

# THE CARGO COURIER

38th Airlift Squadron (Provisional) • Ramstein Air Base, Germany

Vol. I, No. 1 • Feb. 22, 2001

## Air Guard delivers on Bosnia mission

Units from Kentucky and Ohio supporting Operation Joint Forge

By 1st Lt. Dale Greer  
Public Affairs Officer

Two Air Guard units assumed responsibility for C-130 operations in Delta Squadron here last week, flying supplies to multinational peacekeepers in Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Forge.

Aircrews, maintainers and support personnel from Ohio's 179th Airlift Wing and Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing will continue supporting the operation through March 4, when they will be replaced by personnel from other Air Guard and active-duty units.

The Ohio and Kentucky airmen began arriving at Ramstein in early December to work alongside their active-duty counterparts from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

The Pope contingent packed up Saturday, however, leaving operations to the Ohio-Kentucky team.

Such intermingling of active-duty and Air Guard members is now the norm around the world, said Lt. Col. Mark L. Stephens, a pilot in the Ohio Air Guard and the current commander of Delta Squadron, also known as the 38th Airlift Squadron (Provisional).

"The concept of the Air Guard as 'week-end warriors' is no longer accurate in today's Air Force," Stephens said.

"The Total Force is definitely a reality, particularly since Desert Storm."

Stephens said two factors are driving the reliance on the Air Guard: A downsized active-duty force and a high operations tempo.

Both factors are, however, hardly recent developments.

In fact, the Ohio and Kentucky units have deployed to Germany at least eight times since the mid-1990s to provide airlift ser-



Photos by 1st Lt. Dale Greer

**TOP: Delta Squadron members load cargo on a C-130 Hercules in support of Operation Joint Forge.**

**BOTTOM: An Ohio Air National Guard C-130 taxis into Ramstein Air Base following an airlift sortie.**

vices in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Stephens said operations like Joint Forge offer advantages for everyone because they

provide an opportunity for the seamless in-

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# Safety, OPSEC and COMSEC play crucial roles in operational success

**W**elcome to Delta Squadron and Operation Joint Forge. For many of you, this is not your first visit to Germany in support of the Bosnia airlift mission.

For all of us, however, it's our first deployment to Ramstein as part of an Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection.

Every one of you is a consummate a professional, and I have no doubt that we will perform well during the EORI.

Airlift is, after all, what we do around the world every day of the year. And we do it very well.

Nevertheless, it doesn't hurt to revisit a few key issues that are crucial to our operational success.

The first of these is safety.

When personnel deploy, they are faced with both familiar and unfamiliar risks.

However, by using Operational Risk Management, or ORM, those risks can be reduced.

To apply ORM, a good tool is the three-step process known as ACT.

ACT allows service members to assess potential dangers, consider the possibilities of what could go wrong, and then take action to avoid unsafe practices.



**Lt. Col. Mark L. Stephens**  
86 AS (Provisional) Commander

You should use this process any time you feel your activities may be unsafe.

**1) ASSESS the environment for risk:**

- Be aware of your surroundings, duties, tasks, etc.
- Analyze what could go wrong

**2) CONSIDER options to limit risk:**

- What can you do about it?
- Is it worth the risk to do it?
- Does the risk require you to el-

evate the decision-making process?

**3) TAKE appropriate action:**

- Implement risk controls by taking preventative action
- Does your action control the risk? If not, start the process again
- Spread the word! Let others learn from your experience.

The second key issue I'd like to address is Operational Security.

Simply put, OPSEC denies our adversaries the ability to analyze our operations in search of vulnerabilities.

To that end, you should prevent disclosure of specific information about operational capabilities that, while unclassified, might help the enemy understand our limitations.

The third key issue I'd like to address goes hand-in-glove with Operational Security—COMSEC.

Communications Security demands that we never discuss classified information over unsecure telephones, radios or computer connections.

You also should never try to "talk around" sensitive information as a means of sidestepping sound COMSEC practices.

If we pay attention to these three factors and perform our jobs to our usual standards of excellence, everything else will take care of itself.

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The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 38th Airlift Squadron (Provisional), Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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# Air Guard units undergo EORI

By 1st Lt. Dale Greer  
Public Affairs Officer

Deployed members of the Ohio and Kentucky Air Guard are undergoing a new type of readiness inspection in Delta Squadron here this week.

The new method, called an Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection, evaluates units during real-world operations, said Lt. Col. Mark L. Stephens, an Ohio Air Guard pilot and commander of Delta Squadron.

Currently, members of Ohio's 179th Airlift Wing and Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing are here flying cargo to Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Forge.

During the EORI, Ohio's command assets will be evaluated by an IG team from Air Mobility Command Headquarters.

Meanwhile, the same team will rate Ohio and Kentucky's aircraft maintenance and aviation packages.

"This is an 'over-the-shoulder' inspection," Stephens explained.

"In other words, the inspectors are basically just supposed to come in and observe what we're doing.

"The concept is that they're coming to watch us operate in the real world and validate that we're capable of doing the job."

Stephens said the new approach offers many benefits over the old method, called an Operational Readiness Inspection, or ORI.

ORIs, which featured simulated attacks and other exercise inputs, required units to deploy to remote training sites for evaluations.

Frequently, such simulations tasked an entire wing and tied up assets for months at a time as units prepared for inspections.

"Generally a unit would spend almost a year out from an ORI practicing operations in a full-blown, wartime environment," Stephens said.

"That's an extremely expensive and time-consuming process.

"For this EORI, we looked at the real-world scenario and prepared accordingly."

Stephens noted that EORIs make more effective use of resources in an era when operations tempo remains high.

"In days of old, when the ops tempo was lower, we could afford to spend a year preparing for inspections based on a simulation.

"Now our ops tempo is so high, we don't have the time to devote to artificial inspections because we're busy doing the real-world missions."

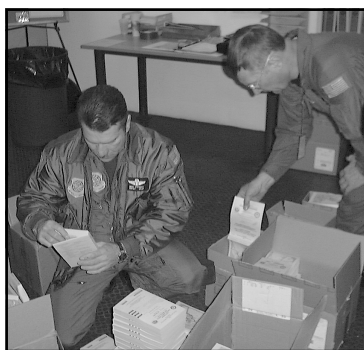
Stephens said the new approach has been well-received. "I love it," he said. "I think EORIs are the way to go."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler

**ABOVE: Staff Sgt. John Waldrip, a propulsion technician from the Kentucky Air Guard, performs maintenance work on a C-130 propeller at Ramstein Air Base.**

**RIGHT: Senior Master Sgt. Mike Cyphert and Master Sgt. Mike Schoenberger, loadmasters in the Ohio Air Guard, help update Delta Squadron's flying publications.**



## Bosnia

Continued from Front Page

tegration of active-duty and reserve-component forces.

Both parties, he said, bring unique assets to the table.

"Many of the people in the Guard came off active duty and can draw on 20 or 25 years' experience," Stephens said.

"I think the active-duty side enjoys working with us because of that depth of experience.

"And we certainly enjoy working with our active-duty counterparts in real-world missions."

# Chaplain distributes encouragement cards

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler  
Cargo Courier Editor

More than 3,000 encouragement cards are being distributed in Delta Squadron this week thanks to the efforts of five women from Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky.

The cards, which were handmade by the group, feature art work, bible verses and information on how to contact deployed chaplains, said Lt. Col. Tom Curry, a chaplain from the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"These ladies worked on this project every Thursday, four to five hours for more than three months, to show support for the deployed troops," Curry said.

"This is a very patriotic group, and many of the ladies have family members in the armed forces, so they understand the stress that (deployed troops) are under.

"These ladies were delighted to make the 3,000 cards so the people in the military could be encouraged and have something from back home," Curry said.



Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler

**Lt. Col. Tom Curry, chaplain from the 123rd Airlift Wing, gives a daily encouragement card to Staff Sgt. Todd Cramer, a visual information specialist in the 179th Airlift Wing.**

## *Video telephone now available for morale calls & emergencies*

By Staff Sgt. Amy Ziegler  
Cargo Courier Editor

Some deployed personnel now have the option to make morale calls from a video telephone, while all Delta Squadron members can use the device to call home in case of an emergency.

The video telephone lets deployed members visually communicate with family back home by using a small video monitor and camera, said Lt. Col. Keith Bohley, a chaplain with the 179th Airlift Wing.

"The video phone provides face-to-face contact with significant others, which helps boost morale," Bohley said.

The chaplain noted that unit members always have the option of using a regular telephone or e-mail to contact loved ones, but he notes: "Without this video phone, they

can't actually see them."

The device also lets members participate in significant events—like a child's birthday celebration—even when deployed overseas.

"This is an important benefit because the video telephone is mobile and can be taken to hospitals in case of emergencies," Bohley said.

"This can help Guard personnel by providing visual communication in cases when they just don't have time to get home."

A difficulty with the phone, Bohley said, is that to make morale calls, the person back home will have to go to the base. In addition, the time difference can be a factor.

*For more information or to sign up to use the video phone, contact Lt. Col. Bohley in the Delta Squadron Operations Building.*

## **Weather Forecast**

**Thursday 39/41**

*Mostly cloudy with early morning rain*

**Friday 37/45**

*Mostly cloudy with isolated showers*

**Saturday 32/41**

*Mostly cloudy with rain showers*

**Sunday 24/34**

*Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers*

# Cell phones & Internet: Gateways for hackers

By Lt. Col. Felecia Tavares  
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany—Moviegoers may remember some of the box office hits in recent years that focus on the vulnerabilities of various information age systems.

Remember the teenagers hacking into classified systems in the movie "War Games" or agencies invading the privacy of citizens and erasing their existence in the movie "The Net" or the evil corporate head who developed programming language to globally control all electronic information systems simultaneously in "Anti-Trust?"

Although fictional, these movies aren't that far-fetched and depict a key feature of information warfare, manipulating information and communications systems to gain an advantage over others.

Every time you turn on a computer or operate a cell phone, there is a risk of infiltration by hacker enemies who lurk in cyberspace cubbyholes waiting for an unprotected door to open and lead them to sensitive military information. If people doubt this assertion, look at what military people work with on their computers on a daily basis.

Where did this information on the computer screen come from? Did it arrive by an e-mail someone sent, or was it downloaded from the Internet or Intranet? Did you call someone from a cell phone?

If people answered yes to any of these questions, they're among millions of computer and satellite users connected to the glo-

bal information infrastructure whose cell phone, computer or PDA potentially can be exploited to inflict damage on our nation's communications systems.

If this fact is a little unsettling, it should be. "(The Department of Defense) estimates it only provides end control of about 5 percent of its communications," said Capt. Christopher Wetmore, United States Air Forces in Europe's 32nd Information Warfare Flight. "The remaining 95 percent rides on public switch networks that are relatively unprotected and globally interconnected, making all of our communications systems vulnerable to attack by hackers and potential enemies."

"The challenge is protecting the communications systems with defensive measures, so perpetrators can't find holes in the system to sneak in and wreak havoc," he said.

Today's hackers and enemies have proven they can get into the most highly protected systems. Recently, during the annual World Economic Forum in Switzerland, hackers seized secret data on 1400 of the world's leading politicians and industry figures, including Bill Gates and former President Bill Clinton, according to forum organizers.

"These kinds of electronic break-ins illustrate the power determined hackers have in the cyber world," said Eric J. Eifert, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agent and chief of computer crime investigations and operations in Europe. "Regardless of persons' status, power or influence, their information may not be safe from this kind of exploitation."

Because of the world's increasing dependency on information technologies, the military and civilian sectors are becoming increasingly vulnerable to this kind of exploitation by terrorist groups.

"When Serbian hackers tracked down families of B-52 aircrews flying missions in the 1999 air war over Serbia and sent them hate mail, Americans were stunned and outraged," Eifert said. "This incident illustrated how information dominance can degrade the will of the people and America's ability to effectively defend itself. Each of us can help America close these information doorways by learning how to protect our information and communications systems."

The 32nd IWF offers some suggestions:  
**Computers:**

- Know your security point of contact.
- Keep passwords secret.
- Use a password-locked screensaver or log out when you leave your desk.
- Don't let unauthorized people have physical access to your computer or your network.
- Don't download software from the Internet.
- Report security problems as soon as possible to your security representative.

**Cell Phones:**

- Don't punch your credit card number into a cell phone.
- Don't discuss operational information (classified or unclassified).

**Handheld devices or PDAs**

- Don't take PDAs into classified areas even if you remove the battery.

## Bank offers clemency to delinquent cardholders

**Air Force Print News**

WASHINGTON— In an effort to minimize the consequences facing airmen who have delinquent government travel card accounts, the card's issuer is granting a one-time opportunity for them to avoid the negative effects of credit bureau reporting.

Bank of America's government card program officials notified senior Air Force leadership this week of a one-time clemency offer for any service member whose travel card account is canceled (more than 126 days past due) but not yet written off as a loss, according to Air Force finance officials.

The contract between the government and Bank of America

allows the bank to report all government travelers who used the travel card and did not pay their bills, said Michael Weber, Air Force travel card program coordinator.

"The contract allows the bank to send this credit information to a credit bureau after the card is 126 days delinquent," he said. "This could cause an Air Force member to be denied future credit for a car loan, utilities, cell phone or other purchases."

"This one-time clemency program is a opportunity to fix this situation that can potentially cause Air Force people grief later," Weber said.

Commanders and senior enlisted advisers can get information on delinquent cardholders in their unit from the organization's activity program coordinator.

# Bush pledges more money for military

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

FORT STEWART, Ga.—President George W. Bush announced Feb. 12 a significant increase in funding for quality-of-life issues affecting U.S. service members.

Speaking to a group of roughly 6,000 3rd Infantry Division soldiers and their family members here, Bush pledged an additional \$5.7 billion in 2002 to be spent between military pay increases and improving military housing and healthcare.

The president got a rousing round of applause when he announced he plans to spend \$1.4 billion on a pay raise for service members—“pay increases on top of the increases the Congress passed (during) the last couple budget cycles,” he said.

Bush also said he plans to spend \$400 million on military housing and an additional \$3.9 billion to improve healthcare.

But he really gained the crowd's support with a well-timed “hoo-ah!”

The soldiers' responding shout was deafening.

“Because of you, America is secure. Because of you, the march of freedom continues,” Bush said. “Our nation can never truly repay our debt to you. But we can give you our full support, and my administration will.”

He said the nation owes its service members and their families a decent quality of life, necessary training and equipment, and solid defense policies.

“When we send you into harm's way, we owe you a clear mission with clear goals,” he said

## European forces safe from ‘Mad Cow’ disease

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—By following prudent guidelines, U.S. service members and their families living in Europe should not fear catching the human derivative of the so-called mad cow disease, DoD veterinary officials say.

A traveler's advisory issued by the Centers for Disease Control for U.S. citizens in Europe notes that “the relative risk of becoming infected with BSE is very small, if it exists at all,” said Army Col. Scott Severin, deputy director of DoD's veterinary Service Activity. “BSE” is short for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, or what the media and public have dubbed “mad cow disease,” he said.

Since March 1996, DoD has not purchased beef from the United Kingdom for commissaries, dining halls, post exchange outlets and authorized vendors to avoid possible customer contact with BSE, he said.

“The beef our service members are eating in the dining facilities comes from the United States,” Severin said. “The meats being sold through Army and Air Force Exchange Service through the concessions and shoppettes or through the commissaries are all from the United States or from countries outside of Europe where there's no evidence of BSE.”

He said DoD took steps in March 2000 to ban the procurement for sale of European-origin ruminant (beef, veal, mutton and lamb) meat and meat products containing them, for consumption by U.S. service members in Europe. “Additionally, DoD has distributed consumer awareness packets throughout European Command and Central Command areas of operations,” he said.

Severin said the CDC's guidance to Americans who eat on the European economy and are concerned about exposure to BSE is to stay away from beef and beef products, if possible. “If you do want to eat beef (off installation), go with solid muscle meats like steak or roasts instead of something ground, like hamburgers or sausages,” he said. “There is no risk associated with eating pork, poultry, milk or dairy products.”

BSE is one of a group of chronic, degenerative diseases that

attack the victim's central nervous system, Severin said. As its name implies, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy affects cattle. The human form is called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Sheep spongiform encephalopathy, one of the more prevalent and better known forms, goes by the name scrapie. Spongiform encephalopathies also occur in other animals including goats, elk, mule deer and cats.

The disease was first identified in the United Kingdom in 1986. British and Irish officials ordered thousands of cattle destroyed to prevent its spread, he said. Spongiform encephalopathy can spread when victims ingest or are injected with infected matter or tissues. Severin said experts today blame contaminated animal feed for the British outbreak.

“The British government put feed bans into place that appear to have been effective in reducing the epidemic in the United Kingdom,” he said. That epidemic peaked in 1993 and the incidence rate has steadily declined since, although cases still occur, he noted.

Severin said concerns about BSE resurged in 1996 when the first cases of a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease appeared in the United Kingdom. There “appeared to be a very strong correlation between eating beef from BSE-infected animals and the occurrence of the variant CJD in humans,” he noted.

The European Union banned the export of all British beef products in 1996 in an effort to prevent the spread of BSE to the continent, he said. This action failed to stop the spread of BSE to Europe.

“BSE has shown up on the continent. The most recent countries to have confirmed cases are Spain, Germany and Italy,” Severin said.

He said the potential danger to humans from eating infected beef products is real, though remote. CDC has estimated the chances of contracting CJD from eating European beef at “less than one in 10 billion servings.”

Both BSE and variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob diseases are caused by “prions,” short for “proteinaceous infectious particles,” according to Web-based research sources. Scientists don't know how or why yet, but prions cause a host's healthy proteins to turn deadly.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is incurable; no serum or vaccine exists, Severin said. Victims usually die within a year, he noted. All cases of variant CJD cases have occurred in Europe.