

# Heavy Traffic: Troops in Bosnia Deal with Problem Drivers

by Master Sergeant Mark A. Schulz

When a Bradley Fighting Vehicle comes upon a irate Bosnian on a bicycle, who wins? The executive officer of Company C, 2nd Infantry Regiment produced his own answer in a recent incident.

“The man came up and stopped in front of my Bradley and was telling me, in English, ‘Why are you in my country?’ and ‘You need to get out of my country,’” said 1LT William Jacobs. “I told him to get out of my way.” The man refused.

Jacobs eased the Bradley forward. When he did, it pushed the man back, and caused the bicycle to fall.

Jacobs then moved forward, and the vehicle track folded the bicycle up and kicked it out the back tossing it up into the air.

“The man wasn't hurt, but he sure was mad.”

This was only one of the incidents encountered by Jacobs and other members of Company C when they were ordered to secure the municipal building in Bijeljina. They made three trips to the city that day. They were met the first time by large groups of citizens on almost every block.

“We got hung up at the main intersection,” said Jacobs. “They had trucks pulled in front of us, trucks pulled be-

hind us, and they threw rocks at us for a while, cussed at us and spit at us.”

“But they really didn't seem committed to the cause, because when we showed any kind of aggression they would move on to the next vehicle,” said Jacobs. The vehicle that sustained the most damage was an unarmed medical truck.

“When we got ready to leave,” he said, “I think they understood that we were capable of doing it if we wanted to. We ran over probably a dozen cars, ran over fences and through their yards. People were jumping into their cars to move them before I got there.”

“I took out a fence and a couple of street signs to avoid cars with people in them,” said Jacobs.

A similar situation was echoed by PFC William Hubbard. “We came up on an 18-wheeler at a bridge. The driver started to back it up and I was only about two or three feet behind the truck. I just went forward and pushed him out of the way,” said Hubbard.

“After that all the cars that were blocking the way proceeded to move out of the way,” he added.

Actually, Hubbard said, “I was just trying to get out of there.”