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# Guardian East

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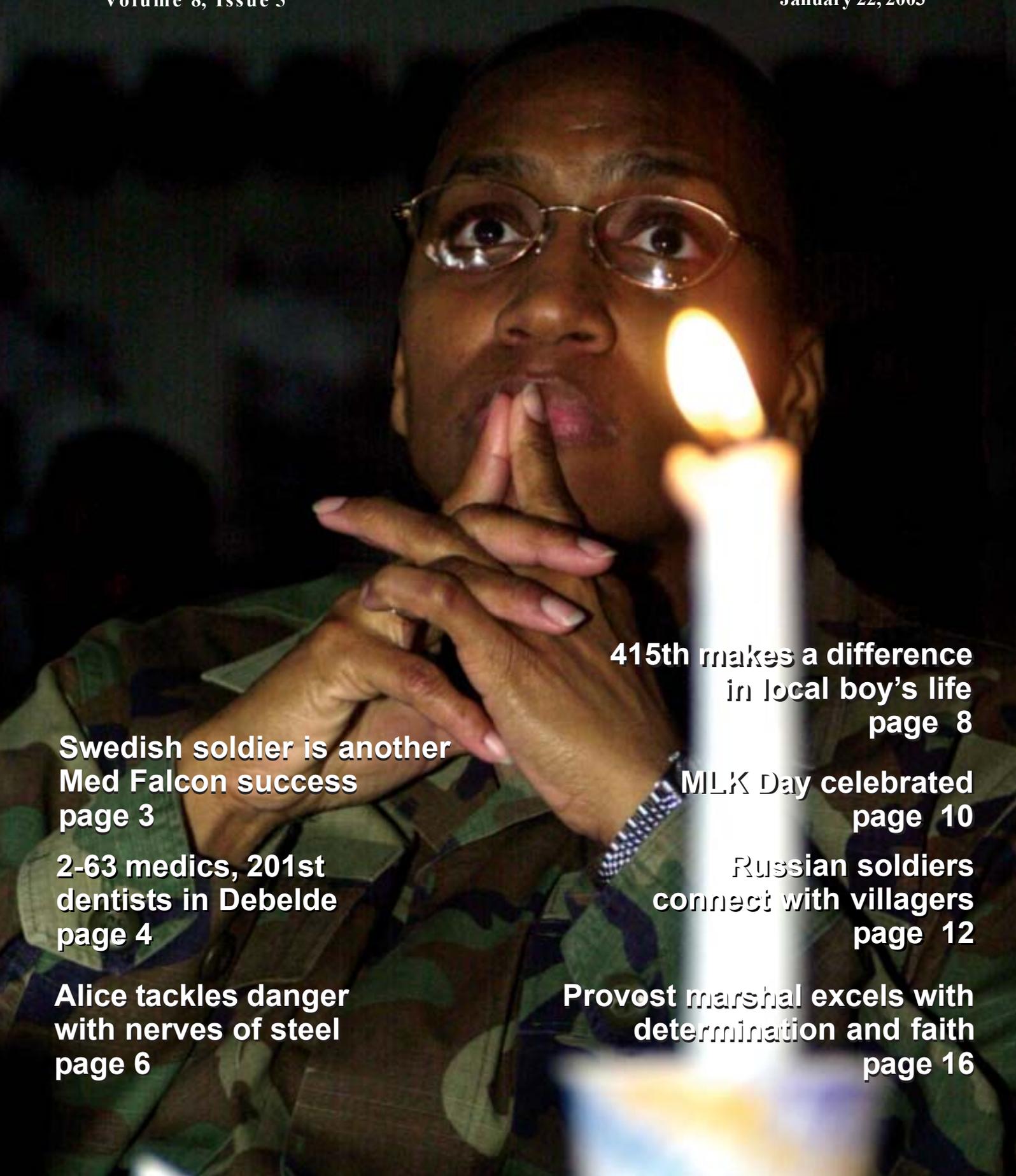
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BEHIND THE LINES

# The Right To Return: Our role is crucial



Photo by Spc. Christopher Gookin

This is one of many homes in the village of Gorance abandoned during the height of the ethnic conflict between the Albanians and the Serbs.

**By Col. Michael Hoffpaur**  
Deputy Commander  
Civil-Military Operations

Empty homes and bombed out villages – all once thriving with life, but now silent ghost towns. You’ve seen them and have probably asked yourself questions like: Who lived there? Why did they leave? Where did they go? Will they come back? How? When? What are KFOR’s responsibilities? These are good questions, tough questions that define the scope of what is one of postwar Kosovo’s greatest challenges—the return of people displaced by the conflict.

The United Nations says that during the height of the conflict in 1999 more than 750,000 Kosovo-Albanians and other people left Kosovo into neighboring FYROM, Montenegro, and Albania. They fled for their lives, running from the fighting. I remember. I was in Albania on the receive-

ing end, watching the exodus. It was a mass of people who had thrown as much of their personal belongings as they could carry on their backs and tractors. Elderly people, crying children, and desperate and broken families streamed out of Kosovo into makeshift encampments hastily erected by the U.N. and the host countries.

Then, almost as quickly as it began, the flow of refugees reversed itself when people learned that the fighting had ended and the Serbian Army was leaving Kosovo. Camps that on one day held as many as 40,000 people were empty less than a week later. People rushed home. Many found their homes had been looted or burned. This situation, coupled with the violence committed during the conflict, spawned acts of reprisal that drove more than 300,000 Kosovo-Serbian people from their homes. Most K-Serbs went to Serbia or Montenegro and have yet to come back. All of us in the brigade now are dealing with the consequences of the destruction wrought during and after the conflict. Every

sector of our area of operation is affected.

Today UNMIK is leading the effort to return everyone displaced by the fighting. Obviously, UNMIK cannot do it alone. We in KFOR have a huge supporting role—to create and ensure a safe and secure environment conducive to return. So, how does this process of returns work? I’ll try to paint “the big picture” for you.

The entire international community in Kosovo supports the principle that every person, regardless of ethnicity, has the right to return to their home. It is an individual’s right of choice. If only it were as easy as it sounds. Of the estimated 50,000 people (mostly K-Serbs) that left our AOR following the end of the conflict, very few have returned—less than five percent. Say again, over!? You heard me, fewer than five percent! It is safe to assume that not everyone will

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On the cover: Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang  
Lt. Col. La'Tonya Lynn reflects during the Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration held on Jan. 15.

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### About Guardian East

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Niklas Tuveesson's family visits him in his hospital room in Sweden three weeks after he was accidentally shot during a training mission on Oct. 22, 2002 in MNB(S).

## Swedish soldier is another Med Falcon success

By Spc. Whitney Hughes

The x-rays showed tiny white spots scattered over Niklas Tuveesson's face, chest, and neck. The spots were shotgun pellets, and there were over 150 embedded in his body.

The Swedish Special Forces soldier was injured during a training mission Oct. 22, 2002 at a Swedish camp in Multi-National Brigade (South). Tuveesson was accidentally shot by another soldier while photographing an urban assault exercise.

He was air-evacuated to Camp Bondsteel Hospital and treated by the Task Force Medical Falcon staff for 36 hours before he was transferred to a hospital in Sweden.

Although the incident occurred over two months ago, Maj. Jason Boardman, chief of surgery with TFMF, continues to check up on Tuveesson.

About three weeks ago, the TFMF team removed a tube implanted in Tuveesson's throat. The tube allowed his esophagus, which was embedded with a pellet, to heal. He is also regaining use of his vocal cords, said Boardman.

This was just one of the four operations that the TFMF surgeons performed on Tuveesson.

Boardman was the lead surgeon on the team. Lt. Col. Gordon Hseigh, deputy commander of clinical services, also assisted in the operation. An English general surgeon, Capt. Mark Watkins, and a Norwegian vascular surgeon also

participated.

The Germans helped in obtaining blood and transporting the patient back to Sweden, said Boardman.

"This was a multinational approach," read the caption in part of a presentation Boardman created to document the case. He also has pictures of the operations and the various stages of Tuveesson's treatment on a compact disk, which he says will go into his teaching file.

Soldiers in the medical field can learn from this case, Boardman said. One of the most important learning points students can glean from this case is to never underestimate the extent of a patient's injuries.

"As a surgeon one of the big things that you train on over time is trauma," said Boardman.

Although Tuveesson was treated at Camp Bondsteel Hospital for 36 hours, his treatment pushed the hospital's abilities, resources and staff.

"Even though we have our nice building...this is still essentially a field hospital," said Boardman. "We stretched the limits of our little hospital."

The TFMF team was able to save Tuveesson's life and even wean him from anesthesia so he could be conscious when his family arrived to make arrangements to transfer him back to Sweden.



Capt. Brent Martin and Spc. Brandy Gainsley, both of the 201st Logistics Task Force from Camp Monteith, prepare a young patient for a tooth extraction during a Medical-Civilian Assistance Program in Debelde on Jan 5.



Pvt. Alberto Cruz, a medic with 2-63 Armor Battalion, checks the blood pressure of a villager in Debelde on Jan. 5.

## 2-63 medics, 201st dentists treat villagers

Story and photos by Spc. Christopher Gookin

**DEBELDE, Kosovo**—A Multi-National Brigade (East) medical and dental team joined local Albanian doctors to treat 115 villagers in Debelde during a free medical clinic on Jan. 5.

Called a Medical-Civilian Assistance Program or MEDCAP, the initiative enables U.S. military personnel who are medical professionals to work side by side with Kosovo doctors, dentists and other medical professionals to bring basic medical and dental care to remote villages.

U.S. military personnel have been conducting these MEDCAPs throughout the MNB(E) sector since NATO began its peacekeeping mission three years ago.

"I thank you Americans for what you are doing here," said Dr. Ismail Halabaku, of the Vitina Health House. Halabaku was one of three local doctors who participated in the Debelde MEDCAP, which was conducted inside the village school.

"You are here to help my people and I am here to help my people," Halabaku said. "Thank you."

A medical team from the 2-63 Armor Battalion at Camp Magrath and a dental team from the 201 Logistics Task Force, stationed at Camp Monteith, worked with Halabaku and the others at Debelde. The rural town occupies a ridgeline along the Haj Ducki Put Mountain Range.

Primarily, the U.S. and Albanian medical staff treated elderly men and women, and children for a variety of ailments. They included hypertension, sore throats, muscle aches and scabies. Translators helped communicate their concerns.

The dental team saw 18 villagers and extracted plenty of teeth. One woman had eight teeth pulled.

Two nervous parents looked on as Cpt. Brent Martin and

Spc. Brandy Gainsley, of the Dental Team, 201<sup>st</sup> Logistics Task Force, injected novocaine and prepared to extract two deteriorated teeth.

"You are such a brave boy," said Gainsley after he pulled the boy's teeth. "We've got something special for you." The young boy received a children's dental care kit and a small toy.

The MEDCAP lasted six hours.

The facilities used for the MEDCAP were a small primary school that allows a 360 degree view and at different times of the day is awash in a sea of clouds. The small school has six classrooms and two smaller rooms that are offices. The school is heated with woodstoves. The end of the hallway is stacked from floor to ceiling with firewood.

"The screening room actually doubles as an examination room," said Davidson.

"This particular MEDCAP is the first of its kind for us," said Lt. Tyler Gence, medical platoon leader with 2-63. "We have three Albanian doctors from the Vitina Health House that have volunteered to help with the MEDCAP."

"This is my second MEDCAP," said Pfc. Alberto Cruz, a member of the 2-63 medical team. "I like helping people especially kids. I enjoy making them happy."

Other members of the American team also expressed their satisfaction working with the Albanian doctors to help the people of Debelde. In the near future, they are also planning to teach a series of classes at the Vitina Health House.

"The relationship is mutually beneficial," Gence said. "Having the Albanian doctors volunteer their time will ideally help in the eventual transition to civilian authority."

# Alice tackles danger with nerves of steel

Story and photos by Spc. Matthew Lang

*Well-equipped robot helps Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company complete its mission*



Staff Sgt. Scott Richard Cornelison, team leader of the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, controls the barrel of a 50-caliber gun mounted on the Andros Mark A1 robot.

**H**er name is Alice. She weighs 500 pounds, has a heart of steel and the soldiers of the 702<sup>nd</sup>

Ordnance Company, (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), are well acquainted with her.

Alice is a robot. Specifically, she is an Andros Mark A1. She's not a Xena or a Lara Croft. She doesn't win skirmishes or battles. But her attributes are just as noble: she helps save lives, which makes her worth every bit of her \$200,000 price tag.

She is called into action when the danger exceeds the normal limits for members of the EOD team. She is equipped to destroy suspicious packages, vehicles laden with explosives or anything else that seems out of the ordinary.

"The robot is great because I don't have to personally go down range near the device," said Staff Sgt. Scott Cornelison, the EOD team leader. "Instead I can send the robot and remotely disrupt the device or actually have it move the device to a safer place."

Alice has been with the EOD team since 1995 and has been used on a regular basis.

"We will always have robots in EOD because of the future that they can offer," said Cornelison.

Alice can move at a speed of 3.5 miles per hour and is equipped with articulated tracks that allow her to rapidly maneuver over rough terrain and obstacles. She can climb steep inclines and stairs, and cross ditches as wide as two feet. Her metal and aluminum body is environmentally sealed, permitting use in any kind of weather condition.

Alice has three modes. The first is tether, which means the controls are still plugged into the robot, said Cornelison.



Staff Sgt. Scott Richard Cornelison, team leader of the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, controls Alice, the Andros Mark A1 robot used in ordnance disposal.



Cornelison directs the Andros Mark A1 robot to climb stairs.

This mode is used primarily when loading Alice into a vehicle.

The second mode is wireless. A soldier maneuvers Alice by watching a television screen. The robot carries four cameras set at different angles. One of the cameras is mounted to a hydraulic rod that reaches a height of 10 feet, which gives the operator a 360-degree view.

Although the wireless mode is the preferred method of operation, seeing in two dimensions provides an added challenge, Cornelison said.

The last mode is fiber optic. It's the least preferred, according to Cornelison, because it requires precision and it is easy for the fiber optic cable to get caught in Alice's tracks.

However, both the wireless and fiber optics mode would be the choice for any disruption of explosives, he added.

Alice uses two different weapons to destroy devices, a 12-gauge shotgun and a 50-caliber mounted gun located near the gripping hand of the robot.

"The robot does not require a lot of maintenance but it is the key to a long-lasting life," said Cornelison. Taking care of it in Kosovo means washing it down and keeping the tracks serviceable to combat the dust and the grime.

Like all warriors, Alice is not without fault. She is large and heavy and requires special transportation to get around. She can easily get caught in narrow doorways and tight spaces, which limits her use.

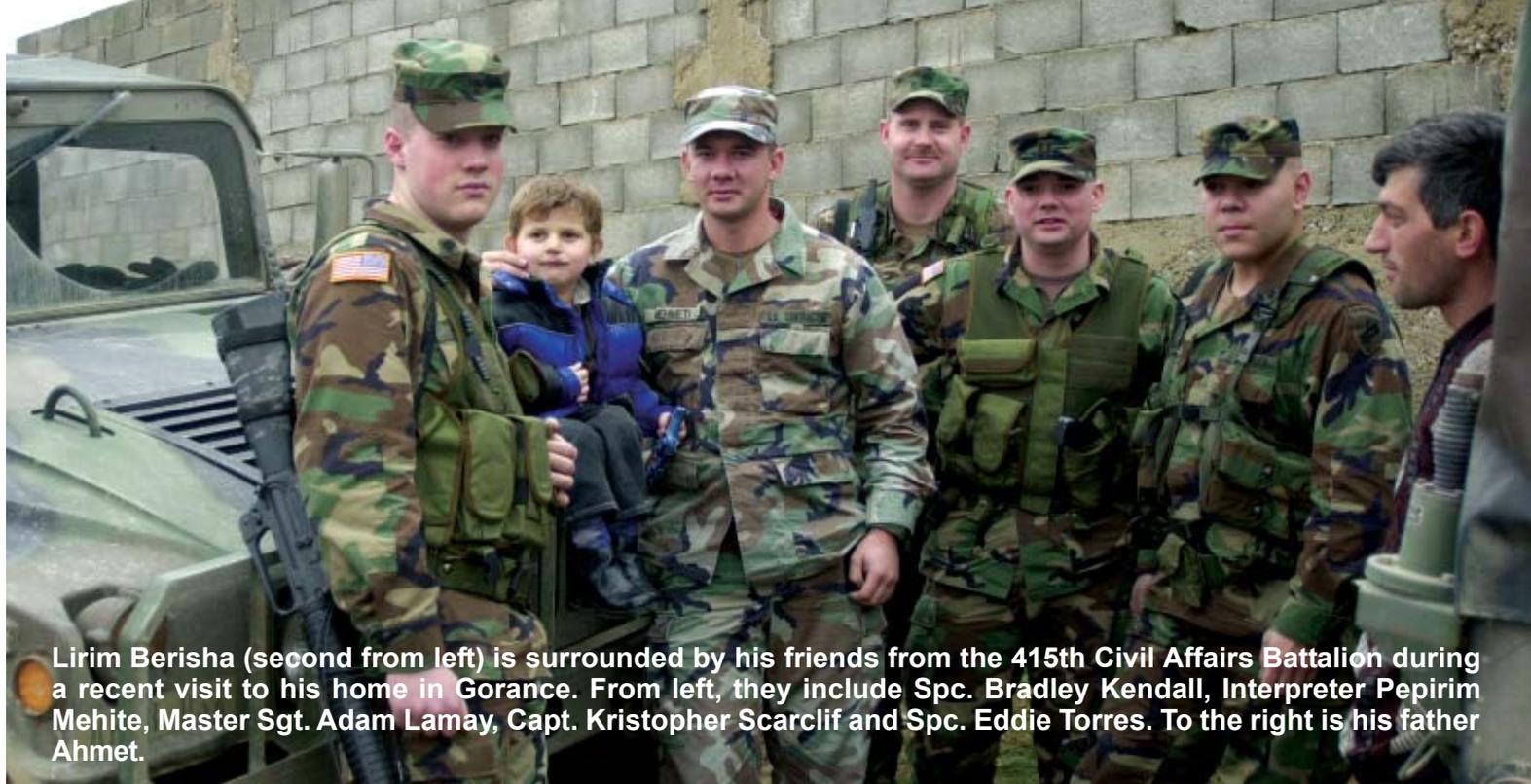
"We would never use a robot in a warehouse because the cardboard boxes would cause confusion," said Cornelison.

But he added, "As long as the situation allows, the robot will most likely be our first choice. Why would we risk our life when there's a robot there to do the job for us?"

Plus, Cornelison said, "Who else gets to play with a robot at their job?"



**Lirim Berisha (left) and his brother Misin mug for a photo shortly after Lirim returned home on Dec. 16, 2002 after successful surgery in the United States to correct his cleft lip and palate.**



Lirim Berisha (second from left) is surrounded by his friends from the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion during a recent visit to his home in Gorance. From left, they include Spc. Bradley Kendall, Interpreter Pepirim Mehite, Master Sgt. Adam Lamay, Capt. Kristopher Scarcliff and Spc. Eddie Torres. To the right is his father Ahmet.

# 415th makes a difference in local boy's life

Story and photos by Spc. Christopher Gookin

**GORANCE, Kosovo** – Months of prayers were answered for a 4-year-old boy and his parents due in special part to the determined kindness of the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Lirim Berisha returned home to Gorance last month after successful surgery in the United States to correct a cleft lip and palate.

For the first time in his young life, Lirim is able to speak.

Members of the 415th, spanning back several rotations in Multi-National Brigade (East), helped facilitate the surgery after Berisha's malformation was discovered at a medical-civilian assistance program (MEDCAP).

"God bless American soldiers," said his mother Hamide Berisha, through an interpreter. "Without you we wouldn't have been able to help him."

The journey from Gorance to Portland, Maine – where Lirim underwent the surgery – was a multinational effort that showcased an incredible display of generosity. Heal the Children Northeast Inc., a Portland-based agency, coordinated the logistics. The Ronald McDonald House provided a place to stay for Lirim and his mother. American Airlines donated the flight tickets. A medical team at Mercy Hospital in Portland performed the surgery at no cost, and three Albanian families in Portland acted as a support network. A non-governmental organization (NGO) also assisted.

"Once we got involved, we found that he had more than a cleft lip," said Capt. Kristopher Scarcliff, a member of the 415th. "His palate was deformed and he would not have lived a very healthy life and possibly a short one."

Gathered in their home on a recent afternoon, Hamide and her husband Ahmet watched their son play with his brothers. Except for a small scar above his lip, it was hard to tell such an energetic boy was in dire straits.

A cleft lip is a separation of the two sides of the lip, according to the American Cleft Lip and Palate-Craniofacial Association. A cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth, which is a result of the two sides not fusing together. Most cases are a combination of genetics and environmental factors.

"We saw an opportunity to build a bridge with Heal the Children for other children in this region to have a chance to receive surgery that cannot be offered here," Scarcliff said.

Scarcliff is optimistic that Lirim's success could open the door for other children in need of corrective surgery. His case could serve as a model.

During the war, Lirim and his family were forced to flee Kosovo.

"Lirim was just a baby," Ahmet Berisha said. "When we fled, we put him in a basket, covered him with a blanket and went over the mountain to Macedonia."

An American doctor first diagnosed Lirim while the Berishas were staying at a refugee camp. The doctor informed Hamide and Ahmet that Lirim would need surgery.

If he had the surgery in Kosovo, there was a chance Lirim would not recover his ability to speak, the doctor said. If the surgery was performed in the U.S., the doctor assured them Lirim would be able to speak.

The Berisha family had neither the funds nor the resources for the surgery. It wasn't until much later, during the previous MNB(E) rotation, that the support network was finally in place.

Lirim and his mother left for Maine on Nov. 12, 2002.

"The weather in Maine is much like Kosovo, but there is more snow there than here," said Hamide.

Their new Albanian friends took them to McDonalds, malls, and The Portland Discovery Museum.

"They would pick him up for the night," Hamide said. "So he did not have to spend every night at the (Ronald McDonald) house."

The operation, which was the following week, was an anxious time for Hamide.

"All through the operation all I could do was watch him and wait for news," she said. "None of the hospital staff spoke Albanian."

To ensure the palate has fused properly, Lirim is expected to undergo further surgery within the next five to six years. Arrangements will also be made to find Lirim a speech therapist.

Lirim and his mother returned to Gorance on Dec. 16.

Ahmet described his son as more energetic since the surgery, which was apparent as he squirmed in his father's arms and attempted to reach his Buzz Lightyear cell phone.

"It is good to have him back," Ahmet said.

# King's triumphs are celebrated

## *Civil rights leader is a hero among U.S. troops in Kosovo*

By Spc. Catherine Caruso

*"Many of the ugly pages of American History have been obscured and forgotten..."*

*America owes a debt of justice, which it has only begun to pay. If it loses the will or slackens in its determination, history will recall its crimes and the country that would be great will lack its most indispensable element of greatness—justice."*

- Martin Luther King Jr.

If you watched as they walked by, the only color that predominated the vigil was the soft golden glow of candles lit in his memory.

If you listened as they passed, as the first hesitant strains of "We Shall Overcome" emerged, you heard first a tenor, then an alto, then and a bass.

About 50 soldiers and civilians gathered at the South Town Morale, Welfare and Recreation building on Camp Bondsteel on Jan. 15 to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It was a fitting tribute on the civil rights leader's birthday and five days before the federal holiday recognizing his accomplishments.

Capt. William Harrison, chaplain for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, led the invocation by announcing he would pray in the Christian tradition in honor of King, who was a Baptist minister. He invited those who shared the faith to pray along and asked those of other beliefs to remember him in their own way.

King is best known for his leadership during the struggle for voting rights, equal treatment under law, and desegregation of black Americans during the civil rights movement of the turn of the last century. But he spoke in favor of equal opportunity for members of all races and all religions as well.

Today, King is renowned as a champion of civil rights for his leadership during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and for his speeches on equality and civil rights. He was also a leading proponent of nonviolence and civil disobedience.

But he is remembered in large part because of his powerful speeches. King was a brilliant writer and persuasive public speaker. According to a biography by Leslie Wilson, a former division chief with the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, the Ebenezer Baptist Church minister began his education listening to his father's sermons in

church. King entered Morehouse College at age 15 and received a Ph.D. from Harvard at age 26.

His speeches "I Have a Dream," "I've Been to the Mountaintop," and his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" are some of the most recognized documents of the civil rights era.

Like most historic figures, King's life and work are not immune to controversy. Many objected to his stance opposing the Vietnam War. Some have contested the award of a federal holiday in his honor.

But many soldiers admire him as a fighter for his cause.

Staff Sgt. Arthur Simon, of 1-1 Aviation, reflected on the message in a poem he wrote for the candlelight vigil.

"See all people, black, white, young and old, sharing a love that will strengthen our souls," he read, as scenes from King's life and legacy were projected onto a screen before the participants. "No race, or color. No religion or creed, just individual people, to share in the dream."

Afterward Simon said, "It is the first time I have ever read in public. I'm glad I did... sometimes we forget to make time for the things that are important."

Others at the ceremony shared Simon's comments.

"I came to support," said Spc. Jamy Angel, a member of a Personal Security Detail. "It's important."

Added Staff Sgt. Susan Keith, a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, "I feel that he's an important figure and (civil rights) is an important cause."

Staff Sgt. Myra Austin, a member of 1-1 Aviation, sang a rendition of "Gone with the Wind" that brought many to their feet.

"We often take for granted the way life is today, and we forget what people like Dr. King went through," she said. "We all have to reflect on where we are and take the time to improve to what we want to be."

King ultimately received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his leadership in the nonviolent civil rights movement, but in a sermon delivered shortly before his tragic death, he told the assembled congregation he didn't want to be remembered for where he went to school or what awards he might have one.

Instead of a long eulogy, he said he'd like somebody to mention that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. Murdered while standing outside the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4, 1968, he ultimately did.



Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang

**Sgt. Lula Gauden, an administrative assistant with Charlie Company, 201st Forward Support Battalion, leads the candlelight march in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15.**

# Equal Opportunity advisor seeks best resolution

By Spc. Catherine Caruso

If you close your eyes and listen, you can hear it: "I have a dream..." But if you open them, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Bell hopes you can see it, too.

Bell, as the equal opportunity advisor for 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade and Multi-National Brigade (East), continues to implement Department of Defense and Army policy in the area for U.S. troops.

A graduate of the EOA qualification course at Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Bell advises parties placing and named in equal opportunity complaints. He also coordinates required federal observances of minority groups for the area of operations.

The additional skill identifier for the supply sergeant did not come easy. Bell applied and was accepted to the 16-week course at Fort Hood. But when his command wouldn't release him, he thought he'd missed his chance. Fortunately, his branch waited until he'd completed his tour, then re-extended the opportunity.

"It's a little like... recruiting or drill sergeant duty," he said, "except we don't get the pay or the badge."

"Just the complaints," he joked.

In fact, he's happy to field every complaint he receives, even those that don't turn out to meet the criteria for an equal opportunity complaint as the military defines it.

"I always knew I wanted to be involved," he said. "Equal opportunity is good leadership." As a non-commissioned officer, he said that it is sometimes frustrating to know what should be done and have to maintain just an advisory role.

Bell mediates disputes between parties and advises soldiers if their problems meet the criteria for equal opportunity issues. He can help file a more formal grievance via DA Form 7279R, and advise commands investigating such complaints.

Soldiers are guaranteed the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, or gender. Sexual harassment, racial discrimination, and religious observance issues all fall under these criteria. Bell deals with them all, and more. About 80 percent of the cases he sees don't actually involve EO issues, he said. Most can be resolved with better communication.

When an equal opportunity issue is brought to his attention most soldiers actually opt not to file formal complaints, he said. They are only seeking a resolution to a problem.

"We look for a win-win where both people are satisfied," he said. "You try to resolve it at the lowest possible level."

The military is actually far beyond the civilian sector on equal opportunity, Bell said, because civilian grievances focus largely on employment right. Soldiers often live, work, and socialize on military installations and soldiers are subject to military regulations regardless of where they are and whether they are off duty or on. So there is more freedom to intervene if an issue arises.

"The difference is in the military you can't sue," he said.

Bell also ensures the Department of Defense's required observances are recognized in his area of operations.

King's holiday is particularly important, Bell said. Unique among DOD observances, King is the only individual recognized by an observance in his name. The other observances honor significant historical events and



Photo by Sgt. Erin Elliott

**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Bell, the equal opportunity advisor for Multi-National Brigade (East), counsels a soldier.**

highlight the accomplishments of historically under recognized groups

"I think this year the theme really matches his life," Bell said. The theme is "Remember, Celebrate, Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"

"We have to be proactive in solving the problems in our world," Bell said.

## More information on Martin Luther King Jr. and Equal Opportunity

This year's DOD and Army themes for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observances are: Remember, Celebrate, Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!

More about Equal Opportunity in the military can be found at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute: <http://www.patrick.af.mil/DEOMI/DEOMI.HTM>

The King Center was established by Coretta Scott King, to continue her late husband's work and legacy. Resources and information are available at <http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

More about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, work, and writing can be found at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/>



Sgt. Billy Climer and his dog Jack, who together form an explosive detector team, search the Camp Bondsteel Detention Facility during a simulated bomb threat exercise on Dec. 7, 2002.

# BDF and EOD train for worst case

***An exercise evaluates the Bondsteel Detention Facility and 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company's reaction to a bomb threat***

**Story and Photos by Spc. Whitney Hughes**

On Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m., Spc. Tomi Rucker, a unit clerk with the 793rd Military Police Battalion answered the telephone. The female voice on the other end was calm and matter of fact.

"I just wanted to let you know that I planted a bomb at the Bondsteel Detention Facility," the woman said and hung up.

Rucker's reaction was automatic. She alerted the shift supervisor, Sgt. Tad Shepard, and then followed standard operating procedures to include alerting the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company.

Within minutes, a group of MPs scoured the BDF area. Spc. Anthony Cruz found what they were looking for, a suspicious brief case shoved under a heater in one of the buildings. It was all part of a simulated exercise to test a worst-case scenario for the BDF.

"They (the BDF team) did a good job of controlling the area," said Sgt 1st Class Kevin Bussing, the response non-commissioned officer in charge for the EOD team. "They had a plan, a standard operating procedure and everybody knew what to do."

Bussing explained that his team does not respond to a threat until the BDF confirms there is a device on the premises.

"The people that work there are the most qualified to do the search because they are there every day and they know what is and isn't supposed to be there," Bussing said.

The facility was evacuated, but soldiers were not the only people that had to move. To add a twist to the exercise there were also three detainees who had to be removed from the facility. Role players were used for the detainees.

"We train like we fight, and in a real situation there will be no time for errors," said Sgt. 1st Class George Croom, the NCOIC of Bravo Company, 793rd MPs.

Croom said that this was an important part of the exercise for his soldiers to be familiar with.

After the facility was evacuated, the EOD responded with a two-man team of Bussing and Sgt. Adam Stone.

Bussing donned a bomb suit and conducted an initial recon of the area. After this he consulted with Stone about how to deal with the device or safe it, as EOD defines the situation.

"It has a lot to do with the scenario and the threat," Bussing said. "In this case we felt that the person might have had to opportunity to lay booby traps."

Bussing and Stone decided to clear the area remotely.

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**Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Bussing, a response non-commissioned officer for the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, dons a protective suit for an exercise held at Camp Bondsteel on Jan 7.**

They used a cord to open the door to the building where the briefcase was stowed.

After this the team used an observation technique called x-ray interpretation to determine what was inside the briefcase.

Both units then held an after action review and discussed the outcome of the training. Every unit should have a plan and SOP to deal with bomb threats, Bussing said.

"We can always help if they have any questions," he added. "That's why we're here."

# Provost marshal excels with determination and faith

By Master Sgt. Thomas Hayes

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

Lt. Col. La'Tonya D. Lynn has seen a lot in her 16 years of military police work, and during her second tour here her job is getting easier.

Lynn is the First Infantry Division Provost Marshal and has been the Camp Bondsteel Provost Marshal since October of last year. In addition to a staff role addressing security concerns at Camp Bondsteel and coordinating efforts with the 793<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Battalion, she is in charge of Bondsteel Detention Facility, the only facility of its kind in Kosovo.

Lynn has earned the admiration of the command group at Camp Bondsteel. Daily, she draws courage from her faith

and with that strength is able to strike the balance between femininity and force protection.

"Lt. Col. Lynn came to this mission with a stellar reputation," Col. Walter Golden said. Golden, Multi-National Brigade (East) Chief of Staff, said Lynn earned her reputation from her experience as the Division provost marshal and as a former BDF commander in a previous KFOR rotation. "She has lived up to and built upon that well-deserved reputation as the provost marshal for this rotation," Golden said. "She is a knowledgeable, competent and candid officer who has demonstrated a commitment to getting the job done, caring for soldiers and being a valued member of the team."

Lynn was Bondsteel's Deputy Provost Marshal during the latter part of 2000 and early 2001. Then, she said, it felt like they were in the middle of the Hatfields and McCoys. It was an unstable environment.

"We were here so further violence would not erupt. In doing so, often times we were seen by one side or the other as showing favoritism," she said. "Now, what a transformation. I think the ethnic groups are coming to a point where there's a move to live together more peaceably and in harmony. A lot of the ethnic violence has gone down," she said. "The transformation to the civilian police force has begun."

A great deal of Lynn's job is coordination with internal and external organizations. She is accomplished at this, still, she said, during first contact with multinational forces and the civilian police force, she said she has received varied reactions.

"They are very surprised, (saying) 'you're a woman and you're pretty much in charge of these activities,'" she said. "There are local nationals who are surprised because a lot of our other nations that are a part of Multi-National Brigade (East) either don't have women in its army or the women only achieve a certain rank, status or position in their army.

"It is surprising to them when I show up and they say, 'Oh, you're Lt. Col. Lynn? We were expecting *him*,'" she said, "but I have not had any issues with coordination or trying to get things established simply because of that."

And it's not just multinationals.

"As you go up in rank the number of women in the population gets smaller and smaller." Lynn acknowledged that that could be for many reasons, such as choosing family life or motherhood or another occupation.

"I don't know of any concrete studies that conclude that women are weeded out in the upper ranks," she said. "I think that as you climb the ladder of success and progress in rank at some point in time individuals tend to view you not as a female officer, but as an accomplished officer because you can not obtain this rank simply by being a female.

"When you look across the board, I have not heard of men having to choose between fatherhood and their career. There's no choice. They can



Lt. Col. La'Tonya Lynn sings gospel hymns at a Sunday gospel service on Camp Bondsteel on Jan 12.



**Lt. Col. La'Tonya Lynn, Camp Bondsteel provost marshal, pauses in deep reflection during a Sunday gospel service at the North Town Chapel at Camp Bondsteel on Jan. 12.**

become a father and still have their career. Where women really have to make a choice: Do I really want to be separated from my family, my children? We have many more obstacles, because if you really like what you're doing in your professional life, at some point you may have to decide 'I am not going to have a family or I'm going to forego my career,' it is really hard juggling those glass balls."

With the increased operational tempo of deployment, Lynn describes her home as a place to keep her things. She is not often there, she said, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

"That is what makes some of us continue to be all that we can be," she said. "Some of us never let go of that slogan because we really do find ourselves trying to be all we can be and not just an Army of One because it took more than one person to get us where we are now."

"I pride myself on saying I'm being all I can be and hope that in doing so, I'm making someone else proud and it's not just for myself," she said. "Along the way I'd like to help someone else and show them that if I can do it then certainly they can as well."

"In any assignment there is a chance to excel," she said. "In your heart you have to do the best that you can do in that assignment."

Col. Dana Pittard, MNB(E)'s Deputy commander of Maneuver, has seen that excellence. "She a professional and she knows her job well," he said. "When she tells you something you know you're getting it straight. She is just very good at what she does."

"I also happen to catch her at Gospel services," Pittard added, "and I think she's missed her calling."

But Lynn heeds her calling and attributes her success to her Christian background. She is a licensed evangelist missionary with the Church Of God In Christ, and assists [www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil)

with the Gospel services at Camp Bondsteel.

"I am a strong believer that I can do all things through Christ — who strengthens me. There were times when I felt that there just wasn't anyone else. It is one thing to have a mentor, but that mentor cannot be with you all the time. They can be in the United States and say, 'I'm really pulling for you,' but at that particular point in time when you need to rely on more than just your discipline, you've got to be able to rely on something or someone else, and for me I rely on Jesus."

Lynn has also had more earthly mentors, some in her Military Police branch; some not.

"Good solid foundations — good morals and ethics — are not branch specific," she said.

Lynn is, in part, the sum of the people and experiences in her life. People like Col. Thomas Keller, "who told me the hard right over the easy wrong, which made me a better officer." And, Col. Sheila Baxter, who as a fellow female officer taught, "You can maintain your integrity and you can maintain your femininity and you can still be an outstanding officer."

And now retired Command Sgt. Maj. James Kirkland, Lynn's former first sergeant, who took the then, young captain under his wing and channeled her enthusiasm in the right direction.

"I really appreciate over the years all they have done for me," she said.

And that appreciation is evident in her animated personality.

"I really enjoy Military Police work," she said. "I enjoy being in the Division. There's a great respect for what the Military Police bring to the fight. We are good at we do. We are the crème de la crème. I am proud to be a Military Police officer; the force of choice. Of the troops, for the troops, duty first."



Capt. Stephen Gabavics launches a pass while Capt. Kenneth Kuhn thows a block during the first ever Balkan Bowl at Camp Monteith on Jan. 1. The officers beat the enlisted, 6-0.  
Photo by Capt. David Matzel

# Balkan Bowl I

*Camp Monteith showcase pits muddy battle between officers, enlisted*

By Master Sgt. John Barr

**CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo** – Standing under the overhead cover of the camp chapel, Capt. Kenneth Kuhn took note of the light snow falling on the first morning of a new year.

“It’s a good day for a football game,” said the battalion surgeon for Task Force 2-2 Infantry.

By day’s end, a squad of 2-2 officers would walk off the soccer field muddied victors of the first “Balkan Bowl,” defeating a team of enlisted men 6-0.

There was one game-day strategy evident on the slick field and that was holding on to the ball. It proved challenging at times, but produced one touchdown—a 30-yard pass from the commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company, Capt. Steve Gabavics, to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mike Gates, a member of F Troop, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Gates outran an enlisted safety for the game-winning score.

The Balkan Bowl was part of day full of New Year festivities, which included a parade through the center of Camp Monteith.

By the second half, the players’ PT uniforms became unrecognizable from the mud, as most players went down much more than once throughout the afternoon. There were diving catches and players sliding in every direction whenever a ball got loose, which was more often than not.

“The mood is very competitive, and it’s a good game,” Kuhn said. “A little slick, but fun.”

1st Lt. Robert Kelly from the F Troop, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry agreed, saying, “Not bad, muddy and slick.”

There were a number of interesting pass plays in at-

tempts to gain serious yardage. The ground game was a blur of mud and water, slick football, and a number of fumbles.

“Whoever gets the most yardage wins the game,” said Staff Sgt. Sean Gathers, a 2-2 medic. “It’s just one of those sloppy, slow games.”

By the end, every player was ready to be hosed down or a bath in the boot trough. There would be extra work for the laundry facility this week, but many of the soldiers will have a fond memory of New Years Day 2003 in Kosovo.

## Peacekeeper profile



**Donald Serate**

Age: 22

Rank: Cpl.

MOS: 77F, Petroleum Supply Specialist

Unit: HHC, 2-2 Infantry

Camp: Magrath

Hometown: Augusta, Ga.

Why did you join the Army? To get a good start on life.

What advice would you give to soldiers coming to Kosovo?

Communicate with people, let them know how you feel.

# Bondsteel Hospital hosts open house for Kosovo medical professionals

Story and photo by Spc. Whitney Hughes



Two Kosovo medical professionals listen to an explanation during a tour of the Camp Bondsteel intensive care facility on Jan. 9.

It doesn't happen often, but when the local medical community comes together at Camp Bondsteel Hospital they are not seen as Serbs or Albanians. They are simply medical professionals.

The most recent of these visits occurred on Jan. 9 when 48 Kosovo citizens toured the hospital. There were 39 Albanians and nine Serbs.

Col. Ray Tomkins, commander of Task Force Medical Falcon, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joel Morgan, public affairs officer for TFMF, led the tours.

The citizens that participated came from many different areas of the medical field, ranging from doctors to hospital administrators, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Crown, the civil affairs non-commissioned officer for TFMF.

"There are a lot of people interested in what's going on outside of Kosovo," Crown said. "They want to see what technology we have."

This was the first visit to the Bondsteel Hospital for most of the citizens of Kosovo, who were from Gnjilane Regional Hospital and the Strpce Health House. It was one of many joint medical events that TFMF participates in with the local medical community.

After the tour, Tomkins hosted a luncheon at the South Town dining facility, where the group discussed further joint events.

"We usually go out to Gnjilane Hospital once a week," said Tomkins. TFMF staff participates in projects such as the nursing classes, multiethnic clinics and a surgeons mentorship program.

They also go to health houses, which are similar to outpatient treatment clinics.

## For additional news

<http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil/>

### A Ukrainian Christmas

Also check out the new MWR website for a monthly events calendar, movie schedule, services and pictures of past events.

<http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil/mwr/index.htm>

## Correction

In the December 31 edition of the Guardian East, a quote from Strpce President Sladan Ilic read: "History teaches that big social and state enterprises are the way to develop society." The quote should have read: "History teaches that big social and state enterprises are not the way to develop society."

## Peacekeeper profile



### Tuomas Heinonen

Age: 19

Rank: Pfc.

MOS: 19K, Tanker

Unit: Charlie Company, Finnish Battalion

Camp: Karhu, MNB(C)

Hometown: Hyvinkaa, Finland

What are you good at? Trekking

Why did you join the Army? To serve my country.

What advice would you give to soldiers coming to Kosovo? Enjoy and try to learn as much as possible

[www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil)

January 22, 2003 ♦ 19



Sgt. Chris Price, a PSYOP specialist with the 13th Psychological Operations Company, displays a poster that shows a choice between fighting or peace and the consequences of each. The posters are one way the 13th PSYOPS promotes peace in Kosovo.

# PSYOPS delivers messages of hope

Story and photos by Spc. Matthew Lang

**KAMENICA, Kosovo** — In Kosovo, hope is a currency as valuable as the Euro. It is one of the intangibles that a war can damage along with a sense of peace and security.

In the Multi-National Brigade (East) area of operations, the 13th Psychological Operations Company tries to restore that sense of optimism through education.

“Our main mission here in Kosovo is to put out information to various villages and to bring information back from the local villagers to help us assist them,” said Sgt. Chris Price, a team leader with 13<sup>th</sup> PSYOPS.

On Jan. 6, a team from the company spent a day visiting villages in the Kamenica area, handing out posters, informational newspapers and brochures, which 13<sup>th</sup> PSYOPS produced. They covered the Administrative Boundary Line or ABL, electricity rules and the dangers of unexploded ordnance. The calendars highlighted some of the most beautiful vistas in Kosovo.

In Strelica, a mostly Serb village, people seemed appreciative of the information. It was sometimes hard to tell whether they were happier to receive the items or have American soldiers as guests in their community.

“It is not too often that they get any news here,” Price said. “To get it they have to travel all the way to the Serbian border.”

The team also brought toys along to donate to a local kindergarten. The teacher was so overwhelmed with the soldiers’ generosity she invited them to stay for coffee.

In Bosce, the team met with Elizabeta Stefanovic, a local citizen who works as a representative for the United Nations.

“Do you see the KPS (Kosovo Police Service) often in town? How does that affect you?” Price asked.

“Everyday we see them but it doesn’t affect us much

because it has become almost normal,” said Stefanovic through an interpreter.

Stefanovic said that the village has become more peaceful, mainly because of KFOR’s presence.

The conversation lasted about an hour. No major issues were raised, so the team moved on, thanking Stefanovic for her time.

“Face to face conversations are the only way to do things,” said Sgt. Mike Flaherty, a PSYOPS specialist. “Just getting out there and talking to people is how we can establish better friendships.”

Several towns later, in Donje Korminjane, a villager complained that the electric company kept turning off his power.

“Have you been paying your bills?” Price asked.

“No,” responded the man, “because they’re trying to charge me for three years of electricity.”

Price showed him one of the pamphlets that listed the various rules on paying electricity. Many of the people were used to living under a Yugoslavian Socialist system where they didn’t pay for their own electricity, he explained.

“The several items that we hand out help us establish a state of mind with the locals of Kosovo that it’s not an ‘us against them’ situation,” said Price.

Flaherty added, “I think the things we hand out help. I heard that incidents of people who were having trouble with things like crossing the ABL without proper authorization have dropped dramatically since we started putting up our products that address these issues.”

The people of Kosovo must learn how to trust the KPS and their municipal leaders if they want a brighter future, Price said. That is what the 13th PSYOPS team is trying to influence.



A local boy from the village of Donje Korminjane reads a brochure passed out by the 13th PSYOPS Company. The brochures warn of the dangers that still exist in Kosovo.

# Fire wardens are first line of defense

By Spc. Whitney Hughes

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Last year, Task Force Falcon Fire Department responded to five minor structural fires in Multi-National Brigade (East). While it's a low number for an operation of this magnitude, fire officials are not gloating about their success.

The fact that most of MNB(E) personnel live in wooden South East Asia (SEA) huts puts the impressive track record in perspective.

That's why the additional duty of fire warden is so vital. Every SEA hut has one, according to Alvin Washington, lead fire inspector for the TFF Fire Department. On New Years Day, he lectured a new crew of wardens on the finer points of fire safety.

Washington gave the class in preparation for upcoming fire inspections, and also to make the fire wardens aware of their responsibilities.

The training focused on many aspects of fire safety, but Washington said that some areas that are more crucial than others. Electrical safety, smoke detector maintenance, and

general housekeeping are what Washington finds to be the most problematic when inspecting rooms.

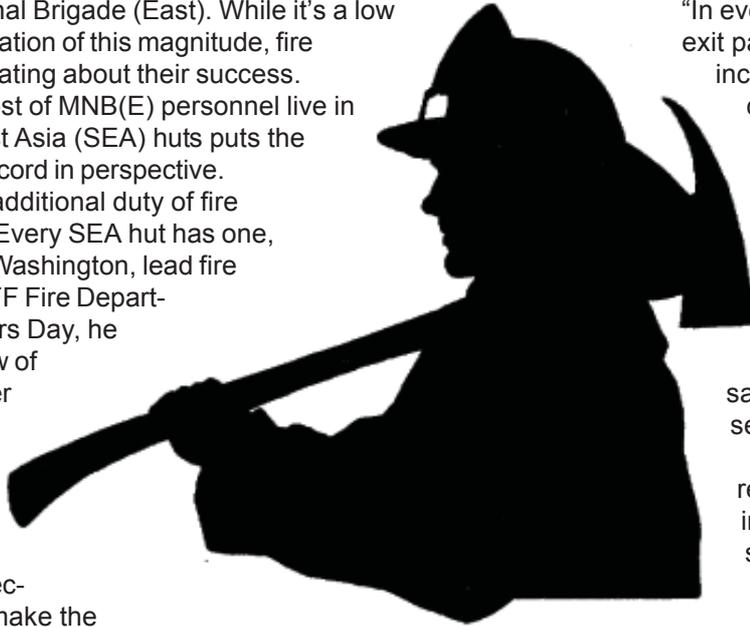
"In every occupied building or structure the exit path has to be at least two feet, eight inches wide," explained Washington to the class. He said that this was important because if a firefighter needs to get through the room wearing a fire suit and pack they need to be able to move freely.

Candles are also an issue, said Washington

"Candles are strictly prohibited, whether they are burned or not," he said. "So if you have them or they were sent to you, get rid of them."

He explained the soldiers' additional responsibilities as fire wardens, which include inspecting fire extinguishers and smoke detectors, and conducting room inspections.

The wardens will have to inspect the rooms in their building before Washington comes through himself. This should be an on-going standard, a standard enforced by the fire marshals who inspect the billets twice a rotation.



## Return continued from pg. 2

return, as some people have chosen for the time being to integrate themselves into the communities where they now live. They have the right to live where they wish. On the other hand, other displaced persons are undecided and still others want to come back. Those people who want to return need help, especially people whose homes were destroyed or damaged beyond use.

People who want to return, or who are undecided, assess the situation in their former communities in many ways. Some participate in "Go-and-See Visits," and actually see their former homes—or what's left of them. Others get information indirectly, by telephone or word of mouth. Regardless, displaced families take a big step when they contact the U.N. and say that they want to come home.

Those words, "We want to come home," start a very deliberate planning process at the municipal level. The persons responsible for planning returns in each municipality are known collectively as the Municipal Working Group on Returns. Every municipality in our brigade AOR has a Municipal Working Group (MWG). It is chaired by the UNMIK Municipal Administrator, the ranking UNMIK person in the municipality. We in KFOR participate in the MWG, we have a chair at the table. Our role is to advise the other members whether it is safe for displaced persons to return to any areas the MWG is considering for returns. Notice here that I said our role is to advise. We cannot say, for example, "KFOR will not allow anyone to return to the village of ..." However, we do have a duty to make a recommendation to the MWG against returns to a specific location if returns will endanger the lives of current residents or the returnees.

For the year 2003, UNMIK requires more than 37 million Euros to support returns projects in the 30 municipalities across Kosovo. The MWGs in each of the seven municipalities of our AOR are very busy planning "returns projects" for

the year. During the next one or two months, each MWG will submit its projects to UNMIK headquarters in Pristina for approval and (hopefully) funding. I expect the first returns to begin as early as March, shortly after winter ends.

Last year about 750 people returned to their homes in our AOR. That pace is likely to increase, but no one knows by how much the pace will quicken. Just keep this in mind: **Every return is a good news story.** It is a success in which you can take personal pride because you will have played a crucial role in ensuring someone's Right to Return.

## Peacekeeper profile



### Donald Serate

Age: 19

Rank: Pfc.

MOS: 11B, infantryman

Unit: Alpha Company 2-2 Infantry

Camp: Monteith

**Hometown:** Bound Brook, N.J.

**Why did you join the Army?** To protect family, country, and friends

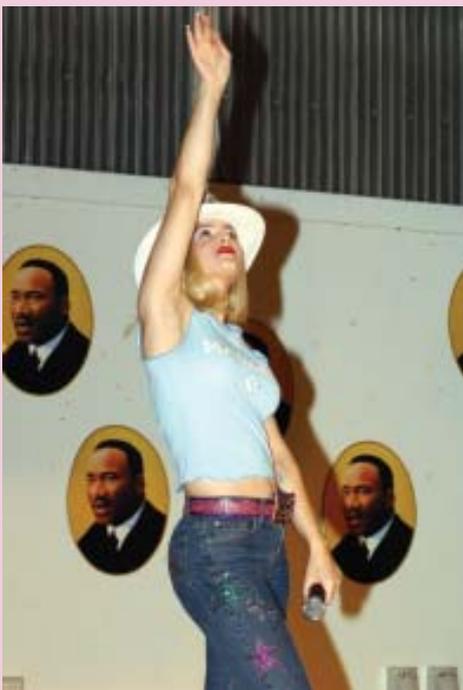
**What advice would you give to soldiers coming into Kosovo?** Save your money, go to the gym, and keep yourself occupied; it helps the time go faster

# Girl Power

## Pop diva tribute singers raises spirits

By Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

Jamie Shea (left) is one of the five-member group, "Girl Power," who shared their song and dance routines at the Camp Bondsteel Morale, Welfare and Recreation's South Town venue on Jan. 9. The singers portrayed Britney Spears (Shea), Madonna (Margaret Skube, lower left) and Christina Aguilera (Trycia Carlberg, below, second from left). Approximately 300 soldiers attended the performance.



# Scenes of Kosovo

A photograph of an abandoned stone hut with a snow-covered roof, situated in a snowy, wooded area. The hut is built with rough-hewn stones and has a steep, dark roof. The surrounding landscape is covered in snow, and the trees are bare, indicating a winter scene. The overall atmosphere is desolate and quiet.

**An abandoned hut sits along the Lepenac River near the village of Izance.  
Photo by Spc. Christopher Gookin**