



U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS IN THE BALKANS

1995 - 2002



Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo 2000

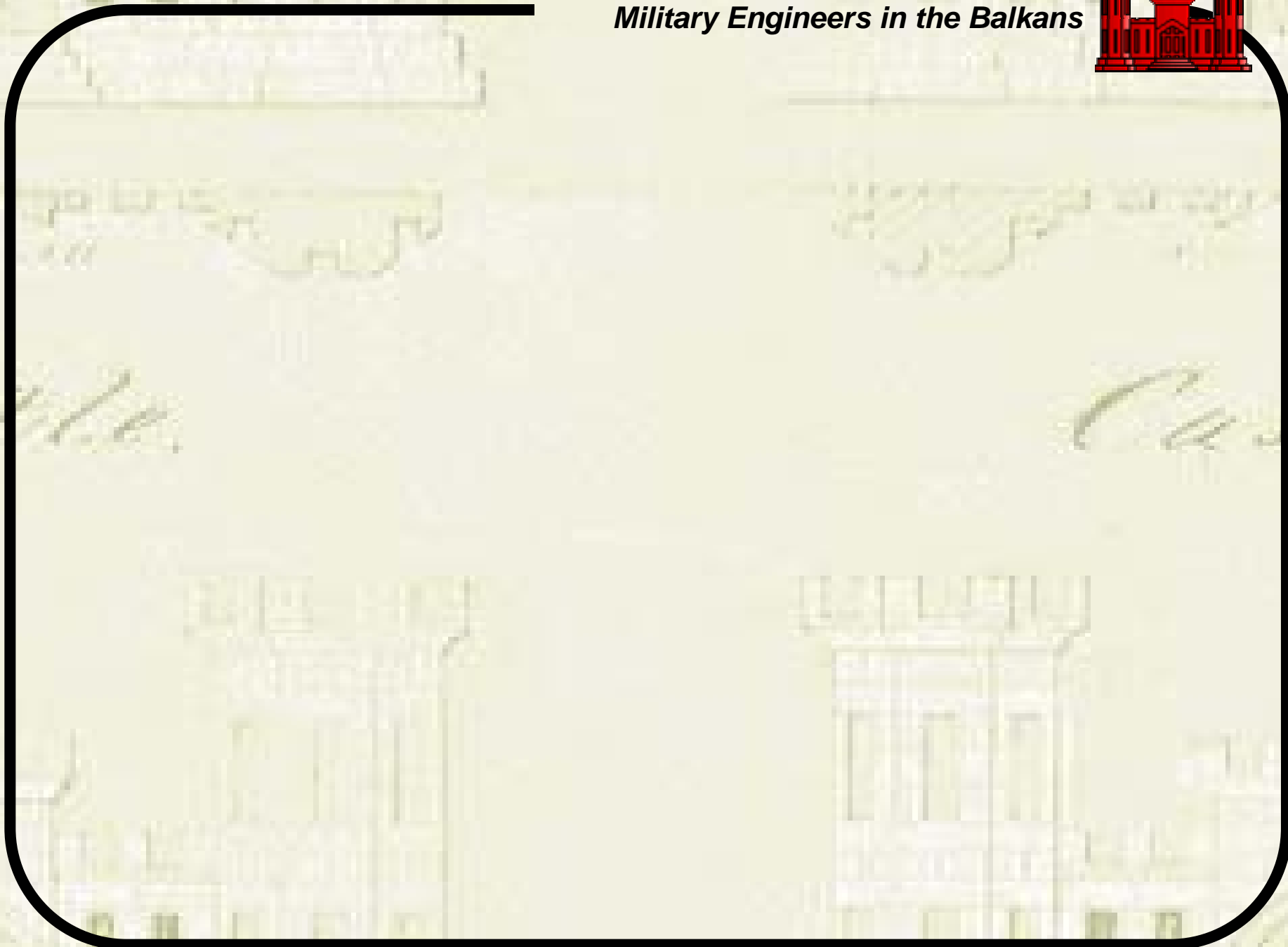


Purpose

To provide a brief overview of the major missions of military engineers in support of peacekeeping operations in Balkans, from 1995 – 2002.



Military Engineers in the Balkans





Background

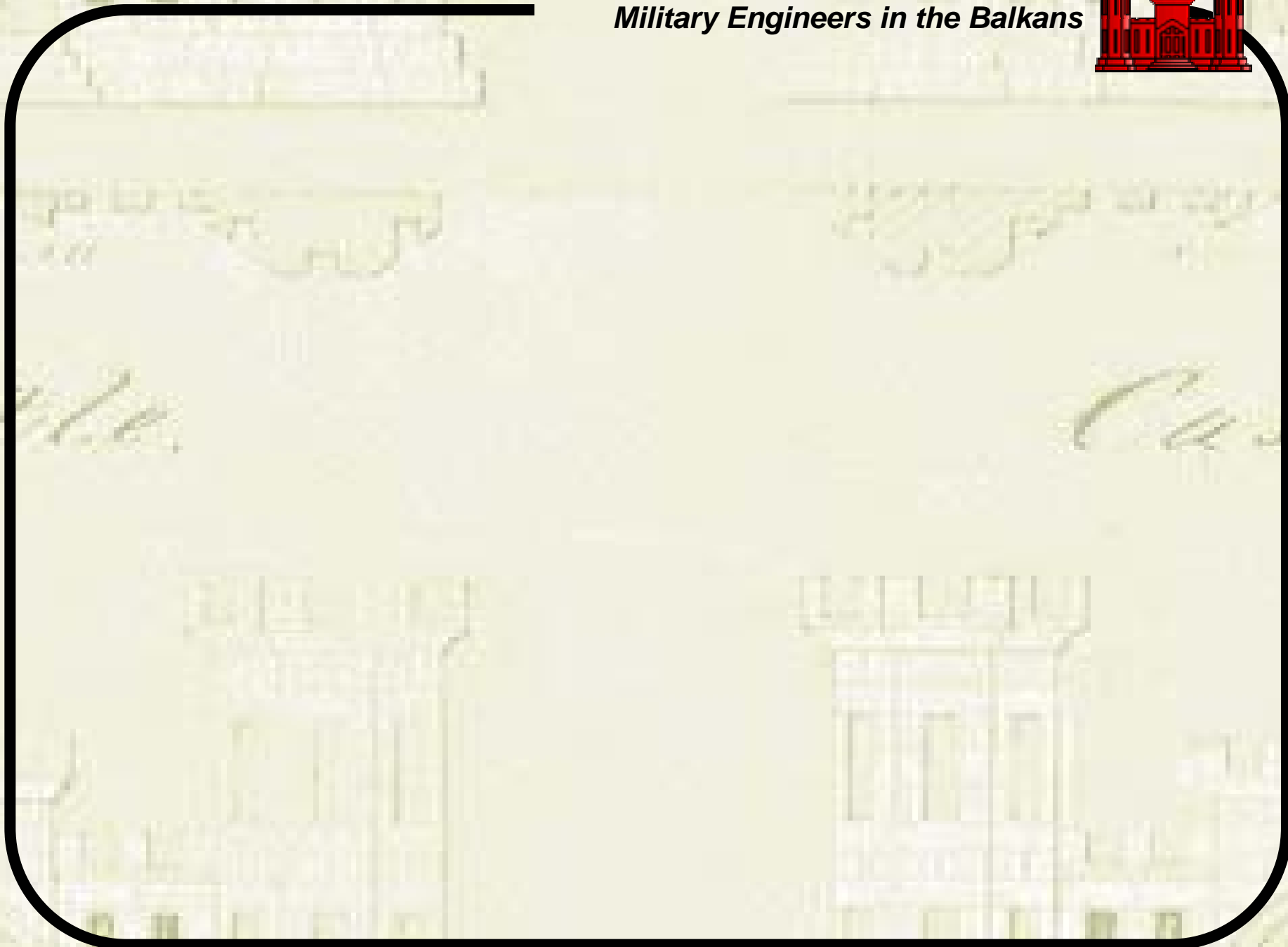
Former Yugoslavia



737888 (R00472) 2/96

- Military Operations Other Than War & Peace Enforcement
 - IFOR, Bosnia, DEC 1995
“Operation Joint Endeavor”
 - SFOR, Bosnia, DEC 1996 – Present
“Operation Joint Guard”
 - KFOR, Kosovo, JUN 1999 – Present
“Operation Joint Guardian”
- Primary Mission: “To provide a safe and secure environment for citizens under the UN mandate.”

Military Engineers in the Balkans





Geography



- Plains**
0 to 500 feet above valley bottoms; less than 10% slope
- Hills**
500 to 2,000 feet above adjacent valley bottoms; 10% to 30% slope
- Mountains**
Crests greater than 2,000 feet above adjacent valley bottoms; greater than 30% slope



- 50% Forest, 25% Mixed Farming, 25% Pastures and Valley Farming

- 10% Karst, late Paleozoic and Mesozoic Limestones and Dolomites
- Hot Summers, Cold Winters

- 60% Forest, 15% Mixed Farming, 25% Pastures and Valley Farming



Geography



Ethnic Populations:

- Bosnia: 44% Muslim, 31% Serb, 17% Croat, 8% Other
- Kosovo: 82% Albanian, 10% Serb, 3% Muslim, 5% Other

Industries:

Metallurgy, Heavy Industry, Petroleum Refining, Chemicals, Textiles, Tourism
Food Processing, Power Generation

Raw Materials:

Bauxite, Iron, Halite, Lignite, Copper, Lead/Zinc, Limestone/Dolomites



Mobility

Bridging:

- Crossing of the Sava River near Zupajna, Coatia into Bosnia, completed on 30 Dec 1995





Mobility

Bridging:

- Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge (AVLB)
- Temporary Fixed Bridging
- Bridge Reconnaissance and Repair





Mobility

Route Clearance:

- Military and Civilian Effort
- (Mines & Unexploded Ordnance Services [UXO])
- Snow and Ice Removal





Mobility

Route Maintenance:

- Reconnaissance/Classification
- Improving/Paving Operations





Countermobility

Boundary Closure and Zone of Separation [ZOS] Enforcement:

- Obstacle Reseeding
- Barricades and Mobile Obstacles for Traffic Control





Survivability



Force Protection:

- Towers, Geotextiles, Berms, Wire installed to improve perimeters of base camps, outposts, and checkpoints





SUSTAINMENT



Camp Bondsteel, 15 June 1999



Camp Bondsteel, 15 October 1999

Basecamps:

- Army, Air Force, Navy and Logistics and Civil Applications Program (LOGCAP) team effort
- Bosnia: Eagle Base and Camp Comanche
- Kosovo: Camp Bondsteel and Camp Monteith – two “cities” built rapidly and “end state” driven

Camp Bondsteel Facts:

- Spread over 900 Acres of Wheat Fields
- 175 SEA HUTS
- Able to sustain over 5000 personnel



SUSTAINMENT



Camp Monteith, 1 July 1999



Camp Monteith, 15 October 1999

Kosovo's Basecamps:



Camp Monteith Facts:

- Incorporates a former Serb Army Post
- 75 SEA HUTS
- Able to sustain over 2000 personnel



Sustainment



Basecamps:

- SEA(Southeast Asia) Hut is the standard building type
- ATCOVE, SEA Huts, Bunkers, Tier 3 Tents, Sewage Treatment, Motor Pools, Water, Power, Quarry, Laundry, Chapels, Dining Facilities, Airfield, Fuel, etc. - All present at Bondsteel.



Humanitarian Projects



- Bridge/Route Repair
- Mine/UXO Awareness
- Limited Civilian Vertical Construction and Demolition support
- Disaster Relief Support (ie: Forest Fires, Floods)





Summary

- The deployment of the NATO Implementation Forces (IFOR), Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR), and NATO Kosovo Forces (KFOR) have succeeded in preventing a return to hostilities and creating a stable environment in which further progress towards peace and normality can occur.
- The complexity of these operations demands military engineer capabilities and resources; requiring more versatility than any other combat support force in the theatre.
- As of now, SFOR and KFOR are still ongoing with no current end dates set. The need for engineers will not cease, although it has lessened.



References

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- Bostick, BG Thomas P. 1999 Bosnia: The Second Time Around. "Engineer: Professional Bulletin for Army Engineers," April 1999, Vol. 29 Issue 2, p2-7.
- McClure, COL Robert L. 2000. The Engineer Regiment in Kosovo. "Engineer: The Professional Bulletin for Army Engineers," April 2000, Vol.32 Issue 1, p 2-8.
- Central Intelligence Agency. 1993. The Former Yugoslavia: A Map Folio. April 1993.
- Personal photographs taken or obtained from Task Force Falcon, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo during KFOR Rotation 2A.



Conclusion

“The sun sets on Bondsteel, once our home. We were happy to leave but it will never be forgotten. The Engineer Task Forces have left Kosovo better than they found it. The children can go to school now, some factions are working together, the country-side is marked for minefields, smugglers have been deterred, and violence is diminishing. Serbia is under a new government and sanctions were lifted against them.” – COL Garland H. Williams, EN, USA

