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Guardian East

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October 9, 2002



EARNING
THE
EIB

page 6

Are you ready?

By Command Sgt. Maj.
Ralph R. Beam



Everyone attended a service on Sept. 11 to pay tribute to the first victims and heroes of what our president tells us will be a long war.

I am sure that as we attended the remembrance ceremonies, we all thought about where we were and what we were doing at the time this unthinkable event occurred.

For most Americans, an unseen enemy struck at institutions that represent the strength and power of the United States. This enemy had no face and used the freedom we help preserve every day to destroy the innocence in all of us.

I attended an NCO professional development session that night that made me think long and hard about my role in America's fight. What really caught my attention was the command sergeant major asking his NCOs, "Are you ready?" — and the loud reply: "HOOAH!"

As an American and a soldier, I knew this was to be expected.

What I really wasn't prepared for was the reaction as the talk proceeded. The focus of the talk narrowed to what we soldiers were doing to prepare for the long fight ahead. The "hooahs" got softer and softer.

Most of the soldiers in the audience began to realize that the talk was more than just a "rally 'round the flag" and was, in fact, a demand for readiness, a call to arms for America's warriors.

I flashed back to past conflicts where we have been called upon as soldiers and leaders. The saying "You are going as you are, and not as you want to be" rang loud and clear in my head. Now I ask: "Are you ready?" The words are easy to say but are also incredibly powerful.

So what can you do?

Maybe your role will be to work harder to ensure that you train your soldiers to do their job, molding the team you'll take to the next fight. As Gen George S. Patton Jr. said, "In case of doubt, push on

a little harder and keep on pushing."

Show resolve by not wasting time; train your soldiers to the standard in everything you do. Know what "right" looks like and don't settle for "almost right" or "90 percent." Your team will hit the ground running in the next fight; you need to be trained now.

So are you ready?

President Bush is asking us the same thing. Over and over, our leaders have told us to "be prepared for the long haul; this is a long war unlike any other we have fought." The division commander is telling us to be prepared for a shorter re-integration period. The question is *not* if the call to action will come, but *when* it will come.

As I sat and listened to one of our CSMs ask, "Are you ready?" I asked myself the same question. I hope everyone else in the audience did as well. Only you can answer that question for yourself and your team.

We here in Kosovo have been fortunate enough to be able to conduct training in a distraction-free atmosphere. The EFMB and EIB testing, squad and platoon STXs, "Bright Skies" and obstacle missions will go a long way to prepare our soldiers for the next fight.

The hardest task we as leaders face every day is how we use the time we are given to train our soldiers and ourselves in the skills needed to fight and win in our next conflict, and to then be prepared to fight again. We need to be ready.

Be safe, be alert, and enforce the standards as we train our soldiers to "be ready."

We are a call away from the next fight in what will inevitably prove to be a long war.

Beam is command sergeant major of Multi-National Brigade (East).

CORRECTIONS

- The parent unit of Company C, 1st Battalion 77th Armor Regiment was misidentified on page 4 and page 8 of the Oct. 2 issue. The company is part of Task Force 1-77 Armor.
- The parent unit of Company B, 54th Engineer Battalion was misidentified on Page 11 of the Oct. 2 issue. The company is part of Task Force 1-18 Infantry.

Guardian East will make every effort to correct errors in fact. To request a correction, contact the 302nd MPAD at DSN 781-5200 or send e-mail to guardianeast@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil.

- On page 8 of the Sept. 18 issue and page 8 of the Sept 25 issue, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was referred to by an incorrect name.
- On page 6 of the Oct. 2 issue, Camp Thunder was incorrectly listed as being near the FYROM border. Thunder is located near the Serbian Administrative Boundary Line.

On the cover: Photo by Spc. Patrick Rodriguez

Cpl. Jeff Mesenzoff of Company B, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, performs individual movement techniques on the "move under direct fire" lane at Camp Monteith Sept. 24 during Expert Infantry Badge testing.

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

Guardian East

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About Guardian East

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Russian counterparts

By Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

13TH TACTICAL GROUP KEEPS PEACE NEAR KAMENICA

KAMENICA— Like U.S. soldiers in Multi-National Brigade (East), soldiers from the Russian 13th Tactical Group have come to Kosovo in support of the peacekeeping mission. One of the bases the Russians have converted into a home away from home is the Nitex textile building. The building is a warehouse, near the city of Kamenica, Kosovo.

Camp Nitex, a transformed textile factory, is about five kilometers away from the group's primary base camp in Kamenica.

"We conduct patrols in our area of responsibility, provide security for schools, conduct a safe and secure environment during ceremonies such as weddings and funerals, and provide humanitarian relief," said Lt. Col. Nazmiev Airat, chief of staff for the 13th TG.

"We're here to conduct a peacekeeping mission," said Sgt. Aleksandr Spiridonov, a deputy platoon commander in 1st Airborne Company, 13th TG.

The soldiers' peacekeeping duties include bus escorts, plus mounted and dismounted patrols with American soldiers. Spiridonov said that although his English is not that good, he enjoys spending time and working with U.S. soldiers.

"Americans are interesting people," he said. "They're fun, and they like to talk. We (U.S. and Russia) are old friends. You have taught us a lot of things, and we have taught you a lot of

"YOU HAVE TAUGHT US A LOT OF THINGS, AND WE HAVE TAUGHT YOU A LOT OF THINGS."

SGT. ALEXANDR SPIRIDONOV
13TH TACTICAL GROUP SOLDIER

things."

In addition to his military responsibilities, Spiridonov is also in charge of physical training and, as a civilian, was a physical education teacher.

"We almost have the same PT (physical training) test. We do pull-ups, push-ups, dips and a timed run," Spiridonov said.

Every Saturday, troops get together to do a

full-gear road march. They wear helmets and body armor and carry weapons. The base camp has a sauna, an indoor soccer area and an exercise area with parallel bars and weights.

Russian troops are stationed in Kosovo for one-year rotations and have a choice where to take leave.

"We get to go home for two weeks, or we have the choice to go to a resort near the Black Sea in Bulgaria," Spiridonov said.

Spiridonov joined the Russian army three years ago and worked hard to earn the rank of deputy platoon commander.

"I just try to do my best," he said.



Photos by Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb

Staff Sgt. Aleksandr Mazanov a soldier in 13th Tactical Group (Russia), peeks out of a BTR.

Peacekeeper profile

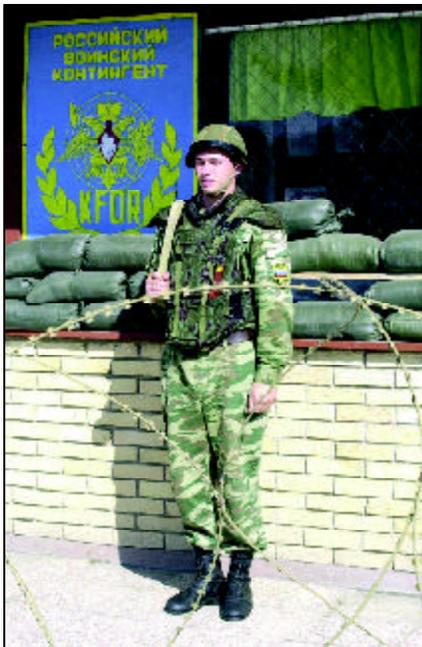


Yuri Cherevchenko
age: 39
rank: Maj.
specialty:
Training officer
unit: 13th
Tactical Group
(Russia)

What is your role in MNB(E)? I am a team chief during patrols and escorting missions. I provide special training for Russian soldiers.

Why did you join the Army? In 1980 people were very respectful of men in the military. I was proud to wear the army uniform.

What advice would you give to your replacements? I would tell them to be patient for the whole year and represent the interest of the Russians in the Balkans.



ABOVE:

Sgt. Alexander Spiridonov, a deputy platoon commander in 1st Airborne Company, 13th Tactical Group (Russia), stands by his bed and locker. Typical living quarters for Russian soldiers include a bunk, a locker, a community television and a shared bathroom.

LEFT:

Sgt. Alexander Kuksin, an infantryman in the 13th Tactical Group (Russia), stands guard outside Camp Nitex Sept. 19. Russian soldiers are stationed in Kosovo for one-year rotations at Camp Nitex, which is a short distance away from the 13th TG's primary base camp in Kamenica.

SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15

Fellow Americans

PROFILES OF SOLDIERS OF HISPANIC HERITAGE

By Spc. Jasmine Chopra

From the Revolutionary War, when Hispanic Americans first served, to the current war on terror, Hispanic American servicemembers continue to play a vital role in the in the Armed Forces.

“Our strength as an Army and pre-eminence in the world reflect the quality and diversity of our people,” said Louis Caldera, former secretary of the Army.

According to the recent census, more than



Pfc. Luis Sang Jr.

in 1982 at age 14.

“I didn’t speak any English,” Cohen said. “The first year of high school was pretty tough. It took about a year and half before I really understood what

everyone was talking about.”

Cohen enlisted in the Army as a private in 1987. Three years later, he became a U.S. citizen.

“One of the reasons I became a citizen was so that I could become a Special Forces soldier,” he said. Special Forces soldiers must be U.S. citizens.

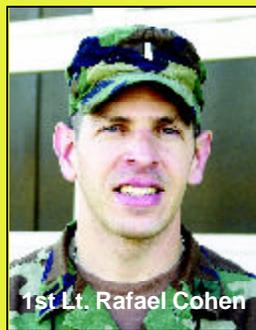
“Because I chose to become a citizen, I don’t take being American for granted,” he said.

Cohen went on to become an airborne ranger and a Special Forces soldier and earned the rank of sergeant first class before deciding to become an officer. He is fiercely patriotic yet retains a strong sense of Hispanic identity, he said.

“There are so many great things about being Latino,” Cohen said. “I like the Spanish language and music. We’ve got great women, great food and an interesting history.”

Pfc. Luis Sang Jr., 19, a combat medic in 1-7 FA, was born in Leon, Nicaragua. Civil war and violence there prompted his family

NATIONAL
HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH



1st Lt. Rafael Cohen

30 million Americans are of Hispanic origin. Thirty-eight Hispanics have earned the nation’s highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

The accomplishments of Hispanic

American soldiers serve as a testament to the equal opportunity the Army provides to all Americans.

In KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East), Hispanic American soldiers proudly serve as peacekeepers.

1st Lt. Rafael Cohen, a physician’s assistant in 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, came to the U.S. from Cali, Colombia,

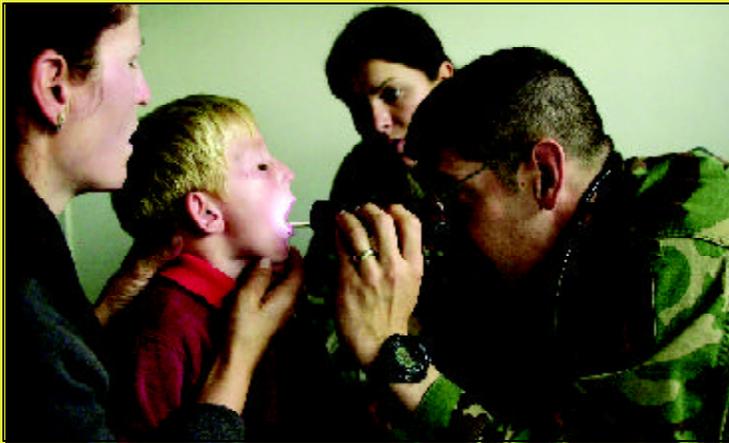
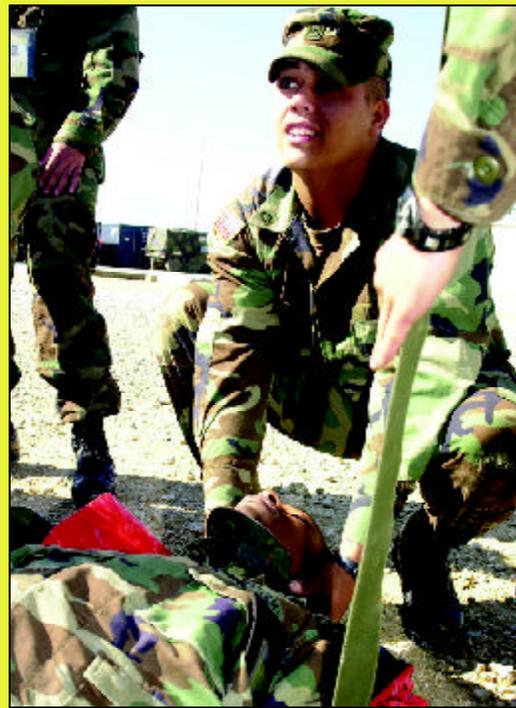


Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaac

ABOVE: 1st Lt. Rafael Cohen is a physician's assistant and the officer in charge of the medical section for 1-7 FA. He was born in Colombia and immigrated to the United States in 1982. In 1987, he enlisted in the Army, and in 1990, he became a U.S. citizen. He was the 2001 Expert Field Medical Badge honor graduate in Kitzigen, Germany. RIGHT: Pfc. Luis Sang, a combat medic in HHB 1-7 FA, was born in Nicaragua. He is a permanent legal resident of the U.S. and recently applied for U.S. citizenship. He also recently earned the EFMB.



to immigrate to the United States.

In high school, Luis Sang Jr. participated in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. American history became his favorite subject.

Thanks to the encouragement of an instructor, Sang enlisted in the Army. He became a medic in 2001.

"I love what I do," he said.

In August, Sang, earned the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge. About 80 percent of all participants fail to earn the badge. Sang, whose first language is Spanish, is part of the elite 2 percent of soldiers who have earned the badge on their first try.

Sgt. 1st Class Diego Reynoso, 35, was born in Brooklyn, NY. His parents emigrated from the Dominican Republic in the 1960s and imparted much of the Dominican culture to their American-born son.

"At home everything was in Spanish," he said. "Mom cooked delicious food every day."

Dominican meals are often made with red or black beans, meats, yellow rice, onions, tomatoes, fresh herbs, spices, and peppers as colorful as the Caribbean itself.

"I didn't even eat at McDonald's until I was 13," he said.

"My parents were immigrants and we were kind of poor, but there was always so much love and pride in our family." Reynoso said. "Four brothers in one room, you have to love each other."



Reynoso said he believes that the spirit of overcoming odds, characteristic of

immigrants who join the military, contributes to the success of the Army.

"America truly is the land of opportunity. There is no doubt about it."

Second Lt. Yesenia Garcia, 28, a platoon leader in the 630th Military Police Company, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. She grew up in New York and Puerto Rico. She enlisted in the Army at the age of 19 and became a military police specialist. After serving four years and earning the rank of sergeant, Garcia enrolled in the Green to Gold program, in which enlisted soldiers can become commissioned officers. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and went on to become airborne qualified and a commissioned officer. Garcia is the first person in her immediate family to have earned a college degree or a commission.

"I think a lot of Hispanic Americans are not well informed about the opportunities the Army offers," she said.

Garcia gets the word out.

"There are a lot of good opportunities in the Army," she said. "You just have to know about them."

When asked if she sees herself as a role model for other soldiers, Garcia said yes.

"Having (Hispanic American) leaders brings different points of view and experiences to the table," she said. "If we were all the same, it would be boring."

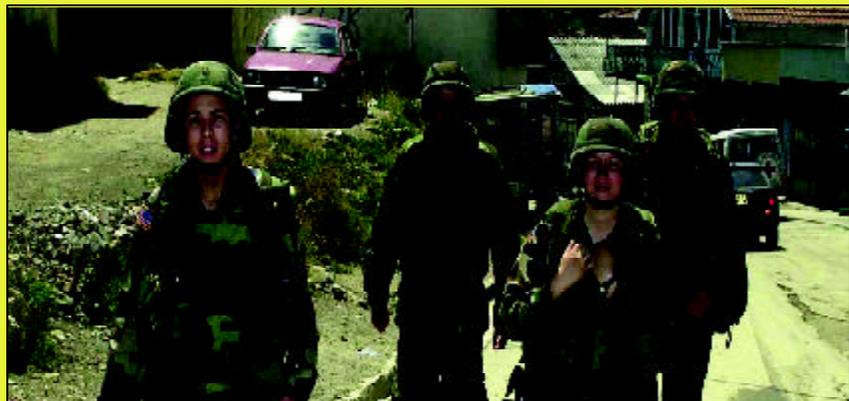


Photo by Spc. Jasmine Chopra

Second Lt. Yesenia Garcia, left, a platoon leader, conducts a presence patrol in Kacanik with Pfc. Ashley Gardiner and Spc. Peter Bushacker, both military police specialists. All are in the 630th Military Police Company, part of Task Force 709th MP.

Down and dirty

MNB(E) soldiers gut it out for Expert Infantryman Badge

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SPC. PATRICK RODRIGUEZ

It feels like if you win the lottery,” Pfc. Hector Medina said, a gunner in Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, after successfully completing his last station during Expert Infantryman Badge testing.

Luck has little to do with earning the coveted EIB. During this particular testing cycle, the rain and the mud had more effect on the stations open to the elements than luck.

“The course here is muddy, very muddy. ... It’s hard to get it off of your body, your uniform, your boots – it’s like glue. It is just amazing how different the mud here is in Kosovo,” Sgt. Rey Ong said, a grader at the ‘move under direct-fire lane.’

Not even considering the mud, the strict standards for earning the EIB required mental concentration and physical endurance for candidates to successfully complete 17 stations with 33 subtasks over a three-day period. The badge itself dates back to 1943 when the Secretary of War officially approved it.

“It is the first step in a young soldier’s walk down the path as an infantryman,” command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam said, of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East). “EIB is the mark of excellence for an infantry soldier.”

The EIB has different meanings for those trying to earn it. “The importance of EIB is the soldier knowing his job,” Staff Sgt. Lamar S.E. Cook said, of Company B, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment. “It also lets you know that you are among the elite group who are proud to wear the EIB, and it lets other young soldiers know that this is something to strive for.”

Spc. Jarette Porter said, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, “Having your EIB is one of the most important things in your career as an infantry soldier. It means that you know exactly what you’re doing, you know your job, and going through EIB and being successful means that you’re also proficient at what you do. It’s always good to be an expert at your job.”

One such expert stood in formation on the parade field before he was pinned with the EIB. Spc. Paul J. Miller said, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, “It feels really good, because this is my third time to go for it. It just feels really good to finally get it.”

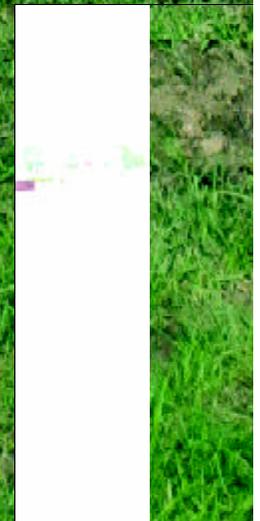
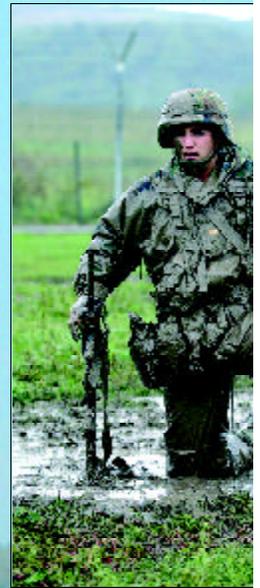
“The training this time was really good. When we went through the practice test it

felt like you were taking th
like you were really prepar

Of the 456 infantrymen
grenades, operate night-v
direct fire from Oct. 1-3,

“We said that we are go
with excellence. ... We v
Douglas E. Lute said, con
awards ceremony. “We w
is one of the culminating e
the brigade has accomplis

Until now, EIB testing
rotation 4A was made dur
for this decision was a res
Sept. 11, according to B
motivated” the soldiers w



... were taking the EIB test. By the time you got to the real EIB testing you felt you were really prepared."

56 infantrymen that began testing on tasks such as identify and employ hand operate night-vision goggles, visual signaling techniques, and move under cover from Oct. 1 - 3, 230 soldiers received the EIB during this testing cycle.

"I think that we are going to come down here and perform this peacekeeping mission because of the success of the mission. ... We weren't going to rest with just doing peace ops," Brig. Gen. Lute said, commander of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East), during the awards ceremony. "We were going to come down here and train our butts off too. This was the culminating events of our training program. I am exceptionally proud of what has been accomplished."

Now, EIB testing has never been held in Kosovo. The decision to test during the mission was made during the mission readiness exercise held in February. One reason for this decision was a result of the 2nd Brigade putting aside EIB testing last year due to the conditions according to Beam. One of the benefits of testing here is that it also "re-energized the soldiers who were already thinking about going home."

FAR LEFT:

Spc. Paul J. Miller of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, performs the high crawl through the "move under direct fire" lane Sept. 24 at Camp Monteith during Expert Infantryman Badge testing.

LEFT:

1st Lt. Jeff Blank, executive officer of Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment gets covered in mud and earns a "go" at the "move under direct fire" lane.

BOTTOM LEFT:

Spc. Matthew Sheppard, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, lines up to be evaluated on performing individual camouflage.

BOTTOM RIGHT:

Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, commander of Multi-National Brigade (East), congratulates Pfc. Samuel Graves of Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, on earning the EIB during an awards ceremony Oct. 4. Behind Graves is 1st Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Cory McCarty, who also assisted in the presentation and served as the guest speaker.



Pvt. Robert Mitchell, a rifleman and Bradley fighting vehicle driver in Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, raises his arms after successfully completing, "identify and employ hand grenades," which was his final station in the three-day EIB test.



World

6th death tied to sniper in D.C. area

A roving sniper who killed five suburban residents at random has extended his range into the District of Columbia, the police said Oct. 5, in linking the fatal shooting of a Washington pedestrian to the same gunman who has been stalking his victims with a high-powered rifle at distances of 100 yards or more in mundane settings of daily life.

— New York Times

Chief U.N. weapons inspector backs U.S.

The chief United Nations weapons inspector, Hans Blix, Oct. 5, endorsed the main demand of the United States that Iraq make a full declaration of its weapons programs before inspections resume.

After an hour long meeting with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and other officials, Mr. Blix said that there was "very broad support" in the Security Council for a new resolution setting tough terms for inspections. He also endorsed the threat of consequences if Iraq fails to disarm.

—New York Times

Chechnya: Russian war on terrorism

Three years after Russian forces poured into Chechnya for the second time, the war grinds on, but Russia's characterization of the fight without end has changed. No longer are 85,000 Russian troops and police officers simply engaged in crushing a battle for independence; instead, Chechnya has become Russia's war on terrorism.

Using the rationale and sometimes the rhetoric of the Bush administration's antiterrorism campaign, commanders said that the Chechen war is financed, armed and fought by Islamic militants from abroad.

—New York Times

United States

4 charged in post-9/11 plan to join Al Qaeda

Federal officials said today that they had broken up a terrorist cell in Portland, Ore., arresting four native-born citizens accused of plotting after the Sept. 11 attacks to join with Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters in a "jihad" against the United States.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also began a global hunt for two other people linked to the Oregon case, a United States citizen and a Portland resident from Jordan.

— CNN.com

Lindh gets 20 years in Taliban case

John Walker Lindh, the American who fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan, was sentenced to 20 years in prison today after sobbing through a 14-minute statement in which he repudiated terrorism, condemned Osama bin Laden and tried to explain why he joined the Afghan movement. But he stopped short of apologizing for anything other than causing his family so much pain.

The 21-year-old Californian, who says his spiritual journey began when he first saw Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" when he was 12, told a packed courtroom here, "I made a mistake by joining the Taliban."

— New York Times



John Walker Lindh

Military

Soldiers help after another hurricane

About 1,700 Louisiana National Guard troops were on duty October's first Friday helping their fellow citizens dig out from Hurricane Lili, the second major storm to hit the Pelican State in as many weeks.

Some of the troops had barely dried out from Tropical Storm Isidore that flooded coastal sections of the state during September's final week before they volunteered to help with Lili, said Army Maj. Ed Bush.

— Army News Service

CFC reaches for goal of \$2.64 million

After terrorists attacked the Pentagon and World Trade Center, Combined Federal Campaign-supported organizations provided services to include counseling, food and financial help to the family members of victims.

The recipients of those services are now taking the stage to encourage federal employees to donate to the charities that supported them during the crisis.

This year's goal is \$2.64 million, said Tom Campbell, the acting director of volunteer programs and the Army's CFC representative. Last year's goal was \$2.6 million and the total collected was \$2.83 million.

— Army News Service

Soldiers leap buildings for David Letterman

Air assault soldiers will make an appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman by rappelling down a 130-foot building on Oct. 10.

Dave's "Top 10 List" will feature five soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., and another five from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky. Each soldier will recite one of the "top 10 things Army soldiers say before rappelling."

— CNN.com

KFOR

Bosnian-Serb ex-leader: I'm guilty

Former Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, indicted for crimes including genocide, has changed her plea to guilty on one count, with judges saying other charges would be dropped.

—Reuters

Kostunica tops Serbia poll

Vojislav Kostunica has won the opening round of Serbia's first presidential election since the ousting of Slobodan Milosevic, unofficial results show.

Kostunica, the leading figure in the revolt that toppled Milosevic and currently Yugoslavia's president, had 31 percent support in Sunday's vote, followed by the deputy prime minister.

— Reuters

International Day of Peace observed

A message from Lt. Gen. Valintin, KFOR commander.

The 21st of September is a very special day for the people of Kosovo and for KFOR.

This date marks the twenty-first annual International Day of Peace, celebrated around the world as a day for reflection on the universal goals of peace.

In Kosovo, this day has special meaning, because for the communities of Kosovo every day is a day of peace — a day when the people of Kosovo strive to overcome the problems of the past and embrace the promise of the future. The future depends on peace, and for Kosovo, peace depends on forgiveness.

— NATO web site

www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil



Photos by Spc. Kate Mclsaac

Pfc. Nathan Smith, a medic in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, inserts an IV into a mock casualty. Although the injuries were fake, the IV was not. Smith executed the "stick" perfectly on his first attempt.

MEDICS LEAD TRAINING MISSION

Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery medics have engaged in an aggressive, sometimes exhausting training regimen, while also performing their peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

"I believe you guys are training more and working harder than any other section in the battalion," said Capt. Chad Bates, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, to the medics after an air medical evacuation training exercise Sept. 12.

Bates handed out commander's coins to two soldiers who performed particularly well during the exercise. Sgt. David Flores, medical evacuation noncommissioned officer, and Pfc. Nathan Smith, a medic, were recognized for a job well done.

TF 1-7 FA conducted triage, treatment and evacuation procedures for four simulated patients in an open field, outside the small town of Softovic, near Urosevac.

"A MEDEVAC is a combination of all the steps required to get a patient from the field to the hospital," said 1st Lt. Rafael Cohen, officer in charge of the medical section of TF 1-7 FA.

"As a medic, it is very important to train on MEDEVACs and 9-line MEDEVAC requests," he said.

After treating the patients in the field, the medics transported the four patients to the helicopter landing zone, coordinated with the Black Hawk pilots and loaded the litters onto the helicopter.

"Today went very well," Cohen said. "There are some things we need to work on, but that's what training is for."

And it's all about training, said Task Force 1-7 FA operations officer Maj. Marty Chavers.

"These guys have accomplished more and trained more than they could have ever dreamed possible in the rear."



From left, Spc. Tim Waters, Spc. Peter Enos, Pfc. Luis Sang and Pfc. John Gillaspie, all medics in HHB 1-7 FA, remove a simulated casualty from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a MEDEVAC training exercise.

CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITIES



Photo by Spc. Kate McIsaac

ABOVE: From left, Col. Albert Johnson, brigade chief of staff, 1st Lt. Matthew Gillespie, brigade deputy chief of personnel, and Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute, commander of MNB(E), serve cake during the Combined Federal Campaign kick-off event, following the daily commander's update brief, in the MNB(E) Tactical Operations Center Oct. 2.

The goal of the CFC in Kosovo is to provide soldiers with an informed opportunity to give to a charitable organization they believe "makes a world of difference," said Gillespie, who is the brigade's Combined Federal Campaign coordinator.

CFC donations may be made to almost 1,500 national and international charities such as Child and Youth Services, and to local organizations. Soldiers can make donations through Nov. 15.

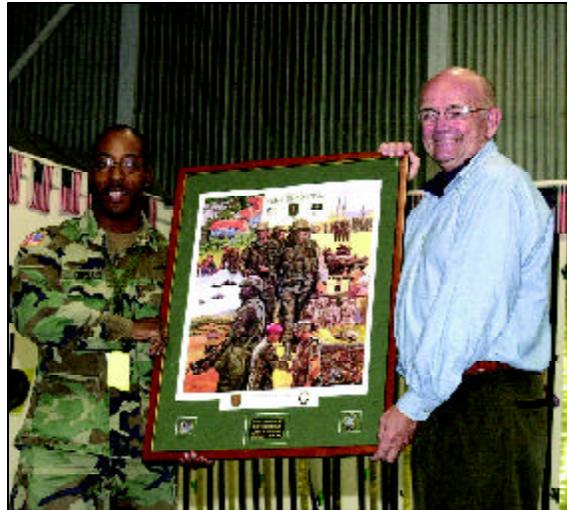


Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson

ABOVE: Retired Gen. Gordon Sullivan (right), president of the Association of the United States Army, presents an original Don Stivers print to Spc. Pallace L. Copeland an administrative specialist for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, Sept. 28.

Copeland received one of two prints that were raffled off during the AUSA Kosovo sub-chapter grand opening ceremony in the Southtown gym. AUSA provides recreational and educational opportunities to soldiers and their families.

AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army — active, National Guard, reserve, civilians, retirees and family members.



Combined Federal Campaign

DEADLINE FOR DONATIONS IS NOV. 15.

Peacekeeper profile



Nick Politis
age: 26
rank: 1st Lt.
mos: Infantryman
unit: 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greece)

Why did you join the Army? I like being in touch with people. I like to train them and teach them military science.

Holiday Greetings from Kosovo



Say hello to your friends and family on television. The Hometown News Holiday Greetings Team will videotape you here in Kosovo, and your greeting may air back in your hometown during the holiday season.

Who can participate?

All U.S. military personnel and Department of Defense civilians. Those who will PCS or ETS CONUS prior to the holidays are not eligible.

Participation is on a registration basis. There are 20 slots per hour and sign-up is required. Register by calling DSN 781-5078 or KPN 389-268-6748 or visit the 302d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Bldg. 1320, Camp Bondsteel.

When and Where?

Camp Bondsteel, Southtown Gym, Monday Oct. 14, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Camp Magrath, Flagpole/DFAC Area, Tuesday Oct. 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Camp Monteith, Main Entrance Stryker Hall, Wednesday Oct. 16, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
KFOR Main, Pristina, AST/NSC Day Room, Thursday Oct. 17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Questions? Contact – Sgt. Lovedy Zie, 302d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Bldg. 1320, Camp Bondsteel, pao@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil, DSN 781-5079



Getting back together

It's hard to believe five months have gone by in Kosovo. Many families may or may not have traveled this road before. For me, this has been a new road. It has been a great learning tool for developing new coping and communication skills in my relationship.

I firmly believe that the success of any marriage or relationship is founded on communication. Communication for many couples may be a letter, a phone call, or an email. However you communicate, remember, you are investing in your reunion.

Our reunion time with our spouses is not something we think about the day we get off the bus, but now. Before we leave Kosovo, we all are going to get a briefing from the chaplain on reunion. You may also have a better reunion if you consider, before and after the briefing, your forms of communication. I would like to share with you a letter about reunion from my wife. I hope this letter will help couples communicate about what really makes a home feel like home, with and without you, their spouse.

My wife wrote:

"I've realized that I need to keep praying about our meeting. The closer it gets I feel upset and anxious. I don't know how to explain it other than just the jitters I guess. Are we different people? Have we changed? In some ways I feel I'm a different person, not totally. And I wonder if you are. Will we talk the same as we always have? Will we agree on doing things like we always have? I don't want to assume anything or take any part of you or our time together for granted. Will we completely catch up in a short amount of time when you return? Or will we barely get started?"

"There is so much that has changed in the girls and me. There are

so many things I want to tell you about, will the time for that come then or later or ever? When do we share all that we've been through? Do we even share ALL of it? It will probably just come out in bits and pieces and then will it mean anything? I want to know what it has been like for you to walk in the towns you've been visiting when you go see your soldiers. I want to sit with you and hear you tell me over again about leading those soldiers to Christ. I want to know what you feel when you get up in chapel at Camp Monteith to preach.

"I want to know what you've missed most about home. Do you miss my iced tea? What do you want me to cook for you when you come home? When do you want to celebrate your birthday and how?"

"I'm anxious to see you sit down with the girls and listen to them tell about their day at school.

And share their pictures with you from this summer. They've gotten new stuff and it will be neat to watch them call Daddy, Daddy have you seen this?"

What does your spouse think about your reunion? Probably, he or she may feel the same way. Will you like what I have done with the house? Will he or she like my home cooking, or are they going to miss the food in Kosovo? Couples probably are thinking about many such things. I hope this devotion has given you some idea to share with your spouse the next time you two talk about your reunion.

Remember, your reunion with your family is only going to happen once, and the more you begin to communicate now, the less you may have to later. Now, may the lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; may the lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

“REMEMBER, YOUR REUNION WITH YOUR FAMILY IS ONLY GOING TO HAPPEN ONCE.”

Peacekeeper profile



Matthew Kuxkaus
age: 21
rank: Spc.
mos: 12B—
combat engineer
unit:
Headquarters and
Headquarters
Company, 9th
Engineer Battalion

What is your role in MNB(E)? I provide battalion operations support.

Why did you join the Army? I joined as a personal obligation to myself.

What advice would you give your replacements? I would tell them to take advantage of the opportunities in Kosovo.

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

www.mnbe.hqusaureur.army.mil

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GOSPEL JUBILEE



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Robinson
Members of the 'Voices of Bondsteel' gospel choir perform during the 7th annual Gospel Jubilee, held Sept. 22, at Camp Bondsteel. The history of the Gospel Jubilee dates back to the first rotation of U.S. troops in Kosovo. The chorus is made up of both military and civilian personnel.

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TF 9E conquers cup



VOLLEYBALL:

Staff Sgt. Joshua Tyler, a crew chief in Task Force 2-1 Aviation, smacks the ball over the net. His POLUKRBAT opponents prepare to volley.



RUCK SACK MARCH:

Soldiers in the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion ruck march team hoof it up the ever-punishing radar hill.

TUG OF WAR:

Sgt. Lenn Speight from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, digs deep during the last event of Sports Day competition.



WINNERS:

Lt. Col. Nathaniel Idlet, commander of Task Force 9th Engineer, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Rather raise the 1st place championship trophies Oct. 5 at Sports Day on Camp Bondsteel.



TIRE FLIP:

Soldiers from Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery Regiment compete in a tire flip contest at Sports Day. From left are Pvt. John Pirinelli, a cannoneer in Battery C; Pfc. Marc Schlegel, a fire direction specialist in Battery A; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Joseph, a supply sergeant in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery; Staff Sgt. Marcus Groves, a battery maintenance sergeant in Battery B; Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Harris, battalion communications chief; and Pfc. Dalton Larson, a mechanic in HHB.

Photos by Spc. Jasmine Chopra and Spc. Rebecca M. Grzyb