

KFOR CHRONICLE

September 30, 2005

Edition 8



**Change of Command
Commander Kosovo Force**

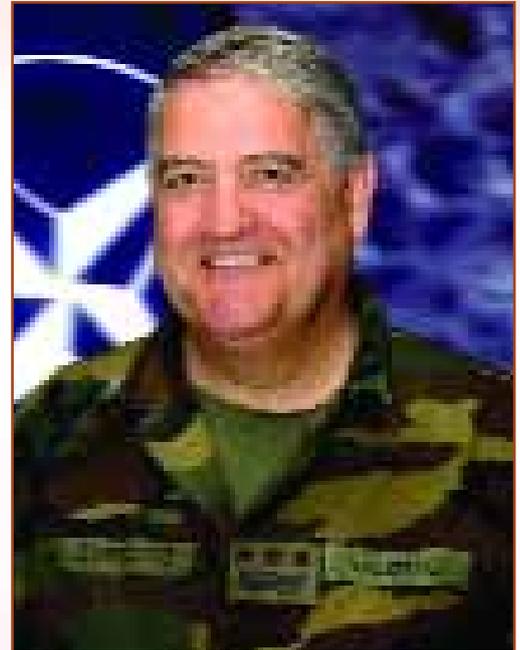
To all KFOR members,

On the 1st of September 2005, I had the honor to become your commander. I have accepted this responsibility with great pride and determination because I firmly believe in your professionalism, as well in my own. I take this as a personal challenge to prove myself up to the job.

You will see that I am truly determined to completely fulfill the mission I have received - to provide a safe and secure environment for the peace process, on the path toward a prosperous future for the Kosovar people. These people and the whole international community are expecting great results from us, particularly in this crucial phase of the transition toward the final status of Kosovo. This is a phase that cannot be allowed to be disturbed by disorder or instability.

I am firmly convinced that with your assistance and with the support of all your energies and capabilities, our mission together will fully meet every expectation that NATO has for us.

As we come together into a team, I am absolutely certain that our work will be rewarded by great success, because



"TOGETHER WE CAN"

**Lt. General Giuseppe Valotto
Commander Kosovo Force (COMKFOR)**

KFOR CHRONICLE

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Cover photo by
Mr. Armend Aqifi

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Contributing Nations:
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Ireland
Latvia
Slovakia
Sweden

MNB (NE)

Leading Nation:
France
Contributing Nations:
Belgium
Denmark
Estonia
Greece
Luxembourg
Morocco

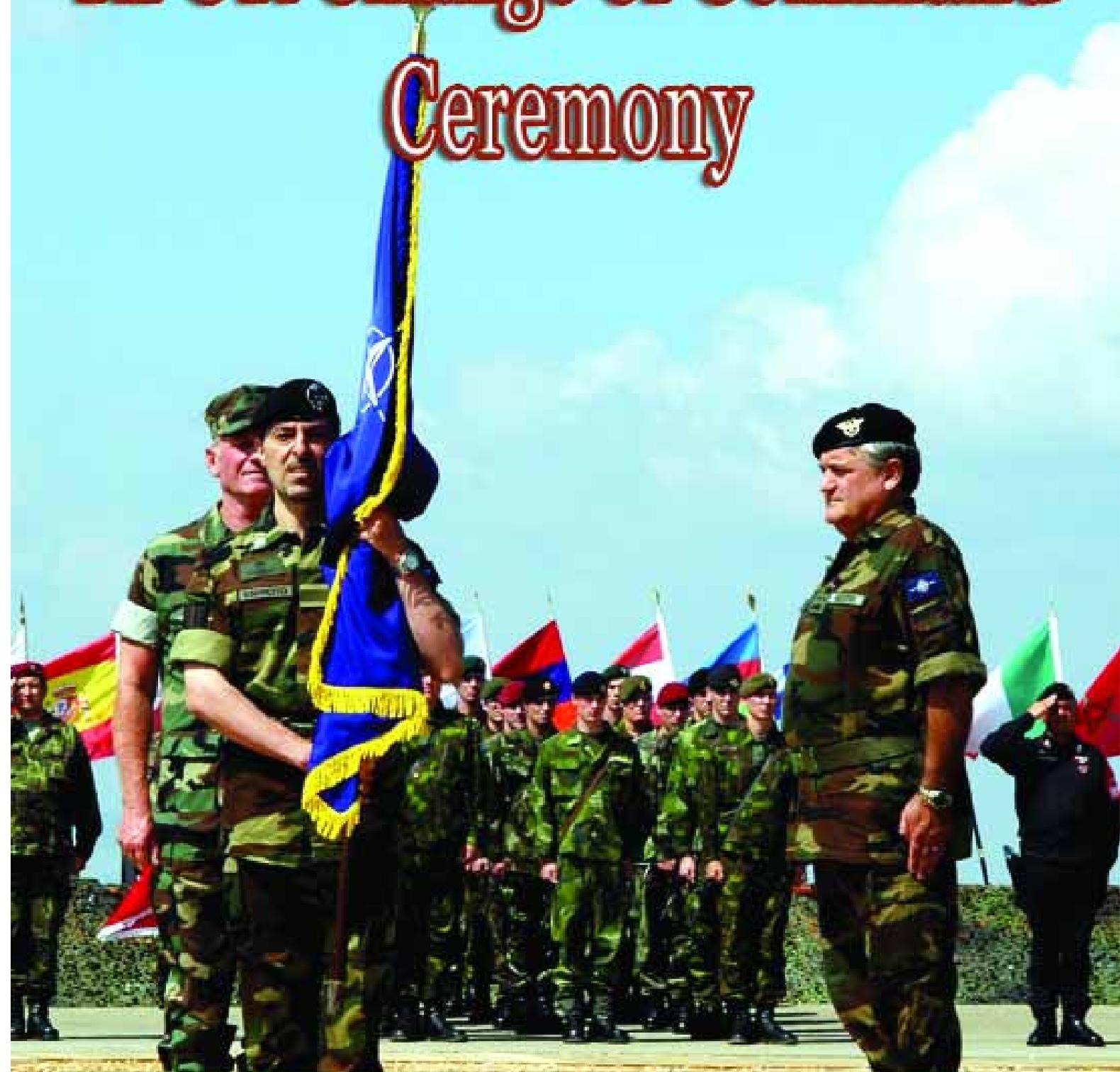
MNB (E)

Leading Nation:
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Bulgaria
Georgia
Italy
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Spain
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Turkey

KFOR Change of Command Ceremony



By KFOR-Chief Internal Information and
Editor in Chief Dr. Jo Schöpf
Photos by Armend Aqifi

On 1st September 2005 the Change of Command Ceremony of Commander Kosovo Force (COMKFOR) was held at Headquarters Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Pristine. Lieutenant General Giuseppe Valotto, Italian Army, took over command of KFOR

from Lieutenant General Yves de Kermabon, French Army.

The Change of Command ceremony was presided over by General James Jones (US Marines) the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and was attended by various dignitaries.

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The officiating Officer was the Commander of Joint Force Command Naples (COMJFC N), Admiral Harry G. Ulrich III (US Navy). During this occasion the Special Representative of Secretary General (SRSG), Mr. Søren Jessen-Petersen, the French Minister of Defense, Mrs. Michele Alliot-Marie, the Italian Minister of Defense, Mr. Antonio Martino, the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Adem Salihaj, the Serbian Army Chief of Staff (COS) General Dragan Paskas and other dignitaries were present as well as a number of other very senior officers and officials from Italy and France. The total number of military personnel and guests either on parade or attending was more than 900.

The ceremony started with speeches from the guests of honor. The outgoing COMKFOR LTG Yves de Kermabon said:

" I have received a lot from everyone here and I will not forget it. This last responsibility as COMKFOR was for me a great honor and I was proud to serve in Kosovo.

First and directly I want to thank all the people of Kosovo. My dear friends, I thank you for your hospitality and your kindness. You are part of a rich Balkan history made up of an important cultural and religious heritage and in which a richness of ethnic diversity, values and treasures intertwine. You deserve a bright future and I am optimistic of your various huge resources, as we say in French, 'la richesse est dans la diversité.

Second and after the Kosovo population, I would like to thank UNMIK for the excellent cooperation we have built with that important institution. The mission is challenging, the team is excellent and the dedication is here; they deserve respect and support.

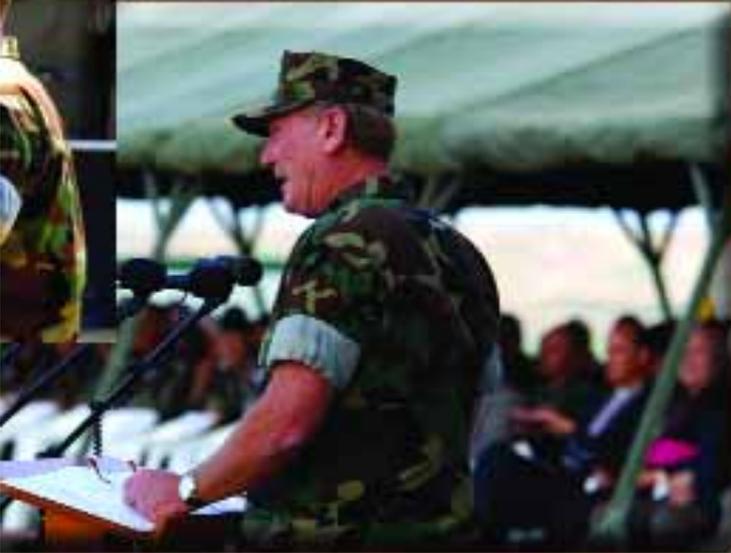
Thirdly, I would like on this special day to thank particularly KFOR soldiers for whom today is a great day. You are performing a great job and I have been proud to be your commander. We have to go on to restore confidence in this crucial period for

a better future for all here and for Europe, and I know that LTG Valotto will go on the same track."

On the ceremony there were more than 100 representatives of local and international press, broadcasting companies from France, Italy and also several local broadcasting companies. UNMIK TV broadcast the ceremony live. At the end of the ceremony the French Foreign Legion Band performed for the guests and the incoming COMKFOR invited everyone for a reception at Film City.

The new COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Valotto was born in 1946 in Venice (Italy). He attended the Italian Military Academy in Modena and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant of Cavalry in 1968. His last assignment was as Head of the Personnel Department of the Army General Staff in Rome since 24 July 2004 to 30 August 2005. He is the tenth commander of KFOR since its deployment to Kosovo.





Operation "Good Samaritan"

Text and photos
1st Lt Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army

"One day, a man who was traveling from a far away city, suddenly met up with a group of thieves. The thieves took everything he had, and then they beat him up and left him lying half dead by the side of the road.

As he laid there in pain and misery, he heard footsteps. "Ah! Someone is coming!" he thought. "I hope he will help me!" Nobody, not even a priest, a well-known teacher in the temple, came by to help him. Only a stranger from Samaria, who was very unlikely that he would want to help because nobody even liked people from Samaria, helped the poor, hurting man.

He got off his donkey and bent down next to the man to get a closer look at the wounds. Gently, he wrapped bandages around the sores and helped him to his feet. Then he carefully put the man on his very own donkey and took him to the nearest hotel. He stayed with the man overnight and took care of him." (Bible, Luke 10:25-37)

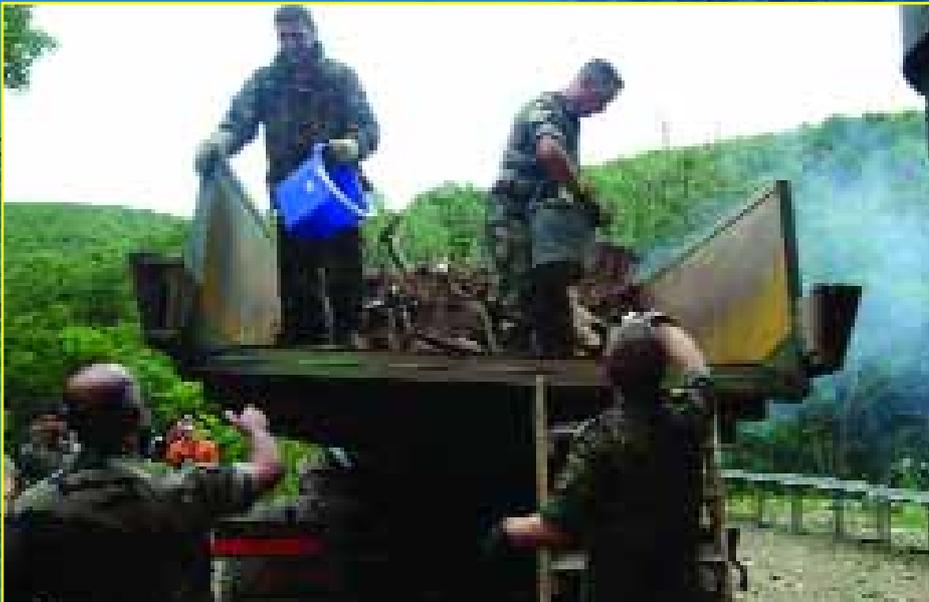
On Monday, August 8, an outstanding operation was held by KFOR troops near Srbica/Skenderai in the Monastery of Devic in the MNB (NE) AOR. This operation consists in restoring, and consolidating Devic monastery under the lead of KFOR



Chief-Chaplain Michel de Peyret, with the participation of chaplains from KFOR and the support of the MNB (NE). KFOR is committed to the "Good Samaritan" Operation with the aim of paying respect for the cultural patrimonial property of Kosovo. Devic Monastery was built in the XIV century. The monastery was almost completely destroyed in March 2004, and its nuns had to leave their accommodation. Then, the Serbian

Orthodox Church built a new building with facilities and apartments for the sisters, and KFOR gave a hand with protection and restoring the territory both inside and outside of the ancient monastery. During the last year, soldiers from the Novo Selo Camp and the KFOR Theater Chaplain have contributed several times to restore the monastery. Now pursuing the principles of tolerance and respect for each-others' values,





philosophical and religious beliefs, 14 KFOR chaplains, among them the Muslim one Mourchid Omar Ouboua from Moroccan Contingent, 19 chaplains' assistances and more than 30 soldiers from French Contingent took part in the "Good Samaritan" Operation.

It was the perfect example of true international teamwork: French, German, Portuguese, Moroccan, Belgian, Austrian, Italian and Finnish all worked together to give a hopeful sign of the expected future for a peaceful Kosovo. As a result of their self-denying work, there are pretty clean former living quarters of the nuns and a restored territory above the monastery and ancient small chapel with the source down stairs below the monastery. Also, they collected and handed over to the sisters of the monastery a lot of personal

and religious items, which are of vital importance to the nuns.

COMKFOR LTG Yves de Kermabon attended the "Good Samaritan" Operation at the Devic monastery. In his speech, COMKFOR said: "Today, KFOR is committed to the "Good Samaritan" Operation, and it shows that KFOR respects all sacred places of Kosovo. The operation has to do with the reconstruction and the consolidation of Devic under the leadership of Chief-Chaplain Michel de Peyret with the participation of all KFOR chaplains and the support of MNB (NE)."

Now in the Monastery of Devic, 7 sisters take refuge. In the face of more than 25 representatives of local media, the nuns expressed their sincere gratitude and gave a hearty thanks to KFOR for their protection and substantial assistance.



**By 1st Lt Oliver Rolofs
German Army**

**Photos by SFC Thomas Liebe
German Army,**

**SGM Emilio Corrado Italian Army
and German MP-Coy**

KFOR will meet those in Kosovo who resort to violence with a determined and effective response. That was the key message of the Operation "Proud Eagle" on August 23, 2005 under the stewardship of Austrian Colonel Markus Koller from the Multinational Brigade Southwest (MNB SW). The exercise in which twelve nations participated aimed at demonstrating that they were capable of warding off attacks against peace implementation force KFOR and key areas of interest, quickly and in a joint and purposeful effort.

Top ranking Kosovar visitors together with Deputy Commander KFOR French Major General Xavier Boute de Marnhac and German Commander MNB SW Brigadier General Norbert Stier observed the exercise. They witnessed to convincing proof of KFOR's striking power.

The exercise, which also involved the Kosovo Police Service (KPS), began as a peaceful demonstration performed by German MP, KPS and UN police. They proceeded towards a vehicle checkpoint in front of an area of interest deserving protection. The situation deteriorated dramatically as some demonstrators became increasingly violent towards the security forces. The demonstrators protested vehemently and continued to move towards the area in question. As attempts by German and Italian soldiers to calm down the crowd turned out to be unsuccessful, reinforcements were called in.

When they arrived specially trained crowd riot control forces were heavily attacked by the demonstrators. The troublemakers ignored all requests transmitted by loudspeaker to stop the attacks and go home peacefully. At that point German MP and Italian Carabinieri were already augmenting the crowd riot control forces.

Moreover, as a consequence, Finnish and Swedish armoured personnel carriers were ordered to the

hotspot. The descending soldiers quickly flew in formation to create a cordon of sentries. At the same time, Irish soldiers came to assist in securing the area and American Apache helicopters appeared overhead above the demonstrators. When the ringleaders were eventually caught, the formerly dramatic situation quickly relaxed. The crowd began to disperse.

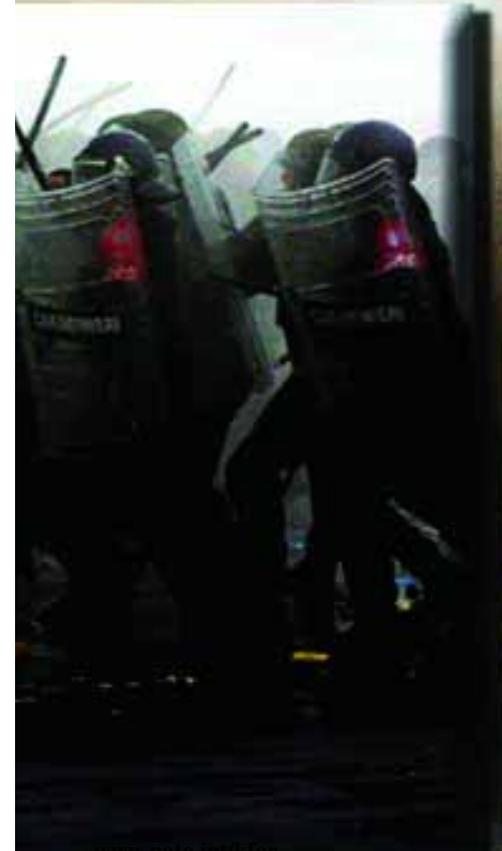
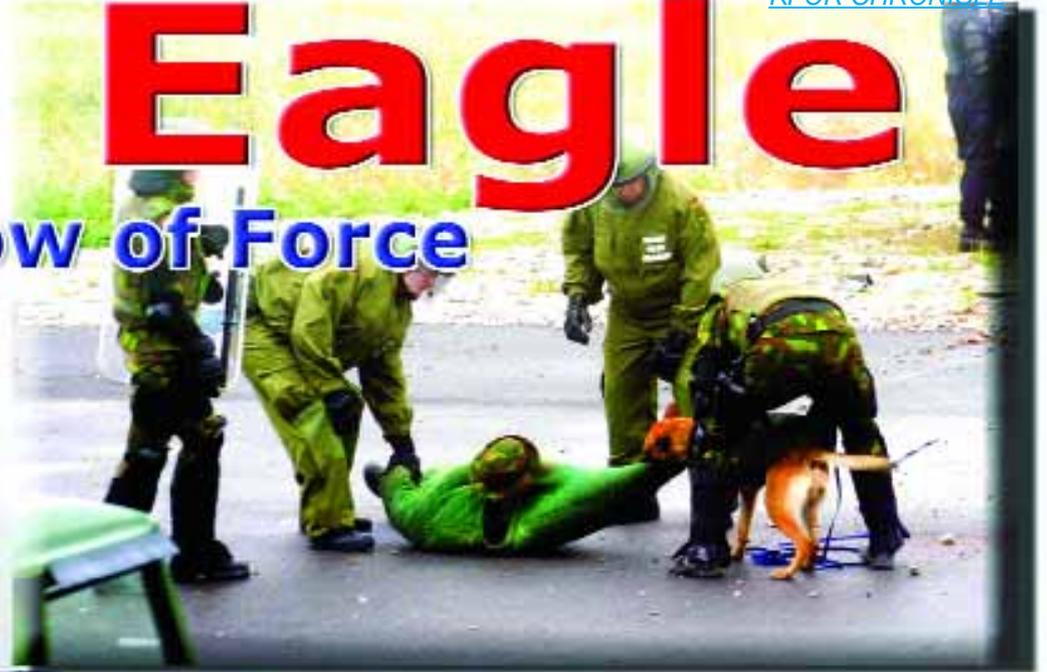
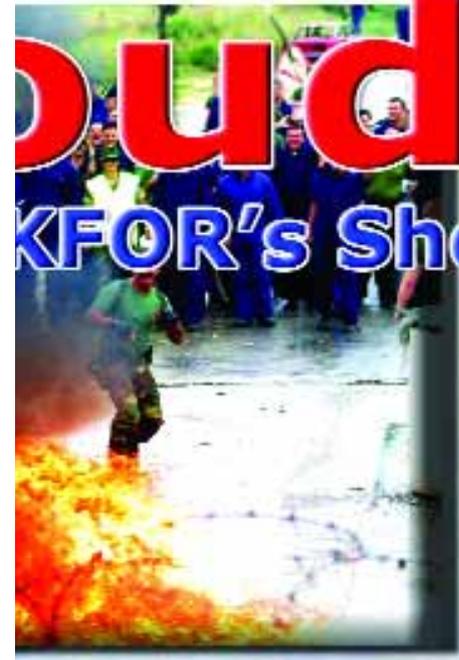
The second part of the exercise mainly covered the highest level of escalation, which was an additional challenge for the KFOR soldiers, which was to deal with demonstrators forcing their way inside the inner restricted zone of the area to be protected. Determined action, however, was the key to success for the multinational forces.

Brigadier General Norbert Stier emphasised, "With this exercise we sent a clear message to all potential violent offenders. They just don't stand a chance against KFOR". The guests who were invited to watch seemed rather impressed. "Proud Eagle" again demonstrated that different nations were very capable of close cooperation, also in emergency situations and in unfamiliar terrain", the general reaffirmed at the end of the exercise.



oud Eagle

KFOR's Show of Force





High Noon in Dragas-Valley

German-American operation "Cave Bear" hunts illegal border crossers

**By 1st Lt Oliver Rolofs
German Army**

Photos by SFC Thomas Liebe

The red sun sinks picturesquely behind the mountains of Kosovo. Captain Florian B., Commander of the 3. Company of the Task Force Prizren, has little time to enjoy the view. Deployment orders for the march to the Dragas-Valley are waiting for him and his soldiers from the Task Force Prizren of the Multinational Brigade Southwest (MNB SW). Another operation is starting, this time in cooperation with the American Task Force Tornado of the Multinational Brigade East (MNB E).

Shortly afterwards operation "Cave Bear" begins with 300 soldiers. In the darkness of the Dragas-Valley recess of the German mountain infantry stealthily move into their positions in the border region between Albania and Macedonia. At this time the operation conducted in support of UNMIK-border police and

Kosovo Police Service focuses on illegal border crossings in this seemingly forgotten valley of Kosovo.

It is midnight. Task Force Tornado begins a menacing show of force. The distinct American Hummer-Jeeps rushed into the valley via bumpy roads and get into their positions for road checkpoints. Apache helicopters ascended from the

depths of the valley and buzzed over the German-American command post. For the night they will investigate everyone who is acting suspiciously in the border area. "A surprise effect for the population has been achieved by our operation", Company Commander Florian B. said. "Surely no Kosovar expected that the combined forces of



KFOR show a high profile in the middle of the night in the seemingly forgotten Dragas-Valley."

The main objective of the operation was to disrupt border-crime. The valley south of Dragas is popular with criminals as a passage for all kinds of smuggling and human trafficking. Hours later. Slowly a new day begins. The sun is slowly beginning to blink across the mountaintops. With the sun the level of activity rises sharply in the presumably mined border area. Mule-treks, pedestrians and vehicles appear from nowhere. More and more reports from the reconnaissance posts come into the command post via radio. Lieutenant-Colonel Matt Raney, Commander of the American Task-Force Tornado, has to make decisions. He is continuously giving orders via radio to the hummer crews waiting on the access roads in the depths of the valley to check the reported movements and to search. The German recess really misses no movement. This gets noticed by the American Lieutenant-Colonel: "The German soldiers are doing a good job and I am impressed with their professional attitude" Raney praises the successful cooperation between the two Nations. Nearly 50k further north of Dragas. "Get out, get out" shouts the door-gunner of a Blackhawk helicopter on

the airfield of Toplicane into the back of the huge helicopter. The soldiers of C-Platoon of the Task Force Prizren immediately jump out of the helicopter and begin to secure the area. Within the framework of the operation "Cave Bear" they are the tactical intervention reserve led by MSG Herbert B. If a dangerous situation arises in the area of operation they are the men who can support the task force in the area quickly. Here is their last chance to practise again getting on and of the impressive aircraft. However, everything remains calm in the Dragas area. Luckily, the intervention reserve is not needed. The result of the three-day-long operation is impressive.

More than 450 persons, roughly 300 vehicles and 30 Mule treks were checked. Significant illegal activities were not uncovered but the operation was a warning shot for border crime. For the people living in the border area the border is seemingly of little significance. One trades and visits relatives and ignores the official border crossings, which are often far away. "Cave Bear" has proven once again that KFOR is able to move forces quickly into rough, remote and unknown areas to operate."

The commander of MNB SW, Brigadier General Norbert Stier, summarizes this bi-national operation as successful.



Illegal Weapons Hand

By Major Marcelo A. Leonard,
ARG Navy

Photos by 1st LT Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army

The Weapons and Ammunitions Destruction Program (WDP) was launched in Kosovo in 1999. The purposes of this program were to destroy all the confiscated illegal weapons, to help to create a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) for the people of Kosovo and to contribute to the stabilisation process.

The government of Norway initially funded this program. In the beginning KFOR executed the WDP at the "Kosovamont Engineer Factory" in Obilic. With the support of the Greek forces, more than 8000 weapons were destroyed in this factory until April 2002. In April 2002 with the German initiative, KFOR contracted the "Metal Holding Company" in Janjevo and 7300 more weapons were destroyed until March 2003. The contract with this Company expired on April 2003.

The first initiative in KFOR to hand the responsibility of the WDP over to



UNMIK POLICE, began in March 2003, but KFOR continued working to extend the WDP to support UNMIK POLICE until November 2004. In this month KFOR performed the last weapons destruction. More

than 20,000 weapons have been destroyed since 1999 until November 2004 by KFOR.

Actually, in accordance with SOP 3009 "Weapons Policy for Kosovo", KFOR units had to hand over to



Over to UNMIK Police

UNMIK POLICE / KPS all illegal weapons and ammunition found or confiscated in Kosovo.

KFOR held a number of illegal weapons in three main sites, (MNB C, MNB NE and MNB SW). These weapons have been seized in Kosovo, and were waiting for destruction. Finally on August 2, 2005, the responsibility for storage and security of these weapons was transferred from KFOR to UNMIK POLICE and KPS. This day a total of 663 weapons were handed over from the Brigades to UNMIK POLICE and KPS.

In accordance with this issue was necessary to proceed to destroy the remaining of illegal ammunition and weapon accessories stored in the Multinational Brigades. On September 8, 2005 the Brigades finished destroying all this assets with their own capabilities by KFOR order. HQ KFOR J4 coordinated the hand-over of the weapons, with cooperation of UNMIK POLICE and KPS.





Engineer Mine Training with KPC

By LT Melanie Meyer, US Army
Photos by SFC Duff E. Mc Faden
US Army

The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) - Trupat Mbrojtëse Të Kosovës (TMK) - was officially constituted on Jan. 21, 2000. Formerly the Kosovo

Liberation Army (KLA), they were converted to a civilian agency and charged with providing emergency response and reconstruction services to Kosovo. The KPC assists the Kosovo population during any natural or man-made disasters and aids in the rebuilding of Kosovo through

work on public utilities and social projects. According to Capt. Ruzhdi Paloja, company commander, 3rd Brigade Engineers, KPC, this training was new for him and his 14 Soldiers. "We cooperate on a lot of projects with KFOR and are working with US KFOR again to learn





minesweeping techniques. We enjoy participating in these events and look forward to lots of projects and training. "The best thing we learned today," Paloja said, "is to control the area before we start training, because a lot of places here are mined and are not cleared yet. We have a unit demolition unit within TMK and they do the job. We've never worked with mine detectors before." The challenge, he noted, is in the mines themselves, as many anti-personnel mines aren't metal. KPC Soldiers then learned another effective Army tool - the After-Action Review. "They were thrilled that we were actually involving them in the follow-up discussion. They've never had this situation before, where someone would ask them for their opinion in an AAR. They feel the same way with us, and indicated they appreciated any kind of training with us," Master Sgt. Richard Gurbisz concluded.



Czech Republic the new Leading Nation in MNB (C)

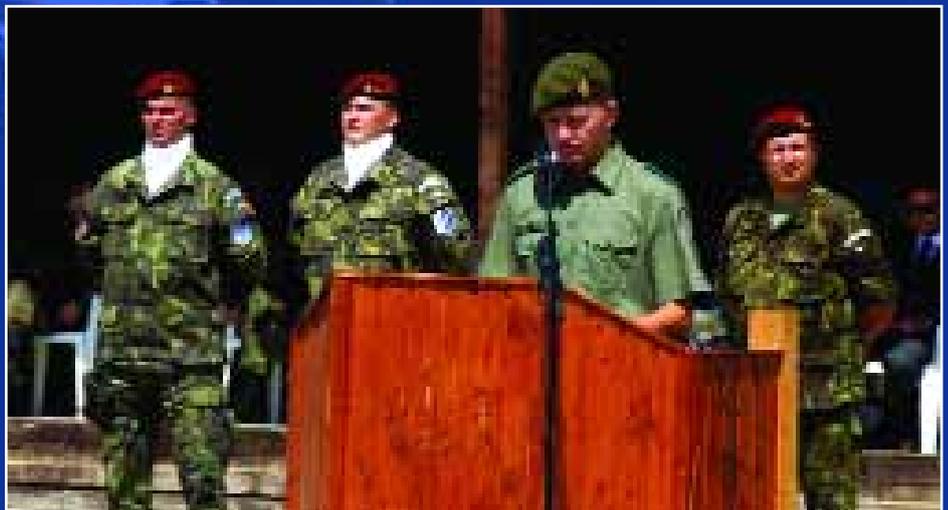
By Major Jo Schoepf, PhD
Austrian MOD
Photos by French CCT

Czech Colonel Ales Vodehnal assumed command of the Multinational Brigade Center during a ceremony at Camp Ville Lipljan/Lipjan, on July 29.

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Yves de Kermabon handed over the Command of MNB (C) to Colonel Vodehnal, from Finnish Colonel Jari Teppo Juhani Kallio. In his speech COMKFOR thanked Colonel Kallio for his outstanding work during the last twelve months in MNB (C).

Colonel Kallio in his farewell speech said, "Looking back on my tour we can easily conclude that it has been a year of changes. We reorganized the structure of our Brigade and relocated its headquarter here to Camp Ville Lipljan/Lipjan. When I arrived here the last waves and tensions of the March 2004 riot were easy to notice. During my time MNB (C) faced some very sensitive periods such as elections in Kosovo, ICTY's indictments and starting of evaluation of Kosovo's standards. The year has been full of challenges and hard work. But it has also brought me experience and a great number of new friends. The field of crisis management is not an easy field to play, but it certainly is a satisfying one."

The ceremony was attended by senior civil and military authorities, among them Mr. Karel Kuhl, Minister of Defence of Czech Republic, Mr. Larry Rossin, Deputy Special Representative and BG



Joseph Orr, Chief of Staff KFOR. It is the first time in the history of MNB (C), that a Czech Colonel leads the MNB. In his speech Mr. Kuhl, MOD Czech Republic announced, "The Army of Czech Republic has been operating in the Kosovo since 1999, and as such has accumulated adequate experience. By assuming

a multinational brigade-level command for the first time ever in the history of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic, the Czechs take over not only powers, but also responsibility for themselves and others."

Colonel Ales Vodehnal was born on June 21, 1962 in Chrudim, Czech Republic. He attended the Joint Command and Staff College - Watchfield, UK and Postgraduate studies Military Academy.

Colonel Ales Vodehnal developed expertise in reconnaissance and airborne units.

He was in charge of several Commands:

CO 43rd Airborne Battalion

4th RR Brigade O-6

CO of 4th Signal Battalion

Mission KFOR - COS MNB (C)

Colonel Ales Vodehnal is married and has two children.



MNB (E) Change of Command

By LT Melanie Meyer, US Army
Photos by French CCT

We invited guests and assembled Multinational Brigade East Soldiers witnessed a number of firsts when Col. John S. Harrel, the outgoing MNB (E) Chief of Staff, was promoted to brigadier general and assumed command of the brigade during a promotion and change of command ceremony on August 21 at Camp Bondsteel.

According to outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. William H. Wade II, this was the first time an American officer was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in Kosovo. Harrel was promoted by Gen B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commanding general. Lt. Gen. Yves de Kermabon, Commander Kosovo Forces, also participated in the ceremony during the passing NATO colors between Wade and Harrel.

These changes became necessary after California Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Wade as the adjutant general of the California Guard. Wade is expected to assume his new duties in September 2005. "I leave command of MNB (E) with mixed emotions: I am excited about this new opportunity and challenge; however, the mission is not complete and I am reluctant to depart mid-course," said Wade. "This command has been the most challenging, most



exciting, and most rewarding assignment of my 35 years in the military." The Soldiers of MNB (E) will continue the mission and remember their time spent with Wade in the Balkans. From the lowest enlisted to the most senior officer, Wade showed himself as a personable and capable commanding officer.

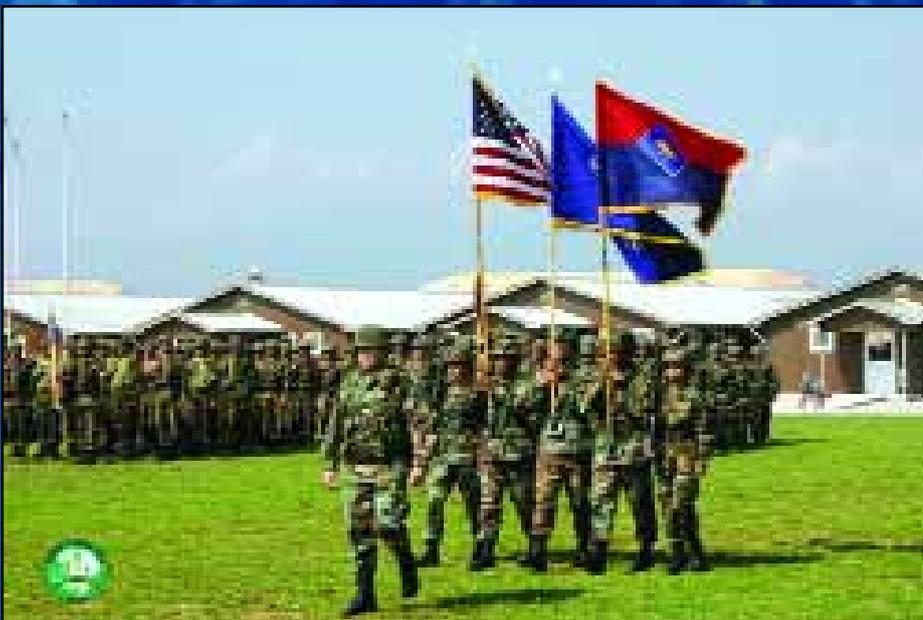
"General Wade is a very well grounded person, he's very easy going and very easy to talk to," said Sgt. Sherman Kee, Command Sergeant Major's Driver, 40th Infantry Division, Task Force Falcon. "General Wade even takes a little time for jokes and to kid around at times, but always keeping the Army values first. General Wade will be

missed greatly."

Harrel is prepared to take Wade's place and the Soldiers in the brigade are ready to work under his command.

"I depart knowing that the brigade will be in excellent hands," said Wade. "Gen. Harrel has been an integral part of this mission since it began. He is precisely postured to assume command; he's up on all the issues, and he knows all the principals and key players. I am fortunate to have such a highly qualified successor," he said.

Wade will remember his mission in Kosovo as working with optimism and professionalism. "Man for man and woman for woman, MNB (E) is by far the most professional and technically proficient force I have ever been associated with," said Wade.



MSU Change of Command



**Text and photos
1st Lt Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army**

Italian Colonel Flavio Garello assumed command of Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) from Colonel T. Giuseppe Lanzillotti during a ceremony on July 29.

MSU as a COMKFOR's specialized military asset is responsible for the management of law enforcement and crowd control. On the other hand, MSU specifically operates as a preventive tool - this is the primary MSU mission. MSU has substantial experience in combating organized crime and terrorism and they possess human resources and dedicated investigative tools to analyze subversive and criminal organization structure. Also, the MSU commander has a special task as COMKFOR's advisor on public security and public order matters.

While under the command of Colonel Lanzillotti the Multinational Specialized Unit conducted general patrol operations in order to maintain a high profile within Kosovo. They also supported operations of routine KFOR activities, formed close relationships with the citizens they protect, interacted with the local community while deepening their overall knowledge of evolving criminal prevention and security enhancement efforts in each brigade.

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Yves de Kermabon presided over the cer-

emony, which was attended by senior civil and military authorities and representatives of local institutions.

In his speech, the COMKFOR encouraged soldiers of the MSU to continue the mission in the way that they are accustomed to doing it. "I want to congratulate each of you for your commitment, sacrifices and dedication to duty. Because of you Kosovo is a much better place," he said.

COMKFOR then welcomed Colonel Garello, the incoming commander, and presented the command to him with the symbolic "passing of the flag."

Colonel Garello was born on May 1, 1955 in Pinerolo, Turin. He attended the military school "Nunziatella" in Naples, the Military Academy in Modena and the Carabinieri Officers School in Rome. He holds a degree in "Science of Domestic and Foreign

Security".

Colonel Garello developed expertise in all branch of Carabinieri Corps.

He was in charge of several Commands:

Section, Platoon and Squadron Commander in the mounted Carabinieri Regiment;

Aid de Camp of the deputy General Commander of Carabinieri Corps and then as the General Commander of Carabinieri;

Mechanized Coy Commander in the Mobile Battalion in Rome;

Carabinieri Coy Commander of Southern European task force in Camp Darby;

Commander of two territorial Carabinieri Coys in Piedmont and in Genoa;

Escort Security Officer of the President of the Republic;

Commander of the security branch of the Presidential Guard;

Commander of the Group of Squadrons of the Presidential Honour Mounted Guard "Corazzieri Regiment";

Commander of Carabinieri Territorial Department of Nuoro;

Commander of Mounted Carabinieri Regiment in Rome.

His decorations include: Officer of Italian Republic, Long Command Period Military Medal, Long Service Military Medal, Knight of Malta Sovereign Military Order, French National Defence Medal "Gendarmerie", Officer of the Melitense Order.

Colonel Garello is married and he has two daughters.



Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion Change of Command

By Captain Barnabas Bartok
Hungarian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi

COC for the Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion took place in the Hungarian Camp, Pristina, on August 1. The outgoing battalion, under LTC Peter Lippai command, successfully accomplished the mission in Kosovo. Hungarian soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 25th Light Armored Infantry Brigade are ready to return home to the beautiful town Tata with a feeling of a job well-done.

The new Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion Commander, LTC Zoltan Eckhardt is the Commander of the 25/101st Artillery Battalion of the 25th Brigade in Hungary.

LTC Eckhardt assumed the command of Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion by three-time waving of the Colour. Then, LTC Eckhardt stated, "I know that the soldiers of the outgoing battalion have set a high standard for us, but I believe we will be worthy successors to all those Hungarian soldiers who have served in Kosovo since 1999, and we will do a praise-worthy job for KFOR!"

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Yves de Kermabon attended the ceremony. LG Yves de Kermabon awarded the soldiers of outgoing battalion with the NATO Non Article 5 Medals for their contributions toward establishing peaceful and secure environment in Kosovo.



Independence Day of Ukraine



**Text and photos
1st Lt Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army**

The Ukrainian contingent in Kosovo celebrated the 14th Anniversary of Independence of Ukraine, on August 24. This National Day is the most important celebration of the year. This day exhibits a long history of struggles and accomplishments toward becoming an independent state. According to the constitution, the Armed Forces of Ukraine guarantees the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the independence of a state. The Armed Forces play a vital

role in building a democratic and independent society.

Many important individuals attended the ceremony in Camp Breza among them were Colonel Valeriy Mikhalskiy, the Defence Attaché Embassy of Ukraine, the Republic of Macedonia; BG John Harrel, the Commander of MNB (E); LTC Ryszard Wrobel, the Polish-Ukrainian battalion Commander; representatives of UNMIK and local administrations; guests from Ukraine Special Police Unit (SPU) and Ukraine K9 SPU and Catholic Chaplain from Ukraine.

Working together on important com-

bat duties daily, UKRPOLBAT soldiers worked as a cohesive team, which helped them to develop more confidence and experience in their mission. Pursuing these principles, Polish soldiers were standing shoulder to shoulder with Ukrainians during the parade to honor Ukrainian Day of Independence.

LTC Victor Kopachinskiy, the Ukrainian National Contingent Commander, warmly congratulated the Ukrainian National Contingent on this occasion. In closing he stated, "On this great National Day I wish you and your families health, cheerfulness, courage, good luck and deep-seated faith in the bright future of our Motherland!"

During the ceremony, BG Harrel, Commander of MNB (E), awarded soldiers from Ukrainian Contingent for their personal contribution in establishing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

After the traditional Ukrainian lunch, the delegation from UKRPOLBAT attended the Ukraine Special Police Unit (SPU) and Ukraine K9 SPU in Gjilan/Gnjilane. After the formal ceremony and weapon and ammunition exhibition, all the authorities and guests had an opportunity to watch SPU and K9 personnel perform the Combat Art Demonstration and drug search, and arrest exercises with the police dogs.



Distribution of Humanitarian Help in Strpce Municipality

Text and photos
1st Lt Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army

The beginning of a new school year is a special day for every pupil worldwide. This year, the 1st of September was very unusual for numerous local schools in Strpce municipality because of soldiers from Ukrainian Contingent. Ukrainian soldiers visited children with gifts for the total sum of more than two thousand dollars. Among the presents were necessary school supplies such as copy-books, coloured paper, water-colour, plasticine, pens and pencils.

Strpce, Gornja Bitina, Susice, Gotovusa and Sevce are some of places within the Ukrainian Contingent AOR, where humanitarian help was distributed. The aim of this action was to help people in villages, who are having difficulty accessing basic merchandise. This

objective was accomplished by POLUKRBAT CIMIC Section. Chief CIMIC Major Vadym Maletskyi stated, "Furthermore, Ukrainian Contingent will be pursuing humanitarian activity. We keep close contact with local communities and do all our best for the people of Kosovo. Rebuilding of local infrastructure and establishing of peaceful life is our

mission here."

Svitlana Drozdovska, Deputy of Chief of the Ukrainian State Committee on Ukrainian Diaspora and International Affairs paid substantial contribution in organizing of the humanitarian mission.

Representatives of local media attended the distribution of humanitarian help in Strpce municipality.



Polish-Ukrainian Battalion Change of Command

Text and photos
1st Lt Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army

Polish LTC Jerzy Mizgala assumed command of Polish-Ukrainian Battalion from LTC Ryszard Wrobel during the Change of Command ceremony on July 29 (Camp White Eagle).

MG Xavier Bout de Marnhac, Deputy Commander KFOR presided over the ceremony. Military and civil authorities attended the ceremony in Camp White Eagle among them were BG John Harrel, the Commander of MNB (E); Colonel



Valeriy Mikhalskiy, the Defence Attaché Embassy of Ukraine, the Republic of Macedonia; representa-

tives of UNMIK, UNMIK-Police and local administrations.

LTC Jerzy Mizgala was born on February 19, 1966 in Krzemienna, Poland. He is married. His military experience includes:

1986-1990 - Military College (Wroclaw), 1990-1995 - Platoon leader, 1995-1996 - Company commander, 1996-1997 - Operational officer, 1997-1999 - National War College

1999-2000 - Battalion commander, 2000-2002 - Operational officer, 2002-2004 - Chief of section, 2004 - present Battalion commander.



Change of Command, TF TIZONA

By Major Alfonso Boo
Photos by OR-7 Varela

Change of command in Spanish Contingent and transfer of authority from the Group ASTURIAS to the Group CORDOBA took place in Camp España (Istok), on September 1st. General D. Norbert Stier, Commander of MNB (SW), Spanish Contingent presided over the ceremony. Military and civil authorities attended the ceremony, among them Brigade General D. Carlos Alvarez Abeilhé, Chief of the BRIMZ GUZMAN EL BUENO X (HQ in Cordoba) and Mr. Fadil Ferati, Mayor of Istok municipality.

Col. Alvaro de la Peña Cuesta, Chief of the Group ASTURIAS, in his farewell speech thanked General Stier for his presence at the ceremony and for his support during the mission. After that, he gave words of gratefulness for the civil authorities, representatives of different ethnic communities, UNMIK, UNMIK-P and KPS. Continuing the allocution and talking to the members of the Group, he congratulated them for a job well-done. "Nonetheless, numerous challenges, we hit the targets that we marked on past February when we began this mission together", said Col. de la



Peña Cuesta with satisfaction. After these words, General Stier took turn, expressing the fact that it was a very important day for both Spanish Contingents, he thanked the "KSPAGT XIII ASTURIAS" for the job well-done mentioning, especially, the link created with Istok's municipality and the existing calmness in the

Opstina. Finally, he wished the new Contingent under the command of Col. Casimiro Jose Sanjuan Martinez, good luck and success in future operations.

The ceremony finished with the Honoring to the fallen in a name of España and with the parade of the troops for honor of the authorities.



"MADE BY IRISH"

KFOR International Soccer Tournament

Text and photos 1st LT Maksym Nedria, Ukrainian Army

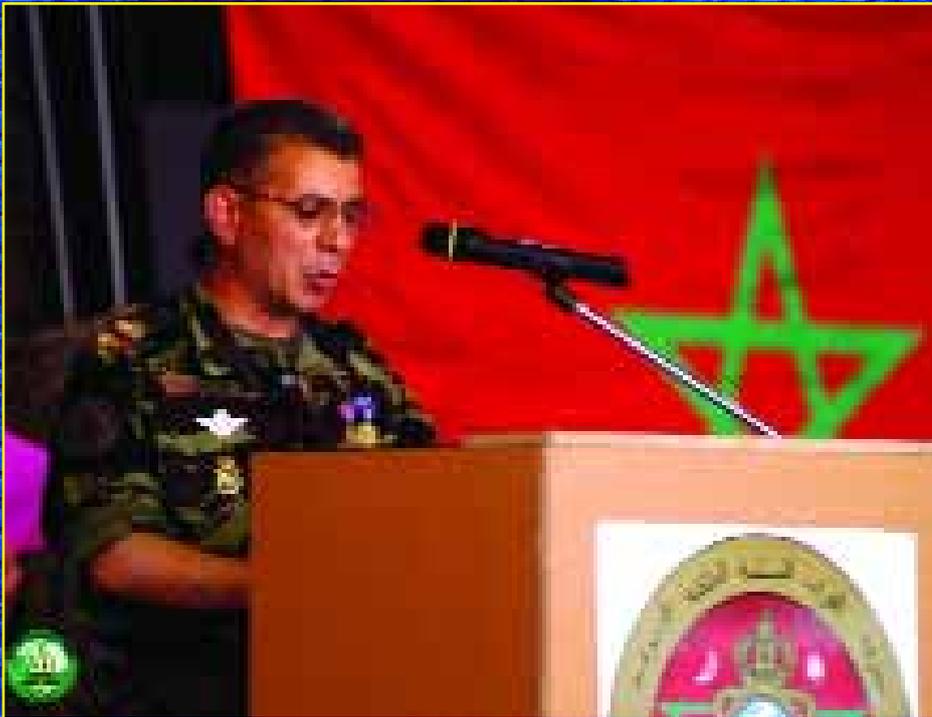
Irish slid into first place against of MNB HQ scoring 3:0 during an International Soccer Tournament held in Obilic Soccer Stadium on September 17. It was the first time, the event was organized by the 30th Irish Infantry Group, Camp Clarke.

According to Coy Sgt Christy Mahon, CS Logs Coy 30th Irish Infantry Group, tournament organizer, the competition was very tense. "It must be mentioned that there was a lot of tired legs because each team played four to five, including the final, games during the day, said Coy Sgt Christy Mahon, "Nevertheless, everyone did their best to keep opponents under **PRESSURE!**"

A total of 8 teams entered the tournament, but due to operational duties only 5 teams took part. They were, Ireland, Camp Clarke; USA 1, Camp Monteith; USA 2 Camp Bondsteel; Czech Republic, Camp Shajkovac and MNB HQ, Film City. USA 1 and Czechs struggled for the third position. The game finished scoreless, which led to penalty shoot out - with the Czechs winning 5:2. In the end MNB HQ and the Irish battled for first place and the Irish captured it without any compromises.



The 6th Anniversary Of Crowning His Ma



Text and photos
1st Lt Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army

What do you know about Morocco?
We had the chance to learn more

about this African country on
Saturday in Mitrovica, July 30. On
this day since 1999 the Moroccan
Contingent in Kosovo and around
the world celebrates the
Anniversary of Crowning His

Majesty Mohammed the VI, King of
Morocco.

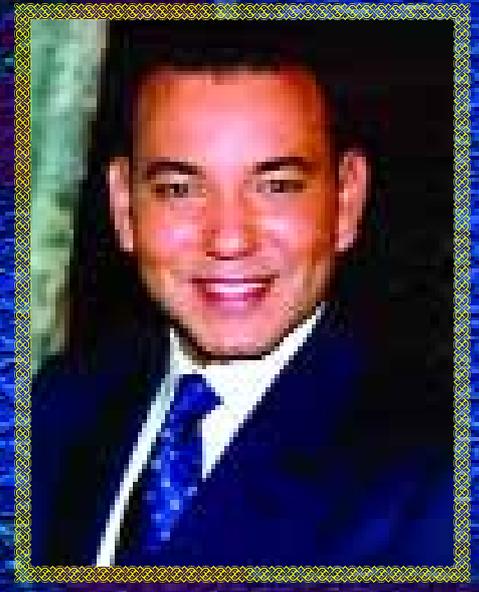
"Morocco is a tree, the roots of
which are planted firmly in Africa but
which has its branches in Europe" -
said MAJ Hassan Chbani,
Moroccan Contingent by citing His
Majesty, King Hassan II.

His Majesty King Mohammed the VI
was born in Rabat, Morocco on
August 21, 1963. He is the eldest
son and second child of King
Hassan II. The Moroccan
Contingent was sent by His Majesty
Mohammed the VI in November
1999 to contribute to the peace-
keeping operation in Kosovo under
UN auspices in the MNB (NE)'s
AOR.

One of the primary objectives of this
mission is to provide humanitarian
support to the population of Kosovo.
Their Military Surgical Field Hospital
and social department provides free
medical assistance and social sup-
port to the population of Mitrovica
regions daily. The Contingent also
provides soldier and vehicle patrols



His Majesty Mohammed the VI, King of Morocco



and various other tasks within MNB's area of responsibility.

LTG Yves de Kermabon, COMKFOR, BG Philippe Tracqui, Commander of MNB (NE) and BG José Prieto, Deputy Chief of Staff Support KFOR attended the ceremony celebrating the 6th Anniversary of Crowning His Majesty Mohammed the VI.

Launched in a high climate of friendship between all the communities, the ceremony included also political, religious and civilian personalities from Mitrovica.

LTC Larbi Chafik, the Moroccan Contingent Commander gave a speech to thank all the participants. Officers, NCO's, soldiers belonging to Moroccan Contingent are proud to take part in KFOR and always ready to fulfil their mission in order to establish a safe and secure environment in Kosovo in a professional way.

All participants were invited to taste some of Morocco's traditional dishes and the most famous dish was the "kus-kus".

The local communities performed national music, songs and dances. The variety of instruments and beauty of the traditional costumes were impressive. Dancers performed with great enthusiasm sharing their culture with everyone attending the event.

Swiss National Day



The Swiss foreign minister visits Swiss-Coy for National Day "You are worthy successors of Wilhelm Tell"

By 1st Lt Oliver Rolofs
German Army

Photos by SFC Thomas Liebe

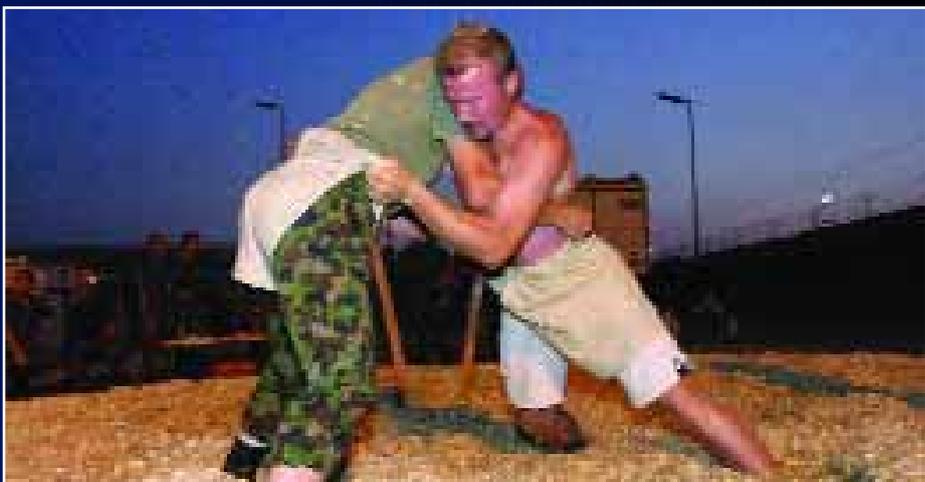
The soldiers of Swiss-Coy in Suva-Reka were honoured with a visit on the Swiss National Day on the 1st of August by their foreign minister, member of the federal council of Switzerland Micheline Calmy-Rey. The minister met earlier with the Kosovar leadership for political talks in Pristina. Later, she went to Camp Casablanca where she took part with more than 600 dignitaries in a small military ceremony to celebrate the 714th anniversary of the foundation of Switzerland. Some of the guests in attendance were LTG Yves de Kermabon, Commander of KFOR; MG Martin von Orelli, the Deputy Commander of the Swiss Army and other high-ranking representatives of KFOR. Helicopters in flight displaying the flags of the multinational German, Swiss and Austrian Task Force Dulje formed the introduction.

Member of the federal council of Switzerland Calmy-Rey evoked in her speech the well-known Rütli-Oath taken in 1291 by the Stauffer Duke of Melchtal. This formed the basis of a community of mutual support for the purpose of facing the Habsburg rulers of the time. She particularly praised Wilhelm Tell whose quest for freedom and equity freed early Switzerland from the tyrant. Thereby the first female foreign minister of Switzerland drew a parallel to the members of Swiss Coy in Kosovo. They live with the challenge to support the ideals of



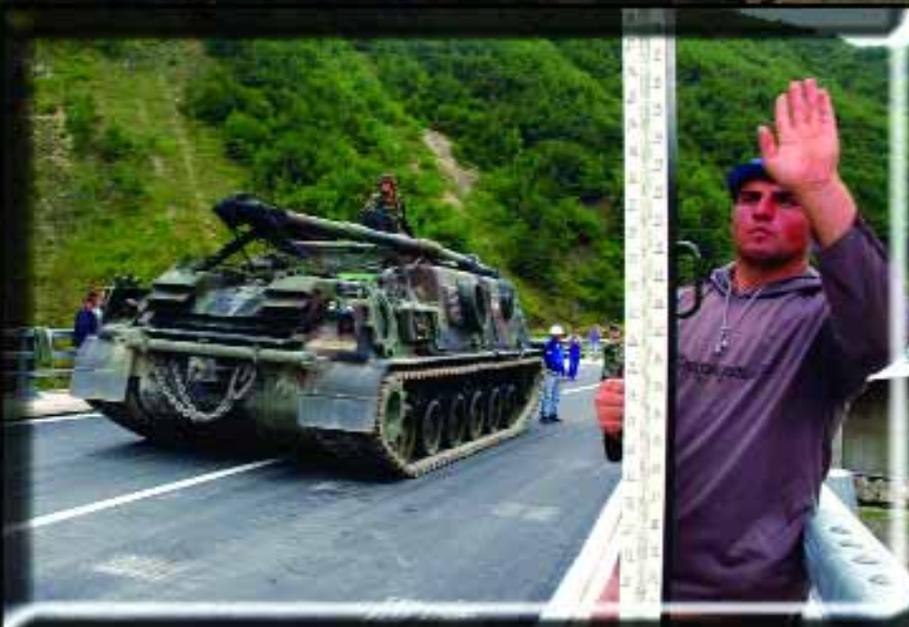
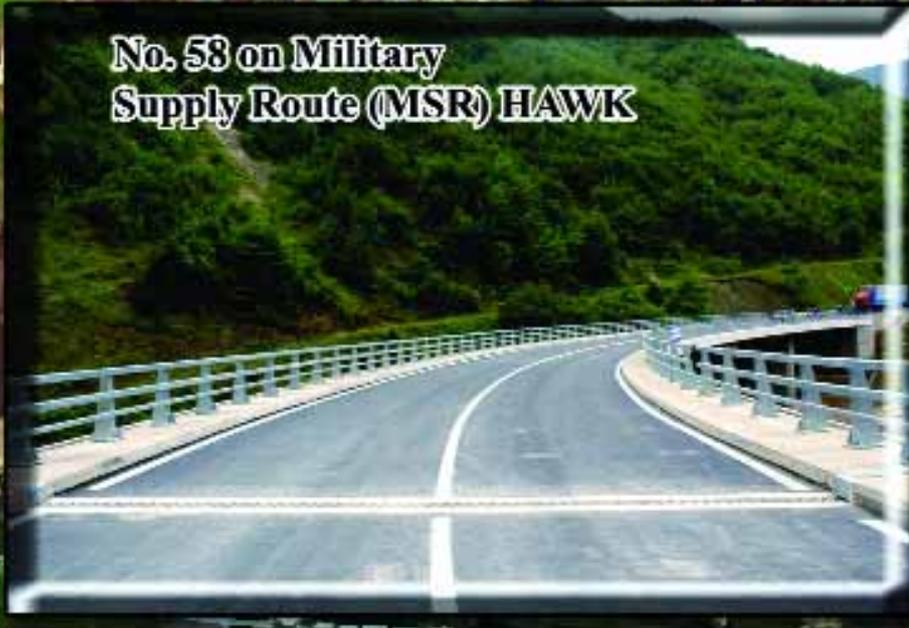
freedom and equity every day. "For me you are worthy successors of Wilhelm Tell", Calmy-Rey emphasized appraisingly. At the end the politician thanked the members of Swiss Coy for their professional work. Finally, the party organized to celebrate the Swiss National day began.

Here the soldiers of Swiss Coy presented culinary and musical specialties such as an Alphorn-trio from Switzerland. Clearly the Swiss spread a lot of entertainment for their guests. Examples were crossbow shooting, wrestling and cattle manure bingo.



Load Test of Bridge

No. 58 on Military Supply Route (MSR) HAWK



By Jo Schoepf, PhD
Photos by Armend Aqifi

A really interesting test concerning the maximum load of a brand new bridge happened at 17 August 05 in Kacanik. For this test an impressive US tank with more than 50 tons own weight was transported from camp Bondsteel to test the bridge. Do you have any idea how such a weight test is executed?

Major Hardt-Stremayr the Staff Officer Engineer Operations explained this very specialized know how to us.

"Before opening a bridge a load test is required to confirm the Military Load Classification (MLC). The design of this new bridge at least has to fulfill the following MLC:

T1 and T2: 70

W1 and W2: 100

T = tracked vehicles, W = wheeled vehicles

1 = one-line traffic, 2 = two-line traffic
70/100 = tons

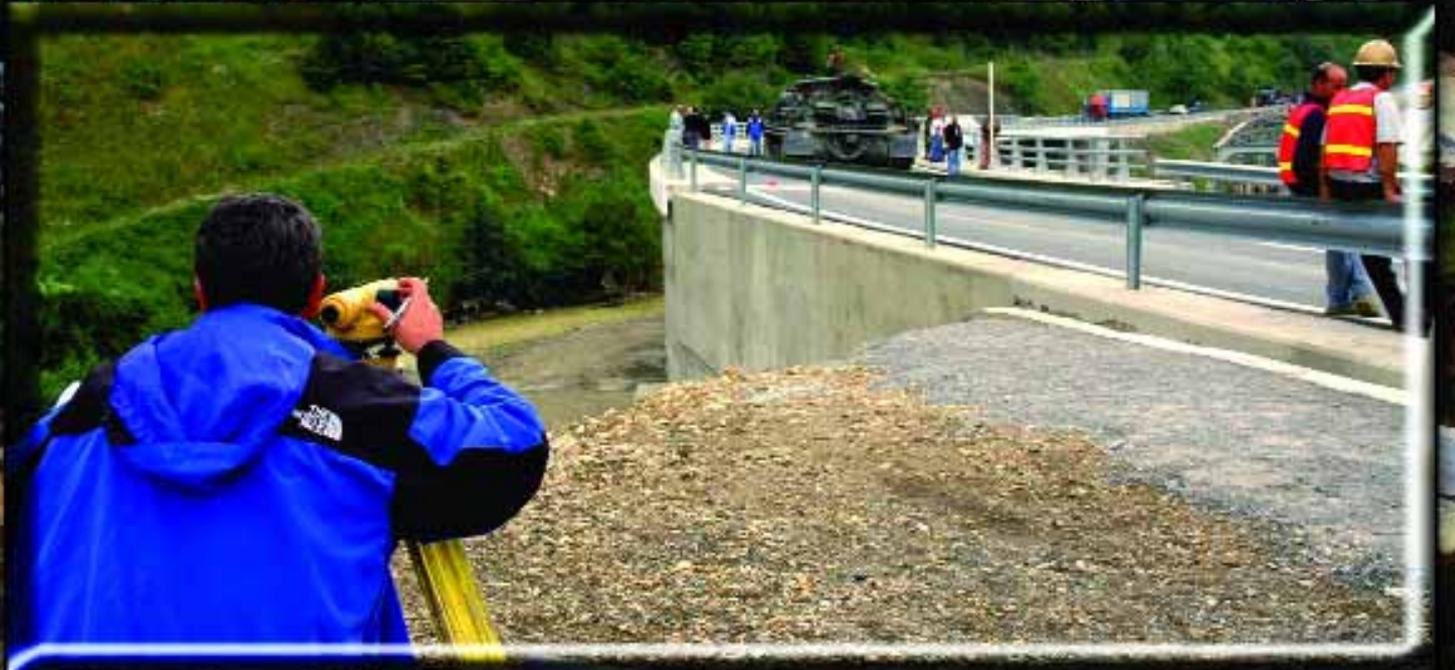
As known, a bridge consists of abutments and pillars. The parts of the bridge connecting abutments and pillars or between pillars are called spans. Every span has to be tested to confirm the MLC.

In the midst of every span the central measurement point, on both sides of the bridge, is fixed. At the half distance between the center of the span and the next bearing there are additional measurement points. That means, that every span has to be measured at 6 different points.

On a fixed place outside the bridge a leveling instrument is fixed.

The first measurements are done without any ballast on the bridge. These measurement results are noticed. Afterwards the trucks -for the test with the wheeled vehicle - or the US tank - for the test with the tracked vehicle - have to move on the bridge. They have to be stationary at the midst of every span.

Now the measurements are done with ballast. Knowing the weight of the ballast and reading the difference between the two measurements it is possible to calculate the MLC."



CIMIC Project for Abandoned Children

**Text and photos 2nd LT Elli Flén,
Finnish Contingent**

"Thank you, thank you!", the children say over and over again and jump around the peacekeepers. The CIMIC office of MNB(C) has brought one vanload of food, toilette paper and washing powder to an orphanage in Gracanica. The very much-needed foodstuff and hygiene products are carried inside under the supervision of CIMIC-chief Lieutenant Commander Mauri Lehtiranta and the children are eager to help.

Even though humanitarian aid is not a main task of the peacekeeping force - sometimes you just have to help. When the CIMIC office of MNB(C) got the information about the orphanage running out of food and basic hygiene products, the help was organised quickly.

Nine children live in the orphanage, The Children's House, and all the children are disabled. For different reasons the parents of these children could not take care of their young ones: one child was born in prison and her mother did not want to raise her there, one mother was disabled herself, the parents of one child are

both dead.

Four years ago these children lived in a mental hospital for adults. Among others, Finnish KFOR-peacekeepers and help organisation run by American doctors managed to evacuate the children from the hospital. The Children's House was built by a Canadian help organisation.

All the children call Sne ana Rašić "mother". Rašić listens, hugs and

sometimes tells the children to calm down.

"I do not want to blame the personnel at the mental hospital for what happened to the children. The hospital staff had to work in a hard and difficult time. Today we have a very good co-operation", Rašić says.

The Children's house receives 400 euro every month from the Government of Kosovo. The money



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Pellegrino GUERRIERO

Rank: OR 9

DoB: 23.11.61

Unit in Italy: Centro Servizi Informatici dell'Esercito General Department Army Arms.

Actual Branch: J 1

Previous activity: Section Chief Personnel Office

Where I work: In the J 1 Office I am employed in the KFOR HQ as Senior Assistant Military Personnel reporting. I work together with people from different nations in a familiar and friendly atmosphere. I have to say thanks to my office colleagues for their friendship and cooperation.

Why I'm in Kosovo: I am in Kosovo in my first tour to improve my professional experience in the NATO context. In the year 2000 I served in Sarajevo in JOINT FORCE for seven months. Here I am having an interesting opportunity to get a good general survey over the KFOR organization.

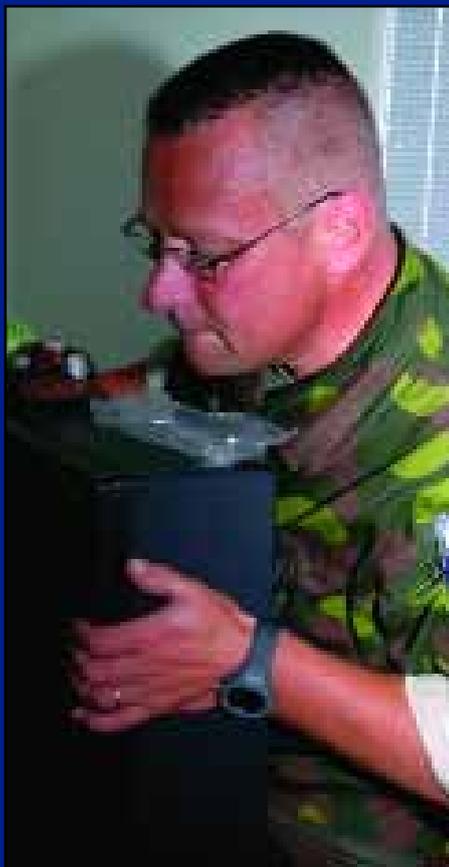
How was the reaction of my family: I am lucky because my family reacted very well to my decision to serve here in KOSOVO. For my wife and two children it is not easy to live such a long time without me. Fortunately we have the opportunity to stay in touch daily by phone.

Future plan after my tour: It is not decided yet. For sure I know in spring 2006 I will return to Italy.



is used for buying food. Additionally the orphanage gets support for heating the house.

The Children's House has received several donations from international help organisations. The house is neat and the children have good clothes and toys. It is basic materials like food and hygiene products the Children's House needs. Now, the children have the most important thing needed for a good life - they have a mother who loves them and a safe home.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Fernando GARCIA

Rank: Major

DoB: 10 June 1962

Unit in Kosovo: Public Information Office

Home Unit: HQ Nato Rapid Deployable Corps-Spain

About mission:

Prior to this mission, I served in NHQ SFOR and NHQ Skopje; from my point of view, our presence and commitment in Balkans is very important for the stability of the region to create a secure environment. We are assisting the people of Kosovo in building a pluralistic, multi-ethnic democratic society for a better future.

Family reaction: Since it is my fourth mission, my wife is used to situations like this. However, this tour has been special mission because I became father on September 05, two months before my end of tour. My family support me and are proud of me going into missions serving for the good of peace, prosperity and respect for human rights.



Luboten

Photo by Mr. Armend Aqifi

