

1st Armored Division

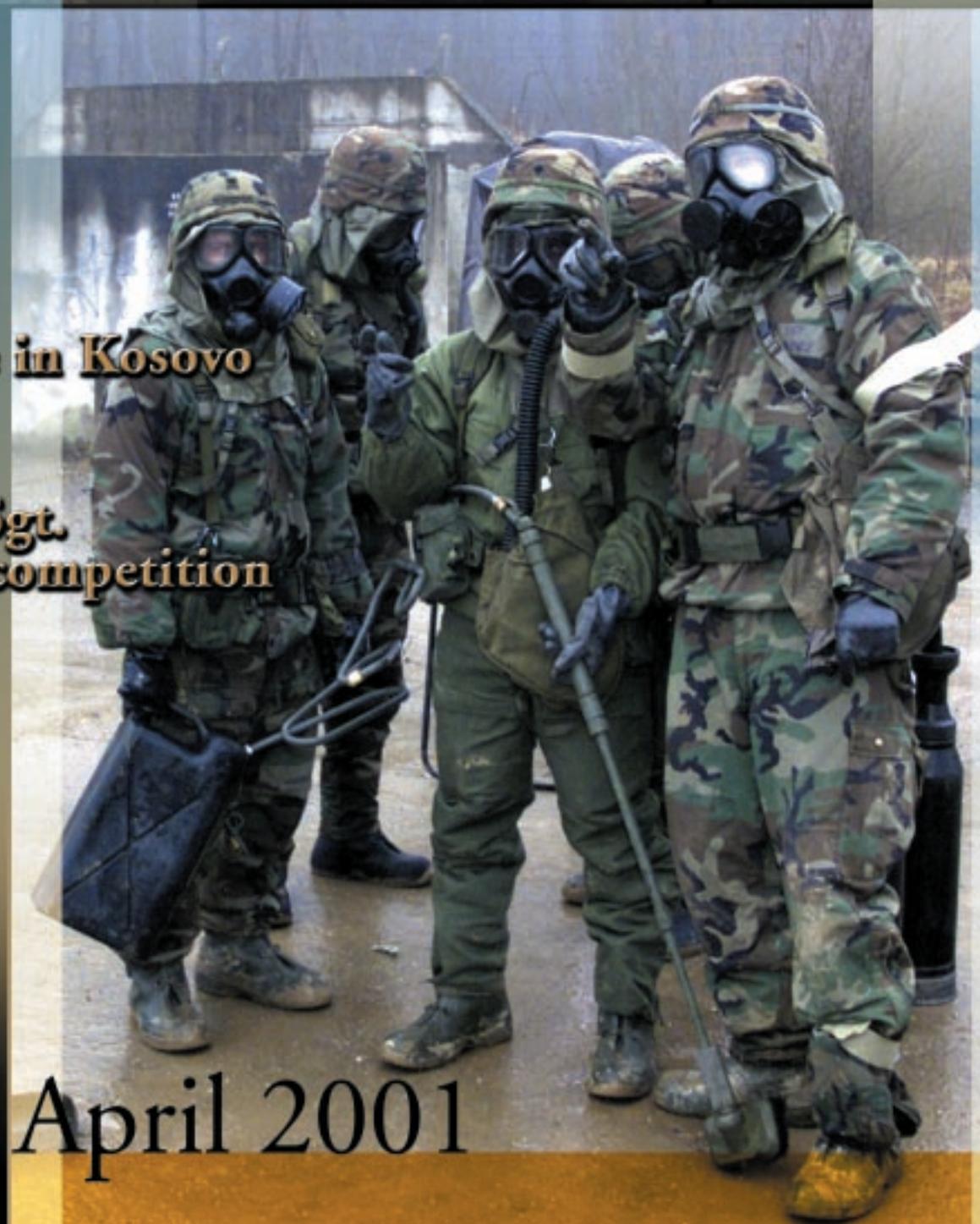
IRONSIDE

America's Tank Division

**2-37 AR
gases it up!**

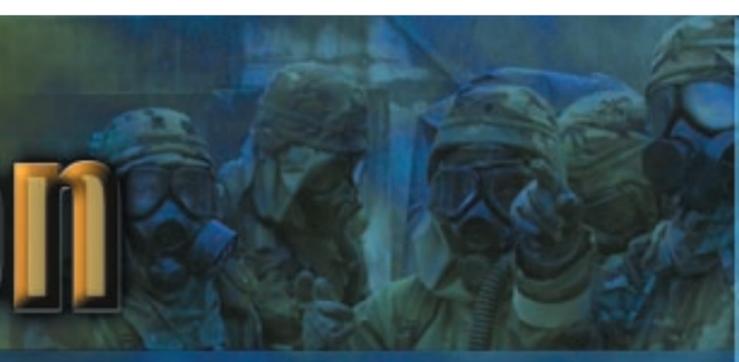
**47th FSB
gives eye care in Kosovo**

**501st MI 1st Sgt.
weighs into competition**



April 2001

America's Tank Division



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Questions or comments should be directed to:

1st Armored Division PAO
Unit 24309
APO AE 09252
E-mail: withrowg@hq.1ad.army.mil

Ironside staff
1st Armored Division Commander
Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Darryl C. Darden

Public Affairs NCOIC
Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter

Ironside Editor
Sgt. Gregory E. Withrow

Assistant Editor
Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

Graphic Artist
Kerri Schools

Staff Writers
Spc. Joe Thompson
Spc. Roderick A. Berry

Webmaster
Daniel Stahl

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A 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment soldier crouches down to perform security overwatch while on patrol near Checkpoint Sapper. Photo by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

Division Command Sgt. Maj. commends the development of junior NCOs



Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth O. Preston

Having watched the development of junior noncommissioned officers over the last 9 months as part of Task Force 2A and 2B, senior leaders throughout the division can be proud of the learning and development that has taken place.

Kosovo is truly a laboratory for leadership development in the truest

sense. Sergeants on this deployment, are fully committed with their soldiers to the mission everyday, for 6 months. These young leaders live the attributes of Sergeant Morales.

They share and endure the same hardships as their soldiers. From the long hours of work, to the lengthy patrols along a rugged border or crowded city, to guarding a church or school, sergeants gain 3 years of experience in 6 months.

These future senior leaders have the unique opportunity to see the principles of leadership at work. They fully appreciate the communication and motivation skills they have gained, that influence their soldiers to accomplish any mission.

For those who have lived the Kosovo experience, these deployed peacekeepers will tell you just how busy the operational tempo was for every

soldier doing the mission.

Leaders at all levels stay fully engaged with their own areas of responsibility, putting full leadership responsibility on their most junior leaders.

What does full-leadership responsibility really mean? Sergeants serving in team and squad leader level positions, conduct real world patrols with their soldiers throughout Kosovo. Sergeants are responsible for conducting to standard, the preparation, pre-combat checks, and rehearsals for their team of soldiers. That is how we grow leaders in the Army; establish tough standards, empower our junior leaders, and hold them accountable.

How well do these young leaders perform? Magnificent, amazing, wonderful, and terrific; these are only a few of the words used by many visiting senior leaders, congressmen and anyone who wants to see first hand, what the mission in Kosovo is all about.

All of these visitors depart Kosovo with a full appreciation of what it means to be a sergeant and the level of responsibility placed on their shoulders. Just as noncommissioned officers have earned the reputation as the "Backbone of the Army," these sergeants in Kosovo are truly the "Backbone of Task Force Falcon."

IRON SOLDIERS!



“I want to go to Paris with the man I love.”

Pfc. Jessica K. Ruoss
Company C,
141 Signal Battalion,
Unit Supply Specialist,
Bad Kreuznach, Germany

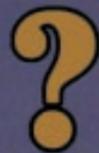


“I am going to go to Paris Disney. I have always wanted to meet Mickey.”

Capt. Mary Card
Headquarters,
Task Force 2nd Battalion,
6th Infantry Regiment,
Command Judge Advocate,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo

Man on the street

What are you going to do with your tax return



“I am going to make an extra car payment.”

1st Lt. Robert Bohr
Company B,
47th Forward Support Battalion,
Shop Officer,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo



“I am going to put it away and save it for when I get out of the Army.”

Pfc. Jeff E. Hellbusch
Company C,
2nd Battalion,
6th Infantry Regiment,
Bradley Driver,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo

Former division commander 1988-1989 returns to visit 1AD family

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany—It's been 12 years since Gen. (Ret.) Frederick Franks commanded the 1st Armored Division. In January, when he visited 1AD soldiers conducting peace-keeping operations in Kosovo, it seemed as if he'd never left.

On Jan. 25, Franks traveled to Kosovo to get a firsthand look at what 1st Armored Division soldiers are doing now. Escorted by 1AD commander, Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. and 1AD command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Major Kenneth Preston, Franks spent three days touring the American sector and talking to 1AD soldiers.

In appearance, Franks resembles a college professor more than a retired combat veteran. At 5 foot 9 inches, he's slender and impeccably groomed. His hair has turned to salt and pepper with the gray, but his moustache—still trimmed to Army Regulation 670-1 standards—is pure white. Talking to 1AD soldiers manning the volatile Checkpoint Sapper on the Serbian border of Kosovo, his eyes crinkle with laugh lines from behind wire-rimmed glasses. He looks like a grandfather beaming with pride during his grandson's first at-bat.

Clad in khakis and an old, green flight jacket, Franks may have looked out of place among the soldiers who were dressed out in full battle rattle: Kevlar helmets, flak vests, load-bearing equipment and weapon. But when he



Former 1st Armored Division commander Gen. (Ret.) Frederick Franks receives a guided tour of Task Force Falcon checkpoints in Kosovo from soldiers of “Old Ironsides.”

spoke to them, it wasn't the talk of an old veteran back to visit his former unit. It was the talk of soldiers, albeit one with a wealth of experience. Franks is almost a legend among those who are now climbing the ranks.

The younger officers and NCOs stood on the periphery, listening as the company commander briefed the small entourage, but they listened even more intently as Franks asked questions and made observations, demonstrating his keen awareness of not only the Balkans mission, but 1st Armored Division's involvement in it. They waited patiently before shyly asking to have their photos taken with him. Franks, appearing to be a reluctant celebrity, patiently posed with

each one.

“I see great pride in the division, ‘Old Ironsides. Iron Soldiers.’ It's great to hear that around. It's a great pleasure and inspiration to be able to come back to the division and talk about our profession, training and leader development. To see the pride and the great work that the division is doing today in a totally different national security environment than when I was the division commander.”

Franks has returned several times to visit his former unit. As the VII Corps commander, Franks saw the 1st Armored Division in action during Operation Desert Storm. His most recent visit was last year during the V Corps Warfighter exercise.

This was his second visit with deployed 1AD troops. His first visit taking place in Tuzla, Bosnia, in 1998, where 1AD soldiers were also engaged in peacekeeping operations.

"I visited the division on a fairly steady pattern. I've just been fortunate," said Franks. His voice is soft and mellow. The old saying goes, if you want to get someone's attention, whisper. Franks voice and demeanor seem to command, even from those soldiers who didn't recognize him.

"I was filled with great pride, seeing what the soldiers are doing. "Just walking around, walking through the city of Gjilan/Gnjilane and seeing the soldiers guarding churches and schools," Franks said of his recent visit with 2nd Brigade soldiers in Kosovo. "I was just inspired to see what they are doing and what they are accomplishing on point for the nation. I saw great skill and discipline in the NCOs and superb small unit leaders."

The 12 years since he left 1st Armored Division have been memorable, to say the least. After relinquishing command of the division in 1989, Franks assumed command of VII Corps, based in Stuttgart, Germany. For American soldiers everywhere, especially those stationed in Europe, it was an historic era. On Nov. 9, 1989, with very little notice, the Berlin Wall fell, ending the Cold War climate that had dictated the U.S. Army's mission in Germany for so many years.

"[The fall of the Berlin Wall] happened fairly quickly. We, of course, were as happy as anybody else to see freedom come to so many people. I felt

a great pride for all the soldiers and leaders. I was the VII Corps commander at the time. We spent a lot of time training to pursue the goal of peace with freedom. The other thing that we wanted to do was to say to ourselves, 'Now, the situation has changed. What are some new training challenges that we need to turn our attention to in order to operate in this rapidly evolving different set of conditions from what had existed a very short time before that.'

Franks had little time to adjust to the new climate and what that might

"I saw great skill and discipline in the NCOs and superb small unit leaders."

**Gen. (Ret.) Frederick Franks,
former 1AD Commander,
visiting Kosovo**

mean for his command's mission. On Aug. 2, 1990, under Saddam Hussein's orders, seven Iraqi divisions invaded Kuwait.

Franks and his soldiers deployed to Saudi Arabia, where he commanded the U.S. and British VII Corps forces. In the desert, Franks commanded approximately 100,000 American and British soldiers, including the 1st and 3rd Armored Divisions, the 1st U. S. Cavalry Division, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the British 1st Armored Division, three artillery brigades and an aviation brigade. It was under Franks' command that Coalition forces launched the main attack resulting in the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991.

"[The 1st Armored Division's] performance was magnificent. The soldiers and leaders took the fight to the enemy day and night, in sandstorms and in the rain, over 250 kilometers in 89 hours. It was not without its cost; think of the soldiers that didn't come back, the families."

"Soldiers and leaders of that time—many of whom are around here now—wrote a proud new page in the great history of this division," Franks said.

Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm was not Franks' first experience in combat. Franks had been a young major, assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He deployed to Vietnam in August 1969 to serve as the battalion plans, training and operations officer.

In May of 1970, during the Cambodian invasion, Franks was wounded. A grenade explosion mangled his left leg and foot. Franks was medically evacuated. After several months in the hospital, Franks was growing steadily weaker from the constant infection. The doctors had given Franks the choice of whether or not to amputate the leg, although they told him his leg would always give him trouble.

In January 1971, after continued illness from infection, Franks chose to have the leg amputated. After a long convalescence and extensive physical therapy Franks returned to active duty in February 1972, with a prosthetic left leg and foot.

It was this long ago injury that



Gen. (Ret.) Frederick Franks joins Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. during a briefing on stopping illegal border traffic, given by a Russian officer. The sector is patrolled jointly by Russian forces and 1st Armored Division's 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment based in Baumholder, Germany.

brought Franks and author Tom Clancy together. Clancy knew a six-year-old boy who had just lost his leg to bone cancer. Clancy mentioned to a friend of his, Maj. Gen. Bill Stofft, that he'd heard of an Army officer who'd lost a leg in Vietnam. Clancy asked Stofft to approach Franks and ask if he would write a letter to Kyle. Franks wrote a warm letter of support. In doing so, he sparked a friendship with Clancy.

After relinquishing command of VII Corps, Franks was promoted to general and took command of the Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Va. Clancy was a frequent lecturer at Fort Monroe, giving he and Franks a chance to get better acquainted.

Franks retired from the Army in 1994. In 1997, *Into the Storm*, by Tom Clancy with Gen. (Ret.) Fred Franks, was published. *Into the Storm* is a non-fiction accounting of the Iraqi ground war during Operation Desert Storm, although the book is largely a biography of Franks. The book has been successful and even made the *New York Times Bestseller*

list, but that doesn't mean Franks has been bitten by the writing bug.

"It took us the better part of two years to write that book and I'm not eager to write another one," Franks said.

These days, Franks works as a senior observer for the U.S. Army Battle Command Training Program, teaching battle command to senior tactical commanders and staffs in seminars and simulated war games. Franks' team travels extensively, giving Franks the opportunity to visit his former units and interact with soldiers, while still playing an active role in their training.

"There are a lot of enduring realities about land combat that are as true today as they were 10 or 12 years ago. Even while soldiers, leaders and units are deployed to Kosovo, they take the opportunity to train on high-intensity combat skills at squad- and crew-level," said Franks, during a break in the BCTP seminar held in Wiesbaden in January. "It was professionally fulfilling to see the continuing focus of General Casey and the other leadership of the division on training,

readiness, development of leaders, while simultaneously being able to execute with such great skill the mission that the division is doing in Kosovo. Obviously, being able to do both is a lot more challenging than in the Cold War days when we just had to focus on one mission."

Speaking to soldiers comes easy to Franks. Whether it's his reputation or his gentle demeanor that draw soldiers to him, Franks is still a fountain of knowledge from which all soldiers seem eager to drink.

"It's the skill and fundamentals that allow you to be successful in war and allows you to be successful in other missions," Franks said, once again reiterating the importance of realistic training. But time and again, Franks has proven that tough training makes the difference, as he well illustrated during that pivotal 89 hours in the desert.

"The emphasis is on training hard, training to tough standards, training out in the conditions in the terrain and the weather. Back here around the 1st Armored Division family, I see that the Army's in great hands."

2-37 Armor feels the effects of... Gas! Gas! Gas!

Story and photos by
Spc. Roderick A. Berry
1st Armored Division PAO

FRIEDBERG, Germany—Gas! Gas! Gas! Words of warning rang through the wooded hills of Friedberg Training Area in Germany's Taunus Mountains, as Company B, 2-37th Armored Regiment maneuvered their M1A1 Abrams tanks into billowing clouds of CS gas (tear gas) which rolled from the refurbished nuclear, biological and chemical tank training chambers, March 6 — the first time the chambers have been used since the Gulf War.

The NBC chambers sat idle for years, according to Staff Sgt. Stephen Turnacki, 2-37 AR's NBC noncommissioned officer in charge. "[The enclosed personnel chamber] was in complete disarray. There were no lights, paint was peeling the walls and there was graffiti everywhere," said Turnacki.

Civilian contractors restored the facilities and improved the training site. During the renovation, the contractors themselves received some unexpected training. The residual CS gas, which coated the interior of the facility, activated due to heat from lights, producing a cloud of gas. The contract workers did not hesitate leaving the building, said Turnacki. Work resumed after the gas dissipated and 2-37 AR took advantage of the training opportunity within days of the facility's completion.

Preparing for an April tank gunnery qualification, Company B



Pvt. Joshua Shytle, Co. B, 2-37 AR, receives aid from a masked soldier after exiting the personnel NBC chamber in Friedberg Training Area.



Soldiers of Co. B, 2-37 AR aid each other in exchanging MOPP suits.

conducted a Tank Crew Proficiency Course (TCPC). The refurbished NBC chamber provided the stage for mission-oriented protective posture level 4 (MOPP 4) training. The training consists of performing normal combat operations on and around a tank for four hours in a complete chemical suit, performing decontamination procedures, and entering the personnel gas chamber.

"The purpose of this type of training is to give a soldier confidence in the protective mask. But, when you are a member of a tank crew, you also have to have confidence in your tank and its systems. That is the whole concept behind using the chamber. If a crew has no confidence in its equipment then they can't perform their job," explained Turnacki.

After donning MOPP 4 and performing communications checks, one at a time, each Company B tank moved into position inside the NBC chamber, shut its hatches and waited



(Above) Sgt. Victor Charvez, Co. B, 2-37 AR, NBC NCO explains proper protective mask fitting procedures. (Right) Spc. Jack Sanderson feels the effects of CS gas. (Bottom right) An M1A1 Abrams tank rolls into the refurbished gas chamber in Friedberg Training Area.

for the CS gas assault. M1A1 diesel-turbine engines whined as the NBC pressurization system filtered the gas and provided tank crews with safe, breathable air.

"I could not see anything outside [the tank]. I just broke the seal of my mask to see if I could reseal it."

Sgt. 1st Class Edward Buckner
Co. B, 2-37 AR

"They leave their masks on when they are in the tank, but they have the option to take it off," said Sgt. Victor Charvez, Co. B, 2-37 AR, NBC NCO.

The tanks NBC pressurization system is designed to allow crewmembers to operate within the confines of the tank without wearing a protective mask.

"I could not see anything outside [the tank]," said Sgt. 1st Class Edward Buckner, third platoon, tank commander. "I just broke the seal of my mask to see if I could reseal it."

Company B's soldiers dismounted their tanks and moved into the personnel NBC chamber. Breaking their protective mask seals, the soldiers practiced resealing their masks under the stressful conditions of a gas attack.

"I had no doubt that [the NBC pressurization system] would work," Sgt. John Weber, Co. B, tank gunner. "We just finished services, so I knew it would work."



69th Chem. upgrades detection equipment



Pvt. Jacklyn Gorsha, 69th Chem. Co., tests her new NBC detection equipment.

HANAU, Germany—The 69th Chemical Company received upgraded M93A1 Foxes. The Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, Reconnaissance System (NBCRS) Fox has been fitted with radiation detection equipment, chemical detection and sampling equipment, marking equipment and vehicle orientation equipment.

The radiation detections system (AN/VDR-2) is a gamma dose rate meter that measures detects and alerts the crew of deadly gamma radiation.

The chemical detection system consists of a surface sampler, the M43A1 chemical agent detector, the chemical agent monitor, a sample collection and retention system, the M21 remote sensing chemical agent alarm, a meteorological system (MET) and a multipurpose integrated chemical agent alarm (MICAD).

The M21 is the first standoff chemical agent detector approved for use in the field. It detects both nerve and blister agents at line-of-sight distances up to 5 kilometers.

With the new upgrades to the M93A1, the crew was reduced from four to three members including a driver, commander and an operator.

The operator (OP1), located in the rear of the Fox, is responsible for all detection systems operations. The Operator (OP1) is located in the rear of the Fox NBCRS.

"This job is a lot of responsibility," said Pfc. Erik Schierer, OP1, 69th Chem. Co.

"The acquisition of this new equipment helps us [1AD] become part of Force XXI. We can now immediately alert the battlefield about the contamination," said 1st Lt. Bill Maltbie, reconnaissance platoon leader, 69th Chem.

Task force soldiers give the gift of sight



Capt. Greg Hutcheson, the Task Force MedFalcon Optometrist, performs an eye exam on a young Albanian girl as her grandfather holds her up, Feb. 23, in the Kotlina town schoolhouse. Most of the glasses distributed during the Optical Civilian Assistance Program were donations from organizations in the U.S.

Story and photos by
Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni
1st Armored Division PAO

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo—Residents of the small town of Kotlina in the Ljuboten Mountain Range in Kosovo are seeing much clearer now after receiving new glasses.

Task Force Falcon soldiers braved the sometimes treacherous drive to perform optical exams and distribute glasses as part of an Optical Civilian Assistance Program out of a packed town schoolhouse, February 23. They examined and gave glasses to more than 30 people.

“Getting up there was a challenge,

with the sharp turns and steep inclines,” said Capt. Greg Hutcheson, the Task Force MedFalcon optometrist. “The drop-off was kind of scary. But the suspense of the drive up there was all well worth it because of the difference we got to make.”

“Most of the people in the town, and throughout Kosovo, have never had glasses at all in their lives. They have no idea how well they can actually see, according to Sgt. Kenneth W. McClendon, an Optical Technician with Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion.

“What we did today was just to try and give them a pair of glasses that are close to what they need as we can give



After seeing to the optical needs of an Albanian girl, Hutcheson gives an elderly Albanian a vision test.

them,” said Sgt. Jeff D. Freeman, an Optical Lab Specialist with Company C, 47th FSB. “We did our best to maintain the same standard of care we have for everyone else but we were limited in what we could give them by the supply of glasses that came entirely from donations.”

“We did a glasses drive in Germany because we knew we were not going to get any humanitarian aid for these OPCAPs,” Hutcheson said. “We contacted optical clinics throughout Europe and the States. We also contacted the Lions Club chapters in Indiana, Nebraska and Missouri. They shipped us approximately 6,000 pairs of glasses at their own cost.”

The soldiers did face some difficulties finding the right prescriptions and a reasonable fit with the frames.

“It was also sometimes difficult having all of the communication with the patients going through an interpreter, plus some of the patients could not even read the chart because of their age or their education,” Hutcheson said. “The people we saw were mostly far-sighted versus the States, where most people are near-sighted. We were lucky to hit the jackpot in getting them the glasses that we did.”

The soldiers get to perform OPCAPs three to four times a month in small towns throughout Kosovo. They see people who

might not otherwise get a chance to see a doctor.

“With the mission of helping the soldiers, we cannot get out and do this as often as we like or could,” McClendon said. “It makes it a little easier for us, being away from our homes and our

families, to be helping these people so much and to have such an impact on their lives. We had an 80-year-old man in here today who has probably never seen beyond two feet in front of his face and now he can see just as well as anyone else.”



Hutcheson congratulates one of the younger Albanians upon issuing him his new pair of glasses.

Iron 1st. Sgt. weighs into competition

Story and photo by
Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany—Crushing the competition, 42-year-old 1st Sgt. Carlos A. Lewis, Company A, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion, won the 165-pound weight class at the Military National Weightlifting Championship at Fort Hood, Texas, March 3.

Quashing 12 other competitors, the favored Lewis' total score surpassed his nearest rival's score by over 200

pounds. Lewis squatted 539 pounds, bench pressed 341 pounds and dead lifted 539 pounds.

"I knew I was favored going in, but I just took it one step at a time. I kept focussed and tried to help motivate the other competitors," explained Lewis.

Motivating others is something that Lewis does well, according to Capt. Greg Coile, Co. A, 501st MI BN. "The soldiers [of 501st MI BN] feel very proud. I think it's outstanding that a soldier can excel at the demanding duties of being a first

sergeant and win in world-level competition. He is an outstanding ambassador, not only for 1st Armored Division, but all Americans."

Lewis, who works out one to one-and-a-half hours a day, attributes his success to discipline and self-discipline.

"Discipline is my watch word. I am glad to say my mother brought me up right. I grew up in East Orange, N.J., which was a rough neighborhood near Newark. When my mother said to be in at 8:00 [p.m.], she meant [8:00, not [8:01], said Lewis. "I try to apply this

discipline to everything I do."

Lewis recommends strong self-discipline to anyone who wants to begin weightlifting.

"You [must] have a strong mind and self-discipline. Even when you are in the field you can do squat

benders and pushups. If you don't have the equipment you have to improvise. I've used ammo boxes for weights," explained Lewis.

Lewis also credits his command in supporting him.

"Supporting soldiers is important to helping them succeed. My command supports me 110 percent," said Lewis.

Lewis brings his sense of urgency and fairness to his company.

"He [Lewis] is probably the most disciplined first sergeant I have ever met," said Spc. Lindsay Clark, Co. A, 501st MI BN. "He is firm but fair. He plays it straight by the book. He's got more of an infantry mentality. He really instills discipline."

"I think it's great. He puts in 90- to 100-hours a week as first sergeant and still has the discipline to work out,"

explained Sgt. Sara Healy, Co. A, 501st MI BN. "He's a really good example and does a lot for the MI image."

Lewis doesn't limit his positive influence to his soldiers. He is only the second American to compete on the five-man German National Weightlifting Team. Lewis took sixth overall in world competition in Czechia Oct. 22.

"Shoot! [My German teammates] love me and I love them too," grinned

Lewis, who has been competing on the German team for eight years and loves German culture. As Lewis nears retirement, he doesn't want his friendship with Germany or his affiliation with weightlifting to end with his military career.

"I may open a gym here in Germany after I retire," mused Lewis as he sat back and smiled.

"He is probably the most disciplined first sergeant I have ever met. He is firm but fair."

Spc. Lindsay Clark
501st MI BN
talking about 1st Sgt. Carlos A. Lewis

1st Armored Division in action series

Photo by Spc. Roderick A. Berry, 1st Armored Division PAO



1-36 Infantry...through the breach!

Sprinting to clear a breach, 1st Armored Division soldiers from 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment move between overwatching Bradley Fighting Vehicles during training at Friedberg, Germany's Ray Barracks, March 2001.