

# SERVICE IN KOSOVO



MNBG-E MONTHLY MAGAZINE  
MAY 2014 VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE III





# SECTIONS

- 6) PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: SLOVENIA
- 18) LEGAL: FEDERAL LAW PROTECTING YOU
- 22) CHAPLAIN: GOOD FRIDAY: A DAY OF REFLECTION
- 23) THE ENEMY IS LISTENING: OPSEC IS KEY
- 24) S.I.K PHOTOS

*Service in Kosovo Magazine* welcomes commentaries, articles and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the editor at [mnbgeast@gmail.com](mailto:mnbgeast@gmail.com) by the 20th 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: Slovenian soldiers form a wall of shields to help protect themselves and the rioters from harm during a training scenario on Camp Novo Selo, March 26. The Slovenian troops participated in multiple conflicts that all brought unique challenges they had to overcome. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)*

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# INSIDE

- 4) MULTINATIONAL BONDS ARE TRUE BADGE OF SCHUTZENSCHNUR RANGE
- 8) KOSOVO YOUTH EDUCATE THEMSELVES FOR FUTURE
- 10) MULTINATIONAL SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN DANCON MARCH
- 12) MILITARY K-9S EXPERIENCE MEDEVAC TRAINING AT CAMP BONDSTEEL
- 16) LANDING BY AIR, SLOVENIAN SOLDIERS CONDUCT CRC
- 20) AFTER 10 YEARS, PARATROOPERS SOAR IN KOSOVO



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF FER-IZAJ FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION, PG 8.



PARATROOPERS DROP FROM THE SKIES IN KOSOVO, PG 20.



## MULTINATIONAL BONDS ARE TRUE BADGE OF SCHUTZENSNUR RANGE



U.S. and German soldiers check targets after firing the MG3 machine gun during the German marksmanship range near Orahovac, Kosovo, April 7. The German army familiarized U.S. forces with the MG3 machine gun and the USP pistol, and served as coaches during the event.

Commentary and photos by Sgt. 1st Class  
Carlos Burger  
11th Public Affairs Detachment

I'll never forget the first time I saw the German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship, more commonly known as the Schutzenschnur (pronounced "shoots-zen-snare"). I was a young Private First Class in Baumholder, Germany during a typical Class A inspection. When I saw the badge, I thought it was awesome and I wanted to obtain it for myself.

When the opportunity finally came to participate 14 years later, I didn't hesitate to jump at the chance. What I did get, however, was far more valuable than a lanyard and a medal; it was a better understanding of the importance of spending time with

our multinational partners.

Events like the Schutzenschnur range and the Danish Contingency (DANCON) march, held on April 5, gives U.S. Soldiers a chance to bond with our multinational partners, while also building relationships on a personal level.

With language typically being the most common communication barrier, it is easy for soldiers of all armies to congregate with their own teams, rather than meet someone new. As Americans, it is especially difficult for us to venture out of our comfort zones and interact with foreigners.

From the moment the 19 U.S. Soldiers got off the bus, the Germans treated us as brothers-in-arms. They familiarized us with the MG3 ma-

chine gun and the USP pistol, served as firing coaches, and even brought in delicious German food for us at lunch.

I took the opportunity to practice some of my limited German with the soldiers. They appreciated my poor attempt at their language and we all shared a laugh. Some U.S. and German soldiers exchanged unit patches, while others told stories about what bases they had enjoyed most in their careers.

Despite our differences in languages or weapon systems, I realized that our armies are identical -- troops that have spent over a decade fighting for peace somewhere in the world. It was easy to identify with them, because at the end of the day, in some way, shape or form, we

had all fought the same fight.

It is the same all over the world, whether working with the German or Afghan armies to the Kosovo or Iraqi police. Working in a NATO organization opened my eyes to the fact that, although it feels lonely on deployments, there are others around the world experiencing those same hardships.

Soldiers should be highly encouraged to spend time with our multinational counterparts.

It adds a dimension to the time spent deployed that one can cherish and remember for a lifetime. Who

knows, you may also make a new friend as well.

At the end of the range, we were

given the announcement on whether or not we qualified for the Schutzenschnur lanyard.

When it was announced that I received the Gold medal, the highest class, I was filled with great pride in my achievement.

Departing back to base, however, I was also filled with a newfound respect and admiration for what it meant being a member of a 'multinational' battle group, and that's a badge of honor I can wear forever.



U.S. and German soldiers fire weapons during the German marksmanship range near Orahovac, Kosovo, April 7. Multinational events like the Schutzenschnur range and the Danish Contingency march gives U.S. Soldiers a chance to bond with multinational partners on a personal level.



U.S. Army Spc. Courtney Gonzalez, a native of Salt Lake City and an aviation operations specialist with 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment, Utah National Guard, fires at targets with a USP pistol during the German marksmanship range near Orahovac, Kosovo, April 7.



# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

## Slovenia

Located in south Central Europe in the Julian Alps between Austria and Croatia it has a short coastal strip on the Adriatic, an alpine mountain region adjacent to Italy and Austria, mixed mountains and valleys with numerous rivers to the east. Mediterranean climate on the coast, continental climate with mild to hot summers and cold winters in the plateaus and valleys to the east.

**President:** Borut Pahor  
**Independence:** 25 June 1991  
**Capital:** Ljubljana  
**Currency:** Euro  
**Official language:** Slovenian

Slovenian Armed Forces (Slovenska Vojska, SV): Forces Command (with ground units, naval element, air and air defense brigade); Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR) (2013). 18-25 years of age for voluntary military service; conscription abolished in 2003 (2012)

Information taken from CIA Factbook.



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

### Training, Discipline and Standards

*Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.*





# KOSOVO YOUTH EDUCATE THEM- SELVES FOR THE FUTURE

Story and photos by Maj. Michael Wallace  
MNBG-E PAO

The future of Kosovo rests upon the shoulders of the children. Understanding this, high school students of Ferizaj further their education by learning the most common international language - English.

The students devote after school hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays to study for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), which is a timed test that comprises reading, listening, speaking and writing sections, where the student must demonstrate a high level of understanding the English language. The test will be given later this year and must be passed to be able to study in the United States—where most of the students wish to attain their college degrees.

“The dedication of the students is very high. They understand that the future of Kosovo rests upon them, and they want to contribute to a better Kosovo and a better world,” said U.S. Army Capt. Allen Jones, a Judge Advocate officer serving as a Legal Assistant and Claims Attorney at Camp Bondsteel. “Through their education, they can contribute greatly to a better way of life for them, their families and the people of Kosovo.”



One of the students tries on some equipment during a breakfast at Camp Bondsteel.

Helping Kosovo and its citizens seem to be a standard theme with the students. For Diellza and Dyresa Mani, sisters who share the same high school junior class, the world of medicine is their professional calling. The Mani sisters agree that understanding people is an especially important issue, as they want to be doctors.

“I don’t know if I’ll practice medicine here in Kosovo or abroad,” said 17-year-old Diellza, “but understanding what my patient is try-

ing to tell me is crucial.”

All the students agree that effective communication with a thorough knowledge of the language is what they are all pursuing. That is why they speak English the whole time at class. They use dictionaries, thesauruses and other reference material to insure they use the proper words.

“You have to have a deep understanding of the language to be able to effectively communicate,” said 17-year-old Besnik Syljemani, who

learned much of his English from movies.

“But learning more is not just for our professional careers,” 17-year-old Florentina Tahiri added. “There are other opportunities for us if we learn more, such as visiting new places.”

“There is a difference in understanding the language, and truly being proficient in it,” 15-year-old Dyresa continued. “It’s all those nuances to each language that we try to learn when we study, so we can better understand everyone.”

U.S. Army Col. Charles T. Hensley, Multinational Battle Group-East commander, believes it is important for members in his command to be involved with the surrounding community and people of Kosovo.

“Our KFOR-18 members are giving opportunities to the youth of Kosovo so that they can have many other opportunities available to them and contribute to society,” Hensley said.

U.S. Army Sgt. Leif Anderson, a Blackhawk helicopter crew chief hasn’t taught classes like this before, but he uses his skills learned as a former deputy sheriff to pose questions to the students.

“I strive for accuracy,” said Anderson. “It’s important that the students know and understand why certain words in English are pronounced and used the way they are so they can better communicate in the world.”

Although the students are learning English in the classroom, the in-

structors are educated as well.

“With the members of KFOR-18 assisting,” said Naim Bajrami a linguist for Northrop Grumman and an interpreter for the TOEFL classes since 2007. “The students not only learn the language, but learn about the United States from many different viewpoints. But, I’ve learned that the youth here have dreams and goals like much of the youth worldwide, but it is much more difficult to attain these just because these kids are in Kosovo.”

The other instructors agree the students drive to learn drives us to teach. The pleasure and privilege they receive from assisting these young scholars improve make them better people and the world will be a better place because of them.



U.S. Army Sgt. Leif Anderson hands out photos of some hairstyles to students. The students are preparing to give their arguments on whether a ‘mullet’ hairstyle is good or bad.



## MULTINATIONAL SOLDIERS PARTICIPATE IN DANCON MARCH



Multinational soldiers take off from the starting point of the Danish Contingency March at Camp Novo Selo, April 5. Embarking on a 25 kilometer or 50 kilometer trek, participants had an allotted time - either six hours or 11 hours respectively - to finish their chosen amount of distance.

Story and photos by Sgt. Cody Barber  
11th Public Affairs Detachment

Carrying upwards of 22 pounds, a weapon, and for some, their nation's flag flying from their rucksack, more than 1,100 participants trekked along the countryside of Kosovo during the Danish Contingency (DANCON) March at Camp Novo Selo, April 5.

This was the first DANCON March held this year, which was compromised of KFOR Soldiers, Kosovo Police, European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) personnel and others - all up for the vigorous challenge.

"The DANCON March is normally conducted by every Danish unit on deployments," said Danish army Capt. Martin Hillman, contingent commander. "It has been conducted in most parts of the world so far."

The DANCON is a tradition dating back to 1972, and has been carried out in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Africa and other locations. This year, each participant was given a choice to march 25 kilometers (15.5 miles) or 50 kilometers (31 miles) through the uneven trails, but all for a good cause.

"We give all the surplus funds we receive from the march to veteran homes and Danish soldiers that have problems after the war," said Hillman. "So it's kind of a march with a higher purpose."

For U.S. Army Pfc. Christopher Gores, a human resource specialist with the 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, that was more than a reason to participate in the march.

"Having lost a brother-in-law in Afghanistan a couple years ago, I

always like contributing and giving back," said Gores.

Although the course was long, there was one thing that helped soldiers keep moving, and that was the camaraderie.

"The march has been a great chance to build esprit de corps amongst our multinational groups here," said U.S. Army Capt. Aaron Lorensen, a physician assistant with 2-38 Cavalry. "Everybody seems to be having a great time and it has definitely been a challenge, but a lot of fun."

It was also a great chance for Lorensen to bond with his fellow Soldiers and foreign counterparts.

"It's nothing but pride to be out here with my men, and it's something that really shows we are all together doing something in (Kosovo Force) that's other than working," said Lorensen. "It's a good chance

to break away and do something fun."

Usually the march is 25 kilometers but, for this occasion, the Danish contingent allowed participants to do an extra lap, and for Gores, that was the perfect excuse to get out of the office.

"It's nice to get outside of camp for once," said Gores. "I enjoy ruck marching so this it is no problem for me doing the 25km."

At the end of the event, every participant who crossed the finish line in time received a Danish Contingent March Medal and certificate. They plan to do another march later in the year.

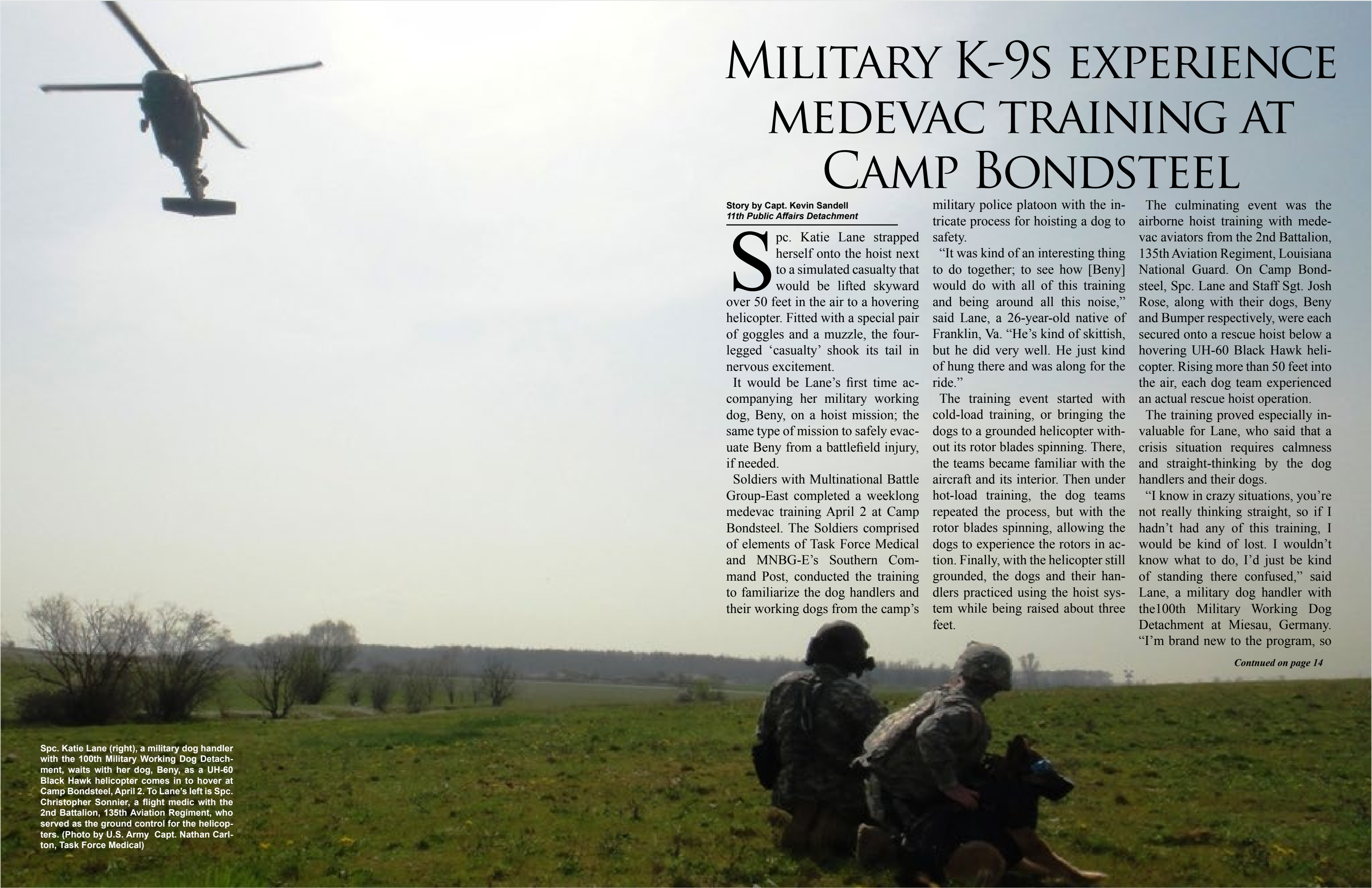


Over 1,100 participants ruck along uneven terrain and steep hills during the Danish Contingency March at Camp Novo Selo, April 5. Proceeds from the march went to wounded Danish soldiers and veteran homes.



Danish army soldiers cut fruit for participants along the Danish Contingency March at Camp Novo Selo, April 5. Stations were set up along the course to help aid and replenish Soldiers' physical stamina.





# MILITARY K-9S EXPERIENCE MEDEVAC TRAINING AT CAMP BONDSTEEL

Story by Capt. Kevin Sandell  
11th Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Katie Lane strapped herself onto the hoist next to a simulated casualty that would be lifted skyward over 50 feet in the air to a hovering helicopter. Fitted with a special pair of goggles and a muzzle, the four-legged ‘casualty’ shook its tail in nervous excitement.

It would be Lane’s first time accompanying her military working dog, Beny, on a hoist mission; the same type of mission to safely evacuate Beny from a battlefield injury, if needed.

Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East completed a weeklong medevac training April 2 at Camp Bondsteel. The Soldiers comprised of elements of Task Force Medical and MNBG-E’s Southern Command Post, conducted the training to familiarize the dog handlers and their working dogs from the camp’s

military police platoon with the intricate process for hoisting a dog to safety.

“It was kind of an interesting thing to do together; to see how [Beny] would do with all of this training and being around all this noise,” said Lane, a 26-year-old native of Franklin, Va. “He’s kind of skittish, but he did very well. He just kind of hung there and was along for the ride.”

The training event started with cold-load training, or bringing the dogs to a grounded helicopter without its rotor blades spinning. There, the teams became familiar with the aircraft and its interior. Then under hot-load training, the dog teams repeated the process, but with the rotor blades spinning, allowing the dogs to experience the rotors in action. Finally, with the helicopter still grounded, the dogs and their handlers practiced using the hoist system while being raised about three feet.

The culminating event was the airborne hoist training with medevac aviators from the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, Louisiana National Guard. On Camp Bondsteel, Spc. Lane and Staff Sgt. Josh Rose, along with their dogs, Beny and Bumper respectively, were each secured onto a rescue hoist below a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Rising more than 50 feet into the air, each dog team experienced an actual rescue hoist operation.

The training proved especially invaluable for Lane, who said that a crisis situation requires calmness and straight-thinking by the dog handlers and their dogs.

“I know in crazy situations, you’re not really thinking straight, so if I hadn’t had any of this training, I would be kind of lost. I wouldn’t know what to do, I’d just be kind of standing there confused,” said Lane, a military dog handler with the 100th Military Working Dog Detachment at Miesau, Germany. “I’m brand new to the program, so

*Continued on page 14*

Spc. Katie Lane (right), a military dog handler with the 100th Military Working Dog Detachment, waits with her dog, Beny, as a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter comes in to hover at Camp Bondsteel, April 2. To Lane’s left is Spc. Christopher Sonnier, a flight medic with the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, who served as the ground control for the helicopters. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Nathan Carlton, Task Force Medical)





Spc. Katie Lane, a military dog handler with the 100th Military Working Dog Detachment at Miesau, Germany, carries military working dog, Beny, off a medevac helicopter after training with the medevac crew at Camp Bondsteel, March 27. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Stefanie Keefer, Task Force Medical)

it's given me a lot of information on what to do in a situation where something does happen to the dog and we have to medevac him out."

Military working dogs have an important job at Camp Bondsteel, serving in a force protection role for the camp's residents, workplaces and equipment yards. They complete daily perimeter and critical infrastructure checks, search incoming service trucks and conduct vigilance patrols. The dogs and their handlers are in a demanding position.

"On average, (the teams are) getting well over 200 hours of utilization a month," said Rose, a military dog handler with the 131st Military Working Dog Detachment, and native of Chesapeake, Va.

The dogs' intense workload means their possibility of getting injured on the job remains high.

An injured animal has unpredictable behavior, even towards those

who may be saving its life, said Capt. Nathan Carlton, the camp's only military veterinarian and officer-in-charge of the medevac training.

"Given that the military working dogs in Kosovo have a dangerous mission, I thought there was a chance one of them could be injured in the line of duty," the native of Tucson, Ariz., added. "If that happens, there will be a lot of people handling the animal during evacuation."

Carlton explained that by transporting an injured animal in assets designed for people by medevac personnel trained to save human lives, there were several concerns that needed to be addressed before the training.

Wounded dogs are more prone to bite than normal due to fear and pain, Carlton continued and stated that German Shepherds can produce

700 pounds per square inch in bite force. Additionally, helicopters are often a new and frightening encounter for dogs.

"Aeromedical evacuation is an extremely intense sensory experience for [military working dogs]. There is a lot of loud noise, new smells, wind blowing debris, and a big, black helicopter the dog must enter," Carlton said. "All that can overwhelm a dog, making it react unpredictably. We introduced the dogs to gradually increasing levels of sensory perception to make sure they are acclimated to the procedure."

Carlton also taught a Canine Combat Life Saver class, an advanced-level first aid class on dog anatomy and lifesaving procedures. Military dog handlers must be certified on over 30 first-aid tasks specific to canines. Using mannequin dogs, the handlers were taught intubation,

IVs, bandaging, and even CPR.

"We do quarterly training with the vet and there are 34 tasks that we're required to know about and to perform on a [military working dog]," said Rose. "A lot of it's the same as helping an injured human; anything from treating shock to gunshot wounds."

In an emergency, the handler, often the individual with the most animal handling training, can provide much-needed restraint and canine first-aid knowledge to the medical crew. Rose said on his first deployment to Iraq, his military working dog was evacuated from theater due to a sudden illness, and he and the dog were back in Germany for further medical treatment within eight hours.



Photo Above: Spc. Katie Lane (left), a military dog handler at Camp Bondsteel, secures a harness on her military working dog, Beny, during medevac training, March 27. To the far right is Capt. Nathan Carlton, the military veterinarian assigned to the Task Force Medical on Camp Bondsteel, and an unidentified aviation crew chief from the Southern Command Post. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Stefanie Keefer, Task Force Medical)



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Josh Rose, a military dog handler with the 131st Military Working Dog Detachment and noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Camp Bondsteel's dog kennel, is hoisted up to a hovering UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter with his dog, Bumper, at Camp Bondsteel, April 2. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Nathan Carlton, Task Force Medical)





Using UH-60 Blackhawks, Slovenian soldiers respond to a civil disturbance during a training event on Camp Novo Selo, Kosovo March 26.

## LANDING BY AIR, SLOVENIAN SOLDIERS CONDUCT CRC

Story and photos by Sgt. Cody Barber  
11th Public Affairs Detachment

Within minutes of receiving a call about a protest, Slovenian soldiers geared up and loaded onto UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and headed to where the event was occurring.

Upon landing at the location, they dismounted the helicopters and formed up in formation, ready to face the crowd of angry rioters. Luckily for the rioters, this was only a training exercise.

On Camp Novo Selo, Kosovo, Slovenian troops conducted aerial quick reaction force crowd riot control operations during a training

event, March 26. The purpose of the training was to test the commanders and soldiers on their ability to react fast and make the right calls.

“Every training is good because you have to be ready for a mission if this would happen,” said Slovenian coy commander Capt. Jurij Roduha. “When you do training more and more, you will establish better tactical procedures, techniques and this will help you.”

With a mob of approximately 30 U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, yelling, chanting and overall causing chaos, Roduha said his troops handle the situation very well.

“I think that today both of the pla-

toons accomplished the movement and preparations smoothly but there is always room to improve and I’m sure next time it will be better,” said Roduha.

During the training, the Slovenian troops faced multiple situations they could encounter when dealing with civil disturbances, which was a benefit for the Slovenian soldiers.

“There is always something new and different to learn in every exercise and with every exercise you improve a little,” said Slovenian army Lance Cpl. Gregor Hazdovac, an armor personnel carrier for CRC.

Hazdovac also added that using air assets was also something different and beneficial for him.

“This exercise was something new that challenged me,” said Hazdovac. “This time we arrived in helicopter when we usually come in ground vehicles.”

Even though the training was primarily focused for the Slovenian army, U.S. Army Capt. William Fuller, an operations officer with 238th Cav. and a native of Decatur, Georgia, said that he benefited from the training as well.

“It was valuable training for Roduha’s COY as well as the staff at the forward command post,” said Fuller. “We learned some things that we could do better in terms of training and readiness.”

Fuller also stated that working

hand-in-hand with multinational counterparts is essential to mission success.

“It’s always good to have different multinational elements work

together during training because that’s how we are going to do it if things actually happen,” said Fuller.



Slovenian coy commander Capt. Jurij Roduha, talks to his troops about the training event on Camp Novo Selo, March 26. The training tested the commanders and soldiers on their ability to react fast and make the right calls.



Acting as a disgruntled rioter, a Soldier with 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, throws his body at the shields of Slovenian soldiers during a training exercise on Camp Novo Selo, March 26.



## FEDERAL LAW PROTECTING YOU THE SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

**T**he Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal law that provides military members important protections as they enter active duty and other protections while on active duty. The SCRA protects all services and components called to active duty and, in limited situations, their dependents.

### The Major Protections of the SCRA:

- **Six Percent Maximum Interest Rate:** The SCRA provides that no obligation or liability incurred by a service member prior to entry onto active duty shall bear interest at an annual rate in excess of six percent. This can include interest rates on credit cards, mortgages, and some student loans. This provision does not apply to any debt incurred after entry onto active duty. A lender may get relief from the six percent cap, however, by going to court and showing that the SM's ability to pay the contract interest rate is not materially affected by reason of military service. Upon such a showing, the court may make any order it deems just.

- **Delay of Court and Administrative Proceedings:** The SCRA permits those who are unable to appear in a court or administrative proceeding due to their military duties to postpone the proceeding for a mandatory minimum of ninety days upon the service member's request.

The request must be in writing and explain why the current military duty materially affects the ability to appear. It must also provide a date when the service member can appear, and include a letter from the commander stating that his or her duties preclude appearance and that leave is not authorized at the time of the hearing. Further delays may be granted at the discretion of the court.

- **Termination of Leases:** The SCRA permits termination of residential leases by active duty members who subsequently receive orders for a permanent change of station or a deployment for a period of 90 days or more. The SCRA also permits the termination of leases for motor vehicles leased for personal or business use by SMs and their dependents.

- **Eviction for Nonpayment of Rent:** The SCRA affords military members and their dependents some protection from eviction, requiring the landlord to obtain a court order before an eviction.

- **Default Judgment Protection:** If a default judgment is entered during active duty service or within 60 days thereafter, the SCRA allows service members to reopen that default judgment and set it aside. To set aside a default judgment, they must show that he or she was prejudiced by not being able to appear in person, and that he or she has good

and legal defenses to the asserted claims. The service members must apply to the court for relief within 90 days of the termination or release from military service.

- **Residency for Tax Purposes:** The SCRA provides that a nonresident member's military income and personal property are not subject to state taxation if they are present in the state only due to military orders. The state also is prohibited from using the military pay of these nonresidents to increase the state income tax of the spouse.

If you have any questions concerning the SCRA, or any questions concerning credit card debt, student loans, mortgages, court proceedings, evictions, divorces, leases, taxes, etc., please stop by the Legal Assistance office on CBS located in Admin. Alley, Bldg. 1330C, Room 3N, or call DSN 314-781-4575 for an appointment. We also travel to Film City and Novo Selo to provide legal assistance and tax services. If you are stationed at Film City or Novo Selo and need legal assistance, please call to schedule an appointment. The Legal Assistance office is here to help and to ensure that your legal rights are protected.

# Smoke alarm going off? Think it's just a malfunction?

## Don't risk it! **Call** and **report** it right away.



Your job is to report it, our job is to take care of it.  
It's not annoying, you're not an inconvenience.  
It's what we're here for, call us!

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



# AFTER 10 YEARS, PARATROOPERS SOAR IN KOSOVO

Story and photos by Sgt. Cody Barber  
11th Public Affairs Detachment

Ending what has been over a decade-long absence, Multinational Battle Group-East paratroopers took to the skies in Kosovo, April 15.

Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, conducted airborne jumps to maintain jumper proficiency, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Cogbill, commander of 2-38 Cavalry Squadron and MNBG-E's Forward Command Post.

"Conducting airborne operations is an inherently high risk mission," the native of Richmond, Va., added. "It's one of those things where practice makes perfect and the more repetitions we can get, the better we become."

The exercise started at daybreak where Soldiers checked their gear, tightened straps and prepared themselves before conducting multiple jumps via static line out of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter into the brisk morning air at Camp Bondsteel.

The paratroopers enjoyed the chance to stay proficient in their airborne skills while being deployed. Cogbill was one of the first paratroopers putting his knees in the breeze at the drop zone, and he said it was a very successful jump for him and his troops.

"We threw a couple streamers out to make sure we had the spot right and then we went for it," said Cogbill. "We hit the drop zone and walked away from it, so we are happy."

Also attending the airborne exercise was Muharrem Svarqa, the mayor of Ferizaj, the closest major



After a successful static line airborne jump from a UH-60 Black Hawk, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Cisneros, a paratrooper with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and a native of Round Rock, Texas, gathers his parachute at Camp Bondsteel, April 15. This is the first airborne jump that has happened in Kosovo in a decade.

city to Camp Bondsteel. He said watching the jump was a great experience for him.

"It's very exciting for us to see these kind of events that we don't usually get a chance to see," said Svarqa. "I'm very thankful that

we were invited to attend the event where the U.S. Soldiers demonstrated their military skills and abilities."

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. William Hutson, top noncommissioned officer for Company C, 2nd Sqdn., 38th Cav. Regt., was on the drop zone



Walking to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, Paratroopers with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, are ready to make the first airborne jump in Kosovo since 2004 on Camp Bondsteel, April 15. The jump was a way for the Soldiers to maintain proficiency in airborne exercises.

and watched his troops make the jumps. He was glad to see his troops learning and training.

"We just took this opportunity to bring our jumpmasters down here, set up the drop zone and survey it," said Hutson, a native of Pearland, Texas. "We ran through some re-

hearsals and got everyone on par as far as what everyone needs to know and came out here to execute the jump."

The troopers weren't the only ones who received training for the day. Aviation crews from the battle group's Southern Command Post

got in on the action as well.

"We are always looking for opportunities to train," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. George Barton, SCP commander, and a native of West Jordan, Utah. "When the Forward Command Post suggested that we start doing paratrooper drops, we were excited to do it because it's a common mission for us to do as Black Hawk pilots."

Although the unit conducts intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations according to U.S. Army doctrine in support of III Corps, it's important to keep the parachuting skills sharp, even though this is a peacekeeping mission, added Cogbill.

At least once a month the Cavalry unit plans on conducting airborne exercises in Kosovo to maintain their airborne status.



Airborne Soldiers with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, jump from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Camp Bondsteel, April 15. The airborne exercise was the first airborne jump in Kosovo in over a decade.





# CHAPLAIN

## GOOD FRIDAY: A DAY OF REFLECTION

By Chaplain 1st Lt. Charles Musula  
MNBG-E Chaplain

**T**he free exercise of religion within the United States military has been a long-standing constitutional right and privilege for U.S. service members.

In keeping with the spirit of religious freedom, the Multinational Battle Group-East Chaplain, Maj. Thomas Gorrell, sponsored a unique

trip to Stubla, Kosovo, for approximately 200 Kosovo Force soldiers and local civilians, April 18. St. Josefi's Parish and other beautiful marble monuments of the Stations of the Cross are placed strategically along a picturesque mountainside in Stubla.

Father Don Albert, a local priest, co-hosted the event with support from Polish Priest Capt. Artur Majorek and myself.

Around the world, Good Friday is a day for Christians to reflect on Jesus Christ's sacrifice over 2000 years ago. However, for those participating in the trip to Stubla to traverse the Stations of the Cross, this

was certainly no ordinary day.

Normally, a Good Friday service would be done inside the parish, but on this occasion, the group trudged through the deep snow and dense fog as Father Albert, Father Majorek and myself offered prayers in their respective languages at each of the 14 stations. Due to the poor weather conditions, it was a perfect way of reflecting and participating in the suffering, crucifixion and death of Christ.

The trip concluded with a special service inside St. Josefi's Parish where once again, Majorek and I celebrated Mass with all those present. Many of those attending commented how profound this spiritual event was to them, and would welcome the opportunity to participate in a future event.



U.S. Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East take a moment after the long trek up Mount Josephi, to get a photo at the final destination of the Stations of the Cross, April 18. (Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Mike Wallace, MNBG-E Public Affairs)

## THE ENEMY IS LISTENING: OPSEC IS KEY

By 2nd Lt. Isaac Moscoso,  
MNBG-E Operational Security Officer

“Loose lips sink ships” -- a phrase first used on U.S. propaganda posters during World War II, it still rings true for today's military, where society thrives through the use of social media. Social media allows users worldwide to connect, communicate, send, and receive information immediately; and there is no limit to the information accessible online. All in all, it is now more than ever a “loose keys break knees” society -- even a small information leak can cause a lot of damage.

Today's military has emplaced many information protecting mechanisms; however, protections for the “Sensitive but Unclassified” category are lacking. This type of information classification is typically for information that is for official use only, and the Army's way to protect this information is through Operations Security. OPSEC emplaces guidelines handling sensitive information, while mitigating its collection by potential adversaries.

The Army has a few do's and don'ts for protecting its sensitive information:

### Do Not:

- Post sensitive information on social media sites, such as, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.
- Post sensitive information on public websites
- Place sensitive information in trash cans or recycle bins
- Leave sensitive information in vacated offices
- Leave sensitive information unattended
- Allow access to those individuals without a “need to know”
- Place sensitive information on shared drives, unless it is password-protected

### DO:

- Encrypt e-mail when sending sensitive information
- Review information for sensitivity prior to posting on social networking sites
- Review information for sensitivity prior to posting on public websites
- Look at information before throwing it in the recycle or trash bins
- Ensure only unclassified non-sensitive information is discarded in trash and recycle bins
- Conduct an annual clean out each year
- Ensure you have enough supplies (burn/shred bags) on hand to discard sensitive information
- Look behind desk drawers and under desks for information that may have fallen
- Passwords protect information placed on shared drives and apply the “need to know” principle

Think of how you would personally go about handling your home address. You would not post your address on non-secure sites, or social media. You would not release to the public the exact grid location of your home, and you definitely would not release your home address to anyone that isn't trusted or doesn't have a need to know. The measures you take to handle your home address are OPSEC, and should also be applied to handle to your work information as well.

Contact your unit's OPSEC Officer to learn more about what information your unit deems “Sensitive but Unclassified,” and what measures you can take to better prevent collection of your information by adversaries.





# S.I.K. Photos

SERVICE IN KOSOVO

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Ukrainian soldiers receive the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for their hard work and dedication to the KFOR mission in Kosovo on Camp Bondsteel, April 17. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)



U.S. Army Sgt 1st Class Carlos Arriazaleal watches German Army 1st Sgt. Carsten Hartmann as he shoots the U.S. Army M4 rifle, at Camp Bondsteel Kosovo, April 24. Before this event, U.S. Army Soldiers qualified on German weapons at the beginning of April. (Photo by Ardian Nrecaj, MNBG-E PAO)



Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, get ready to hook up a Sling Load during a training exercise at Camp Novo Selo, April 24. (Courtesy Photo)



Multinational Battle Group-East soldiers carry a simulated casualty to an evacuation point during a Combat Livesaver Course at Camp Bondsteel, April 25. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)





# LAST LOOK

U.S. Army Pfc. Tyler Tantillo, a Fire Support Specialist with 2nd Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, focuses on the path ahead during the Danish Contingency March at Camp Novo Selo, April 5. Participants were given a choice to march 25km or 50km and were required to carry a minimum weight of 10kg (22 lbs.) during the ruck march. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)