



# Falcon Flier

Volume 5, Issue 11

Produced for the personnel of Task Force Falcon

November 1, 2001

## Be Relentless: memories of rotation 3A

As the soldiers of TFF near the end of a relentless rotation in Kosovo, it's time to reflect on the many achievements.



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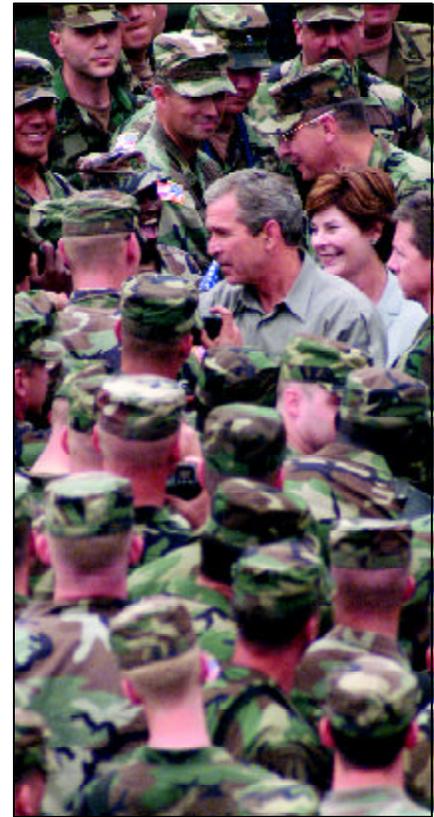
Brig. Gen. Bill David unrolls the flag of Rotation 3A to mark the completion of the transfer of authority ceremony in June.



Children at a school in Urosevac/Ferizaj wave during an OPTCAP.

Many dignitaries paid visits to the soldiers in Kosovo.

Pg. 3 ▶



President George W. Bush and his wife visit and shake the hands of soldiers in Kosovo.

▲ Pg. 10

Soldiers of TFF helped children an incredible amount.

Pg. 14 ▶

MWR went all out to bring soldiers quality entertainment.



The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders cheered up the soldiers of Task Force Falcon during one of the many Morale Welfare and Recreation events.



# Good chemistry up and down the chain

In a military career you get only a handful of experiences when you know that you are part of something special. My career has spanned 27 years and I can tell you this is one.

Our chemistry was good up and down the chain and within the U.S. force structure. This is the mark of good leaders and exceptional soldiers.

That chemistry extended to our partners from the Polish and Ukrainian battalion, the Greek 501<sup>st</sup> mechanized battalion, and the Russian 13<sup>th</sup> Tactical Group. To our international partners, thank you. Your cooperation was outstanding.

Kosovo is safer and more secure today thanks to you. For validation you need only ask any Kosovar, "is this place safer today than it was two and a half years ago?" The answer will be "yes."

We are seeing a fledgling democracy in the midst of an election season that is relatively free of violence. This is a remarkable tribute to the work this task force has done.

Our challenge is to ensure that units are more capable going out than they were when they arrived. Here again my assessment is that individuals and units are better off now than they were before. And it is a good thing because you never know when you will be called again.

If and when that happens, I will be proud to serve with this team anywhere, anytime. Be relentless!



The 358th MPAD, Public Affairs Office, would like to thank all members of Task Force Falcon. We enjoyed our time here, telling your stories and working with everyone.

# We're going out better than we were before!

What a great experience this has been. It's not everyday that two brigades get the opportunity to deploy to an area that is filled with such an awesome history. Not every Command Sergeant Major is fortunate enough to serve with a motivated, well-trained, and disciplined Task Force.

Each and every soldier reading this article has given me a lifetime worth of memories. I will surely never forget where I was on September 11, 2001. I was with our nation's finest soldiers.

You have done our nation well. You performed all of your duties flawlessly and professionally. Every member of Task Force Falcon executed the commander's intent with precision. The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (AASLT), the 3<sup>d</sup> Infantry Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, and the United States Army are all proud of you for the tremendous effort that you put into the maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo and Macedonia.

I too am proud. Thank-you for the teamwork and comradeship that we shared over the



past six months. I ask now that we put this experience behind us and look forward as to how we are going to shape our peacekeeping task force into a warfighting task force ready to stand by our brothers who waited so patiently for our return.

It has been my honor to serve not only as THE Task Force Command Sergeant Major but also as YOUR Task Force Command Sergeant Major. TOUCHDOWN! Do the dance! BE RELENTLESS!

## The Rumor Round-Up

Story by  
**Maj. Randy Martin**  
Task Force Falcon PAO

**Rumor:** I heard that there had been a bomb scare at CAS.

**Truth:** On October 23 CAS did react in a professional manner to what was believed to be an explosive in some of their mail. Ultimately there was no bomb. But because of the anthrax attacks at home and the international war on terrorism, it is prudent to be very cautious about the mail you receive.



## Falcon Flier

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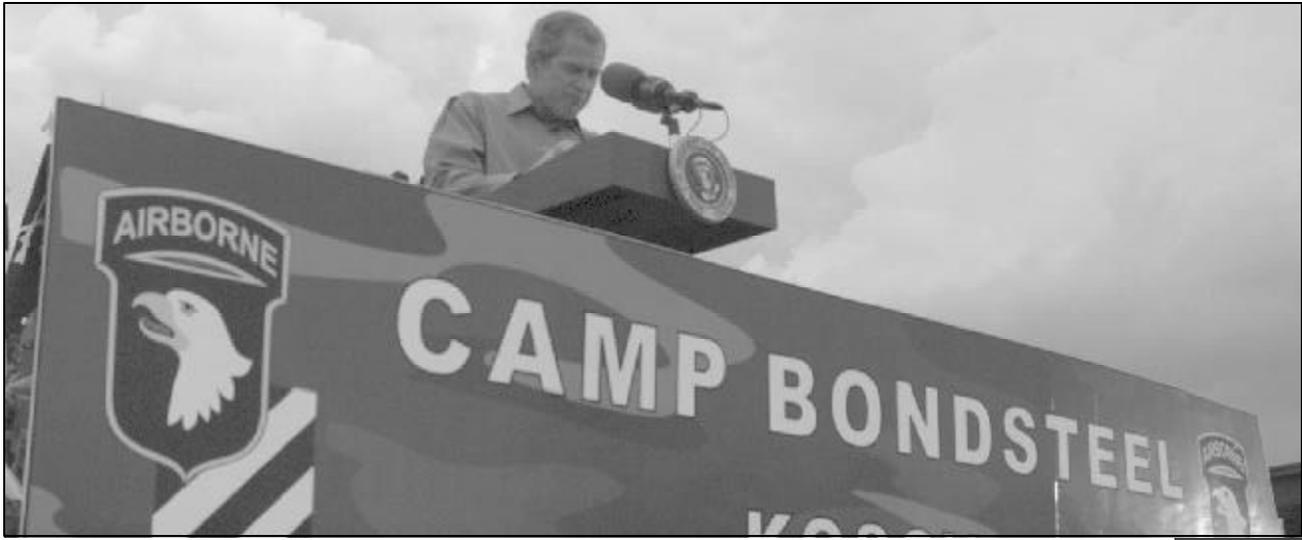
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# Dignitaries pay tribute to soldiers of Task Force Falcon



"Our goal is to hasten the day when peace is self-sustaining; when local democratically elected authorities can assume full responsibility; and when NATO forces can go home," said President George W. Bush to the soldiers during his visit to Task Force Falcon 3A July 24, 2001. "I want you to know that there is no higher honor than to serve as your commander-in-chief. America appreciates your service and sacrifices for our country," he said.



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki awards the Army Commendation Medal to Pfc. Joshua Beavers of C Troop 1st Cavalry Regiment from Ft Stewart, Georgia on October 5, 2001. Gen. Shinseki visited Kosovo to address soldiers of TFF and present awards and coins to a number of soldiers currently deployed in support of Operation Joint Guardian II. While addressing the soldiers, he said, "It is about professionalism, and leadership. The way we taught leadership in our formations. Lives are on the line, and people are counting on us."



Pfc. Veronica Rodriguez, a 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division soldier, shakes hands with Laura Bush after a plaque was unveiled for the dedication of the Education Center in honor of the First Lady. "I am thrilled and overwhelmed of the dedication of this education center in my honor," said the First Lady during her visit with the president to the Task Force July 24, 2001.



Lt. Col. Gregory Kammerer (left), commander of the 3-7th Infantry Regiment, and Capt. Joe Ross (right), commander of B Company of the 2-502nd Infantry Regiment, discuss element locations along the border between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo with Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White. Soldiers of the 2-502nd Infantry Regiment encountered hostile fire only a few days previous from unidentified personnel trying to cross the border into Kosovo illegally.



"The success of these missions depend a lot on each of you -- your judgment, your training, your talent, and your determination," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to a crowd of more than 600 soldiers during his visit to Kosovo early in the rotation.

## 3A soldiers started working as soon as they hit the ground



MNB (E) soldiers from the 3rd Logistics Task Force participate in a training mission and learn how to roll up one of the parachutes that could be used to air-drop supplies into Kosovo.



A soldier of B Company of the 37th Airborne Engineers trains a TMK member on their machinery. The soldiers worked with the TMK and humanitarian organizations to build a soccer field, a tennis court, a basketball court, and a track as part of the future Freedom Field.



Soldiers from A Company of the 2-502nd Infantry Regiment and Task Force Sabre participate in the Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise.



U.S. soldiers serving in Kosovo stand before a sign made by the local community expressing its condolences to the U.S. troops in regards to the recent tragedies in New York and Washington D.C. While the soldiers say that their mission in Kosovo will not change, they admit that the support the local community has shown during some of their nation's darkest hours "strikes right to the heart."



Soldiers of Headquarters Headquarters Company, 3-7th Infantry Regiment qualified to operate the Bradley at Ramjane Range July 9.



Soldiers from the 2-502nd collect weapons from a seized vehicle near the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border.



Sgt. Charles R. Everhart Jr., a team leader from C Company of the 3-502nd Infantry Regiment, descends from his guard tower in Camp Able Sentry in Macedonia.



Above left, a bradley tank of the 1-41st Field Artillery fire mortar rounds over "smuggling routes" in Kosovo during a Bright Skies Mission. Above right, the luck of the draw, a nominated civilian draws a number that will win him the tagged horse. This raffle was both in reward to the citizens that have consistently worked with KFOR, and also gave new homes to the horses that were detained on Camp Bondsteel.





Task Force Falcon soldiers participate in sling-load training, lifting two HMMWVs off the ground using a Chinook helicopter.



Task Force Falcon members practice fast rope operations.



Sgt. 1st Class James Reese, a cavalry scout platoon sergeant prepares for a patrol by carefully applying camouflage to his face.



Spc. Trent Wallace, C Company of the 311th Military Intelligence, questions suspected rebels who turned themselves in Zegra/Zheger.



Spc. Mark Gonzalez guides the auger to the drilling spot. Large explosives would later be dropped into the newly-made holes to create large craters.



The 789th EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) dispose of weapons and munitions surrendered by the ethnic rebels to KFOR and others that were found in the sector.



Above Left, Task Force Sabre Chinook leaves Camp Bondsteel to go to Camp Able Sentry. The Chinooks made three trips a day carrying connexes to re-supply Camp Bondsteel, with the help of FSB, with supplies, food and mail. Above Right, a crane lowers a 13-ton connex onto a transporter that will carry it back to Camp Bondsteel.





German range cadre watch as Task Force Sabre soldiers fire the G-36 assault rifles at a Schutzenschnur range in Orahovac/Rrahovec, Kosovo on October 1. The soldiers participated in the German Schutzenschnur weapons qualification to earn the German Marksmanship Badge during NATO's Operation Joint Guardian II .



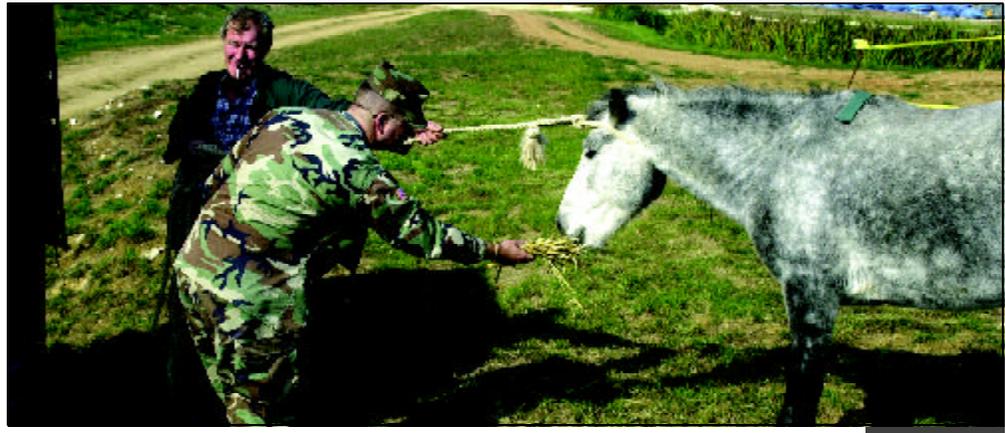
Sgt. Jeff Bowman (Right) and Pfc. Ryan Malcolm (Left) from C Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion, are building a C-4 plastic explosive charge to demolish a tree that is obstructing the area where the engineers are building a bridge across a river in Mijak.



Soldiers from C Company of the 11th Engineer Battalion, are clearing rocks and leveling the ground on an abutment to a bridge that the engineers are building across a river in Mijak, Kosovo on October 9. The 11th Engineers are in Mijak to build a bridge across a river so that the villagers of Mijak can safely cross the river.



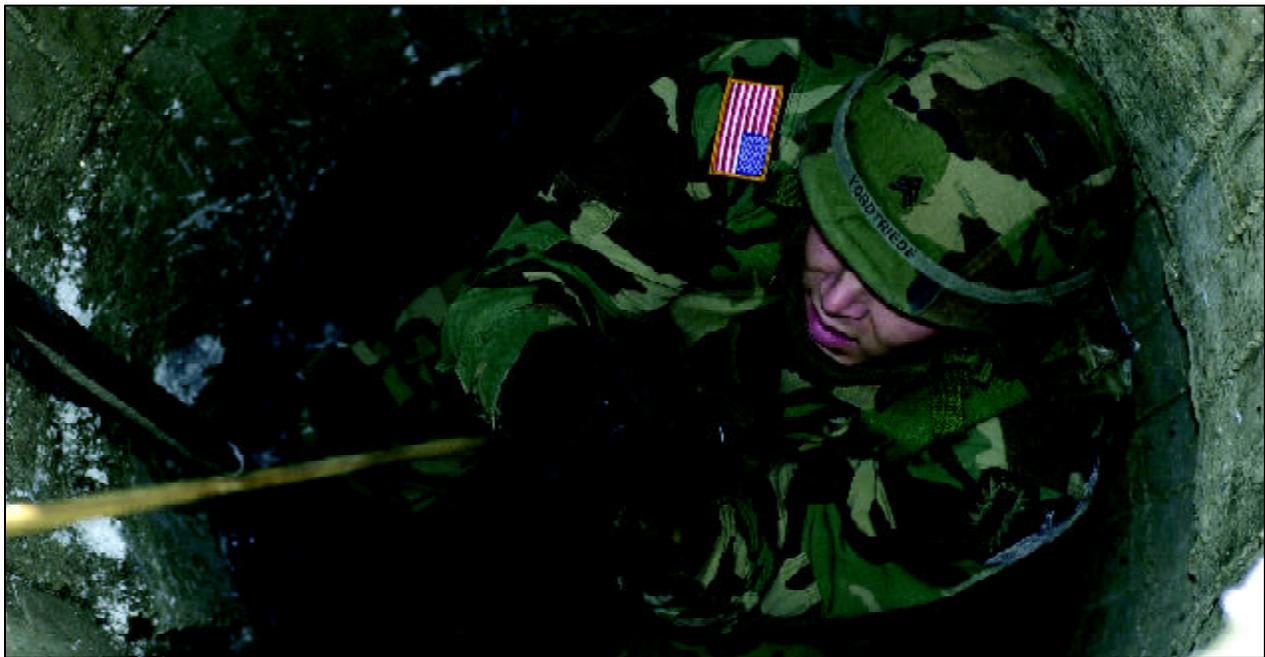
On October 12. Eighty American soldiers



Maj. David Wishart tries to coax a horse onto a truck at the stables in Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on October 18. Wishart is a part of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, and he is helping in this humanitarian effort with the distribution of the horses that were confiscated by KFOR over the last months. In an effort to promote goodwill KFOR and Task Force Falcon are giving these horses to the locals for free.



Staff Sgt. Keary Griffin, Pfc. Jharildon Vico, and Pfc. Joshua Beavers in a 3-man stakeout prepare to enter a house outside of Kamenica/Kamenice, Kosovo on October 15. Griffin, Vico, and Beavers are a part of C Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Stewart, Georgia. They conducted a cordon and search of a village outside of Kamenica in the hopes of locating any illegal weapons or contraband.



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r 9. The 11th  
ross the river.

Sgt. Robert Vordtriede climbs out of a well after successfully searching it for ordinance during a cordon and search in the village of Gornji Livoc/Livoq i Eperm, Kosovo on October 19. Vordtriede is a part of the 789th Ordnance Company out of Fort Benning, Georgia.

# TFF 3A helped give Kosovo children a brighter future



A child in the town of Miladinovo receives a handful of clothes from U.S. soldiers to help shelter him from the cold winter.



A child at Muharrem Shem's new playground enjoys the new equipment donated and built by Brown and Root workers. Brown and Root adopted 22 schools and created playgrounds for the schools.



Pfc. Lorenzo Preston, forward observer with C Company of the 3-69th Armor, attempts to score a basket during a game with children of multiple ethnicities at Camp Monteith. "They run you to death," said Preston.



A picture painted by an eight-year-old child in Urosevac/Ferizaj depicts how things were before U.S. soldiers and Kosovo force (KFOR) came to help.



Sgt. Michael D. Swift (left) and Sgt. Gregory Palmertree, both civil affairs specialists with the 4th Civil Affairs Group, play with local children during the opening of a playground at Velekince/Veleknice.



A four-year-old child picks up trash from the littered ground in Kacanik. She was participating in the first ever Great Kacanik Cleanup.

# Medical assistance was one of the main jobs of Task Force Falcon



Capt. Anthony Brunch, a physician assistant with the 2-6th Infantry, examines a local child.



Brown and Root workers begin construction of the new hospital located at Camp Bondsteel



Col. Gregg Quick, an emergency room physician with Task Force Medical Falcon from the 399th Combat Support Hospital examines a woman from Topojane, Kosovo during a medical civic action program.



Timmy lays in bed and watches Aladin with his mother, father, brother and uncle. He said he likes them around to have someone to talk to.



Firefighters at Camp Monteith participate in a mass casualty exercise August 24. The exercise included the participation of Force Protection, the Fire Department, all support elements, and all medical components at the camp.



Commanders from Task Force Falcon and MedFalcon cut the ribbon for the opening of Camp Bondsteel's new hospital.

## Chaplain's Corner

# The 11 commandments of redeployment

**Story by Chaplain  
(Cpt.) Steve Cantrell  
716th M.P. Battalion**

Eleven Commandments? You probably thought there were only 10? You may be able to remember most of them, if not all. Do's and Don'ts: Thou shalt not lie, steal, murder, covet, commit sexual immorality, misuse God's name, make idols, or worship other gods. Thou shalt honor your parents and keep the Sabbath holy. In negotiating the last weeks and months of your rotation, I want to highlight 11 Commandments for finishing your rotation well.

I. Thou shalt not be unaware or unconcerned about dangers or deficiencies. Avoid complacency. Coach yourself. You've looked at that same computer screen or traveled that same route time after time. Help your buddy stay alert.

II. Thou shalt not be wasteful. Avoid taking more food than you can eat. Say 'pak' which means "little" in Albanian. They will give you smaller portions. At your next meal when you put your tray up, look to see how many people had eyes bigger than their stomachs. Perhaps you will see perfectly edible fruits or untouched portions

food.

III. Thou shalt not be unsafe. You've heard it numerous times. Everybody is a safety officer.

IV. Thou shalt keep your weapons systems ready to go. When I was new to the Army, I met a retired Vietnam veteran who was one of the special operations soldiers who appeared at the beginning of the John Wayne movie, *The Green Berets*. He talked to me about the importance of cleaning weapons every chance you get. That advice still rings true today.

V. Thou shalt have hope. Look forward to your return to home and family. Enjoy your tour. Hope is a good thing. Of course, keep your mind on your job when you are on duty.

Keep your situational awareness radar-ready. Smell the roses here. Dream, but stay ready to protect yourself and others from danger.

VI. Thou shalt do what is right, legally and morally. The simplicity of doing the right thing never wears out. Be willing to do the right thing especially when no one is watching.

VII. Thou shalt drive and fly safely. Sleep is refreshing and saves lives.

Don't stay up late talking with your pals, watching the tube or playing video

games when you should be sleeping

before a mission.

VIII. Thou shalt be ready to go anywhere, anytime, and any-

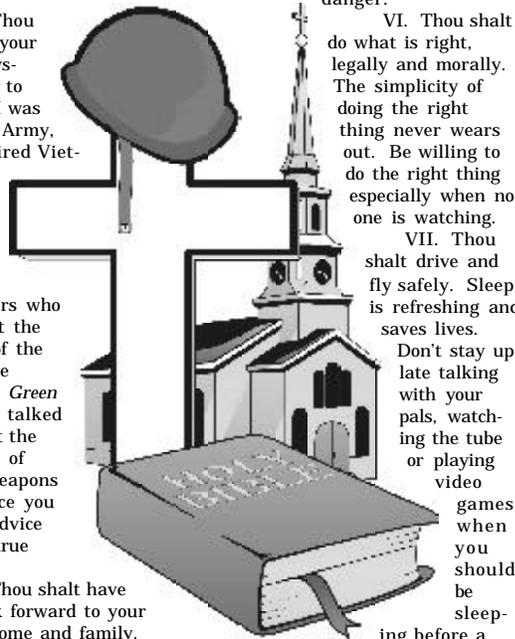
place. Be Skilled, Tough, Ready Around the Clock (STRAC).

IX. Thou shalt maintain your physical fitness. Leave here in better shape than when you arrived. Gyms and running paths are abundant.

X. Thou shalt worship according to the dictates of your conscience. The Bible says for us not to forsake assembling ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). We have numerous worship services available to the thousands of people in the U.S. sector. Any slice of Christianity plus fellowship groups for the Islamic and Jewish soldiers. If you have any questions about worship times/locations, call 781-3538 or ask a chaplain or chaplain assistant.

XI. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) found in the Bible are still applicable today. In the Christian tradition, most worship on Sunday as a new Christian Sabbath. If everyday is holy, then no day is holy. Separate out a day to worship and rest.

As KFOR 3A draws to a close and 3B starts arriving, take time to draw closer to God. Stay safe and sound, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Life is sacred.



Spc. Duncan Broussard, a combat engineer with B Company of the 37th Engineer Battalion, walks with a young girl on the new sidewalk his unit built for the community.



A local child swings through the monkey bars during the opening of one of 14 playground projects headed by the 4th Civil Affairs Group.



An American flag dangles from the boom of an M88 Recovery Vehicle in the early morning breeze. The symbolism was strong for the maintenance team as they placed the American flag high on the vehicle three days after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. in mid September.

# Pallets of love make long and hard journey to Kosovo

**Story by Spc. Marshall Thompson, 358th MPAD**

An important letter on the desk of Col. Brooks almost didn't make it:

"Dear Soldier," wrote Jacob Ayub, a first grader in Georgia. "I salute you for all that you do. Your Friend, Jacob."

Jacob's letter, along with about 900 boxes of donated books, tapes and other items, was prepared to be shipped from Georgia to raise the spirits of the soldiers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division in Kosovo. Col. Vincent Brooks, Task Force Falcon Deputy Commander East, said that due to a rapid deployment alert at Ft. Stewart, the delivery of the packages was postponed until Sept. 12, just one day after the terror attacks.

"The impact of Sept. 11 affected all travel, even cargo travel," Brooks said.

The wives of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division soldiers along with the Army Community Services (ACS) at Ft. Stewart were told that their packages could not be shipped from any of the nearby Air Force bases because all flights were being dedicated to the recent crisis. The group looked into shipping the packages through civilian channels. However, the rules are different for donated items, said Brooks. Neither contingency dollars nor unit dollars could be used to transport the goods.

"We were told to break open the boxes and redistribute the items back to family members," said Carol Brooks, the wife of Col. Brooks.

Despite the seemingly impossible task in front of them, they did not give up. Susan Wilder, a government employee

with the ACS, and Lt. Col. Scott Rutter, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Rear Detachment Commander, kept looking for a way and discovered that if they could only get the two pallets of packages to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware they might be able to get them shipped.

Casey Craig, a wife with the 11<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, said she remembered the name of a trucking company that she had seen on a trip. She found the phone number and the group first contacted Michael Wilhelm, Vice President of ABF Freight Systems, Inc., on Sept. 28.

Wilhelm, a former military man himself, came through for the soldiers. His company agreed to ship the precious cargo over 700 miles from Georgia to Delaware.

Brooks said there was then one more problem. There was only a three-day window the ABF could move the pallets to Dover, and then there was no guarantee that they could be flown out from there.

"We insisted one more time to be relentless and keep on pushing," Brooks said.

Anne Bergstrom, a civilian working for Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) for U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) came up with ideas on how to ship MWR items to soldiers. Capt. Romeo Wright and Capt. Stephen Collins, both from Task Force Falcon G-4 (supply) office, worked creatively to figure out a way to get the packages shipped from Dover. Cmdr. Allan McCosh, the liaison officer between the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Logistics Task Force, on his last day in theater opened the final door to getting the cargo to Kosovo.

Wright said that it was a

joint effort between the DLA, USAREUR, and Task Force Falcon.

"Collaboration, we all made this happen," said Wright. "It was great, it made me feel really good that we're out helping soldiers every chance we get."

The fight, however, wasn't over. One last obstacle remained. The two pallets, one for Camp Bondsteel and the other for Camp Monteith, were sent to two different locations in Europe. One arrived in Germany and the other in Turkey.

"Thanks to the great efforts of Capt. Wright and Capt. Collins, we knew where they were," Brooks said.

From these locations the pallets were moved by ground to Camp Able Sentry and then up to Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith respectively. The precious items from home where in the soldier's hands on Oct. 17.

"The family members had enough desire to do this and there was enough love out there to contribute and donate," said Brooks. "It was in recognition of that dedication and effort that caused us at this end to say, 'don't give up.'"

If they had given up, Spc. Shawn Maxwell, an executive administration assistant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, might not have been the proud owner of a travel version of the "Battleship, the exiting naval strategy game."

"It wasn't so much the game as it was the love and dedication put into it," Maxwell said. "I may never play the game, but their love and commitment to us is appreciated."

Brooks said that these "two pallets of love" were an example in not giving up. He said, "The bottom line of this whole story is to be relentless."

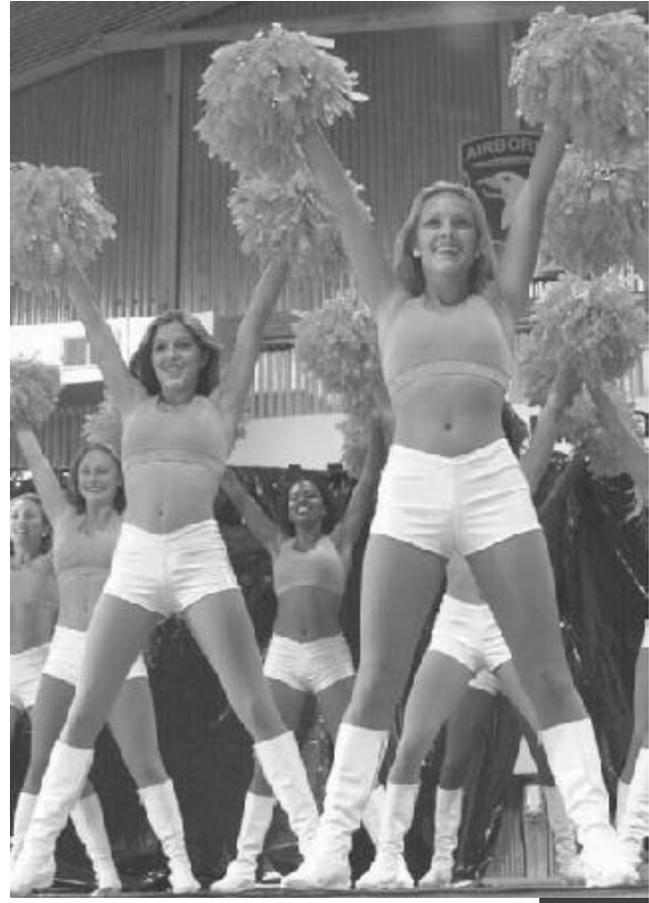


Spc. Shawn Maxwell, an executive administrative assistant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company of Task Force Falcon, helps unload one of the pallets of love that made a relentless journey across the Atlantic.



Left, Task Force Falcon donated three fire trucks worth 506,250 Deutsche Marks total to the people of Kosovo in July. One of the fire trucks was given to the city of Kamenica/Kamenice, and two other to Gnjilane/Gjilan. Right, Children at "Our Future" child care center in Ferizaj/Urosevac enjoy the talents of SPC Robert Simmons. Members of the 101st SSB visited the center to donate toys and clothes

# Morale Welfare and Recreation helps keep the spirits up



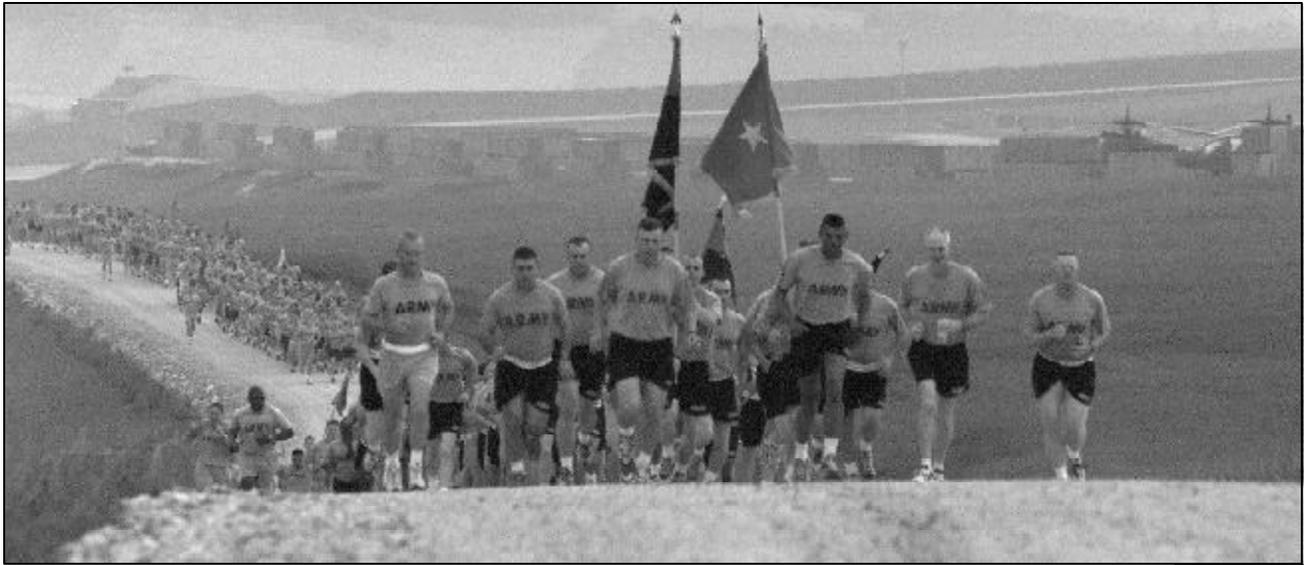
The MWR planned many activities that gave the Task Force Falcon soldiers entertainment and laughs. Above Left, the Fourth Dimension, a local band perform for a spectacular concert on July 3. Left, MWR members pose in a group photo. Above, the Redskin cheerleaders visit Task Force Falcon soldiers July 4 to celebrate America's birthday. Below Right, Comedian, Jeff Burghart, one of the three comedians from the Comedy Break gets into his jokes to make a few laughs.



Tae-Bo's Billy Blanks leads soldiers through his Tae-Bo workout routines. Blanks visited Kosovo as part of "The 2001 Spirit & Body Tour."

Soldiers cheer in a large crowd at the Citizen Patriot Tour, which had many entertainers including the Patriot cheerleaders, Clint Black and Al Franken.

# Getting in shape was one of the goals of many soldiers



Task Force Falcon did many things to keep in shape throughout the six months of Rotation 3A. From running, playing sports and working out in the gym, many soldiers worked on their physical fitness and health. Above, TaskForce Falcon joins Multinational Brigade East Commander Brig. Gen. Bill David on a run to celebrate the 4th of July. Left, Team Temptation puts the ball over the net as Team Falcon moves to block. Below, Master Sgt. Carl Clark gives Nancy Ray a hug after receiving a first place medal for the Nancy Ray Fun Run.



Everyone holds their breath as Sgt. Schimelpfening, a preventive medicine technician at TFMF from the 399th CSH, takes a shot at an open net.

# To those who gave their all for the cause, we will always remember and honor you



Sgt. Richard Casini, a cavalry scout wounded by a landmine from C troop 1st Cavalry Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, is awarded the Kosovo Campaign Medal and the NATO Medal for Kosovo Operation.



All give some, but some give all. Spc. James T. Sakofsky, a Military Policeman assigned to the 551 Military Police Company from Fort Campbell, Ky., will be remembered and honored by a grateful nation. He is survived by his wife Spc. Wendy Sakofsky who is also a member of KFBR.

