

3-3-2000

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "03/03/2000 - Civilian to Tell of Kosovo Experiences" (2000). 2000. 49.
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March 3, 2000

For Immediate Release:

CIVILIAN TO TELL OF KOSOVO EXPERIENCES

CHARLESTON – After spending five months last year with peace-keeping forces in Kosovo, civilian Dana Finney will relate what she saw, photographed and felt as a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Lab of Champaign.

She will speak at 6 p.m. Monday, March 6, in Eastern Illinois University's Buzzard Auditorium. Her presentation, sponsored by Eastern's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and the Department of Journalism, is free and open to the public.

Finney's first stop was a miniature boot camp at Fort Benning, Ga., that included classes in land mine awareness and sniper evasion techniques. While her husband supported her decision, her mother worried. "My response to her was, 'Mom, if the world's best army can't take care of the likes of me, we're all in trouble,'" Finney said.

She came away with a new understanding of the cycle of violence in Kosovo and with a sadness for the destruction and the lives of the people, although more food was available to the natives by the time Finney left, she said.

For information on Finney's presentation, contact Marta Ladd, associate professor of journalism, at (217) 581-2326, cfmjl@eiu.edu.