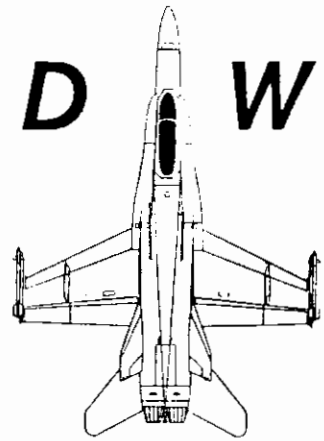


# T-BOLT Intel Newsletter

## VMFA-251 Deployed - Aviano, Italy

### Operation Deny Flight / Operation Provide Promise

March 1994

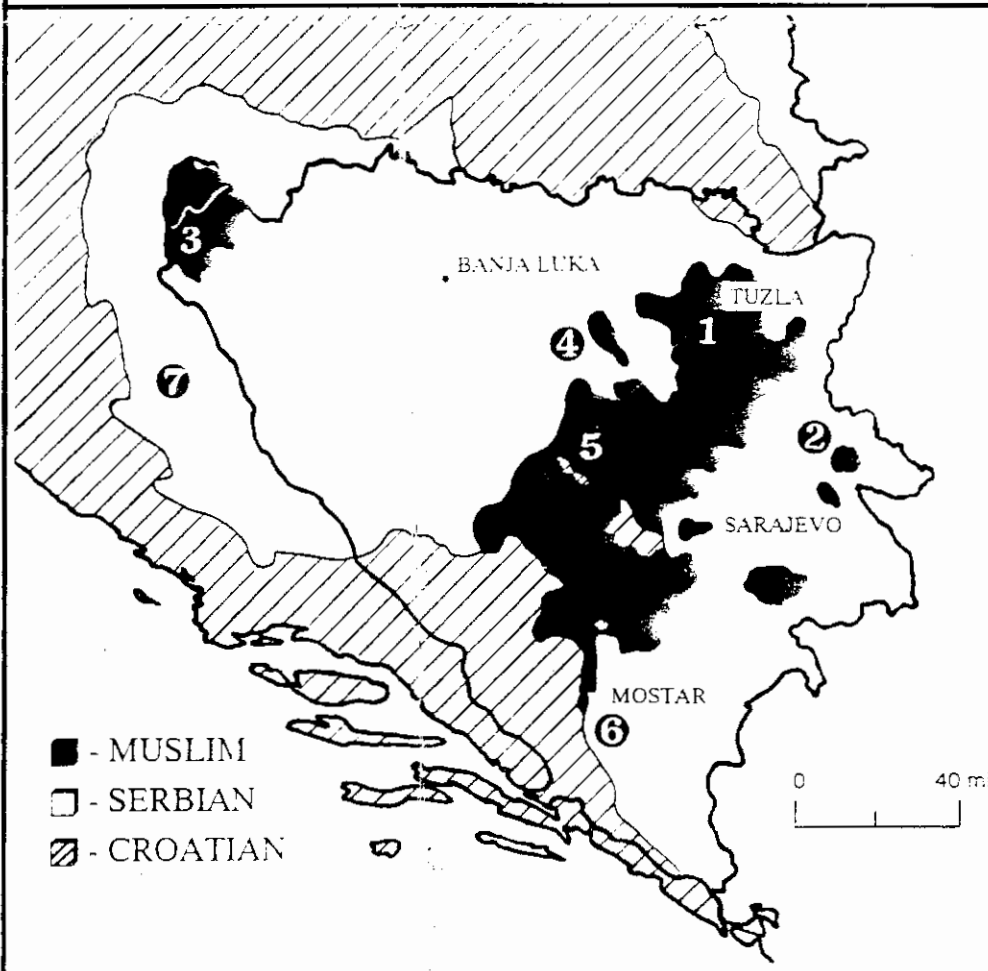


Many things have happened since the last *T-BOLT Intel Newsletter* about four weeks ago. There has been the NATO ultimatum to remove artillery from the Sarajevo area and the downing of four Serb aircraft by Deny Flight forces. Even as this is being written, the Bosnian Muslims and the Bosnian Croats have reached an accord to remove heavy weapons from their confrontation line in southern Bosnia.

In the midst of all of this, T-Bolt Intel and all of the other "S" shops moved operations from the Victor area to the entrance to the flightline. Right now, the S-2 is at 24-hour ops to keep tabs on the situation in Bosnia.

I'm sure you've all seen or read the news and gotten your "CNN Intel" about what is going on in Bosnia. A word of caution...being a reporter in the former Yugoslavia is even more dangerous than being with the U.N. forces. Members of the media, especially early on in the conflict, learned the hard way that they would not have the kind of freedom to move around as they did in some past conflicts. The warring factions have become quite skilled at using and manipulating the media to their own ends. Keep that in mind when you get your news. And again, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to stop by and ask.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TROUBLE SPOTS



- 1 TUZLA - Area controlled by the Muslims and surrounded by the Serbs. The U.N. wants to begin relief flights to Tuzla in mid-March.
- 2 SREBRENICA - Muslim safe-haven surrounded by Serbs. Dutch U.N. troops are trying to relieve Canadian troops that have been trapped there for months.
- 3 BIHAC POCKET - Sight of Muslim civil war. General Abdic, a Muslim supplied by the Serbs, is battling the Bosnian Army V Corps.
- 4 MAGLAJ POCKET - Muslim area surrounded by Serbs. It is completely cut off from U.N. convoys and Military Observers and has survived only through air drops.
- 5 VITEZ POCKET - Croatian area surrounded by Muslims. Croat forces have been trying to unite the pocket with Croatian territory for months.
- 6 MOSTAR - Serbs to the east, Croats to the west and the Muslims in the middle. The peace in Mostar will be fragile.
- 7 REPUBLIC OF SERB KRAJINA - With the peace accord between the Muslims and Croats, and the U.N. taking over their confrontation line, the Croats may redeploy their troops to push the Serbs out of Croatia.

## The Trouble with Tuzla & Other Tales

Recently, Bosnian-Serb President Radovan Karadzic stated that the Serbs would allow relief flights to land at the Tuzla airport. This came following a meeting with Russian officials who reassured Karadzic that the relief flights would not be used to smuggle arms to the Bosnian Muslims. In months past, the Serbs had been fiercely opposed to opening Tuzla. While relief flights were a regular occurrence in Sarajevo, the Serbs had Sarajevo surrounded and could monitor the arrival of any heavy weapons.

There are a couple of interesting things to keep in mind here. First and foremost, many of the weapons that have recently made their way to the former Yugoslavia have come from former Soviet Republics. Russia and other republics are hard pressed for cash and Yugoslavia has provided a lucrative black market. This is not to say that black market sales have been sanctioned by any government. The culprits are probably either misguided or corrupt individuals trying to get ahead. At the same time, Bosnian Serb fears are probably not unfounded. There are several Muslim governments that would jump at the chance to aid the Bosnian Muslims. One of the players in the negotiation process is Indonesia. Indonesia, a Muslim state, currently chairs the 106 nation Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and has been active in seeking a settlement that will be favorable to the Bosnian Muslims.

The Bosnian Muslims and the Bosnian Croats recently signed a U.S. brokered peace accord in Washington. In the agreement, the two warring factions agreed to withdraw their troops from the confrontation line in southern Bosnia. This move, while providing hope for a lasting peace, does two things. First, it allows both sides to move forces elsewhere in theater. The Croats will probably redeploy forces to mount an offensive against the Krajina Serbs who are occupying more than 20 percent of Croatia. The Muslims will also focus their efforts on Serbian confrontation lines. The Muslim-Croat agreement may revoke agreements between the Croats and the Serbs. If the Croatian-Serbian War of 1991 flares up again, the U.N. would almost surely have to withdraw because of the intensity of the conflict.

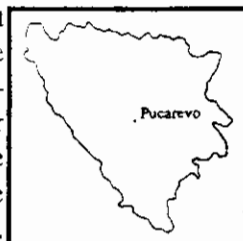
But what about the Croat-Muslim confrontation line? The U.N. is now deploying across the line following the withdrawal of the warring factions. Twenty years ago, the U.N. took similar action on the island of Cyprus in an attempt to keep the Turks and the Greeks apart. The U.N. is still there. Is the U.N. digging themselves another hole? Time will tell.

## Tactical Airborne Digital Camera System

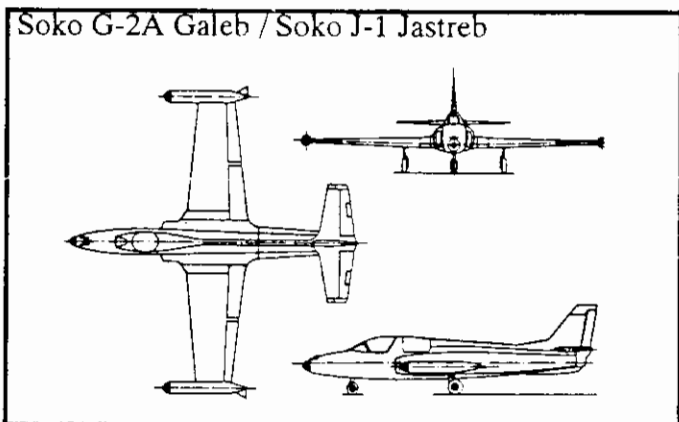
Some of you might have seen the Tactical Airborne Digital Camera System (TADCS) that the pilots have been using. TADCS allows the pilots to take photographs with a hand-held camera. The images are stored in a digital hard-drive inside the camera. Upon returning from a mission the images may be edited and then transmitted anywhere in the world.

## The Scoop on the Shootdown

On Monday, 28 February 1994, four F-16's from the 526th Fighter Squadron here at Aviano engaged six Serb aircraft that were in violation of the no-fly zone over Bosnia. The aircraft have been identified by the press as Galebs. Never mind the fact that they kept showing pictures of the swept-wing Super Galeb. Incidentally, *Galeb* is Serbo-Croatian for *Seagull*. More than likely, they were probably the attack variant of the mighty Seagull, the *Jastreb (Hawk)*. The F-16's had been shadowing the Serb aircraft when they observed them dropping bombs on a factory in the Muslim town of Pucarevo.



The F-16's were cleared to engage and expended one AIM-120 and five AIM-9's. Four of the six aircraft were shot down and two got away. Our own Captain Borneman critiqued the engagement by saying, "I wouldn't have resorted to missiles until I was out of bullets." Regardless, the shootdown marks the first time that NATO forces have ever been engaged in combat.



### T-EOLT Intel is...

Captain W.H Osborne

Ensign J.M. Dahm

SSGT K.L. Cook

SGT M.J. Grammer

SGT F.J. Patrick

LCPL J.D. Johnson

LCPL P.J. Askew

S-2 Department Head

Assistant Department Head

Imagery Chief

Watch Chief/Analyst

Watch Chief/Analyst

Analyst

Armorer/Combat Photographer

The S-2 bids a fond farewell to SSGT Riddle. SSGT Riddle will be returning to Beaufort after serving six months in Aviano with both VMFA(AW)-533 and the T-Bolts. Good luck SSGT! You will be missed.



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