

Homeward bound



JO1 Scott Fleming

Bradley Fighting Vehicles of Company D, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment line up on the north side of the Sava River, waiting for the rest of the convoy to cross from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Company D's "Death Dealers" are finally going home to Baumholder, Germany, after ten months in-country.

Camp's new name honors Big Red One veteran

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360th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL — Oldtimers will remember it as LA Alicia. But to the soldiers of Task Force 1st Battalion 26th Infantry, the lodgment area that stands less than a kilometer north of the zone of separation on Route Hawk is now Camp Dobol.

The camp, headquarters for Task Force 1-26, was renamed in tribute to Theodore Dobol, the honorary command sergeant major for life of the 26th Infantry.

LA Alicia is the only U.S. camp to have been renamed since the transfer of authority from Old Ironsides to the Big Red One Nov. 10.

It was appropriate that the dedication ceremony took place on Veteran's Day in a land recovering from the scars of war.

It was fitting, too, that a young soldier, Spc. Angel Rivera, 28, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, designed and created the sign which sym-

bolizes the "Courage, Relentless Pursuit and Resourceful Daring" of both Dobol and the soldiers of Task Force 1-26.

It was not by chance that Lt. Col. Robin P. Swan, commander of the task force, chose the command sergeant major as the honorary soldier whose heroic legacy will serve as both a mentor and reminder for Blue Spaders during Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.

Standing atop sandbags, Swan looked over an attentive platoon and explained the history of Dobol's military honors.

Dobol joined the military during World War II. He served the 1st Infantry Division with distinction throughout World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

He was heavily decorated during each tour and in Vietnam was promoted to command sergeant major.

Until afflicted with a recent illness, which placed him in a coma in a Chicago hospital, Dobol was still very active in the regiment.

He is one of the most honored and celebrated soldiers of the Big Red One. "These are not the jungles of Viet-

nam," Swan said.

"These are different times and this peacekeeping endeavor is a different type of mission with unique conditions," he said. "But they are just as dangerous and uncertain." Swan said it is appropriate that the soldiers of Task Force 1-26 invoke this great soldier's name as they undertake this mission in his honor and tradition of excellence.

To the everyday traveler who frequents Route Hawk, which borders the camp's perimeter, Dobol will have little meaning.

But to the soldiers who understand the legacy that the sign invokes — the crest, the motto, the lions that flank it and the name that preceded it — the challenge is clear.

In the months ahead, soldiers of Camp Dobol, as well as every soldier of TF 1-26, is charged with continuing the hallmark of honor established by the leader, soldier and comrade whose name this force will strive to uphold.