

THE BONDSTEEL BULLET

April 2014

NEWSLETTER

Issue 13



Burim Jashari, legal assistant, and Capt. Allen R. Jones, a legal assistance and claims attorney, with the Judge Advocate General's office at Camp Bondsteel, work together to provide legal help to U.S. Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians or Army civilians deployed to Kosovo with the KFOR mission. (Photo by Public Affairs Specialist Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist)

- Last year over 100 Power of Attorneys were drafted and over 60 documents were prepared for notarization.
- The JAG office requests that you have all W-2 forms, 1099 and 1098 forms with you when preparing your tax return.

Free Legal Help for Soldiers on Camp Bondsteel

Story and Photos by Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist

If you are a U.S. Soldier or a Government or Federal civilian deployed to Kosovo with the KFOR mission, and you need legal help or taxes filed, the guys to go see in the Judge Advocate General's office are Sasha Sokolovski, a senior paralegal specialist and Burim Jashari, a legal assistant at Camp Bondsteel.

Jashari started working initially as a linguist at the JAG office and since November 2009, works as a legal assistant. Sokolovski has been helping Soldiers file their taxes since June 1999, when he entered Kosovo with the first group of U.S. military forces. He has been providing legal assistance ever since, working with claims and helping Soldiers file their taxes for free at the JAG office.

"Every Soldier that wants to file their taxes, I sit with them, interview them and get the details about their tax return. After I do the calculations we prepare them and file their taxes to the IRS electronically," said Sokolovski. "The money that Soldiers make here is not taxable, but they are still required to file their taxes."

Jashari added that last year he drafted over 100 Power of Attorneys and prepared over 60 documents for notarization.

U.S. Army Capt. Allen R. Jones, legal assistance and claims attorney, said, among other things, Jashari also helps him prepare for the Joint Acquisition Review Board. JARB is an oversight board to make sure that money is spent properly.

"He takes care of the initial analyses of reviewing the proposals to spend money on Camp Bondsteel, and he will provide his input to me and Maj. Alma Whitelaw, the Command Judge Advocate. She is the voting member, but we council and provide input to her so she understands what is happening," said Jones.

Jones explained that Sokolovski does most of the taxes and claims.

"Sasha is an expert, he has been doing this for a long time and he will help the Soldiers save money. Even when I do taxes, I have him review it," said Jones.

"Usually I help each Soldier save a little more than \$100. We are here for Soldiers, to help them," said Sokolovski.

The JAG office requests that you have all W-2 forms, 1099 and 1098 forms with you when preparing your tax return.

"Many people do not know what is deductible or not, so I tell them to bring everything," said Sokolovski.

"I think they are a huge asset to U.S. Army, and if it was not for them, I think that the transitions between rotations of KFOR would have not gone as smoothly. They make the transition very smooth, because they know what is happening and has been happening," added Jones.

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The Bondsteel Bullet is produced for civilians and military personnel on Camp Bondsteel.

Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of Multinational Battle Group-East or Area Support Team Balkans.

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"The money that Soldiers make here is not taxable, but they are still required to file their taxes." – Sasha

Sokolovski senior paralegal specialist.



Sasha Sokolovski, a senior paralegal specialist with the Judge Advocate General's office at Camp Bondsteel, has helped Soldiers file their taxes since June 1999, when he entered Kosovo with the first group of U.S. military forces. (Photo by Public Affairs Specialist Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist)

Meet the Helpdesk

Every time we need help with our computers, we call 119 and helpdesk personnel help us find a solution. Jamie Bourgault, the Information Assurance Manager for the Kosovo Network Enterprise Center, said that Vernon Fisher and Michael Mynatt are very valuable to the mission. "Vernon has been here through many rotations of KFOR, he continues to greet our supported customer with a smile and willingness," said Bourgault. "He loves what he does, and does his job with pride, courtesy, and a sense of duty."

"Michael has been here just under a year. In that time he has proven that no matter what the mission throws at him - he is ready, whether having to baseline hundreds of computers in a week, or helping a soldier with a more routine issue - he is ready, with the skill, experience, and attitude to make any task look just like another day at Camp Bondsteel," added Bourgault.

Vernon Fisher Helpdesk Manager at Camp Bondsteel

How do you start your day?

I usually start my day finishing computer baselines from the day before, checking tickets, and answering trouble calls and doing reports and maintenance of equipment.

How long have you been working here?

I have been working at Camp Bondsteel since the fall of 2006.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

Helpdesk activities, any and all problems that are computer or telephone related or related to devices that are supported on the network.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Solving problems and assisting the customer.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I was born in North Dakota. I am married; wife and I live in Skopje, four children.

What do you and your family enjoys doing together?

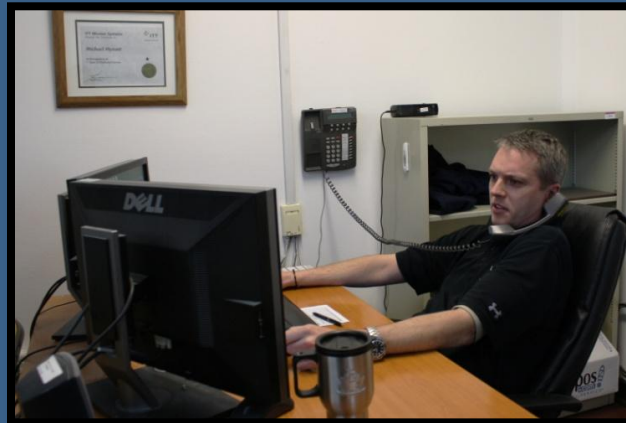
The family and I like cooking, play chess and watch television.

What do you do in your down free time?

There is not much of that with the mission we have, but I love playing golf.

Hobbies or Sports?

Play golf.



Michael Mynatt Helpdesk Technician at Camp Bondsteel

How do you start your day?

I start my day with finishing computer baselines from the day before, checking tickets, and answering trouble calls .

How long have you been working here?

I have been in the Balkans for nine months, and 10 years working for the U.S. Army as a contractor.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

I do desktop support, which it covers a lot, like working on computers, programs, and assist users with all sorts of issues like email, and Common Access Card issues.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Most rewarding is helping the Army accomplish their mission in Kosovo.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I am from Dallas, Texas, married, wife and I live in Skopje. I have one kid, 19 years old back home.

What do you and your family enjoy doing together?

Visiting historic sites in the surrounding area, church functions.

What do you do in your down (free) time?

Visiting with friends in Skopje, travel.

Hobbies or Sports?

Mountain Biking.

Lifeblood of the Army: NCO leads Bondsteel's fueling operations

Story and Photos by U.S. Army Capt. Kevin Sandell, 11th Public Affairs Detachment

Fuel is the lifeblood of military operations and the job of controlling fueling operations is a vital one. As noncommissioned officer in charge of all fuel at Camp Bondsteel, U.S. Army Sgt. Christina Dafney-Pressley recognizes the impact that her trade has on missions. Every day, she toils in the morning sun, ensuring fuel operations on the camp are nothing less than perfect.

If not, equipment, vehicles and human lives could be at risk.

"Fuel is a big part of military operations," the 28-year-old sergeant said. "No fuel means you can't really go anywhere, so it's good to be able to provide a service to everybody, that everybody utilizes."

Dafney-Pressley enlisted in 2003 as an Army human resources specialist. The native of Taylorsville, Miss. changed jobs to petroleum supply specialist after her first deployment to Iraq. Currently assigned to the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, from Fort Hood, Texas, she serves as the contracting officer representative for Multinational Battle Group-East in Kosovo.

Although this position is normally reserved for senior Army logisticians, it was Dafney-Pressley's reputation as a hard-working NCO that got the brigade's logistics section to take notice of her skills.

"I witnessed her in action at [the U.S. Army's Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany] and saw how responsible and committed she is. I knew she was perfect for this position," said Master Sgt. Amy Friendly, MNBG-E logistics NCOIC. "There were critics that felt only a sergeant first class could do it, but I never once doubted her ability to handle the position."

Arriving truckloads of fuel must receive rigorous testing before Dafney-Pressley gives it a seal of approval for delivery to the camp's customers. The fuel's quality must be flawless and held to exact government standards. Army helicopters loaded with faulty fuel, for example, could crash, killing or seriously injuring the personnel on board.

"Nobody wants to be the one that is under investigation for an aircraft malfunctioning for fuel," Dafney-Pressley said. "I never ever want that to happen, but that's a big responsibility and that's the most important thing for me; making sure that the aircraft's fuel is on spec more than anything."

Although dollar values fluctuate depending on aircraft and usage forecasts, on average, Dafney-Pressley is responsible for more than \$570,000 worth of diesel, aviation fuel and gasoline per week.



Sgt. Christina Dafney-Pressley (right), contracting officer representative for KBR fueling operations, speaks with a fueler at the Camp Bondsteel "fuel bag farm" during refueling operations, March 20. Dafney-Pressley serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the fuel point, and is responsible for over \$500,000 worth of fuel on a weekly basis.

While this is her third deployment, it is her first working as a petroleum supply specialist. Many of the civilians Dafney-Pressley works with on a daily basis through Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) have years of experience working fueling operations -- experience she says aids her in learning the trade.

"I have a good crew with KBR, and a lot of them have fuel backgrounds," Dafney-Pressley said. They've made it a stress-free tour for me."

Celebrating the accomplishments of women in service has gained traction in the Army with the recent announcement to open more military specialties to women. Dafney-Pressley thought the influx of female Soldiers entering into previously-closed military occupational specialties is inspiring and historical. She said she is fortunate to serve in an organization where women fought for fairness and added she loves the military, which allowed her to do a lot of things never imagined in the civilian world.

"The women now who are going out and breaking barriers is awesome, and it's given us hope," she said. "It's not just the senior (NCOs), but the (Advanced Individual Training) soldiers who are going into those jobs that were once restricted to males. They're breaking barriers as well and I commend them."

Dafney-Pressley added she feels most females across the military just want to be recognized for their capabilities and not their gender. For her personal goal, she plans on achieving the highest ranks in the NCO



Sgt. Christina Dafney-Pressley, contracting officer representative for KBR fueling operations at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, stands next to a JP8 jet fuel blivet, that is capable of holding nearly 50,000 gallons of fuel. Dafney-Pressley is responsible for over \$500,000 worth of fuel on a weekly basis.



MWR Corner

If you have free time, or you are spending the night at Camp Bondsteel, there are many activities that MWR organizes during the month.

Monday, Apr. 21 there will be a 5 km **Easter Day** fun run starting at 0700 hrs at South Town fitness center.

You can reserve the indoor or outdoor basketball court at South Town Fitness Center. Send an email to Mr. Anthony Mullings and Mr. Jay Debose to make your reservation at the emails below:
anthony.c.mullings.naf@mail.mil
jay.m.debose.naf@mail.mil



If you like working out, Medal of Honor Hall gym and South Town Fitness Center are open 24 hrs.

Karaoke Contest on Thursday Apr. 10 starting at 1900 hrs, at the Coffee Shop

There are different tournaments and regular daily activities such as:

- *Doubles Table Tennis Tournament on Apr. 16, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.*
- *Indoor Soccer Tournament on Apr. 15, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Volleyball Tournament on Apr. 17, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Insanity Class every evening from 2000 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Step Interval and Toning Class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 0630 hrs at South Town Community Center.*
- *8 Ball Pool Tournament on Apr. 22, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.*



Sgt. David Pertle of F. Co. 2-135th Aviation Medevac received the Camp Bondsteel Fire Department T-Shirt as the winner of the monthly Fire Safety Quiz which can be obtained in the dining facility main entrance and South Town Gym. Presenting Sgt. Pertle with his T-Shirt is Miodrag Jovanovic fire department station Chief. (Photo the courtesy of Camp Bondsteel fire department).



Kellogg, Brown and Root firefighters prepare for a live fire exercise on Camp Bondsteel, March 21. The one-day exercise helps keep firefighters on base prepared to respond to possible fire incidents. (Photo by Public Affairs Specialist Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist)