

KFOR makes house calls

Story and photos by
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CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo—Members of Company C, 501st Forward Support Battalion, in conjunction with personnel from the Russian 13th Tactical Group, conducted a routine Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) in the town on July 14. The unit typically conducts the MEDCAP in different communities – on average, three times a week.

A MEDCAP provides immediate medical care to persons suffering from minor conditions. For major medical concerns, the individual is referred to the nearest hospital facility.

“Some might refer to it as ‘tailgate medicine,’” explained 2nd Lt. Bianca Ellis, treatment platoon



Sgt. Douglas R. Morris (right), squad leader for Company C, 501st Forward Support Battalion, is assisted by Nevenka Galevska, a Macedonian interpreter, in doing a preliminary medical screening on an elderly Kosovar-Serb woman during a Medical Civil Action Program in the town of Carevce, July 14.

leader for Company C, 501st FSB. “This is a temporary fix. We don’t have the means to treat long-term illnesses. We try to provide medical care until [the local community] can provide for

itself.”

“We’re trying to get to the remote areas that don’t have a medical facility . . . the places that really need us,” Ellis continued. “There are plenty of areas we still need to reach.”

Persons seeking treatment arrived and were screened. Vital signs and medical information were taken before the patient saw the doctor. The most common afflictions recorded by the members of Company C, 501st FSB were muscular-skeletal problems and skin problems, commonly rashes.

More than 20 people from the community were examined. None were referred to a medical

facility. Most ailments were easily treated by dispensing pain relievers, according to Ellis.

“I like doing this,” said Sgt. Douglas R. Morris, squad leader for Company C, 501st FSB. “A lot of work needs to be done out here. I think we have an effect.”

Morris, on his first actual MEDCAP mission, examined and screened each person seeking help.

The continuing mission of MEDCAPs is to provide medical support to the remote communities of Kosovo. Their mission of care will carry on until the communities are capable of medically supporting themselves.



Sgt. Douglas R. Morris checks the heart rate of a Kosovar-Serb man during a Medical Civil Action Program conducted in the town of Carevce, July 14.