



# MILITARY LEAGUE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Fredrica Scott  
Wizards of the Coast  
(206) 204-7628

## WIZARDS ANNOUNCES FOURTH OF JULY MILITARY TOURNAMENTS

June 3, 1997 (Renton, Wash.)—Wizards of the Coast Inc. continued its support of U.S. military personnel deployed to the Bosnia-Herzegovina region when it announced today its sponsorship of a special **Magic: The Gathering**® tournament series designed for those troops. Exclusive "Red, White and Blue" tournaments will be held during the Fourth of July celebration events throughout the Bosnian region and in specified U.S. military locations in Korea. All cards and prizes for these events, ranging from T-shirts and caps to collectable, autographed **Magic** cards, will be donated by Wizards' Military League for **Magic**. This announcement comes on the heels of a fourth major donation to the Bosnian peacekeeping effort, bringing the total value of Wizards of the Coast® donations to well over \$1.3 million. Plans are currently in the works to donate cards to troops deployed from other NATO countries as well.

**Magic: The Gathering** is a trading card game in which players incorporate statistical analysis and strategic skill to out-duel an opponent. The tactical ability required to play this card game, combined with its compact size, has helped make it the most popular off-duty activity for deployed troops.

Wizards will provide each "Red, White and Blue" tournament player with two 60-card decks and two 15-card booster packs (a \$25 value). Each player will use these cards to construct a single 40-card deck composed entirely of red, white and blue cards (**Magic** has five colors of cards). An estimated 1,000 deployed soldiers are expected to participate in the Fourth of July tournaments. In addition to prizes for the top players, Wizards will provide door prizes available to all participants, regardless of playing skill.

Corporate sponsors for the Fourth of July events include Wizards of the Coast, AT&T; and Coca-Cola. In addition to the "Red, White, and Blue" tournaments, the events will also feature concerts, drawings, giveaways and other recreational activities.

Since Wizards' first donation of **Magic** cards one year ago, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation specialists deployed with the U.S. forces have hosted hundreds of **Magic** tournaments. "In a deployed situation, soldiers are on call seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day. They require a healthy distraction from the stress of duty and the worry for family members left behind," explains Freddi Scott, military coordinator for Wizards of the Coast. "Playing a **Magic** duel provides a competitive release with quantifiable results. That isn't always found elsewhere in a peacekeeping mission." Morale specialists agree: it is estimated that nearly 30 percent of the roughly 10,000 soldiers deployed to the Bosnian region are playing **Magic** in their off-duty time.

Other **Magic** military events recently sponsored by Wizards of the Coast include the **Magic: The Gathering** Military U.S. National Qualifier tournaments, held in Japan, Korea, Germany and the United Kingdom. These tournaments gave overseas U.S. military personnel (including Department of Defense employees) and their dependents the opportunity to qualify for the **Magic** U.S. National Championships, to be held in Columbus, Ohio in July. Winners in each of these Qualifier tournaments received invitations to compete in the U.S. Nationals, along with airfare and accommodations for the event. Top players at the U.S. Nationals go on to compete in the **Magic** World Championships, to be held in Seattle in August. Teams representing 30 countries will compete for the coveted title of **Magic** World Champion. "By sponsoring Qualifier tournaments at overseas military installations, players who would otherwise be unable to compete have an opportunity to represent the United States in world-caliber tournament play," said Scott.

Wizards of the Coast is a privately held company best known for the trading card game **Magic: The Gathering**. Since **Magic** was released in 1993, more than two billion cards have sold worldwide. The game is currently available in nine languages: French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and English. Wizards of the Coast is headquartered

just outside of Seattle in Renton, Washington, and has offices in London, United Kingdom; Antwerp, Belgium; and Paris, France. For more information on Wizards of the Coast, visit the company's website at **www.wizards.com** or its CompuServe forum at <GO WIZARDS>.

Last Updated: 6/4/97

---

[\[Wizards Main Page\]](#) | [\[Military League Main Page\]](#)