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IFOR INFORMER

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Mission accomplished ... SFOR begins



IFOR Soldiers from Norway, United Kingdom, United States, Germany, Ukraine, France, Portugal, Turkey, Romania, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Spain and a Swiss OSCE member, join together to give the thumbs up to the successful end of IFOR's mission on behalf of their countries and all the other contributing nations. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo

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IFOR: mission accomplished SFOR: mission goes on

David Taylor

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1996 - Barely two months after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accord and armed with a strong mandate for his troops - then COMIFOR, Adm. Leighton W. Smith Jr. was able to look back on the deployment of an "enormous number of forces and material in a pretty short time...(and) the implementation of the Peace Agreement in a tremendously professional man-

ner." Most significantly, he was able to refer to the skills of the first IFOR troops as "making the nearly impossible seem routine."

These statements were made against a backdrop of daily, world-wide media coverage that showed the first NATO-led, multi-national deployment - almost 60,000 troops from more than 30 contributing nations - rolling powerfully and rapidly into the Balkan winter. The largest military operation in Europe since World War II had moved from the planning stages into reality, with IFOR forces swiftly and determinedly separating those Factions that only days and weeks before had been locked in particularly cruel civil war.

Less than 90 days from D-day, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Walker, Commander of the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps, speaking as commander of IFOR Land Forces, was able to comment upon his forces' success as they prepared for the final days of implementing what would become the Inter Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) and ensuring that Faction troops continued withdrawal to their barracks, and their weapons be placed into cantonment. Expressing his confidence in the IFOR troops to fulfill the military side of the mandate and move on into a period of consolidation and confidence building in the population of BiH, Sir Michael stated, "I am confident that we can continue to be successful. I know, too, that all of the

brave men and women of Europe, the U.S., and around the world, are striving to make every moment of their time here count for something; to leave a legacy. I applaud you all."

Those early days of IFOR were summed up by Adm. Smith as he handed over command to Adm. Lopez on July 13, 1996: "Day one... we set the tone. We said we are different." He also commented that his departure came after IFOR had

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accomplished its military phase and had moved into "the civil-political" phase.

He was referring to the fact that organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) would come to the fore in leading Bosnia and Herzegovina through the process of becoming a democratic country, while IFOR got on with the job of maintaining the security levels necessary for this process to take place.

In an interview given shortly after assuming command, Adm. T. Joseph Lopez laid down a challenge to IFOR troops: "In some way, do something that changes this environment, this country for the better while you are here. So that when your tour of duty is done and you get on that aircraft to fly away, you can turn around and

look at it and say 'this country, this place, is better because I was here.'"

By Sept. 14, after giving the background security which allowed BiH's presidential elections to take place almost without incident, IFOR soldiers could claim they had fully matched up to COMIFOR's challenge. Ambassador Robert H. Frowick, Head of the OSCE Mission in BiH, didn't mince his words. "The OSCE... regards the efforts of IFOR as extraordinary. I don't know of any similar experience in history of a large military contingent working with the civilian aspects of an international community effort to ensure success of an electoral process like this one. It was brilliant."

Shortly before handing over command of the IFOR to Gen. William Crouch on Nov. 7, Adm. Lopez thanked his troops for a "fantastic ride." Significantly, while recording

the military achievements of IFOR, he also made reference to "more than 5,600 civil-military cooperation projects and the work of over 7,000 engineers from 15 nations in repairing and replacing 60 bridges; 2,500 kilometers of roads and railways; gas, water, electricity, public transportation and telephone services to many cities and villages; and helping to provide airport authorities with the ability to recommence commercial charter and regular airline passenger service."

Gen. William W. Crouch's appointment as COMIFOR also marked a transfer of authority from Allied Forces Southern Europe, Naples, Italy, to Land Forces Central Europe, Heidelberg, Germany. Having worked closely with Lt. Gen. Walker in assuring a smooth Transfer of Authority, Gen. Crouch bade the ARRC HQ farewell in a ceremony held on Nov. 20 in Sarajevo. A statue was unveiled to commemorate the ARRC's achievements in BiH. Gen. Crouch commended IFOR's Land Forces for an "absolutely magnificent job" through their comman-

der, Lt. Gen. Walker.

In a matter of days, IFOR, the military force that deployed as the overseer of the Zone of Separation, free elections and the return of refugees will give way to a force which will help provide a secure environment that encourages and supports self-reconstruction. NATO's Implementation Force will become NATO's Stabilization Force (SFOR).

The requirements of the Dayton Peace Accord, agreed to by all parties, are very clear. SFOR, like IFOR before it, will maintain the military tasks of the mandate, but following on from the soon-to-be-completed IFOR mission, SFOR will be operating in a different environment while continuing to execute the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. It will also assist in the consolidation of the peace by contributing, within its capabilities, to a secure environment in which ongoing civil implementation plans can be carried out.

The work continues, but with a different focus and fewer forces.

Media comments on IFOR

JOC David Desilets

Toronto Star (Metro) 5 Dec. (Canada) "Canadians committed to Bosnia... 1,200 troops to new peace force. Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy... asked for a commitment in return. Canada wants the world community to force Bosnia to deal with indicted war criminals..." he said, "There has been far too much rhetoric and far too little action... The whole credibility of... the peace process we think rests very much on having a clear commitment to ensure that the war crimes tribunal is able to do its work and to do it in a way that brings a sense of justice and ends a lot of the impunity issues that have been plaguing that country."

Bosnia peace conference

Reuter, London, 05 Dec. — Here are the principal points of the agreed action plan:

- For the first time, aid is linked to adherence to Dayton peace agreement.
- The War Crimes Tribunal to be given extra resources.
- The International Police Task Force to be boosted in hunt for indicted war criminals.
- Greater effort to encourage return of refugees.
- Freedom of Movement Task Force to ensure Bosnia-wide phone links, common road and rail system, national car number plates, and jointly administered air space.
- Central Bank to be operational by early 1997.
- Media to be allowed to operate free of interference.

- End to delay in arms reduction
- Mine clearance speeded up.
- Internationally supervised municipal elections by summer 1997.
- International mediator role strengthened.

The Independent, 5 Dec. (U.K.) — Bosnia's old enemies get round table... The London conference on security arrangements for Bosnia for the next two years got underway yesterday, amid news of unrest in Serbia and calls for a reappraisal of the relationship between NATO and Russia... The British government said events in Belgrade were "very much on our minds..." With SFOR details already announced, senior NATO sources focused more on the way NATO might use the conference to strengthen its relations with the Russians who provide troops for Bosnia.

The Times, 5 Dec. (U.K.) — About 16,000 people are still missing, presumed killed, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the bitterness of the waiting families poses a huge threat to peace in the country until their fate has been determined, Cornelio Sommaruga, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday. As John Major opened a two-day conference on Bosnia at Lancaster House in London, the words of Mr. Sommaruga served as a warning to the 56 delegates that the "hatred between the ethnic communities" remains, even though the guns have fallen silent.

USA Today, 06 Dec. (Europe) — The international military operation in Bosnia is a success, ministers from 43 countries said... "There are important areas of the peace agreement where little progress has been made," the ministers said in a statement... Reflecting international frustration at the slow pace of the peace, the conference set deadlines for goals meant to have been achieved by now, but obstructed by bickering and power hoarding among the three warring parties.

The Times, 06 Dec. (U.K.) — Bosnia tribunal boost... With the promise of more international help, offered... at the conference on Bosnia in London, the (Hague international) tribunal is expected to expand operations. Malcolm Rifkind said he would be "extremely dissatisfied" if General Ratko Mladic... and Radovan Karadzic... as well as other indicted war criminals had not been dealt with within the next 12 months.

Reuter, Sarajevo, 7 Dec. — The London peace review conference ended Thursday with the buzzword "conditionality" on everybody's lips, but with little clarity on how the West's new policy was to be implemented... "The thinking of conditionality has sharpened as a consequence of London, but it's certainly not yet an exact science," said a spokesman for Carl Bildt. "I don't yet think in Washington, London and Paris there is agreement on a nice neat plan for how this will work."

Commander of IFOR, Gen. William W. Crouch; Chief IFOR Public Information Office, Col. William Mulvey. The IFOR Informer is produced by HQ IFOR. It is fully funded by IFOR, and authorized and published for the IFOR forces in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the coalition governments' defence departments. The IFOR Informer is printed by OKO Prušćakova 13, Sarajevo: Tel. 455333.

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Please give full names, rank and nationality of all persons referred to in articles. Digitized photographs should be submitted in JPG format with a minimum resolution of 200. Hard copy photographs should have typed cutlines taped to the back stating full name and rank of the photographer, plus rank, full names, nationality, time, date and place of the photograph's contents.

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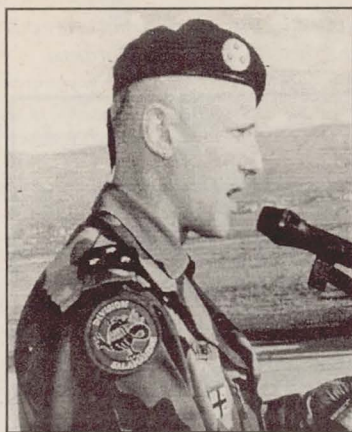
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TOA held in Mostar

Capt. Javier Marcos.



Mostar—After seven and a half months spent in Bosnia-Herzegovina, General Xavier de Lambert, commander of the Multinational Division South East (MND-SE) is returning home. During a ceremony held at Mostar Airport, 12 Dec., he transferred authority of the Division to Brig. Gen. Yves Le Chatelier.

"Among the very first tasks of the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement that I had to carry out was the gather-

ing of the armies in predetermined and authorized sites. That was done without any difficulties, in accordance with the protocol signed with the three factions," de Lambert said to his soldiers. "Of course, a lot still has to be done. While, to date, more than 4,000 mined zones have been counted, demining actions in MND-SE are still in a very early stage. Our future efforts will be oriented toward this specific aspect of the peace accord. Of course, freedom of movement, I admit, is still incomplete. However it is important to specify that this issue is everybody's in this country's business. The re-establishment of reliable relationships is needed. This, cannot be done in one day."

Nine nation effort

The ceremony, presided over by COMIFOR, General William Crouch, began at 11:30, with a military parade. All the commanders of the units within the MND(SE) were in attendance, and also military and civilian



Above: Brig. Gen. Yves Le Chatelier talks to reporters after the Transfer of Authority Ceremony in MND-SE. Left: General Xavier de Lambert addresses the troops while handing over command of MND-SE after seven and-a-half months in command. Photos: Capt. Javier Marcos.

authorities from the international community, including representatives of the three factions.

After having inspected the troops, de Lambert gave a speech recognizing the job by 13,500 men and women coming from nine countries, working together to accomplish their IFOR missions.

"One thousand, eight hundred and thirty-three reconstruction projects were initiated by the

Division. To this day, 455 have already been completed; 87 are underway and 151 are being planned. Numerous mine awareness sessions have been given in schools and to the populace. Our actions towards the local population include 335 humanitarian relief operations - clothing and food distribution among the most destitute - an average of 800 medical consultations per month and 97 air evacuations by

helicopter, including 21 for civilians. Our specialists are involved in reconstruction, such as roads, bridges and railroads. For the moment, 900,000 DM have been invested," de Lambert said.

"I am convinced that General Yves Le Chatelier, is the perfect person for the situation. I wish him good luck and also wish the same to Bosnia-Herzegovina in its peace efforts."

'Almeria' Brigade arrives



Capt. Javier Marcos.

Mostar—The third Spanish Brigade to serve as an IFOR component, has been led into Bosnia and Herzegovina by its commander, Maj. Gen. Javier Zorzo. The Almeria Brigade, composed mostly of Spanish Legion troops, has the stated intention to carry on with the mission started by the two other Spanish Brigades that have served in BiH: the Castillejos and Almagavares.

The Spanish Transfer of Authority between Gen. Luis Carvajal and Zorzo, took place in the Spanish Square, in Mostar, in the presence of Gen. Xavier de Lambert, com-

mander of Multinational Division South East.

"Our first purpose is to accomplish the next municipal elections, programmed for next spring, within a peace and freedom framework," said Zorzo.

"We are going to work with the same mission, in the same area. We have to ensure elections take place in conditions of peace, freedom and democracy, and ensure our soldiers return to their families in Spain having accomplished their mission."

Almost 1500 men from the Legion Brigade, a squadron of Cavalry, one company of engineers, Air Mobile Forces and other select personnel arrived in Ploce between Nov. 26 and Dec. 12 after a six-day voyage on the *Hernan Cortes*; others arrived in Mostar by air. After their arrival, the Almeria broke down into smaller units, to ensure safe deployment and to avoid creating problems for the population.

Almost 80 percent of the new Brigade is composed of legionnaires. Veterans of as many as three previous U.N. deployments to BiH, they know their assigned area and, equally importantly, the population. This time, though, the mission is taking place in a different framework: a four-month deployment under the operational control

of NATO, instead of the United Nations.

Spanish soldiers will have to share duties with soldiers from Egypt, Jordan, Portugal, Ukraine, Morocco, France and Italy. The area they will be responsible for is made up of 14,300 square kilometres, crossed by almost 400 kms. of IEHL (Inter Entity Border Line) in cities such as Sarajevo, Mostar, Medjugorje, Trebinje, Bileca, Stolac, Nevesinje or Dracevo.

The Spanish soldiers have hit the ground running. In just three weeks, they have already distributed almost 250 tons of humanitarian aid - clothing, food, school equipment medicines toys and other welcome items - to 3,500 people who live in refugee camps in Blagai, Tekija, Caplijna, Tasovici, Konak, Mostar East and Nevesinje.

Their predecessors, almost 1,700 soldiers from the Almagavares Brigade, are now sailing or flying home to Spain. A total of 2,400,000 kms driven throughout Bosnia during its deployment is only an indication of how active the brigade has been. Other than their strictly military taskings, the brigade has been heavily involved in humanitarian aid programmes such as giving home medical treatment to 2,400 people.

From left to right in photo: Gen. Javier Zorzo, Gen. Xavier de Lambert and Gen. Luis Carvajal lay wreaths in tribute to fallen Spanish soldiers in a ceremony in the Spanish Square in Mostar. Photo: Capt. Javier Marcos.

Capt. Javier Marcos.

Mostar—After six months of service in Multinational Division South-East, staff officers of the Italian Army have begun returning to Italy. Their mission has been an historic one because it marked the first time that the Italian Armed Forces have been involved with a multinational staff outside of Italy.

Under the command of Brig. Gen. Vittorio Ghiotto, the Italians have accomplished their mission by sharing the work load with soldiers from various nations including Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Ukraine, Portugal, France and Spain.

"This experience is professionally gratifying, and unforgettable. The results have been

good, but the future is still uncertain", said Lt. Col. Gerardo Restaino, member of the MND-SE logistics office (G-4). "The best experience I've had was when I gave my ballpoint pen to a boy. He was so happy. It was as if he had received the greatest gift in the world," Restaino added.

Lieutenant Colonel Gino Bordigoni has been working in Bosnia since last December, six months in the logistic branch, and six months in the civilian-military affairs. "I am satisfied by the work done, but what I will never forget is the children's smiles in Mostar. It reminds me of the way my daughter smiles", said Bordigoni.

"As far as I am concerned, the best thing about the deployment was that I have had the opportu-

nity to work with my friends and counterparts from other countries", said Capt. Enrico Varese, attached to the planning cell.

Former commander of MND-SE, Gen. Xavier de Lambert said in an interview given to Maj. Massimo Panizzi (Public Information Officer for MND-SE), "We envy the Italian Army. It is able to select people with the highest level of qualification. They have never had any major integration problems. They have been responsible for difficult tasks, that they have carried out perfectly."

Italy has decided to extend their contribution to the staff of the (MND-SE) by increasing the number of Italian soldiers within the organization to 40 for the first six months of the follow-on force (SFOR).

Italian staff say 'arrivederci Mostar'



Lt. Col. Gerardo Restaino, Capt. Angelo Rapuano, Maj. Giovanni Varese and Lt. Col. Gino Bordigoni in the daily staff meeting in the MND-SE HQ. (Mostar-Ortiges). Photo: Capt. Javier Marcos.

Some like it hot

Below: A Ukranian soldier gives a flat-handed blow to a pile of burning tiles during a martial arts exhibition to mark the 5th Anniversary of the formation of the Ukranian Army. Photos: CPIC, Sarajevo.



Ukranian Army on 5th anniversary

Sarajevo - The Ukranian Army celebrated the 5th anniversary of its formation on Friday Dec. 6.

The Ukranian Battalion stationed at Tito Barracks in Sarajevo marked the day with a pass and review of troops past Brig. Gen. Georges Ladeveze, commander of the French Brigade in Sarajevo,

and the Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Victor Taman. The parade was followed by a display of martial arts and a casual reception given to the strains of Ukranian folk music played by soldier musicians.

Above: Ukranian soldiers on pass and review at Tito Barracks, Sarajevo. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo.



Romanian National Day

JO2(AW) Kori Ahola

Sarajevo - If a picture is worth a thousand words, the photographic display recently set up in the Coalition Press Information Center, for their National Day, said enough to write a book.

The display was a combination of photographs from Romanian peace efforts in Angola and also included scenes from their work in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to Maj. Laurentiu Sfintes, of the Romanian Engineer Battalion, the display was designed to show how Romanians have made a significant contribution towards peacekeeping throughout the world, and their National Day, Dec. 1, was a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that.

"I hope that this display conveys the message from Romania that hope, peace and trust are still valid," related Sfintes. "We've also participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia and are willing to go wherever we are needed in the world for peace-keeping efforts."

"I don't really have a favorite photograph out of the couple of hundred photographs on display here," said Col. Constantin Teodorescu, Chief of Romanian Engineers. "But if I could select several, they would be the ones with the children because they seem to show how the difficulties of today can affect the future."

In addition to the photo display, there were Romanian pastries and champagne as well as sounds of Romanian music ringing throughout the room.



Romanian colonel, Eugen Burghilea explains some of the photographs on display for the Romanian National Day to Jill Swift of the Overseas Development Agency. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo.

Restoration of Independence of Portugal Day

JO2(AW) Kori Ahola

Sarajevo - Portuguese soldiers in full military dress, lined the street and stood at attention outside the Portuguese mission in Sarajevo during the lightly falling snow, while the Portuguese flag was raised Dec. 1. Although it was a simple ceremony and was attended by only about 30 people to recognize the restoration of independence of Portugal, the ceremony held special significance to Antonio Correa, head of the Portuguese mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I've celebrated this day of recognition throughout the world as a professional diplomat," explained Correa. "Here in Sarajevo, where they are struggling for the reaffirmation of a people; to celebrate the reaffirmation of our country means a

lot. It should be an example to the people of Sarajevo that people can live for so long at peace with itself."

Greatly committed to peace.

The country of Portugal was founded in 1143, and except for the period referred to as the Austrian Dynasty from 1580 to 1640, the country has been at peace. According to Correa, it's important to help out in the state of Bosnia Herzegovina. "Even though we're a small country, we are impartial, have no special interest and are greatly committed to the peace process. After all, this is Europe, our back door, and part of our continent. If we can help bringing unity and peace to Bosnia, we will have accomplished our goal in Bosnia.

"We know the people are going through difficult times and all of us can help. But we can never impose anything on the local people," concluded Correa. "The future depends upon them exclusively."



Portuguese soldiers on parade at the Portuguese mission in Sarajevo. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo.

Operation Superman

JO1 Dante DeAngelis

Doboj - The objective of the Implementation Force is to achieve its goals with an absolute minimum of soldier and civilian casualties, but after more than a year of peace in Bosnia, casualties are still occurring. Many of these are the result of previous mine warfare.

While most adults understand the meaning of, "stay out of the minefields," smaller ears may not be paying as close attention.

Get the message home.

To reach the minds of the children of Bosnia, IFOR Information Campaign specialists from the U.S. Army have enlisted the services of the world's most popular superhero, Superman.

Throughout the month of December, Information Campaign units in all three Multinational Divisions are distributing Superman comic books and posters. The focus of the Superman campaign is to demonstrate the dangers of unexploded ordnance. The comic books are available in the Cyrillic and Roman alphabets of Serbo-Croat and in English, and relate to children on a level that's easy for them to understand.

The comic book opens with Superman rescuing two children who are hunting for war souvenirs. Using illustrations, Superman shows the devastating effects mines can have on not only humans, but also on farm animals and even the family pet. The comic concludes with short lessons on what children should do if they find themselves in a mine field and how to report areas they suspect have been mined.

First Lady gives support.

According to U.S. Army Sgt. Paul Pantzer of the Information Campaign's Sarajevo office, the U.S. Department of Defense project was the brainchild of First Lady Hillary Rodam Clinton. "There was a \$100,000 budget allotted for the project," said Pantzer. "Not only did DC Comics



donate the Superman image to the effort, they also dedicated their first-string artists to illustrate the book.

Once DC Comics was onboard, it was time for the Sarajevo Information Campaign headquarters to start the leg-work. "The artists needed photographs to make their illustrations from and background information to form the story line with," Pantzer said. "I recognized many of the scenes we photographed when I saw the finished product." The final product was unveiled at a 8 Nov. press conference in Sarajevo.

The comic was an immediate success with not only the children of Bosnia, but also with many of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) who are actively involved with mine-awareness efforts. "Once the initial 130,000 copies of the two primary Balkan language (alphabet) copies were distributed, we immediately started getting requests for additional copies," said Pantzer. The NGOs wanted to use the book as part of their own campaigns."

Refugees need information.

With the relatively low cost associated

with an additional printing of the book and the long-term benefits to be reaped from its use, Pantzer said an additional printing is very much needed. "If I had another quarter of a million copies right now I could distribute them tomorrow with no problem," he said. "Another reason to order more copies, is that with all of the returning refugee children, it's the best way to get the message across."

According to the Bosnian Bureau for Health Protection, 137 people in the Sarajevo area alone have been wounded by land mines. Of those injuries, 28 were reported to be children. These figures and the fact that there is an estimated 1.5 million refugee women and children yet to return to Bosnia should pose a strong argument for a second printing of this very popular and important 'comic book.'



Sergeant Rodd Coker, U.S. Army (center) and SSgt. Paul Farago of the NORDPOL Brigade's Civil/Military Affairs element pass out Superman posters to the students of a local school in Jelajah. Photo: JO1 Dante DeAngelis.

December 18, 1996

From Austerlitz to Bosnia

SSgt. Glenn A. Johnson

Sarajevo - Despite the passage of 189 years, the mission of the French Army's, 602nd Road Traffic Control Regiment has changed very little. Just as it was when Napoleon Bonaparte established the unit in 1807, after logistics problems in the battle of Austerlitz, the 602nd's mission is to reconnoiter perspective routes for troop movement and to guard convoys of supplies.

"Our primary mission (in IFOR) is to facilitate the movement of the Division *Salamandre* throughout theater," said Lt. Bruno Pillard, 1st Traffic Control Platoon commander for Sarajevo. "In the past, Napoleon's time, our unit was also responsible for actually moving the supplies, as well as guarding them. Now we just protect the convoys as they move."

Guarding any nation

The 602nd is divided into three separate platoons; one in Sarajevo and one each in Mostar and Ploce. Each platoon is responsible for patrolling the roads in its area, as well as putting up road signs and markers; relaying intelligence reports on the condition and safety of the roads, marking out possible alternate routes and escorting convoys that request armed protection.

"We have a great deal of responsibility in MND-SE because we can be called on to escort convoys from any nation that requests it," said Sgt. Oliver Gebbier, a 1st Platoon vehicle

commander. "For instance we protected the British element, ACE Rapid Reaction Corps convoy, as it left Sarajevo to return home."

The 1st Platoon is kept quite busy with it's different jobs if for no other reason than the fact that it is a relatively small unit, "We only have 29 men and 10 vehicles," said Pillard. "With each convoy I must send three vehicles, one light-armored and two heavy-armored vehicles. At any one time, I have one company on recon; one on alert; one on our main route of patrol, Sarajevo to Jabianica; and one on down time. We cover between 10 and 50,000 kilometers a month in our vehicle, and with the constant turnover of conscripted soldiers every four months, we are kept very busy..."

Satellite comms, quick recovery.

Their mission does not end with simply escorting convoys or patrolling roads. They are often called upon to help IFOR vehicles that break down on 602's roads of responsibility.

"We come across vehicles with engine trouble, or vehicles that have been in accidents all the time," said Gebbier. "When this happens we render whatever service that we can. In most cases it is simply a matter of getting on our satellite communications system and calling for a recovery vehicle. The system uses only a keyboard into which we type messages back and forth. It is very quick, reliable and it has meant that we no longer have the problems that you get

from using a radio, like interference or static."

Despite the long hours and many duties, the moral of the soldiers is very high, "Personally I like what we are doing here in Bosnia. It is the first time that we have been able to



Sgt. Oliver Gebbier (left) and Lt. Bruno Pillard show off their amphibious, French (light armored vehicle) that is the standard vehicle used by the 602nd Road Control Regiment during convoy escort duty. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo.

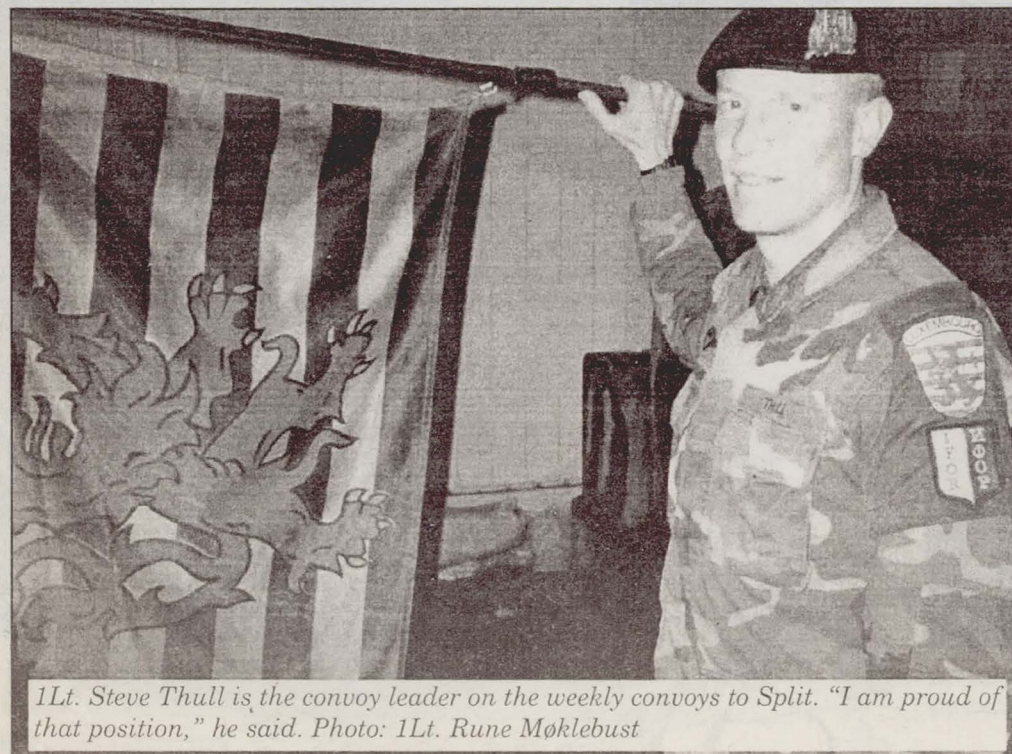
perform our duties outside of France, and I find the multi-national cooperation exceptional," said Pillard.

"I too, have enjoyed our tour here," said Gebbier, "I have been with the regiment since 1983, and this is the first time we have gotten to do something like this. Although, it was more fun when it was warmer."

"Yes, I like it here well enough," said Premiere Class David Jacq, vehicle driver with the 1st platoon. "It is interesting... but, I have a girlfriend at home that I miss, and would like to see her." He'll soon get his wish: the 602nd is due to rotate back to France just before Christmas."

Luxembourg in IFOR

1Lt. Rune Møklebust



1Lt. Steve Thull is the convoy leader on the weekly convoys to Split. "I am proud of that position," he said. Photo: 1Lt. Rune Møklebust

Visoko — Have you seen soldiers in IFOR wearing American uniforms, French boots, British berets, Belgian flak jackets, and carrying Austrian weapons — all at the same time? Then you have probably have seen one of the 24 soldiers from Luxembourg soldiers serving in BELUGA Group in Visoko north of Sarajevo.

The 800-strong armed forces back home

in Luxembourg consists only of volunteers. That is an infantry battalion, but all the same, their contribution to IFOR is as a logistic unit. They are under command of the Belgian contingent of the multi-national battalion in Visoko, where Greeks and Austrians also participate. The group is responsible for supporting IFOR and is under command of IFOR Support Command in Zagreb.

Infantry to logistic

"In the early stages of IFOR, Luxembourg decided to join the force through close co-operation with Belgium," Commander of the Luxembourg Detachment, Capt. Patrick Grisius, said. "After Belgium decided to send a logistic unit to IFOR, we had to convert from infantry to logistic. It was a different experience and another way of thinking. We have had to be more flexible, and I think we have managed it. At the same time we try to maintain our infantry skills," Grisius added.

Their main mission in BELUGA Group is to be responsible for the supplies for the battalion. Every Thursday they conduct a convoy together with the Belgians to Divulje Barracks near Split to get class-one supplies (water and food) and national supplies transported

to Croatia from Belgium and Luxembourg. Every Saturday they take the seven-hour trip back to Visoko to accomplish smaller missions in the near area. This Army contributes to IFOR with one recovery vehicle, four MAN trucks and one MAN refrigerated truck. In addition they have four HMMWVs (Humvees) for the security squad and convoy leader.

Flexibility

"In between the weekly missions to Split we have done a lot of work around Visoko. We have for instance transported timber and tiles," said Commander of the transport squad, 1Lt. Steve Thull. "I am the convoy leader every week to Split, and I think it is very nice that a very small nation like Luxembourg has the command of a company where the Belgians also participate. I am proud of that position, and I think my soldiers are as well," he said.

Communication with other nations in IFOR is no problem for the representatives from the small state. Most of the soldiers speak German, French and English in addition to their mother tongue which is a combination of German and French.

In closing, Grisius concluded, "I think the fact that we speak different languages and we combine equipment from several nations and that we could make a changeover from infantry to logistic shows the flexibility of our army, and that is good."

Ghurkas: years of tradition and sacrifice

SSgt. Glenn A. Johnson

Ljubija - In an army so rich in tradition as the British Army, one of the most interesting is that year after year, Nepalese men make the long trek from their homes in the remote mountains and valleys of Nepal - a trip that often takes days by foot - to join the British Army as Ghurkas.

Near legendary

The Ghurkas have a near legendary reputation for being tough,



Lance Corporal Durga Rai of the Queen's Gurkha Signals detachment in Ljubija mans the rebroadcast communications equipment that keeps the flow of information moving in MND-SW. Photo: SSgt. Glenn A. Johnson.

loyal, and willing to go virtually anywhere that the British Army sends them, that 'anyplace' this time is Multinational Division South West, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I have been assigned to Hong Kong, Brunei, Africa, England...I have seen many strange places," said LCpl. Tilak Bahadur Rai. "I was even in the compound of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia."

Assigned to the 30 Signals Regiment, Royal Signals, the Queen's Gurkha Signals in MND-SW are responsible for keeping the lines of communication open theater-wide by manning relay and re-broadcast stations as well as handling Ptarmigan (U.K. military) telephone traffic. This often means that they are assigned in small four- to seven-man groups in remote areas such as the mountain top sites at Viterog and TV Tower Hill.

One detachment is a four-man contingent stationed in an out-of-the-way corner of the Czech Army base camp in Ljubija.

"I think that everything is going pretty well here. The weather isn't very good but since we don't have to do any fighting, we can stay inside to get our work done," said Lance Cpl. Durga Rai, a 12-year veteran of the Ghurkas from Dhoran. "I think more than anything I miss my family. It has been a long time since I've been home."

Long deployments

Being a Ghurka means two things; sacrifice and tradition. For instance, Ghurkas, because they are from

Nepal and have to travel great distances to get home, only get one six-month leave every three years; or they can take a short leave for one month every year and a half. Needless to say, this can put a strain on a family.

"I have not been home for three years," said Durga. "My wife isn't too happy about that; neither is my little girl, Anna. But she realizes that I am a Ghurka like my father and grandfather and my brother as well. She understands what I do for a living."

Corporal Mohan Rai, from Rabi Pantchther is in much the same situation, "I have two little girls at home, and if I am lucky I get to call them once a week. But my wife also understands that I am very proud of being a Ghurka like my father, who retired from the same regiment that I am in now," said Mohan.

The Khukri

Probably the best-known tradition that the Ghurkas are known for is carrying their native knives, called Khukri. Long and curved downward, the knives have been the traditional fighting weapon of the Nepalese for centuries. Legend has it that in the old days, once a Khukri was drawn, it could not be resheathed without drawing blood. The modern Ghurkas proudly wear their Khukri on their field belts as part of their uniform, and because they are such a versatile tool, they are just as likely to be used for cutting wood or preparing dinner as they are for fighting.

Finns finish off

JO1 Dante DeAngelis

Doboj — Hard work and dedication is paying off for the full-time soldiers, part-time craftsman from NORDPOL Brigade's Finnish Construction Battalion. They're putting the "Finnishing" touches on the last of six community relations projects in the area around Doboj.

Once the soldiers had completed their primary mission in Bosnia — to prepare NORDPOL Brigade's living and working spaces — they turned their attention to the war-torn towns surrounding the camp. That was in June, according to Finnish Army major, Jan-Erik Juslin, Chief CIMIC (Civil and Military Cooperation) Officer for the battalion.

The jobs decided upon by CIMIC were split evenly between re-building war-damaged schools and repairing and expanding the towns' aging water feed systems. Some of the water pipelines were more than 100 years old.

The battalion was not responsible for the actual laying of the 40 centimeter-wide replacement pipe. That job was left to local waterworks employees under the supervision of the Norwegian government. "The Finnish soldiers provided the mine clearing and excavating services," Justin explained. "I estimate we dug a total of about 10 kilometers of pipe trenching for all three projects."

The reasons for choosing to complete the water projects first were obvious. Doboj and the surrounding towns were receiving water service once a week before the Finn's volunteered their services. Water is now available once a day. Although these water projects provide a significant improvement in the quality of life for the local people, there is still more work to do. The next challenge for waterworks employees is a house-to-house search for leaks.

After giving local citizens a head start on their water problem, it was time for a little 'school work'. School repairs done by the Finnish battalion ranged from painting to a complete restoration. When it comes to building projects, the Finnish military has a distinct advantage. The men and women of their military are mostly reservists and are skilled craftsmen in their civilian occupations. They require little to no supervision — regardless of rank — when working on a project. Of the 400-person battalion, only about 50 soldiers were needed to complete projects totalling more than 1 million DM.

By the end of December, the battalion will conclude their work on three school projects, and in January the engineers will be replaced by a mechanized infantry battalion. Although they are leaving, Juslin said that there will still be community relations projects from the Finns following his unit's departure, but they will be on a smaller scale. He said he thinks the more involved IFOR Soldiers are in the community, the better.

"The main benefit of the Finnish military's involvement in the community was the increased security for IFOR troops," Juslin said. "It promoted a good relationship with the local people. They saw that IFOR is neutral and therefore is here to help — not to fight."

French prepare Mostar for civilian flights

Capt. Javier Marcos

Mostar — French IFOR soldiers have de-mined the runways, re-built facilities and installed a mobile control tower, in preparation for restoring civilian flights to Mostar airport.

Navigational systems and a new main gate have also been added as the French hope the airport will soon join Sarajevo as a fully functioning outlet for commercial air travel.

"Each week, we talk to the local authorities of Mostar to open the airport to the commercial flights," said Col. Didier Ros, chief of the French Air Detachment at Mostar known as Detair. "In my opinion, IFOR has made it possible to bring the different factions in Mostar together to discuss an agreement concerning the airport."

"The importance of this decision is essential for the economic and political future of the area," he added. "If the airport is open, it will contribute to stabilization of the region."

Demining the runway.

"In November of 1995, the French were given the mission of activating the air platform for IFOR flights," Ros said.

They found the runways full of mines, and littered with large, holes. "All the area around the runways was absolutely impassable," the Detair chief said.

The French Engineer Battalion cleared the field surrounding the runways, and the first Detair contingent cleared the actual runways.

By Dec. 23, 1995, the soldiers installed a mobile control tower to monitor air traffic. Flight navigation systems were also put into operation.

On Dec. 29, 1995, the first aircraft landed in Mostar-Ortiges after years of war. The French C-160 aircraft "Transall" transport plane, using half of the main runway to land, brought in a large quantity of humanitarian aid, and military aid for IFOR troops during the flooding last December in Mostar.

"From then, our first priority



Sgt. Olivier Perrin tests the engine of an aircraft at Mostar airport. Photo: Capt. Javier Marcos.

has been to improve the operational and living conditions of the airport," said Lt. Col. Michel Mot, a member of the Detair staff.

Sharing the workload.

Today, the fourth Detair contingent consists of 130 people — all volunteers — selected from different air force units throughout France.

Contingents from Italy, Spain and Morocco also assist the French with logistics and security support.

"At present, we have a very powerful communications and

logistic system," Ros said. "We are capable of keeping a very good operational level with our own resources for a considerable period of time. This means that we are able to be ready in a very short time to support IFOR in a great variety of military operations."

From January to October, more than 30,000 passengers have used the airport in 4,000 air movements. The numbers of passengers increased significantly in September when international observers flocked to the area during general elections.

Minimum maintenance saves time and trouble

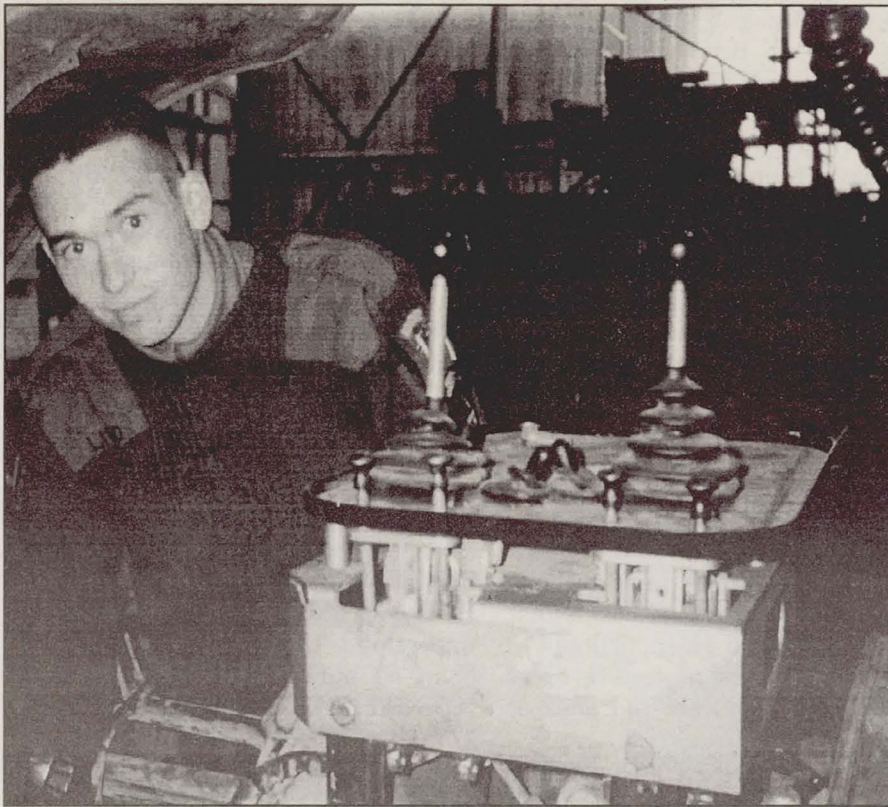
1Lt. Rune Møklebust

Modrica — Driving in snow or icy road conditions puts more strain on vehicles than any other season. The winters in the Balkans are cold, and it is important to carry out regular maintenance on all vehicles according to Pvt. Steve Lind.

Lind, from Norway, is a professional mechanic and a specialist on trucks for the Maintenance Company of the Norwegian Logistic Battalion, Nordic-Polish Brigade, Modrica.

"We mostly do regular servicing on the vehicles, and that is done whether it is winter or not," Lind said. "But maintenance on vehicles becomes especially important during the winter," he added.

"Every IFOR driver who comes by with problems, will get help from us. We are located in a former garage, and we therefore have very good facilities," Lind said. "With good and regular maintenance a car will keep going for a long time."



Pvt. Steve Lind, mechanic for the NORDPOL Brigade, at work on a gear box. Lind advises all drivers to carry out basic maintenance to help avoid serious breakdowns. Photo: 1Lt. Rune Møklebust.

Self help

- Make sure that you have sufficient anti-freeze solution and that it is suitable for minimum temperatures expected;
- Check battery and charge as often as possible;
- Keep the surface of the battery clean so that dirt and grease do not interfere with the chemical reaction inside. Use warm water to clean.
- Make sure that your windscreen-washer solution does not freeze. You can do this by adding anti-freeze. Do not use plain water!
- Check out that your windscreen wipers are in good repair.
- Make sure that all lights are functioning, and wash them as often as possible. Remember: see and be seen.
- Also make sure that your tyres are in good condition and that your chains fit. Remember to put the chains on as soon as necessary. Do not wait until it is too late and you end up in need of recovery.
- For comfort inside the vehicle, check that your heating system is working properly.
- Always keep a key de-icing kit with you. It doesn't help you if it is inside the car.
- Check the oil level regularly.
- Check regularly for leaks.

How will winter effect mines?

Mike Stalley and Steve Hughes
Mine Co-ordination Centre Zagreb

There are a number of problems that will arise over the next few months regarding the mine situation. Personnel are going to have to be more vigilant now that winter has arrived, and it is a different kind of vigilance that is called for. For example, as snow blurs the boundaries between road and verges, a common rule should be not to drive, walk, or park near road shoulders/verges. If there is snow on the ground, you cannot be certain where the road ends and the verge begins?

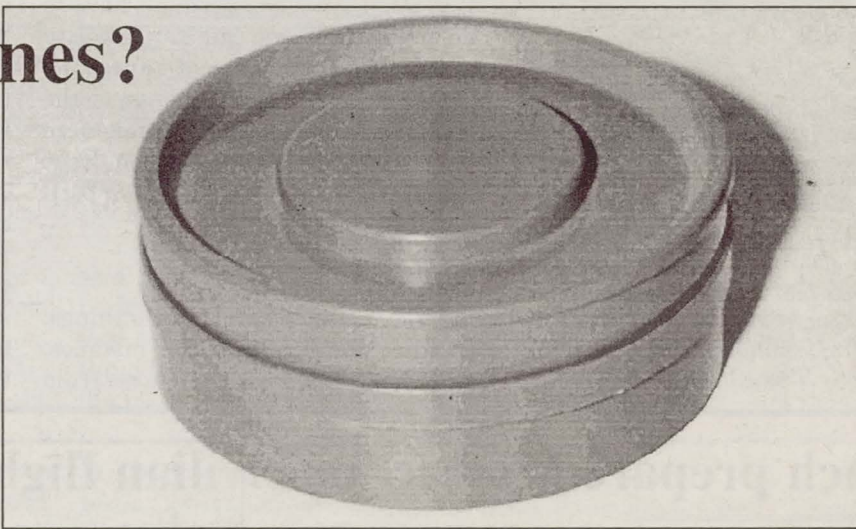
The best thing to do is to follow other people's tracks if they can be seen. If not, then it is best to stay as close to the middle of the road as possible and to keep speeds to a mini-

mum, without endangering motorists or yourself.
No longer visible

After spending the past two weeks travelling around various locations in Bosnia and Croatia, the Mine Co-ordination Centre (MCCC) personnel have noticed that minefields that have been marked and are normally easy to see, are now difficult to see, and in some cases the signs have been removed by persons unknown.

Another problem is that, depending on the amount of snow in any given area, a lot of the fence markers and in some cases the fences themselves have become covered with snow and are difficult to see or are no longer visible.

In other places within BiH, mine clearance work is being carried out by international companies and they mark the mined areas in which they are working by using various



The PMA-3 anti-personnel mine, considered by many experts to be the most dangerous mine present in BiH due to its size, lifespan, and ability to float. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo.

coloured plastic tape. So if you see any area taped off, stay clear because it may contain mines or unexploded ordnance.

Above all, the advice from the MCCC is: if you have to leave the road or go into areas that you have never been to before, check with your operations room or the nearest mine information center to get detailed information on the area.

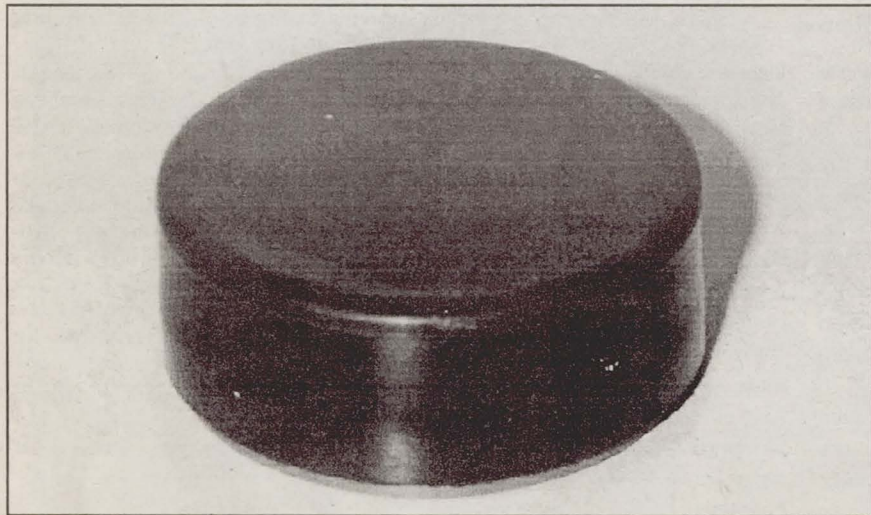
Input from personnel has indicated that some mines and fuses will freeze to the point that they will not be able to operate. This may be true; however, no one knows which mines will freeze and which will not because it depends on the type of mine, the soil type and the depth at which it is buried. So, there is no reason to think that because of cold weather, a mine has become safer.

One of the most serious mine threats for winter is the PMA-3, anti-personnel mine. This mine, which many experts consider the most dangerous in theatre, has the unique ability to float and is known

to have been thrown into rivers, streams and lakes. Quite often these mines were laid on embankments so that when the snow comes, this mine may move into these bodies of water as the streams and rivers swell from the melting snow.

The PMA-3 also has a black rubber covering which makes it waterproof to a certain extent. This increases the life of the mine's activity and means that they will be around for quite a while. One particularly dangerous aspect of the covering is that it may rot off if the mine is left underground for an extended period of time. This makes the mine even easier to detonate. If any of these mines are seen do not, for any reason, try to remove them, but report them immediately to the nearest headquarters so that the proper demining personnel can be contacted.

For more information on mine awareness or training requests, please contact the Mine Co-Ordination Centre Zagreb at VSAT 151-2710 or 151-2508.



The PMA-3 anti-personnel mine in its black, rubber casing. This casing gives a degree of impermeability to water, increasing the mine's lifespan and allowing it to float in rivers and streams. Photo: CPIC, Sarajevo.



UNICEF turns 50

JO2(AW) Kori Ahola

Illustrations by 13-year-old Sergej Kasumović from Novi Grad School, Tuzla.

Sarajevo - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) turned 50 on Dec. 11, marking its creation at the very first session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1946. Its initial mandate was to meet the emergency needs of children in the aftermath of World War II.

The mandate has undergone a few changes over the years. In 1950 the mandate was modified to include the enormous needs of children in developing countries the world over, but is, in essence, the same as when it was originally given: to help pro-

tect the lives of children and promote their development. The greater their vulnerability, the higher the priority.

Following its post-WWII mission, UNICEF was almost disbanded, but the need for providing assistance to children in developing nations was deemed too great. Countries like Yugoslavia spoke out for continued support. Yugoslavia was the first recipient of a feeding program on a scale never witnessed before, reached more than 600,000 needy children.

Now, almost 50 years later, children and grandchildren of those who received assistance from UNICEF are receiving needed aid," said Brigitte Duchesne UNICEF Area Information Officer in Sarajevo.

"It's important to provide aid to children in war-torn countries," said Duchesne. "But it's also important to give training in everything from how to effectively teach a classroom of students, to how to recognize psychological trauma."

One of the major problems we've found has been ineffective vaccines. Certain serums have to be kept at a specific temperature in order to be effective. IFOR has provided much needed assistance in this area. The governments and even UNICEF haven't the infrastructure or logistics support to provide

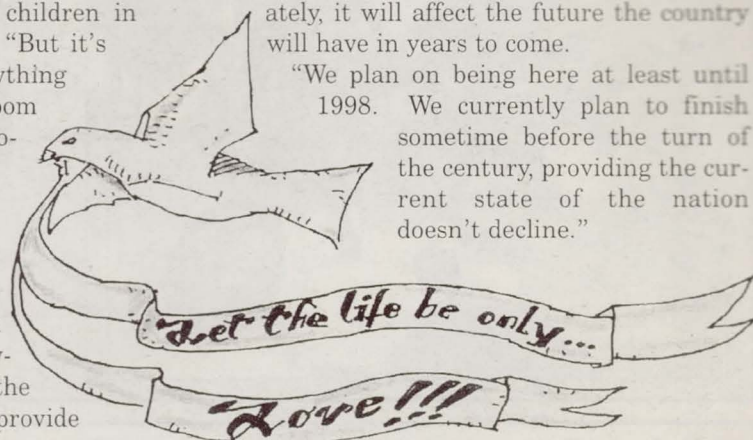
transport of some of these serums efficiently. IFOR does.

"I've been coming here since 1992 and in the year since IFOR has been here, the change has been phenomenal. Being able to move from place to place distributing aid is a key point to our efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Being able to move through front lines and checkpoints is paramount. We wouldn't have been able to move without the assistance of IFOR."

UNICEF has many plans for the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We plan on continuing to provide the assistance of nutritional guidance, immunization and education assistance. "When the leadership of a country is in turmoil, the first thing to go is support programs," explained Duchesne. "If these aren't taken care of, the country will pay the cost in years to come. Children are the future. Let's not forget that children are the most vulnerable of any population. Their health situation must be kept up and their education should be the best possible. If

these problems aren't addressed immediately, it will affect the future the country will have in years to come.

"We plan on being here at least until 1998. We currently plan to finish sometime before the turn of the century, providing the current state of the nation doesn't decline."



IFOR comes to U.N. aid

Capt. Javier Marcos.

Buna — A United Nations vehicle had a serious accident Dec. 6, due to winter weather conditions. However, thanks to efforts of IFOR soldiers who came to the rescue, the injuries of the passengers were not life threatening.

"It was 16:45 hrs., and we were driving from Stolac to Mostar, when suddenly a Croatian police vehicle stopped us asking for help," said Lt. Col. Jose Grande, who at the time was the commander of an IFOR convoy passing through the area. "A United Nations member from India explained that their vehicle had been transporting four people and that it had left the road because of the dangerous conditions on a hair-pin bend, and rolled to the bottom of the valley," Grande added.

"When we arrived there, we could see how dangerous the curve in the road was because of the ice and lack of visibility. As soon as we understood the situation, we began working to get the passengers out and back up to the road. One of the pas-

sengers was seriously injured in his head and back."

With no special tools available, the Spanish soldiers still managed to liberate the passengers trapped in the vehicle. "In less than 45 minutes, one ambulance from Mostar hospital, and two others from the French and Spanish contingents arrived," said Grande.

Three of the occupants of the vehicle suffered only bruising. The fourth passenger suffered severe head injuries and a broken hip and is being treated in a civilian hospital in Mostar.

Trying to avoid any and all kinds of accidents is a major priority in Multinational Division South East. Safety briefings are being conducted on a daily basis in MND-SE to ensure that soldiers there are aware of worsening road conditions due to winter weather. All drivers are made aware that they must carry and use snow chains; reduce speed limits to allow for bad weather, and constantly update their knowledge of the situation through weather reports and leaflets that are being distributed in MND-SE.

Italian Signal Corps

Capt. Tito Tolla

Military communications between Italy and Italian forces throughout the entire former Yugoslavia, have always run smoothly thanks to the Italian Signal Company, *Leonessa*, according to their commander, Capt. Giovanni Gagliano.

At the beginning of Operation Joint Endeavour, with little time to settle in, the signal company established connections that linked overseas units with those in the homeland.

"These results were mainly due to our personnel" said Detachment Commander Lt. Davide Dettori, of the *Leonessa* Signal element in Ploce, Croatia. "They have given an outstanding per-

formance, as on previous missions in Lebanon, Namibia, Turkey, Iraq, Albania, Somalia and Mozambique."

Multiple applications

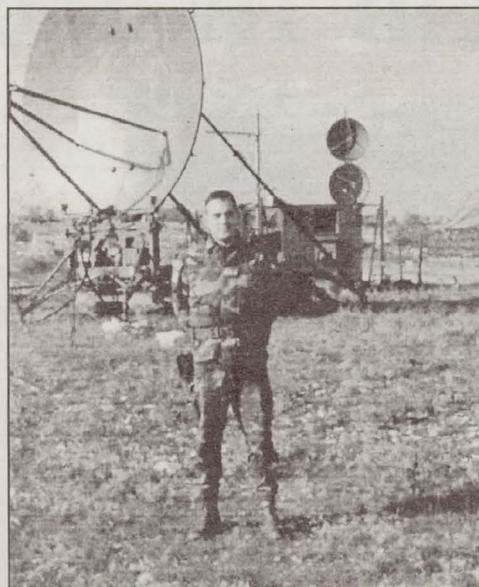
Through a video tele-conference system, it is possible for doctors in different Italian hospitals to actually watch and supervise medical and surgical operations being carried out hundreds of miles away at the Italian Field Hospital in Sarajevo and give advice and instructions in real time.

Other important real-time applications of the system relate to the logistic manning of the operation. All logistic data is exchanged in real time throughout the logistic chain. Moreover, through an integrated Global Position System, it is possible to monitor the position of a single vehicle on the ground, and view it on a digitized video-display map.

The lonely soldier

Most of these soldiers, deployed in Croatia and Bosnia, come from *Leonessa* Signal Detachment in Ploce. Signallers from *Leonessa* often deploy to isolated positions, sometimes running posts on mountain tops. Their duty period there ranges from two to six weeks.

"When we are posted in remote places, cut off from our camp, we spend our time improving the quality of connections, safety measures and our logistic accommodations," said Cpl. Giovanni Masciotta. "Conditions during the first phase of IFOR were very harsh, especially because of the winter. Now we have some spare time to watch television, write letters, play cards and take photos. Landscapes are always wonderful from these heights."



Capt. Giovanni Gagliano former commander of the Italian Signal Company *Leonessa*, Photo: Italian Army.

Right: Children at the Home for Children without Parents show U.S. Army staff sergeant, Randy L. Davis, a Polaroid photo given to them by an American combat photographer. Davis was part of an American contingent which delivered aid to the children's orphanage.

Below: U.S. Air Force Chaplain Leo P. Obrien plays the harmonica while visiting the Home for Children without Parents orphanage. Obrien and a contingent from the Task Force Eagle base in Tuzla, brought clothing and school supplies to the 153 residents of the home. This was the first visit to be organized by the Air Force using donations from private individuals and churches in the U. S.

"We've been setting this operation up for four months," said Obrien, who is a Roman Catholic priest. "This kind of effort projects a positive view of the IFOR troops."

Advija Hercegovac, the orphanage's director, said that donations of this sort were the only thing that has kept her institution going. "Before the war, we didn't know just how many friends we had outside this country," she said.

Photos: JO1 Dante DeAngelis



U.S. troops meet with the children



Meals ready to eat

By SSgt. Glenn A. Johnson

Sarajevo — The best thing that you can say about the Greek field ration is that it is simple and the food is pretty good as far as rations go. The worst thing you could say is that they are rather greasy.

Like most field rations the name of the game is calories, and this ration is loaded. Contained within is one large can of beef with navy beans; a can of cheese; a can of spam; a can of stuffed grape leaves in olive oil; a brick of crackers; a packet of raisins, a vitamin, two enormous packets of sugar; one equally large packet of salt; a little coffee; some marmalade and a napkin.

Lean beef, too oily.

The beef was actually pretty lean, if not a little stringy, and the beans tasted like regular pork and beans you might buy at the store. However, the entire contents were swimming in some kind of oil, probably olive since the oil didn't taste meaty. I had to drain the oil off before I could eat the contents, but even then it left a film on the food. The food actually tasted pretty good though.

Inside is also a huge can of cheese, 178 grams to be exact, that is pretty good, if not a little bit binding.

The spam was, well, spam. It was neither good nor bad...just spam (I will confess here that I cheated eating the spam because I had some mustard handy.) And, the raisins were raisins.

The stuffed grape leaves were a toss up. I personally didn't like them because they were virtu-

ally swimming in a deep green olive oil. But, in all fairness, I don't like stuffed grape leaves anyway.

Wrapped to last.

The brick of crackers that I mentioned earlier was just that. The package contains eight very thick crackers, about four inches square, that are vacuum sealed in a very dense plastic. The unique thing about these crackers isn't the taste, they taste like every other MRE cracker, but the fact that when I threw them into the top of a table relatively hard and they didn't so much as chip. So, kudos the Greek who came up with the packaging.

I'll give the Greek rations two and half stars, mostly because there were no utensils, no candy, no way to heat the rations and no condiments other than salt and sugar. Like I said though, the food was pretty good, but Baklava and roast lamb it wasn't.

Windstorm in Mostar-Ortiges



Capt. Javier Marcos.

Mostar-Ortiges— As everyone in theatre knows weather conditions are getting worse as time goes by. An example of what BiH weather can offer happened in the central camp of the Multinational Division South-East. Beginning Dec. 1. Tremendous winds, gusting from 90 to 150 km/h, caused enormous material damage mainly in the French, Italian, Moroccan and Spanish areas of responsibility. One hundred and fifty heavy tents were destroyed, fuel and water containers were ruined, corimecs were blown over like feathers, and roofs were blown off houses. The airport had to be closed for a period.

Photo by MND-SE.



Vikings leap over Lions



Football photo: Jack Reed of the Minnesota Vikings, leaps into the air to catch a touchdown pass in the Vikings' 24-22 win over the hapless Detroit Lions Dec. 8. The win keeps the Vikings in the running for the last two wildcard playoff spots in the NFC. The Lions who were eliminated from playoff contention, can now only play the role of spoiler by upsetting those looking for a playoff. Photo: AP

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

PSG Meets AEK, Liverpool Visits Brann

Geneva (AP) - Liverpool avoided the big names in the European Cup Winners Cup quarterfinal draw Wednesday when it was matched with Norway's SK Brann.

Now it has a good chance to move closer to a final venue which has been kind to English clubs in the past. English teams have won the last two Cup Winners Cup finals in Rotterdam (Everton in 1985 and Manchester United in '91 as well as winning the first to be staged there back in 1963 (Tottenham). This season's final is May 14.

When the Champions Cup was last held in Rotterdam, it also was won by an English club, Aston Villa, in 1982.

While Barcelona faces AIK Solna of Sweden, Benfica meets Fiorentina and defending champion Paris Saint Germain hosts AEK Athens, Liverpool must visit the Norwegian club in the first leg March 6 and has the advantage of playing the second at Anfield two weeks later.

"I don't think any of the matches are easy at this point but we are happy with

our particular draw," Liverpool chief executive Peter Robinson said.

"We know quite a lot about Norwegian football but we don't know this particular club."

In the UEFA Cup quarterfinal, favored Inter Milan goes to Belgium's Anderlecht in the first leg March 4, Newcastle hosts AS Monaco and the two Spanish teams, Tenerife and Valencia, managed to avoid each other.

Tenerife hosts Danish club Broendby, which produced the biggest turnaround in European cups history in the previous round, and Valencia goes to Germany's Schalke in the first leg. Broendby scored a spectacular 5-0 victory at Germany's Karlsruhe in the second leg after losing 3-1 at home. Tenerife had a 4-2 victory at Dutch club Feyenoord to reach the last eight so the quarterfinal meeting with Broendby promises to be high scoring. Newcastle beat another French club, Metz, in the previous round. "This was one of the teams we didn't want to get, maybe with Inter Milan," Monaco technical director Henri Biancheri said of the draw with Newcastle.

RUGBY UNION

South Africa A finish on a high

Gloucester, England: South Africa A motored to a 35-20 win over England A here on Wednesday after the tourists finished the match with a flourish.

The South Africans managed to score their tries in the last eight minutes to ensure victory over England, whose fly-half Mark Mapletoft had kicked them into a surprise 20-18 lead midway through the second half.

Mansell eyes comeback in Formula One test

Barcelona, Spain (AP) - Former world champion Nigel Mansell, who ended an embarrassing comeback attempt 18 months ago, tested last Wednesday with Jordan-Peugeot and could be on the verge of another return to Formula One.

Mansell, 43, suffered an embarrassing F-1 comeback last year when the cockpit of his McLaren was too small, forcing him to miss the first two races. He eventually competed in two races before quitting.

Mansell has said he would be prepared to return to Formula One or IndyCar racing if the right offer came along. He is the only driver to win the F-1 and IndyCar championships in successive years (1992-3).

Jordan, which has signed Ralf Schumacher - the younger brother of two-time champion Michael Schumacher - is looking for an experienced driver to complement the rookie. Jordan earlier tried to sign world champion Damon Hill, who opted

instead for the TWR Arrows team.

Mansell's times Wednesday were the slowest of nine drivers testing, which included Williams-Renault's Jacques Villeneuve. A Jordan spokesman said the times - about four seconds behind Canadian Villeneuve - would probably improve on Thursday's second day of testing.

Jordan team owner Eddie Jordan, speaking after Mansell took his initial laps around the Catalunya circuit, said nothing had been decided.

"We have spoken and he (Mansell) has come and had a look," Jordan said. "He has fairly clearly stated that he has not retired and that things happened that he was not happy about."

"He would very much like to look at Jordan and see if he can bring them hopefully into the consistent winners circle but it's really nothing more than that at this stage," Jordan added.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Ronaldo, Shearer, Weah compete for world's best

Zurich: The International Football Federation (FIFA) Wednesday narrowed the 1996 world footballer of the year down to three contenders - England's Alan Shearer, Liberian George Weah and Brazilian Ronaldo.

A record 120 national team coaches voted for the prize - whose previous recipients have included Lothar Matthaus (1991), Marco Van Basten (1992), Roberto Baggio (1993), Romario (1994) and George Weah (1995).

Mighty Juventus go clear.

Udine, Italy: World champions Juventus moved three points clear at the top of Italy's Serie A on Wednesday night after two first-half penalties lined up a 4-1 victory over Udinese.

Alen Boksic, whose goals have been crucial to Juventus' Champions League campaign, opened the scoring after 23 minutes, and in the 36th the Croatian striker earned a penalty converted by Alessandro Del Piero.

Monaco edge through to remain cup favourites

Paris: Monaco just edged second division Troyes 4-2 on penalties after a 3-3 score following extra time on Dec. 11 to remain favourites in the French League Cup.

Lyon and Marseille provided a double shock on Tuesday by beating Paris Saint Germain and Auxerre respectively to grab their quarter-final spot.

Lyon, last season's beaten finalists, beat the Cup Winners Cup champions 2-1 while Marseille beat champions Auxerre 3-2 - after both came from behind.

Aberdeen grab second spot

Glasgow: Aberdeen jumped over Celtic to go into second place in the Scottish Premier Division seven points behind leaders Rangers after two late goals for a 2-1 win at Hearts.

In other matches, Raith grabbed a late goal for a 1-0 win at Motherwell and Dunfermline beat Hibernian 2-1.



Becker powers way to \$1.875 million

Munich (AP) - Boris Becker served with devastating efficiency against the most ferocious server in the game and beat Goran Ivanisevic in straight sets to win the most lucrative prize in tennis Dec. 8.

Riding the support of a partisan crowd of 10,000 in the city where he lives, Becker routed Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup.

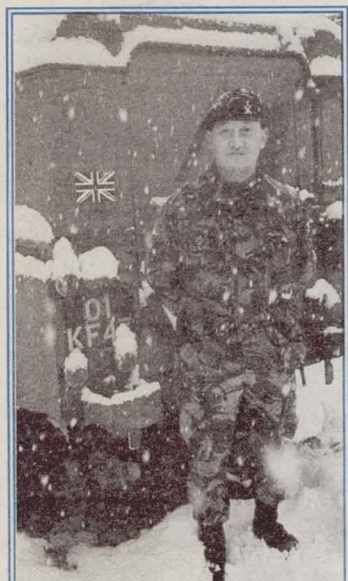
The victory earned Becker \$1.875 million. Ivanisevic had to settle for \$812,500.

"I felt good from the start, I returned well and I was getting my first serves in," Becker said.

The tournament brings together the 16 men with the best record in the four Grand Slam tournaments of the year - the Australian, French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon.

As the Australian Open champion, Becker's prize money also included a \$250,000 bonus for that title.

Soldier in the Spotlight



Lance Corporal Tilak Bahadur Rai

Ssgt. Glenn A. Johnson

Coralici — Lance Corporal Tilak Bahadur Rai, a communications specialist from the Queen's Gurkha Signals detachment in Coralici, laughed when some confusion about the name on his uniform came into question, "There are only seven last names in Nepal," said Tilak smiling. "So it would get very confusing if we put our surnames on our uniforms. There are many other Rais in this unit, so we are always called by our first name, it is much easier that way."

Bosnia and Herzegovina is just one of the many places that Tilak has been assigned to since joining the Gurkhas 11 years ago.

"I have been to Brunei, Hong Kong, England, Africa...I was in the same compound when the Khobar Towers incident happened in Saudi Arabia," said Tilak.

Adaptive to change.

Because he is used to traveling, Tilak adapts to the changes in duty station very well, "I like it here pretty well, although I haven't been here long. Sometimes it is hard to understand the Canadians who I work with because they have a French accent that I'm not used to. But we still get along well."

The climate change is also no problem for Tilak. "I like the snow. It gets cold in Nepal, but I live in a valley; so, for me to see snow, I have to walk three days up into the mountains."

Tilak cited pride and tradition as his prime motivation for joining the Gurkhas, "Many men from my area have become Gurkhas, and the people of Nepal are very proud of us," said Tilak.

"Just ask people what they know about Nepal and many don't know anything or very little. But, everybody knows what a Gurkha is."

Sub-CPIC, Zagreb

On the fifth of December, St. Nicholas paid a surprise visit to IFOR Support Command in Zagreb. The character of St. Nic is based on a Spanish Bishop from the 12th century. Assisted by "Black Peters," he gathers information on who has been good or bad and, on the occasion of his birthday (Dec. 5), he either gives presents to the good or kidnaps the bad and takes them away to Spain.

During his visit to Zagreb, St. Nic took part in a video teleconference with IFOR HQ, Sarajevo, to wish the staff a merry Christmas. When asked where his horse was, St. Nicholas claimed that it had been detained by the French military in Ploce because he did not have the correct customs clearance. He also sent season's greetings to the entire IFOR and warned everyone that he is the "real" Father Christmas and that people should beware of the impostor who turns up on the 25th.

Xmas comes early to Zagreb



St. Nicholas attends a staff briefing in Zagreb to make sure everyone is being good for Christmas. Photo: Sub-CPIC, Zagreb.



Lt. Tom Jeffries, U.K. Army

"I would really like to have my girlfriend around for the holidays."

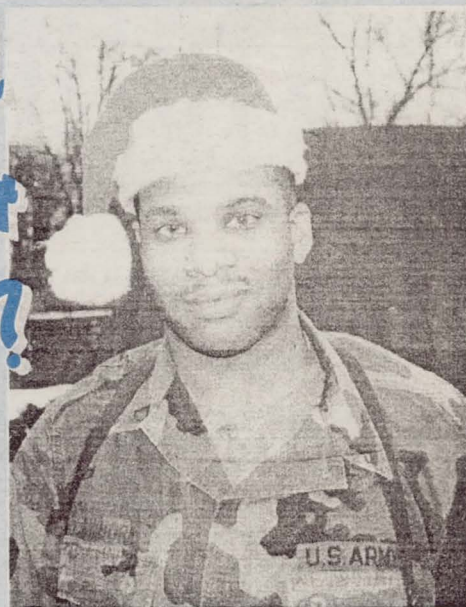


HFW Hans-Joachim Neumann, German Army

"That is very easy...I would like to go home to my family for Christmas time. But this year it is impossible because I will have to stay here in Sarajevo."

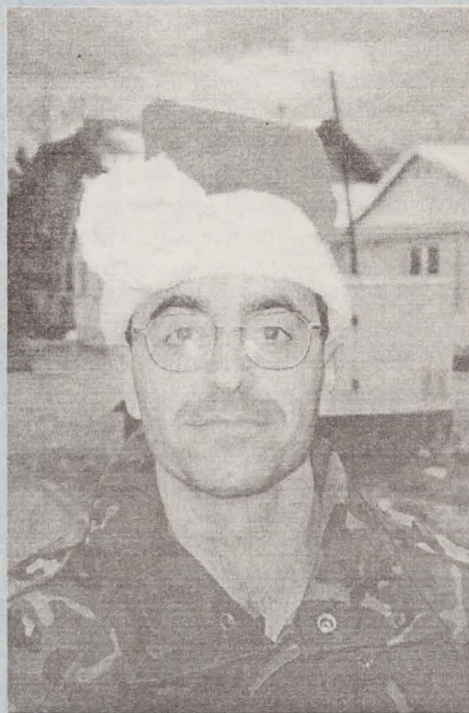
What would
you like for
Christmas?

Question and photos by
IFOR Informer Staff



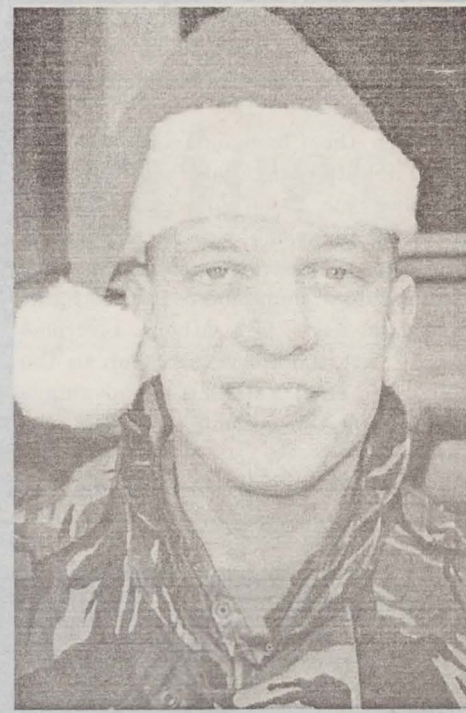
Pfc. Uganda Lawhorn, U.S. Army

"I ordered about \$1000 dollars worth of clothes ages ago and they still haven't arrived here yet. I want those for Christmas."



SSgt. David Angulo, Spanish Army

"I would like Father Christmas to make the time here go fast so that I can go home to my family. I'd also like the Bosnian people to find their peace and stop fighting."



Sgt. Maj. Hans Does, Dutch Army

"I would like Father Christmas to bring good weather to Sarajevo. No fog or bad weather for everybody, and that everyone have a good Christmas and New Year."