

February 21, 2003

TALON



Vet Services follow furry friends health issues in MNB (N)

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Up late with the Night Owl

Criminal Investigation Division on the case

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TALON

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Word on the street...

"If you could have one 'Super Power' what would it be and why?"



Spc. Tracy Mead
Driver
C Co., 1-109th Inf.

"X-ray vision, because I like to see things."



Sgt. Lynn LeClair
Logistics NCOIC
13th Psyop Bn.

"I would want to be able to teleport anywhere, you know 'beam me up Scottie,' and I wouldn't have to pay for mileage either."



Seid Halilcevic
Cashier
AAFES

"The ability to fly – like Superman."



Spc. Bernie Davis
Operations Clerk
336th Postal Co.

"The ability to be invisible or read people's minds, because I'd always know what was going on."



1st Lt. Chris Costello
G-3 Liaison Officer
Joint Military Affairs

"To be elastic."



Sgt. Robert Fairclough
Scout
HHC, 1-109th Inf.

"Superman's flying ability, so I could go home and spend every night with my family."



About the covers: Front, Spc. Julie Clough, animal care specialist, 422nd Med. Det., checks Sgt. Ronnie's eyes for cloudyness or abnormalities. **Back,** In what was called an upset victory, the men's Team Talon defeated the women's team, Talon Chicks, in a series of three games. *Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster.*



Hanging out with the Night Owl

by Nedima Hadziibrisevic

*Media Specialist, Task Force Eagle
Public Affairs Office*

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia — Almost everyone strives to be up-to-date with the latest events surrounding their environment. Back home one can just pick up the newspapers or tune into a news channel to learn about recent developments. However, for soldiers deployed on a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, language barriers present a major obstacle.

The Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) team operating under Division Intelligence (G-2) ensures that soldiers are constantly acquainted with the latest news events in the theater.

“The primary mission of the Open Source Intelligence is to provide open source information to G-2 sections, the command group, and SFOR, in general. Open source information can be newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and websites,” said 1st Lt. Nichole Beaudet, OSINT chief.

OSINT does not pull any articles from English-speaking media, but concentrates only on local ones.

“Everything we do here is all translated and is from the Balkans in general, not just Bosnia. We cover sources from Serbia, information from Kosovo, and sources from Croatia,” said Beaudet.

OSINT is most well known for the daily publication, Night Owl, which offers an array of translated local news. The first issue of the Night Owl was published in April 1996 by the 165th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 1st Armored Division. The office originally operated out of an office located on the U.S. base in Lukavac, about 10 kilometers west of Tuzla. Throughout different SFOR rotations, the Night Owl’s nest has been moved from one camp to another before reaching its current location on Eagle Base near the Long Horn.

In the early days, Night Owl consisted of around 20 articles per day due to the limited local media sources. However, throughout the years as offices opened at Camp McGovern, Camp Dobo, and recently at the Forward Operating Base Connor, OSINT improved its ability to monitor more Multinational Brigade (North) media from both the Federation and the Republika Srpska, which resulted in the increased number of articles the Night Owl provides today.

“Now, on a good day, we cover probably between 60 to 100 articles a day,” Beaudet said.

While Night Owl is not the only source of translated local news, it is very comprehensive in its coverage of small local media outlets that other agencies are unable to receive because of the limited range of television and radio signals, or focused newspaper distribution in certain areas.

OSINT also strives to cover enough sources from both the Federation and the RS in order to present a balanced representation of reporting without necessarily endorsing any specific media outlets. Croatian and Serbian media are also included because what happens in those countries directly affects what goes on in BiH.

Although Staff Sgt. Ernest Jackson, Night Owl editor and OSINT noncommissioned officer in charge, was not initially assigned to this job when he trained for this mission, he is excited to have opportunity to work for this section.

“Once I got here and started working here it has been great. I like working with the translators and reading articles that we are getting in,” he said. Jackson emphasized the significance of the Night Owl for service members deployed in BiH.

“It’s important for both the peacekeeping soldiers, as well as everyone who reads the Night Owl, to have a better understanding of how our mission is being perceived. If it’s perceived that we are doing a good and worthwhile job, then the relationship between the local population, the media, and peacekeepers will flourish and grow,” said Jackson. “On the other hand, if we’re not in good standing with the local population, then we need to correct that by working together. The Night Owl gives the reader an important view on the current situation and issues that are affecting not only the peacekeepers, but also the citizens of BiH.”

USAREUR web statistics indicate that between 5,000 and 8,000 people read Night Owl every day including e-mails sent to various high ranking commanders and international organizations such as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Office of the High Representative Political Advisor, and representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In addition to SFOR 12 personnel, Night Owl is also disseminated to the incoming SFOR rotations prior to deployment to provide them insight into the present situation in the country. It also gives them better understanding of what Bosnia and Herzegovina is all about.

“You can read about it in books and magazines from U.S. sources or hear from people that have been here. But to actually read news daily on what’s going on ... I think it is really important,” said Beaudet.

Providing the daily dose of news could not happen without the vital services of local translators. Thirteen of them work at four offices throughout MNB (N). The interpreters come from different ethnic backgrounds and each possesses a thorough knowledge of the local media in their respective area.

“There is a good mix of people working for us. They try not to put some of their own opinions or interpretations into what they do and they are very good at it. But, they can kind of gauge the media sources and the different slants by the media sources, too,” said Beaudet. “They do a great job. It has been really rewarding working with them.”

Most of the translators have been assigned to OSINT for a long period of time, enjoying what they consider an excellent working atmosphere.

“We have a great team. We have been working here together for years,” said Mirza Jamakovic, OSINT translator, who has been with the section since April 1996. “I really like my job here.

— See *Night Owl*, page 7



by Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Staff Sgt. Ernest Jackson, NCOIC, works on the latest Night Owl translations with Aleksandra Tolpa (left) and Sanja Pavlovic.

Veternarian service for furry friends

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Luster

Editor, 354th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia—Most soldiers feel secure knowing that if they are injured in the line of duty there are scores of medical personnel to care for them and ensure their recovery. The same goes for soldiers that spend their days sniffing out bombs and drugs for the K-9 Corps or standing on point with military policemen while they guard the wire. The personnel in their corner are the soldiers of the U.S. Army Veterinary Command.

Animals have been used in the service of U.S. forces as far back as the early 1800s. The first recorded use of working dogs by the United States Army was during the Second Seminole War in 1835. Pigeons were used for aerial reconnaissance during World War I by most branches of U.S. armed forces and other countries. There was even a plan to use Mexican Free Tail bats in the Pacific during World War II that almost came to fruition. Although the mission has changed over the years, the Veterinary command is still going strong.

“Our mission mainly covers two areas,” said Capt. Nina Dipinto, commander, 422nd Med. Det. “First is the food inspection mission — which is about 90 percent of the mission — and second is maintenance and care for the military working dogs.”

The number of soldiers participating in SFOR has decreased over the past seven years as Bosnia and Herzegovina has become a more stable environment. The decrease in the number of soldiers serving here affects not only the number of upright walking soldiers, but also those of the four-legged variety.

“The previous rotation had eight K-9s,” Dipinto said. “This rotation has only four. Their mission is the same with half the number of dogs.”

A bigger change however, is the average age of the dogs. Dipinto said although the ages of the dogs range from 7 to 10 years old, it isn't necessarily a factor in the dogs performing their required duties, but it does require veterinary services to stay on their toes.

“With the age of the dogs and harsher weather, different problems may come up,” Dipinto said. Just as an elderly person may suffer from arthritis when the weather changes, so too might the dogs, according to Dipinto. She also keeps a close eye on the dogs' paws. Imagine an infantryman walking 30 clicks with holes in his boots. He would be miserable and probably become a casualty. The working dogs are just as important to their ability to function



Spc. Julie Clough, animal care specialist, 422nd Med. Det., looks for a good vein to take a blood sample from military police dog Sgt. Ronnie.

effectively.

Although a great deal of time is dedicated to the working dogs of Multinational Brigade (North), Dipinto said there are also other aspects of the veterinary clinic. For example, veterinary services tracks cases of animal disease throughout all of SFOR's areas of operation in conjunction with other multinational brigades.

“We monitor the animal population for problems. Not only could an outbreak have an impact on the animal population, it could impact the economy or cause an infectious problem with people.”

“Over the last year there were more than 60 reported cases of rabies throughout the Stabilization Forces area,” Dipinto said. She emphasized ‘reported cases,’ because for every reported case she said there are several more that go unnoticed and unreported.

“There is an endemic problem with rabies in the Tuzla Canton and throughout Bosnia due to the lack of good surveillance and vaccination programs,” Dipinto said. For that reason she discourages approaching stray animals soldiers may encounter while on patrol or in the base camps.

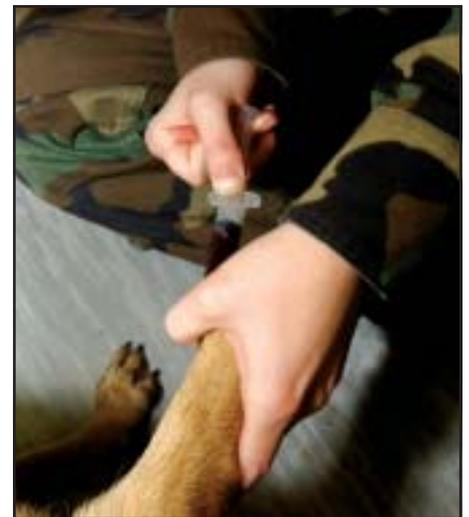
“Humans have a natural protective nature and may want to help a stray. Many strays are young and tug at the heartstrings. If a soldier who sees one of

these strays, stay away!”

One of the problems with some of the stray dogs around the country is the fact they have cross-bred into the wild fox population. “The fox, in this country, is one of the primary vectors for rabies,” Dipinto said. “Don't approach or pet the animals. Report it to your chain-of-command and under no circumstances should they feed them.” Feeding stray animals opens up a completely different set of problems.

“The food attracts other animals, like rats or mice. It also attracts wild pigeons,” Dipinto said. She said pigeons are implicated in more diseases than any other birds. “Some of the diseases related to pigeons may not show up for three to five years or when you are sick from something else and become immunosuppressed.” Providing an additional food source is not something soldiers should do.

Beyond rabies, many other things like ectoparasites can cause problems if stray animals are invited into sleeping quarters. Fleas and ticks in this area carry disease. “Ehrlichia is just one of the diseases. It acts like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and makes you feel really bad.”



Extracting blood to check for abnormalities is just one way veterinary services tracks the health of military police working dogs.

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Capt. Nina Dipinto, commander, 422 Med. Det., thoroughly checks a K-9's joints for pain. As dogs get older, some breeds are prone to arthritis.

If a soldier would happen to get scratched or bitten by a stray they need to realize their health is what is most important, said Dipinto.

"They don't have to worry about someone yelling at them. They need to go to the clinic and report it. If the animal cannot be captured and tested, they will more than likely go through prophylactic rabies treatment."

The treatment is no worse than a normal vaccination. The only difference is the patient will get about five shots over a period of time rather than one. And contrary to rumor, the shots are given in the arm, not in the stomach. However the alternative is much worse.

"Rabies is an incurable disease. If you contract it, and it goes untreated, you *will* die. It's a horrible disease to die from," said Dipinto.

From the outside, the vet clinic may not look like much more than a small grouping of connex buildings lashed together — inside is a state-of-the-art medical center for the treatment and care of animals. Spc. Julie Clough, animal care specialist, helps run the clinic. The majority of her time is spent caring for the working dogs of MNB (N).

"We have three dogs trained for explosives and one whose specialty is sniffing out drugs," Clough said. "Those dogs need me. We take of all their medical needs — everything from their vaccines to checking the kennels to surgery, if necessary."

Each animal has an individual care plan designed specifically for them by the veterinarian and monthly checks to track their health. According to Clough, those monthly visits are extremely important — not just for the dog's sake, but for the safety of the soldiers.

"These dogs go to the gates and search for drugs and explosives," said Clough. "If the dogs aren't healthy, they won't be as productive or want to do what they are trained to do. If they get hurt and there's no one here to take care of them, the Army just threw away \$30,000."

Although there hasn't been a need for it here, Clough said the veterinarian soldiers' skills are diverse enough to handle any number of situations.

"Animal care technicians go through a pretty extensive school," said Clough. "We're trained to shoot X-rays, dose medications, administer anesthesia, and several other tasks

which are separated into individual fields for people."

All of the vets bring a great deal of practical and military experience to the mission here.

"On missions previous to coming here we did VETRETEs (Veterinary Readiness Training Exercises) in Ecuador and El Sal-

vador," Clough said. VETRETEs are similar to MEDRETEs or MEDCAPs that are performed throughout Bosnia regularly. According to Clough, the biggest difference is in the 'patients,' but the work is just as hard.

"We work long days dealing with all sorts of animals. One after another we keep going until the job is done. Add to that the fact of remote locations and altitudes — it makes the job difficult at times. But I do it because I love it."

VETRETEs are not a focus for veterinary services in Bosnia because of the challenges in establishing site support. Clough said in fact it's much more complicated than one might think. In other countries a team would have gone to the sight for a recon and safety check before any of the veterinary staff arrived.

"The staff would know exactly what they are in for," Clough said. "Here, we don't even know if the fields or land is safe. Add to that the safety risk involved due to weather conditions and it makes a VETRETE that much more difficult."

Although there hasn't been a VETRETE here, Dipinto would like to see one in the future.

"We are here promoting a peaceful environment," said Dipinto. "Animals are a lot of these people's lives. What better to help promote good will than to help with their livelihoods."

To the average onlooker, veterinary services may seem unnecessary. However, through food inspection, K-9 care, animal disease monitoring, and veterinary readiness, they are just as important to the mission as any soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine in battle.



Capt. Nina Dipinto, veterinarian, checks Sgt. Ronnie's heart beat for irregularities. Veterinarian services are not found in any other branch of the military beside the Army. Dipinto is the sole veterinarian assigned to Multinational Brigade (North).

Watching over your shoulder; Sherlock Holmes in the field

by 1st Lt. Kevin McNamara

354th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia – While preparing for war most soldiers focus on mission accomplishment, their personal safety and the safety of their fellow soldiers. When things go awry on and off the battlefield, the Army criminal investigators get involved.

These are soldiers, in uniform, with a very special and unique mission: investigating crimes in the U.S. Army. Better known as CID agents, these soldiers are vested with the command and control of *all* Army criminal investigations.

Army CID agents fall under the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command. As the Army's primary investigators, CID agents conduct criminal investigations in which the Army is, or may become, a party of interest. CID conducts criminal investigations that range from death to fraud, on and off military reservations, and all felony crimes such as murder, rape, indecent assault, robbery, larceny, child pornography, child abuse, and drug offenses.

CW3 John Spires is the commander of the local CID office in Bosnia. Along with Spires, two U.S. Army reserve soldiers, CW3 Tom Kaiser from Erie, Pa., and Special Agent Bill Watkins from Nashville, Tenn., are responsible for providing investigative and logistical security support for unit commanders in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Hungary. Special Agent Calder Robertson, an active duty soldier from the Vicenza CID office, is also assigned to the local office. Spires comes to Bosnia from the Stuttgart CID unit out of Germany.

"There have been some unique things in regards to this rotation, but I would not say unusual. I associate uniqueness with being in a forward deployed environment, where cultural diversity is expected and the opportunity to experience it is welcomed. When asked about the CID mission in

Bosnia, Spires said, "Working with the Bosnian Civil Police, has been a great opportunity. As for the mission itself, crime is crime, no matter what part of the world you are in."

Working with Reserve soldiers has been a new and beneficial experience for Spires. "Our reserve component CID special agents bring additional specialized skills with them, as they come from various law enforcement backgrounds. Along with civilian investigative experience, they bring

ployer," said Watkins, a special agent from Nashville, where he is a detective in the Youth Services Division of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. He has worked in his current civilian job for more than five years where he investigates allegations of child abuse. Although he lives in Nashville, Watkins is assigned to the same CID unit in Erie as Kaiser. Having served in Desert Storm as a military policeman, Watkins knows both the challenges and rewards of being deployed.

"It can be challenging here, day to day. Documentation and paperwork are a big part of the job. But, I have also built strong personal and professional relationships over the last six months. I have had the opportunity to work with several different law enforcement agencies from throughout the world," he said.

CID agents support the Army in both wartime conflicts and peacekeeping operations such as Bosnia. Agents are normally highly trained specialists who have many functions. Agents handle and operate a forensic laboratory, a protective services unit, computer crimes office, polygraph services, criminal intelligence collection and analysis, and a variety of other functions normally associated with law enforcement.

The main focus of the CID office in Bosnia has been to provide commanders with the most responsive, thorough, timely and criminal investigative support possible. Providing logistical security support at railheads, observing the loading of inbound and out-bound SFOR equipment, collecting criminal intelligence, and monitoring terrorism investigations have kept the local office busy.

While busy here in Bosnia, Spires took time to praise the soldiers of the SFOR XII rotation and Task Force Eagle.

"Members of Task Force Eagle and SFOR have conducted themselves in a professional manner. I have the highest respect for the 28th Infantry Division and their subordinate units deployed here."



submitted by CID

Front row, Special Agent Tom Kaiser, Simon Collins, Nick D'Apice (European Union Police Mission), Special Agent Calder Robertson, (top row) Special Agent William Watkins, Lt. Col. Donald Bohn, and Special Agent John Spires.

fresh perspectives and approaches to solving and preventing crime."

In addition to being an Army Reserve soldier, Kaiser is also a sergeant with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections where he supervises the day-to-day operations of fellow prison guards in his hometown. He has enjoyed his tour of duty in Bosnia, but said there were challenges.

"The most challenging thing going from reserve status to active status has been the documentation process. The paperwork and reporting procedures here in Bosnia are much more detailed and structured," he said. "Certainly, the computer systems and collection procedures are more updated than what I am used to at the prison."

"This has greatly enhanced my CID experience as well as taught me many things I can take back with me to my civilian em-

Night Owl continued

“All Army personnel who work here are also great. For each rotation we develop good relationships.”

Some of the difficulties linguists encounter during translations are long sentences used by journalists in their stories, which they frequently break down into several segments to make it more understandable for readers.

“Our (local) journalists have a habit of writing sentences which are five to six lines long. However, after almost seven years you get used to it,” Jamakovic pointed out.

In addition to translation they also assist in picking out specific articles from various media outlets depending on guidance they receive from their military supervisors. During the course of their work they stay well informed on the current po-

litical environment and overall situation in the region.

“We deal a lot with politics. We read newspapers, so we are up-to-date with the SFOR mission and what’s going on in the country,” said Aleksandra Tolpa, OSINT translator, who has also been assigned to OSINT for the last seven years.

Tolpa exclusively stressed the professionalism and positive relationship between everyone involved in the production of the Night Owl. “We all get along really well,” she said.

Two contractors with many years of experience make critical contributions to OSINT mission as well. Helinka Papison, media analyst, works closely with information operations personnel and monitors oscillations in media reporting as well as their slant of article’s focus. For Deborah Wheeler, production manager and analyst,

this is her second tour working for OSINT in BiH. This time she is a civilian. During SFOR VII she was a specialist attached to 49th Armored Division.

The Night Owl can be accessed at www.tfeagle.army.mil. Soldiers can also access the website at <https://eaglevision.tfeagle.army.mil>. A complete archive of translated stories since 1996 is available at www.domovina.net.

OSINT will soon introduce a new section called “a year ago,” featuring a hot article from the previous year. The staff is also planning to rearrange article categories to make topics easier to find.

The changes are just the latest in many improvements that have been instituted during OSINT’s seven-year history in keeping soldiers informed on current topics in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Complacency kills — Don’t be a victim

by Maj. John Dowling

Commander, 354th MPAD

EAGLE BASE, Bosnia — Despite more than seven years of concentrated effort, land mines still present a significant danger to SFOR soldiers and the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This defensive military weapon is known to inflict offensive injuries upon innocent and complacent individuals.

On July 14 of 2001, a Czech Republic explosive ordnance disposal team soldier was killed in a mine accident and became the latest SFOR landmine or unexploded ordnance (UXO) casualty. There have been a total of 14 deaths and 133 IFOR/SFOR casualties since the beginning of the mission in December 1995.

The Mine Action Center of Joint Military Affairs is dedicated to minimizing the potential devastation of these weapons through education and demining programs.

“Mine awareness is a matter of attitude,” said 2nd Lt. Adam Love, Demining Monitoring Team OIC, Mine Action Center. “There are plenty of mines out there. We still don’t know where they all are.”

Land mines are a leftover byproduct of warfare dating back to World War II. The prevalent use of anti-personnel mines really began to grow during the Vietnam War where 33 percent of all U.S. casualties were caused by mines, according to Love. That proportion increased during the Gulf War where 50 percent of all American casualties were the result of mine blasts.

The threat is still significant here in Bosnia where an estimated 307,000 mines were known to be deployed and thousands

more are believed to exist; yet their whereabouts remain unknown. Most of the mines lie along the Inter-Entity Boundary Line, which runs prominently throughout several of the Multinational Brigade (North) areas of operation.

Soldiers should take this threat seriously whether it’s on patrol or walking around the apparently safe confines of Eagle Base where UXO signs hang prominently along the walking trails.

“There is a ‘it will never happen to me’ attitude among soldiers,” said Love, “but complacency kills.”

The MAC oversees demining efforts starting in the spring and lasting into the fall. However, during the winter the focus turns to mine awareness classes in local schools. Their success in educating Bosnian children over the years is clearly evident. From 1996 to 2002, there were a total of 1,404 mine and UXO civilian casualties of which only 159 were children.

“Children are well educated on mines. They get mine awareness as part of their daily school just like math,” said Love.

Soldiers can learn to protect themselves by following the same guidelines taught to the children. To limit the potential for soldier injuries, SFOR guidance on mines is clear — do not touch! The basic rule is if you didn’t put it there, don’t pick it up.

If soldiers encounter mines or UXO, they should remember the four Cs: 1) Confirm, 2) Clear, 3) Cordon, 4) and Control (see info box).

By looking for minefield indicators at all times, soldiers can keep themselves out of dangerous areas. Indicators include signs, trip wires, mine packaging, craters, unused paths and unattended fields. A good rule

of thumb is to follow local behavior.

If anyone finds himself in a hazardous area, they should follow these instructions: stop, warn, report, assess, and act. Only if it is a matter of life or death and imminent danger should soldiers attempt to navigate out of a hazardous area.

If so, SFOR guidance states to look for mine activity, feel for fuse mechanisms, and prod for buried mines. Soldiers should prod with a non-metal probe at a 30-degree angle to the horizon every 2 centimeters, 8 centimeters deep along a 2-meter front.

By following what the locals are doing and abiding by SFOR mine awareness procedures, soldiers can prevent the possibility of falling victim to these leftover menaces of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Need To Know The Four Cs

Confirm – The person who encounters the mine should be the only person to observe the mine until EOD arrives.

Clear – All persons should take cover no less than 200 meters within the line of sight of the mine.

Cordon – Access to the location of the mine should be denied.

Control – All troops moving in and out of the area should do so from one control point.

STOP!

WARN!

REPORT!

ASSESS!

ACT!

