



**Year: 1998**

**Location: Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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*The 10th Mountain Division's Combat Aviation Brigade took over the Army aviation mission as part of NATO's **Stabilization Force** in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Fall of 1998 and based out of Commanche in Tuzla. The weather team consisted of people from Ft Drum along with me augmenting from AFGWC. 2LT Clay Baskin was the OIC/SWO and I was a MSgt at the time and his NCOIC.*

*Weather in Bosnia Herzegovina along with the rugged terrain proved to be difficult at times. Low clouds and poor visibility during that time of year were common, challenging the weather team. We had a great relationship with both the Brigade and the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron to provide outstanding weather intelligence.*

*In the October time frame, we had high pressure moving into the Balkans with plenty of moisture from rain previously and numerous water sources, it looked like a long duration fog event was setting up. After extensive discussions with the OWS and internally, we determined the fog was going to start on Monday and be gone by Friday. We expected zero/zero conditions for the entire week.*

*Lt Baskin briefed the Brigade commander and his staff and got the typical, "how confident are you in the forecast?". We were highly confident and the commander said he would send one pilot over each day to confirm the forecast, which they did. The forecast was spot on we indeed were socked in for a solid week.*

*This is where I became truly astounded by the Army, especially the Brigade Commander. He took our forecast, along with our confidence in that forecast and applied it to the mission. He used that time to get his crews fully rested. He also was able to get maintenance done on the aircraft without the stress of flying operations. Finally, he was able to get all of his crews into ground training and other briefings to ensure they and the aircraft were 100 percent ready when the fog lifted. It felt great to see the unit use weather intelligence we provided to its fullest capability. The Brigade commander lauded the weather team and especially 2LT Baskin and he rightfully deserved the recognition.*

*Over my 27 year career, 24 of which were in weather, this was one of the most memorable moments where I could see the direct effect of a forecast on a commander's decision-making process.*