

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

Guardian East

Volume 8, Issue 10

April 2, 2003



Multinational
Interoperability Exercise
page 12

Message to the troops



The link between politics and peacekeeping

By John Fernandez,
MNB(E) Political Adviser

As the Multi-National Brigade (East) Political Adviser (POLAD), I advise the Commanding General of MNB(E), Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe and his staff with policy support regarding the diplomatic and political aspects of their military responsibilities.

I assist in maintaining situational awareness of factors that shape the political landscape in Kosovo and neighboring countries and contribute to "filling out the picture" for the CG and his senior staff.

This is accomplished by monitoring political developments, with special attention to the strategies and actions of political parties and municipal organizations in order to identify and evaluate strategies and goals so that the CG can act in a timely and informed manner.

One example concerns the municipal elections in November 2002 that resulted in two of the seven municipalities within MNB(E) to shift from K-Albanian to K-Serb control. Supporting UNMIK's effort to ensure that these two municipalities remain sustainable required me to stay abreast of political developments in those municipalities.

A number of official organizations within Kosovo influence the CG's choice of courses of action that promote a safe and secure environment. I maintain contact with official organizations, evaluating their projects and goals for consistency and affect on MNB(E) policy. For example, organizations such as the United States Office Pristina (USOP) and the United



John Fernandez
MNB(E) Political Adviser

States Agency for International Development (USAID) sometimes have different policies or approaches to development or refugee return projects.

I follow these policies keeping the CG and MNB(E) informed.

I keep tabs on how regional political and diplomatic activity that may influence the maintenance of a safe and secure environment within MNB(E). U.S. KFOR's area of responsibility is contiguous with the Former Yugoslavia Republic Of Macedonia border and with the Administrative Boundary Line with Serbia.

Ethnic and security interests on both sides of the ABL and the FYROM border can have an affect on MNB(E).

The environment in which we operate often is affected by international organizations operating in MNB(E). Diplomatic contacts helps to ferret out divergent views and initiatives permitting the CG to understand better the motives or goals of these organizations and to reconcile differences.

Within Kosovo there are numerous non-governmental and private volunteer organizations. These organizations do

not operate in a vacuum. Municipalities have primacy over Go-and-See Visits and MNB(E) is involved from the outset to completion. MNB(E) conducts initial village security assessments and provides area and in some cases, aerial observation and security. My role is as liaison with these organizations, helps define the respective responsibilities.

Fernandez continued on next page

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY
www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil

On the cover: Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang
Cpl. Juha-Pekka Jolhonen and Cpl. Riku Raehalme, both sling-load operators with the Finland Battalion, attach a cable to the Swiss Super Puma during a practice sling-load operation, March 26.

Guardian East

COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)
Brig. Gen. Daniel J. Keefe

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E)
Capt. Michael Bush

COMMANDER, 114TH MPAD
Maj. David Durling

EXECUTIVE OFFICER, 114TH MPAD
Capt. Gregory Heilshorn

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM OIC
Capt. David Matzel

PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER
2nd Lt. Veronica Saffo

DETACHMENT SERGEANT
1st Sgt. Thomas Hayes

CAMP MONTEITH TEAM NCOIC
Master Sgt. John Barr

PHOTO EDITOR AND PRINT NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

LAYOUT EDITOR AND WEBMASTER
Sgt. Erin Elliott

PRINT JOURNALISTS
Spc. Catherine Caruso
Spc. Whitney Hughes
Spc. Matthew Lang

BROADCAST NCOIC
Sgt. Brent Wucher
MEDIA OPERATIONS NCOIC
Sgt. Steven Ducharme

BROADCAST JOURNALISTS
Sgt. Matthew Hartke
Spc. Jacob Chandler

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST
Spc. Tina Tomassetti



About Guardian East

Guardian East is an official publication of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) produced to provide command information to service members in MNB(E).

Guardian East is produced by the 114th Mobile PublicAffairs Detachment, New Hampshire and Vermont Army National Guard.

Contents of Guardian East are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army or the 1st Infantry Division. Guardian East is published bi-monthly using offset press by the MNB(E) PublicAffairs Office, Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APOAE 09340; send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil. Printed circulation is 3,000.

INFOCON ensures operational security of computers

By Spc. Catherine Caruso

CAMP MAGRATH, Kosovo— Military computers are not immune to attack, so it should come as little surprise that they operate under a force condition threat similar to military installations known as INFOCON.

Currently, military computer systems in Europe are operating under INFOCON Bravo.

The third of five levels, normal through Delta, Bravo indicates an increased risk of attack on Department of Defense computers and triggers restrictions on certain types of computer and internet use.

Because Kosovo is considered to be an operational theater, the effects on American service personnel are minimal, said Staff Sgt. Kent Briley, signal NCO for 2-63 Armor Battalion.

"Bravo means an assessment has been done," Briley said. "Because of our limited access to means of communication with family members, financial institutions, and so on, it's going to impact those in the rear more than it will impact us here."

Still, individual users in Multi-National Brigade (East) should heed several steps to ensure operational security and keep bandwidth available for official use. They are as follows:

1. Make sure the latest version of your antivirus software is installed and that its virus data table is updated at least once a month.
2. Scan all disks, CDs, and downloaded files before opening them. If the file is attached in an email, you can still read the message to help determine if it is a legitimate letter or a self-propagating virus. "Opening the message won't give you a virus. Opening the attachment might," Briley said.
3. Limit your use of attachments. If network traffic, official or unofficial, approaches a predetermined point, emails will be restricted to attachments of 10 megabytes or smaller.
4. Don't use web cams on your personal computer. The connection can put the computer at increased risk of being compromised. Web cams are available on computers in Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities specifically configured for that purpose with extra security protections in place.
5. Stay away from voice-over-internet software, streaming media and file-sharing services, and commercial instant messenger programs. You increase your computer's risk of being hacked and music and file trading services can be exploited to



Stock photo

reveal the contents of your entire hard drive. AKO has an Instant Messenger feature that family members can access as guest members.

As the operational tempo increases, bandwidth becomes a premium, Briley said. Network administrators are already asking users to minimize the use of the internet for personal use to allow official traffic to flow through more efficiently.

Network use could get more restrictive. Administrators could block access to non-government internet sites and stop the sending of file attachments with email.

But in a deployed environment, access to the internet can also be a soldier's best or only contact with loved ones back home. Fortunately, there are a few things you can do to prepare before a restriction is put in place, Briley said.

Your best bet for uninterrupted access to communication with family and friends is Army Knowledge Online, but the trick is to be ready ahead of time.

"Even at INFOCON Delta, you will still have access to AKO," Briley said.

AKO provides a web-based interface so every soldier with internet access can retain access to official email anywhere in the world. But if you've been using a commercial web-based email account, you'll need to transfer the contents of your address book to your AKO account before you lose access to them.

Fernandez continued from page 2

Understanding how goals and strategies of the various political interests relate to one another, identifying significant developments, assessing their implications, and recommending courses of action are intrinsic to the role of POLAD.

At Camp Bondsteel, I am a member of the Brigade Command Group and participate in all major policy and planning initiatives by providing advice on the full range of political and military issues in the region. On occasion I will represent the

task force at negotiations and conferences addressing complex political issues with economic, social, and ethnic dimensions, in order to promote the brigade's mission.

It is important to remember that the POLAD is only one source of the CG's political advice. Within MNB(E) a virtual army of intelligence officers, operational planners, special staff, and area commanders all contribute a plethora of political reports and assessments to the CG

New Civil Affairs team rotates into MNB(E)

By Spc. Matthew Lang

A new platoon of soldiers from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion is hoping to continue the work accomplished by its predecessors in Multi-National Brigade (East).

Thirty-nine soldiers with Task Force Spartan, Reservists out of New York, Indiana and Michigan, have replaced the outgoing 415th platoon, Task Force Wolverine.

It is the Spartans first deployment to Kosovo.

"We hope to make a difference, even a small one," said Capt. William Lawson, new team chief with the 415th. "The feeling you get after helping someone is pretty good. If you can make someone's life better it enriches yours. I would hope that if the tables were turned, others would help us."

The new unit has some big shoes to fill, but it is more concerned with how it can raise the bar, said Sgt. Travis Try, a civil affairs specialist with the Spartans.

The previous group managed to help bring families back together, assist locals with settling claims and even taught some of the people how to speak English, said Capt. David Fouch, the outgoing team leader.

"Winning the hearts and minds of the people is how we hope to achieve our mission," Try said. "They are tomorrow's future."

A priority for the new team will be helping displaced people return to their homes, Try said.

To date, KFOR has helped approximately 6,024 displaced persons out of approximately 230,000 return to their homes.

The 415th is also tasked with facilitating humanitarian aid and working with newly elected municipal leaders to address community concerns.

People need homes rebuilt, utilities installed and roads paved before they can return, Try said. Without help, the people of Kosovo would not be able to return.

And that is accomplished one step at a time, Try added.

Many of schools in MNB(E) sustained damage during the conflict. Both Active and Reserve soldiers have helped facilitate reconstruction projects that include replacing wood-burning stoves, removal of mines, replacing windows and classroom furniture and patching bullet holes in walls.

They don't do the work themselves; rather they work with local leaders and non-government agencies to coordinate the supplies and manpower.

"This should help students concentrate more on studying and less on trying to stay warm during the winter months," Fouch said.

With 13 municipalities to monitor, the 415th's mission can get complicated. But as Fouch pointed out, it may not be fast, but it is making a difference.

"This being my second time here, I've noticed two major changes," Fouch said. "The people are out shopping, driving and trying to live their lives like civil people. The biggest change is the general sense of peace that exists now that did not exist my first time here in 2000."

The little things count as much as the big ones, Try said. Spc. Nadia Zarzecki, an outgoing civil affairs specialist with the Wolverines, agreed.

"Just giving something as small as a pen to one of the kids can make a world of difference to them," she said.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

From left, Lt. Col. David Ronan, executive officer, Spc. Chas Ryder, Civil Affairs specialist, Staff Sgt. Timothy Reniger, Civil Affairs NCOIC are a part of the new 415th platoon.

For more than 50 years, the civil affairs mission has been to help people in war and peacetime.

The civil affairs branch was conceived and organized by a small group of individuals with World War II combat and post-combat experience. It was created to identify critical requirements needed by local citizens in war or disaster situations.

Among its capabilities, civil affairs can locate civil resources to support military operations and help minimize civilian interference with operations. It also establishes and maintains liaison or dialogue with civilian personnel agencies and civilian commercial and private organizations.

Civil affairs has helped guide thousands of people toward a better future, impressing that they must work hard to achieve it.

For many Reservists, their civilian expertise has a direct correlation to their work as a civil affairs specialist. One can find judges, physicians, bankers, health inspectors, and fire

CA team continued on next page

www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil

4th CAG wraps up mission in Kosovo

By Spc. Whitney Hughes

After two and a half years, the U. S. Marine Civil Affairs mission in Multi-National Brigade (East) has come to a close.

On March 31, the 4th Civil Affairs Group, a Marine Reserve unit out of Washington, DC, closed its office in the Civil-Military Coordination Center in Gjilani. A week before, the 4th CAG held its transfer of authority ceremony with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

In a sense, the 4th CAG helped to work itself out of a job. Up until now, it had worked as a tactical support to the 415th. But since the overall safe and secure environment has improved in MNB(E), its specific augmentation is no longer needed.

"The civil affairs mission has changed because of the transformation of the locally elected government," explained Lt. Col. Anthony McGinty, OIC of the Marine detachment. "They (the municipal governments) are functioning to the point where they can take on greater responsibility."

For the past year and a half, the 4th CAG's location in the Civil-Military Coordination Center had served as a meeting place for MNB(E), international organizations, local municipalities, non-government organizations (NGOs) and the local populace.

The Marines manned the office to give citizens a place to discuss issues and address concerns.

"It's all about dealing with people," said Chief Warrant Officer Jean Poitevien, a civil affairs officer with the 4th CAG. "We're providing a service here."

The Marines were there to help people solve their problems.

Their concerns included disconnected utilities, property issues, intimidation between ethnic groups and medical issues, said Poitevien.

Utilities were a big problem at the start of 4th CAG's rotation.

"People would come in and say, 'My electricity is cut off. My water is cut off. We have no firewood,'" recalled Poitevien.

The Marines helped to develop a standard operating procedure with UNMIK. Now, utility complaints are very rare, said Poitevien.

It was a worthwhile mission, the Marines said. A highlight for Poitevien was providing assistance to a man who needed information about artery surgery. They were able to find an NGO to help the man undergo the surgery.

"It was a potentially life threatening situation," Poitevien said. "Knowing we helped him get the surgery he needed certainly brought satisfaction."

The office dealt with four or five complaints a day when it first opened, said Staff Sgt. Christopher Fritz, a team chief with the 4th CAG. Now, the complaints average one to two a day.

"Our function here has declined quite a bit. That is a good sign," said McGinty. "The locally elected leaders are functioning properly now and the people and international organizations are taking their complaints to the municipal leaders."

The Marines are still here wrapping up their mission at Camp Monteith. They are scheduled to redeploy April 17.

The peacekeeping mission in Kosovo will leave a lasting impression on the Marines.

"No entity can make a change alone," said Maj. John Church, a team leader with the 4th CAG. "The UNMIK staff, the maneuver elements, the locally elected representatives and United States Marine Corps or Army civil affairs must all work together to make a lasting change."



Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang

From left, Maj. John Church and Chief Warrant Officer Jean Poitvien, both with the 4th CAG, March 24, discuss the closing of the Civil-Military Coordination Center at the Gjilani.

CA team continued from page 4

chiefs serving their country as members of civil affairs teams.

In his civilian occupation, Lawson is a detective on a New York S.W.A.T. and rescue team.

"Civil affairs work relates to being a police officer because in both jobs we must be diplomatic and mediate disputes," Lawson said. "We must always be neutral, non-biased and in some cases, tell people things that they do not want to hear."

Over the past year, the civil affairs mission in Kosovo has shifted from facilitating humanitarian aid to helping the newly

elected governments care for their own people, Fouch said.

"We are here to help the people but at the same time we are here to teach them how to care for each other while maintaining peace," Fouch said.

As an example, civil affairs teams have started coordinating with local medical agencies and medical professionals to play a primary role in medical and dental civilian assistance clinics.

In essence, civil affairs teams accomplish the detective work of bringing together the right organizations with the right people in need.

Celebrating women's history

By Spc. Matthew Lang

Maj. Maria Summers, a head nurse with Task Force Med Falcon, used the Bible and the Declaration of Independence to emphasize the plight of women in an essay entitled, "You've Come A Long Way Baby."

It proved to be a winning combination for Summers, who was awarded a first place for her entry in a Women's History Month essay contest, sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation in conjunction with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Multi-National Brigade (East) Equal Opportunity office at Camp Bondsteel. The contest was open to all Department of Defense employees, military personnel from March 4 to 22. A total of seven essays were judged.

1st Lt. Christina Gaguzi, an intelligence officer with 2-1 Aviation Battalion, placed second for her essay, "The Place of a Woman," and Spc. Thomas Forsyth, a processing clerk with the 106th Finance Battalion, took third for his essay on Dr. Condoleeza Rice.

Gift certificates donated by AAFES General Manager Clara Nowacki in the amounts of \$75, \$50 and \$25 were awarded to the winners.

"The money was my motivation for writing the essay," Summers said. "I've enjoyed participating in the equal opportunity activities here on Camp Bondsteel and decided to participate in the Women's History Month Celebration as the final activity before re-deployment to Germany."

Gaguzis said she wanted to write an essay to spread the word about the exceptional performance of women in Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition, "I wanted to emphasize the plight of women in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq in order to increase American's appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy," Gaguzis said.

The primary purpose for the essay contest was to stimulate awareness of Women's History Month within the MNB(E) community, said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Bell, equal opportunity advisor with HHC, 3rd Brigade.

"This particular contest was for individuals to express their vision of women pioneering the future, significant women pioneers, and what women's history means," Bell said.

Knowing women's achievements expands their sense of what is possible, he added.

"I've learned a lot about women suffrage and in spite of the hardship women endured, I am proud to be a woman to demonstrate the strength and wonder women possess," Summers said. "Additionally, I wanted to share with whoever read my essay, the plight of women in the United States."

Women's History Month Essay Contest Winners *You've Come A Long Way Baby*

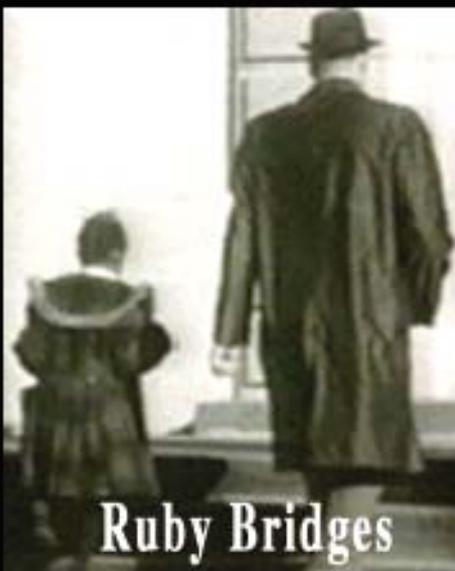
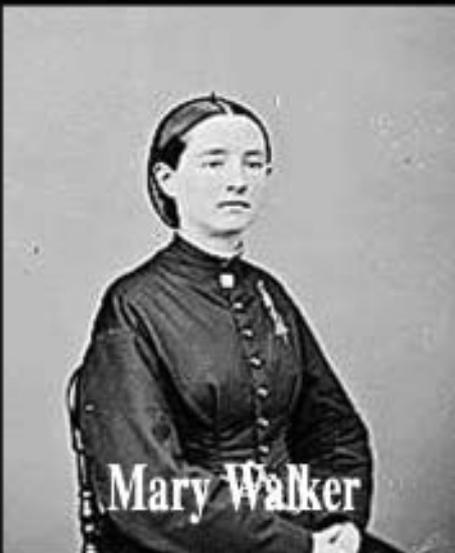
**1st Place: Maj. Maria Summers,
Head Nurse at Task Force Med Falcon**

In the Bible, Genesis 2:18 – 23, we learn about the creation of woman. Eve or woman was created from the rib bone of man, later acknowledged as the backbone of man, and in many parts of our society women are now the skeletons that hold families, organizations and institutions together.

You've come a long way baby.

In Genesis 3:16, God punished woman with pain during childbearing and He declared that the man will rule over woman. Women were content with their role as wife and subordinate to man until approximately 1776. Abigail Adams, in a letter to her husband, John Adams, asked that he and the other men "Remember the Ladies" when writing the Declaration of Independence. Adams responded with humor, the Declaration's wording specifies, "All men are created equal."

Needless to say, the seed was planted in the fight for women's rights.



The time period between 1820 and 1880 was known as “The Cult of Domesticity” concerning women suffrage. During this period, advice manuals, poetry, literature, sermons, etc. held stereotypical notions about women’s and men’s roles in American society.

Going with the grain concerning a woman’s place was Catherine Esther Beecher. Ms. Beecher believed homemaking was the “true profession” for women and that education should prepare them for it. In 1823, Ms. Beecher established a female seminary in Hartford, Conn., where she pioneered in offering calisthenics for girls.

The Cult of Domesticity period was so prejudicial to women that not only were they unable to vote, they could not own, buy or sell property. Women could not speak in public places and they were not recognized as contributors to society. Women of the world have Eve to thank for the delightful role of women.

Kicking and screaming to make a place for herself in man’s society was Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in the United States to receive a medical degree. In 1847, she began her medical studies at Geneva College in Geneva, N.Y. after 29 other medical schools had denied her admission because of her sex.

In 1848, five women met for tea in upstate New York. Concerned with the limited roles for women in American society, they put a notice in the local newspaper announcing “a convention to discuss the social, civil, and religious conditions and rights of women” to be held six days later in Seneca Falls.

The Women’s Right Movement was born.

The smart comment that John Adams made concerning the Declaration of Independence has come to haunt him. A “Declaration of Sentiments” was drafted at the convention in Seneca Falls and signed by 100 men and women.

The Sentiments began, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal...” One of the resolutions called for universal women’s suffrage. In 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States was finally ratified, granting women the right to vote nationwide.

You’ve come a long way baby.

Women pushed forward, demonstrating intelligence, talents and the determination to break free of the stereotypical bonds. Notable women who paved the way are so numerous that they can’t be recognized in a short copulation. A few stars are: Florence Nightingale, Winifred W. Merrill, Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Lillian G. Murad, Gwendolyn Brooks and Sally Kristen Ride.

Florence Nightingale who is responsible for the scientific care of the sick in 1854. The United States consulted Ms. Nightingale for setting up military hospitals during the American Civil War.

Winifred E. Merrill was the first American woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1883. Ms. Merrill was also instrumental in founding the first secular institution to award women the liberal arts degree in 1889.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a First Lady, who held 350 press conferences for women reporters only and wrote a daily newspaper column and many articles for magazines in 1921. Ms. Roosevelt was appointed head of the Commission on the Status of Women in 1961.

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to cross the Atlantic by air from Newfoundland to Wales. She was also the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

Babe Didrikson Zaharias was the greatest woman athlete in sports history. Her claim to fame was earned in golf and track and field. She also competed in basketball, baseball, pocket billiards, tennis, diving and swimming. In 1932, she set four track and field world records in three hours. In 1946 she won the U.S. Women’s Amateur tournament. In 1946 and 1947, she won 17 tournaments in a row, including the 1947 British Women’s Amateur tournament. She was the first American to win this event.

Lillian Murad was a chemical engineer, who developed and introduced water-based pigment binders applicable to natural and synthetic fabrics in 1949 – 1951. The “fad” of gilded drapes, dresses, shoes, bags, etc., was a direct result of the new technique.

Gwendolyn Brooks, who in 1950, became the first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize. She received the award for Annie Allen (1949), a collection of poetry.

Sally Ride was a United States astronaut who became the first American woman to travel in space in 1983. She made her second shuttle flight in 1984. Ms. Ride later became a professor of physics at a university in California and the director of the California Space Institute.

Finally, in 1942, women fought for and achieved full status and rank in the U.S. Army. The Women’s Army Corps (WAC) achieved this goal in 1943; full military rank was not granted to the Army Nurse Corps until 1944. In 1978, women were integrated in the Army and in 1980 the first women graduated from West Point.

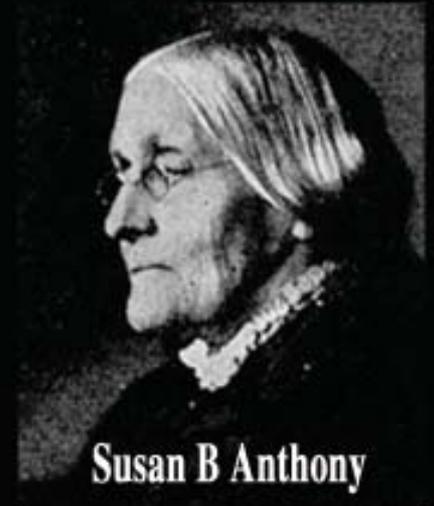
You’ve come a long way baby.

The Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1923 through the efforts of the National Women’s Party. Congress passed the ERA in 1972, which needed three-fourths approval from the states to become a law. Supporters of the amendment had until March 22, 1979 to obtain ratification by 38 states. In 1982, Congress voted to extend the deadline for ratification until June 30, 1982. By the 1982 deadline, only 35 of the necessary 38 states had ratified the amendment. The ERA has been reintroduced in Congress a number of times, but has not been passed. So the saga continues.

You’ve come a long way baby; you have a long way to go.



Eleanor Roosevelt



Susan B. Anthony



Harriet Tubman



Amelia Earhart

Place of a Woman

Second place: 1st Lt. Christina Gaguzis, Intelligence Officer with 2-1 Aviation Battalion



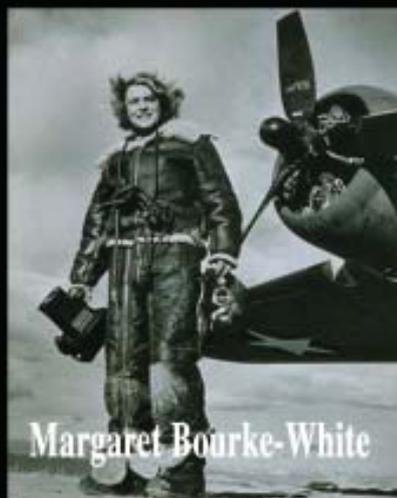
Laura Ingalls Wilder



Sojourner Truth



Harriet Beecher Stowe



Margaret Bourke-White

“There are only two places for an Afghan woman – in her husband’s house, and in the graveyard.”

For five years in Afghanistan, men who followed the creed of the Taliban member quoted here terrorized the women of that country. The penalty for an unmarried woman walking with a man who was not a relative was 100 lashings in public; for a married woman it was to be stoned to death. Education of any kind for women was banned, as were all forms of employment outside of the home. In order to walk outside, a woman had to wear a concealing burqa, which left her with a four inch slit to view the outside world; consequently, several were hit by vehicles because their field of view was so restricted.

To the great chagrin of their oppressors, American women became the Afghan women’s saviors. The military women who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom opened doors of opportunity for Afghan women and will continue to blaze a trail for oppressed women throughout the world.

Operation Enduring Freedom saw women operating in more varied roles than any previous conflict. The first all-female crew to fly a KC-135 Stratotanker on refueling operations refueled aircraft over the war-torn desert. This crew, along with many others, enabled the Air Force to fly the bombing missions that decimated the Taliban. The Taliban, who had no respect for the skills of women, would be shocked to know that the bombs that sent them fleeing into primitive caves were not dropped only by men.

Women flew the B1-B bombers on several combat missions over Afghanistan. The Taliban got a closer look at the women responsible for their downfall when they arrived at their prison cells at Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Women guard the gates to the camp, escort the prisoners between cells, provide their medical care, and administer punishment if they are uncooperative.

The Afghan women are now free to learn the heroic deeds of their rescuers and to follow in their footsteps. Young girls are anxious to enter schools where they can learn to read and write. Women who were doctors and nurses before the vicious reign of the Taliban are now able to return to their practices and treat those who have gone years suffering from various ailments. They may dance, sing, and laugh; all previously banned by the Taliban’s strict interpretation of Islamic law. And for the first time in five years, women may walk down the street with the warm sun shining fully on their lovely faces.

The American military woman has made life possible for the Afghan woman. She has braved a world dominated by men and proved her value. Each faces unique challenges in her profession. Some are physical – keeping up with the men on physical training runs, projecting a quiet voice loud enough to be heard, standing tall at five feet nothing when addressing troops.

Pregnant soldiers face the ridicule of male soldiers who do not think they are pulling their weight while other women decide to forgo motherhood altogether. Still others must battle the stereotype of the “worthless female” who came before them – those that whined, cried, and complained, were out of shape or lazy. Yet the number of women in the military continues to grow as more accept the challenges that come with the noblest of professions. Women who push themselves to the limit, who relish a challenge, who thirst for knowledge, and are motivated by love for their country continue to fill the ranks.

The United States is at war with yet another oppressive regime. Some Iraqi women bear the physical scars of chemical burns on their bodies. Others suffer from the memory of being forced to applaud while their sons were executed.

Together with her male comrades-in-arms, the American military woman will help liberate the women of Iraq. She will set a shining example of hope for these women and, in the process, expand the role of women in military operations.

In the United States, there are also only two places for the American woman – out front leading the way and in the rear helping those who have fallen behind.



Dr. Condoleeza Rice

**Third place: Spc. Thomas Forsyth,
Processing Clerk with the 106th Finance Company**



Dr. Condoleeza Rice was unknown to most people until her appointment as President George Bush's National Security Advisor. Before the election, she was an advisor to President Bush on foreign policy issues during his campaign. But that is not where her career or life began.

Dr. Rice was born on Nov. 4, 1954, in Birmingham, Ala. to a devout Presbyterian family. Even in spite of the racism and segregation she grew up around, her parents instilled in her a can-do attitude that led her on a lifelong path to success. Originally an aspiring musician, her interests switched to political science. At the age of 19, she graduated from the University of Denver cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. The following year, she received a masters degree from Notre Dame, and Ph.D. from the University of Denver in 1981.

In 1981, she joined the faculty at Stanford University where she proved to be an outstanding professor, receiving the Walter

J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1984 and the School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1993. For the next six years, she served as Provost for Stanford University, where she was responsible for a \$1.5 billion annual budget and an academic program involving 1,400 faculty members and 14,000 students.

Between her tenure as an outstanding member of Stanford's faculty, she served in the elder President Bush's administration as director, and then senior director of Soviet and East European Affairs for the National Security Council. From 1989 to March 1991, she was a special assistant to President Bush for National Security Affairs.

Her expertise on foreign policy and personal genius for the first President Bush would result in her being hired as a shining star in the administration of the second President Bush. Outside of her time with the National Security Council, she also served as special assistant to the director of the Joint Chief of Staff in 1986. She was an international affairs fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations. In 1997, she served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Gender-Integrated Training in the Military.

Her contributions to the private sector are on par with her service to her country and to Stanford University. She was a member of the boards of directors for the Chevron Corporation, the Charles Schwab Corporation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the University of Notre Dame, the International Advisory Council of J.P. Morgan and the San Francisco Symphony Board of Governors, showing ties to her first love, music.

Her community service includes being a founding board member of the Center for a New Generation, an educational support fund for schools in East Palo Alto, Calif. and East Menlo Park, Calif. She was vice president of the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

In addition, her past board service has encompassed such organizations as Transamerica Corporation, Hewlett Packard, the Carnegie Corporation, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Rand Corporation, the National Council for Soviet and East European Studies, the Mid-Peninsula Urban Coalition and KQED, public broadcasting for San Francisco.

And now, after leading a career distinguished enough for three people, she is the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor. At times she has been a mediator between Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

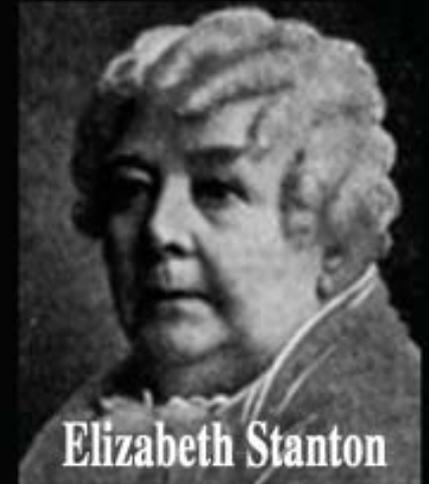
Now, for many people, this is a career path that exceeds what most people could ever hope to achieve in a lifetime, let alone at only 48 years of age. But with someone as remarkable as Dr. Rice, it would be very unfortunate if this were only the height of her career. Even though she has not shown any public interest, she could very well be President of the United States, if she wanted the job.

In fact, that is the truth about Dr. Rice. Whatever she wanted to achieve in life, she could, and if she wants to run for President, she has the determination and drive, as well as the beauty, brilliance, expertise and charisma to be the next President of the United States.

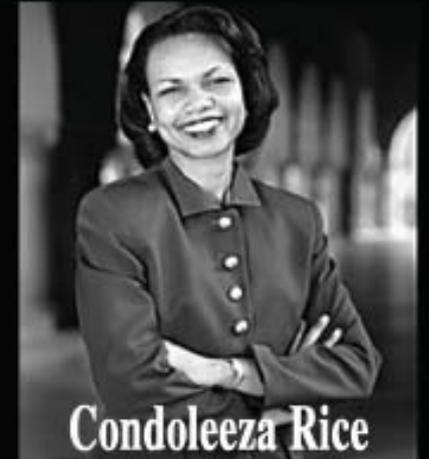
www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil



Georgia O'Keeffe



Elizabeth Stanton



Condoleeza Rice



Meena

Earning the



Expert Field Medical Badge BLUEBABE soldier strives for excellence

Story and photo by Spc. Whitney Hughes

Sgt. Jeffrey Johnson represents the “never-say-die” mentality of the BLUEBABE.

For the third time in as many attempts, the medic with HHC, 82nd Engineer Battalion, failed to earn the Expert Field Medical Badge during the qualification held at Camp Bondsteel from March 5 through 10.

But that just means he is going to try harder the fourth time.

“It’s a matter of pride,” said the 22-year-old Johnson. “(If you earn the badge) people think of you as the higher

standard of medic and soldier.”

Johnson, a native of Hardy, Ky., has been in the Army for just over three years and has taken the EFMB test each year since he joined. Each time, he has run into the same problem – the night land navigation lane.

Soldiers are each given three azimuths and three distances. They have to find two out of the three points to pass.

Johnson has not been able to get past the first point. “It’s that second point that gets me, and the third one,” Johnson said.

“But I always find my way back,” he added lightheartedly.

Johnson wasn’t alone. A total of 58 soldiers failed the EFMB qualification. Twenty-two failed the night land navigation course.

It is one of the hardest lanes for which to prepare, agreed many of the EFMB candidates.

The only way to prepare is practice and then practice some more, they said. Johnson did so along with the other candidates. A Task Force Med Falcon team ran bi-weekly training for about a month prior to the testing.

Johnson said that if given the opportunity, he would have spent more time at the site. But due to time and personnel constraints, he could not.

As for the other parts of the EFMB qualification, Johnson was well-prepared thanks to the support of his fellow BLUEBABE.

“Of the four medics competing from the 82nd Engineer Battalion, I believe Sgt. Johnson was the best prepared,” said Capt. Jennifer Munro, Johnson’s commander. “I fully expected him to earn the badge during the Kosovo testing. It is unfortunate that he fell short of his goal this testing, but I know he will continue to train and will earn the badge in the future.”

Although his failure was obviously frustrating, Johnson plans on being a candidate when the next EFMB qualification is held. Currently, it is scheduled for August.

“Land navigation is the lane that’s knocked me out every time, but I know if I can pass that I can get the EFMB,” he said.

Spoken like a true BLUEBABE.



Sgt. Jeffrey Johnson

Second time is a charm for physician's assistant

By Spc. Whitney Hughes

Last year, 1st Lt. Sharon Rosser, a physician's assistant with the 201st Logistical Task Force stationed at Camp Monteith, missed qualifying for the Expert Field Medical Badge by four minutes.

She had passed the written test, the land navigation course and five different lanes only to finish the 12-mile ruck march four minutes over the three-hour time limit.

This year it was a different story.

Rosser earned the coveted badge, shattering the qualification course and scoring the highest of all 69 candidates on the written test.

"Initially, I said there is no way I am ever going back again," said Rosser after finishing the 5-day qualification held at Camp Bondsteel, from March 5 through March 10. "It took time to get over the devastation of coming so close and not getting it,"

But she did get over it, her determination stronger than before.

"It was the driving force behind coming to Kosovo, because I knew that there would be an EFMB testing and I would be able to dedicate more time to preparing for it," said Rosser.

Rosser, 31, has been in the medical field for her entire 13-year Army career, which began in 1989 when she joined the South Dakota Army National Guard as an enlisted medic.

She joined the active Army in 1990, and although she had wanted to test for the EFMB since she first joined, she did not get her first chance until last year.

"My ruck sack fell apart on the eighth mile," she recalled. "The quick release strap kept coming apart for the rest of the march."

She said it was frustrating to come so close only to fail.

This year, she concentrated on her endurance and preparations for the ruck march.

Rosser and other soldiers in her unit marched together. They wore the same equipment they would during the test – their load bearing vest, protective mask, and ruck filled with the required EFMB items. For an added challenge, they wore their flak vests, which were not required during the testing.

They began with four miles and worked their way up to 12.

Rosser was actually more nervous about the land navigation course.

"That's one of the biggest hurdles. Everybody is always quoting the statistics. They'd say, 'The written test is going to eliminate one-third of you, night land navigation is going to eliminate another third,'" said Rosser.

She and other 201st LTF soldiers spent a week training at the EFMB land navigation site, using the lanes set up from the previous EFMB testing.

"It was mostly a confidence builder," said Rosser. "I had some bad nights too, when I couldn't find my points."

Where Rosser really shined was on the written test.

The test was the biggest eliminator during this EFMB qualification. Sixty percent of the candidates failed it.

Rosser made sure she was ready. She and other soldiers from her unit spent hours quizzing each other.

"We pulled out the regulations, made note cards, and of course studied the "red bible" (the EFMB handbook)," said Spc. Brandy Gainsley, a dental technician with the 201st LTF.

It paid off for Rosser, who missed only one question. Gainsley also passed the test and earned the EFMB badge.

For her excellence on the written test, Rosser earned commendations from the Army Medical Department.

And what about those four minutes? An inspirational bump in the road during Rosser's two-year pursuit.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

1st Lt. Sharon Rosser finishes the 12-mile ruck-march and earns her EFMB, March 10.

Reaching New Heights

More than a dozen nations demonstrate ground-air virtuosity

By Spc. Whitney Hughes

A multinational sling-load exercise involving six helicopters and 90 soldiers from more than a dozen countries was conducted at the Camp Bondsteel Supply Support Activity Pad on March 28.

The interoperability exercise, which was covered by approximately 34 media representatives from throughout Kosovo, demonstrated sling-load operations. It is a tactic by which a helicopter lifts an object off the ground with a cable or sling.

The purpose of the exercise was to increase multinational logistics capabilities and enhance familiarization of aerial re-supply capabilities in KFOR.

“What you saw was soldiers of many nations working hand-in-hand,” said Brig. Gen. Daniel Keefe, commander of Multi-National Brigade (East). “So no one should make any mistake, the nations of KFOR and UNMIK are all together as one team to meet the requirements of (United Nations) Security Council Resolution 1244.”

Six aircraft participated in the exercise. They included the British Gazelle, German Huey, the Italian Huey, the French Puma, the Swiss Puma, and the United States

Black Hawk.

The soldiers who participated trained for four days prior to the event.

“I’ve learned that working with different nations is a good experience as you learn all their different equipment and how to rig it up,” said British Sgt. Laura Powell, a member of the 21st Signal Regiment. “It is good for later on because if anything arises where we have to use their equipment, at least I’ll have the experience.”

The sling-load teams on the ground represented 14 nations. Finland, Sweden, Norway, Czech Republic and Slovakia represented MNB(C). The U.S., Greece, Ukraine and Poland represented MNB(E). France represented MNB(NE), and Germany, Italy, Austria and Switzerland represented MNB(SW).

“You never know what situation you are going to be in or who you are going to be attached to, so it’s good to learn other nation’s equipment, learn how they do their hand signals, and learn about their helicopters,” said Sgt William Graham, armament systems repairmen of the 201st Logistical Task Force. “The mission doesn’t stop because you don’t understand someone’s equipment.”



Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang

A Swiss Super Puma does a fly-by during rehearsal for an Interoperability Exercise, March 26.



Photo by Spc. Whitney Hughes

Sgt. Tarlas Elepeterios of the Greek 501st Mechanized Battalion and Warrant Officer of the Polish-Ukrainian B. prepare to sling-load a humvee to a Black Hawk.



Sgt. Tarlas Elepeterios of the Greek 501st Mechanized Bn. and Warrant Officer of the Polish-Ukrainian B. prepare to sling-load a humvee to a Black Hawk.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

The Tree Talker

Another chapter in the Faces of Kosovo series: Local artist finds inspiration by connecting with nature.

Story and photos by 1st Sgt. Thomas Hayes

If you have ever looked at a knot in wood as one would look at a cloud in the sky, and contemplated the shape it reminds you of, you have a glimpse into sculptor Zoran Popovic's world.

Dejvid (for security reasons, his last name is not used), a U.S. Liaison team leader attached to Multi-National Brigade (East), was introduced to Popovic as a world-class carver, after asking a local banker if he knew anyone who could make

some award plaques.

Dejvid was so impressed with Popovic's work he purchased some of his sculpture to bring back home.

"It's hard to find something unique here," Dejvid said of street vendors, "but this truly is." Strpce Municipality Vice President Slavisa Staletovic has known Popovic and his family for years.

"I only have positive things to say about



Zoran,” Staletovic said. “He is a unique man and he has dedicated his life to his work.”

Unique describes the art and the man.

In his Strpce home on March 13, 42-year-old Popovic sits holding a cigarette in his rough-hewn hands. In a house that feels like a home, his family and his art surround him. Popovic is an artist renowned for his wooden sculptures of religious icons.

Through art exhibitions in Kosovo and Serbia and through word of mouth, Popovic’s reputation has grown. He has produced over 200 religious icon sculptures.

His works are meticulously crafted and reach beyond the two-dimensional surface. He sculpts wood, mostly into saints. He said the Holy Spirit moves him to these creations.

He is a spiritual sort, reveling in the texture and soul of wood.

Popovic said he more than sees these things, but hears and feels them. Sometimes a vision comes in the form of a dream, sometimes it is just a logical progression.

“When I cut wood and there is a picture of a butterfly, then I connect that with previous experiences of me with butterflies,” he said, pointing to a knot in one of his sculptures. The wood gives me ideas.”

He then points to others.

“You can see a rabbit there, a clock, and this is like a snail, this is a footprint of a wild animal. And this is a penguin that just got lost in here, like from the (South) Pole.

This is like a secret.

“If you have any kind of secret you can tell it to wood and wood is going to keep that secret,” he said. “Somebody back there told some secret to the wood and this is coming out now.”

He is a kind of “Wood Whisperer.” He listens to the wood. And by standing beside or lying next to wood in the forest, the visions are transmitted to his psyche. He only takes dead wood, wood that is still standing, but dried. In his mind he is giving it and the secrets it carries eternal life. If he did not take it and give it a new life in his art, the tree would fall to the ground, decay and turn to dirt.

Popovic refuses to use live trees and remembers a venture he and his father tried.

“Doing honest work it is sometimes hard to make a lot of money. We had to cut one tree. Once I started cutting there was so much sap coming that it was like it was bleeding. I had to stop cutting. So that was the end of that job,” he

laughed.

“So, I don’t cut live trees,” he said. “You couldn’t face yourself. Especially for the holy pictures, the icons.”

He points to another knot apparent on the flat surface of a three-dimensional sculpture of a saint.

“Here is a rabbit with a pierced ear,” he said. “His ear is empty on the lobe, maybe made by a hunter. The rabbit was so scared by the hunter, that he stopped by the wood and told the tree all his hardship.”

And now that story is told, he said, and lives on in Popovic’s work.

“A story like that doesn’t have an end,” he said.

Popovic revels in his children as they move about his living room. He has three daughters and one son. They range in age from one and a half to mid-teens.

“I am very thankful to god that I have very nice kids,” he said, “and I ask god to take care of all the kids in the world including mine.”

They bring him peace, and joy, but are also challenging at times, he said. He needs peace to create, to listen to the spirits.



“You have to make icon when you are at peace with yourself,” he said. “Art is energy and the only energy you can put in is when you are at peace.”

Popovic said that for a few years, he did not enjoy the peace of mind that currently flows through

him. This he attributes to the safety and security provided by KFOR’s presence.

But there is more than the spirit behind his creations. There’s knowledge.

“In my kind of work,” he said, “if you want to make a pictures of saints, you have to do a lot of research on them. There are a lot of saints and it is very hard to know all of them, for instance what they hold in their hands is what they represent.

“I’m not pretending I am a holy person and I know all of the saints,” he said, “but what I do is I read about them and I put my own touch into it and this is very important.”

While he maintains money is not his primary goal, it doesn’t hurt, he admitted. He has sold enough artwork to keep his family in good stead, he said, but would like to have more exhibitions, including at Camp Bondsteel.

“There are a lot of religious people in this area,” Popovic said. “I have never had a problem with customers. I am well known and it is not hard to sell. I have a lot of customers. My work is valued much higher than what I am charging for it.”

He says he won’t compromise too much on price, such as sell at an auction, because that would be disrespecting the saints he is representing.

“It is not only money, there is a peace and self-satisfaction,” he said. “The earnings are not only measured in money but in whether you are happy in life.”

And he is willing to share the happiness. He has trained local artisans in his craft, and is in the

process of writing a book about his experience.

Rasa Savic, president of the Strpce branch of the American Bank in Kosovo, and a customer of Popovic, agreed.

“Zoran is a real good guy,” he said. “He is an honest guy and has taught a couple of people around here wood carving

and now they are selling art.”

Popovic’s art hangs throughout Kosovo and Serbia. And that’s just the way he wants it.

“Somebody, somewhere is talking about me and about my work,” he said. “This is the feeling I get. Work like this connects the people.”

“When I cut wood and there is a picture of a butterfly, then I connect that with previous experiences of me with butterflies. The wood gives me ideas.”

*Zoran Popovic
Local artist*



2-63 tankers befriend youngsters

By Spc. Catherine Caruso

BINAC, Kosovo— “Hey, what’s up? Do you speak English? Espanol? Sprechen sie Deutsche?” Pvt. Roman queries a trio of young boys peering at him from beyond a fence.

In answer, the tank crewmember from Avenger Company, 2-63 Armor Battalion gets three blank stares. But on a recent Monday afternoon, the boys don’t leave. Instead, they cling to the fence, tailing Roman as he patrols the parking lot.

“Oh yeah, those kids? They’re up here all the time,” said Cpl. Ronny Roarke. “Every day, it’s kids, kids, kids.”

Most kids play soldier with GI Joes. But if you are a Kosovo kid living within walking distance of a fixed guard site, you get to play with the real deal.

In Binac, where the Albanian and Serb children share a grammar school in the shadow of a Serbian Orthodox church, they also share a playground with a 24-hour patrimonial site guard detail. They share their games, practice their language with and partake in an occasional MRE with the soldiers of 2-63 Armor Battalion.

“All the kids come here,” said Visar Marku, who has graduated to the local middle school but frequently returns to the Binac schoolyard when his classes end for the day.

They come to see the soldiers; even hours after classes are released for the day. The situation in Binac is more the norm rather than the exception. Everywhere kids know they can find soldiers, they are bound to show up in numbers.

“It is kind of cool, all the kids that come up here,” said Pvt. Charles Kopinski. “We pretty much see the same ones every day, so we get to know a lot of their names. They know our names, and other soldier’s names.”

Roarke said it gives him a better perspective on the culture here.

“We interact with them, see how they live,” he said.

You could call the children a reminder of life in the rear, a diversion from long shifts that alternate between staring at an empty building and warming up in a humvee. Representatives of the international community like to call them “the future of Kosovo.”

“These kids kind of make it easier,” Kopinski said.

“Yeah, they do,” said Roarke. “Most days, we don’t even see adults except for the church’s caretaker and the schoolmaster.”

Mario Gjergji raps on a window of humvee. From inside, Roarke stares him down.

“Oh, you can tell he’s upset about something today,” Roman said.



From left, Allen Marku, Bernard Giorgji, and Lucian Marku watch Pvt. Charles Kopinski, a tank crew member for Company A, 2-63, try his hand at a game of marbles outside a fixed guard site in Binac, March 26.

But a few minutes later, Gjergji is seated on the grammar school steps, chatting amiably with the soldiers in English slang.

“Sometimes they come to hang out, sometimes they come to talk trash,” Roman said.

While they acknowledged they are an enduring fascination for the younger generation, none of the soldiers understands the nature of that appeal.

“I used to ask them that all the time,” Roarke said. “And they never really gave me an answer.”

Today, a group of them were crouched in front of the grill of the humvee giving Kopinski an impromptu lesson on how to play marbles.

Bernard Giorgji demonstrated, narrowing his eyes and fogging the glass cat’s eye bead with his breath before flicking it towards his opponent’s marble. Kopinski repeated the sequence, winning a series of congratulatory nods and words from Allen Marku.

“Evidently, I’m good,” Kopinski said, smiling.

But what prompted the group to take Kopinski under its wing? Was it the uniforms? Novelty? Curiosity? Attention?

“I think they feel safer,” Roarke said.

Marku put it this way: “They are good guys, they are good for us. The soldiers discipline the kids. They say ‘don’t make trouble’ with the other kids, not to fight. Every kid who comes here says they are good soldiers. They don’t make trouble.”

“We don’t want trouble. We come to play soccer,” he continued. “We don’t want fighting in Kosovo.”



(Left) 1st Lt. Rageena Bradeen, Company B, 2-1 Aviation

Below left, Chief Warrant Officer Laticia Peterson and Pfc. Bridget Santiago, both with 101st Military Intelligence



Top, Sgt. Luis Santiago and Sgt. Jonathan Callahan, both with 601st Aviation Support Battalion



Flying High

Soldiers return to Kosovo in style

Photos by Sgt. Jerome Story
Personnel Service NCO, Task Force Dragon, S1

On their trip back to Kosovo after two weeks of R&R, this group of U.S. soldiers endured the usual mix of travel snafus. The journey – which began with a 3 a.m. wake-up at the 64th Replacement Company in Rhein-Main, Germany – ended 22 hours later at Camp Bondsteel.

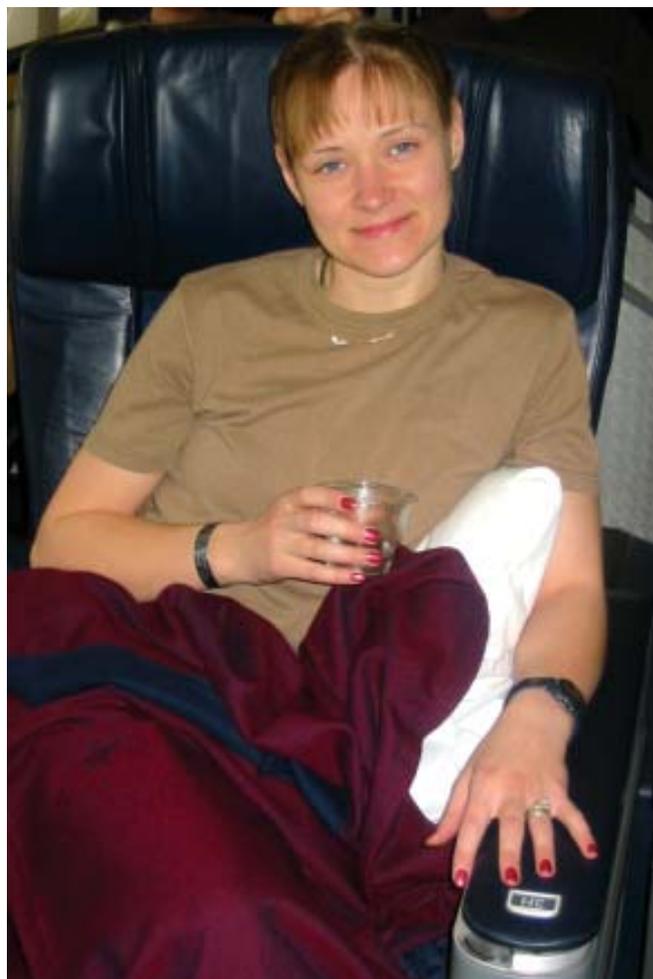
The soldiers adapted to the long layover by resting on

benches in the terminal and stretching out on the airplane.

For many, their patience was rewarded with an upgrade to first class. This photo essay is courtesy of Sgt. Jerome Story, a member of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion, Task Force Dragon, Camp Bondsteel.



Sgt. Shavonne Walker, of 38th Personnel Support Battalion



Cpl. Stacie Kloiber, Task Force Dragon



From left, Ardden Avdylli, Nuhi Ramadani, Bejthusa Qosa, Bashkim Emerllahu, and Fatmir Quosa of the Kosovo Protection Corp's Protection Brigade 3, Detachment 63, based in Vitina, review notes during a lecture on identifying unexploded ordnance, March 4.

2-63 fosters progress of KPC

Story and photos by Spc. Catherine Caruso

VITINA, Kosovo—The members of the Kosovo Protection Corps wear uniforms, work out of barracks, and include many former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army in their ranks.

And when troops from Protection Brigade Three's "partnership unit" roll in the gate, they have a tendency to salute.

"I wish they wouldn't do that," said Sgt. Maj. Reginald Frails.

Each Monday, Frails and his soldiers from the 2-63 Armor Battalion roll into the KPC barracks in Vitina to give non-combat training in skills like emergency first aid, map reading, and today's topic: recognizing and avoiding explosive ordnance.

The KPC is not a military organization. Rather, the group of war veterans mixed with fresh recruits has taken on a mission focused on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. They are learning how to work through municipalities to help the people of Kosovo.

The history of the KPC is, in a way, the history of Kosovo. After the Military Technical Agreement was negotiated to mark the end of the ethnic hostilities, the diplomatic community turned its attention to the men and women who fought the ground war in the province.

"After they ended hostilities, what were they going to do? You can't have a rebel force once hostilities have ended," explained Capt. Eric Winterrowd, a member of the Joint

Implementation Commission, which oversees KPC training and development.

From that dilemma came a document known as "The Undertaking."

It sounds like an action movie, but it's just a few pieces of paper, signed on June 20, 1999, 11 days after the war ended and 10 days after the passage of the United Nations Security Resolution 1244.

The Undertaking of Demilitarization and Transformation of the UCK (the Albanian abbreviation for the KLA) is an agreement by the KLA leadership to disarm and transform into a peacetime organization.

"We are prepared to help the citizens in case of a humanitarian catastrophe," said Ahmet Vishi, commander of KPC Protection Brigade 3.

So far, that has included demining, flood control, clearing snow blocked mountain roads and search and rescue operations.

Their expertise includes a familiarity with one particular local threat, unexploded ordnance.

During a slide presentation on cluster bombs, a KPC corpsman in the back recognizes the submunitions.

"Those yellow ones, those are bad stuff," he said. "I deactivated one of those once."

"Deactivated?" asked another member, shaking his head in disbelief. "Don't you mean detonated?"

The story goes that the corpsman disarmed it by shooting it with a round from his AK-47 from a distance that was apparently too close for comfort when the bomblet detonated.

What about courage under fire? They've got that covered too. Some members of Protection Brigade 3 recognized a group of rocket-propelled munitions as the same ones the Yugoslav Army or VSCG forces used on them during the war.

Fortunately, said one member, the opposing forces were occasionally in such a hurry they forgot to arm the fuse. And on soft ground, they don't always hit with enough force to detonate.

"It's a little intimidating," said Sgt 1st Class Roman Gueits. "In this case they know more about some of this than I do."

The KPC's first real test as a humanitarian organization was last year's earthquake in Gnjilane, most KFOR observers and KPC members agreed.

"The municipal governments and the KPC were formed around the same time," Winterrowd said.

By responding quickly and establishing a command and control center to coordinate emergency operations, "They really proved their validity as a civil institution," Winterrowd said.

Organized much like a volunteer fire department, with a mix of active and reserve members trained in emergency response, the KPC models itself similarly to the U.S. National Guard.

Unlike the National Guard, the 5,000 members don't serve in a security function (a role formally given to KFOR in the agreement). However, they are on call to respond to emergencies at the request of their municipal governments.

They also assist in some of the post-war rebuilding. Last year, the KPC engineering detachment helped upgrade and widen several roads linked to a KFOR supply route.

Recently, the KPC also has taken steps to rebuild the key infrastructure.

It is working to encourage minority applicants. The KLA was seen primarily as an Albanian organization. The KPC has a multi-ethnic mandate and eventually, the KPC hopes to achieve at least a 10 percent minority membership.

"We fought against a very criminal regime," said KPC member Agim Beqiri. "Before, it was war. Now it's peace. Now all the people in Kosovo should be working together to make peace."

Currently, Protection Brigade 3 consists of 19 active corps members and 36 reservists. It includes three Serb members, two Croatians and a Bosniak, making it the most diverse KPC unit in Kosovo. While slots for Albanian members are filled, Vishi said they accept interns who attend training without pay.

Those who are paid are not paid much. When Srdjan Rakic insisted he joined for the money, it was hard to believe. Depending on rank, the monthly wage ranges from 88 euros to 344 euros.

"Well, it's enough for me," he said, smiling.



From left, Sgt. Maj. Reginald Frails (sitting) looks on as Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Gueits gives a class on identifying unexploded ordnance to members of the Kosovo Protection Corps' Brigade 3, Detachment 63, in Vitina, March 4. To the right, interpreter Naman Osmani translates.

It takes more motivation for Rakic to be part of the KPC as one of the three Serbs in his brigade.

"They've had some problems from other Serbs, because a lot of them buy into Albanian propaganda that the KPC is the future army of an independent Kosovo (which many Serbs do not support)," Winterrowd said.

Still, within the KPC itself, Winterrowd said the units seem to form cohesive, interethnic groups.

They say hello to each other out of uniform, and work in each other's communities.

"I think they do interact," Winterrowd said.

"Like you soldiers, we are patriots," said Beqiri. "We are here for all the people, regardless of background. We are here for everyone who lives in Kosovo."

Peacekeeper profile



Herbert C. Carr

Age: 30

Rank: Staff Sgt.

MOS: 19K, Tank Commander

Unit: 2-63 Armor Bn.

Camp: Magrath

Hometown: Clinton, Okla.

Why did you join the Army? To establish a foundation for later on in life

What are you good at doing? Stay in contact with family. Attend college courses. Pay attention to detail, if out in sector and ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings.

1st MPs facilitate transfer of authority

Story and photo by Master Sgt. John Barr

KAMENICA, Kosovo – It's not quite like a scene out of "NYPD Blue," but it's typical of a police precinct office in Multi-National Brigade (East), tucked away in the municipal building in Kamenica.

The Kamenica substation is a busy place where the business of public service is carried out seven days a week.

Here, the 1st Military Police Company, attached to the 2-2 Infantry Battalion at Camp Monteith, has been working in concert with the Kosovo Police Service, UNMIK-Police and the Russian 13th Tactical Group to facilitate the process of transition to civil authority.

"Our work here is partly to make sure information gets passed between the KPS and the MNB(E) including the Russian 13th Tactical Group, about investigations and incidents that are outside of the day-to-day civil matters," said 1st. Lt. Kevin Stearns, 2nd platoon leader and liaison officer.

The Kamenica Municipality has made great strides since the end of the war as evidenced by the multiethnic market held on Fridays and the numbers of Serbian families who have returned to rebuild their homes, according to Capt. Michael Cousineau, a member of Team 5, 415th Civil Affairs Group.

"The neighborhood in the northwest part of Kamenica was mostly Serbian, and now is once again," Cousineau said. "There's maybe half the population back and the town has done well."

As a whole, the local Serbian and Albanian populations are working together, Cousineau added.

Handing off responsibilities to the civil authorities and KPS is encouraged more and more now. The 1st MPs, meanwhile, take on more of a monitoring role, staying keyed in to daily reports and developing cases.

"We get out and talk to lots of people everyday," said



The 1st Military Police Company prepares to depart the Kamenica sub-station for a recent presence patrol.

Spc. Michael Willett, of 2nd Platoon. "On walking patrols, we ask what they think of KFOR."

"I'll never forget one man's answer," Willett recalled. "He said '...After God it's KFOR.'"

Spc. Joseph Hall, working the desk at the substation said, "We have walk-ins who come and want to speak to KFOR and not the KPS. We find out what they have and then get them to the right people."

The objective, said Spc. William Ristau, is to direct their questions to the KPS as a way of encouraging the process of transition. That can be a challenge, said others. Many citizens still believe that when and if KFOR departs Kosovo, the conflict will start up again.

"Out there in the villages we see more cooperation in the community, but there's a ways to go yet," Ristau said. "All the people treat us the same, with respect, friendship, and accept us being here."

The idea of KFOR departing, especially U.S. KFOR is heartbreaking to some citizens.

"You know, the people of Kosovo have many times needed help and asked for it, but no one ever came, until this time," said one man, a college history major. "We called for help, and the Americans and KFOR came."

Being an MP with 2-2 Inf. in MNB(E) has provided much more than on the job training, the MPs said. The experiences of seeing families and communities struggle to move forward has left a lasting impression.

"It becomes a privilege to be in a position to help and see the gratitude," Hall said. "It has made me think about all I have back home and to be grateful for it and not just take it for granted."

Added Willett, "There is no way people back home could comprehend what we're talking about unless they were here to see it."

What they would see are young men maturing into exemplary soldiers, and a community grateful for their help and patience.

Peacekeeper profile



Jean Poitevien

Age: 38

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer

MOS: Civil Affairs Officer

Unit: 4th CAG

Camp: Monteith

Hometown: Brooklyn, N.Y.

What are you good at? Negotiations.

What advice would you give soldiers here? Keep an open mind.

1st MP soldier sets example with generosity and dedication

Story and photo by Master Sgt. John Barr

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – In just her second year as a soldier, Pfc. Lacey Faupel has already made a lasting impression.

Earlier this year, Faupel, a member of the 1st Military Police Company based at Camp Monteith with the 2-2 Infantry Battalion, coordinated a donation of children's clothes and toys donated by her family back in Carona, Calif. to a preschool in Kamenica.

"Once I saw how things were here in Kosovo and how some of the people have so little and the things they need, I told my family back home about the situation," Faupel recalled.

It was an act of kindness and one of many examples of Faupel going above and beyond since she began her deployment in Multi-National Brigade (East). Certainly she is not the only soldier making a difference in Kosovo, but Faupel's blend of professionalism, generosity and solid work ethic is noteworthy.

"Faupel is definitely one of the hardest working soldiers on my team," said Sgt. Joe Gomez, her squad leader. "She is very down to earth, giving and good at communicating. She does very well at public relations with the locals and she is one heck of a soldier. She sets the example for other soldiers around her and I am very glad she is a part of my team."

Faupel chose the military police as a specialty because of her interest in helping people.

"I like going out on patrols and meeting and talking with the people as we do interviews everywhere we go," she said.

Faupel is also taking college courses, which may lead to future work in the field of psychology, she said.

"I'm just getting those basic courses behind me before I decide what I really want to study," she explained. "I'll be 24 when I ETS, but my friends say I have 'LIFER' on my forehead."

Patrolling at night brings an added challenge, but Faupel sees her primary mission as a necessity in Kosovo.

"You can't help but see all the needs," she said.

That kind of attitude has impressed her fellow MPs.

"She is very caring and outgoing," said Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Williams, operations sergeant for the 1st MP Co. "She shows candor and commitment."

Added Sgt. 1st Class Michael Frazier, her platoon



Sgt. Robert O'Haver, of the 415th Civil Affairs Group, shakes hands with Fatime Keci, assistant director of the Filizat Kindergarten in Kamenica last week. Pfc. Lacey Faupel, of the 1st MP Co., looks on with Patrick Shehu, a translator.

sergeant, "She is a hard worker. She is always there to do what needs to be done."

What she did for the children of Filizat Kindergarten was make their day, something that seems to come natural for Faupel.

Peacekeeper profile



Guillermo Fonseca

Age: 27

Rank: Staff Sgt.

Job: Force Protection

Unit: HHC, 2-63 Armor Bn.

Camp: Magrath

Hometown: Bethlehem, Pa.

Why did you join the Army? I did my four years in the Marines so I wanted to give another branch a try.

What advice would you give soldiers here? Keep close ties with the loved ones, wives, parents and children.

Scenes of Kosovo



A mother and child ride a tractor into central Binac to shop.

Photo by Spc. Catherine Caruso