

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

# Guardian East

Volume 7, Issue 9

September 4, 2002

## Every day is training day

**EFMB**

**ONLY THE  
STRONG  
SURVIVE**

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tests the best  
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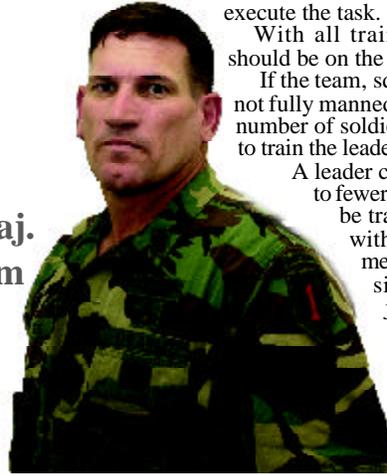
**Blue Spaders take  
on assault course  
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## BEHIND THE LINES

# Training the force

Command Sgt. Maj.  
Ralph R. Beam



the teams, squads and sections to get more reps out of the lane. Repetition works best. The crawl/walk/run method is used to teach, train and execute the task.

With all training, the focus should be on the leaders' actions.

If the team, squad or section is not fully manned put the required number of soldiers in the section to train the leader.

A leader can always adjust to fewer soldiers but must be trained to function with a full complement of soldiers. Besides the soldier just gets more reps.

You can always tell what a leader has trained his or her soldiers to do by the soldiers actions.

We just completed the train-up and execution of the Expert Field Medical Badge. The EFMB graduates are a result of hard work by the candidates, as well as the NCOs who prepared them for the test.

The infantry battalions are preparing to conduct their Expert Infantry Badge test. As with the EFMB, the key to success will be our leaders training to the standard, and then enforcing the standard on each event.

We have a great opportunity to return to our home station fully trained at our peacekeeping METL, while still maintaining a higher-than-expected level for our wartime METL.

Brig. Gen. Lute and Col. Dragon can give us the needed resources, but you control the time to execute.

Most important of all is not to waste time. We won't have to tell anyone how well we are trained; they will see it in our actions.

Maintain the standards, be safe and have fun doing it.

### TRAINING IS KEY TO SUCCESS FOR EVERY UNIT, SOLDIER

You can tell that we are over half-way through the mission by a couple of actions: Since we arrived in Kosovo three months ago, we have worked hard to achieve a balance: maintain a safe and secure environment *and* reinforce our warfighting skills through tough, realistic training. We have trained hard and have been hitting the ranges with a vengeance.

Second, We are hitting the ranges again with a vengeance.

As we return to training that supports our wartime mission, I feel we need to keep a few points in mind.

Whatever we decide as a unit to train, keep it simple. It is better to be great at 3 or 4 tasks than mediocre at 10.

Select the smaller number of tasks that can be used as building blocks for other tasks down the road. Our leaders and soldiers are smarter and better trained than we think.

Do a tactical exercise without troops with the leaders to ensure the task and purpose are understood, and review notes from the last time we executed the task to pick up where we left off. Resource the

events with all needed equipment, personnel and manuals. If it is a platoon event, the company should support and run the range. If it is a company event then the battalion should be supporting it.

This is a good way to get Tactical Operations Centers trained up at the same time. We should spend as much time on teams, squads and sections as we can.

Again, maintain clear objectives focused on task and purpose with strict adherence to the standards.

If a battle drill were being trained, reducing the length of the lane would cause

### Peacekeeper Warfighter



By Spc. Eric C. Martin, HHC 1-26 Inf.

### Cover:

Capt. Ken Koyle, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, carries a mock casualty litter at the litter obstacle course for the Expert Field Medical Badge at Camp Bondsteel. Koyle was one of two distinguished honor graduates for the EFMB.

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## Guardian East

Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute

Maj. Gordon Cooper

1st Lt. Dave Williams

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Maj. Mark Ballesteros

Capt. Dave Domingo

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# All for the spurs

## ELITE TROOP CHALLENGES SOLDIERS TO TEST THEIR ABSOLUTE LIMITS

It was 2 a.m. on a strangely cold August night. While most soldiers at Camp Bondsteel were sleeping in their bunks, 76 hearty soldiers geared up for the 12-hour gauntlet that was the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Spur Ride.

Since its first military action, a peacekeeping mission in “Bleeding Kansas” in 1856, to its current peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, the 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry has built an enduring record of service, and they’ve done it with spurs on.

“Not every soldier can wear spurs,” said Chief Warrant

Officer Matt V. Fitter, pilot, aviation safety officer for E Troop, 1-4 Cavalry, and spur ride facilitator. “Some may say they don’t care about cavalry tradition or wearing Stetsons and spurs, however, I wager that deep down they wish they could,” Fitter said. “We are part of an organization that thrives on being set apart, and yet we are a more cohesive team as a result. Special Forces and Rangers have their tabs and berets; we have our Stetsons and spurs.”

Ride facilitators, decked out in sharp, black Stetsons and silver spurs, chided the eager candidates with the zeal of a thousand drill sergeants.

“They might try to make me quit, but I won’t. I didn’t come here to fail,” said Sgt. Joseph Smith, a gunner and combat observation lasing team chief with E Troop, which constitutes the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop for Multi-National Brigade (East).

To earn the coveted spurs, a candidate must be a team player, said Spc. Seth Wietig, Kiowa helicopter mechanic chief with 1-4 Cavalry and a ride facilitator. “He has to be proficient at his job, and technically and tactically capable in everything he does.”



Females can earn spurs.

“It was hard as hell, but I did it,” said Staff Sgt. Teresa R. Purifoy, of her spur ride experience. Purifoy, a platoon sergeant with F Troop, 1-4 Cavalry, was also a ride facilitator.

“The biggest challenge is staying motivated,” she said. “You must refuse to quit.” Officially, candidates must excel during three phases to earn spurs.

Phase I is meeting the eligibility standards. If soldiers are leaders, attain high Army Physical Fitness Test scores, qualify as sharpshooters or better and earn their commander’s endorsement, they might advance to Phase II. During this phase, soldiers must score 80 percent or higher on a 100-question timed, written exam. The questions are drawn from 14 subjects, ranging from cavalry operations to fire support to

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]



Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

By Spc. Kate Mclsaac

# Back to school

## U.K. SEARCH SCHOOL PROVIDES INVALUABLE TRAINING TO SOLDIERS

Armed with more than 30 years of experience dealing with terrorists in Northern Ireland, the U.K.’s National Search Centre brought new techniques to soldiers of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East).

For two weeks, trainers from the All Arms Search Team taught infantrymen, tankers and MPs how to search for hidden weapons, explosives, ammunition or any other contraband.

“The techniques they teach aren’t that different, but to combine them with what we already know will make us more effective and better trained,” said Sgt. Robert Taylor, of the 127<sup>th</sup> MP Company, part of Task Force 709<sup>th</sup> MP, stationed at Camp Monteith.

The AAST is from the National Search Centre in the U.K., where hundreds of teams from armies around the

world come to learn about anti-terrorism training.

The training team made special arrangements with the U.S. Army and MNB(E) to come to Kosovo and do hands-on training. After lectures, classroom training and simulations, the soldiers were ready to test their techniques in a variety of locations in the MNB(E) area of responsibility.

“They were training while doing their job,” said Capt. Chris Simpson, assistant brigade engineer for MNB(E). “It was an excellent opportunity for them to learn.”

British soldiers and the U.S. soldiers had a unique opportunity to train while maintaining a safe and secure environment, Simpson said.

The AAST course teaches techniques of setting up a security cordon and conducting vehicle, buildings, route

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 9]



Photo by Spc. Kate Mclsaac

Sgt. Nicholas Fontaine of Task Force 709<sup>th</sup> Military Police directs his dog, a Belgian Malinois, Michael to search a vehicle’s engine compartment. Soldiers from Task Force 1-26 Infantry and TF 709<sup>th</sup> MP conducted searches in Multi-National Brigade (East). More than 30 soldiers from different U.S. battalions participated in a two-week training course with the U.K.

# Quick reaction

## 101ST MI COMBAT LIFESAVER REACTS QUICKLY TO MEDICAL EMERGENCY

When a civilian motorcyclist crashed in Urosevac July 24, Sgt. Josep Aaron Sprague, a member of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion human intelligence team, knew what to do. Sprague is a combat lifesaver.

A combat lifesaver is a non-medical soldier trained to provide immediate emergency care when the tactical situation permits.

"We as medics are spread thinly," said Staff Sgt. Juan Hickson, noncommissioned officer in charge, of the emergency treatment center, in Task Force Medical Falcon. Because medics are not always immediately available, combat lifesavers are depended on to provide immediate first aid until appropriate medical personnel are available, Hickson said.

Sprague and other members of his team were traveling in a convoy after completing a mission when they witnessed the accident. A tractor pulled out onto the road, and a motorcyclist swerved to avoid slamming into it. The motorcyclist plunged into a 12-foot trench before crashing. The convoy stopped and soldiers took control of the situation.

Some soldiers provided security while others directed traffic. Sprague grabbed his combat lifesaver bag and climbed into the ditch. After cleaning and bandaging the injured man's wounds, and determining he had no broken bones, Sprague pulled him out of the ditch with the help of Spc. Jacob Copenhaver, another member of the HUMINT team.

"He was in bad shape physically and emotionally," said Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy Goodale, HUMINT team leader. "Chunks of his skin were gone, and he was bleeding. That's something we don't

run into. We aren't in the medical field, but Sprague was confident and reacted quickly."

"Emotions typically run high in medical emergencies," said Capt. Richard Sexton M.D., flight surgeon with Task Force Eagle. "A person trained in basic lifesaving procedures is more likely to retain their composure under the stress of a medical emergency, enabling them to aid the victim more effectively."

Sexton is board-certified in emergency medicine and will teach three different emergency medical service classes beginning Aug. 19, for the University of Maryland at the Camp Bondsteel education center.

A soldier's duties include being ready, willing, and able to provide basic first aid to people in need, said Sprague, 22, of Baytown, Texas.

"Soldiers should take the Combat Lifesaver Course," Sprague said. "It's a good course and it can't hurt you. It might even give you confidence in other things."

"Basic lifesaving skills are relatively easy to master, and can literally enable someone to help save a life. You never know when the need to use those skills might arise," Sexton said.

The injured man was able to leave the scene on his own to seek further medical treatment. For his efforts, Sprague was awarded the Army Achievement Medal Aug. 6.



Sgt. Josep Aaron Sprague, a member of the human intelligence team in the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion, was awarded the Army Achievement Medal Aug. 6 for providing emergency first aid to an injured civilian motorcyclist in Urosevac July 24.



### Peacekeeper

profile

**name:** Steven R. Jerles

**age:** 46

**rank:** Major

**mos:** 56A—Chaplain

**unit:** BSB Camp Able Sentry Chapel

**hometown:** Hamilton, Oh

**What is role in MNB(E)?** I am a chaplain to all soldiers at Camp Able Sentry providing worship and personal support.

**What do you like most about your job?** I like helping soldiers and conducting worship and Bible studies.

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## Ukrainian Independence Day



Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Van Leer

Members of POLUKRBAT march their unit flag into position during Ukraine Independence Day activities at Brezovica on Aug. 24. Ukraine is celebrating the 11th anniversary of its independence. Before Ukraine became independent, it was a part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. "We are proud that we have our own country," said 2nd Lt. Taras Tymchak, a member of the POLUKRBAT.



Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaac

Staff Sgt. Albert West, a section chief in Bravo Battery 1-7 Field Artillery, prepares his soldiers to calibrate the M109A6 Paladin Aug. 23. B/1-7 FA provided artillery during a combined live fire exercise with soldiers from Task Force 1-26th Infantry at Falcon 4 range from the top of Radar Hill at Camp Bondsteel, Aug. 24. 1-7 FA regularly conduct live fire exercise to maintain warfighting skills.

## Well-rounded soldiers

### 1-7 FA MAKES TRAINING TOP PRIORITY IN KOSOVO

The soldiers of 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, aren't just completing their peacekeeping mission in Kosovo; they are also one of the most active training battalions in MNB(E), ac-

ording to battalion commander Lt. Col. Gerald Galloway.

In addition to the diverse missions that keep the soldiers spread throughout MNB(E), 1-7 FA has fired hundreds of 155 mm rounds in support of Bright Skies, which is artillery fired illumination in support of other missions. The battalion has also fired more than 300 rounds in support of other combined training exercises at live fire range Falcon 4. The training is essential to maintaining warfighting skills, Galloway said.

"Very simply, the role of our Army is to be prepared to fight and win our nation's wars," he said. "We must maintain our warfighting skill, because you don't always have the luxury of knowing when you will be called."

Most recently, on a rainy Saturday afternoon, Battery B 1-7 FA, moved its Paladins

into position on top of Radar Hill. As the guns fired rounds in support of a combined live fire exercise with Task Force 1-26 Infantry, battery commander Capt. Joe Metayer yelled out: "God, I love my job!"



It's that kind of passion for combat arms that has the soldiers in TF 1-7 FA 'fired up.'

On missions like Bright Skies and combined fire exercises, soldiers get to perfect a skill that requires science, technology and accurate, well-trained operators, Metayer said.

Conducting training is a key part to 1-7 FA's success in Kosovo, Galloway said.

"Our key tasks include providing accurate, responsive and continuous fire support across the MNB(E) area of responsibility to ensure full compliance with the MTA and UNSCR 1244," he said.

"We are here to maintain the capability to provide fires 24/7."

In addition to other missions that task soldiers out into all regions of MNB(E), soldiers from 1-7 FA are required to sustain warfighting proficiency.

"We must especially maintain proficiency in gunnery and fire support," Galloway said.

"It is vital that we sustain our combat capability and set the condition for the rapid re-integration of full combat proficiency."



### Peacekeeper profile

name: Scott Kreick  
 age: 24  
 rank: Pfc.  
 mos: 12B Combat engineer  
 unit: B 54th Eng.  
 hometown: Bellingham, Wash.

What is your role in MNB(E)? I conduct mounted and dismounted patrols and traffic control checkpoints.

What is the best part about your job? I like the places I have been and people I see.

# Expert Field M



LEFT: Soldiers from Task Force 1-18 Infantry drag a litter through sand and underneath barbed wire at the litter obstacle course, a lane needed to pass EFMB.

RIGHT: Expert Field Medical Badge candidate Sgt. James Snell, 9th Engineers Battalion, plots his points for the day land navigation test for the EFMB. Soldiers had to find three out of four points in less than three hours in order to pass this portion.

## MEDICAL PERSONNEL SHED BLOOD, SWEAT, TEARS IN PURSUIT OF BADGE

Photos and story by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb



Lt. Alex Sanders, 1-77th Armor, gives Pvt. Seth Brown, C 1-18th Inf. an IV.

CAMPBONDSTEEL—“The Expert Field Medical Badge is a coveted badge where it shows the epitome of the medical soldier,” said Sgt. Maj. Craig Layton, Task Force Medical Falcon.

“It’s just one sign that at one point in their career that they have met all the standards and the conditions that are set for a medical company.”

In late August, the EFMB was made available to soldiers in Kosovo for the first time in a six-day trial that tested the knowledge and physical endurance of soldiers in the medical field. To aid soldiers in preparation for the extensive testing, units began training and preparing their soldiers as early as May.

“We’ve done everything that’s required of the EFMB for the soldier to be totally prepared for this mission and this challenge that they will encounter,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Snype, detachment NCOIC for C Company, 299th Forward Support Battalion.

The first part of EFMB was a graded exam that focused on common knowledge in the medical field. Soldiers needed to pass with a 75 percent grade or better before they continued on to the day and night land navigation testing.

“Land navigation is one of those skills

that can deteriorate if you don’t practice it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph W. Blowe of 1st Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment, land navigation course NCOIC, “They’ve (the soldiers) had four or five weeks to get used to the course and learn the lay of the land.”

The next four days had individual lanes where alternating platoons were tested on battlefield survival, communication, evacuation of the sick and wounded, emergency medical treatment and a litter obstacle course.

The battlefield survival lane had soldiers demonstrate their skills in a nuclear, biological and chemical environment and in combat situations with their weapons.

“This is one of the lanes that does not have a high failure rate, but it’ll get you if you’re not prepared for it,” said Staff Sgt. Benny Reeve of 299th Logistics Task Force, survival lane NCOIC.

Soldiers used a series of manual carries and vehicles during evacuation of the wounded and sent a proper nine-line MEDEVAC. To simulate a war environment, audio from movies like “Hamburger Hill” and “Black Hawk Down” blared on speakers.

“Every time you finish one thing, you’re happy for a few seconds and then you have to immediately shift gears and focus on the

# Medical Badge



TOP: Sgt. Christina Campbell of Task Force Medical Falcon applies camouflage. BELOW: From left, Brig. Gen Elder Granger, the Europe Regional Medical commander, motivates Staff Sgt. Jose Nuques of TFMF across the finish line of the final task, a 12-mile ruck march, Lt. Col. Wayne Grigsby, commander Task Force 1-26th Infantry.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sandra Watkins-Keough

next task," said Capt. Ken Koyle, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

During the emergency medical treatment lane, soldiers had as many as five mock casualties at once who had simulated wounds ranging from head injuries to severed legs. The focus was to treat the casualties in the correct order of injury.

"In order to get through, you just have to take one day at a time, one task at a time, and don't give up," said Spc. Richard Sims, a licensed practical nurse in the intensive care unit in TFMF.

The litter obstacle course had four-person litter squads that navigated around low and high obstacles, rough ground, barbed wire and a trench while carrying a live role-playing casualty. Graders used bullhorns and pyrotechnics to add to the intensity.

"You incorporate incoming fire, small arms fire, smoke and general harassment from chaos," said Staff Sgt. Keith Niewenhius, a licensed practical nurse in the intensive care unit in TFMF and grader of the litter obstacle course. "They have to be thinking on their feet when they're moving."

By the time the 12-mile road march started – the final event - only 25 of the original 131 candidates were left in contention. All 25 successfully completed the course under the three-hour time limit.

"These soldiers have shown that they had the will, the heart, the desire and the physical conditioning to obtain that Expert Field Medical Badge," said Layton, "I am proud of each and every one of them."

## World

### Iraq vows to fight U.S. invasion

Iraq said on Friday the United States would not be able to topple President Saddam Hussein the same way it overthrew Afghanistan's Taliban, as Washington demanded Iraq disarm "now" and ruled out any talks. The United States ignored calls for a new U.N. Security Council resolution to approve any American military action against Iraq.

— Reuters

### U.S. defends policies at summit

The United States is defending its policies and trying to play up its role as the world's largest foreign donor as the World Summit examines ways to meet the planet's most basic needs. Thursday's session also saw a forceful — nearly angry — presentation by a dozen U.S. officials who responded to days of criticism that the Bush administration is not concerned with poor countries or the environment.

—Associated Press

### U.S. backs more peacekeepers

Pentagon officials who long opposed expanding the international security force in Afghanistan now say that enlarging it and placing its troops outside Kabul may help secure the country and allow American troops to leave sooner, senior Bush administration officials said today.

—The New York Times



### Peacekeeper profile

**name:** Jacek Koziol  
**age:** 28  
**rank:** Captain  
**unit:** POLUKRBAT  
**hometown:** Lodz, Poland

**What is your role in MNB(E)?** Liaison officer for Polish-Ukrainian Battalion.

**What do you like most about your job?** I like meeting many people from different countries.

## United States

### Ky. Little leaguers win World Series

Aaron Alvey homered and set two pitching records as Louisville, Ky., beat Sendai, Japan, 1-0 Aug. 25 to win the Little League World Series.

—Associated Press

### Baseball contract heads off strike

They saved a season and ended a streak by choosing to play rather than picket. With just hours to spare, baseball averted a strike Friday when negotiators pulled off a surprise by agreeing to a tentative labor contract.

—Associated Press

### Less labor day travel expected

32.7 million Americans plan to travel 50 miles or farther from home this Labor Day weekend — down from 33 million last year, according to the American Automobile Association.

"We think it's people's concern about their personal finances and the economy as a whole. Plus we're seeing an early start to the school year in parts of the country," said Mantill Williams, AAA's director of public affairs.

—Associated Press

## Military

### Pay information at your fingertips

The Office of the Secretary of Defense has a military compensation Web site at [militarypay.dtic.mil/pay/index.html](http://militarypay.dtic.mil/pay/index.html). The site explains the differences between pay and allowances and describes the intended purpose for the various allowances. For instance, the Basic Allowance for Subsistence is designed to offset the costs of a member's meals, but is "not intended to offset the costs of meals for family members."

—American Forces Press Services

### Servicemembers support war

Sailors and Marines in San Diego and nearby Camp Pendleton were glad to see Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld during his recent California visit and are proud to serve their country in the war against global terrorism.

The secretary visited Aug. 26-27 to thank service members for their support. After watching soldiers train at Fort Irwin's National Training Center early Aug. 26, Rumsfeld flew to San Diego for an afternoon briefing about new military equipment being developed by the Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center.

—American Forces Press Services

## KFOR

### Deported immigrant tries to divert plane

An ethnic Albanian who attacked a flight attendant on a flight from Germany to Kosovo wanted to divert the plane to avoid deportation, an airline official said Friday. Shaban Isufi, 28, was among some 50 other Kosovo Albanians ordered out of Germany by the government. While en route from Duesseldorf to Pristina, capital of Kosovo province, on a special Montenegro Airlines flight Thursday, he suddenly slipped a shoelace around the neck of attendant Irena Radonjic, 25. Fifteen security agents escorting the flight subdued Isufi, and the plane landed without further incident at Pristina airport.

—Associated Press

### Gunmen pin down peacekeepers

Unidentified gunmen shot at Serbian woodcutters then pinned down U.N. police and peacekeeping troops for two hours when they arrived on the scene in western Kosovo on Thursday, officials said. No one was injured in the firefight near the village of Gorazdevac in the Pec district, which comes under the command of Italian units in the multinational NATO led peacekeeping force, KFOR, they said.

—Reuters

### Ordnance seized

Soldiers of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) working with the Kosovo Police Service and UNMIK-Police, found several caches of ordnance Aug. 26 at a site between Korblic and Kacanik. Items found included 838 grenades, 430 grenade fuses, 12 mortar rounds and 11 propellant tubes used to boost rocket-propelled grenades.

— MNB(E) Press Release



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

# Blue Spaders assault course

## LIVE FIRE EXERCISE MAINTAINS HIGH TRAINING STANDARDS

Before the thick rear door of the Bradley fighting vehicle had fully descended, a canister spurting yellow smoke was launched from inside the vehicle out onto the ground.

Inside, four soldiers with Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment – Blue Spaders readied themselves like sprinters as the door lowered. Quickly, one soldier after the other ran out the back, eager to complete their seven-day combined arms live-fire exercise at the Falcon Range near Camp Bondsteel,

Kosovo. The training organized artillery, mortars, aviation and infantry elements into a cohesive fighting force.

“This training is important to maintain our war fighting skills in a High Intensity Conflict in addition to our peacekeeping operations,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Clayton Stanley, platoon leader in B/1-26. “Several months went into planning to get the land and time and then we worked it out at the company level.

“Not very often do you get to do dismounted and mounted maneuver with Bradleys and enter and clear a building firing live rounds in it (referring to the exercise). Our expectations are to better sync our fighting capability between mounted and dismounted assets.”

As the squads ran up the road toward the first plywood house constructed specifically for the urban assault exercise, the Bradleys fired red-tracer rounds at pop up targets beside the house from a hilltop. When the squad arrived at the house they quickly assessed the situation and entered firing

live rounds at targets placed inside. After the targets were neutralized the squad moved to the next house and repeated its previous assault.

After the exercise and after-action review, Pfc. Jose Lazala, a rifleman in B/1-26 saw room for improvement.

“You fight like you train,” he said as he rubbed at the camouflage face paint around his eyes. “We need to improve communication between elements and improve movement techniques.”

Pvt. Nathan Webster, SAW gunner in B/1-26, summed it up when he said, “We learned a lot - terrain association, squad movements, partnership between Bradleys and dismounts and assaulting objectives.”

“Overall, it was good training but we need to do it more often,” said Lazala.

The finale was the launching of twelve TOW antitank missiles (the acronym stands for Tube launched, Optically tracked and Wire guided) from two Bradleys. With the Bradleys stationed on top of the hill, white smoke rose from behind a series of targets on an adjacent hill approximately 1,700 meters away, partly obscuring them.

With only a slight pop that sounded like a cork from a bottle, the TOW missile rushed out of its container propelled by a red glow that hurled one after another toward the targets. The seven-day combined arms live-fire exercise concluded soon thereafter and the company packed up for Camp Monteith.



Photos by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Soldiers of Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment — Blue Spaders — execute a live-fire exercise in coordination with Bradley Fighting Vehicles providing cover fire at the Falcon4 Range. This iteration was the final run in a seven-day combined arms live-fire exercise.

## Soldiers learn new search techniques



Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaac

Soldiers from Task Force 1-26 Infantry and TF 709<sup>th</sup> Military Police conduct vehicle searches in Multi-National Brigade (East).

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3]

and person searches. The training proved invaluable in the first few days.

“I have done countless searches out near Camp Monteith since we got here, and we have found nothing,” Taylor said. “But the first day after our classes with the AAST, we found munitions and contraband. I don’t think that was the day everyone tried to pull a fast one. I think it just shows how necessary and helpful this training is.”

Cpl. Mac MacCarthy, a section leader and trainer with the National Search Centre, agreed that the training was valuable for the MNB(E) soldiers.

“Not all of what we are teaching them is new to them,” MacCarthy said. “They have done tons of searches before. But we bring some new techniques and new angles.

“They have learned a lot, at least that’s the response I get from the lads.”

More than 50 soldiers were chosen from different battalions in the MNB(E) to train in this course. Those soldiers are now tasked to teach other soldiers what they learned.

“I am a trained trainer now,” Taylor said. “I can go back to my unit and train teams to effectively conduct searches in the way I was taught here.”



## Spur Ride pushes participants to the edge and back

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3]

KFOR mission history. For some, this was the most grueling part.

"The test was so hard!" said Cpl. Lucas Ruch, an ammunition specialist in 1-4 Cavalry. "I didn't enjoy it, but I passed. The rest is just a matter of will."

The "rest" is Phase III, the 12-hour Spur Ride. No actual riding is involved, just miles of marching, no sleep and 14 lanes (events) such as crew served weapons disassembly, radio procedures and calling for medical evacuation. Soldiers tackle each event in teams of five or six.

The ride starts with an inspection. Facilitators check to see if candidates have packed everything on the packing list into their rucksacks. For every missing item, the cadre issued a rock weighing between 10 to 20 pounds.

"I got the heaviest T-shirt in Kosovo," said Spc. Wilbert Snyder, a scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company Task Force 1-18.

Snyder forgot to pack one brown t-shirt.

"When you go to combat, you need to have all your equipment ready," Fitter said. "If you don't have all your equipment you will, at some point, wish you did. (Issuing rocks for missing items) is a simple but effective lesson."

By noon the heat was sweltering.

Candidates were exhausted, but still determined, Purifoy said.

"It was tough rucking up radar hill, but they stayed motivated. They even sang cadence the last quarter-mile (of the spur ride.)"

Soldiers commemorated finishing the ride with a ceremonial dinner where each participant was fitted with spurs. MNB(E) commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, a spur-holder himself, tapped the shoulders of each new spur-holder with a sword, thus officially inducting them into the ancient, proud fraternity.

"As you get your spurs tonight, know that the skills you demonstrated today are as much in demand now as they were when this tradition started," Lute said.

"Whether he walks, rides or flies, he (a cavalry scout) represents the best sensor anyone can ever develop."



**TOP:** Spc. Wilbert Snyder, a scout in Headquarters and Headquarters Company Task Force 1-18 Infantry, puts a radio together during the 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry spur ride Aug. 18.

**ABOVE:** MNB(E) Commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute knights Spc. Edgar Recinos, a gunner, Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, thus signifying his induction into the brotherhood of the cavalry.

**LEFT:** The Spur Ride began with an inspection. Cadre members check to see if candidates have packed everything on the packing list into their rucksacks. For every missing item, the cadre issued a rock weighing 10 to 20 pounds.

Photos by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

# Live by faith

**‘FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR, AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE’**

A daughter asked the minister to pray with her father. The minister went and found the man bedridden. An empty chair was by the bed. The minister assumed the man knew he was coming. He said, “I guess you were expecting me.” “No, who are you?” said the father. “I’m the new minister at your church,” he replied. “When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was coming.” The man said, “Oh yeah, the chair. Would you mind closing the door?” Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

The man said, “I’ve never told anyone this, not even my daughter. But all my life I’ve never known how to pray. The pastor talked about prayer, but it went right over my head. I quit trying to pray until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, ‘Joe, prayer is simply having a conversation with Jesus. Why don’t you sit down; place an empty chair in front of you, and, in faith, see Jesus on the chair. It’s not spooky, because he promised he would always be with you. Then speak to him like you’re doing with me right now.’ So, I tried it, and I liked it so much I do it a couple hours every day. I’m careful, though. If my daughter saw me talking to a chair, she’d have a nervous breakdown or

send me to the funny farm.”

Deeply moved, the minister encouraged the man to keep praying like that. He prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

The daughter called two nights later to tell the minister her daddy had died. “Did he die in peace?” he asked. She said, “Yes, he died while I was away at the store. But something was strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?” Wiping tears from his eyes, the minister said, “I wish we all could go like that.”

What he did quietly in his room shows how he lived the last days of his life—live by faith! He lived by and died with faith in God. By faith, he prayed to the Lord who sat in the empty chair. By faith, he saw and talked with him. How about you? Do you have faith? By faith you know God exists. (Hebrews 11:6)

The Bible says, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Heb. 11:1) Faith in God enables us to overcome fear, knowing there is no problem in life we cannot face. God the Almighty will be with us and guide our steps.

What you need to do is to trust him and let him come into your life. He will stay with you forever. Then you can live by faith, rather than by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

May God’s peace be with you and your family!



**USARPUR SOLDIERS' CHORUS**

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
4 Sep 02	Camp Manteith Field House	2000
6 Sep 02	Film City Cinema	1900
7 Sep 02	Sector Sites!	Various
8 Sep 02	Camp Able Sentry B-Ball Court	2000

## Inspiration point

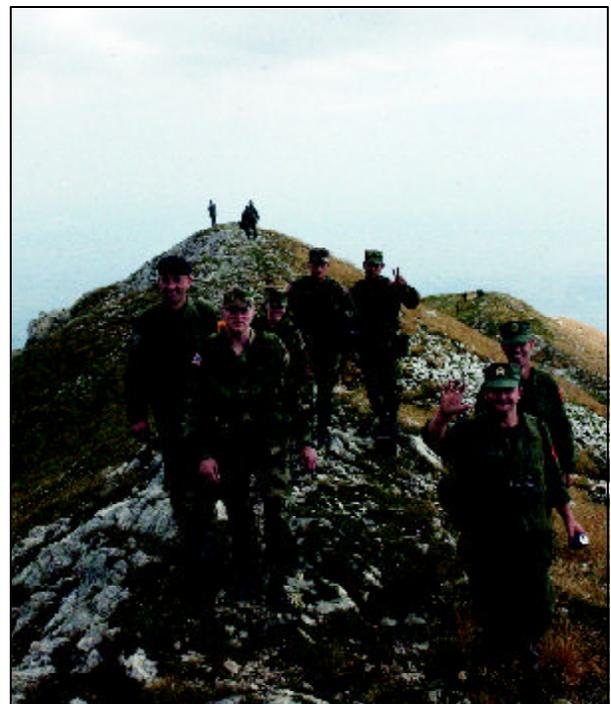


Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

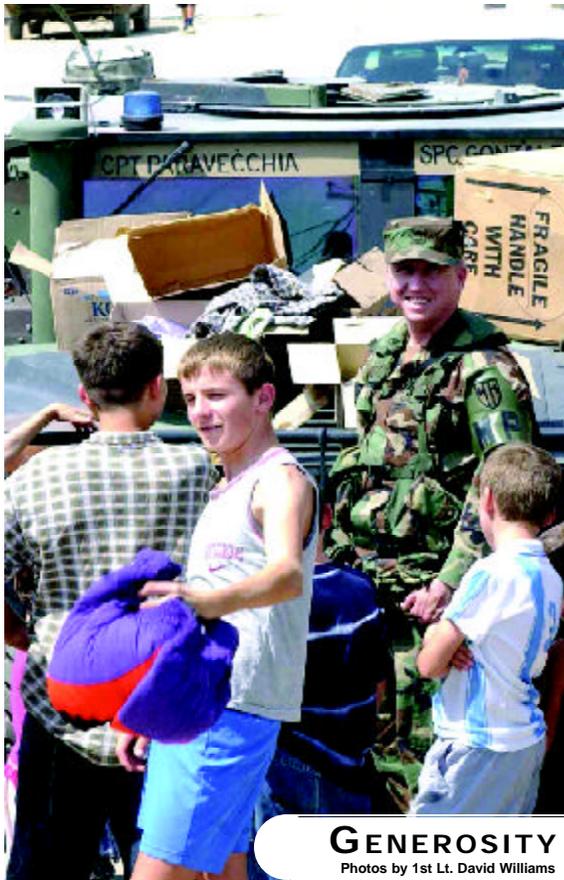
Members of the 299th Logistical Task Force and Kosovo Protective Corps endured a grueling hike up Mt. Luboten (called 'Big Duke' by U.S. soldiers) Aug. 22 as part of their weekly joint training. “We train with the KPC once a week” said Lt. Col. Steven W. Pate, commander of the 299th, “but today allowed us to do some physically demanding alternative training.”



## ASSAULT COURSE

Photo by 1st Lt. David Williams

From left, Spc. Nathan R. Clark and Spc. Jeffery M. Herling both of Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, conduct Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain training at Falcon 4 range near Camp Bondsteel Aug. 24.



## GENEROSITY

Photos by 1st Lt. David Williams



## COMBAT READY

Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

**ABOVE:** Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment — Blue Spaders — rehearse a combined live-fire exercise at a range near Camp Bondsteel Aug. 31. The exercise was part of on going live-fire training that helps soldiers maintain warfighting skills during the peacekeeping mission. See story page 9.

**LEFT:** Staff Sgt. Larry Bennett of 127th Military Police Company hands out clothes to ethnic Albanian and Serb children in Cernica Aug. 23. The clothes were donated by sponsors from 'adopt a soldier' and Bennet's own family.