

GUARDIAN EAST



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A student from Vatra e Diturise school in Pasjak, Kosovo received a soccer ball from Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East. Six military police officers with MNBG-E visited two schools in Kosovo to distribute 145 bags filled with hygiene products, toys and games to students. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Judith Marlowe)



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Travis France from Multinational Battle Group-East, a new member of Sergeant Morales Club, participates in a NCO induction ceremony on Camp Bondsteel, Mar. 30.. (Photo by Ardian Nrecaj)

SPARTAN 6 & 7 SENDS



Six months into the KFOR 19 deployment and we think it's safe to say that the busiest month yet is now behind us; and what a month it has been.

During the month of March, the battle group executed its capstone exercise - Operation Stonewall II. Simply referred to as 'Stonewall,' the exercise was a coming-together of sorts for the maneuver elements of the battle group along with local Kosovo law enforcement agencies and emergency responders. As a whole, KFOR is a third responder for much of the country, especially in the northern half, behind Kosovo law enforcement and the European Union Rule of Law Mission. However, in the southern half of the country, KFOR is the second responder right after local law enforcement. With that in mind, Stonewall replicates a protest in southern Kosovo, which quickly transitions into a riot. Concentrating on the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac, located just down the road from Camp Bondsteel, Stonewall tests the crowd riot control capabilities, along with command and control proficiency, of the battle group and the Kosovo Police, as well as the responsiveness of local emergency responders such as firefighters and hospital EMTs. More important than that, Stonewall tests the communicative abilities of everyone involved. Much like individual people, the battle group, the Kosovo Police, emergency responders - all have distinct personalities and ways of doing business. In the event that a real protest should ever turn violent and the services of everyone involved are required, it's

important that all are familiar with each other and how each operates. Stonewall did just that and was very successful.

Our Southern Command Post (SCP) was the battle group's lead this month in executing Stonewall as the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Regiment provided command and control of the Turkish and Hungarian Companies, which represented the MNBG-E response on the ground. In addition, the SCP also served as the counterpart headquarters of the Kosovo Police, who had overall command and control of the entire exercise. The Turkish Company, commanded by Turkish Army Capt. Himmet Sevinc, was the literal second responder during the execution of Stonewall. When simulated conditions on the ground dictated that the Kosovo Police request assistance in quelling the unruly crowd (played by both German and U.S. Soldiers), the Kosovo Police placed a call for such and within minutes the Turkish Company was on scene helping to strengthen the line.

But the Turkish Company was not alone. Once they reinforced the line along with the Kosovo Police, they, too, needed assistance and a call was placed to U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Federovich's Forward Command Post (FCP). The SCP's fleet of UH-60 Black Hawks then made an appearance and in doing so brought in the FCP's Hungarian Coy, commanded by Hungarian Army Capt. Gergely Banfalvi, from their home at Camp Marechel de Lattre de Tassigny north of Pristina. Bringing in an entire company took multiple trips by air using the SCP's four-ship flight of Black Hawks, but once the Hungarians were on the ground, along with the Kosovo Police and the Turks, the formation

4 proved to be too much for the rioting crowd and the protestors dispersed. Mixed in throughout the entirety of Stonewall, Task Force Medical (TF Med) was on the scene providing care

and treatment to simulated casualties alongside their counterparts from the various local Kosovo emergency responders. Personnel from TF Med also brought along with them the needed visual aids to make selected protestors appear bloodied and broken - all of this helped with adding a needed degree of realism to the exercise. On top of their preparation for and execution of Stonewall, TF Med also prepared multiple candidates for the Expert Field Medical Badge qualification course in Grafenwoehr, Germany, three of which successfully earned the coveted badge.

And if Operation Stonewall II weren't enough, the battle group also had 48 junior non-commissioned officers and Soldiers enrolled in the second iteration of the Warrior Leader Course hosted by cadre from U.S. Army Europe's 7th Army. Simultaneously throughout the month, junior leaders from each MNBG-E unit maximized individual training on physical fitness, marksmanship, combatives, combat life-saver skills, and airborne proficiency. Additionally, our battle group S7, led by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Patrick Swan, put on a day long staff ride for the battle group's officers and senior non-commissioned officers. By visiting the Gracanica Monastery, the site of the 1389 Battle of Kosovo, the tomb of Ottoman-Turk Sultan Murad I and the memorial to Kosovo's national hero Adem Jashari, this event proved to be a worthwhile educational venture for everyone involved as it increased the cultural understanding of some of Kosovo's most important historical sites.

A busy month indeed and Command Sgt. Maj. Rucker and I are immensely proud of the hard work and effort every single Soldier in this battle group has put forth not only during March, but during the entirety of the deployment. And to our families and loved ones back home, we remain indebted to your outpouring of support that we continue to receive from so far away.

Respectfully yours,

Mitchell L. Rucker
Command Sergeant Major



Clint J. Baker
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding



MULTINATIONAL EOD TEAMS WORK TOGETHER



The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team, the Kosovo Police (KP) Improvised Explosive Device (IED) defeat team, along with Multinational Battle Group-East soldiers participate in the disposal of more than 200 pounds of recovered explosive hazards at the Kosovo Police demolition range at Mt. Golesh, Kosovo March 18.

Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt Melissa Parish

MT. GOLESH, Kosovo - Explosions blasted mud in the air as soldiers conducted detonation of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Kosovo.

Soldiers with Kosovo Force 19 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, and a Kosovo Police (KP) Improvised Explosive Device (IED) defeat teams, participate in the disposal of more than 200 pounds of recovered explosive

hazards at the Kosovo Police demolition range in

Mt. Golesh, Kosovo, March 18.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Zachary Abood, with the 763rd Ordnance Company EOD, stationed out of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and the EOD detachment commander for Multinational Battle Group-East, was the overseer of his team of four U.S. EOD technicians.

"We participated in the disposing of the UXO's, and it was a great opportunity for all of the nations to work together," said Abood. "The purpose of today was to utilize the minimum amount of explosives to appropriately dispose of the UXO's

that way we are all practicing maximizing our resources."

Ukraine, Moldovan, Austrian, U.S. and Kosovo EOD technicians paired up for the disposal of the recovered mortar and artillery rounds using plastic explosives. The Austrian led demolition range performed three rounds of detonations. Each multinational EOD team set up and used their countries plastic explosive materials until all of the UXO's were destroyed properly.

"The KFOR EOD mission here in Kosovo is very important to the KSF and KP in the support

of operations," said Abood of today's mission. "We all try to come together and help any time we can. A part of what we are doing out here the UXO disposal is an ongoing mission and coordination with Kosovo. It has been a very rewarding and mutual relationship to be apart of KFOR 19 and I am looking forward to more missions to come."

The EOD teams hope to come together again for another demolition range in April.



The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team, the Kosovo Police (KP) Improvised Explosive Device (IED) defeat team, along with Multinational Battle Group-East soldiers participate in the disposal of more than 200 pounds of recovered explosive hazards at the Kosovo Police demolition range at Mt. Golesh, Kosovo March 18.



U.S. Army Spc. James Wiley, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team member with Multinational Battle Group-East, participates in the disposal of more than 200 pounds of recovered explosive hazards at the Kosovo Police demolition range at Mt. Golesh, Kosovo, March 18.



MNBG-E LEARNS MOUNTAIN WARFARE THE GERMAN WAY



Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East participate in a mountain warfare class led by German Army Lt. Col. Matthias Puschnig, German liaison officer for MNBG-E at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 20.

Story and photos by Ardian Nrecaj

CAMP BONDSTEEL – For many U.S. service members, the Alpine Campaign of World War I is an event seldom studied as most are more familiar with events of the Western Front. But for others, especially European military personnel, the high-altitude campaign along the Italian Front is considered a benchmark for students of mountain warfare. Using the campaign as a backdrop, German Army Lt. Col. Matthias Puschnig, German liaison officer for Multinational Battle Group-East, held a mountain warfare class for soldiers of MNBG-E at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 20. “I wanted to do the class in a way so every soldier from colonel to sergeant could benefit from it,” said Puschnig. “During the class I tried to cover every military aspect, starting with introductory remarks about geology, topography and physiology, and then I went to strategic aspects.”

8 Puschnig started the class by explaining how mountains are created and how the

temperature changes two to three degrees for every 100 meters of altitude.

“I explained tactically what [one needs] to know as a soldier and as a leader [for offensive and defensive] operations in the mountains,” said Puschnig. Puschnig added that such training is not only important for infantry personnel, but for other military personnel such as artillerymen, engineers and aviators.

U.S. Army Capt. Eric Richards, Deputy Planner for MNBG-E, and a native of Jackson, Ohio, attended the class and said it was extremely interesting to him.

“He gave us the technical aspect of how German soldiers conduct mountain warfare,” said Richards. “[He also] explained how it was done before, specifically during the First World War and the Alpine Campaign, so he showed us the doctrinal approaches and how to apply them in real world [situations].”

Richards highlighted the two things he found



U.S. Army Capt. Eric Richards, Deputy Planner for Multinational Battle Group-East, and U.S. Army Capt. Justin Knox, Chief of Operations for MNBG-E, work with members of their small group during the practical exercise portion of the mountain warfare class held at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 20.



most interesting about the class.

“Line hauling (the movement of heavy equipment) – setting up basically a wire pulling system where you can actually move heavy equipment up to a kilometer – and how you can use pack animals [such as] mules,” said Richards.

After a short break, Puschnig split the class into small groups and gave each a combat situation where participants had to come up with an operational planning estimate.

“They could draw a campaign plan on the map where it had mountainous areas and plains,” said Puschnig. “We talked about what enemy and friendly forces would most likely do and how we could benefit from the fact that there is a mountain in this campaign.”

“[I was very pleased] with the quality of the questions and answers I got and it was a very worthwhile training event,” added Puschnig.





FORWARD COMMAND POST



Greetings to the Soldiers and Families of 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment! CSM Araneta and I hope this letter finds you well, whether you are in Anchorage, staying with Family or Friends in the lower 48 or parts in between. Here in Kosovo we have remained busy throughout March. The Squadron continues to conduct patrols in northern Kosovo focused on our mission of maintaining stability in the region.

This month, the Squadron and NATO partners participated in airborne operations from UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters on Denali Drop Zone, outside of Camp Marchel de Lattre de Tassigny. These jumps gave our Paratroopers the opportunity to earn foreign jump wings from Austria, along with our Austrian counterparts earning U.S. jump wings. The Squadron also hosted a Women's History Month Observance in which the SCP's SGT Tarissa Vincent gave a presentation about women's history in the military.

HHT stayed busy this month with daily operations and training events. HHT had several Soldiers complete the Warrior Leader Course (WLC) at Camp Bondsteel. This course serves as a foundation of the NCO education system, teaching junior NCOs and senior Specialists leadership, training management and operational warfighting. HHT also participated in a CLS course, Level 1 Combatives, SHARP Training and Human Resources Training. Congratulations also go out to SGT Leonguerrero for his reenlistment and 1LT Smiley for earning the Expert Field Medical Badge in Germany.

As for Chaos Troop, they remained at Camp Nothing Hill and built upon the training, operations and partnerships established thus far in Kosovo. The Troop conducted the first airborne operation on Denali Drop Zone. The operation included a follow-on mission, testing the Troop's ability to assemble rapidly and organize on the drop zone. The Troop also conducted traditional cavalry missions along the Kosovo-Serbia boundary. Five of the Troop's young leaders attended WLC at Camp Bondsteel. All five men graduated and the Troop's medic, SGT Paul Rajon, was named the class' distinguished honor graduate. Incorporating lessons from previous missions, the Troop conducted two joint-interdiction training missions with the Kosovo Border Police (KBP) and passed along lessons learned.

Apache Troop this month was posted at Camb Cabra, and conducted daily patrols in addition to manning observations posts and a boundary post in northwestern Kosovo while partnered with a platoon from Armenia who helped them conduct these daily battle requirements. They additionally conducted observation posts along the Kosovo-Serbia boundary to enhance the understanding of illegal border crossings between the two countries. Apache will move to Camp Nothing Hill in April to work with Slovenian and Italian partners.

Soldiers of the LMT continue to build upon their relationships throughout the local communities. These relationships continue to provide Kosovo Force information on current events, local populous trends and concerns. The LMT also participated in Operation Stonewall II in which Soldiers practiced and performed crowd riot control. This training was conducted with our local partners from the Kosovo Police (KP) and emergency responders in the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac.

By Force and Valor!

Jan C. Araneta
Command Sergeant Major

Mark D. Federovich
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding



US SOLDIERS EARN THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES PROFICIENCY BADGE



U.S. Army Sgt. Tarissa Vincent, a flight medic with Multinational Battle Group-East, and a native of Westminster Colo., dives into the pool as she participates in the swim portion of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at a swimming pool in Skopje, former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia, Mar. 8. The four events the Soldiers must complete to earn the badge are the foot march, the 100-meter swim, the German physical fitness test and the German pistol qualification.

Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa Parish

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - Snow and cold temperatures didn't stop the Soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East from attempting to earn the German Armed Forces Badge (GAFB) at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, March 8.

The GAFB is a decoration that is awarded to and worn by German soldiers of all ranks. The U.S. Soldiers can earn and don the badge on their Army service uniform.

The four events the soldiers must complete to earn the badge are the foot march, the 100-meter swim, the German physical fitness test and the German pistol qualification. Each event is timed.

"German soldiers have to complete these events each year no matter what their rank or position," said German army Lt. Matthias Puschnig, the German liaison officer to MNBG-E. "The GAFB is all of the things any German soldier has to do to prove he is a soldier. They are the basic

requirements to be a soldier in the German army."

The first event the Soldiers completed was the foot march. The 7.4 mile march has to be finished within two hours with a 35-pound assault pack on the soldiers back.

"It was snowing on the day we did the foot march so that was not so good, but the Soldiers came out and participated and that's what counts," said Puschnig.

The Soldiers completed a portion of the German physical fitness event in the snow.

"It was cold out there but it makes for even more commitment," said Puschnig. "You can tell these Soldiers really wanted this badge."

The pistol qualification was also in snow and consisted of 5 shots with the German P8 at 3 targets placed at 25 meters. The shooter fires from the standing firing position, and the first shot is fired without cocking the hammer back.

"The Soldiers were all pushing themselves and that was great to see," said Puschnig. "That is what these types of events are all about."

U.S. Army Sgt. Tarissa Vincent, a flight medic with the Army Reserve stationed out of Fort Carson, Colorado, and a native of Westminster Colorado, currently deployed as part of Kosovo Forces 19, trained for a few months for this challenge and said that out of all the events the swimming was the most challenging portion.

The swim is conducted in the Army combat uniform (ACU) while wearing an Army physical training uniform underneath. Once the swim is completed within four minutes, the Soldier is required to remove the outer uniform without touching the sides of the pool.

"The swim was fun but extremely exhausting," said Vincent. "It's easy to underestimate the swim. We watched other people make the laps before us and in your mind you think 'oh that's not that bad,' but

then you jump into the pool and you realize how much energy those laps take. At the end of the swim I got a little frantic when I had to take off the uniform because I was trying to catch my breath and complete the event."

Being deployed to Kosovo has allowed many of the Soldiers to participate in and earn foreign badges and build esprit de corps.

"I think anytime there is an international event, it is a great opportunity for the soldiers here," said Vincent. "This event helped build camaraderie. I loved earning this badge because it wasn't a competition with others, it was a competition with your self. We were all cheering for each other not competing against each other. I can't wait until the next challenge. I hope to earn the other German badges they offer here in Kosovo."

Out of the 68 Soldiers that attempted to earn the GAFB, four soldiers earned silver and 15 earned the gold badge.



Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East shoot the German H&K P8 pistol in the snow during the weapons qualification portion of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at the Camp Bondsteel range Mar. 7. The four events the Soldiers must complete to earn the badge are the foot march, the 100-meter swim, the German physical fitness test and the German pistol qualification.



TASK FORCE MEDICAL



Throughout the month of March, the team members of Task Force Medical (TF MED) have seen their fair share of opportunities for training, self-development, growth, and recognition. While operational requirements continue to bring new Soldiers into the fold and send established Soldiers home, TF MED continues to excel both inside and outside of the hospital.

This month's training highlight for the Task Force was the preparation and train-up for candidates vying for the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). Obtainable only by medical personnel, the EFMB is earned by successfully completing a number of individual tasks related to assessing, treating, packaging, supporting, and transporting a casualty. These tasks range from casualty care under fire, to triage and stabilization, to day and night land navigation, to calling in a nine-line medical evacuation request. The final event is a twelve-mile ruck march, conducted in full gear. Congratulations to Captain Jesse Rivera and Sergeant Andres Fernandez for successfully earning their badges!

Other training highlights included Combat Lifesaver courses for embassy personnel from Kosovo and its neighbors. Staff Sergeant Marcos Cruz, Staff Sergeant Jason Sansom, and Sergeant Gary Reed alternated between classroom instruction and hands-on sessions to teach proper lifesaving techniques such as casualty evaluation, airway management, and controlling excessive bleeding. The courses have been administered to not only U.S. forces stationed here on Camp Bondsteel, but also to embassy security forces from Albania and Montenegro, as well as to local contractors. Graduates of the course are better prepared to handle a potentially life-threatening situation, should the need arise.

These are just some of the examples where the Mercury Warriors have excelled. At the range, TF MED placed second in an international marksmanship competition involving Polish weaponry. In the gym, Major Aaron Braxton and Staff Sergeant Kris Concepcion provided forty hours of combatives instruction to five TF MED members so that they could earn their Level 1 certification. Four more Mercury Warriors (SGT Thomas, SPC Banks, SPC Knoetgen, and SPC Reilly) completed the Warrior Leader Course, an essential developmental gateway for Soldiers as they enter the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. Sergeant Nicole Gradney was formally recognized as a member of the highly selective Sergeant Morales Club. Finally, Sergeant Gary Reed and Sergeant Scott Thomas were formally welcomed into the NCO Corps at an NCO Induction Ceremony on Camp Bondsteel.

Congratulations to all those Mercury Warriors making a difference both in and out of the workplace!

Critt Petersen
First Sergeant

Mick Drulis
Major, U.S. Army
Commanding

EXPERT FIELD MEDICAL BADGE

(A Portrait of Excellence)



Establishment of an Expert Field Medical Badge as a Department of the Army special skill award for recognition of exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel was recommended in a letter, date 20 January 1964, from MG Duncan, Chief of Staff, US Continental Army Command to Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, (DCSPER), in accordance with correspondence between General Waters, and General Heaton, The Surgeon General. (An earlier request, in 1963 for the same badge, was not favorably considered by DCSPER with ACSFOR concurring with that decision.) On 14 May 1964, tentative approval of the recommendation was received from the DCSPER subject to submission of criteria, to be developed by Headquarters US Continental Army Command and Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, DA. Design of the badge, with criteria for award, was forwarded by Summary Sheet to DCSPER, 2 February 1965. The Summary Sheet was returned without action on 27 February 1965, having been deferred pending further study of questions posed by the Vice Chief of Staff, US Army. By DF dated 6 July 1965, from DCSPER to Commander, The Institute of Heraldry, (TIOH), US Army. TIOH was advised that Summary Sheet establishing an Expert Field Medical Badge was approved on 18 June 1965. TIOH was charged with preparing the necessary Army Regulation and commencing action on procurement of the new badge. A reproduction sample of the Expert Field Medical Badge was approved on 8 December 1965. The badge was oxidized silver consisting of a stretcher, place horizontally, behind caduceus with a cross of the Geneva Convention and the junction of the wings. 1 5/16 inch high and 1 7/16 inches long. There have been no changes in the badge design since its inception. Authority for the award of the badge was prescribed in AR 672-10, dated 1 March 1966. Current Regulations: DAPAM 40-20 September 1999.



AMETO REGIMENT

SOLDIERS TRAIN FOR EXPERT FIELD MEDICAL BADGE



Spc. Toryn Day, a medic for Multinational Battle Group-East, wraps the wound on a mock patient, during a validation course for the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 6, before heading to Grafenwoehr, Germany to experience the real event. The EFMB is considered one of the most prestigious Army skill badges medical personnel can earn.

Story by photos by Ardian Nrecaj

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - Five inches of snow on the ground, freezing temperatures and a northern wind did not stop four Soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East to train for the Expert Field Medical Badge validation course at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, March 6, before they head to Grafenwoehr, Germany for the EFMB competition.

Any medical service in the U.S. Army can compete for EFMB, but less than one percent of Soldiers have the badge.

Sgt. 1st Class Critt Petersen, Task Force Medical first sergeant, and an EFMB holder, explained that the competition is very strenuous, with a lot of memorization, and a lot of margins for error.

"We are doing an EFMB validation to prepare four candidates for the competition," said

16 Petersen. "This is just our way of getting

them to knock a dust out of their medical skills before they get into actual competition. Today we ran them through series that we have combined as the most critical task that we have identified as high stress ones and low percentage of passing, so we have put those in one culminating lane."

"We were able to test them from weapons malfunctions, move under direct fire, care under fire, tactical combat casualty care, loading the ambulance, extract the patient from a vehicle accident, and call the medical evacuation helicopter to pick up the patient," added Petersen.

Capt. Mark Mateja, a physical therapist with Task Force Medical, and one of the four Soldiers that took part in the training explained that they combined the medical lane and warrior task lane together to give them a bigger scope during training.

"The medical lane was the hardest," said Mateja. "It was very difficult because there are very precise things you have to do; you are dealing with multiple patients and multiple injury types. When you have to bounce back and forth between the different injured patients, making sure you do not miss anything, making sure you are treating the right thing, it is definitely a challenge."

Petersen emphasized the importance of this type of training for the U.S. Army.

"Combat medics are the second line of defense in casualty treatment, the first line is the self aid - buddy aid, and then the combat medic comes," said Petersen. "They are the ones who provide that life saving measure before they get to the hospital, so all of these skills are what sustains life."

"If we do not do these skills right, people do not

make it to the hospital," added Petersen. "This type of training sustains all of our medical skills. If we are not doing these on a quarterly, weekly and daily base, the skills get rusty."

Petersen said the Soldiers will head to Grafenwoehr, Germany later this month and he expects good outcome from the EFMB competition in Germany.



Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East completed a validation course for the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB) on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 6, before heading to Grafenwoehr, Germany to experience the real event. The EFMB is considered one of the most prestigious Army skill badges medical personnel can earn.



WAFFLE HOUSE



SUNDAYS 8-11
AT THE LIFT HANGER

If you would like to volunteer to prepare and serve waffles please show up at
the hanger at 7a.m.

SOUTHERN COMMAND POST



Over the course of the KFOR 19 deployment, the Southern Command Post (SCP) continues to serve with high levels of motivation and commitment to the overall success of the mission. Most recently, the SCP conducted exercises in support of Operation Stonewall where Soldiers were tasked with a multitude of responsibilities including: Crowd Riot Control (CRC), MED EVAC Training, Air Assault Operations, and operation of a mobile TAC. The Turkish COY conducted CRC operations with both the Hungarian COY and Kosovo Police, demonstrating the growing alliance for peace in Kosovo. The SCP provided tactical support for the augmented COYs in both Lift and MEDEVAC capabilities which added a realistic training opportunity, second only to live operations. Our combined efforts and involvement in Operation Stonewall has directly attributed to the increased readiness of the Kosovo Police capability to enforce good will and order in the event of continued protests throughout Kosovo.

Throughout the past two months the SCP has had 48 Soldiers complete and graduate from Warrior Leaders Course (WLC). The ability to have our Soldiers trained by a Mobile Training Team has greatly improved the readiness of our ranks and will surely further enhance and foster an environment of growth and leader development among the New Jersey Army National Guard and Florida Reserve. During WLC, the 7th Army NCO Academy recognized numerous SCP Soldiers for exceptional performance and demonstrated ability for increased levels of responsibility which included three receiving the accolades of an Iron Soldier Awardee, and three being added to the Commandant's List.

The majority of the SCP Soldiers have had the opportunity to participate in multiple MWR activities that continue to breed an environment of continuity. Two such events, the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) and the Danish Contingent March (DANCON), have tested Soldiers on a physical level that is much different from what we are used to in the US Army. The GAFPB is the German equivalent to the US Physical Fitness Test, which encompasses six events each with their own unique and individual challenges. The DANCON is a unique experience for all Soldiers that participate. Since 1972 many Soldiers from all over the world have come together to march 25 KM, sometimes more, often trading military patches and building camaraderie amongst all those that participate.

There have been and continue to be numerous opportunities for Soldiers to get off Camp Bondsteel and take in some extra, much needed, rest and relaxation. Most recently, many Soldiers have taken advantage of the opportunity to Ski the local slopes at the Brezovica Ski Area, while others have chosen to go to the BUSHI SPA Resort for a relaxing day of pampering and massages. At the end of the day, we can confidently say that all Soldiers remain focused on their mission and are looking forward to being reunited with their families and loved ones in the near future.

John Hicks
Command Sergeant Major

Leon M. LaPoint
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding



OPERATION STONEWALL II



Kosovo Police officers hold back simulated protesters during a joint crowd riot control training featuring the Kosovo Police, Kosovo Security Forces, local emergency responders and MNBG-E soldiers, just outside of the Bill Clinton Gym in Ferizaj, Kosovo, March 28.

Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa C. Parrish

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - Protesters commence to assemble in front of the courthouse with picket signs and loud chants. Police cruisers speed into the parking lot, with sirens screaming and lights in full motion, as Kosovo Police officers surround the area.

Such was the scene that kicked off Operation Stonewall II, a joint crowd riot control (CRC) training event featuring the Kosovo Police, Kosovo Security Forces, local emergency responders and the soldiers of Multinational Battle Group-East, just outside of the Bill Clinton Gym in Ferizaj, Kosovo Mar. 28.

"The goal of the exercise is that there is an understanding of how each unit responds and communicates during a CRC situation,"

20 said the Ferizaj Regional Director of the

Kosovo Police, Lt. Col. Gazmend Hoxha. "If there was a riot, the Kosovo Police will manage the situation and if back up is needed we would contact the Kosovo Force (KFOR)."

The training gave all of the players a chance to work together and get comfortable in how they all interoperate during a riot scenario.

"What is important about today is that the Kosovo Police is working in cooperation with KFOR," said Hoxha. "KFOR will test its capacity to react to situations like these, especially in the CRC and protest. It is a good way to evaluate our cooperation with different agencies."

As the sky darkened, rain began to pour on the protesters - played by German and U.S. soldiers - who only agitated them and Kosovo Police officers began applying CRC techniques to contain the unruly mob. As the crowd of protesters

began to grow and stress the limits of the Kosovo Police, the call was made to KFOR for assistance.

The first KFOR element to respond was MNBG-E's Turkish Coy.

"Today the Turkish Coy provided support to local law enforcement," said Turkish Army Capt. Himmet Sevinc, commander of the Turkish company assigned to MNBG-E. "Communication was key in this training because in case this was real life we will need to know how to communicate with each other and learn the different tactics."

Kosovo Force is typically a third responder throughout much of Kosovo, but in the southern region it serves as a second responder. Although



Members of the MNBG-E Hungarian coy react to Molotov Cocktails during the fire phobia phase of Operation Stonewall II, a joint crowd riot control training event featuring the Kosovo Police, Kosovo Security Forces, local emergency responders and MNBG-E soldiers, just outside of the Bill Clinton Gym in Ferizaj, Kosovo March 28.

KFOR has not been called on to respond to protests in the south in recent memory, it still trains several times throughout the year for the possibility of such an event.

"It is always a possibility of demonstrations becoming violent," said Sevinc. "Our mission here is to support a safe and secure environment and this training allows us to plan. This training gives us all a great experience."

When the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of MNBG-E began to swarm the sky filled with Hungarian soldiers arriving to assist their Turkish brothers, the fury of the protestors became more intense.

The Hungarian Coy piled out of the helicopters and dashed in to support the Turkish Coy. In response, Molotov Cocktails flew through the air as KP and MNBG-E began to push the protesters into a position with a steel fence to their back. As a result, the protestors dispersed and the training ended with both agencies controlling the crowd together.

"The Kosovo Police did an outstanding job today," said U.S. Army Col. Clint J. Baker, commanding officer of MNBG-E. "They demonstrated their proficiency in this task as did the Turkish Coy and Hungarian Coy."

The training was not scripted, which forced leaders to make quick decisions and exhibit their grasp on the situation.

"It demonstrated their ability to communicate effectively in a timely manner," added Baker. "Training like this is important in Kosovo because this is one of our primary goals. It makes sense to train on this as often as we can and build relationships. It allows us all to have a shared understanding of our role if an event like this were to take place."



WARRIOR LEADER COURSE FOR KOSOVO FORCE 19



Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East learn the fundamentals of Army doctrine in the classroom during the Warrior Leader Course at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 4. Warrior Leaders Course (WLC) teaches specialists, corporals and sergeants the fundamentals of leadership.

Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa Parish

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - For many Soldiers, deployments mean missing out on leadership schools, but that was not the case for Soldiers currently deployed as part of Multinational Battle Group-East in Kosovo. A team of small group leaders came to Camp Bondsteel from Grafenwoehr, Germany with the 7th Army non-commissioned officer academy, to instruct Soldiers for two sessions of Warrior Leader Course (WLC) during the Kosovo Force 19 rotation for the month of March. WLC teaches specialists, corporals and sergeants the fundamentals of leadership. Soldiers from a variety of military occupations specialties (MOS) came from all around Kosovo to participate in the course. "These Soldiers are getting a great opportunity to attend the course in a deployed environment," said Sgt. 1st Class Dana Lescoe, the chief instructor for WLC with the 7th NCO

Academy.

"This gives them a chance to get ahead in their careers and when they get back they can focus more on family time."

The course is designed to test the Soldiers on their leadership capabilities.

"There are three different phases," said Lescoe.

"The leadership phase, the training phase and the warrior phase. We teach them the fundamentals of Army doctrine so they can have a solid foundation as they become the future leaders of our Army."

"The first few days are in the class room," said Lescoe. "It's a lot of information and they have to come eager to learn. They take a physical training test, they learn drill, they do land navigation, they learn drill and ceremonies and they are put in a situational exercise where they demonstrate their leadership skills. It's everything they will need to know as non-commissioned officers."

The course allowed the Soldiers to get a break from their MOS and gave them the opportunity to focus exclusively on training to be a non-commissioned officer.

"It was just an amazing course," said Spc. Nadia Wilson, a petroleum supply specialist with the 1-150th Assault Helicopter Battalion, New Jersey National Guard. "I feel like I learned to be a better leader. I learned where to find answers if Soldiers need them, and I learned how to work together as a team with my battle buddies here." Wilson said that the most challenging part of WLC was the simulation training exercise lanes (STX).

"I am not an infantryman so I wasn't used to being in this type of situation, and I was a squad leader so I was very nervous, but I made it happen and it felt rewarding," said Wilson. Wilson received the highest score out of the females on the army physical fitness test and was

honored at the WLC graduation Mar. 11, as the Iron warrior.

"WLC has taught me so much. I want to be a good leader for my Soldiers in the future and I know WLC helped me become better," said Wilson.

The first WLC class came to an end and the Soldiers were recognized in a packed auditorium for all of their hard work.

"WLC is a foundation to becoming a non-commissioned officer," said Lescoe. "We teach them and instill leadership and we hope they will stay in and teach their knowledge to their Soldiers. We train the students to be future leaders who are disciplined and embody the Army values. We want them to be creative thinkers who are mentally tough. That's our goal here at WLC."

There are three WLC classes scheduled for the Kosovo Force 19 rotation. The next class begins March 13, 2015.



Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East participate in land navigation training during the first Warrior Leader Course for the Kosovo Force 19 rotation at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 4. Warrior Leaders Course (WLC) teaches specialists, corporals and sergeants the fundamentals of leadership.



MN BG-E, KBP AND EULEX MEET



Leadership from Multinational Battle Group-East, Kosovo Border Police and representatives of European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) gathered on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 10, to discuss the joint training efforts that are underway.

Story and photos by Ardian Nrecaj

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Leadership from Multinational Battle Group-East, Kosovo Border Police and representatives of European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) gathered on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Mar. 10, to discuss the joint training efforts that are underway. Kosovo Border Police Col. Shaban Guda, director of the Kosovo Border Police department, said that everyone faces the same issues that were presented at the meeting and he hopes they can fight them together. “Meetings like this will help us offer more security at the border and boundary area and we can achieve this jointly with Kosovo Force,” said Guda.

24 U.S. Army Col. Clint Baker, commander of MN BG-E,

said the purpose of the meeting was to build stronger relationships.

“We shared some information about how the battle group operates, we had lunch and then we showed them some static displays to demonstrate our capabilities,” said Baker. “Hopefully it was a fun day for them and a relaxing day more than anything else. It allows us to get to know each other better so that we can really have a stronger partnership.”

U.S. Army Capt. Justin Knox, chief of operations for MN BG-E, presented a video to the KBP and EULEX to show what MN BG-E has done in the past few years. “We opened up with a video of what our unit has been doing in the past and then we went into a brief where we discussed our

realignment of ABL green line with KBP,” said Knox. “I am very encouraged by the relationship we have established with KBP. They seem very motivated and they have the same vision that we have for the way ahead for Kosovo. We are seeing great progress.”

Guda explained that they not only received operational support from KFOR but also valuable training and equipment.

“I would like to thank KFOR for all of the support and help they have been giving us,” said Guda. “We hope it will continue in the future and as a result will work at providing a better security on the borders and boundary areas.” They hope to meet again in the near future.

SOLDIERS GIVE GIFTS



U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Collins, a military police station desk sergeant with the 529th Military Police Company Honor Guard out of Wiesbaden, Germany, gives a bag of goodies to a student who attends Saint Sava, a school located in Bostan, Kosovo, Mar. 18.

Story and photo by U.S. Army Capt. Judith Marlowe

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Six military police officers with Multinational Battle Group-East visited two schools in Kosovo to distribute 145 bags filled with hygiene products, toys and games to students March 18.

“All of the products we received, we got from [back home in the United States],” said U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Collins, a military police station desk sergeant here with the 529th Military Police Company Honor Guard out of Wiesbaden, Germany.

“Once the items started coming in we realized it was too much for us,” said Collins. “So we passed out goodie bags to the soldiers around Camp Bondsteel, but we still had a lot of items left over. Some of the soldiers in my platoon came up

with the idea of donating some of the materials to the less fortunate schools and children around our area.”

The first school the soldiers visited was Saint Sava in the town of Bostan. The second school they visited was Vatra e Diturise located in Pasjak. Both schools had students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

This is the first time the U.S. Army military police have visited schools to hand out bags. Prior to this event, they gave out approximately 200 bags a month to local children as they conducted patrols.

“It made me feel great passing out the bags, especially seeing their smiling faces,” said U.S. Army Spc. William Crader, a patrolman with the 529th MP Company. “This is

my first time doing this here in Kosovo. I have done something similar before, but it was great, especially in a foreign country.”

The soldiers also stated they are eager to participate in another event like this in the near future.

“We want to visit schools and orphanages once a month, depending on how many donations we receive,” said Collins.

Soldiers with MN BG-E already visit multiple local schools once a week, but their vision is to visit more schools.



RESPECT

ARMY VALUES

RESPECT: TREAT PEOPLE AS THEY SHOULD BE TREATED.

In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same." Respect is what allows us to appreciate the best in other people. Respect is trusting that all people have done their jobs and fulfilled their duty. And self-respect is a vital ingredient with the Army value of respect, which results from knowing you have put forth your best effort. The Army is one team and each of us has something to contribute.

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PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Turkish Army Capt. Himmet Sevinc, commander of the Turkish company assigned to Multinational Battle Group-East, discusses the life and times of Ottoman Sultan Murad I during a staff ride visit to his tomb Mar. 21. Officers and senior non-commissioned officers with MNBG-E visited the sultan's tomb as part of a staff ride to some of Kosovo's most important cultural sites. (Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Adam Hallmark)



Paratroopers with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, assigned to Multinational Battle Group-East, conducted a parachute jump in Northern Kosovo outside of Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny (CMLT) with Austrian paratroopers Mar. 13 and 15. Paratroopers jumped out of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with T-11 parachutes. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa Parish)

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Women's History Month is a way to pay homage to women and their contributions to society and history. In recognition of Women's History Month, Jennifer Bachus, Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy Pristina, Kosovo, and Sanija Murati, Director of the Non-Governmental Organization "Lady," spoke to soldiers at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo Mar. 23. Each of the women spoke about their life and how they were able to accomplish their goals and work in leadership positions. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa Parish)



Kosovo Police officers make their way toward the scene of a simulated protest during a joint crowd riot control training featuring the Kosovo Police, Kosovo Security Forces, local emergency responders and MNBG-E soldiers, just outside of the Bill Clinton Gym in Ferizaj, Kosovo, March 28. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa Parish)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

MNBG-E PARTICIPATES IN 'STATIONS OF THE CROSS'



Story and photo by U.S. Army Capt. Judith Marlowe

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - Citizens of Kosovo, along with hundreds of soldiers from Multinational Battle Group-East, met at the foot of Mount Stubllavaca in village of Stublla, with wooden crosses ready to climb 10 kilometers to visit the 'Stations of the Cross' March 22.

'Stations of the Cross' is an annual tradition for Roman Catholics the world over and takes place at the end of Lent. Comprised of 14 stations, each one commemorates a particular event along the route in which Jesus Christ carried his own cross to his crucifixion.

Each station has a shrine on the mountainside dedicated to these events and multitudes of people stopped at each shrine for a moment of prayer and meditation.

Father Albert Jakaj, parish priest of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sutblla, coordinated this year's event and included the Kosovo Force soldiers for the second year in a row. Jakaj invited chaplains from five different nations - Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland and the United States - to participate in the march and the mass that followed.

Following mass, Jakaj thanked U.S. Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Peter Jaramillo, command chaplain for MNBG-E, and soldiers for joining in the event.

"Today was really amazing and I am glad I took the time to come out," said U.S. Army Sgt. Aimee Filbeck, an explosive ordnance disposal team sergeant for MNBG-E. "I wanted to get out [and] see more of Kosovo. I am glad I came because the scenery is beautiful and the people are amazing."

"I am excited about our people that came out and I hope everybody takes back with them a very powerful memory of faith," said Jaramillo. "For me, it was a joy for this Lent season to experience this spiritual move and

I am grateful and very blessed."

30 'Stations of the Cross' occurs during just before Easter, which falls on April 4 this year.

Morale Welfare and Recreation

MWR

APRIL MWR Trips

Trip Dates, Locations and Times

Saturday Apr. 4

BREZOVICA SKI TRIP - Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 0905 from Medal of Honor Hall

Sunday Apr. 5

MACEDONIA BUSHI SPA DAY- Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 805 from Medal of Honor Hall.

Saturday Apr. 11

MACEDONIA CITY MALL SKOPJE - Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 805 from Medal of Honor Hall.

Sunday Apr. 12

MACEDONIA CITY MALL SKOPJE - Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 0905 from Medal of Honor Hall

Saturday Apr. 18

MACEDONIA OLD TOWN MARKET - Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 805 from Medal of Honor Hall.

Saturday Apr. 25

MACEDONIA CITY MALL SKOPJE - Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 805 from Medal of Honor Hall

Sunday Apr. 26

DECANI MONESTARY PEJA - Leave at 0800 from South MWR Community Center and 805 from Medal of Honor Hall



Ski Trip

APR 4

Head to the slopes of Kosovo and enjoy a day of skiing.



Bushi Spa Day

APR 5 & 19

Offering an indoor pool and a spa and wellness center.



U.S. Army Sgt. Tarissa Vincent, a flight medic with Multinational Battle Group-East., and a native of Westminster, Colo., takes off her Army Combat Uniform as she finishes the swim portion of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at a swimming pool in Skopje, former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia, Mar. 8. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Melissa Parrish)