

THE BONDSTEEL BULLET

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 15



Ibrahim Tershnjaku, Kosovo's chief food sanitation inspector, talks to U.S. Army Capt. Nathan Carlton, MNBG-E's Force Health Protection team officer, on hand sanitation during a tour of the Camp Bondsteel Dining Facility, May 19. Currently, there is no standard safety course for food handlers in Kosovo. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos M. Burger II, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)

- 14 inspectors from Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency attended the food safety training at Camp Bondsteel.
- This was the first training for Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency inspectors on food safety held at Camp Bondsteel.

Camp Bondsteel helps to establish food sanitation system in Kosovo

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos M. Burger II, 11th Public Affairs Detachment

It's not every day that Soldiers get to help lay a foundation for a long lasting system in a region.

That's exactly what members of Camp Bondsteel Task Force Medical did when they invited Kosovo's food inspectors to their food handlers' class on Camp Bondsteel, May 19.

U.S. Army Capt. Nathan Carlton, Force Health Protection team officer, said that the idea to invite the inspectors came while planning for training for a separate unit.

"One of our preventive medicine requirements is to make sure everyone on Camp Bondsteel is trained in food safety," he said. "We planned to train the Soldiers working the [Aviation] Waffle House, so we invited some Kosovo food and safety inspectors along so they could see what we do and what our standards are."

Carlton, assigned to Fort Hood's 61st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, added that currently there is no standard safety course for food handlers in Kosovo and the force health protection team is working with the inspectors to help develop their own food safety program.

"There are a lot illnesses that can be transferred through food if proper sanitary conditions aren't followed. It's important to help Kosovo provide the best public safety for their food industry," Carlton continued.

One of the inspectors who went through the class was Ibrahim Tershnjaku, Kosovo's chief food sanitation inspector. Tershnjaku leads the sanitary inspectorate team for all Kosovo's restaurants and hotels and was very impressed with this visit.

"I think we exchanged some very good information with our colleagues here on food safety," he said. "Today's training was essential in learning how to work with food and food handlers. We're going to work on a project where, in the future everyone working in food will have to have a certification."

Also on hand for the training was U.S. Army Lt. Col. Martin LaGodna, command veterinarian for U.S. Army Europe's command Surgeon section. LaGodna's role is to provide oversight and service support in USAREUR's area of operation. He feels this is an important project, both for interagency and multinational interaction.

"For Kosovo, we want to help them develop their public health infrastructure. Secondly we want to help safeguard the food that KFOR receives and we saw this as an opportunity to work with the public health agency to accomplish both things," LaGodna said.

Tershnjaku agreed the class is beneficial for both the inspectors and for Kosovo.

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

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"It's a great feeling to know the things we are doing on this rotation will have a lasting effect in Kosovo." –

Capt. Nathan Carlton, Force Health

Protection team officer



Sgt. 1st Class Michael E. Gee, Task Force Medical food handler class instructor, talks about food storage during a tour of the Dining Facility on Camp Bondsteel, May 19. TF Med's force health protection team is working with Kosovo food inspectors to help develop their own food safety program. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carlos M. Burger II, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)

Meet the Internet Providers

Keeping the commercial internet network up and running takes a lot of effort and 24/7 maintenance, explained Remzi Beqiri, manager at Deployed Soldiers Network, a commercial internet provider at Camp Bondsteel.

"It would be impossible to have the network running smoothly without the great support and work of Driton Emerllahu, as technical support, and Selim Maloku as network administrator," said Beqiri.

Driton Emerllahu, Technical Support

How do you start your day?

After having breakfast and coffee I start looking at the tasks for that day and I try to coordinate the time and work with my colleagues.

How long have you been working here?

I have been working at Camp Bondsteel since 2008.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

I work as the network and internet technician for the internet provider DSN, which is the only commercial internet provider on Camp Bondsteel. Some of my duties are maintaining the network, also do computer hardware and software maintenance, technical support through the phone or at the customers' rooms.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

When things go as planned and customers are satisfied makes me feel good.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I am from Viti, married and we have a son, his name is Kleon.

What do you do in your free time?

The free time that I have I try to spend it with my family, since I am also busy with my studies.

What do you and your family enjoy doing together?

I try to spend as much time as possible with my family, we like to go out for walks, but also to stay at home watch television, or go visit relatives.

Hobbies or Sports?

I like to play table tennis and soccer, read.



Selim Maloku, Network Administrator

How do you start your day?

I start my day checking our monitoring system to see if there are any problems, after that we look at the performance of the network. In the morning we usually check graphing system, which shows us the traffic and any changes from the day before. If there are no problems with network during the day, then our job is to monitor and make sure everything stays good. When we get calls from clients, we do our best to get their problem fixed as soon as possible.

How long have you been working here?

I started working here at Camp Bondsteel in 2004, then I left for Afghanistan in 2010, where I did the same job, finally I came back to Camp Bondsteel in 2013 in the same job.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

My job is to keep our network up and running 24/7. We do service maintenance on our network on daily basis. Troubleshooting is also very important in case the network is performing weak, we dig further to find out what is the problem and fix it. In these cases our monitoring system helps us a lot, and it is because of it we can diagnose the performance of the network much easy.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

When I fix something or help someone with a computer or other devices, it makes me feel good.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I was born and raised in Gjilan. I am happily married, and we have a five year old son his name is Flon.

What do you do in your free time?

I like to work on computers; I cannot imagine life without computers, during the week I spend from six to nine hours a day on the computer.

What do you and your family enjoy doing together?

My wife and son love to travel and I do my best to find the time to



Matthew Northrop, 8, surrounds himself with donated pens, pencils, crayons and colored pencils for Kosovo students as part of his unique fundraising drive, "Helping Kids in Kosovo Write Their Future." Northrop raised over \$500 and enough supplies to fill 12 large boxes. The supplies will be sent to rural schools in Kosovo. (Courtesy photo)

Texas boy helps Kosovo students write their future

Story by Capt. Kevin Sandell, 11th Public Affairs Detachment

It's been said, "A number 2 pencil and a dream can take you anywhere." For an 8-year-old boy from Copperas Cove, Texas, his dream was simply to help students half a world away inscribe their own ambitions for the future of Kosovo.

Matthew Northrop, a second-grade student and son of U.S. Army Capt. Steven Northrop, who serves as a battle captain for Kosovo Force's Multinational Battle Group-East, crafted a simple plan to raise money to send pens, pencils and other writing supplies to Kosovo students.

His theme for the distinct supply drive: "Helping Kids in Kosovo Write Their Future."

"[This drive] gives [students] supplies so they can practice and do their work or homework. It would be hard for kids to do class work without much school supplies," said Matthew. "Maybe their moms and dads have no money, but they really want to learn and need the help."

With his father deployed for nine months to Multinational Battle Group-East on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, Matthew began researching the area where his father would serve. He learned that Kosovo is still developing and schools there often lack basic supplies and necessities for their students. To Matthew, having supplies to learn formed the basic foundations of a good education.

"I was researching in my dad's books and found out that schools are poor [in Kosovo] and kids may not have the supplies they need. You need supplies to help you in getting a good education," Matthew said. "I started because I was curious about the place my dad was going, so I looked in the books his unit gave him to read before deploying. I then went to the internet and was looking up facts and pictures about Kosovo, that's when I found out how poor the schools are."

The project quickly expanded, and Matthew found himself presenting the idea to the school's principal and the local school board. From there, he created handmade posters to hang around the building, and publicized his plan to every classroom and grade level.

Steven said his son's fundraising idea was entirely his own and that Matthew would find the challenge inspiring.

"It was his idea and his goal. This goal came from him doing research for his topic of his semester research for his gifted and talented class," Northrop said. "If we suggested ideas, it could cause some to question is this really an 8-year-old's idea, so we entertain his inquisitive nature, but ultimately he has to decide what approach, who and how to ask for assistance."

Receiving donations from his family, friends, and even a full line of women's clothing stores in Georgia, Matthew rapidly raised over \$500 and was able to purchase enough pens, pencils and colored pencils to fill 12 large boxes for shipment to Kosovo schools. The boxes will be distributed through Multinational Battle Group-East's Civil Affairs Officer to schools throughout the eastern and northern areas of Kosovo with one special instruction.

"My son wants pictures showing his supplies are well received," Steven said. "Ideally, [he] wants us to focus on the small schools in poor areas, not large schools that already may be receiving support. He told me once, 'You can't forget the small people,' meaning people living outside of big communities."

Donating the writing utensils to Kosovo students, Matthew said he hopes the pens and pencils not only help children learn with fun, but help children write their own future.

"I hope this makes learning more fun and easy, so [children] don't have to worry about buying [pens and pencils] and good school work leads to a good education," Matthew said. "Learning and having fun at the same time can help you get a better education, in the end which can help you get a better job. Plus learning and doing well makes you feel good about yourself."



Matthew Northrop, 8, poses with several boxes of donated pens, pencils and colored pencils that will be sent to Kosovo students as part of his fundraising drive, "Helping Kids in Kosovo Write Their Future." (Courtesy photo)



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.

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.

There are different tournaments and regular daily activities such as:

- Soccer Sunday League begins on June 8, from 1300 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- Volleyball League Play every Tuesday and Thursday, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- 8 Ball Pool Tournament on June 27, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.
- Insanity Class every evening except Sunday's from 1900 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- Step Interval and Toning Class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 0630 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- Softball League Games every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Softball Field.



There will be an Army Birthday 10 mile relay race on June 14, starting at 0700 hrs at South Town Community Center.

Camp Bondsteel helps to establish food sanitation system in Kosovo

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"All the certifications and training will help us and I think the citizens of Kosovo will get something out of this as far as moving food safety forward. We are thankful for the American expertise in helping us build a standard," he said.

Although food safety isn't new to the Kosovo Forces, LaGodna feels what this rotation is doing can help shape future food service operations.

"Ever since KFOR first came here, we've always had food safety and defense programs and as time goes on and Kosovo develops, we look to get food from [Kosovo]. Preceding rotations have worked with food safety, but this one has turned it up a notch. I'm very interested and very proud of the work they are doing right now," LaGodna said.

Carlton was just pleased with knowing the impact his work can make.

"It's a great feeling to know the things we are doing on this rotation will have a lasting effect in Kosovo," he said.

"We're helping develop new health protection infrastructure and it makes us feel like we're doing good for somebody."



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