



Dragons' Tale



TF 2-14 Infantry Golden Dragons Kosovo KFOR 3B Newsletter
Issue 2, February 2002

From the Commander's Bunker

To the Golden Dragons and our families:

Well we have now passed the halfway point of our mission in Kosovo. Our operations are going great, and the Golden Dragons are doing extremely well—I am very proud of them and you should be too. We are making a big difference here in Kosovo, and that makes all the sacrifices worthwhile. We continue to occupy our place of honor at The Right of the Line as we lead the way through this deployment. A team of Scouts from HHC with SSG Ossman from Alpha Company recently was the only American team to successfully complete a grueling 42-mile, 2-day foot march sponsored by the Finnish Army—great job! Alpha Company is also doing a great job with a sector that is larger than all the other companies' combined. Bravo Company has fully secured the city of Gjilane, and KFOR is now able to reduce its presence there, meaning Bravo will head south for some more action in the spring. And Charlie Company, our main effort, continues to do a great job preventing violence in the hotspot of Cernica, along with the Scouts, AT Platoon, and Mortars. I tell you all, these soldiers are doing great! Special recognition for PFC Joseph from Bravo Company who won both the All Army and All Armed Forces Boxing Championships, to SSG's Roland and Ossman who will represent the Battalion and the Division at the Army's Best Ranger Competition in April, and to all the soldiers who have reenlisted to continue serving our great nation during our war against terrorism. You all truly deserve your place of honor at The Right of the Line!

LTC Jim Klingaman

Dragon 6

From the Command Sergeant Major's Foxhole

Hello Golden Dragon families!

Proud to report that your spouses have crossed the half way mark and are anxiously awaiting the redeployment. We certainly understand how much you miss these great soldiers and look forward to your reunion. With that said, our mission here in Kosovo remains filled with unique challenges, hope, and compassion. The Kosovar people we interact with daily are truly grateful for our dedication and commitment. Moreover, they understand full well the sacrifices our soldiers and families are making in order to provide them with a safe and secure future. If they could tell you in person, I'm sure they would say "Thank you!"

The Golden Dragons have performed remarkably well over the past 3 months. Our men have executed over 1,000 presence patrols throughout our sector, and have provided security escorts for busses, school children, and numerous VIPs. Additionally, we have been actively engaged in many of the local municipalities and working toward building a cooperation and partnership between Serbians and Albanians. The efforts of many are starting to come to fruition.

We certainly know that we could not be successful here in Kosovo without the tremendous support of our families. Each of your spouses will return with a new sense of patriotism, pride, and enthusiasm for what the United States of America represents. We thank each of you for all you do and have done for us, for fellow Golden Dragon families, and for your country. I hope you are as proud of you husbands as I am. We look forward to seeing you soon and enjoying the warm North Country summer.

CSM Steve Greer

Dragon 7

Violence Sidestepped

Any day, anywhere, any time something can go wrong. A patrol may be out in sector, and meet up with some rowdy teens. A gate guard may have to deal with a drunken local. It doesn't matter, where or how something can go wrong. As soldiers it is our job to prepare for the unlikely and the worst possible event. In Kosovo it is our job to maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone, civilian and military. This means that we protect and serve, not kill, unless absolutely necessary.

The use of non-lethal techniques to stop violence is necessary. The need for dealing with soldiers, civilians, and combatants in a non-deadly manner has been prevalent since Americans have taken on the role as the world's police force in the Balkans. 2nd Battalion 14th Infantry's response to this need is the Combatives program. Combatives is a combination of self-defense techniques such as Jujitsu, Sambo, boxing and wrestling that have been adjusted to suit the needs of the Army in peacekeeping operations.



SGT Hathaway moves in for the finish

The battalion began training on these techniques more than 18 months prior to deploying, and every soldier in the battalion is capable of safely making an arrest, subduing a combatant, and restraining an angry civilian. The methods are varied, from simple wristlocks and joint manipulation, to more aggressive movements such as blows and punches. All of these techniques can be accomplished while wearing the bulky body armor that protects soldiers from shrapnel and bullets, in fact, Jujitsu was developed for use by ancient samurai as a method of conducting unarmed battle while wearing heavy metal armor, making it an ideal compliment to hand combat in today's theaters of operations.



CSM Greer demonstrates a new stretching exercise.

The training that led to our current level of proficiency wasn't easy. 1SG Guy Williams, Charlie Company First Sergeant supervised and conducted most of the program. 5 grueling days of wrestling, falling, sweeping, striking and sweating was only the beginning! The reward for completing this week? You were allowed to have the privilege of being MACED by a federal police officer. Oleoresin Capsicum, or OC spray was sprayed into each soldier's eyes and face, and then they were

required to fight their way through an obstacle course, without losing their weapon to attackers. Only after fighting their way through the gauntlet were they allowed to wash the burning chemical from their faces.



SPC FOX is laying on some pain!

What did soldiers say when it was over? "When's the next class?", and "I can't wait to do it again!", were the most common responses. The second class was just as challenging, with 3-mile runs, carrying 500-pound telephone poles, and cross-country runs blindfolded, and with hands and legs tied together. No MACE this time, instead soldiers were required to fight as many as 4 people at the same time, some of them armed with rubber knives and fake pistols. Needless to say, your sons and husbands are well prepared to handle any physical situation!

Today the sectors and villages that 2-14 INF handles are relatively peaceful, with little violence. This does not mean that we stop training. 3 times a week Command Sergeant

Major Steven Greer conducts JuJitsu training. One of his favorite invites is: "Come get choked!" This training is more recreational, and not as grueling as prior sessions have been, The focus here is learning something, but still having some fun as well. You can see more of what CSM Greer teaches at GreerJuJitsu.com. Take a look, you may see a photo of your son or husband having a blast.



The Guillotine

These training sessions are a chance for soldiers to relax, and let off some steam as well. There is no rank on the mat, and there are never hard feelings either. It's a great way to stay in shape, learn a valuable art, and to pass the winter months away, while waiting to go home.

The Right of the Line!!!
-SSG Shawn Rohan-

Visitors Experience Kosovo

Every week we receive multiple visitors at Camp Monteith. These visitors include the KFOR Commander, LTG Valentin and the XVIIIth Airborne Commander, LTG McNeill. We've hosted Congressmen, congressional aides, distinguished local citizens, and media from the Fort Drum Watertown area. All of them are here to learn what we, the Golden Dragons, do to make Kosovo a better place. We have also received visitors who come to entertain us. Mariah Carey, the Phoenix Cardinals and Washington Wizards cheerleaders, and several ex-professional athletes have come to chat, sign autographs, and perform for us.



Above: C Co Commander CPT Matt Romagnoulo briefs the KFOR Commander LTG Valentin on patrol operations in Cernica.

(Clockwise) Right: Congressman John McHugh, R-NY, at lunch with LTC Klingaman. Bottom Right: The Washington Wizards Cheerleaders perform for 2-14 and Camp Monteith soldiers. Bottom Left: Mariah Carey visited Camp Monteith in December



A Co Terminators

A Company continues to work very hard throughout our Area of Responsibility. We have changed the focus of our operations a little. Now that we have ensured the citizens in our area live in a safe and secure environment, we are trying to help them generate an economy and encourage them to police themselves.

We find ourselves now trying to help open the Novo Brdo Mine which is currently closed and used to employ over 1000 people. This mine is the most important and most immediate way we have of generating an economy and some income for the people who live in poverty. We are also working very hard to have the police help to control the criminals throughout the area.

Currently, we are focusing on stopping people who illegally cut down firewood from the forests in the area. All of the platoons have found and stopped people who have been cutting wood without permits.

While working very diligently, we have conducted squad live fire exercises at a local range. It's a nice break from the routine to have a couple of days where we can stop thinking about the problems of Kosovo, and start thinking about how to be infantrymen again. The squads trained on setting up a support by fire position for a notional platoon attack, and the squads also practiced destroying a bunker. It was great training, and a nice break for everyone.

We are now more than half-way through the deployment! We miss everyone, and can't wait until we come home!

Terminators!!!
-CPT James Allen-



Above: 2nd Platoon attacks a bunker under the cover of smoke during day live fire. Below: 2nd Platoon moving into position at night during Squad Live Fire Exercise.



B Co Barbarians

As the snow disappears and the winter melts away to spring, the soldiers of Bravo Company have taken part in a variety of missions. Whether it is keeping the peace here in Kosovo, conducting Live Fire Exercises, or showing VIP's the city of Gnjilan, the soldiers of Bravo Company have risen to the occasion.

1st Platoon "Spearheads" have conducted four ranges this month. These ranges ensured that soldiers are maintaining the precision needed for various organic weaponry. The "Spearheads" are led by 1LT Bailey and the salty SFC Meehan.

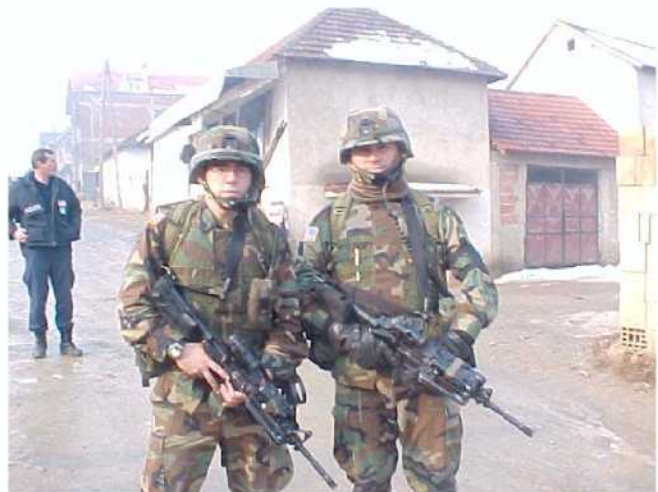
2nd Platoon "Get Some" conducted a Squad Live Exercise, which tested the skill and technical proficiency of its platoon. The rest of the company will also conduct this exercise throughout the month. 2nd Platoon constantly works to improve the conditions of the local kids of Gnjilan. This month SSG Siler passed out school supplies to various schools of different ethnicities.

3rd Platoon "War Pigs" participated in the seizure of weapons and ammunition, which is a direct violation of the UN resolution. The "War Pigs" also conducted an escort mission that included BG Lute, the future Task Force Falcon Commander for KFOR 4A, and distinguished veterans of World War II that served in the 10th Mountain

Division. The veterans were very proud of the job we are doing here in Kosovo. They also were willing to answer any questions that we had on the battles they fought in. Seeing the founders of the 10th Mountain Division made many of the soldiers in Bravo Company proud to follow in their legacy and wear the division patch on our shoulder. Even though the soldiers of Bravo Company miss their family and friends they will continue to improve the conditions here for the people of Kosova so that they may have the same opportunities we have in America

BARBARIANS!!!

-1LT William Henderson-



SSG Shinholt and PFC Ciampa strike a pose while they do a presence patrol in the city of Gnjilane.

C Co Cobras

In mid-December, the men of Charlie Company 2-14 infantry switched their focus from the long roads and wide open spaces of the Novo Brdo municipality to the streets of Cernica, about fifteen miles from the Task Force headquarters at Camp Monteith. The company's new home is Observation Post Power, a small camp on the side of a windswept mountain. About seventy soldiers reside there, while the rest of the company "commutes" to Cernica from Camp Monteith.

Since KFOR's deployment in 1999, Cernica has been a focal point. During the conflict that led to NATO's involvement, there were many incidents of violence and ethnic conflict between the Albanian and Serb communities, and problems have continued.

Time and KFOR's efforts have helped to calm things down and Cernica has been quiet since our arrival. Every day, the company's soldiers patrol the streets, talk to the local nationals (particularly the children, who are drawn to the patrols like bees to honey) and cautiously watch the town. The days are long, but the results are clear – after over two years of violence, Cernica is moving into its third month without incident.

The battalion headquarters has set the conditions for the company security plan through community projects including the formation of a Boy Scout Troop, movie showings and athletic events. All of these events are geared towards cooperation in the town and they have been extremely successful.

Everyone is anxious to get home. See you soon!

Cobras!!!
-CPT Matt Romagnoulo-



Above: A view of the town of Cernica, where C Co is currently maintaining a safe and secure environment.



Above: A fire team from C Co conducts one of many daily presence patrols. Below is the Serb Orthodox Church in Cernica.



HHC Headhunters

On 02-03 February 2002, five members of Task Force 2-14 participated in the Finnish sponsored Cold Day March. 1LT Matthew James, SSG (P) Dave Schumacher, SSG Mark Roland, SSG Rob Ossman, and SSG Paul Wilkes completed the grueling 75 kilometer foot march in just over 14 hours of walking time.

The March started at Camp Villa, home of the Finnish Battalion in Lipjan, Kosovo. From there the route proceeded west into the mountains and stopped 37.5 kilometers out. This was the stop point for the first stage. If a team did not reach this point within eight hours then that team was disqualified. All teams bedded down at this point from midnight until 0600. At 0600 all teams that were able moved out and back along the same 37.5 kilometer route toward Camp Villa.

Aside from sheer distance, the route was difficult due to the amount of ascent and descent, mud, ice, potholes, and lack of light at times. However, although the temperature was not as cold as the Finns had anticipated and desired for the event (hence the name), it was just right for a sustained march over rolling terrain. Not too hot and not too cold and the sun was even shining over Camp Villa when most of the participants returned through its gates at the end.

Over 30 five-member teams from all over Europe participated in the Cold Day March. Unfortunately, approximately only 11 teams were able to complete the event within the allotted time. The Task Force 2-14 team was fortunate enough to be one of the teams that finished on time and together. Using teamwork, taking breaks as necessary, keeping a consistent pace, and supplying constant good humor were all factors in Task Force 2-14's success.

The pool of international talent was extremely friendly and spirited.

Opinions and ideas were exchanged before, during, and after the march by the participants regarding types of ruck sacks, boots, weapons, and equipment in general as well as about the success of the mission in Kosovo. All agreed that what we are doing is important for the future of Kosovo and Europe and that events like the 1st Traditional Finnish Cold Day March are outstanding ways of bringing the international community together to better understand our allies and their cultures.

Headhunters!!!
-CPT John Hodgson -



Top and Bottom: The 75KM Cold Day road march team take a hard earned break from their trek.

