

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

# Guardian East

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**Fighting to become an American  
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# Message to the troops



# ASG ensures quality of life

By Col. McKinley Collins

As lifelong infantrymen, Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Mitomi and I have unfortunately taken garrison support operations for granted. We grew up in Hawaii as members of the famed 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, the most decorated unit of its size during World War II. Our motto was: "Go for Broke!"

We served as a command team in the 100th Battalion for more than a decade, beginning when I was a young captain and Mitomi was a specialist. Now, as the commander and command sergeant major of Area Support Group Falcon, we have come to appreciate the complex role that base operations play in support of soldiers. ASG Falcon supports Task Force Falcon by providing the best quality of life that can be offered to a forward deployed contingency operation. While other units of the task force concentrate on tactical operations, our primary mission is to sustain the force with billeting, dining facilities and laundry, Morale, Welfare and Recreation; continuing education; Army, Air Force Exchange Service, Red Cross and all of the maintenance, construction, safety, communications and logistics support of the peacekeeping units.

As a former battalion commander, I will tell you that this job is much more complicated than leading a tactical unit and requires a great amount of time, patience and listening skills to coordinate between all of the international, governmental, military, and contracting agencies that are involved in the KFOR mission.

We have three separate base camps and we support KFOR Headquarters in Pristina and Skopje. We are striving to coordinate closely with Task Force Falcon to make sure that plans for new facilities, construction, and morale, welfare and support programs will truly make a difference for the soldiers who are assigned here.

The mission in Kosovo is vital to the success of ensuring peace. To help relieve the stresses of deployment, there are daily movies, regularly scheduled entertainment groups, sports tournaments, and a variety of ways for our soldiers to attend and complete their higher education.

This is made possible by the Army Continuing Education System, which allows soldiers to take college and graduate level classes through the University of Maryland, Embry-Riddle, Oklahoma University and Central Texas College. After 90 days in country all soldiers are eligible to participate in an excellent Fighter

Management Pass Program, where they can relax in Sophia, Bulgaria. The Task Force Community Newsletter lists all of these activities and special events.

The ASG Falcon team is comprised of soldiers, Department of Defense civilians and contractors whose job is to ensure that the soldiers assigned to MNB(E) receive the best service we can offer. We are constantly out and about, making sure that to the best of our ability, the ASG Falcon team is providing the best quality of service to the soldiers and civilians that make up MNB(E). As we used to say in the 100th Battalion, "Go for Broke!"



Col. McKinley Collins

SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY  
[www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil)

On the cover: Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang  
From left, Sgts. Dora Staton and Laura Olivasapodoca, both members of the 106th Finance Battalion, are among many soldiers in the U.S. armed forces applying for their U.S. citizenship.

## Guardian East

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# 2-2 Inf. helps area schools

Story and photo by Master Sgt. John Barr

**PONESH, Kosovo** – Over the course of two days, soldiers from 2-2 Infantry Battalion delivered more than \$5,000 worth of school supplies to three schools in the villages of Ponesh, Bilince and Uglar.

The supplies included pens, pencils, paper, notebooks and glue - the simple tools of education - were flown thousands of miles to a Balkan province, whose children were more than eager to put them to use.

They came from school children in Michigan and Virginia, encouraged by teachers related to 2-2 Inf. soldiers. A second grade class from Windemere Elementary School in East Lansing, Mich. also included a photo album of themselves.

“We are very happy to get these supplies from the American school and the pictures of the students there,” said Sasa Antonijevic, the principal of the school in Ponesh.

In return, Maj. Kurt Vandersteen, executive officer for 2-2



Students file into the Vehbi Ibrahim Elementary School in Uglar, during a recent visit with 2-2 Inf. soldiers.

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Inf., ensured digital photos of the Ponesh students were collected and emailed back to East Lansing, where his sister-in-law is a teacher.

Two days later, members of 1st Platoon, F/4 Cavalry brought school supplies to the Iliria Elementary School in Bilince, and the Vehbi Ibrahim Elementary School in Uglar.

“My mother and sister are teachers back home and since we have been in this sector we checked out the schools,” said 1st Lt. Mike Gates, the platoon leader.

His family helped collect the supplies from 20 different groups throughout their town in Botetourt County, Va. as well as West Virginia and as far away as Florida.

“This is the seventh school in the sector we have been able to bring supplies to,” Gates said.

Addressing the class in Bilince, Gates said, “Education is important. You need to learn and be good to your teachers because they work hard to help you.”

The school in Bilince is part of the Pogradje Education system and has a new building, which was constructed in 2000 with funds donated by U.S. Agency for International Development, International Red Cross and the citizens of Bilince.

“The school got some help with supplies a year ago, and very little since, so we are happy to get all this,” said Qemajl Haliti, a teacher at the school.

In Uglar, a similar scene took place as the soldiers went from class to class handing out school items and receiving big smiles in return. The only students who could be happier were the ones who collected the supplies back in the states.

## Peacekeeper profile



### Dawn Maria Lewis

Age: 19

Rank: Spc.

MOS: 52D, Generator Repairer

Unit: HHC, 3rd Brigade

Camp: Bondsteel

Hometown: Youngstown, Ohio

**Why did you join the Army?** To make a difference in the lives of others.

**What advice would you give soldiers here?** Don't think of this as a six-month tour, think of it as the rest of your life.

# Task Force Dragon



## MNB(E) aviators patrol the skies

Story and photos by Sgt. Erin Elliott

The thudding hum of incoming and outgoing choppers overhead is a familiar sound to soldiers assigned to Multi-National Brigade (East). What isn't familiar to most soldiers is the amount of work that goes into keeping the Black Hawk and Apache helicopters hovering overhead.

Task Force Dragon's mission is to support all of MNB(E)'s aviation needs, from medical evacuations, VIP transports, surveillance, equipment transportation, to insertion and extraction missions. The Black Hawks alone have flown over 3,300 hours since November of last year, said Lt. Col. Samuel Ford, the Task Force Dragon commander.

For every hour of flight time, a Black Hawk helicopter requires an estimated three to four hours of maintenance. Multiply that by the flying hours conducted and that is over 12,000 hours of maintenance since the beginning of this rotation, said Chief Warrant Officer Rodney Bryant, the production control officer with Delta Company.

"The mission drives the maintenance. We are flying about 350 hours a month, which will require over 1,200 hours of maintenance operation to keep them flying," said Bryant. "And that should pick up with the better flying weather of the summer months."

Bryant, who likes to refer to himself as a guinea pig pilot,

is responsible for quality control of maintenance and testing Black Hawks before they are returned to flight status.

In aviation, there is no room for errors: if something goes wrong in mid-flight, it could be a life or death matter. Task Force Dragon soldiers cannot afford to make mistakes, and attention to detail is incredibly important when the demand is high as it is in MNB(E), said Ford.

Task Force Dragon comprises seven major components: 236th Medical Company (Air Ambulance); Alpha Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion: the 7th Expeditionary Weather Squadron; and Bravo Company, 358th Air Traffic Service. Also, 2-1 Aviation Regiment provides general aviation support. Delta Company, 2-1 Aviation, provides unit level maintenance support. The 1-1 Aviation Regiment provides the AH-64 Apache reconnaissance support. The headquarters element is made up of an ad-hoc unit consisting of 4th Brigade, 2-1 Aviation and 1-1 Aviation soldiers. It was formed only two weeks before deploying.

The operational tempo and frequent changes in mission can make it difficult for the crews to be proactive, which means they must be ready to react to mission changes and any obstacles that come their way to make their missions successful, said Staff Sgt. Paula Roberts, an Apache helicopter technical inspector with 1-1 Aviation. Roberts'



From left, Spc. Donnie Coleman, Sgt. Rich Turner, and Spc. Eric Sutfin, all crew chiefs with Company B, 2-1 Aviation, clean a Black Hawk helicopter, April 20.

unit, which has been on Camp Bondsteel for less than a month is comprised of a group of soldiers from several units who volunteered to serve in MNB(E).

“Being here at Bondsteel is good experience for the soldiers. This deployment offers them experience that they wouldn’t get back in a rear unit or a garrison unit. It will make them better crew chiefs and better at their jobs for future missions,” said Bryant.

The soldiers are the heart and soul of Task Force Dragon, the ones who make it possible for the pilots to complete their missions successfully. The task force’s multifaceted mission requires several elements to come together to make their missions successful. Each element, from soldiers in tactical operation command tracking flights, to the weather squadron, to the crew chiefs ensuring safety of each mission, to the highly-skilled pilots, is needed for a single mission to succeed, said Ford.

The arrival of the Apache helicopters in early April has made it possible for MNB(E) to increase its presence and monitoring along the Kosovo border. The missions the Apaches and Black Hawks fly are in direct support of MNB(E)’s mission to bring peace and stability to the people of Kosovo, said Ford.

The 236th has flown over 20 real-world medical evacuations and patient transport missions. The air ambulance unit must be ready to go on a moment’s notice to respond to an emergency call.

The unit runs the 9-line MEDEVAC system similar to the civilian 911 system. A dedicated line is monitored 24-hours a day, and the crew has only eight minutes from the time a call is received to launch.

A phone call came in this winter to evacuate a Special Forces team suffering from dehydration and hypo- oxygenation on Mount Ljubeten (Big Duke). Landing the Black Hawk proved to be an interesting challenge with the uneven ground. The pilots had to land on one side, while the other side hovered so the team could climb in, said Chief Warrant Officer Michael Rohrbeck, a pilot with the 236th.

“Most of our missions are getting every company level unit here trained on the 9-line system and MEDEVAC procedures. We conduct this training every other day and at times every day,” said Capt. David Turner, a platoon leader with the 236th.

One of these training missions proved to be a great asset during a real world situation. The 236th had spent a day out at Camp Victoria in Multi-National Brigade (Central)’s sector, training their soldiers on the 9-line system. Within a few days a 9-line call came in reporting a Norwegian soldier had been injured when his rifle misfired at Camp Victoria. A Black Hawk crew was already in the air on a training mission and was diverted to the emergency call. Not only did the training that had been implemented days

earlier come in handy, but also the pilots were familiar with Camp Victoria. This made it easier for them to navigate there, said Rohrbeck.

Not only has Task Force Dragon successfully completed every mission assigned without any major accidents, but it has found time to volunteer at the Ali Asllani School in Doganaj, said Ford. The school is the only painted building in the village, thanks to the help of Task Force Dragon. The unit has collected and donated sporting equipment and school supplies to the school.

On April 29, Task Force Dragon set up a static display with a Black Hawk helicopter and a humvee for the students of Ali Asllani School.

Over 3,300 hours of flight time, 3 million gallons of JP-8 fuel, 12,000 hours of maintenance and six months of 24-hour operations later, the Task Force Dragon has not only proven it is capable of handling the job, but can do it as a team.



**Spc. Donnie Coleman, a Black Hawk crew chief with Company B, 2-1 Aviation Regiment inspects the rotor of a Black Hawk helicopter on Camp Bondsteel, April 20.**

# Knight Hawks build esprit de corps

Story and illustration Sgt. Erin Elliott



**E**sprit de corps and teamwork are two terms that you won't find written on the office walls of Bravo Company, 2-1 Aviation, the home of the Knight Hawks. But you will find it radiating from the team of aviators.

For the Knight Hawks team morale is one of the command's utmost concerns, and it can easily be seen on the soldiers' faces, despite the high operational-tempo of their mission. The Knight Hawk's tag, a sticker of their unit patch, can be found all over Camp Bondsteel and Kosovo, left by proud Knight Hawk soldiers (of course, with permission), said 1st Sgt. Jean



Sgt. Rich Turner

Thomas, Task Force Dragon's only flying first sergeant with Company B. Thomas and his platoon sergeants often fill in as crewmember to give their soldiers a day off.

"I'm very proud to be their first sergeant, not the first sergeant. My job is to take care of them. They do the right thing because it's their job, not because I told them to do it," said Thomas. "We have a lot of pride and we are very conscious of how every soldier is doing."

The Knight Hawk's mission under Task Force Dragon is to provide general aviation support and VIP transports. Their mission requires the unit to run 24-7, said Lt. Col. Samuel Ford, the commander of Task Force Dragon.

"It is a very demanding mission and the tolerance for mistakes is very low. There are no flat tires in aviation. We can't just pull over and fix a problem with the aircraft," said Capt. Christian Huettmeyer, the commander of Company B. "High unit morale makes them better soldiers. It is part of what has made us successful here in Kosovo."

"We are all about our soldiers. Keeping them safe, making mission and keeping our soldiers smiling are our number one missions," said Thomas.

The Knight Hawk leadership developed the "Sunday Surprise." Every Sunday they put out a little something for the soldiers, everything from the aviators' cherished mechanical pencils, to sweets and Slim Jims. With each surprise is a coinciding phrase of praise or motivation "isn't it sweet that we kept our safety record clean" or "Hugs and Kisses (Hershey, that is) from the commander and first sergeant," said Huettmeyer.

"Morale is pretty high. The first sergeant and the commander are always doing things to keep morale up," Spc. Anthony Charney, a Black Hawk crew chief with Sundays also bring another Knight Hawk tradition:

Sunday night floor hockey in Clam Shell 4. Every week, mission and weather permitting, the Knight Hawks clean out the hangar and set up their make-shift hockey rink. The score is usually irrelevant, but it is sometimes used for bragging rights. The unit has pitched in to purchase hockey equipment and has boards made up to encase the rink, said Thomas.

"We leave the rank at the door and just play hockey," said Thomas.

Sundays are not the only days that come with a morale boost. Morale is an everyday concern for the leadership. In the Knight Hawk hangar is a board that displays the quote and illustration of the day. The quotes are statements made by soldiers the previous day, usually displayed out of context in which they were made. The illustrations are of Company B soldiers, or any Task Force Dragon soldier, that finds himself the butt of the joke, said Thomas.

"Everyone is susceptible to making it on the board. You have to have thick skin in our company, because every day we have a new picture up, usually something that occurred the day prior," said Thomas.

For the Knight Hawks building their team takes everyone, and teamwork is instilled at every level. Any time a soldier goes to Sofia, Bulgaria on the Fighter Management Pass Program or back to Germany for training, they are required to bring back a treat for the unit, said Thomas.

"You bring it back for everybody. We're a team, and any chance we get to give the soldiers something we can't get here, we do," said Thomas.

The Knight Hawk's secret to success is to take their jobs seriously, but still have fun, said Thomas.

"It makes coming to work fun. We are always joking around while we work, which helps keep it interesting," said Charney. "It really makes coming to work enjoyable."

Despite all the fun the Knight Hawks have had on this deployment, they have been extremely successful. They have

worked with every nation in Multi-National Brigade (East) and participated in several large exercises like

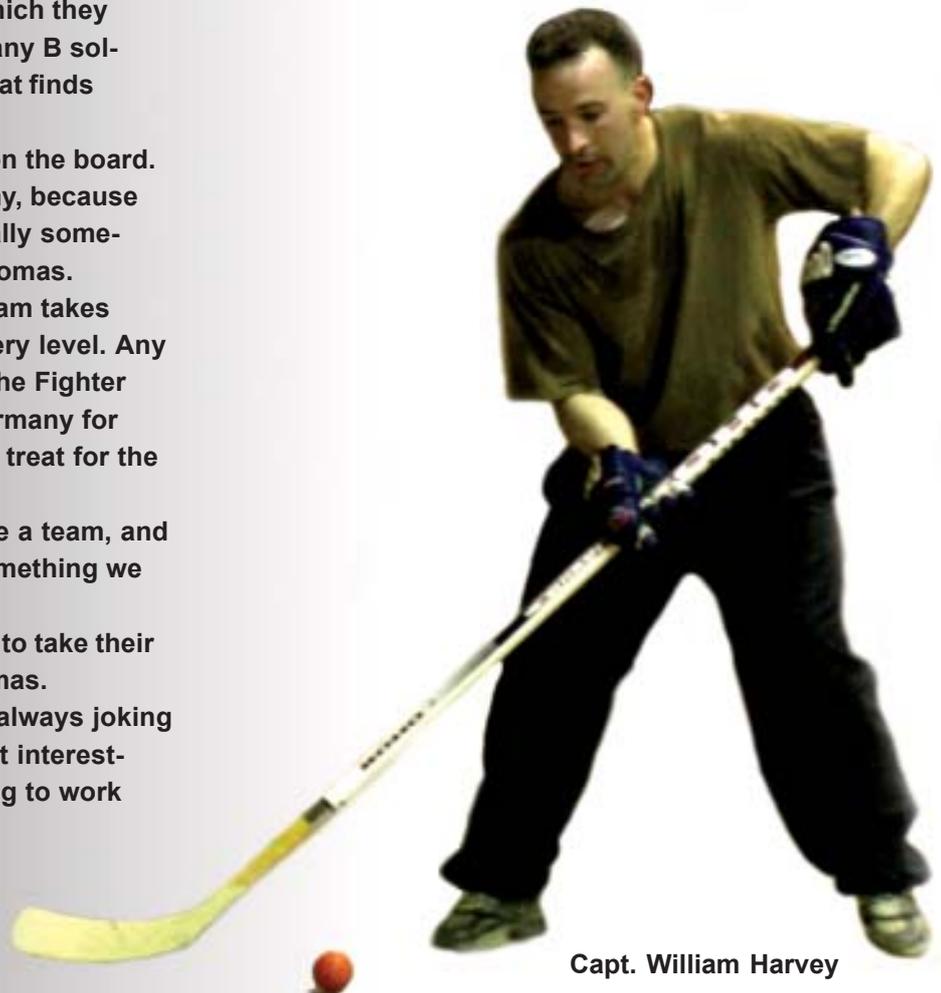
Rapid Guardian and the Interoperability Exercise. They have done all this and been able to keep up with the fast-paced mission without any accidents, said Thomas.

"They've done an incredible job here. We fly almost every single day. The only thing that keeps us from flying is the weather. We haven't missed one mission," said Huettemeyer. "I'm really proud of the company. I'm

proud of the first sergeant, he's the man behind our success. Every soldier from the specialist to the CW3 (Chief Warrant Officer) has made this mission successful."

*"It is a very demanding mission and the tolerance for mistakes is very low. There are no flat tires in aviation. We can't just pull over and fix a problem with the aircraft. High unit morale makes them better soldiers. It is part of what has made us successful here in Kosovo."*

*Capt. Christian Huettemeyer,  
Knight Hawks Commander*



Capt. William Harvey



From left, Pfc. Jeremy English and Sgt. Aaron Hutmacher, both with the 212th MP Co., walk down a street in Kacanik during a routine patrol, April 19.

# 212th MPs adapt to changing mission

## *MPs work to transfer authority to KPS*

Story and photo by Spc. Matthew Lang

**UROSEVAC, Kosovo** – It was a murky, wet Saturday morning for a team from the 212th Military Police Company. The soldiers' morning started with the usual group PT, a quick breakfast and a drive to Camp Bondsteel for their instructions on the mission.

The team and about 20 more soldiers live at the Brown and Root facility in Ferizaj to ensure a safe and secure environment.

Just like any U.S. base in Kosovo, it has a dining facility, a motor pool, barracks and the American flag soaring high, which can be seen from anywhere on the small facility. Also patrolling the perimeter of the facility are soldiers with 501st Mechanized Battalion (Greek) which adds a little more reassurance to the security.

"It's not bad here. It's really quiet and it's easy to get things done," said Sgt. Aaron Hutmacher, a team leader with the 212th.

In the four months the soldiers of 212th have been patrolling in Multi-National Brigade (East), they have dealt with some of the same incidents they would respond to at their home station in Kitzengen, Germany. Incidents such as vehicle breakdowns, traffic accidents, traffic violations along with something a little new to them, unexploded ordnance and illegal weapon caches.

Since the arrival of KFOR things in Kosovo have turned for the better, said Pfc. Jeremy English, a gunner with the 212th.

"When I first got here we would do more random patrols and joint patrols with the KPS (Kosovo Police Service)," said English. "But things have changed a little. Things are better now and we want to slowly turn over everything to them (KPS). And our job here has shifted to assisting them in the turnover."

As a result, two of the sub-stations, Kacanik and Karpje, have been closed. The only two used now are in Urosevac and Vitina.

"We are scheduled to close the other two soon to further the turnover to the KPS representatives," said Staff Sgt. Charles Lippman, the Urosevac NCOIC with the 212th.

Therefore, teams no longer do separate patrols in each area. Instead, they perform a combination of all the areas in one day.

"Some days we can squeeze all four areas in, but if one area is more active then we will spend more time there," Hutmacher said.

On this particular patrol the team visited each of the sub-stations.

Following the short stop, they made their way to the town of Kacanik, performed a foot patrol and interviewed the owner of a local café.

"One of our primary missions now is gathering information," Hutmacher said.

"How are things going?" asked Hutmacher.

"Things are good now," said the middle-aged man, through an interpreter. "We've seen a lot of improvement in the past years."

"How do you feel about us turning more over to the people?" Hutmacher followed.

"Good, I believe there is a future for Kosovo because the war is over now and our infrastructure is improving," said the man.

"This is our job," said Sgt. Marc Esteban, also a team leader with the 212th. "We try to ensure that the people stay happy."

Later in the day, the team moved to the village of Pozaranje. Waiting their arrival were about 200 children gathered to view a statue built in memory of a fallen soldier.

The MPs didn't even have one foot outside of their humvee before the kids started swarming them. Once Esteban pulled a personal camera from his pocket to capture the moment, young boys and girls insisted he take pictures of them.

"This is what it's all about," said Esteban, who was being jostled by the young ones.

Just about every day they patrol, kids flock around them and ask questions, Esteban said. He doesn't mind, though, because "most of the information we get is from the kids."

The team had a hard time leaving the kids, but had to perform a vehicle checkpoint.

"Vehicle check points are a good way to keep control," said Hutmacher. "Sometimes if people are hiding something and see us, they will turn around and try and get away."

Hutmacher said that despite working 12 to 13 hours day, he likes the job. "Unlike a lot of people stuck on Camp Bondsteel who never get to see anything, I get to interact with local people, learn their cultures and understand what our mission is intended for."

He added, "This is great field training and it can set your mind for what might come."

# MNB(E) Command Sgt. Maj. maintains standards

Story and photo by Spc. Whitney Hughes

When Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia first joined the Army in June 1982 his only goal was to become a corporal.

Now, 21 years later, he is the command sergeant major for Multi-National Brigade (East). However, he has not forgotten his roots.

"When you're a young sergeant and you're asked to step up and be a squad leader, you don't ask questions. This is no different, I was asked to step up and enforce some standards," said Gioia.

## Where He Came From

According to his peers Gioia is just the person for the job.

"As the standard bearer for the battalion, I can't imagine anyone better than Command Sgt. Maj. Gioia," said Lt. Col. Thomas Quigley, the commander of the 82nd Engineer Battalion.

Before he became the MNB(E) command sergeant major, Gioia was the command sergeant major for the 82nd Engineers.

He had responsibility for the battalion, which has two companies here at Camp Bondsteel. The 82nd is in charge of force protection so Gioia's duties fell within the limits of Camp Bondsteel.

## What He is Doing Now

Now that he is the MNB(E) Command Sergeant Major his duties include the entire MNB(E) area of responsibility.

"Wherever I can make a difference for soldiers - that's where I need to be," said Gioia. "You can't remind soldiers enough of the great job that they're doing."

He said that his job is like being a second set of eyes for the commanding general, and offering him another point of view. This means that he will have to attend a lot more meetings and briefings. However, his primary concern is still the soldiers.

He has more ground to cover and more soldiers to see. But that doesn't bother him.

"It's fun getting out there and watching our soldiers in action," said Gioia. "The guys are doing what they're supposed to be doing and it's incredible to see."

A typical day would be one like March 31. Gioia observed civil affairs soldiers performing a mission in Urosevac/Ferizaj. He then traveled to Klokot to visit one of 2-63 Armor Battalion's vehicle checkpoints.

## What Is He Like?

"I'm very approachable. I like talking to soldiers. It's fun. Never forget where you came from, that's the way I look at it," said Gioia.

Although Gioia's main mission is to advise the MNB(E) commander, he also has a personal goal.

"I am trying to get my hands on the pulse of the Task Force," he said. "The only way you can get that is when the soldiers feel comfortable to come up and talk to you and let you know what the issues are."

Throughout each of his leadership positions Gioia's primary concern has always been the soldiers.

"He gives young soldiers the model to which they thirst for, someone to aspire to be," Quigley said. "He understands that in order for a unit to function, it must be a team effort, and he has forged an incredible team with the command group and the companies."

"He takes great pride in the NCO Corps and believes in empowering junior leaders to make decisions," said Col. Dana Pittard, the MNB(E) maneuver commander.

Since he began his new duties, Gioia has spent a good deal of time out in the sector.

"I haven't found a mistake yet out there. It's not that I'm not looking, I am," Gioia said. "They're doing well, they have an incredible amount of soldier discipline."

Gioia said that he was extremely impressed by the professionalism and the attitude of the soldiers. He recalled a conversation he had with a young private at a checkpoint.

"He said, 'You know sergeant major, we have to be here to provide a safe and secure environment, but I look at it like we're guarding the Army's flank,' and this was from a young PFC," Gioia said. "To hear him say that was just incredible."

## His Roots

Gioia was born in Buffalo, N. Y. in 1964. He enlisted in the United States Army in June 1982 shortly after graduating from high school. He attended basic training and Combat Engineer Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Gioia's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course; Basic Non-Commissioned Officer's Course; Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer's Course; Battle Staff NCO Course; First Sergeant's Course; United States Army Sergeant's Major Academy; Sapper Leader Course; Airborne School; Jump Master School; Pathfinder Course; Air Assault Course and Master Fitness Trainer. He is also a member of the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and Sergeant Morales Club.

Gioia is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeant's Major Academy, Class 52. Gioia's tours have included the 39th Engineer Battalion at Fort Devens, Mass.; the 317th Engineer Battalion at Camp Eschborn, Germany; the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas; two in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division; the United States Army Engineer Center at Fort Leonard Wood; three with the 20th Engineer Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N. C. and one tour to Haiti as part of Operation Uphold Democracy.

He and his wife Fay, 35, have two teen-age daughters, Katie and Brittney.

Gioia attributes the overall success of his career to the support of his wife, who he says is "his rock." He also credits the success of his latest tour to his peers.

"The level of professionalism that is displayed by my fellow sergeants major in the task force has made this transition extremely easy. They are 110 percent supportive, and it has made the job so much easier."



Multi-National Brigade (East) Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia interviews Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Marchall, a platoon sergeant with the 82nd Engineers, during the Sergeant Morales Board held at Camp Bondsteel, April 17. Passing the board and becoming an inductee is a prestigious honor for NCOs.

# Fighting

## to become an American

### Non-U.S. citizen soldiers excel in Kosovo

By Capt. Gregory Heilshorn

In March, when the war in Iraq started, Kosovo men were approaching our patrols on village streets and calling into local radio programs. One sent an email to the Guardian East Web site.

They all wanted to join our Army and fight against Saddam Hussein

"I am willing to do anything for AMERICA, please contact me and let me know what to do," pleaded Albert Lota, a 22-year-old resident of Gjakova, in an email. "...so please, please accept me in your Army, I am ready to join your Army and do anything you want."

The road to Baghdad is not as direct as they might hope, as our patrol leaders explained to them. First they must become a legal U.S. immigrant and establish an address in the U.S. Then, like all soldiers, they must apply for enlistment.



Photo by Capt. Gregory Heilshorn

**Sgt. Glendon Sorrell**

Even if they graduate basic and advanced individual training at the top of their class, there is no guarantee they will be sent to Iraq.

When the outpouring of support was reported in a recent Multi-National Brigade (East) staff meeting, an officer correctly pointed out, "They could just as easily end up back in Kosovo."

It seems ironic that a person who has just experienced the horrors of war in his own land would want to volunteer to fight in someone else's war, let alone be a part of their military. But when you consider the debt of gratitude behind the gesture – what better way to thank your liberators than taking up arms beside them – the idea is not so absurd.

In the United States military, the concept of a non-U.S. citizen volunteering to serve is not new. Currently, about 37,000 troops, or about 3 percent of the U.S. armed forces, are not American citizens, according to recent estimates by the Department of Defense.

During the initial push into Iraq, the media paid special attention to soldiers and marines who were not U.S. citizens, lauding their service as an ideal act of patriotism.

The soldiers and marines told reporters they enlisted to improve their chances of becoming a U.S. citizen, and ultimately improve their way of life. In effect, they were saying that they were willing to die for the possibility, not the guarantee of citizenship. There was an overriding message of gratitude in their responses, something not lost on President George Bush and U.S. lawmakers.

During a July 4 celebration last year in Ripley, W. Va., President Bush announced that he had signed an Executive Order granting expedited citizenship consideration to non-citizen members of the U.S. military serving in active duty during the war on terrorism. The action potentially affects up to 15,000 members of U.S. armed forces who have served in the military for fewer than three years, according to a White House press statement. Military members automatically qualify for consideration after three years of service.

It was not the first time a U.S. president recognized the sacrifice of non-U.S. citizen military members. President Jimmy Carter signed a similar Executive Order following Vietnam, and President Bill Clinton signed one after the Persian Gulf War.

Collectively, the orders led to more than 100,000 additional members of the U.S. military becoming American citizens.

Under section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 143,000 non-citizen military participants in World Wars I and II, and 31,000 members of the U.S. military who fought during the Korean War, became naturalized American citizens.

## Exceptional Soldiers

The service of non-citizens continues to be a proud tradition of the U.S. military, and the multinational peacekeeping mission in Kosovo is no exception. Although the percentage of non-U.S. citizen military personnel is not specifically tracked in MNB(E), the number of soldiers who have scheduled appointments to pursue their citizenship indicates the percentage reflects overall DoD estimates.

Their reasons for serving in the U.S. military vary, but they all stem from a feeling of gratitude at the chance to be an American.

As soldiers, they are exceptional.

Sgt. Dora Staton, a finance specialist with the 106th Finance Battalion, is a Panamanian who joined the U.S. Army three years ago. A mother of two, Staton has become a model soldier. She achieved the grade of E5 in about half the time it normally takes.

"She takes great pride in accomplishing the mission the first time, error free," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Braden, her NCO. "In order for her to do this she takes the time to completely research all the issues involved. She is always seeking more knowledge regarding her job, career and the Army."

Spc. Trang Tu Quach, a native of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), was already a naturalized U. S. citizen when she joined the Army two years ago. She handles the award packets for the entire U.S. task force in MNB(E), a job that would require three to four soldiers in the rear, according to her supervisor Sgt. Javier Ramos, the personnel service support NCO.

"I couldn't ask for anything else from her," Ramos said. "She makes my job easier. She comes in at 8 (in the morning) and doesn't leave until everything is done."

Sgt. Glendon Sorrell has been in the Army for nearly eight years. The 24-year-old native of Jamaica is an artilleryman with the 1-6 Field Artillery Battalion. He has been serving as a guard on Camp Bondsteel. On May 1, he was scheduled to be in Miami, Fla. with his wife and youngest daughter taking the oath of citizenship.

As a boy, Sorrell said he dreamed of being a soldier and fighting in great battles. Now he wants to re-enlist and make the Army a career. He couldn't do that without his citizenship.

"He has always delivered outstanding results," said Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Dotson, Sorrell's platoon sergeant. "He puts his heart into everything."

### A Better Way Of Life

Staton's journey from Panama to Kosovo began more than a decade ago when she met her future husband, a military policeman, shortly after Operation Just Cause and the capture of military despot Manuel Noriega.

She followed him back to Fort Lewis, Wa., where she was exposed to active duty life. The benefits her husband received caught her attention. She was also impressed with how he cared for his soldiers and how his soldiers looked up to him.

"It just wasn't happening for me in the civilian world," said Staton, who worked as a special needs counselor for the post childcare center.

As a non-U.S. citizen, Staton was limited in how far she could progress. There was also the promise she had made to



*Photo by Capt. Gregory Heilshorn*

## Spc. Trang Tu Quach

her father that she would finish college. She was a year shy of earning a bachelors degree in biology when she left Panama.

The military was a way to achieve her goals, Staton determined. In March 2000, she enlisted. Her first choice was medical. Staton wanted to become a nurse, but there was a freeze on medical slots, so she went finance.

Her drive to earn a degree and become a nurse is even stronger. She has thrived under the tutelage of her NCOs and is now in the position of mentoring others. For some soldiers, she has become a role model.

"She is a hard worker," said Sgt. Laura Olivasapodaca, a finance specialist attached to the 106th who met Staton at the mission rehearsal exercise in Germany. "A lot of us come to her for advice or what to do in certain situations."

A native of Mexico, Olivasapodaca is also trying to gain her U.S. citizenship. Like Staton, finance was not her first choice when she decided to enlist. Yet she is persevering and has hopes of transferring into military intelligence or psychological operations. Both she and Stanton are in the middle of their application process.

"Just being a citizen can open so many doors for us," Olivasapodaca said. "You can only go so far. It's frustrating."

Staton experienced first-hand the oppression of a dictatorship, comparing the situation in Panama to Iraq.

"One person was controlling the whole country," she said. "Nobody could complain or say anything. It was a scary time."

## Guardian East

She saw the American soldiers and marines as her country's liberators. As a volunteer for the Red Cross, she worked with an American civil affairs team in the immediate aftermath of the strike.

"The Americans lost a few soldiers over there too," she said. "Why would you risk your soldiers lives to liberate another country?"

That left an impression on Staton.

"Maybe I can give a little back for the way they appreciated my country," she said.

### To Be A U.S. Citizen

By law, a non-U.S. citizen cannot become a commissioned or warrant officer, and they can only serve in the U.S. military for a period of eight years.

Sorrell reached that ceiling this year. With the help of his command, he was able to smooth out a few wrinkles in his application for U.S. citizenship. When he returns to his home station in Germany, Sorrell will officially be an American.

"To become a U.S. citizen – it shows what it means to fight for a country that stands for something," said Sorrell the day before he departed Camp Bondsteel. "The U.S. Army is a good Army. We always try to help other people even though they are our enemies. Being a U.S. citizen means standing up for something."

When he was 12, Sorrell immigrated with his mother and sister to West Palm Beach, Fla. His mother saw the move as an opportunity for a better education and better future for her children.

"Life in Jamaica was tough," Sorrell recalled. "A lot depended on the weather. We washed our laundry by hand. We did not have regular water or electricity. We would have to use carts with drums to get fresh water from the next town."

Jobs were hard to find, Sorrell added. It was survival of the fittest, a stark contrast to the lush island backdrop of pristine beaches and groves of fruit trees.

Sorrell enlisted at age 17 after graduating high school with honors.

"I didn't want to depend on my parents for anything," Sorrell said. "I wanted a job to support myself and make my own money for college."

For the moment college has taken a back seat to his family. Sorrell has a wife and two children to support. Plus, his dream of becoming a soldier has turned into a way of life.

"When I first got into the Army I never thought I would be a sergeant," Sorrell said. "Wherever I go people tell me I can do better things. I can elevate myself."

Now Sorrell is helping others to elevate themselves.

"A lot of soldiers come to me for advice," he said. "I make sure soldiers have a standard and they maintain that standard."

### Near Perfection

Quach, pronounced like the letter "Q," has a habit of setting new standards. Her work is almost perfect, Ramos said.

Sitting at her desk inside the tactical operations center, Quach is a study in focus and concentration. Outside the TOC, she is engaging and bubbly.

"I like to talk to people," Quach confessed.

Quach had no overriding desire to join the Army. She immigrated to the U.S. with her mother in 1993. She was an honor graduate at her high school in Newport News, Va. and was on her way to a degree in accounting.

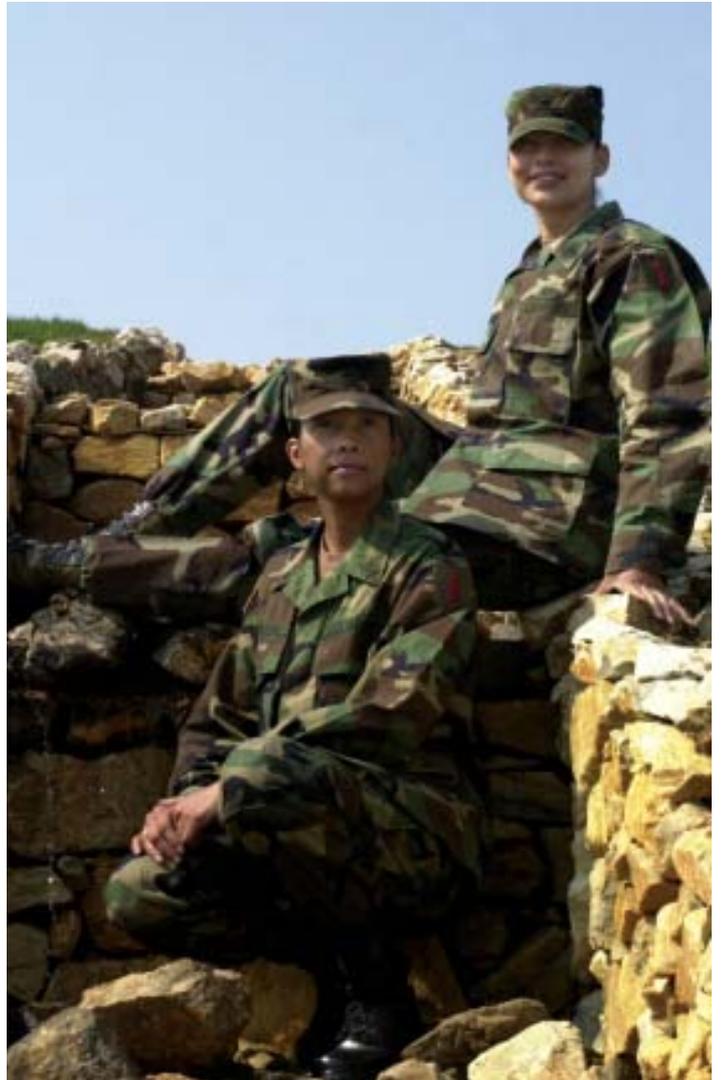


Photo by Spc. Matthew Lang

### Sgts. Dora Staton and Laura Olivasapodaca

"I am not a political person," she said. "I never thought about it because Asian girls don't join the Army."

She insisted the war in Vietnam did not affect her one way or another. Her father was a veteran of the war, fighting with American soldiers. He was shot through the jaw and spent three years recovering in hospital. After the fall of Saigon, he destroyed any evidence of his military service for fear of retribution from the Communist regime.

Living in Newport News, Quach was in close proximity to Fort Eustis. She visited the Army post often and the discipline and uniformity impressed her.

"I liked the organization," she said.

Quach liked it enough to drop out of college with a year left and enlist. She wanted to become a linguist, but needed at least three years of service to be eligible for the required level of clearance.

Two years into her tour, Quach, 26, is content with her decision to join the Army. She has thrived within the military structure and her parents, who were initially apprehensive, have accepted her career change. Her father is especially happy that the Army is "taking care of his daughter."

"America gives you a lot of opportunities to do different things," Quach said. "If I want to stay in (the Army), I can stay. If I want to get out, I can do that."

That probably won't happen anytime soon. Ramos mentioned that she is thinking about becoming an officer. Quach said she is still thinking about becoming a linguist.

At the rate she is going, Quach could do both.

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# Additional duties keep 2-2 Inf. motor pool busy

Story and photo by Master Sgt. John Barr

**B**y now, entering and leaving from Camp Monteith may seem routine, but for a portion of the motor pool it is a departure from the norm.

“We do a lot more guard duty now with two days on and one day off and it gets boring at times,” said Sgt. William Frazier, a tank mechanic with Bravo Company, 1-63 Armor Battalion.

Frazier is one of many soldiers with the 2-2 Infantry Battalion who are forced to balance their normal duties with guard duty for the force protection element of HHC, 2-2 Infantry. He still would prefer working on an M1A2 Abrams tank than on a security detail, but he understands it’s a necessary part of the mission at Camp Monteith and throughout Multi-National Brigade (East).

As a result, Brown and Root contractors have picked up the slack in the motor pool, doing the majority of vehicle maintenance. This doesn’t mean the mechanics are out of a job, said Sgt. 1st Class William Wilcox, the 2-2 Inf. motor sergeant.



Sgt. 1st Class William Wilcox, maintenance supervisor  
[www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqsareur.army.mil)

“We oversee them and keep up with all the on-hand vehicles of the task force,” Wilcox said.

He added, “There is the force protection duty and the shifts for that but also plenty of scrap metal and parts we are trying to clean up.”

Depending on the situation, the mechanics are ready to go where they are needed.

“If the ThreatCon level is high we need escorts and that’s more people,” the motor sergeant said. “The best news is that we haven’t had any injuries other than scrapes and bruises. We’ve been fortunate.”

Working with a contractor has its challenges, Wilcox added, but he pointed out that the mechanics who work for Brown and Root are good.

On a recent afternoon at Gate 1, Pfc. Andrey Strozenkov, a Bradley mechanic with HHC, 2-2 Inf., was checking IDs and searching pedestrians passing through the gate.

“With the Brown and Root guys there’s less work and we’re mostly turning in vehicles and doing guard now,” Strozenkov said. “I’ll do a week of guard and a week on vehicles.”

These soldiers have ensured the safety and comfort of Camp Monteith as well as kept its wheels rolling. In between, they have helped on things like operator maintenance, winter driving safety, and the dispatching process.

For these mechanics, the words of the British poet, John Milton fit well.

“Those also serve, who only stand and wait.”

## Peacekeeper profile



### Donnie Coleman

Age: 23  
Rank: Spc.  
MOS: Black Hawk Crew Chief  
Unit: Company B, 2-1 Aviation  
Camp: Bondsteel  
Hometown: Emmett, Idaho

**Why did you join?** I wanted to fly and I ran out of gas money.

**What advice would you give soldiers here?** Flight school starts every two weeks.

# Ukrainians shoulder share of peacekeeping duties

Story By 2nd Lt. Veronica Saffo

**BREZOVICA, Kosovo** – Two companies of Ukrainian soldiers reside in this mainly Serbian region of Multi-National Brigade(East). There are about 200 troops here that patrol the villages, man observation posts, and maintain an overall secure environment. For more than 30 percent of these soldiers, it is their second tour in Kosovo. The unit works closely not only with the American soldiers in the sector, but with the Kosovo Police Service and United Nations Mission In Kosovo Police as well.

According to the Deputy Commander, Major Serhij Heraimovich, during the ski season random vehicle searches were conducted to ensure safety for all who visited the nearby ski resort. He was pleased to report there were no incidents. He also noted that they have close cooperation with KPS and UNMIK and direct radio communications. Soldiers check for vehicles that are wanted by the authorities.

Heraimovich explained that because of a violent murder in this village about one year ago, the discovery of many trip wires and mines, and its remoteness, the inhabitants feel insecure without their presence. The soldiers conduct night patrols to ensure security for the population.

The Ukrainians maintain a high level of soldier proficiency through combat training and development.

“Our soldiers participate in all MNB(E) training offered at Camp Bondsteel. Especially our medics are training on a regular basis with their American counterparts,” said Heraimovich. “There are also many programs for professional development and language skills for our sergeants in the United States prior to being sent on this mission.”

Heraimovich added that the three-week Mission Rehearsal Exercise conducted at Hohenfels, Germany offered a worthwhile opportunity for his soldiers to interface with the American troops. The Ukrainian soldiers were able to share information about their experiences from prior missions in Kosovo with the deploying American troops.

“We have seen many changes since our last mission here in Kosovo,” said Staff Sgt. Dmytro Tkachuk.

He explained that many patrols are conducted with humvees, but in the past this was not possible. The situation here was so volatile that it was necessary to use armored reconnaissance vehicles. Vehicles returned from patrols damaged by thrown rocks and other such incidents. Now the situation is calm and there are no such incidents.

Since arriving in theater, the Ukrainian and American soldiers have conducted joint patrols. According to Senior Sgt. Andrej Chernata, these patrols have been very interesting.

“Especially during joint patrols we have the opportunity to share knowledge and our shared goals of security,” said Chernata.

Outside the gate a team of soldiers prepared the armored personnel carriers, or BRDM2s, for one of the daily patrols. The destination was an abandoned Albanian village currently inhabited by one Serbian family. The soldiers ascended the



Photo by Armend Aqifi, KFOR Chronicle

**Sgt. Anatole Dguha, a member of Tiger Company, scans the area during a recent patrol.**

mountainous road and parked in a large field. Two soldiers remained to guard the vehicles while the others dismounted to conduct a foot patrol. The soldiers, armed with AK47s and protective gear, moved out in a tactical formation. They scanned the destroyed homes searching for any caches of weapons, mines, or other contraband. The Platoon Sergeant, Dmytro Tkachuk, explained that this daily patrol is necessary because this area is so remote it might be considered a good place to hide illegal activities.

During the patrol the soldiers encountered an elderly Serbian man walking his nephew to school. The language barrier is not a problem because Serbian and Ukrainian are similar enough that the soldiers can communicate with the local citizens. Tkachuk asked the man if everything is well and if there are any problems.

“We have no problems and these patrols are good. We have seven people in our family and we are very glad you are here,” said Simonivich Slavko.

# 415th receives IDP training

## *Civil Affairs learns basics of returns*

By Spc. Whitney Hughes

In yet another example of Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers cooperating with local authorities, the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion attended a joint training exercise with representatives from UNMIK and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, April 12.

The 415th team leaders and chiefs attended the training to better understand their roles and the roles of UNMIK, UNHCR and non-government organizations in the return of internally displaced people.

"The purpose of the training was to give the civil affairs teams advanced information on the IDP return process and mechanisms that support returns in Kosovo and our area of responsibility," said Col. Michael Hoffpauir, the MNB(E) deputy commander, civil military operations.

The training, which Hoffpauir coordinated, is sort of an advanced course in the returns process. It is designed for teams that have been on the ground for about a month and are familiar with the situation on the ground.

At this point, the teams are in a position to fully understand the returns process.

The three "principal partners" in the returns process are UNMIK, UNHCR and KFOR. Each plays a different role in the process, Hoffpauir said.

UNMIK is the manager of the process. They do all the planning and coordinating for the IDP returns. During their portion of the briefing, the UNMIK representatives focused on their structure. This was so the civil affairs officers would know who to contact within the organization.

UNHCR handles the implementation of the return process.

"They are UNMIK's executive agent for returns," Hoffpauir said. "Their role is more hands on with the people."

UNHCR also explained how they work in direct partnership with the NGOs.

"It gave us a better understanding of what the NGOs' roles are," said Sgt. Travis Try, a team sergeant with the 415th. "I got a better idea of how the pieces fit together in returning IDPs to Kosovo."

KFOR is the overseer of the entire process, Hoffpauir said. It supports by assisting with security and identifying problems in the process.

During the training, the 415th soldiers learned that their role in the IDP process is to assist by determining the needs of the villages. To do this, they conduct village assessments and report their findings to UNMIK.

"Civil military operations has switched gears, going from running (IDP) programs to being overseers and allowing local authorities to take control and keep the programs running," said Capt. Jerry Faunt, the civil affairs plans OIC.

This training is especially important for this civil affairs team because they are on a summer rotation, which is when most IDP returns occur.

Last year, there were about 800 returns throughout Kosovo. So far this year there have been about 140 returns, Hoffpauir said.

In order to accommodate the increased interest in returns, the 415th will find themselves doing more village assessments and Go and See visits, said Hoffpauir.

"The pace this year is already about double what it was last year. That makes it that much more important that we understand the process," Hoffpauir said.



### Peacekeeper profile



#### Andrey Skroznikov

Age: 21

Rank: Pfc.

MOS: Mechanic

Unit: HHC, 2-2 Inf.

Camp: Monteith

Hometown: Houston, Texas

**What are you good at?** Being a soldier and a mechanic.

**Why did you join the Army?** For the experience and for college.

# Incoming Med Falcon team passes first test

Story by Spc. Whitney Hughes

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dan Landry

Moans of agony rose above a hillside strewn with bloodied bodies as the Task Force Med Falcon soldiers rushed frantically to aid the wounded soldiers.

This was part of the scenario the new TFMF team, the eighth rotation, was confronted with at the mass casualty exercise held April 11.

The exercise was a sort of trial by fire for the new team which arrived in Kosovo a week prior.

"It was a validation for the incoming medical staff," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Graham, a battle captain for TFMF.

A plane carrying military personnel and hit by a missile was the scenario. It "crashed" near Radar Hill. There were a total of 21 soldiers involved in the exercise – nine simulated casualties, eight medics and four observer controllers.

When the medics arrived on the scene they found everything from chest wounds to patients with psychiatric disorders.

"It was kind of overwhelming at first, but I just had to adjust to the situation," said Spc. William Mays, a medic with TFMF.

With only seven days in-country, it was quite an adjustment.

Among the many challenges, the medics had to overcome time. They were supposed to stabilize the victims and transport them to the Camp Bondsteel hospital in under 25 minutes, Graham said.

The patients arrived at the hospital with more than five minutes to spare.

However, this wasn't the end of the exercise. Inside the hospital the new rotation staff had to "treat" the patients.

This was a demonstration for both the outgoing and incoming commands that the new rotation is capable of delivering the highest standard of care, said Graham.

The exercise also had its share of lessons.

Locating all of the patients was a challenge, Mays said.

One of the most important lessons learned was that instead of treating the patients as they came to them, they had to find all the patients first, said Mays.

Despite common mistakes like these, the exercise was a complete success, said Graham.

The new command agreed with this, along with representatives from the surgeon cell from U.S. Army Europe who evaluated the exercise.

"They (the USAREUR representatives) said that our S4 (logistics team) had one of the smoothest transitions they had seen," said Col. Donald Cavallo, the commander of TFMF.

The success of the exercise was a result of cooperation between Task Force Med Falcon Seven and Eight, said Cavallo.

Med Falcon Eight is comprised mainly of the 176th Medical Group, a reserve component based in Los Alamitos, Calif., which has a proud history dating back to World War II.

It was activated on Sept. 15, 1943 at Camp Forrest, Tenn., and served in campaigns at Normandy, Northern

France, the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe. The unit was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and European Theater Streamer for its contributions during World War II.

Now part of the U.S. Army Reserve, the unit was officially redesignated as the 176th Medical Group on April 20, 1953. The group was assigned to the Sixth United States Army and activated in Los Alamitos, Calif. April 16, 1981.

Also included in the new team are about 50 soldiers from the 352nd Combat Support Hospital, an Army Reserve unit based in Oakland, Calif. Another 20 soldiers are from the 728th Main Support Battalion, attached to the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28th Infantry Division, the same division that will be replacing the 1st Infantry Division in July.

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Sgt. John Lugo, a medic with Task Force Med Falcon, attends to a simulated victim during a mass casualty exercise held on Camp Bondsteel, April 11.



**Spc. William Mays, a medic with Task Force Medical Falcon, treats a simulated victim during a mass casualty exercise on Camp Bondsteel, April 11.**

# What right looks like

By 1st Sgt. Thomas Hayes

*“Military discipline is looked upon by many in the sense of punishment, which it is not.... We live our lives in an atmosphere of discipline.... Everything with which we come in contact stands ready to enforce upon us certain immutable laws and to administer disciplinary correction when we violate them.” -The Old Sergeant’s Conferences, 1930*

“I think our soldiers want to do what is right, but sometimes they don’t know what right looks like,” Multi-National Brigade (East) Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Gioia said he is often asked to clarify policies relevant to life here in MNB(E). In addressing such inquiries, there are two primary sources. The first is the hard copy of Chapter 15 of the MNB(E) Tactical Standing Operating Procedures manual titled, “Uniform Standards” - a telephone book-sized treatise. The second source is the Policy Letters maintained on Microsoft Outlook in the Public Folders under SGS.

Here are some highlights and clarifications of existing policies:

- When conducting PT, the reflective belt must be worn when you’re running out on the roads of Camp Bondsteel. If you’re wearing the PT jacket, the reflective belt will be worn diagonally over the shoulder. When no jacket is worn, then the reflective belt is worn around the waist. This is a recent change to policy letter #18.
- Civilian clothing: Soldiers assigned to MNB(E) are authorized to wear civilian clothing from 1700 hrs Saturday evenings to 1700 hrs Sunday evenings. Civilian clothing will be clean and serviceable without obscene, slanderous or vulgar words or drawings that may be taken as offensive. All shirts worn will have either long or short sleeves. No tank tops or halter tops are allowed. Shorts, if worn, will come to no more than 2" above the knee. No sundresses. No bandanas or dew rags will be worn on the head. Gioia said he doesn’t endorse soldiers wearing civilian clothes to conduct PT. “The Army has a PT uniform,” he said. “It’s more along the line of common sense. Just remember the original reason that soldiers were allowed to wear civilian clothes was and still is rest and relaxation.”
- The Army Physical Fitness Uniform is not authorized in any Camp Bondsteel dining facility between the hours of 0600 to 0900 hours every day including weekends. “The purpose of this is to eliminate the temptation of soldiers who just finish PT from coming into the DFAC and eating without first conducting personal hygiene,” Gioia said.
- When soldiers are conducting PT, they may wear a Walkman but only inside the gym. Walkmans will be carried to and from the gym not worn. Soldiers are not permitted to run outdoors with a Walkman. Also remember when running on roads: Individuals must run facing the traffic, formations run with the traffic.
- When soldiers are not conducting PT, the off-duty wear of the PT uniform is authorized.
- The force protection level requires all personnel to



**Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia**

have their weapon on their person. “The logic is very simple,” CSM Gioia says. “We’re on an operational deployment and one of the conditions of our Force Protection Condition is having your weapon on your person.” The exception is when conducting PT or on the way to or from PT.

- KFOR badges must be on a soldier’s person at all times, but does not have to be displayed while in uniform. This means that when soldiers are in civilian clothes, the badge is required to be displayed.
- Backpacks: There is an impending change to Army Regulation 670-1, which allows the backpack to be worn over both or one shoulder. “Bottom line up front: Soldiers are permitted to wear the backpack over one or both shoulder,” Gioia said. The Army policy on backpacks is simple – Military color (Black, green, or camouflaged) with no logos.
- Military courtesy: Whether in BDUs, civilian clothes, or PT uniform, it must be observed. “I look at it this way,” CSM Gioia said. “If you know a soldier is an officer you salute him. It’s the right thing to do.”

The existing policies are frequently being reevaluated and tested to see if they are still relevant. He encourages recommendations and input. “The bottom line is standards are meant to be enforced, not ignored or neglected,” Gioia said.

# Sgt. Morales Board selects 10 new inductees

Story and photos by Spc. Whitney Hughes

Multi-National Brigade (East) convened a V Corps Sergeant Morales Board on Camp Bondsteel, April 17. It was held to review and select qualified noncommissioned officers for

induction into the U.S. Army Europe Sergeant Morales Club.

Induction into the Sergeant Morales Club is a prestigious accomplishment for an NCO. Some of the requirements for the USAREUR Sergeant Morales Club are that soldiers must meet hold the rank of corporal through Sergeant First Class, supervise at least two soldiers and exercise sound leadership principles. A soldier's supervisor must recommend them and they must undergo a rigorous selection process, including various boards.

Of the 15 NCOs that attended the selection board, 10 were inducted into the club.



Staff Sgt. Esteban Alvarado  
HHC, 2-2 INF (Mech)



Sgt. Matthew Stomitis  
A Co, 2-2 INF (Mech)



Sgt. Eric Rombach  
HHC, 2-2 INF (Mech)



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Marshall  
C Co, 82d ENG, 1ID



Staff Sgt. Ronald Croteau  
212th MP Co, 793d MP BN



Sgt. Bradley Greer  
212th MP Co, 793d MP BN



Sgt. Jason Laser  
HHC, 2-2 INF (Mech), 3d Bde



Staff Sgt. David Tookmanian  
HHD, 793d MP BN



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Biggerstaff  
C Co, 82d ENG, 1ID



Staff Sgt. Marcus McClain  
C Co, 82d ENG, 1ID

# Live longer, run faster, feel better

Story and photo by Sgt. Steven Ducharme

How would you like to live longer and improve your time on the two-mile run?

If you answered yes, Johnny Davis can show you the way. Davis is the fitness coordinator here at Camp Bondsteel, and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m., he instructs high impact aerobics at the South Town Gym.

He can also teach you kick boxing, spinning, bodybuilding and develop a Body for Life program for you. He has been doing this for six years and is very qualified.

"What I enjoy most about aerobics is the energy I get back," Davis said. "God blessed me with a body to help people get in shape."

The aerobics class lasts one hour. The class works hard for that hour but there is a big payoff. It can decrease the two-mile run time, burn fat, give your cardio-vascular system a workout and it can be therapeutic.

"It's real energetic. People relieve a lot of stress," Davis said.

Countless students have lost weight and improved their PT scores. Davis's most memorable aerobics student lost over 50 pounds.

"This is an opportunity to get back into shape and I can certainly use help in the run," said new class member Capt. Teresa Hall, a dentist for Task Force Med Falcon.

If you have never done aerobics, don't be shy. Davis will go to the class early and teach new students the steps so they do not feel uncomfortable. New students should also expect help from the veteran students.

"I have knowledge about physical fitness and I want to share it with those who work the hardest – soldiers," said Davis.

Davis has a definite loyalty to soldiers, and why not? He spent six and a half years as a tanker before retiring as a staff sergeant. Davis offers over 12 years of experience to the Camp Bondsteel soldiers at no cost.

Once the music kicks in and the aerobics class starts exercising in unison, there is energy. Lots of it. Often the students clap and sound off with the instructor. They seem to be enjoying themselves.

Seasoned veterans of the aerobics class help out by climbing on stage with Davis. As a trio on stage led the exercises, the expertise and fitness was apparent as the students moved gracefully with the instructor, anticipating his next step as the rhythm and blues music drove them.

Twenty-five minutes into the class, the majority of the students were glistening with sweat. The new students were catching up with the fast tempo and began to move as one.

"The instructor makes the class outstanding. Aerobics is something different than the normal PT. It's a lotta fun," said veteran aerobics class member Staff Sgt. Cheryl Alonso, the General Supply Office NCOIC for the 201st Logistical Task Force.

Davis is always looking for new recruits. If you have any physical fitness questions, Davis will be happy to answer them. He will also give you personal training or help you develop a program that will benefit you most. For questions concerning aerobics or other fitness programs, Davis can be reached at 782-3187 or 781-6797.



1st Lt. Laurie Godin, medical operations officer, HHC, 3rd Brigade, takes her first aerobics class, April 18.

## Peacekeeper profile



### Thomas Terrellyn

Age: 20

Rank: Pfc.

MOS: Armorer

Unit: HHC, 3rd Brig.

Camp: Bondsteel

Hometown: Houston, Texas

**Why did you join?** For the challenge.

**What advice would you give soldiers here?** Take college courses.

# MWR Calendar of Events

## May Highlights

**May 2 -- Tom Green**

**May 4 -- Asian Celebration**

**May 10 -- Mom's 10K Run**

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation department is always looking for feedback on their programs and ideas for new activities. Please feel free to contact the MWR with suggestions. For more information on the MWR, its programs and schedules check out their Web site at: <http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil/mwr/index.htm>

### Mondays:

1700 -- Yoga  
1900 -- Aerobics  
2030 -- Bingo

### Tuesdays:

1800 -- Aerobics  
1900 -- Yoga  
2000 -- CBS Praise Band

### Wednesdays:

1700 -- Yoga  
1900 -- Aerobics  
2000 -- R&B Night

### Thursdays:

1800 -- Aerobics  
1900 -- Yoga  
2000 -- C&W Night

### Fridays:

1700 -- Yoga  
2000 -- Salsa Night

### Saturdays:

2000 Saturday Night Party

### Sundays:

1900 -- Sumo Wrestling  
2000 -- Karaoke

## Peacekeeper profile



### Gabriel Eagle

**Age:** 23  
**Rank:** Sgt.  
**MOS:** 11B, Infantryman  
**Unit:** Alpha Company, 2-2 Inf.  
**Camp:** Monteith  
**Hometown:** Miles City, Mont.

**Why did you join?** To protect my family and our way of life as Americans.

**What advice would you give soldiers here?** Save money and try and do some college courses while you're here.

# Scenes of Kosovo



An afternoon sun silhouettes the remains of an ancient fortress overlooking Holy Archangels monastery in Prizren.

Photo by 1st Sgt. Thomas Hayes