



“Well, I rope (rodeo) in my spare time. The MWR has many things for the soldiers to do – mine would be singing (karaoke).”

Pfc. Nathan P. Anderson,
Co. A, 2-6 IN,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo



“I participate with the the (local) kids at Champion Karate.”

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dawes,
Headquarters and Headquarters
Co., 2-6 IN,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo

Man on the street

What
are you
doing
to pass
your
off-duty
time
while
deployed
?

IRONSIDE



“I go to the gym, (take) correspondence courses and help my soldiers with the promotion and soldier of the month boards.”

Sgt. Billy J. Cuellar,
Co. A, 1-6 IN,
Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia



“I enjoy a little rest and relaxation, and extra PT.”

Pfc. Joshua Dindore,
Co. A, 1-6 IN,
Camp Able Sentry, Macedonia

Partners in peace

IRON SOLDIERS,
KFOR ALLIES
PRESERVE
BALANCED BALKANS
TRUCE

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Michael Pintagro
13th Public Affairs Detachment



Soldiers from Company C, 2-6 IN ponder noises in the distance the afternoon of Feb. 12 during a patrol of the Mucibaba region of Kosovo near Outpost Terminator.

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo — Checkpoint 75, located some four kilometers west of the Yugoslav border, separates the predominantly ethnic Albanian Presevo Valley from Serb territory to the east.

A compact car of eastern European make on route to Kosovo approaches the checkpoint. Armed soldiers halt the vehicle.

While a private first class from the 1st Armored Division examines the driver's passport, a private from the 13th Russian Tactical Group inspects the vehicle and its contents.

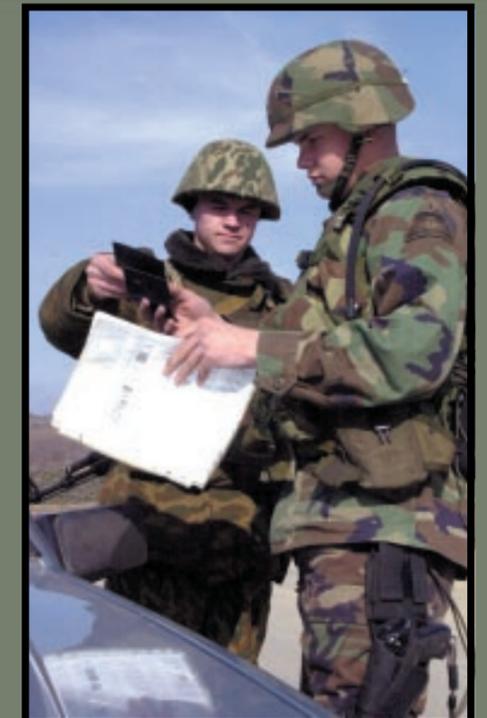
Thus passes a routine spectacle virtually unthinkable as recently as last year: Russian and American soldiers jointly operating a checkpoint designed to minimize weapons transport along Kosovar borders and hence help preserve Balkans peace.

Vehicles and foot-travelers approaching Checkpoint 75 pass only after receiving a thorough inspection of their automobiles, trucks or wagons, cargo, identification documents, and other appropriate credentials.

“We're providing an overall sense of safety and security in this region and Kosovo as a whole,” 1st Lt. John Mini, the leader of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1-35th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division, said of his mission.

“The job is like that of any other soldier here,” added Sgt. Christopher West, a tank gunner from Leesville, La., who serves in Mini's platoon. “Provide security, ensure a safe and secure environment.”

According to Mini, soldiers manning Checkpoint 75 “screen people going from Serbia to Kosovo or Kosovo to Serbia; we check IDs, screen to see if anyone trying to pass is wanted.”



Pfc. Ben Dojaquez of Company A, 1-35 AR and Pvt. Ramil Mangurov of the 13th Russian Tactical Group inspect a traveler's credentials the morning of Feb. 12 at Checkpoint 75, Kosovo.