

THE BONDSTEEL BULLET

May 2014

NEWSLETTER

Issue 14



Financial officers from more than 20 contributing countries within KFOR meet at Camp Bondsteel, Sept. 13, 2013 to exchange invoices amongst each other. (Photo by Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist, Multinational Battle Group-East Public Affairs Office.)

- Meals and billeting for a foreign soldier living at Camp Bondsteel run about \$ 40 a day.
- There are more than 30 contributing countries in KFOR mission. The MNSC office does billing and exchanges invoices with all of them.

Paying the Bills

Story and Photos by Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist

Camp Bondsteel is home to 10 different contributing countries to the Kosovo Force. Soldiers from these countries sleep, eat, exercise and work at Camp Bondsteel during their mission in Kosovo, and all these services provided to them are paid for by their financial officers.

Meals and billeting for a foreign soldier living at Camp Bondsteel run about \$ 40 a day.

Bejrin Rrahmani, a senior specialist for the Multinational Support Cell at Camp Bondsteel, explains that her office deals with all the logistical service provided to the contributing countries in the KFOR mission.

"Our office is set in two branches; accounts receivable and payable," said Rrahmani. "Receivable means when we provide services to other nations we send them the bill for them to pay. Accounts payable is when we pay the country that provided the support to U.S. troops."

Rrahmani explained that when U.S. Soldiers go to Camp Novo Selo, the MNSC receives a bill from the French army for meals, water, billeting, fuel and any medical services or other support provided to them.

"There are more than 30 contributing countries in KFOR mission," said Rrahmani. "We do billing and exchange invoices with them."

From time to time, MNSC organizes a meeting for financial officers from most KFOR's contributing countries where they meet and exchange invoices amongst each other.

Mitch Franklin, chief of MNSC, said the last paymasters' meeting was held at Camp Bondsteel in September.

"We all got together and exchange invoices," said Franklin. "We had paymasters that are stationed here in Bondsteel, we had French who were bringing bills for people from Camp Novo Selo or Gate 31, and also we had the Germans for some of their camps."

"We got approximately \$ 40,000 to \$ 50,000 from other countries coming in and making their payments, and all this money goes back to U.S. Army Europe budget," added Franklin.

Franklin continued that a meeting like this is the easiest and most effective way for everyone to pay their bills.

"This is a good way for us to interact with each other and exchange invoices at one time, rather than us going to Film City and other camps to meet people," said Franklin. "This was a good way to get everybody in the same room and take care of at once."

Franklin explained that all these payments and transactions are called Acquisition Cross Service transactions, and they go through the MNSC office.

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The Bondsteel Bullet is produced for civilians and military personnel on Camp Bondsteel.

Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of Multinational Battle Group-East or Area Support Team Balkans.

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"We got approximately \$ 40,000 to \$ 50,000 from other countries coming in and making their payments." – Mitch Franklin chief of MNSC.



Bejrin Rrahmani, a senior specialist for the Multinational Support Cell at Camp Bondsteel, oversees the payment done by French Army financial officer Sgt. 1st Class Stephane Dreulette. (Photo by Ardian Nrecaj Public Affairs Specialist, Multinational Battle Group-East Public Affairs Office.)

Meet the Post Office

The Area Support Team Balkans Post Office is a busy place, but all get served with a smile, said Staff Sgt. Eloi Perry, Postmaster at Camp Bondsteel.

"Spc. Rebekah Marcy provides the upmost customer service to all customers and ensures that all their questions are answered to the best of her abilities and in according to regulations. She does great customer service and very friendly, she welcomes them in with a smile on her face," said Perry

Perry added that "Spc Robert Smith ensures that all customers are helped and all questions are asked. When conducting Postal Operations Smith is very diligent in ensuring every package that is received in "Damaged Condition" is rewrapped and proper endorsements are placed on the packages. His technical expertise ensures that everyone receives their mail in a timely manner and adequate supplies are maintained in the Post Office."

Spc. Robert Smith, AST Postal Clerk at Camp Bondsteel

How do you start your day?

I start off everyday listening to music because it helps me relax and calm my head before work

How long have you been working here?

I have been working here on Camp Bondsteel for four months now.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

I work at the Camp Bondsteel post office. I am a finance clerk, supply clerk and accountable clerk.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

It is actually a job I enjoy doing because it brings joy and morale to the units, and it makes me feels good to know that I am helping others stay in contact with their families that they are away from.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I am from Beaufort, South Carolina and I have a daughter named, Amari Walton. Currently not married, I am single and happy.

What do you do in your down free time?

On my free time I like to play basketball.

Hobbies or Sports?

One of my hobbies is to work on cars, I enjoy working on engines.



Spc. Rebekah Marcy, AST Postal Clerk at Camp Bondsteel

How do you start your day?

Every day I come in and open my drawer for the day and my email to see if there were any delays in the truck. When there is mail I come in at 0800 hrs to unload the mail from the truck. After we unload the mail we scan the barcodes, sort the mail to the right section and upload the barcodes to deliver.

How long have you been working here?

I have been working here at Camp little over three months.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

I work at the Post Office.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part is helping customers

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I am from Pekin, Illinois, and I am married and do not have any children.

What do you and your family enjoys doing together?

My family and I enjoy going to dinner and just being around each other.

What do you do in your down (free) time?

In my free time I go to the gym and talk to my family and friends

Hobbies or Sports?

I like to play softball and basketball

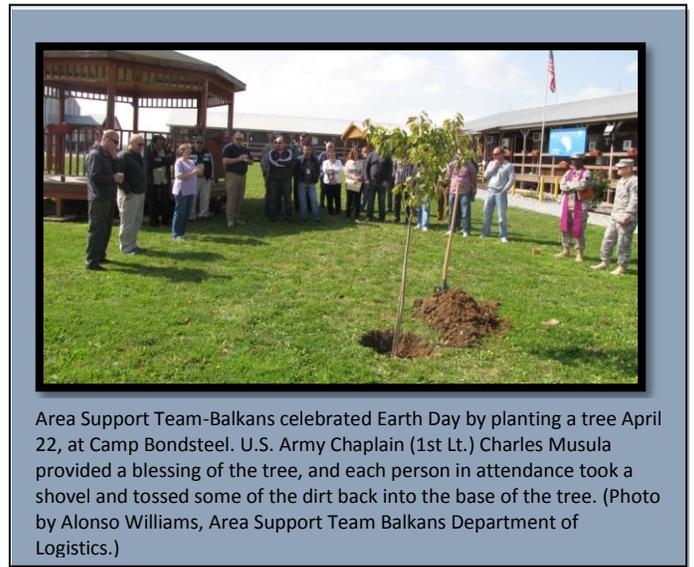
Remembering Earth Day

Story by Oscar Lara, Area Support Team-Balkans Operations Officer

Camp Bondsteel celebrated Earth Day, April 22, and military, Department of the Army Civilians, and contractors from Area Support Team Balkans gathered to plant a flowering cherry tree in front of AST Balkans' headquarters. Earth Day was started in 1970 in the United States and has grown world-wide as an international initiative to protect the planet and secure a sustainable future.

U.S. Army Chaplain (1st Lt.) Mark Hart of Multinational Battle Group-East provided an invocation, followed by Della Hodges, Director of AST Balkans.

"Earth Day is a commitment by individuals, by organizations, businesses and governments to protect the planet. It's a time to take stock of our actions – what we can do to protect our planet," said Hodges.



Area Support Team-Balkans celebrated Earth Day by planting a tree April 22, at Camp Bondsteel. U.S. Army Chaplain (1st Lt.) Charles Musula provided a blessing of the tree, and each person in attendance took a shovel and tossed some of the dirt back into the base of the tree. (Photo by Alonso Williams, Area Support Team Balkans Department of Logistics.)



Area Support Team-Balkans celebrated Earth Day by planting a tree April 22, at Camp Bondsteel. U.S. Army Chaplain (1st Lt.) Charles Musula provided a blessing of the tree, and each person in attendance took a shovel and tossed some of the dirt back into the base of the tree. (Photo by Alonso Williams, Area Support Team Balkans Department of Logistics.)

"Planting this tree is just a small action. But everyday at Camp Bondsteel, we strive to reduce energy consumption, conserve water, increase recycling, and to promote environmental education to all. All of these actions add up."

U.S. Army Chaplain (1st Lt.) Charles Musula provided a blessing of the tree and then each person in attendance took shovels and tossed some of the dirt back into the base of the tree.

"This tree belongs to all of us, so we should all have a hand in planting it," added Hodges.

Valdet Gashi, environmental engineer for AST Department of Public Works, read the U.S. Army's Earth Day message.

"The Army has long been at the forefront in finding and implementing ways to protect, preserve, conserve and restore the natural environment in which we live, work and train. We have done much over the years. Addressing energy security and sustainability is not only an operational imperative; it is financially prudent and essential to mission accomplishment," said Gashi.

Gashi added that critical resources should be managed so installations produce at least as much energy as they use, and limit water consumption to prevent negatively impacting water resources. The Army must promote recycling, repurposing, recovering and reusing.

"This Earth Day - and every day - we have an opportunity to make a difference. We encourage everyone to participate in Army Earth Day events and do your part to foster environmental stewardship," added Gashi.

The Earth Day messages continued by saying take advantage of the many opportunities to make a difference on your installation. By joining together to find innovative ways to protect our precious natural environment, we will help secure the future for generations. Our focus is sustaining the environment for a secure future.

After ceremony's conclusion Hodges added "let's use today to think about what else we can do to be good stewards of our limited resources. As Kosovo grows, today's youth need to understand why taking care of our environment is so important. They will help to make the future even brighter for the next generation."



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MWR Corner

If you have free time, or you are spending the night at Camp Bondsteel, there are many activities that MWR organizes during the month.

Monday, May 21 there will be a 5 km **Memorial Day** fun run starting at 0700 hrs at South Town fitness center.

There are different tournaments and regular daily activities such as:

- *Outdoor Soccer Tournament on May 28, from 1700 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Ping Pong Tournament on May 29, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.*
- *8 Ball Pool Tournament on May 30, from 1900 hrs at South Town Community Center.*
- *Insanity Class every evening except Sunday's from 1900 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Step Interval and Toning Class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 0630 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Open DJ Music Night every Saturday from 2100 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*

BONDSTEEL UNPLUGGED

Can you play? Sing?

Bondsteel Battle of the Bands will be on 31 MAY. The top two bands will compete in Pristina in June. Sign up by 18 MAY with your MWR Representative!



Lt. Col. Edward Keller Multinational Battle Group East Civil Affairs Officer received the Camp Bondsteel Fire Department T-Shirt as the winner of the monthly Fire Safety Quiz which can be obtained in the dining facility main entrance and South Town Gym. Presenting Keller with his T-Shirt is Jon Stanescu Firefighter Chief at Camp Bondsteel. (Photo the courtesy of Camp Bondsteel fire department).

Polish Constitution Day 5 km Fun Run

Photos and story by Lt. Cmdr. Kris Grunert, MNBG-E Polish Contingent

May 3 was a cloudy Saturday morning, but nearly 50 people gathered to run a five-kilometer race at Camp Bondsteel to commemorate and celebrate Poland's Constitution Day. A Constitution Day run is a Polish tradition held since 1990, and is common in Poland for everyone to take part.

The event was organized to celebrate the Polish Constitution, which was established on May 3rd, 1791, making it the world's second oldest constitution, under the United States of America's constitution.

This year's race began at 7 a.m. around the Polish compound. The runners were in good spirits when Polish National Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Tomasz Sawczuk, began the race. While some participants were running just for the fun or to win a t-shirt, the pace of the race was kept very fast – and on unfamiliar ground, as the race followed a different route from past races.

Within the race there was a male and female category, with medals provided to the top three participants in each category. The fastest female runner was U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christina Sutton, who finished the race at 22 minutes. The fastest male runner was Pfc. Artur Kwapisz, who finished at 19 minutes.

"I am so happy, winning is always very nice," said Kwapisz. "I love challenging myself, and now I am aiming to the Skopje marathon. My goal is to finish the Skopje Marathon in 3 hours and 20 minutes."



Soldiers and civilians participated on Polish Constitution day fun run. The fastest female runner was U.S. Army 1st Lt. Christina Sutton, and The fastest male runner Pfc. Artur Kwapisz, who finished at 19 minutes, 29 seconds.