams for Multi-National Task Force-East. It was during one of these work days that he told his friend and fellow translator Ardian Nrecaj about Viona’s problem. Nrecaj who works with the public affairs section told Cuci about a story the previous public affairs unit covered in the *Guardian East*.

It was a story of a Soldier who had already helped arrange surgeries for two Albanian boys who had cleft palates. Though Viona’s problem was much more serious, Staff Sgt. James Dunn was approached and asked if he could help.

“In January I found out about Viona’s condition and I knew she needed to get some help, so I immediately started working on it,” said Dunn, who is now in his third deployment to Kosovo.

Dunn began spending all his free time contacting medical charities.

“I contacted several hundred organizations,” said Dunn. “It took a lot of effort, I was constantly emailing charities all over the world.”

Dunn spent months trying to get somebody to take on Viona’s case.

“[Staff] Sgt. Dunn was very sensitive and worried about my daughter,” said Cuci.

The months were going by and there was still no sign of anybody willing to take up Viona’s case. The sweet baby was having trouble gaining weight and was growing very slowly. There was another problem with that though, as she grew so did

her heart and the hole that was in it.

“It was like a hole in my heart was getting bigger,” said Dunn. “her immune system was low and as she grew it posed a problem; a bigger heart meant a bigger hole.”

Time passed and it seemed like nobody was going to help. Then, one morning, Dunn received an email from a hospital in Rome saying they would take Viona in for surgery. The Bambina Gesu Hospital in Rome stepped up to help.

“[Staff] Sgt. Dunn was waiting for me when I came in to work,” said Cuci. “When he told me about the hospital it was like my heart was crying. I remember that moment well, I was frozen and speechless.”

“After that it took a month to handle getting the Visas and then Viona and my wife went to Rome,” said Cuci.

Once the mother and daughter were in Rome Cuci had to spend 36 days before he was able to secure a Visa and follow his family. Cuci had been staying in touch and was always updated on the surgery but things didn’t really hit him till he got to Rome.

“I felt great, I couldn’t believe everything was finished,” said Cuci. “When I first saw Viona she did not recognize me, but after a few hours she was playing and laughing. I had never heard her laugh before, it was an indescribable feeling.”

The family soon left Rome and returned to their home in Gjilane/Gjilan, Kosovo, after Viona had spent a total of 44 days in Rome.

Viona now is as happy and healthy as any baby. At almost nine months old she is already quickly growing again to the proper size, and you can see the pride and love in Cuci’s face as he holds his baby girl. A complication of the heart is no laughing matter and without the treatment she received baby Viona could have died. Now though, with the help of one of Camp Bondsteel’s own, her smile will be warming the hearts of many for years to come.

“[Helping someone,] it’s a good feeling. If you have the opportunity to help someone you should do it. It doesn’t hurt anybody, and you might just save a life,” said Dunn. 



TOP: Health professionals listen in on the presentation.

MIDDLE: Lorraine Sherman and Col. Sharon Navratil talk during the health symposium.

BOTTOM: Attendees of the health symposium sit and take notes in Medal of Honor Hall.



A Healthy Start

Kosovo's first health symposium improves chances of success

Story and photos by Spc. Richard Stowell

Hundreds of health professionals gathered at Camp Bondsteel this past month for the first Kosovo Health Symposium.

“Our goal was to promote health information and to improve prenatal and perinatal care throughout the region,” said Col. Sharon Navratil, Commander of Task Force Med Falcon. Multi-National Task Force-East (MNTF-E) hosted the event at the theater.

The symposium’s theme, “A Healthy Start in Life,” reflected one of the highest priorities for Kosovo, according to American International Health Alliance (AIHA), who co-sponsored the conference along with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“The infant and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in Europe. Those are important indicators of health capabilities, and we’d like to see them improve,” said Navratil.

Speakers came from different parts of Europe and the United States. Dr. Mary Packer, Project Director for AIHA, was one of the main organizers and invited experts to present on topics such as early pregnancy care, roles for midwives, and newborn health assessment. Packer is a native of Scotland.

“It was an excellent event,” said Packer. “I’m thrilled with the turnout; it exceeded expectations.”

“The symposium is important because it has the maximum opportunity to disseminate good ideas and practices. It’s allowing participants to network,” she said.

The symposium agenda was only half the battle, though. Lt. Col. Scott Simmons, who works in MNTF-E Civil Military Operations, assigned to Task Force Med Falcon, had been planning the logistical aspects of the Health Symposium for months.

“This was a team effort; a lot of planning and resources went into this. The Provost Marshal came through with security, the G2 got our guests approved and got them their badges, and the G4 helped with the meals. ITT gate personnel were helpful letting so many people in,” said Simmons. “With an event like this, the little issues can become big issues. We planned well, and everybody executed well.”

KFOR troops were also instrumental in bringing the Kosovo Serb participants to the event.

“We coordinated with Irish KFOR in Brezovica to encourage the Serbs from Strpce to attend. It was important that we provided a neutral site,” said Navratil. “It was important to get the Serb population involved.”

Sasha Cvetkovic, Director Gynecology and Obstetrics in Gracanica, and a Serbian, attended the conference with one of his colleagues.

“KFOR is making good efforts to bring us all together to discuss these important issues,” said Cvetkovic. “Networking with other health care providers in our field is a big benefit.”

Attendees had a lot of time to discuss issues with other professionals. There were six hours of lectures and presentations scheduled, as well as lunch.

Navratil summed up the experience as being positive for KFOR and Kosovo, “It helps our mission by building capacity for medical care in Kosovo. The focus here is health, and the success of this symposium improves the chances of Kosovo becoming successful. Every step like this will help them get on the right track.” 



Knights of

LEFT: Lt. Col. David Kauffman, discusses ethics with 30 local Kosovar attorneys during the Business Ethics Roundtable hosted on Camp Bondsteel. RIGHT: Col. Lawrence Cooper, MNTF-E Chief of Staff, speaks with local Kosovar attorneys prior to the start of the Business Ethics Roundtable.



Good Conduct

Legal Soldiers host lawyers in an Ethics Roundtable

Story by Sgt. 1st Class David Gallagher

“Many people think that the term ‘legal ethics’ is a self-cancelling phrase,” said Lt. Col. David Kauffman, MNTF-E Command Judge Advocate. When the Camp Bondsteel legal team arrived in Kosovo they did not anticipate giving ethics briefings to local attorneys. When the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) representative made the request, the JAGs jumped right in. The request turned into a partnership between USAID, KFOR, and the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA).

The KCA is a professional organization composed of attorneys from all over Kosovo. This past summer approximately 30 attorneys, most from the KCA attended an Ethics Roundtable at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. They were joined by attorneys from the USAID. Mr. Mark Walter of KPEP said, “one of our primary missions here in Kosovo is to help train a small group of business attorneys. We hope that they will then support entrepreneurship, and strengthen the local economy. We always look to partner with other organizations, and we are pleased to be working with

the U.S. Army here in Kosovo.”

Mr. Beka Lajci, is a local attorney from the Gnjilane area. “I am glad to be here at Camp Bondsteel for this meeting. It is very helpful for me to be able to listen to how other attorneys solve the problems their clients have,” said Mr. Ahmet Hasolli. Other participants had similar comments of support, and all said this was something that they hoped would happen again.

And maybe it will. Staff Sgt. Daniel Gonzalez remarked that he enjoys meeting with the international attorneys at the various legal events he attends. Gonzalez went on to state, “I can better understand what the people of Kosovo need because of the people I have met here.”

Kauffman said that he plans to maintain and develop the partnership arrangement with the Kosovo Private Enterprise Program. He went on to state that it is important to have a continuity plan so that these programs we put in place will provide benefits to the Kosovar communities well into the future. 

HELP FROM HELLAS

Courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Lagoutis Athanasios, TF Hellas LNO

Recently, the Greek Battalion of Multi-National Task Force-East, also known as Task Force Hellas, made a donation of school supplies in the most remote villages of its area of operations, most specifically in the villages of Topille, Lanishte, and Greicece, and for roughly 65 children from different elementary schools in the Shtime/Shtimle municipality.

The donations were part of Task Force Hellas’ general effort in maintaining stability in their area of operations. The intent, to target the area’s most in need of aid.

The local residents had a very positive response to the Greek soldiers visit, but nobody was happier to see them than the children. The Greek forces were some of the first KFOR soldiers to visit the more removed regions in quite some time. Present at the events was the Commander of the Greek Battalion, Lt. Col. Boudouris Dimitrios and the Civil Military Cooperation Officer, 1st Lt. Adoniou Dimitrios. 



COMKFOR

Change of Command

**Story and photos by the KFOR Chronicle
PAO Team**

On Sept. 8 2009, many military and civilian vehicles made their way to Camp Film City Prishtine/Pristina to attend the official Kosovo Force Change of Command ceremony. Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lt. Gen. Giuseppe E. Gay (Italian Army) passed command to Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler (German Army). Numerous international political and military officials as well as representatives of the Institutions in Kosovo attended this commemorative event.

The ceremony started with formations of all Multi-National Task Forces and KFOR Headquarters, Multi-National Specialized Unit and KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion, representing all troop contributing nations. KFOR Deputy Commander, Maj. Gen. Antonio Satta, reported to Adm. Mark Fitzgerald, Commander of Allied Joint Force Command in Naples (JFC-N). The key military leaders left the stage and inspected the troops, rendering allegiance to the soldiers.

Presenting his farewell speech to the audience, Gay described the most important events within the last year of his leadership. A highlight was the KSF validation exercise to demonstrate the readiness for the Initial Operational Capability. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to Fitzgerald for his support and leadership and wished all the best to incoming COMKFOR, Bentler. "I'm leaving Kosovo with a bittersweet feeling. The joy about the great results, the sadness for leaving Kosovo and my Kosovar friends together with all international community representatives and KFOR soldiers. I would like to thank you all and wish you the best for a brighter future. May God bless you and your families."

Fitzgerald and the President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu underlined in their speeches the role of KFOR in all achievements in Kosovo during the past year. For great contributions to peace and a safe and secure environment in Kosovo, Kosovo President, Mr. Sejdiu, decorated Gay with the Golden Medal for Military Service in Kosovo.

The most decisive point of the event occurred, when the incoming commander, Bentler, accepted the KFOR flag from Fitzgerald. The national anthems of Italy and Germany marked the end of the official ceremony.



Taking the right steps

Story by Capt. Jonathan Masaki Shiroma

Military and civilian officials at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo have launched their most aggressive campaign ever to promote recycling at the American military base located just outside the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac.

“We could reduce 90-percent of our solid wastes here at Camp Bondsteel if we all pitch in and start recycling plastics and metals right away,” said Patrick Chauvey, Camp Bondsteel Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Manager. “It is going to take some discipline and it may sometimes be inconvenient but it is the right time and the right thing to do,” he adds.

To help Soldiers and civilians recycle, huge bins marked with “recyclables” have been placed near all metal trash bins. Every unit on base is also encouraged to designate certain receptacles within their offices or area of operation to divert plastic and metal recyclables from the mainstream trash cans. This in turn will drastically reduce the amount of refuse that is dumped into landfills near Camp Bondsteel.

“Currently, we [here at Camp Bondsteel] produce about 285 tons of solid waste every month,” said Chauvey. He says what contributes to this is the more than 800,000 units of bottled water that is consumed annually on base which creates a huge stockpile of plastic bottles that are taken straight to the landfill. This requires five-to-eight dump truck loads to be driven every day to the Velekince Landfill near Gjilane.

Furthermore, Chauvey says dumping trash into landfills is not a long-term solution and if possible, should be eliminated as an option.

“This is a critical time because the landfill industry in Kosovo is in financial turmoil and we need to rely less on the landfills than ever before for that very reason,” said Chauvey. “There are days that our trucks that go to the landfill are turned back because the equipment is down and trash is not accepted.

A government study backs Chauvey’s statement.

Commissioned in 2003, a United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) study titled “Kosovo, State of the Environment Report,” reveals that waste management in Kosovo faces huge challenges namely a lack of adequate and controlled disposal process of waste and that most landfills built before the 1999 conflict were built and managed well below acceptable standards.

Local environmentalist echo Chauvey’s sentiments and say that landfills are expensive and bad for the environment. They say that if plastic, paper and metal are sorted; there is a fledging recyclable industry in Kosovo ready to help.

Additionally, Camp Bondsteel environmentalists say if you break down the sheer amount of trash created by U.S. Forces versus local nationals, American Soldiers produce double the amount of solid wastes over those who are natives of Kosovo.

“Right now, the statistics we have show that the average Kosovar produces close to 6 pounds (2.3 kilograms) of trash on a daily basis,” said Chauvey. “The average U.S. Soldier on Camp Bondsteel produces more than 12 pounds (5.5 kilograms) of trash during the same time frame.”

Regardless of the numbers or the amount of trash on Camp Bondsteel, those working to help promote recycling here in Kosovo have set a goal to have a successful program up and running by the time Soldiers in the next Multi-National Task Force East rotation officially take over in November.

“This would help the Kosovo community to recycle and to think about recycling,” says Chauvey summing it all up by saying... “what a lasting legacy that would be for the Soldiers of KFOR 11.”



Camp Bondsteel “goes green” with its new recycling program





1st Sgt. Manuel Duran briefs EIB candidates on the land navigation course.



Story and Photos by Spc. Darriel Swatts



ABOVE: Sgt. 1st Class Edward Wilkins instructs 2nd Lt. Andrew Tillman on the M240-Bravo machine gun. RIGHT: 2nd Lt. Andrew Tillman performs corrective action on his weapon. BELOW: 2nd Lt. Greg Romero applies charcoal to his hands to simulate chemical decontamination.



Why is the sky blue? Because God loves the infantry. Sky blue, or Infantry blue, a color that has been associated with the infantry since 1924 also adorns the Expert Infantryman's Badge, a badge of honor for any infantryman that earns it. The EIB has been around since October 1943 and is just as hard to earn today as it was when it was first created.

"It is the Expert Infantryman's Badge not the Everybody's Infantry Badge," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Almasy, who earned his EIB more than 20 years prior. "Only about five to ten percent of people who try for it actually get it."

Candidates testing for their EIB have to go through a grueling six day event where everything they know is tested. Some of the tasks included are physical fitness, knowledge of weapons systems, Nuclear Biological Chemical attacks, land navigation, dress policies and hand-and-arm signals.

"It was one of the hardest things I've done yet in the Army," said 1st Lt. Gregory Romero, EIB Candidate. "There are a total of 34 tasks that we have to complete at an expert level. Unfortunately I was not able to complete all of them; I only had four more tasks left."

Out of the more than 100 candidates for the EIB, none of them made it through to the end.

"When we started our stations testing we only had four candidates left," said Lt. Col. Anthony Noll. "By the last day of the testing we had two candidates to begin with and none by the end of the day. It just goes to show how hard it is to earn an EIB." 

EIB



LEFT: 2nd Lt. Andrew Tillman assembles an M249 SAW. RIGHT: Cpl. Morris Martinez inserts an nasopharyngeal air tube into a practice dummy. BELOW RIGHT: Spc. Kelley, and other candidates competing in the EIB qualifications plot their course. BELOW: 2nd Lt. Andrew Tillman navigates the IMT during the EIB qualifications.



LEFT: Spc. Zachary Rubio assembles a M240-Bravo. RIGHT: Spc. Kelley navigates terrain while participating in the EIB qualifications.



Leading With An Analytical Mind

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Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade

Alejandro Santana is an anomaly. This unassuming sergeant from the California Army National Guard is a rare commodity within his unit. He is the lone 35F Intelligence Analyst assigned to the 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, who has more than 320 Soldiers deployed to eastern Kosovo helping to maintain a safe and secure environment.

He is surrounded by a sea of combat arms troops, who typically bond with each other, forged from relative experiences, lineage and devotion to their skill set. This outlying sergeant practices his valuable proficiency in a secret island hideaway known as the Intelligence Section or S2. Secured behind doors, under tight lock and key with restricted access, this Kingsburg, Calif., native, who just got his sergeant stripes in August, pulls his own weight in gold knowing that his analytical intuition plays a key role in KFOR's command directive.

"Even though I am not infantry, I love working with these guys. They are true warriors, the real deal. I try and learn what I can from them and at the same time provide them with what they need to accomplish their mission," said Santana.

What the Modesto, Calif., based infantry Soldiers need while patrolling their area of responsibilities within the Multi-National Task Force-East sector is viable intelligence on probable risks, negative trends, illegal activity and identification of persons attempting to deceive or do harm. The delivery of this valuable product has to be timely enough to be useful during the patrol's decision-making process.

Santana has some help in the development and distribution of his intelligence reports. In his section are operators of like-minds, but differing

experience. The S2 think-tank is staffed by two other sergeants and two officers whom each individually, have 20 more years of life experience under their belt and due to the very nature of their business require Santana, who is barely old enough to drink alcohol, to act more mature than other 21-year-olds his age.

The young analyst doesn't have to put on an act as he is already married, a father of two, and nothing makes you grow up faster than having to raise a child, let alone two, said Santana. The disparity in the experience was bridged quite easily also as no one had his unique skill. The mission required the methodical tradecraft of a 35F and the intelligence community itself is filled with those who are thirsty for knowledge, so like an untapped resource the section fed off his talent.

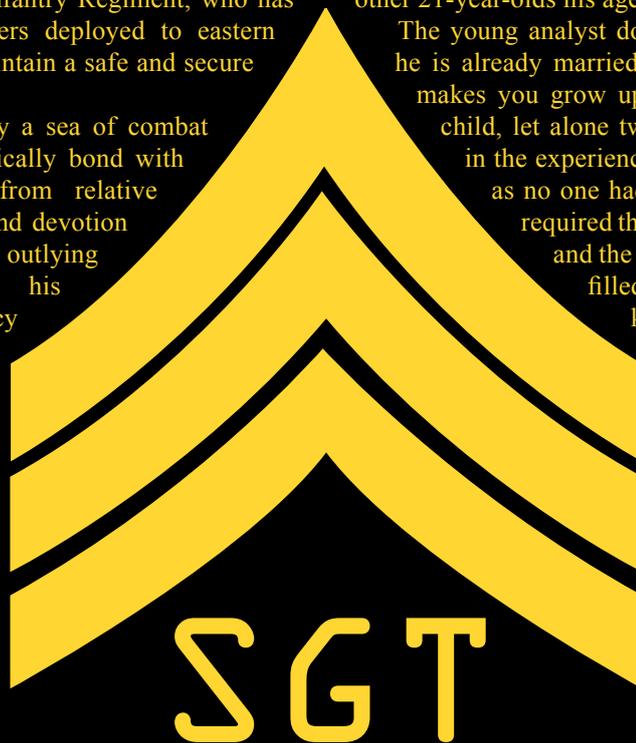
"He is not your typical 21-year-old. We saw his potential like a flower waiting to bloom. We have all learned from him," said Capt. Richard Chappell, an Armor branch qualified officer assigned as the Battalion S2, officer-in-charge. "He is serious about his job and able to take intel and make it relevant. He has

become one of our most trusted agents."

"I am a 35P, Cryptologic Linguist, and knew [the mission] was in need of a 35F, so when I came onboard he was able to teach me how to cross-level and help him do his analyst duties," said Sgt. Daniel Knox, 48.

A little more than a year ago Santana was turning wrenches in a maintenance company. After returning home from the U.S. Army Intelligence Center in Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., his unit had transformed into a haven for mechanics and weren't sure what to do with him. Luckily, during annual training he was identified by the 184th as having a critical skill and immediately plucked for the 9-month deployment to the Balkan nation in support of KFOR.

"Intelligence gathering here in Kosovo has reinforced what my school taught me. I'm glad I'm able to use what I was trained on. Part of my job deals with what we call spheres of influence and persons of interest and we also utilize a system called JADOCS," said Santana. The Joint Automated Deep Operations Coordination System is



another technical resource used by 35Fs to fight their own brand of warfare. It provides war fighters the capabilities to de-conflict crucial mission information. Another asset the S2 section employs is the age-old map and they wallpaper their office with hundreds of them.

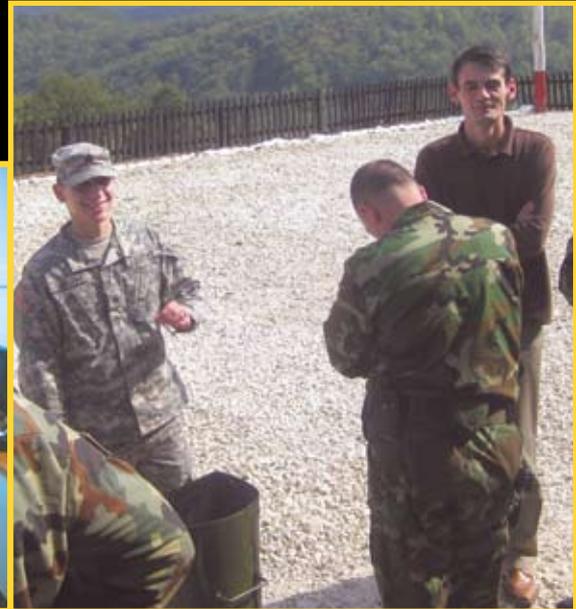
Working in a section manned by Soldiers who out-rank him leaves little room to lead but Santana has leaned heavily on those who have guided him to becoming part of the time-honored NCO Corps in finding ways to make an impact.

“When I got promoted, my battalion commander, Lt. Col. (Dirk) Levy, said ‘we are giving you these stripes, not for what you have done but what you are capable of’, and that struck a chord in me. The mentorship of people like Capt. Chappell, who was a staff sergeant and Staff Sgt. (Jeremy) Rodgers, our battalion training NCO, has helped me realize that a lot of people believe in me,” said Santana.

“What I’m good at is critical thinking. There are many opportunities for me to show my leadership even if it is through my technical proficiency and what being a sergeant means to me right now is being ready at any given moment. When things go hot my brain is trained to switch to critical thinking mode.”

His daily ten-hour shifts with a half-day on Sunday provide plenty of time to be vigilant and on the pulse of the latest happenings in the sector. During his off-duty time to relax he doesn’t stray far from his methodical mentality as he enjoys putting pen to paper writing lyrics to hip-hop music he creates on his own mixer. He produces music that honors those who he looks after, serving on the front lines and knows where he really makes an impact.

“If [the intelligence section] does our jobs right then the bad guys get caught and go to jail and the good guys get to go home,” said a very mature Santana. 



TOP LEFT: Santana points out municipality leaders while talking to Sgt. Daniel Knox, an S2 NCO, in a discussion about persons of interest.

TOP RIGHT: Santana meets with Serbians during a sync patrol coordination plan arranged by the Joint Implementation Commission team.

LEFT: Santana at his desk inside his “secret island hideaway.”

Look mom, I'm on YouTube

KFOR files

The KFOR Files is the official video magazine for MNTF-E, bringing together the best videos from around the Task Forces.



There are 3 ways to Watch

1. Disc: get one free at selected distribution points, or ask your Chain-of-Command
2. YouTube: search "KFOR Files" on YouTube, or visit our Channel at www.youtube.com/user/69padonline
3. Website: go to sites.google.com/site/69padonline

Questions? Call us @ x3776 or 5204

2009 OCTOBER SPORTS AND EVENTS CALENDAR



SPORTS

Softball League Games every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Start time is 1800, 3 games a night. Come out and support your CBS teams!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Armed Forces Entertainment Movie Theater - 25 October, at 1600, Town Hall Meet and Greet Medal of Honor Recipients COL Robert Howard and CSM Gary Littrell

MWR FUN RUNS

4 October @ 1400 - Army Ten Miller Shadow Race Registration Deadline is 1 October @ 1800

0700 - Halloween Spooky Sprint 5k Fun Run - No Sign up 31 October

THE EAST MWR TEAM

MWR Chief

Tony Mullings, 781-4134
tony.mullings@eur.army.mil
BLDG: 2215 (STCC)

Supervisory Sport / Recreation

Marcus Wheeler, 781-4783 / 4266
marcus.wheeler@eur.army.mil
BLDG: 2215 (STCC)

Program Specialist

South Town Community Center
South Town Fitness Center
Renee Favors, 781-3187
CELL-049-774527
renee.favors@eur.army.mil
BLDG: 2214 (STFC)

PBO

Michael Snowden, 781-4137
michael.snowden@eur.army.mil
BLDG: 2215 (STCC)

THE AST MWR TEAM SUPPORTS YOU

<p>Thursday: 1 October 1800 - Aerobics - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Friday: 2 October 1900 - Texas Hold'em (Table 1) - STCC 2100 - Salsa Music Night - STFC</p> <p>Saturday 3 October 1800 - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - MOHH 2000 - Muay Thai-MOHH</p> <p>Sunday: 4 October 1300 - Martial Arts Training - STFC 1400 - Army Ten-Miler Race - STFC 1800 - Karaoke-STFC 1800 - Brazilian Jiu Jits - MOHH 2000 - Muay Thai - MOHH</p> <p>Monday: 5 October No events</p> <p>Tuesday: 6 October 1800 - Aerobics - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC 2030 - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - MOHH</p> <p>Wednesday: 7 October No events</p> <p>Thursday: 8 October 1800 - Aerobics - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Friday: 9 October 1900 - Texas Hold'em (Table 2) - STCC 2100 - Salsa Music Night - STFC</p> <p>Saturday: 10 October 1800 - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - MOHH 2000 - Muay Thai - MOHH</p> <p>Sunday: 11 October 1300 - Martial Arts Training - STFC 1800 - Karaoke - STFC 1800 - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - MOHH 2000 - Muay Thai - MOHH</p>	<p>Monday: 12 October No events</p> <p>Tuesday: 13 October 1800 - Aerobics - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC 2030 - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu - MOHH</p> <p>Wednesday: 14 October No events</p> <p>Thursday: 15 October 1800 - Aerobics - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Friday: 16 October 1900 - Texas Hold'em (Table 3) - STCC 2100 - Salsa Music Night - STFC</p> <p>Saturday: 17 October 1900 - Karaoke - STFC</p> <p>Sunday: 18 October 1800 - Karaoke - STFC</p> <p>Monday: 19 October No events</p> <p>Tuesday: 20 October 1800 - Aerobics - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Wednesday: 21 October 1800 - Final Halloween Meeting - STFC</p> <p>Thursday: 22 October 1000 - Haunted House Building Project Prep - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Friday: 23 October 1900 - Texas Hold'em (Table 4) - STCC 2100 - Salsa Music Night - STFC</p> <p>Saturday: 24 October 1000 - Haunted House Building Project - STFC</p>	<p>Sunday: 25 October 1600 - Medal of Honor Recipients - CBS THEATER 1000 - Haunted House Building Project - STFC</p> <p>Monday: 26 October 1000 - Haunted House Building Project - STFC</p> <p>Tuesday: 27 October 1000 - Haunted House Building Project - STFC 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Wednesday: 28 October 1000 - Haunted House Building Project - STFC</p> <p>Thursday: 29 October 1000 - Haunted House Building Project - STFC 1800 - Haunted House Dress Rehearsal 1800 - Street Basketball - NTFC</p> <p>Friday: 30 October 1900 - Texas Hold'em (Final Table) - STCC 1800 - Haunted House-Opens</p> <p>Saturday 31 October 0700 - Halloween Spooky Sprint 5k 1800 - Haunted House</p>
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OCTOBER - GOT ACTIVITIES?



TOP LEFT: MPs do their best to hit all their targets during the MP shootout.
CENTER: An MP fires at his digital target in the SAV-T simulation building.
TOP RIGHT: Danish Sgt. Daniel Kristensen rises above the rest in the end as the best shot during the MP Shootout.
LEFT: MPs from all over Kosovo take a moment to pose for a picture after competing in the event held at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.



MP

SHOOTOUT COMPETITION

**Story by Maj. Christopher Williams and
Spc. Darriel Swatts
Photos by Spc. Darriel Swatts**

The second International Military Police (MP) Day took place in September at Camp Bondsteel. There were more than 50 MPs from 15 different countries that participated in a pistol shooting competition consisting of several target shooting scenarios in a computer simulator range. There were five teams. Each group had five shooters and were led by the Provost Marshal (PM) representing each of the multi-national task forces here in Kosovo.

The competition lasted all morning and a barbeque closed out the event in the afternoon. During the festivities the winner was announced. The Italian Carabinieri/Slovenian MP team of Multi-National Task Force-West won the Best Team Award. The best individual shooter, Danish Sgt. Daniel Kristensen, came from Multi-National Task Force-North, who narrowly beat the PMs from Center and South, respectively.

The PM of Multi-National Task Force-East, Maj. Christopher Williams, his Deputy PM, Maj. Stephen Mayoral, NCOIC, Sgt. Maj. Raymond Sweeney, and their staff organized the event and afternoon celebration. Everyone appeared to have a great time meeting each other, networking, reacquainting and having fun. The PM of MNTF-W, Maj. Gianni Fedeli, unveiled a new project called "Police for Police". Its goal is to provide financial assistance through donations from all MPs into a foundation that supports Kosovo Police officers and/or their families who have lost their life or suffered some kind of disability while in the line of duty.

The PMs recognize the big financial challenges these families face and therefore want to support the officers here through a similar program they all have in their home country. Talks are ongoing with the Kosovo Police to establish an MP endowment so that the PMs can issue their first official donation to this noble cause within the next couple of weeks. 



German MPs get familiar with the Beretta 9mm pistol prior to participating in the MP shootout at Camp Bondsteel.



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Kevin Garrett



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Walter Claude

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade

The final setting was perfect to honor the best warriors of Camp Bondsteel. The enlisted candidates, their unit sponsors, and senior non-commissioned officers from around the U.S. KFOR 11 Multi-National Task Force-East contingent gathered at the camp's picnic area, Freedom Park, to announce the winners of the Best Warrior Competition.

Surrounded by a relaxed setting of oak-built pavilions, friends, laughter and the sweet smell of an American barbeque wafting up from grilling pits, the candidates dug into their meals, spoke about sore body parts, and reminisced about the past three days. After their bellies were full Command Sgt. Maj. Rob Whittle, MNTF-E's command sergeant major, lined them up and presented awards.

"We have the best of the best here in this competition. Only until the last event did we know who the winner was. It was a tight event throughout every element of the competition," said Whittle.

The infantrymen from the 184th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Nightstalker, based out of Modesto, Calif., swept the competition as Staff Sgt. Carlos Reyes Jr. received the prestigious titled of Best NCO and Spc. Henry Valenzuela was named Best Enlisted Soldier.

"I am humbled to say the least. I am proud, but uncomfortable at the same time. I know there are many NCOs here that have accomplished great things in their career's. It is an honor to be considered among the best," said Reyes.

"I struggled with almost every event. The amount of material we needed to study to be prepared for the oral board was intimidating," said Valenzuela. "In the end, I am very honored to have been named Best Soldier on Camp Bondsteel."

Of the 14 who started the event, Reyes and Valenzuela were able to fend off their fellow Soldiers throughout trials that tested numerous abilities such as writing and physical fitness.

They stood before a board and recited either the NCO or Warrior Creed, sang the Army song, and had to answer 42-questions based off of topics within the Army Study Guide. They tested them on drill and ceremony, land navigation, Army Warrior Tasks, a run up the infamous Radar Hill, put them through a stress fire weapons qualification, cadence calling, a 10-mile ruck march, and immediately following that were pushed to the limit during a final medical stress test evaluation.

"The pressure to perform was the hardest part. I need preparation time and my command and squad did everything they could to give me that," said Reyes.

Command Sgt. Maj. Whittle put his stamp of approval on how important it is for the Army to honor their best warriors and utilize them as shining examples to follow.

"The Soldiers gave their all and I know that they are tired and some are even hurt but they continued to drive on and it was absolutely inspiring to watch. What this competition does for the junior enlisted is build future leaders. For the NCOs they can take this as a building block in their already strong leadership foundation and continue to add to it," said Whittle.

The two winners were showered in gifts yet all of the competitors left with their chin held high knowing they represented their units and task forces proudly.

"I have been waiting 12 years to earn an Army Commendation Medal," said Reyes.

"These guys have some serious bragging rights right now. They are the top one-percent of the Soldiers here on Camp Bondsteel. They are literally the best of the best that we have here in Kosovo. They are our future leaders and I expect to see first sergeants and sergeants major out of this group some day. Today I know we built a stronger future for the NCO Corps, *that* I'll guarantee," concluded Whittle.



CAMP BONDSTEEL'S

BEST WARRIOR

Photo by Sgt. Dennis Scott



Photo by Sgt. Dennis Scott

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Walter Claude



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Kevin Garrett

Photo by Sgt. Maj. Walter Claude



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Kevin Garrett



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Kevin Garrett



Photo by Sgt. Adam-David Pepper

A Clear View Of The NCO

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Story and photos by Spc. Rich Stowell

When Christopher Richey goes into work at the clinic each morning, his job looks routine. He might see a dozen patients a day at the Camp Bondsteel hospital for a variety of typical optical issues: new glasses prescriptions, eye screenings, diagnosing, and updating pertinent medical records. And though the equipment that Richey is in charge of costs many more times what he makes in a year, it's no different than that of any other typical optometry clinic.

But Richey isn't a typical optometrist. He is a staff sergeant in the United States Army Reserve. His work, caring for his patients, who are also in the military, is incidental to his primary role: to develop and maintain the full range of potential of his Soldiers.

"As an NCO, you know how to function as a Soldier, and what your warrior tasks are," said Richey. "Now, as an E6, you start to understand why you do what you do."

As a 12-year servicemember, he has had time to master a very technically-complicated job skill and develop warrior leadership. He is the NCOIC of the optometry clinic at Camp Bondsteel, and in charge of 2nd Platoon, 2nd Medical Brigade (Task Force Med Falcon).

"I care for patients, but the main part of my job is to train and lead Soldiers. It's more complicated, more demanding, and more important. The medical part of my job is just extra knowledge. As an NCO, I take my creed seriously: I am a leader of Soldiers."

Richey joined the Indiana National Guard in 1993 as a 91Y Eye Specialist. A resident of New York, he is currently assigned to the Reserve's 314th Minimal Care Detachment in Fairfield, Connecticut, where he leads over three dozen troops as the detachment NCO.

Richey understands that, while his rank gives him the responsibility to lead and mentor other NCOs, he still relies on those who outrank him for guidance.

"I try to take my senior NCOs' leadership and bring it down to Soldiers at my level. So it's not just my

leadership that I'm leading with, but the leadership of the outstanding NCOs that I work with and have worked with in the past."

He credits his leadership abilities and style with a variety of experiences in the Army, his civilian ophthalmologist employer, and a stint as a Department of Defense contractor at West Point.

After two years as a Guardsman, he joined the active Army and worked as an Eye Specialist in Ophthalmology at West Point and Fort Drum, N.Y. Before deploying with KFOR, he had just returned from a tour in Iraq with the Military Transition Team (3rd Division, 1st Brigade, 6th Battalion).

His experiences and focused skill set make him a very specialized Soldier. To listen to him describe his equipment is like reading through a medical encyclopedia. He has to navigate two very different worlds—one in which the health of his patients requires a solid grasp of technical information and proficiency with complex instruments, and another in which warrior tasks and military bearing rule.

He epitomizes the credo: "I will remain technically and tactically proficient."

"His technical fundamentals are superb," said Maj. Diane Boese, Richey's Officer in Charge at the optometry clinic.

Boese should know. She oversees the clinic and has worked closely with Richey for almost a year. She met him in 1996 at West Point, while she was fulfilling her internship requirement at the post eye clinic.

"He makes my job so much easier because he knows everything he needs to. He is familiar with every facet of the eye care field; his knowledge is deep and broad," said Boese.

While he is away from the clinic, he stays sharp by going to school, not as a student, but as an assistant instructor for the Basic Emergency Medical Technician course offered through Central Texas College on Camp Bondsteel.

"One of my Soldiers is in the course," Richey explains, "so not only do I have the opportunity to polish my medical



knowledge by teaching, but I get to put into practice my duty and promise to mentor him by encouraging him in a real way to advance in his civilian education.”

Richey’s rank gives him new opportunities to lead. He has other NCOs under his charge, and he must use his skills, knowledge, and time to develop them as Soldiers and as leaders.

“As a staff sergeant I am responsible for a lot more administrative work. But the administrative tasks ultimately boil down to mentoring Soldiers.”

“I have four NCOs. I explain to them what I’m doing,

whatever their rank. I don’t just tell them what to do.”

Richey describes how leadership often means giving his subordinates responsibility. “I take my experience and their input, and we put it together and work as a team.”

“I want my soldiers to look up to me without looking down on them,” said Richey.

With advanced medical knowledge, he continues to ensure that Soldiers’ eyesight is battle ready. With his exceptional leadership he is helping many Soldier’s see more clearly what an NCO should be. 



TOP RIGHT: Richey uses an non-contact tonometer, a device that measures the fluid pressure inside the eye, on Spc. Paul Davis.

TOP LEFT: Richey inspects a pair of glasses.

ABOVE: Richey assists Spc. Paul Davis.

RIGHT: Richey inspects Sgt. Raymond Loyola’s glasses.

The 140th Engineer Support Company shakes the earth during their demolition training

BOOM BOOM POW!



1st Sgt. Eleuterio Alonzo and Pfc. Wesley knot.

Spc. Reuben Perez carries a 40-pound cratering charge up to the blast site.



140th ESC Soldiers stare in awe at the halo cloud.



Behnke tie a girth hitch with an extra turn



Staff Sgt. Rex Gadia spools out M13 shock tube.



An explosion is detonated by the 140th ESC.



From Left: Sgt. Darryn Devcore and Sgt. Kevin Kingsbury check all priming circuits connected to three 40-pound cratering charges.



Pfc. Reese Linebarger ensures his double overhand knot fits nicely into his block of C4.



From Left: Sgt. Alejandro Strawn, Sgt. Raul Hernandez, Staff Sgt. Hector Romero, Staff Sgt. Juan Salinas, 1st Lt. Andrew Gallego, Sgt. Jorge Rodriguez, and 1st Lt. Eric Carpo stand in a 10-foot deep crater.

Boom, Boom, Pow is what one can expect to hear and feel when the Combat Engineers practice up on their explosive capabilities as demolition experts.

"I haven't done training like this in a long time," said Pfc. Reese Linebarger. "It's always fun to see stuff blow up, especially something you just made for that purpose."

During a training exercise held on a range near Camp Bondsteel, members of the 140th Engineer Support Company got to shake off the cobwebs and brush up on their demolition skills by using one pound bricks of C4 and 20-pound cratering charges.

"Being able to handle and use explosives is like any other skill set, its perishable when not being used or practiced," said 1st Lt. Andrew Lopez-Gallego.

While the Engineers practiced their skills, the rest of Camp Bondsteel got to watch the show and feel as if they were part of the action when the shock wave from each of the explosions that rocked the camp hit them.

Photos from our "Dark Room"

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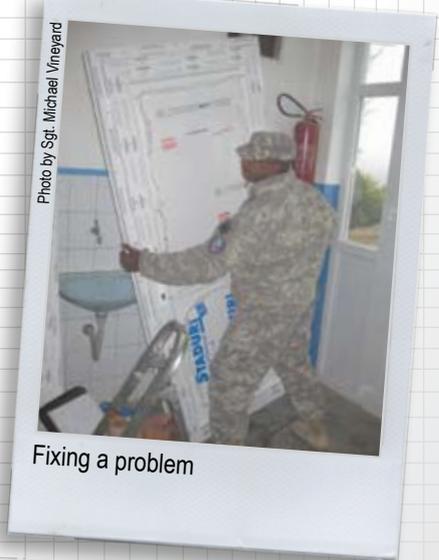


Photo by Sgt. Michael Vineyard

Fixing a problem



Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

Making history



Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

Putting on a show



Photo by Sgt. Adam-David Pepper

Building a team



Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts

Hosting bands

BOTTOM RIGHT: The cover band *Nightshift* came to Camp Bondsteel to entertain troops and boost morale at the Bondsteel Theater.
TOP RIGHT: 1st Lt. Mario Cervantes, 1st Lt. Gladys Balderas, 1st Lt. Stanislav Boyko, Spc. Andrew Sanchez, Spc. Latasha Johnson, Sgt. Bernice Robinson, Sgt. Juan Colon, Sgt. Maj. Amarilis Capelllan, and Staff Sgt. Louis Robles perform in a ancient Aztec ritual dance during a youth day concert held in Vitina, Kosovo.
MIDDLE: Soldiers and civilians from the different multi-national task forces take off at the start of the Army 10-miler shadow run.
BOTTOM LEFT: Team Overlord flips a 930-pound tire at the Ironman competition held on Labor Day weekend.
TOP LEFT: Sgt. 1st Class Todd Pratt helps install doors donated to a local school by a Soldier from Camp Bondsteel.



Photos by Spc. Darriel Swatts

Soldiers from the 1-185th Infantry, Task Force Nightstalker, Team Spartan fire the Bradley Fighting Vehicle during a mounted and dismounted maneuver training exercise.



A Soldier throws a smoke grenade during the maneuver training mission.

Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts



Welcoming new leadership



Inspecting the troops



Turning over authority



Remembering the past

Photo by Spc. Darriel Swatts



Making friends

TOP LEFT: Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler, KFOR Commander, visits MNTF-E's Camp Bondsteel to meet Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, Commanding General of MNTF-E, and to see what is going on at the base.

BOTTOM LEFT: MNTF-E honors those who died in the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Spc. Melissa Duran, Sgt. Jacqueline Pierce, Spc. Carla Vallenogueta and Spc. Danni Garcia donate their time to help children during a youth event held in Strpce.

TOP RIGHT: Soldiers of the POLUKRBAT change over authority during a change of command ceremony.

MIDDLE: Lt. Gen. Volodymyr Mozharovskyi, Commander-in-Chief of Joint Operational Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, visits his troops stationed at Camp Bondsteel, Camp Breza and Film City.



Machine gunners lay down suppressive fire while a radioman calls in targets for the infantryman.



Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler, the new KFOR Commander, and Brig. Gen. Keith Jones have a little fun while shadowing the troops during their infantry exercise.

We met Elina Morina at a play put on by Musa Zajmi School students in Gjilan. She wants to be a journalist so we assigned her a story.

Hello KFOR, my name is Elina Morina. I'm 13-years-old and I live in Gjilan, Kosovo. I was born in Germany but don't remember much about my time there before moving to Kosovo (Serbia at that time) when I was four. I thought that [KFOR] Soldiers would be interested to know how someone my age grew up in this country and what I think about my hometown and our countries future. So this is my story.

I grew up in a very good family. My parents are very important to me because they explain to me how lucky I am and how hard they worked to give me what I have. My parents told me that life was not easy when we arrived here but now life is better. Maybe the reason is that now people fight for what they want and have better jobs. Like you, the Soldiers, they are people that have a very good job and also a true human spirit. Our teachers told us so much about our history and they also talk about Soldiers, who live very long in our memories. The Soldiers are just someone very special that God brought to us, they are our heroes and for us the Soldiers are the people that are just so generous.

I spend a lot of time with friends in Gjilan and see a lot of Soldiers walking the streets. The first thing that we think about is that those people came here to help us and changed things for the better but I still notice a lot of children that don't have a home, people who don't have enough money or something to eat, and life is so hard.

The Soldiers we see seem happy doing their work and although they don't live luxurious lives they are proud to be here, ready each moment to help us even when their life might not be perfect. They don't have their family and friends from back home to share the good or bad moments with. They come from thousands of miles away to help someone they don't know build a better future. I know that all around the world there are lots of places where bad things happened like what happened



here but if we are going to be a new country with good people then let's begin it right.

There are a lot of people that don't care about the trash problem here. People who aren't as lucky as others don't think it is a problem but it is. We need to find solutions to handle this terrible issue. Also our traffic is hideous in my hometown. Everywhere you can hear the noise from cars and that is just so bad for me. I feel so nervous when cars drive so near to me. But mainly I feel bad for those people without luck on their side. People need to be more polite; imagine if you were like them? We need to help each other to make our country a better place.

I know I'm only thirteen and maybe I haven't seen much around the world but I know that in recent years I have seen and heard a lot and I can tell you the lessons that I have learned. No matter what kind job you have, whether it is a Soldier or something else, no matter where you live, or what you do, what race you are or what language you speak, the first thing that a person needs to know is that we are all part of one world, and we really need to be proud about who we are because in this life the only thing that binds us together is friendship and that will make the whole world a better place.

Elina Krasniqi is also a student at the Musa Zajmi School and she read this story on stage to the audience.

Whenver I think about the freedom of our people I feel within myself a responsibility, that one day I will be able to tell someone how much appreciation and thankfulness I have to those who helped us to have the freedom that we enjoy today.

Sometimes, without a reason, frightening feelings of war appear to me. The horrible images I have seen on television of burned houses, dead bodies, mothers with broken hearts, children that never played their games, and newborn babies without parents.

And after all those terrible storms in Kosovo, the age of liberty was born. This liberty is the United States of America.

We will never forget and we are always thankful to the American people who helped us to have a state and build a future.

Even though at the time I was only about four-years-old, I can remember I felt the same joy as I feel today.

The United States brought the joy and happiness to children who never had time for their toys in their country, which was turned into an arena of war.

Today you are here in our school in order for us to be able to speak better English.

You should feel good because every word that was said by me is part of your work.

I remember when the Soldiers came for the first time to my classroom. In the faces of every student you could see the satisfaction that they felt in their minds, while I was sitting down and thinking that you are people with a good human spirit.

From that day it has been more than three years since the soldiers were here, and I feel grateful to you and my teacher who made it possible for me to be able to write this letter.

I feel very happy that today I had the opportunity to finally express to you in person my thank you.

THANK YOU UNITED STATES!

FIRE / QUIZ

■ TAKE TEST ■ TURN-IN ANSWERS ■ WIN FIRE DEPARTMENT T-SHIRT ■ BE COOL ■

The Task Force Falcon Fire Department has a Fire Safety Program that consists of a weekly safety tip and a monthly quiz (the quiz comes from the tips). Safety tips and quizzes are emailed to your unit safety representatives. **The quizzes can also be picked up in the red boxes where we wash our hands in the DFACs.** We use the program to promote fire safety for everyone on base.

You must answer all questions and return the test to the F.D. by the end of the month. Email the test to Adem.Gashi@eur.army.mil or Islam.Berisha@eur.army.mil. You can also take the completed test to the Task Force Falcon Fire Station at Camp Bondsteel, Bldg. 1202-A. One name will be drawn by the Fire Chief and the winner will receive a Task Force Falcon Fire Department T-Shirt.

1. What is the minimum clearance for an exit pathway from all parts of an occupied building or structure in inches?
 - a) 34
 - b) 32
 - c) 40
 - d) 28
2. How many exit points (minimum) should there be in these common areas: sea huts, gyms, and work spaces?
 - a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 4
3. All of the following fire safety guidelines are correct, EXCEPT:
 - a) If an electric cord is warm, discontinue using it and contact an electrician
 - b) A circuit breaker that keeps tripping is a sign of problems
 - c) If sparks appear when you insert or remove a plug, it is a sign of loose connections
 - d) Surge protectors can be connected together to have more outlets
4. When you encounter smoke in a working area, LSA or storage room, you will do all EXCEPT:
 - a) Leave the doors opened behind you as you leave
 - b) Get down and crawl to an exit
 - c) Check all doors for heat prior to opening them
 - d) Be calm and do not panic
5. Evacuations must show the most direct exit route:
 - a) True
 - b) False

If you have any questions about this, or any other fire safety topic, contact the Task Force Falcon Fire Department by e-mailing the names above or call DSN 4098 or KBR 3799 and ask for the Fire Prevention section.

Report All Fires

FIRE REPORTING NUMBERS ARE:

DSN 911 & KBR 911

DIAL 038 5133 3421 FROM A CELL

***Program this number into your cell phone before you need it!!!

Please share this quiz with all personnel who do not have access to email.

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
Unit/ Section: _____
Camp: _____

WE WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!



Legal



Lingo

Dealing With Misconduct

By Capt. Dwight Sterling

When a Soldier engages in misconduct, the Soldier's commander has a variety of options under the Army's military justice system. The best known of these options involves punitive measures, such as an Article 15 where a commander imposes nonjudicial punishment or a court-martial where a judge or panel (jury) hears evidence, determines guilt, and imposes formal punishment. A less understood – but equally important – set of options a commander has involves what is called adverse administrative action, where a commander acts akin to an employer and takes steps that impact the Soldier's standing within the Army. These actions do not involve punishment, but nevertheless can have a substantial impact on a Soldier's military career.

One such option is a flag, which is where a commander suspends a Soldier from receiving favorable personnel action for a period of time. During the pendency of the flag, the Soldier cannot receive any beneficial treatment from the Army, including promotion, receipt of an award, and enrollment in a school. There are certain times where a flag is optional, while there are others where a commander *must* impose a flag against a Soldier, such as during an investigation, when the Soldier is AWOL, or while the Soldier is pending charges, either in the context of an Article 15 or a court-martial. Interestingly, when a Soldier has been flagged for an Article 15, the flag must continue until the punishment is completed, including suspended punishment, meaning that a Soldier must be flagged for the entire probationary period, which can last up to six months.

Another adverse administrative option available to a commander is an

administrative reprimand. The best known type of reprimand is a letter of reprimand, where a commander formally documents a Soldier's misconduct in a memorandum, informing the Soldier that the conduct is unacceptable and a departure from the Army values. The reprimand can be issued by any level of commander, but there are unique aspects when it is issued by a general officer. Whereas a reprimand issued by a colonel or lower can only be filed in a Soldier's local file for a period up to three years, a reprimand issued by a general officer – often called a GOMOR -- can be filed in the official military personnel file (OMPF), which means it becomes a permanent part of a Soldier's records, viewable by promotion boards and everyone else with access to IPERMS. The potential for permanent filing makes a GOMOR something to be avoided, having long-term consequences on a Soldier's ability to advance.

Relief for cause is another adverse administrative action and is one of the most serious administrative steps a commander can take, similar to firing a Soldier from a leadership position. Relief for cause may be appropriate in cases involving misconduct or substandard duty performance, and ultimately is based on a commander's loss of trust and confidence in his subordinate. Commanders must decide initially whether to suspend the individual temporarily, pending an investigation into the misconduct, or to relieve the Soldier immediately. Unless the commander deems it inappropriate, relief based on this should be preceded with formal counseling and an opportunity to rehabilitate. When a Soldier in a command position is being considered for relief, any higher commander may temporarily suspend subordinate commanders from command; however, final action to relieve

the commander will not be taken until the first General Officer in the chain of command provides his written approval.

Another option available to a commander is to remove a Soldier from the promotion list, an action which in some instances is mandatory and in others is discretionary. Commanders *must* remove Soldiers who fail, due to their own fault, to take regular Skill Development Tests, fail to qualify for a security clearance required for their MOS, were erroneously placed on a local promotion list, or who spend six months in a weight control program without making satisfactory progress. On the other hand, commanders have discretion to direct a Soldier's removal from local promotion lists under certain conditions, most commonly when the Soldier is pending disciplinary proceedings such as an Article 15, court-martial, or separation proceedings.

The final administrative action I will discuss here is a reduction action. Only enlisted soldiers may be reduced administratively, either for inefficiency or due to a civil conviction. In most cases, administrative reductions must be preceded by reduction board proceedings, in which the Soldier receives an opportunity to rebut allegations against him. Reduction boards may recommend a Soldier's reduction one grade, retention of the Soldier in the current grade, or his reassignment in his current grade. Only Soldiers in the grade of E4 or below can be reduced without a board proceeding. The definition of inefficiency is the inability to perform duties and responsibilities of the grade and MOS that the Soldier holds. There must be adequate documentation to support the reduction, for instance, counseling statements, adverse evaluation reports, and other adverse documentation.

Inspirational Insight

~ thoughts from the Peacekeepers chapel



No Bait and Switch

Twenty five years ago I remember encouraging students to go to youth camp. Youth camp would be promoted as a time of fun with your friends. In reality, all parents and youth pastors hoped that each student would make significant spiritual choices more than just have fun. Students would have a day of fun then be expected to attend an evening worship rally where they would sing, pray and hear a message on how to connect with God. Many students did not want to go for various reasons. Some came only for fun not faith. And yet, many adult leaders were upset that these students would not cooperate. Then it occurred to me, "Why should we be surprised if they did not want to go to a worship rally? After all, we sold it as fun week, not a faith week. We used a bait and switch method to lure them to the camp because we knew if we promoted the spiritual facet they would not be interested.

Many times people enter into an experience for one reason without calculating the other facets that might not be so appealing. For example, some quickly enter into marriage and overlook the fact that marriage is hard work and often calls for personal sacrifice and fidelity. If you are not willing to work hard to make your marriage work, then don't get married. Some want to enjoy sex without the possibility of unplanned babies. Some discover that safe sex does not always guarantee the desired results and must live with the consequences. There is no bait and switch if you don't plan on sacrifice; hard work and remaining faithful don't buy the bill of goods to get a momentary good experience. In effect, if you don't want to give up personal rights then don't get married and don't have children.

The principle is not only true of youth camp, marriage and family but also of the Army. We have all heard the recruiters tell us that we can travel the world, get a paid education, and wear a uniform with pride. What they don't tell you, is that the Army benefits come with a price; self-sacrifice and hard work and being faithful to those whom you may not always agree with or even like to be around. The Army is not always open to compromise or making changes simply because you are stressed. Sometimes you need to work with people and work in a section you don't want to. Sometimes you will have to hold your tongue and act professional when you would like to give a piece of your mind. There will be times when those in leadership will do things you disagree with and even make mistakes.

The fact is you will get stressed as well as stretched and must adapt while you are in the Army. You will go home and possibly experience unexpected emotions; like missing DFAC meals or respond to your spouse like he/she was another Soldier. I hope that your journey has taught you valuable lessons for the road of life. I hope you learned what not to do or be, as well as what to do and be and the importance of modeling Army values and staying true to your commitment as a Soldier, husband, wife, father, mother, and son when some around you do not. Hopefully you are stronger and more prepared for the days to come.

Should you need to talk to a Chaplain after the mission, I want to invite you to call me, 619.971.4065.

You don't have to walk it alone. We all have our issues and bad days. Keep the faith! Make good choices! Stay true to being a person of faith in God and doing what is right. If you questions about faith, please feel free to ask me.

God has given you everything you need to live the life that is good and pleasing to Him, 2 Peter 1:3.

For God & Country,
Chaplain Lt. Col. Stephen Forsyth

Views from the top of Mt. Ljuboten, or Duke to most KFOR soldiers. The peak's sharp and angular face juts out from the Sar mountain range towards the heavens. Not the highest point in Kosovo but certainly the most majestic as it is sometimes called the "Matterhorn" of Kosovo. From the 5,000 foot basecamp it takes approx. two hours to reach the top. The bottom photo shows what Camp Bondsteel looks like from the 8,196 foot summit. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Wade)

OCTOBER 2009

THE **GUARDIAN** EAST

