



# GUARDIAN

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*Guardian East* welcomes commentaries, articles and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the editor at [mnbgeast@gmail.com](mailto:mnbgeast@gmail.com) by the 21st of each month and include details such as the who, what, when, where and why of the photos. Please include the person's name, rank and contingent of who took the photos for photo credit. MNBG-E reserves the right to edit any submissions.

*COVER PHOTO: Spc. Corey Drum serves the ball during a volleyball match at HHC's Organizational Day Sept. 21. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)*

*BACK COVER PHOTO: Multinational Battle Group-West hosted a MNBG-W Games Day Aug. 24 at Camp Villaggio Italia to help build camaraderie between the Kosovo Forces multinational partners. (Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Wencke Tate)*

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# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## ARMENIA



Officially the Republic of Armenia, it is a mountainous country in the South Caucasus region of Eurasia, located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, the de facto independent Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan to the east, and Iran and the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan to the south.

**President:** Serzh Sargsyan  
**Independence:** 1991  
**Capital:** Yerevan  
**Currency:** Dram  
**Official languages:** Armenian

The four branches of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia are: Armenian Army, Air Force, Air Defence, and Border Guard. Armenia has engaged in a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo as part of non-NATO KFOR troops under Greek command.

Information taken from CIA Factbook.





# They ain't gonna eat themselves!

K F O R 1 7

**W A F F L E**

**H O U S E**

Sundays (0700-1100) at the Lift  
Hangar.





# DART gets helicopters back in the air

Story by U.S. Army Capt. Randy Ready  
4th Public Affairs Detachment

One of Kosovo Forces most important capabilities is being able to move KFOR soldiers by air to quickly respond to any threat to a safe and secure environment or freedom of movement throughout Kosovo.

The responsibility of ensuring Multinational Battle Group-East's helicopters remain operational to carry out this mission falls on Detachment 2, Company B, 638th Aviation Support Battalion.

On Aug. 21, the unit was put to the test when a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter had to make a precautionary landing at Camp Prizren due to an engine fault

light. To get the aircraft back in the air, the company turned to the Downed Aircraft Recovery Team.

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Derrick Kuhns, the Det. 2, Co. B, 638th ASB Production Control and DART Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, said the DART provides a mobile maintenance capability that enables disabled aviation assets a path to return to service.

"[The DART's] mission is to recover aircraft and put them into a flyable state to recover it back to its home station," said Kuhns, an Indiana National Guardsman and a native of Carmel, Ind.

Kuhns said the DART is not made up of specific soldiers; rather the team's personnel depend on each individual incident. The situation will determine which soldiers, tools and repair parts they will need. Other factors, such as the security of the location the aircraft is in, will also impact the DART's mission.

In Prizren, it was quickly determined that the helicopter's engine was going to have to be replaced. Though the aircraft was on a secure base, the DART still had to act quickly to get the chopper back in service.

"The commander has to have all his assets available across the battlefield,"



said Kuhns. “So it is our responsibility to quickly assess and recover that aircraft so it’s back in the fight.”

For U.S. Army Spc. Justin Sciscoe, an engine mechanic with Det. 2, Co. B, 638th ASB, one of the most challenging tasks for the DART was determining all of the lubricants, parts, and tools they would have to bring with them to Prizren to replace the engine.

“There is a lot more preparation doing [DART] than opposed to working here [Camp Bondsteel] changing an engine,” said Sciscoe, an Indiana National Guard soldier from Martinsville, Ind. “We have everything we need [at Camp Bondsteel] where it is easy if you forget something to send someone to go grab it, but for [DART] we had to get everything we might possibly need and make sure we had everything ready to go. It was a little more of a challenge.”

The team packed all the required repair parts and tools they thought they would need for the mission and left for Camp Prizren, where upon arrival they hit the ground running.

“We jumped right into it,” said U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Thompson, a

Harmony, Ind. native and engine mechanic with Det. 2, Co. B, 638th ASB. “Everybody got in and got their hands dirty as soon as we got there and we had the engine out within 15-20 minutes.”

Another challenge the DART faced was not having their lift assets with them to take out the old engine and put the new one in. For help Kuhns coordinated with the German Army contingent stationed at Camp Prizren, who were able to provide a crane, forklift and personnel to operate the equipment.

“Without them we couldn’t have gotten the job done,” said Kuhns.

Sciscoe added that the German soldiers were willing to help out wherever they could even though they didn’t have any experience working on Black Hawks.

“They jumped up on the aircraft with us and helped wherever they needed to,” said Sciscoe. “They were ready to get their hands dirty.”

Despite all of the challenges, the DART was able to replace the helicopter’s engine and perform all of the necessary safety checks and tests within 48 hours

of being notified of the precautionary landing, enabling the helicopter to fly safely back to Camp Bondsteel and return to service.

This outstanding achievement was not lost on U.S. Army Capt. Stephen Kempf, the commander for Det. 2, Co. B, 638th ASB from Carmel, Ind.

“The thing I’m most impressed about is these guys having very little experience and very little background in engine changes were able to take all the parts, all the tools, all the little support things you wouldn’t think about because of the convenience of your home base or home station,” said Kempf. “These guys took everything they needed and we didn’t have to call for a second parts run or get additional support to change an engine, which is quite a feat.”

Perhaps just as important as getting the helicopter back in service is the confidence it gave the young soldiers in being able to respond to future DART missions.

“It was a stressful situation,” said Sciscoe, “but having done it once now I think I feel a lot more comfortable doing it.”



U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Thompson (left) and Sgt. Terry England (right), with Detachment 2, Company B, 638th Aviation Support Battalion, replace the engine on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that made a precautionary landing at Camp Prizren due to an engine fault light Aug. 21. The soldiers were part of a Downed Aircraft Recovery Team that provides a mobile maintenance capability that enables disabled aviation assets a path to return to service. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brian Phelps, Det. 2, Co. B, 638th ASB)



# Recovery Rodeo gives KFOR a lift

Story and photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody Harding  
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the NATO-led Kosovo Forces held a “Recovery Rodeo” on Camp Novo Selo Aug. 29 to help expand their skill sets on vehicle recovery in preparation for the upcoming winter season.

The event was hosted by the Multinational Battle Group–East’s Forward Command Post, who believed that the multiple partner nations in KFOR would be better able to handle an emergency situation by cross-training with their multinational counterparts.

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Clinton Andrus, a member of the Utah National Guard and the maintenance officer assigned to the FCP, was tasked with developing a training plan for the event.

“It’s been fun to watch all the different coys recover their vehicles proficiently, effectively and fast with the methods they have, because everyone seems to be very different,” Andrus said. “Everyone has different assets, and we want to be able to utilize the best recovery assets for any given situation.”

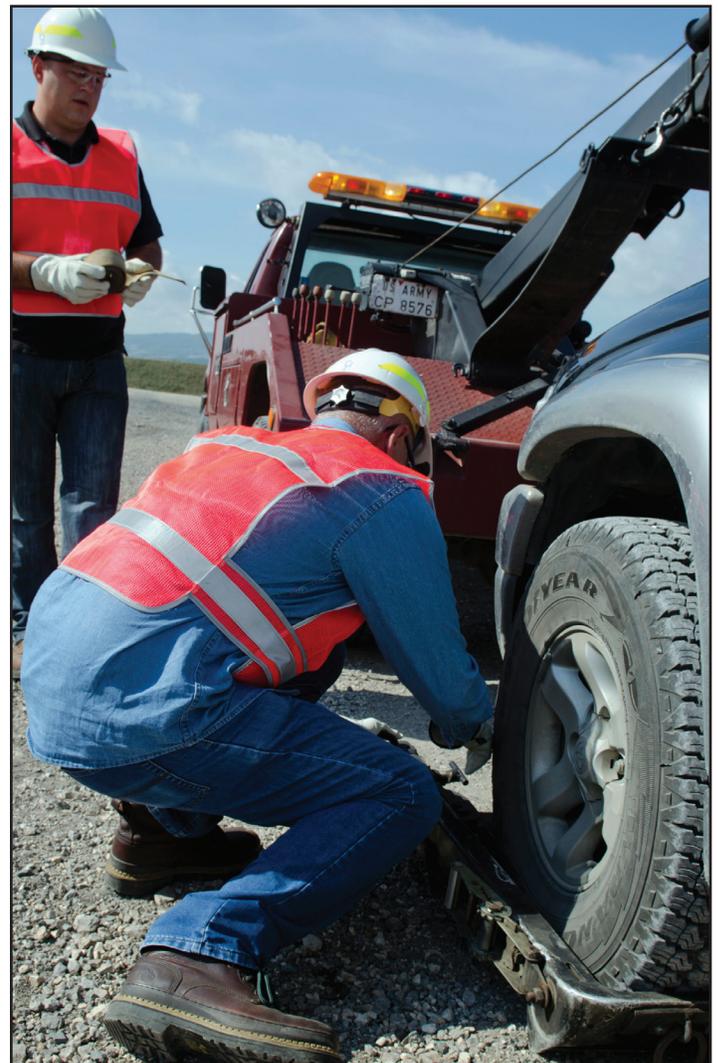
The plan brought together all eight multinational coys from MNBG-E: Armenian, French, German, Moroccan, Polish, Turkish, Ukrainian, and the United States coys. The Kellogg, Brown and Root maintenance and recovery team and the Joint Logistical Support Group for KFOR also participated in the training event.

Each group demonstrated how they can recover one of their own vehicles in the field with their vehicle recovery equipment. Afterwards, Andrus had the groups work together to determine how they would recover vehicles from other nations with their own equipment in the event their recovery assets are the closest to an incident.

“Most everyone knows how to recover their own vehicles, but most of these maintenance crews have never had the chance to handle another nation’s vehicles,” Andrus said. “This gives them that opportunity to work with other nation’s vehicles that they haven’t before.”

Ukrainian Army Maj. Andre Polschuk, the maintenance officer for the Ukrainian coy, said that his soldiers enjoyed the training and learned how to help out their multinational partners in case of a breakdown.

“It was a good opportunity to see our assets and assess different countries for future operations,” Polschuk said. “For example, if there is an emergency situation, we now know that if a Polish vehicle was broken, we can help them.”



Members of the KBR maintenance and recovery group set the braces on the front tire of a vehicle they are planning to move at the Recovery Rodeo on Camp Novo Selo Aug. 29. KBR was only one group that worked at the rodeo, alongside several Kosovo Forces recovery groups.



A black and white photograph of a soldier sitting in a vehicle seat, wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt and sunglasses on his head. A hand is visible in the upper right corner, holding a handgun. The background is dark and textured.

**The discipline  
to click that  
seat belt ...**

**YOU have it, but does  
your battle buddy?**

**The signs are all around  
- it's up to YOU to recognize  
and act on them**



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<https://safety.army.mil>



Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Samantha Parks  
4th Public Affairs Detachment

**C**adences, soldiers marching in formation and junior enlisted servicemembers leading from the front, this is what Camp Bondsteel can see at the Joint Regional Detachment-East headquarters every Saturday. Soldiers with JRD-E are getting back to the basics with weekend classes covering everything from marching to basic rifle marksmanship skills.

“For the past two weeks we’ve gone over rest positions at the halt, position of attention, hand salute, all the way up to marching and now we are doing forming and aligning a squad,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Summerlin, a platoon sergeant with JRD-E from Richland, Miss. “We’ve basically started at the beginning and are building the foundation over again because a lot of soldiers have forgotten.”

The weekend classes are rolled into an overall course called the Primary Noncommissioned Officer’s Course.

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Shawn Wussow, the JRD-E Command

Sergeant Major and a native of Los Angeles explained that PNCOC was replaced by the Primary Leadership Development Course and is known today as the Warrior Leader Course. Using the name PNCOC allowed him to reference going back to the basics without using a course name that is still in use.

“It’s an attempt for us to bring our subordinate soldiers the education to prepare them to be NCOs,” Summerlin said.

He added that it’s an aggressive step forward in making sure everyone knows what the standards are.

“The audience for the course is all soldiers, but it started with E-4 and up because they are the next in line to get promoted,” Summerlin said. “We have E-5’s that serve as squad leaders and staff sergeants that serve as platoon sergeants. It’s just like WLC.”

Wussow said the students are placed in leadership roles like first sergeant, platoon leader and squad leader to give them more leadership experience.



“We don’t expect them to [just] know how to do the movements, we expect them teach the movements,” Summerlin said. “That’s the difference. So the private first class and the sergeant all have the same standard. The end result is that they are able to teach their subordinates in the future how to do the movements correctly.”

Summerlin said he didn’t understand the need for PNCOC at first, but has changed his opinion since it kicked off a few weeks ago.

“At first I was a little skeptical, like ‘really we need to teach soldiers how to march and stuff? I thought we were past that,’” Summerlin said. “But it’s apparent these soldiers are learning more.”

The feedback from the students and instructors has been very positive, Wussow said.

“I’ve had some NCOs that have been in the military eight or 10 years come up and we talk about it afterwards and they say ‘I have never seen that before in my entire career,’” Wussow said. “And that’s actually that ‘ah-ha’ moment you want, not because they didn’t know something, but because they learned something [new]. And anybody that is an educator in any kind of aspect wants to see that.”

Understanding the course and why they are taking it back to the basics is understood not just by the senior NCOs, but by the junior enlisted as well.

“When we do become NCOs and we have fresh privates, we can explain what they’re doing and not only what they’re doing but why and be able to explain it in detail so that anyone can understand it,” said U.S. Army Pfc. Patrick White, a JRD-E soldier from Hawkinsville, Ga.

White explained that the weekend classes are broken down into two parts, class day on Saturdays and tests reviewing the previous weekend’s lesson on Friday. The week in between class and test days allows soldiers to practice what they’ve learned.

“My biggest thing is breaking it down step-by-step and trying to explain it,” White said. “I usually have problems with that, so this is really helping me get those in-depth details I need to have.”

Wussow said the course will run the entire duration of the deployment and grow from the basic squad level drill and ceremony movements to change of command ceremony movements, annual U.S. Army training requirements and job specific tasks.

Wussow said the course will benefit the JRD soldiers in two ways.

“One is we’re going to have a good collective group of individuals when we get back [to Fort Bragg],” Wussow said. “Second thing is, if someone else goes to another unit, they’re well represented in their [job].”

Summerlin said the Army is in transition right now and this course helps bridge that gap.

“I think what we’ve noticed is that since we’ve been an Army at war for so long, we’ve focused more on combat warrior drills and not the basic standards and it shows because people’s uniforms and their basic discipline levels have been lowered,” Summerlin said. “So the standard of the soldier needs to increase if we’re going to keep people from getting cut out. The future of our Army depends on doing things right.”



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Summerlin, Joint Regional Detachment-East noncommissioned officer in charge from Richland, Miss., reviews what a junior enlisted soldier should be doing when leading a formation at Camp Bondsteel Aug. 31. Summerlin is part of the JRD-E senior NCOs assisting in the Primary Noncommissioned Officer Course.

Sensing sessions are an important tool leaders use to stay informed of what is important to soldiers. Recently, several sensing sessions were conducted throughout the Battle Group. In these sessions, a discussion point was made about the “paranoia” of working with females.

When you couple a unit comprised mostly of male soldiers and the recent push for SHARP training, it becomes all too easy for paranoia to spread. Comments such as “we want to remove the risk all together and just avoid them if at all possible” reflects a soldier’s reluctance to interact with female soldiers.

This mindset can be detrimental to our ranks.

Imagine if leaders were to exclude females from performing tasks or if they were denied job opportunities because there was fear that working with them could lead to a SHARP complaint. In essence, this is comparable to victimizing that female.

When the rumor-mill spreads that a female soldier may have been sexually assaulted, there is sometimes the tendency to group all female soldiers as potential victims. The stigma that all female soldiers are possible victims potentially cuts that soldier’s career opportunities.

It’s every leader’s responsibility to squash rumors when they are heard. Education is a powerful tool. It’s important that soldiers understand the reported statistics and letting soldiers know that false reporting isn’t an issue within your organization. Although it does happen, an investigation can prove the validity of a report.

Soldiers commonly believe that investigations are career enders. When an investigation is initiated soldiers are flagged. Being flagged for an investigation does not mean you are guilty; it is a regulatory administrative process and if you are found innocent there will be no further action. Leaders at all levels have the responsibility of dispelling misconception. Ensure soldiers are getting educated on the truth and kill the rumors with facts.

The bottom line is to treat others, whether male or female, with dignity and respect and you can expect that these types of incidents will not happen in your formation.

*MNBG-E Victim Advocate/SHARP Specialist*  
**1st Lt. Danielle E. Carlsen**

*In FY12, the DoD reported that there were 2,661 alleged sexual assault offenders. Of those, only 307 had insufficient evidence. Having insufficient evidence to make a conviction does not mean the sexual assault did not occur, just that there was not enough evidence to support the case. Sixty-two percent of the cases reported last year were reported more than three days after the incident occurred. The amount of evidence that can be collected with the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) kit severely drops after the first 72 hours after the incident.*



# ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Soldiers from the Armenian coy participated in a ceremony to mark the Armenian Independence Day at Camp Bondsteel Sept. 21. The ceremony included a review of the troops, the Armenian national anthem, a speech from the Armenian coy commander and an awards ceremony. (U.S. Army photos by Capt. Randy Ready, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)





A member of the Ukrainian engineers, from the Joint Logistics Support Group, helps guide a heavy vehicle during the clearing of a landslide on a road outside Zubin Potok Sept. 11. Several Kosovo Forces units were involved in the clearing operation.

## KFOR clears the way in Zubin Potok

Story and photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody Harding  
*4th Public Affairs Detachment*

Ukrainian engineers from the Kosovo Forces Joint Logistics Support Group brought their engineering vehicles and equipment to clear a road outside of Zubin Potok Sept. 11.

A landslide blocked one of the main roads outside of Zubin Potok for months. KFOR soldiers spoke with leaders in Zubin Potok and were able to come to an agreement to have the JLSG team begin to work on clearing the road.

Ukrainian Army Capt. Serhiy Tsviliak, the JLSG Engineer commander, said the effort brought together several KFOR units to help clear the road.

“It’s not just the JLSG, it’s also a KFOR task. JRD-North is also involved by informing the local population [and] Multinational Battle Group-East is providing force protection, so a lot of KFOR units are taking part, it’s not just JLSG,” said Tsviliak.

After two days of work, the road had been cleared enough to allow smaller vehicles to pass. The project was scheduled to be completed over two weeks.

“For the engineers, it is a big experience to deal with a landslide like this,” Tsviliak said. “First, we get a lot of experience. Second, it’s freedom of movement [and] third, it’s helping the [local] civilians.”



# Legal Assistance – Wills and Advance Medical Directives

# LEGAL

One of the services the Legal Assistance Office can provide is the drafting of a will or medical power of attorney. It is important to understand these documents and their purpose so that each individual can determine whether or not they need them.

A will is generally used to control the disposition of your property after your death. It can also be used to name a guardian to take care of your children when you die. Not everyone needs a will. If someone dies without a will, the disposition of their property will be determined by the laws of their state of legal residence. In many cases, that means that the property of a single person who dies will go to their parents or other next of kin. For most married people, property will usually transfer to their spouse under state laws. If you are married with children and want to get a will, it is a good idea to see an attorney with your spouse so that your wills will be consistent when it comes to the care of your children if something happens to both of you at the same time.

An advance medical directive allows someone else to act on your behalf regarding medical care and treatment if you lose the ability to make decisions for yourself. There are two different types of documents individuals should consider and both are revocable. One is a living will and the other is a health care power of attorney. Each document is intended for use in the event that you can no longer make health care decisions for yourself but they have important differences.

A health care power of attorney names another person or persons to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to make them yourself. Generally the person selected is granted the power to make the same decisions about your healthcare that you would be able to make for yourself if you were able to do so.

The scope of a living will is generally more limited than that of a health care power of attorney. A living will, also referred to as an advance directive for a natural death, allows you to authorize or direct the withholding or withdrawal of life-prolonging measures that would only delay your death.

Judge Advocates can assist with the advice and drafting on most wills and related documents. However, for certain trusts and other areas beyond our expertise, we may have to assist clients in finding paid legal services from attorneys who focus their practice on estate planning.

As always, if you have questions about wills, medical directives or other legal matters you should contact the Legal Assistance Office to make an appointment. The LAO is located in Admin. Alley, Building 1330C, Room 3N. If you are seeking assistance with something other than a notarization or power of attorney, please call 781-4575 to make an appointment.

*Legal Assistance, Claims, Fiscal and Administrative Law Judge Advocate*  
**Capt. Sean Kumar**

# FARP KEEPS TF AVIATION FUELED AND FUNCTIONING

Story and photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Samantha Parks  
4th Public Affairs Detachment



**U**H-60 Black Hawks can be heard on a daily basis, taking off from the Camp Bondsteel flight line with the help of the Task Force Aviation fuel team. Nine soldiers maintain and operate the Forward Arming and Refueling Point, supplying all of Camp Bondsteel helicopters with the fuel necessary to complete their missions.

A FARP is a temporary facility organized, equipped and deployed by an aviation commander and normally located close to where the units operations are being conducted.

“Our mission here in Kosovo is to provide hot [refuel] at the FARP,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Earl Scoggins, Maryland National Guard noncommissioned officer in charge and a native of Myersville, Md. “We provide all the hot fuel operations as well as the lab.”

Hot refuel is when the rotor blades of an aircraft continue turning and the engine is not cut off, explained U.S. Army Sgt. William Bundy, a Petroleum Supply Specialist from the Maryland National Guard and a native of Herford, N.C. It is different from a cold refuel where the

engine is cut off and cooled down.

“It’s a high risk job, [refueling] with the rotors turning because of the amount of static electricity that the rotors put off,” Bundy said. “It’s a strenuous job, you have to make sure you take your time and everybody stays safe.”

Scoggins said he has two teams that man the FARP 15-hours a day and go on standby for the remainder of the night in case of medical evacuations or other situations.

“Our guys are called back in and we



can generally be ready to fuel within 30 minutes,” Scoggins said.

The FARP also has the capability to do a jump FARP.

“A jump FARP is a portable system that we can load up between a tanker and another vehicle and take it to wherever our location is and set up a fueling system,” Scoggins said. “We use the Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck aviation refueling system here in Kosovo. We can run the lines right off the tanker and fuel the birds at any location.”

Scoggins said the FARP is vital to the success of the aviation mission.

“It is very important because it allows the commanders and pilots to come in, be refueled, and get right back out into the mission with limited downtime,” Scoggins said.

U.S. Army Spc. Dawson Stevens, a Petroleum Supply Specialist with the Maryland National Guard and a native of Chestertown, Md., said day-by-day they do what they need to do to maintain mission readiness.

To maintain that readiness, the FARP is also tasked with testing all the fuel that comes onto Camp Bondsteel.

“The job is very important because if the fuel is bad, the pilots’ lives are on the line,” Stevens said. “Also anything that goes wrong in the air could affect a lot of people.”

Scoggins said his team is working well together and successfully accomplishing their mission.

“They are doing a great job, I couldn’t be more proud of them,” Scoggins said.

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It's what we're here for, call us!

**to report from:**  
**DSN call 911**  
**cell phone call 038-774-3421**

# RISK MANAGEMENT

# SAFETY

A key phrase in the Department of the Army's definition of an accident is an 'unplanned event.' No one ever plans to have an accident that day. However, on occasion, accidents do occur. Having investigated quite a few accidents in the last several years, it's not always difficult to figure out the events that led to an accident. There are many hazards that we face every day. While many exist outside our camps, there are many more that lay right outside our front door. We live among any number of hazards on a daily basis. So why aren't more accidents happening? The answer is because we all exercise risk management.

The Army developed an entire manual on risk management. They define it as a decision making process used to mitigate risks associated with all hazards that have the potential to injure or kill personnel, damage or destroy equipment or otherwise impact mission effectiveness. The concept of risk management applies a systematic method of thinking to problems associated with military operations in order to make them safer and more effective. Military operations inherently take on a certain level of risk. Units will train using a series of battle drills, rehearsals and instruction to increase both the proficiency and the confidence level of the soldier. Through the practice of risk management, the level of risk commanders and leaders accept are mitigated and reduced to the lowest level possible. This often results in a culture of safety that is visible through every level of leadership within a unit.

It's to be expected that accidents will happen. When units conduct tough, realistic training, soldiers will often push themselves to the brink of their expertise level. When a commander factors in the risks involved with training, it's understood that soldiers may get injured. The key to risk management, however, are the measures that are put in place that lessen the severity of the hazards. Identifying the hazards is imperative during the risk management process. Relying on the experience of your NCOs and senior leaders will often help identify anything that can go wrong in an operation or a mission. There's a saying I recite often before executing a mission – 'No plan survives first contact.' Essentially, we hope for the best but expect the worst. By expecting the worst, we will be ready for that event. When it comes down to it, risk management is not hoping for the best, it's being prepared for the worst case scenario. It's not the risk that you see that will cause an accident, it's the unforeseen risks that you have to be able to predict.



*MNBG-E Safety Manger*  
**Edson de Leon**

# CHAPLAIN

## FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS JIVE JUNK

Over the course of this deployment I have enjoyed witnessing how various cultures influence each other. The American soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East have had opportunities to experience local cuisine, as well as the foods of our NATO allies. On the flip side, I have seen Japanese and Mexican restaurants here in Kosovo. When the Liaison Monitoring Teams visit schools sometimes we will play American basketball with the children and at other times we will play European football (soccer). We are also learning words and phrases in Albanian, Serbian and the languages of our international partners, while they in turn are improving their knowledge of English. I have even noticed many Spider-Man backpacks, rugs, and toys over here! Different civilizations rub off on each other more and more as technology advances and world travel becomes more routine.

What is true for cultures is also true of individual relationships. Psalm 1:1 describes the power of corrupting influences: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers." Notice the progression here; first he walks with the wicked, then he stands with them and eventually he sits with the mockers. Psalm 101:4-5 also warns us about the adverse sway that some people may have over us if we allow them to: "Men of perverse heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with evil. Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him I will not endure."

In other words, we should not surround ourselves with hateful, negative people who spread malicious gossip and slander. Rather, we must desire to be around those who bring out the best qualities in us, and we should also strive to be that kind of person for others in our own relationships. Seek to have more uplifting conversations and don't dwell and obsess over negative things. In some cases it may be time to cut sling load on friendships that draw out our worst attributes and are simply draining.

Let me conclude with these insightful words from First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt: "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

*FCP Chaplain*  
**CH (Capt.) Robert Miller**

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The French National Support Element participated in the renovation of a foot bridge at the Visoki Decani Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in western Kosovo Sept. 9-12.

This project was planned by KFOR's Joint Logistic Support Group who requested the support of French soldiers and resources.

The gateway enables monks and visitors to cross the river from the village to the monastery. The NSE team used a crane to remove the old wooden bridge, which was threatening to collapse.

The four sections form a bridge 40 meters long and weighing 8 tons. To install the gateway, the crane had to be positioned alternately on both sides of the river, sometimes behind the imposing walls of the monastery and sometimes behind a mineral water that is flush with the side of the river. (Photos courtesy of [www.defense.gouv.fr](http://www.defense.gouv.fr))





## Confirmation at the Church of the Black Madonna

Bishop (Col.) F. Richard Spencer, the Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, performed the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and Mass as four Multinational Battle Group-East soldiers were confirmed at the Church of the Black Madonna in Letnica Sept. 24.

As a Roman Catholic bishop, Spencer is responsible for more than 400 Catholic priests and chaplains in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps and their parish communities across Europe and Asia (to include U.S. Embassies). (U.S. Army photos by Capt. Randy Ready, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)





U.S. Army Maj. Marc Nguyen, a contracting officer with Area Support Team Balkans and a native of Monterey, Calif., shakes hands with a child at the Mjedenica School in Sarajevo Sept. 11.

# A time for rebuilding

Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Joshua Stoffregen  
4th Public Affairs Detachment

**S**oldiers from Area Support Team Balkans visited two renovated schools for a final inspection Sept. 9–13 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

U.S. Army Maj. Marc Nguyen, a contracting officer with Area Support Team Balkans and a native of Monterey, Calif., was involved with the renovations from beginning to end. Nguyen's responsibilities included talking to contractors, selecting the contractors and ensuring the work completed was in accordance with the contract.

Though Nguyen worked on many

projects before, this one was especially rewarding to him.

"Humanitarian missions are accomplished with one's heart and soul, but when given the opportunity to be involved with schools for children, it is even more rewarding," said Nguyen. "It is all about the children, and having the privilege to contribute in some small way to their education and future. It's very meaningful and touching for me."

The schools are located in the cities of Sarajevo and Glamoc, both heavily destroyed during the years of war in Bosnia. Nguyen said the

war and normal wear and tear on the buildings decayed the surfaces and components of the schools. The roofs leaked, had faulty electrical systems and were an unsafe environment for the children.

"The amount of damage to Fra Franjo Glavnic, the school located in Glamoc, was so extensive that everyday there was a risk of falling debris," said Nguyen.

The Mjedenica School is a boarding facility designed for children with special needs. Mirsad Asimovic, the school's principal, said the project was especially important for



the school's dormitories where the children stay for the duration of the school year.

"These renovations help the kids in every possible sense," Asimovic said. "I have been working at this school for 40 years and there has never been this extensive renovation since I have been here."

Nguyen said the school projects received the Humanitarian Assistance project label in June as a stand-alone project sponsored by the U.S. European Command since the local government and municipality didn't have the funds for such a large-scale renovation.

"We had a very tight schedule," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Moritz, the National Guard Liaison to EUCOM's Civil Engagement Branch and a native of Marino Valley, Calif. "Originally the contractor was supposed to be given 90 days, but instead only getting about 46 days to get all of this work done, so it's a pretty amazing project and the schools and the kids are very happy."

Moritz added that both projects finished ahead of schedule and well under budget and the quick turnaround allowed the children the opportunity to safely return to school.

"I've always wanted to have the opportunity to participate in a humanitarian mission, and when I learned about the school projects in Bosnia, I was very excited," said Nguyen. "Dealing with school children brings me back to my own experience as a child, being in a war torn country during the Vietnam era. I can relate to the children, yearning to have the opportunity for an education in a safe and welcoming environment to learn and thrive. I'm honored and privileged to be part of this project."



U.S. Army Maj. Marc Nguyen, a contracting officer with Area Support Team Balkans and a native of Monterey, Calif., meets with the contractor to conduct a final inspection of renovations completed at the Mjedenica School in Sarajevo Sept. 11.



Members of U.S. European Command and Area Support Team Balkans meet with the contractor to do a final inspection of renovations completed at the Mjedenica School in Sarajevo Sept. 11. The facility is a boarding school for children with special needs.



# Take 5

## Icy Intro to Winter Driving

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Increase your following distance eight to 10 seconds to provide more room to stop
- Know your brakes
- Don't power up hills and don't stop while going uphill unless necessary
- Take a fully charged cellphone, food, water and warm clothing
- Don't go out unless absolutely necessary



ARMY STRONG



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<https://safety.army.mil>

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FRENCH, U.S.  
TROOPS  
REPEL

Soldiers from the French coy conducted rappelling training on a cliff outside of Zvecan in northern Kosovo Aug. 13. The soldiers from the light and investigation squadron joined their U.S. counterparts to rappel off a cliff more than 30 meters in height. The training helped build the soldiers confidence in overcoming obstacles as well as further the cohesion between the French and U.S. soldiers.

Credit: EMA / Army Terr





## TOEFL STUDENTS VISIT WAFFLE HOUSE

Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Samantha Parks  
*4th Public Affairs Detachment*

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**E**very Sunday morning, Task Force Aviation provides waffles for the residents of Camp Bondsteel.

In return, residents of Camp Bondsteel provide donations that go towards helping Kosovo students take the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

A surprise waited for Waffle House customers Sept. 1 when the students came to visit Camp Bondsteel.

“We wanted to see what was actually going on right here and how they’re helping us to achieve our goals,” said Rolina Domaneku, one of the students taking the TOEFL test.

U.S. Army Sgt. Joe Henderson, a crew chief flight instructor with the Florida National Guard and a native of Lakeland, Fla., said he was excited that everyone who volunteers with the Waffle House and makes donations got to meet the people the donations help. He added it was good for the kids to be there as well.

“It’s important for the kids to know they may see four or five of us during the week, but there’s a lot of people here on Bondsteel that work [behind the scenes] and they don’t get to see,” Henderson said. “So this is an opportunity for the people here to get to interact with the kids and vice versa.”

The TOEFL exam tests an individual’s ability to use





and understand English. According to the ETS.org website, the test is the most widely respected English-language test in the world, recognized by more than 9,000 colleges, universities and agencies in more than 130 countries.

“You may know English, but you can’t prove it so this [acts] like a passport saying that you know English,” explained Elona Gashei, another student who is preparing to take the TOEFL.

Gashei said the soldiers of TF Aviation and Camp Bondsteel are helping her experience a new adventure.

“[We’re] meeting new, amazing people that are doing great things for us to improve our English and achieve goals in life,” Gashei said.

Henderson explained that the TOEFL is mandatory to attend most English speaking colleges, but not all local

students have the opportunity to take the test because of the cost.

TF Aviation’s Waffle House, which operates solely on donations, helps to offset some of those costs for those who otherwise might not be able to afford to take the test.

“It fosters a good relationship with the community and the kids are very appreciative,” said Henderson. “We do the Waffle House to provide money to pay for their books, to pay for the exam, the bus on exam day, etc.”

Domaneku said the exam provides an exciting chance to improve her English skills in both reading and writing and will help in applying for scholarships so that she can travel to Europe for her studies.

“That’s a great opportunity that you guys offered us and we thank you so much,” Domaneku said.

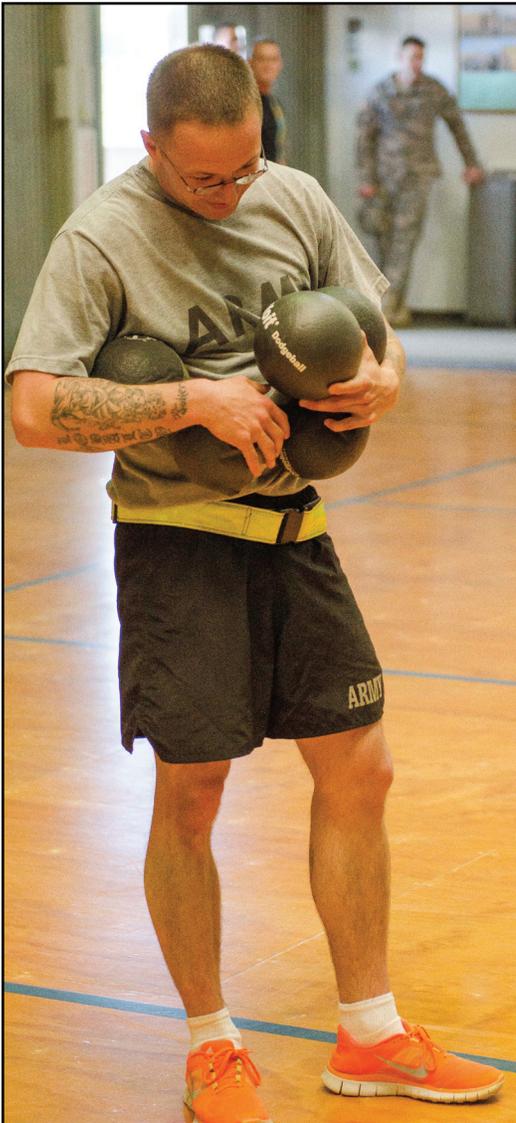


# HHC ORGANIZATIONAL DAY





The 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company hosted a day of sports, grilling and morale building for its soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East at Camp Bondsteel Sept. 21. (Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



# MN BG

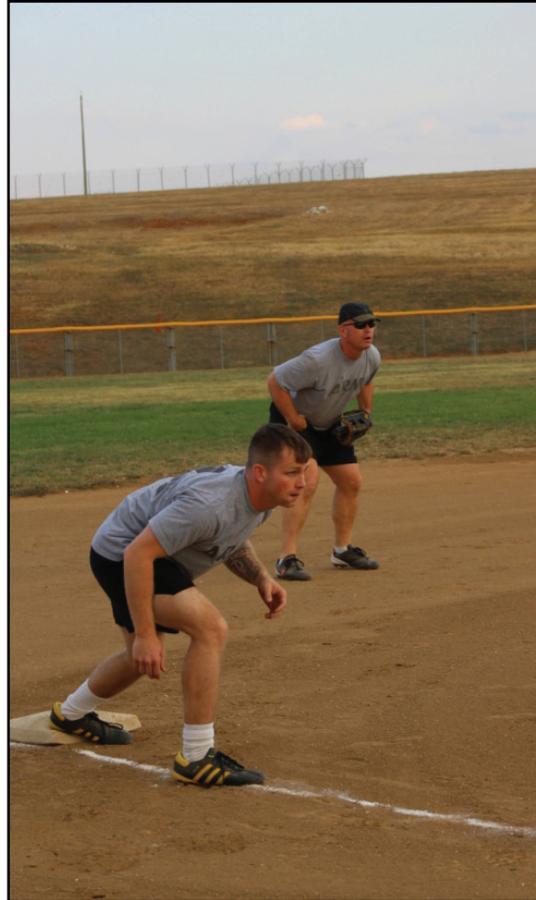
Our counterparts at Multinational Battle Group-West hosted a MNBG-W Games Day Aug. 24 at Camp Villaggio Italia to help build camaraderie between the Kosovo Forces multinational partners. A number of teams from MNBG-E competed in the games, with events like a blind balance beam, giant jump rope, log balance pass, four-legged race, tire roll and an uphill slip-and-slide challenging the competitors to work together to complete each station. (Photos by U.S. Army Maj. Wencke Tate)



# -W GAME DAY



# CBS SOFTBALL LEAGUE



Congratulations to Task Force Med for winning the Camp Bondsteel softball league tournament. TF Med finished the season with a 12-2 record and went 5-0 throughout the playoffs.

The Blackjacks from JRD-E finished as the runner up and Task Force Aviation came in at 3rd place. Congratulations to all on a tremendous season. (Photos courtesy of TF MED)





# GUARDIAN & EAST

## END OF YEAR PRODUCT

Guardian East is looking for *your* photos.

Each month we take your photos and highlight them in a submitted section of the magazine.

Take this opportunity to share an event you and your team did or have a great photo you took be published. Earn bragging rights with friends! Photos should be submitted by the last week of each month to be in the magazine.

The end of our rotation will be here before you know it. We are beginning to gather photos that will be show cased in an end of year product, similiar to a yearbook. The goal is to have everyone covered, including our multinational partners. These photos can be anything you would send home to family: team building events, MWR trips, BBQs, etc. The more photos you submit, the more coverage your section has. We do not want to have to rely solely on photos PAO takes during missions.

**Photos can be dropped off on a CD to the public affairs office in building 2130 A rooms 4/5 or emailed to [mnbgeast@gmail.com](mailto:mnbgeast@gmail.com) or [samantha.d.parks.mil@mail.mil](mailto:samantha.d.parks.mil@mail.mil).**

# REENLISTMENTS & PROMOTIONS



CH (Capt.) Robert Miller reenlists U.S. Army Sgt. Victor Ayala at Camp Novo Selo. (Photo courtesy of 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment.)

Do you have a soldier you're promoting soon? What about a soldier reenlisting? Showcase their hard work and dedication by submitting their photos to the Guardian East magazine!

Email your photos to [mnbgeast@gmail.com](mailto:mnbgeast@gmail.com) by the 21st of each month. Please include a brief description of the soldier and ceremony with the photo.

## Emergency Services on CBS

# CALL 911

Literally, it's that easy!



PËR RASTE EMERGJENTE THIRRNI VETËM 9-1-1  
KOD HITNOG SLUČAJA POZOVITE SAMO 9-1-1

All emergency response is coordinated at the 911 dispatch center.  
This includes, Fire, Medical, and Military Police.



# SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Love taking photos? Want to be published?

Show off you and your friends!

Email your photos to [mnbgeast@gmail.com](mailto:mnbgeast@gmail.com) by the 21st of each month. Please include a brief description with the photo.



(Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Francis Piquet, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment)

